



Federal Point Historic Preservation Society

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

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

Newsletter

Volume 17 No. 5

May, 2010

Darlene Bright, editor
Rebecca Taylor, production

May Meeting

Monday, May 17th - 7:30 pm

The Federal Point Historic Preservation Society will hold its monthly meeting on **Monday, May 17 at 7:30pm at the Federal Point History Center**, 1121-A North Lake Park Blvd., adjacent to Carolina Beach Town Hall.



Our program this month will be presented by Col. Blackjack Travis. He will be speaking on the “profession/hobby/obsession” of Civil War reenacting and his experiences as founder and commander of *Alexander’s Artillery Battalion of Longstreet’s Corps*. While active with the Battalion they traveled to reenactments throughout North Carolina, Virginia, South Carolina, and as far as Gettysburg National Military Park. Mr. Travis’s group also attended events that include the President Jefferson Davis Birthday Commemoration in Richmond and the Museum of the Confederacy’s Lone Star Ball.



Colonel Blackjack Travis is an author, historian, and professional Civil War reenactor. He holds a degree in business administration from Lakeland College with a minor in history. In his professional life, he earned the position as national sales manager for a major orthopaedic company. He also was the owner of Action Orthopaedics based in Raleigh, North Carolina. Col. Travis also holds a patent and several patents pending on specially designed orthopaedic products.

Mr. Travis has written several historical articles for national publications, such as *The Civil War News*, *Artilleryman Magazine*, and *the Confederate Veteran*. He wrote the book: *Men of God, Angels of Death, the Story of the Rowan Artillery*, which we have available in the History Center Gift Shop.

We still have Tickets

But They Are Going Fast!

Lower Cape Fear River History Cruise

Sunday May 23, 2010 2:00-5:00 – \$25.00 per person

Now Aboard the Winner Princess II

If you heard we were sold out of tickets, we were. For about a day. However we’ve been able to move to the bigger boat – *The Royal Winner Princess II* and have another batch of tickets to sell. If you’re planning to make the trip, PLEASE CALL THE HISTORY CENTER TODAY and reserve the number you want. You can then mail us a check or stop by to pay for them.

Remember all tickets must be paid for by 4pm on Saturday May 22 so we can release unpaid for tickets to people on the waiting list.

Travel from the Carolina Beach Marina through Snow’s Cut to the Cape Fear River. The boat will then travel down the river to its mouth, past Bald Head Island, Oak Island and Southport. Along the way four well-known historians will point out historic sites and



talk about the many important events that happened along this vital waterway. Historians aboard will include **Dr. Chris Fonvielle, Jack Fryer, John Golden, and Leslie Bright.**

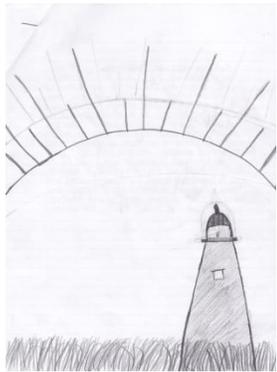
Tickets available: **At the Federal Point History Center, 1121-A N. Lake Park Blvd., (Just south of the CB Town Hall)** Open: Tuesday 12-4, Friday 10-4 and Saturday 10-4. Or **by mail to:** FPHPS, P.O. Box 623, Carolina Beach, NC 28428. You may also reserve tickets by calling 910-458-0502 and leaving a message. We will return your call to confirm number and amount to be paid. **All tickets must be paid for by 4pm, Saturday, May 22.** Unpaid for tickets will then go to people on the waiting list.

Last Month's Meeting

Fred Pickler told some great stories about Robert Harrell, the Fort Fisher Hermit, and talked about community reaction to him. It is clear that Fred came to admire Harrell over the years and his book *The Life and Times of the Fort Fisher Hermit* is the most complete look at life the Hermit lived from 1955 to 1972 when he was found dead. Fred was also the police technician who processed the evidence after he died and firmly believes that the Hermit was murdered. If you missed the program, we have autographed copies of Fred's book in our gift shop.

Annual Essay Contest Awarded

This year's Essay Contest winner is Dylan Smith, who is a 4th grader at Carolina Beach Elementary School. His essay was judged best out of entries from the four classes that Rebecca visited back in March, telling them about the history and excavation of the Federal Point Lighthouse. This year children were asked to draw a picture of one of the three different lighthouses and to write an essay on the Light's history.



The first Federal Point Lighthouse was built in the year of 1816. The foundation is built of brick or stone and laid 3 ft. underground. The beacon stands to be 40 ft. high. The bottom wall was 3 ft. thick, diameter 6 ft., shingled roof, 3 floors, and ladders to ascend within. There is supposedly a door to enter the light house. The shingles on the lighthouse destroyed or demolished it causing fire. The fire took the lighthouse to the ground in 1830. It was recently discovered in November 19, 2009 and had two days to find out more. Once they found out what it was, they buried it again because they didn't want tourists taking things from it. It is under ground at Fort Fisher on the field.

Dylan was born in Raleigh but the Smith family moved to the Wilmington area in 2001 and have lived at Carolina Beach since 2006. Dylan's interests include football and reading, and he is active in Cub Scout Pack 210, who we've invited to join him at our meeting this month. Also accompanying Dylan will be his father, Jeff Smith, his mother, Lisa Smith, his twin sister, Autumn, and his Grandmother, Bonnie Quatlebaum.

Dylan will be presented with a \$50.00 U.S. Savings Bond by Doris Bame who has tirelessly worked with the Carolina Beach School teachers and staff to organize this project again this year. Please take some time to look at the "best of" the essays and pictures posted around the History Center this month.



Tyler Gibson



Peyton Foster



Kurt Potter



Kylee Conway

President's Message

May will be a busy month for many of us. As I write this, Mother's Day will be this Sunday. Happy Mother's Day to all the ladies. On May 17th we will be having our monthly meeting. Jack Travis will tell us about reenactment. Hope to see many of you there. On the 23rd, we will be having our cruise which is shaping up to be well attended. Memorial Day will arrive at the end of the month, and the tourist season will have begun. Some of our members will also be observing Confederate Memorial Day earlier in the month. Finally, some of us will be celebrating the graduation of a family member in May or June.

With all that activity going on, I hope we will be able to prepare for our annual elections in June. I'll be seeing you on the 17th.

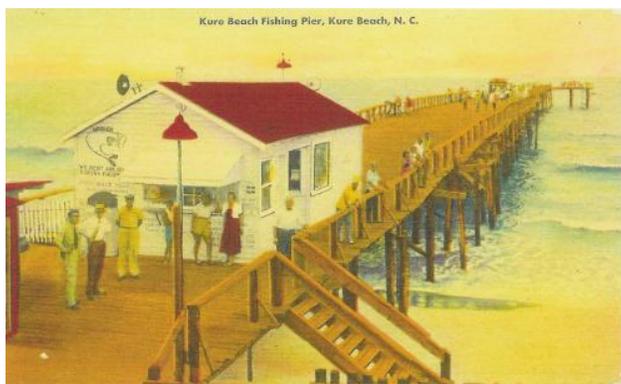
Ron Griffin

Oral History Committee – Interview by Ann Hertzler and Jeannie Gordon Article by Ann Hertzler

Andy Canoutas

Andrew Arthur George Canoutas was born January 29, 1935 in Wilmington. Andy's dad came to Wilmington from Greece in 1923. His mother, Lola Shukri, also Greek, was a British citizen who taught at the Greek school in Wilmington. In 1942 - 46 they lived in Virginia but came to Kure Beach every summer on vacation. In 1946 they moved permanently to the SE corner of 421 and K Ave where Jack Mackerel's is now.

Andy lived upstairs. Downstairs was the Canoutas Restaurant with full-service breakfast, lunch and dinner- fish, steaks, chops, fried, & broiled; and a lot of Greek salads - one of lettuce, tomatoes, onions, olives, feta cheese, and a special olive oil and vinegar dressing. When the Ocean Inn disappeared, George Stathis came to work. Son Andy worked at busy times at night running the cash register or waiting tables but not cooking. His dad rented ten rooms and three apartments over the Canoutas Restaurant and beachwear shop.



Andy's mother had a beachwear shop on the east side of the restaurant on K Street. She also had BINGO sandwiched between the restaurant on the corner and the beachwear shop. Originally, in the 40s, two duckpin bowling alleys ran lengthwise here. Andy called BINGO - "On the first row, B, number 5... BINGO has been called, please do not disturb your card until checked... player could be wrong." Tourists and local men and women played every night except Sunday. Depending on what type of BINGO you got, winners might get \$5, 10, 25, or the big prize at night, \$100 coverall. They could play as many cards as they wanted. First they had little windows that closed. Then they used little round plastic chips. When the BINGO ended, his mother expanded the

beachwear shop.

Kure Beach was called a family town, 'cause families were all that came down here. The only outsiders that came down here was during fishing season. Kure Beach was well known as a fishing beach. A guy on the pier in overalls might be the State Treasurer.

In the 40's, the business area at K Avenue wasn't paved. The road was oyster shells. Sidewalks were board walks. Before it washed away, Atlantic Ave. went all the way south to Everhart's property. Parking in the center of town was like now - in the middle and on both sides of K. The pier on K had restaurants east of this access road toward the beach. Jim's was behind the Ocean Inn on pilings. Sam ran the tackle shop behind the ticket office on the pier. Pete ran the snack shop on the middle of the pier.

Dow Chemical had a lot of employees living here in the early 30s to the end of World War II. Dow Chemical site, now in the buffer zone, extracted bromide from the ocean front intake. The brick from the torn down factory was used to build

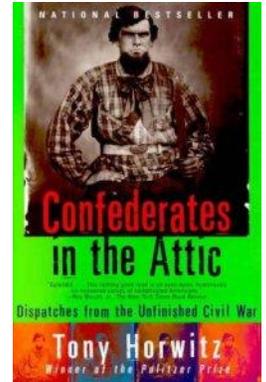
many homes in the county. Dow Road was paved all the way to Ft. Fisher gates. Beyond that was sand. The road forked in front of the Riggins. One road went straight; the left fork to the monument got washed away by one of the hurricanes.

The Canoutas restaurant was the school bus stop, but Andy bicycled or thumbed to Carolina Beach Elementary. In 1950 students were bused to New Hanover High School. Andy had a key to the restaurant to fix himself breakfast - eggs, bacon grits, and toast. If it was raining or cold, the kids came in to wait for the school bus. They got drinks and nabs. It was pretty dark in the winter when they got the bus. Andy would lock up and ride the bus to school - a long trip on a two lane road.

So You Want to be a Reenactor?

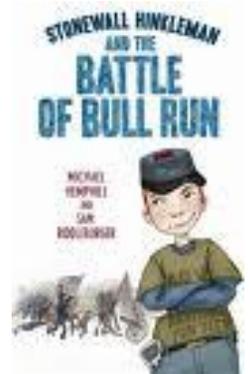
If you're interested in Civil War reenacting, here are a few books you might enjoy.

Confederates in the Attic; dispatches from the Unfinished War by Tony Horwitz. (Pantheon Books, 1998) "Then early one morning, the Civil War crashed into my bedroom. A loud popping noise crackled just outside our window. 'Is that what I think it is?' Geraldine asked, bolting awake. We'd sometimes heard gunfire while working in the Middle East, but it was the last sound we expected here (in Fredericksburg, VA)...I went to the window and saw men in gray uniforms firing muskets on the road in front of our house." Tony became fascinated by the reenactors and managed to wrangle an invitation to their next weekend drill. After 48 hours of marching in formation, gnawing on salt pork and grubbing in the woods, he asks the question: "Why did this war obsess so many Americans 130 years after Appomattox?" Horwitz eventually spent a year traveling to places, such as Salisbury, NC and Charleston, SC as well as sites in Kentucky, Mississippi, Georgia, and Alabama looking for the answer to his question.



Daily Life in Civil War America by Dorothy Denneen Volo and James M. Volo (Greenwood Press, 2nd ed. 2009) The book is filled with everyday details from what the soldiers ate, what they wore, and how the armies moved, to what the women on the home front cooked and read. "The supply-starved Confederates appreciated captured federal hard-tack in place of cornbread that was the staple of their daily diet. At times, the entire Southern army seemed to run on nothing but cornbread."

Stonewall Hinkleman and the Battle of Bull Run by Michael Hemphill and Sam Riddleburger. (Dial Books for Young Readers, 2009) If there's a kid in your house who is interested in the Civil War and reenacting, they have to read this book! "Stonewall Hinkleman (yeah, that's his real name) can't stand going to historical reenactment with his parents who are **obsessed** with the Civil War. A reenactment means a weekend without a Game Boy, a TV, or anything else that makes life bearable. Why should Stonewall want to pretend to fight in some old war just because his great-great-great-great Uncle Cyrus got shot in the butt fighting for the South?"



Then during the reenactment of the Battle of Bull Run, Stonewall finds himself

transported back in time to the **actual** battle.

BB&T

Bert Croom Investigations
Britt's Donut Shop
Coastal K-9 Bakery, Inc.
Courtyard by Marriott
Fort Fisher Restoration
Committee
Frank's Pizza
Got-Em-On-Live Bait Club
Hanover Iron Works, Inc.
Harbor Masters Restaurant
Historical Society of Topsail
Island
Island Gazette
Le SoLeil, Botique & Gallery
Muscleworx Fitness Systems
B. Parker Protective & Lock
Pleasure Island Chamber of
Commerce
Russo's Motel
SlapDash Publishing
The Shoppes at Squigley's
Dr. Vincent Smith, DDS
Snow's Cut Monthly
Magazine
Taylor's Heating & Air, Inc.
Tucker Bros. Realty
Company
Winner Fishing and Cruise
Boats

**Please take time to let our
Business Members know how
you appreciate their support.**

Society Notes

● **History Center News: Darlene Bright, Director.** *Hooray!* We are looking forward to the best Lower Cape Fear River History Cruise yet. **Thanks to Annette Winner for all her hard work** in getting us lined up with the *Royal Winner Princess II*. Also to Rebecca and her volunteers for getting the word out and for handling the ticket sales. Hope to see you on May 23!

Rebecca, Demetria, and I met with the Traveling Archivist, Hal Keiner, on April 29. Our TAP grant, from the North Carolina State Historical Records Advisory Board (SHRAB)) gave us a full day of his time. Hal spent a significant time looking at our collection and talked with us about preservation, organization of the collection, and about how to provide public access to our files, books, artifacts and audiovisual items. We also spent a good deal of time “picking his brain” about things we can do better to safeguard the collection. Rebecca talked “cataloging” with him, and he has several suggestions on how to organize things and also talked about creating finding aids for researchers who want to use the collection.

And though we sometimes feel overwhelmed by all that needs to be done, Hal seemed impressed with all that had been done so far, especially since we’re mostly volunteers. With his guidance and his suggestions, the three of us have been renewed and are eager to get to work. We’ll need some helping hands, so be ready. **We’ll be calling on YOU!**

In addition to 39 members and visitors at our monthly meeting, April saw increased activity at the History Center with 92 visitors who spent \$210.75 in the gift shop, a nice increase from last April.

As always thanks to our March volunteers: **Lois Taylor, Demetria Sapienza, Pat Bolander, Juanita Winner, Sylvia Snook, and Elaine Henson** who are always ready and willing to help keep the History Center open and do all the chores and activities that Rebecca has lined up for them. *Visit us on Tuesdays 12-4, Fridays 10-4 and Saturdays 10-4.*

Officers

President – Ron Griffin
Vice-President – Annette Winner
Secretary – Lois Taylor
Treasurer - Jeannie Gordon

Directors

Leslie Bright, Chair	James Dugan	Ray Flowers
Elaine Henson	Daniel Norris	Cheri McNeill
Jack Travis	Pat Bolander	Sylvia Snook

Plan Now to be at Our June Meeting!

Don’t forget that in June we will meet at 6:30 for our annual potluck-picnic. It is an important meeting as we will be electing officers for 2010-2011 and new Board members for 2 year terms. If the weather’s nice, we hope to set up at least some tables in the yard beside the History Center, so bring a covered dish and a lawn chair and come ready to eat.

Federal Point Historic Preservation Society
P. O. Box 623
Carolina Beach, NC 28428