



# Federal Point Historic Preservation Society

P.O. Box 623, Carolina Beach, North Carolina 28428

Phone: 910-458-0502 e-mail: fphps@Yahoo.com

## Newsletter

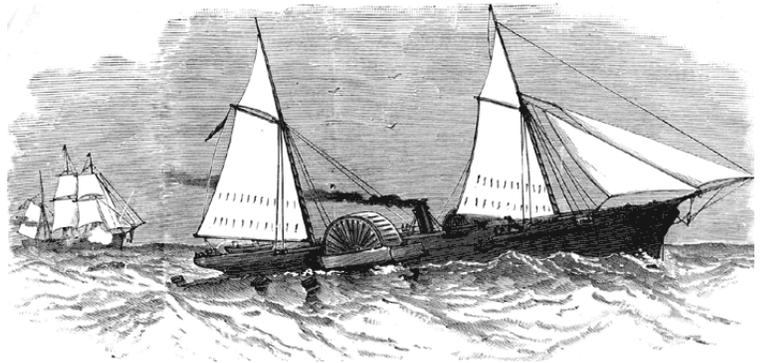
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Darlene Bright, editor  
Rebecca Taylor, production

### August Meeting Monday, August 16, 2010 7:30 PM

The Federal Point Historic Preservation Society will hold its monthly meeting on **Monday, August 16 at 7:30 pm at the Federal Point History Center, 1121-A North Lake Park Blvd., adjacent to Carolina Beach Town Hall.**



Historians **Mary and Wayne Strickland** of the North Carolina Maritime Museum at Southport will talk on *The Virginus Affair*. The *Venus* was built in Scotland in 1864 and was designed specifically to serve as a blockade runner for the Confederate cause. Captured by Union forces on her very first trip through the blockade, she sat idle until John T. Patterson acquired her and renamed her the *Virginus*. Mary and Wayne will present “the rest of the story.”

### Last Month's Meeting

Our July Meeting was a box office smash! Ben Steelman and Amy Hotz of the *Wilmington Star-News* talked about their new book, *WILM ON FILM*. A small but enthusiastic crowd had plenty of questions about the movies that have been filmed here on the beaches. Does John Travolta really have a house on River Road? Ben and Amy also autographed books after their talk. Several people told me it was one of the best programs we've had.

### President's Message

I hope everyone is enjoying the summer season here on Pleasure Island. There is certainly a lot to do with entertainment, amusements and fireworks at Carolina Beach and outdoor concerts at Fort Fisher. At the History Center we are having a great line-up of programs at our monthly membership meetings thanks to the efforts of Rebecca Taylor.

If you were unable to attend the July meeting, you missed a fine program on the Film Industry in Wilmington. The next time you are at the History Center, ask about the book "Wilm On Film" published by the Star-News. This month, we will be having a presentation by some folks from the Southport Maritime Museum. They will tell us about the history of a ship built for service as a blockade runner.

Hope to see you there. Bring a guest.

Ron Griffin



**Special Workshop Scheduled!**  
**Saturday October 2 – 1:00pm-4:00 pm**  
**“Preserving Old Photographs and Papers”**

*Got a box of old family photos squirreled away in a closet? Have NO idea how to preserve them? Want to pass family documents on to your kids or grandkids? We’re here to help.*

We are excited to announce that **Jesse Langford of the North Carolina State Archives** will be presenting a workshop on preserving family photographs and documents here at the **Federal Point History Center** on Saturday, October 2. Attendees will learn about the history of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century photography and how to correctly identify the most common historical types of old photographs and a few basic techniques to better preserve them along with family papers. Participants are invited to bring any types of photographs or documents that are in their custody to be used as examples and discussion starters.

Mr. Langford has worked with the State Archives since 1972 and has served as the State Archivist of North Carolina since 2004. He oversees the state’s records management and archival programs for public records. He earned degrees in history and public administration from Western Carolina and North Carolina State University.

**The program will run from 1:00pm to 3:00pm and take place at the Federal Point History Center, 1121–A, N. Lake Park Blvd; just South of the Carolina Beach Town Hall.** (parking behind CB Town Hall) The program is free and open to the general public, though due to space limitations we must limit attendance to 35 people, *To register for the program call 910-458-0502 NOW, as we expect the spaces to fill up quickly.*

**Oral History Committee – Ann Hertzner**  
Andy Canutas Part 3

Community meetings in '46 led to Kure Beach incorporation in '47. Commissioners met in Town Hall, a room in the back of the realty office and Bud N Joes on K Avenue. When the town first formed in 1947, Lawrence Kure was the mayor. Local policemen had no space in Town Hall - just wherever he was at home or in his car. When Police Chief John W. Glover wasn't on duty, Andy was First Deputy. Andy arrested drunks and speeders doing 50 to 60 past the stoplight which was put up in the 50's.

The business people got together to get a good water works system because when a fire started, buildings burned to the ground. Fire service was a 500 or 1000 gallon tank in a big tin shed. The Water Tower where the Community Center is now came later. The town bought a fire hose. The fire truck was an old beat-up Chevy with a water tank on it. They also had an American LaFrance chain drive, a monster to drive. Both were used for a while. Andy was a volunteer fire department truck driver.



Kure Beach floated bonds. The present day sewer system was put in in the 50s. Soon that will have to be replaced. Terra cotta sewer pipes don't last very long. Now plastic type sleeves are put inside the pipe; in 15 to 20 years the same kinds of problems are expected because every break where it's been repaired is with sleeving. Originally in the 40s, the drainage ditches to the beach and the oceans with storm water run-off was not much because we didn't have that many people. But the oil and drippings of automobiles and everything else has polluted the runoff. Engineers came from the State to pioneer the system which is working. Everyone is looking to Kure Beach.

Andy decided to be a lawyer in junior high school. He skipped school to go to the courthouse and listen to cases with very eloquent, old stump lawyers who cussed you out in four sentences. It took two days to figure out what they said. Andy law clerked for General R. S. McLelland, the first Kure Beach town attorney. Andy started in late 1963 as town attorney so he has been working with Kure Beach in one job or another for over 55 years. He was the Carolina Beach attorney for 12 ½ years. Andy was in General Practice (criminal, contract, domestic) in Wilmington from October 1963 until June 2005.

The town attorney serves at the pleasure of Council. In the earlier years, the attorney was mainly to assure that they didn't go beyond the bounds of law or violate any of the provisions of the State statutes. As time went on, people started attending meetings and became litigious and the laws became voluminous resulting in a nightmare to keep up with new cases and new regulations. Kure Beach is no different than any other small town in North Carolina. Everyone has a different political view. To have a Board in total harmony is a rarity. Different opinions make for good decisions.

**[Last month I forgot to thank Bowman's for the picture in this column. THANKS Bowman's!]**



## **“Back to School”**

### **Notes on Early Schools at Federal Point: from the Bill Reaves Files**

**1870** Anthony A. Hawes offered his resignation as a member of the School Committee for Federal Point Township, which was accepted, and R. B. Freeman was appointed in his place. WILM.STAR. 12-7-1870.

**September 4, 1875** The Board of Trustees of Federal Point Township met and organized by electing T.M. Gardner, Esq., as chairman. The school committee for the township were(sic) duly qualified as was also the Constable, Balaam Wade, who gave a bond of \$500 as a renewal of his former bond, he having been re-elected. The Clerk was granted further time in which to prepare his bond. WILM.WEEKLY STAR, 9-10-1875

**March 9, 1877** The school house for white pupils was destroyed during a terrible storm. An application made by Stephen Keyes of Federal Point township for \$50 from the general school fund to rebuild the schoolhouse in Federal Point Township was granted by the County Commissioners. WILM.STAR, 6-6-

1877.

**April 21, 1877** Charles M. Epps was the teacher in the public school for colored children in Federal Point Township. His records showed that he had 34 “scholars of African race,” 24 boys and 10 girls. The average attendance was 24. There was only one teacher.

**January, 1878** The Board of Education of New Hanover County ordered that an apportionment of two dollars be made from the school fund per capita to the public schools of the various districts. The apportionment for Federal Point-District No. 3 – 82 white children; amount \$164; 84 colored children; amount, \$168. WILM.STAR 1-16-1878.

**October 17, 1905** Prof. Washington Catlett, Supt. of county schools, and a number of interested persons held a conference and it was decided to establish a white school in Federal Point Township, it being shown that there were 14 white families and 38 white children of a school age within a radius of attendance. WILMINGTON STAR, 10-18-1905.

**November 27, 1905** The new school house on the boundary line between Federal point and Masonboro Townships opened. Miss Mary Moore of Burgaw, was to be the teacher assigned to that school. A good attendance was expected and those living in the vicinity of the school were greatly pleased at the action of the board of education in cooperating with them so readily. WILMINGTON MESSENGER, 11-25-1905.

**October 13, 1908** The colored school building at Carolina Beach was destroyed by fire. It was a frame structure situated about half a mile from the river pier. The fire originated in a defective flue. The destruction of the building was total; however, the pupils managed to save some of the desks and books. About 30 pupils were enrolled at the school. The building was valued at about \$500 and was insured for \$250. Temporary arrangements were made to hold school in the colored church at the beach situated near the location of the burned building. WILMINGTON STAR, 10-14-1908.

**January 1, 1911** The roll of honor of Oak Hill School in Federal Point Township, Miss Aleph Cason, teacher, for the month of December, 1910, was announced and was as follows: Mariam Newton, Annie Newton, Wesley Newton, Lottie Burnett, Elizabeth Burnett, George Biddle, Jessie Bonham, Lela Russ, Nellie Russ, Loyd Sanders, Kate Williams, Henry Williams and Sallie Williams. WILMINGTON STAR, 1-6-1911.

**October 17, 1916** Members of the Board of Education held a conference at Carolina Beach at which the subject of providing a school for the children in the lower part of the district was discussed. The removal of the school to a better location was also discussed. As there were only five children of school age in the lower part of the county, it was suggested that it might be possible to transfer them to the Carolina Beach school. Mr. J.J. Loughlin in behalf of the people of the community asked that a new building be erected, on the grounds that the building now in use is badly located and not suited to school purposes. WILM.STAR,10-16-1916

**September 26, 1919** For the second time within a year, the Carolina Beach school house was destroyed by fire. The last building burned was formerly used as a residence and was owned by the Wilmington Beach Corporation. This building was being furnished the county until a school building could be built. The cause of the fire was unknown. The burning now leaves that section without any place for a school, and it is expected that the Board of Education will immediately take steps to provide them with school facilities. WILM.STAR.9-29-1916. WILM.DISPATCH, 9-29-1916.

**March 31, 1925** Two tracks of land in Federal Point Township, formerly occupied by white and colored schools and no longer in use to the board of education, were offered for sale. The first site, formerly the white school, contained three acres and is located on the bank of the Cape Fear River at Nancy Grissom's corner. The other, used for a negro school, was a tract of one and a half acres on the Federal Point Road. WILM.NEWS DISPATCH, 3-31-1925.

### Society Notes

- New Members! The society welcomes new members: **Southerland of Wilmington, Francis and Jeffrey Tarvin of Cambridge, Mass., Brenda Shadrick of Carolina Beach, Randy and Bill Jayne of Wilmington, Carl and Patricia Filipiak of Carolina Beach, and Linda and Vance Highsmith of Chapel Hill.**
- New members who are won a free year's membership as a door prize on the Cruise are **James R. Young of Wilmington and Cathy and Gordon Webb of Wilmington.**
- Welcome also to our new business members **Kathryn Jennings at Fairway Independent Mortgage Corp.** and **Matthew Picicni of The Shuckin' Shack.**
- This month we recorded about 35 members and visitors at our monthly meeting. Things seem to be looking up for tourist traffic as the summer progresses. We had 52 visitors to the History Center, and our gift shop sales of \$256.09 were up from last month.
- A HUGE thanks to all of our History Center Volunteers volunteers: **Lois Taylor, Demetria Sapienza, Juanita Winner, Jeanne Gordon, Sylvia Snook, Ron Griffin, Pat Bolander and Elaine Henson** who filled in for my vacation. I honestly don't know what I'd do without these wonderful helpers.
- **ANNOUNCEMENT! The History Center is now open 10-4 on Tuesday, Friday and Saturday.** This year's board approved an additional two hours on Tuesdays so all three days are uniform.
- We're happy to thank the Towns of Carolina Beach and Kure Beach for their ongoing and continued support of our work at the History Center. In these days of strained budgets and "no-new-taxes" we pledge to use their support wisely with the needs of our local community clearly in mind.
- **FOR SALE!** We have reprinted our booklet *Monuments and Markers of Federal Point* that was compiled by Sandy Jackson and typed and edited by Darlene Bright back in 1998. Taken primarily from the Bill Reaves files with color pictures of the most important markers, this volume traces the history of the area through its memorials. The 50 page booklet is \$12.50 and available in the History Center Gift Shop.



**KURE BEACH COMMUNITY CENTER  
ANNUAL BARBECUE  
SATURDAY, AUGUST 14, 2010  
4:00 p.m. - until it is all gone!**



**At the Kure Beach Community Center**  
*Located on 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, behind Big Daddy's  
Restaurant  
(From the Kure Beach Pier go one block on K  
Avenue  
and turn right onto 3<sup>rd</sup>. Avenue)  
Come early; when it's gone, it's gone!*

**MENU:** Barbecued Pulled Pork from  
Bowman's Restaurant, our **famous** Buttered  
Parsley Potatoes, Cole Slaw, Beans, Sweet Tea,  
and your choice of

**DELICIOUS HOME-MADE DESSERTS!**

**TICKETS ARE ONLY \$7.00 EACH\*, AT THE  
DOOR**

***(TAKE-OUTS WILL BE AVAILABLE)  
\*CORRECT CHANGE WILL BE VERY er***

**Homemade Dessert donations are appreciated.  
Please bring them to the Community Center by  
10 a.m.**



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Are you a newbie who would like to read about past programs  
and projects?

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                         2 years \$5.00  
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Business Members know  
how you appreciate their  
support.**

**FPHPS Upcoming Events -- Fall 2010**

**Monday, September 20, 2010: Membership Meeting. 7:30-9:00 pm.**

**The Venus Flytrap** is one of the most curious plants in the world. Did you know it only grows within a radius of 60 miles from Wilmington NC? Rob Evans of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and head of the North Carolina Plant Conservation Program will talk about ongoing efforts to protect our imperiled native species, including placing the Venus Flytrap on an official “vulnerable” category.

**Saturday October 2, 2010. Special Program 1:00pm – 3:00 pm [REGISTRATION REQUIRED]**

**“Preserving Old Photographs and Papers”** NC Archivist Jesse Langford will conduct this workshop. Participants are invited to bring any types of photographs or documents that are in their custody to be used as examples and discussion starters. Attendance is limited to 35, **so call the History Center at 910-458-0502 to register**

**Sunday October 10, 2010: Joint Program 3pm**

**The Historical Society of the Lower Cape Fear**, headquartered at the Latimer House, is coming to Carolina Beach for a joint meeting with the Federal Point Historic Preservation Society on October 10, 2010. It will be held Sunday afternoon at 3 PM in the Police Training Room at the Carolina Beach Municipal Building at 1121 North Lake Park Boulevard, The program will be **A History of Carolina Beach** presented in vintage photographs and post cards by **Elaine Henson**. A reception will follow at the History Center located adjacent to the Municipal Building. This program is free and open to the general public. For more details call the Latimer House at 910-762-0492 or the Federal Point History Center 910-458-0502.

**Monday October 18, 2010: Membership Meeting. 7:30-9:00 pm.** Honor Flight 2010. We honor our local WWII veterans with an oral history program. Several Federal Point residents who visited the new WWII Memorial in Washington, DC will talk about their experiences on the trip and what it meant to them. I suspect we’ll be able to get them to talk about some of their WWII experiences as well.

**Monday, November 15, 2010: Membership Meeting. 7:30-9:00 pm.** **LeRae Umfleet**, author of the newest book on the 1898 race riots, **Day of Blood**, will speak about her experiences working with the *1898 Wilimington Race Riot Commission* and on the conclusions the Commission reached. Beverly Tetterton of the New Hanover County Public Library says **A Day of Blood** is the best work yet on the event. There will be copies available for autographing.

**Officers**

President – Ron Griffin  
Vice-President – Annette Winner  
Secretary – Lois Taylor  
Winner  
Demetria Sapienza -- Treasurer

**Directors**

Leslie Bright	Ray Flowers	Jean Stewart
Elaine Henson	Cheri McNeill	John Gordon
Jack Travis	Pat Bolander	Skippy

**Federal Point Historic Preservation Society**

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