



Federal Point Historic Preservation Society

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

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Newsletter

Volume 17 No. 9

September, 2010

Darlene Bright, editor

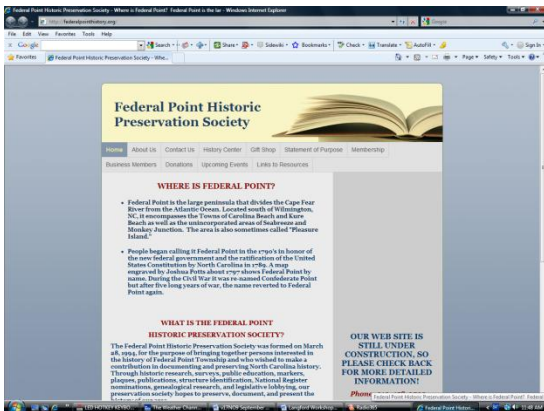
History Center Hours: Tues, Fri, Sat 10-4

Rebecca Taylor, production

www.FederalPointHistory.org

Our Web Site is Up!

www.FederalPointHistory.org



It has taken us awhile, but between Ron Griffin and Rebecca, we've gotten a pretty good start on our web site. Please take a look and see what you think. We're always open to feedback and ideas, just e-mail them to FPFPS@yahoo.com OR federalpointhistory@yahoo.com

A number of the pages are still under construction, but all of the basic information is up. We are still working on adding pictures and graphics and researching PayPal to see if we can get the gift shop merchandise available for online purchase. There is also a new version of our cataloging software that may make it possible to link our web page to our holdings catalog, which will eventually list all of our books, photos, and subject files as well as maps and even program videos.

September Meeting Monday, September 20, 2010 7:30 PM

The Federal Point Historic Preservation Society will hold its monthly meeting on **Monday, September 20 at 7:30 pm at the Federal Point History Center, 1121-A North Lake Park Blvd., adjacent to Carolina Beach Town Hall.**

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 of 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 in an official "vulnerable" category.



Last Month's Meeting

Have you ever heard that in 1873 the Cuban Government (under the control of Spain) executed 52 Cubans and Americans aboard the captured American ship, the *Virginius*? Neither had I. At last month's meeting, historians Mary and Wayne Strickland of the North Carolina Maritime Museum at Southport told us about the entire incident.

The *Venus* built in Scotland in 1864 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 out the rest of the war. However in the 1870's she was purchased and rechristened the *Virginius* by John T. Patterson, who eventually "leased" her to Cuban rebels who used her to import military supplies to the *Ejercito Libertador de Cuba* [Cuban Liberation Army]. At the time she was captured off of Jamaica she was loaded with 500 rifles, 400 revolvers, 600 machetes, several cannons, medicines, clothes, and boxes of ammunition. The Cuban government refused to consider her an "American" ship though she was clearly flying the stars and stripes. The crew and passengers were summarily tried as pirates, and executions began.

Eventually the US Government (with the diplomatic help of Great Britain) reclaimed the ship, though as she was being towed to U.S Naval Yards, she foundered off Cape Fear and was lost. In light of this incident, the "mood for war" that broke out in 1897-1898 resulted in the Spanish American War. This incident is much more understandable. For more information on this little known event see http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Virginius_Affair and <http://figueredo.freeservers.com/virginius.htm> though they both are wrong about where she sank. Wikipedia says "off Hatteras" and figueredo says "off South Carolina."

President's Message

Well, the summer tourist season has come and gone. Now we are in the season of back-to-school, dodging hurricanes and NFL Football. Yes, we have our monthly meeting on a Monday night, but you can come to the meeting and still get back home in time for most of Monday Night Football. (If you really need to see the first half-hour, you can record it on VHS or DVD. Then on playback you can fast-forward through the early commercials.) Hope to see you at the History Center on the 19th of September. The program covering the Venus Fly Trap and other local plants should be very interesting. – Ron Griffin

The Kure Beach Town Seal by Ann Hertzner

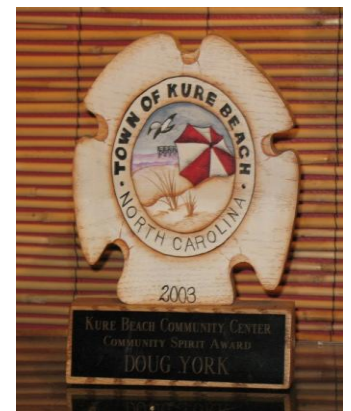
Ed Neidens, mayor of Kure Beach in 1990-1991, said the town stationery had been a fish jumping out of the water. Suzanne Jones probably did the art work around 1988. Before that, there wasn't anything marking Kure Beach.

The Town Seal went through various test changes. The image from a postage stamp was redesigned by Ed Niedens and his 30 year old son. The first concept added a couple in silhouette walking on the beach. The



final picture was a beach scene with an umbrella and some grass on the sand and the Kure Beach pier. The seal was officially adopted by the town council in 1991 when Jack Foster was mayor.

The town seal is in the town hall meeting room, on the entrance signs to the town, on street banners marking the 60th birthday of Kure Beach in 2007, and on the first Community Award established in 2003 presented to Doug York.



On June 10, 2009, the *Island Gazette* printed a story on the council's discussion of use of the town seal. Commercial requests had been made to use the seal. The Kure Beach attorney, Andy Canoutas, said the Kure Beach seal is in the charter and can't be used by anyone without the Town's permission.

From the Bill Reaves Files

“Some Notes on Hurricanes and Other Terrible Storms”

1761 Federal Point

In 1761, the pilot road across the beach at the “Hawl-over” was blown out by a terrific hurricane and was converted into what was to be known as “New Inlet.” WILM. STAR, 8-25-1877.

Between August 12th and Sept. 2nd, 1871

A most violent northeast gale visited the coast, producing some apprehension, according to Henry Nutt, for the safety of the government works in progress, and later during the month, much rainy weather prevailed, retarding operations somewhat. From the violence of the storm some of the unfinished cribs and preparatory timber was displaced, which involved some loss of time and labor to replace them in position again. This was successfully and speedily accomplished through the energy and skill of the local superintendent, and all is now going on well again. WILM.STAR, 9-6-1871

September 2, 1871

A report issued on this date mentioned that the beach south of the government works was growing. The catch-sand fences had proven successful. Not a rail had been removed by the recent storm, and the brush had been completely covered with sand to the top of the fence, presenting an embankment 3 to 5 feet high, and far above the reach of any tide. This, and the weak parts of the beach where the wind had blown out trenches between the hills, was now being strengthened by a system of cultivating the “beach grass”. This grass bore transplanting well; none of that which was set out in July and August had died; but all growing and doing well, and it was suggested that transplanting could be done at any season of the year. Where the “beach grass” was planted, it had not only successfully resisted the blowing away of sand, but has already collected, it at many places, a foot or over in height. WILM.STAR, 9-8-1871

July 1, 1880

A large water spout was witnessed between Fort Fisher and Sow's Marsh, near the mouth of the river. The wind at the time was blowing nearly a hurricane. The water spout covered a space of about 50 yards in circumference, and moved a distance of about 1 1/4 miles. The water from the spout ascended to an altitude of about 100 to 150 feet, and looked like a white funnel-shaped cloud. The phenomenon was witnessed by about 75 persons, including the employees at the government works and a large number of fishermen. WILM.STAR, 7-4-1880



August 17, 1887

The wind blew a perfect gale at Carolina Beach, and at Zeke's Island, it was reported the houses were in danger of blowing over. WILM. MESSENGER 8-20-1887

August 28, 1893

During the hurricane there was a high tide at Carolina Beach. It broke over the beach into the sound and washed up the boardwalk in front of the cottages. Some of the fences were blown down, but no other damage was done. Capt. Harper brought his steamer WILMINGTON to the beach to be in readiness to take the people off. They found everything quiet and no one alarmed. Residents in the cottages situated for a mile along the beach preferred to stay in their cottages. Many of the beach visitors wanted the opportunity to see the ocean in all its grandeur, with the wild waves lashing the beach, throwing the surf high in the air. The river was remarkably smooth at the pier, on account of the land-locked situation of the wharf, and no rough water was experienced until later when it returned to Wilmington. WILM.STAR, 8-29-1893.

August 6, 1902.

News reached Wilmington at 4:30 in the morning of August 7th that a storm had played havoc at Carolina Beach on the night of August 6th. The hotel was blown down and several people were injured, though no lives were lost. Mrs. Alice Phillips suffered a broken ankle and contused back. She was in the ruins for 1 1/2 hours before help could reach her. Capt. John Barry suffered sprains and other injuries to both ankles. Mrs. John Barry had a severe injury to her left lower limb, fracture of the femur and ankle, which caused suffering on account of her advanced age from the nervous shock.

Tobe Howard, bar-keeper at the hotel, suffered a laceration of the scalp, with contusion of both arms, jaw and shoulders. Mrs. Tobe Howard suffered a laceration of the forehead. Mrs. Howard, after her rescue, went bravely into the rescue work and in the absence of a physician she assisted nobly Miss Furpless, even going as far as to tear her own clothing to make bandages for the injured. J. E. Haywood and 5-year-old daughter, of McColl, S. C. were in the hotel. Mr. Haywood suffered a severe sprain of the right ankle, left leg broken just above the ankle and a dislocation of the same ankle: a severe contusion of the spine. The little girl was on the second floor of the building and escaped with out injury. Accompanied by Mr. J. S. Thompson, of Hasty, she will return home today. Mr. Haywood and Mr. Thompson came down the day before and expected to stay some time, but the storm changed their minds. J. M. Rumley, of Beaufort, N. C. suffered injury to the back, left hip and knee. The old Oceanic Hotel had not been used strictly for hotel purposes in several years and during the past two seasons, Capt. Harper had refused to rent it as a hotel but merely as a pavilion for the entertainment of excursionists, with a restaurant attached. It was fortunate that it was not used as a hotel, else the consequences of the storm might have been more terrible. Capt. Harper and every person connected with his boat or interests on the beach did all in their power for the suffering ones.

The first knowledge in Wilmington of the catastrophe at the beach was through Robert Freeman, colored, who was sent for Dr. Andrew H. Harriss by Capt. Furpless. Though alone at the beach, Dr. Harriss accomplished wonders in administering to the wants of the wounded and improvised cots and stretchers were made and all placed on a flat car, which reached the pier safely. The wounded ones were placed on the steamer and by 8 o'clock all the sufferers were taken to the hospital in Wilmington and later to their homes. At the hospital Dr. Harriss was assisted in his work by Dr. Pride J. Thomas, and Dr. W. D. McMillan.

Mr. W. H. Biddle, of Masonboro, reported that the tornado, or cyclone, lasted for about five minutes, carrying destruction in its path. There was much damage to corn, trees were uprooted, fences blown down among other damages. The cyclone moved in a path nearly two miles. The most serious loss and injury by the storm was in the wreck of the old Hotel Oceanic, the large two-story wooden structure, owned by the New Hanover "Transit Company, and operated by Mrs. Rebecca Eilers, of Wilmington. The storm came in from the south-west and it blew the middle part of the hotel toward the ocean. Eight of the occupants of the hotel were engaged in dancing at the time in the dining room of the old hotel and were taken completely unawares. The only one to escape was Mr. Sebastian Winner, who was picking a guitar for the dancers. He was near the door and got on the outside before the crash came, but his guitar was smashed to smithereens. He received only a slight injury on the leg. Mr. Marion Winner, father of Sebastian Winner, was the first to reach the scene, but very soon afterwards he was joined by Capt. Thomas McGee, Mr. Robert S. Collins, who was spending some time with his family at the beach; Mrs. Hans A. Kure, Captain Furpless, Capt. J. C. Smith, Mr. Henry Stolter, Mr. J. S. Thompson, of Hasty, who was stopping at the Kure House across the sound; Miss Furpless, daughter of Capt. Furpless, and Mose and John Evans, two colored men employed by Capt. J. W. Harper. All the injured ones except Mr. Hampton Smith, who was most seriously injured were taken from the hotel ruins by 10 o'clock. Young Smith, the son of Capt. J. C. Smith, the well known steamboat man, was not rescued until two hours later and it was then by the heroic effort on part of Capt. Tom McGee. He is said to have lifted almost the entire roof.

August 29, 1935

Torrential rains washed out a number of roads in New Hanover County, sent the fresh water lake at Carolina Beach out of its bounds to flood nearby houses. The rain storm was the greatest in the 64-year history of the local weather station, with 5.97 inches of rain recorded during the 28 hour period between 4 p.m. Thursday and 8 p.m. last night.

The waters of the fresh water lake, just 100 yards from the Atlantic Ocean at Carolina Beach were receding slowly and water was still standing in a number of cottages. In addition a half mile section of state highway No.40 beside the lake was under water and traffic to Wilmington was diverted over the old route via the Ethyl-Dow Chemical Company plant and Kure's Beach.

BB&T
Bert Croom Investigations
Britt's Donut Shop
Coastal K-9 Bakery, Inc.
Friends of Fort Fisher
Fairway Independent
Mortgage Corp.
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, Boutique & Gallery
Muscleworx Fitness Systems
B. Parker Protective & Lock
Pleasure Island Chamber of
Commerce
Russo's Motel
Shuckin' Shack
SlapDash Publishing
The Shoppes at Squigley's
Dr. Vincent Smith, DDS
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.**

**Historical Society of the Lower Cape Fear and the
Federal Point Historic Preservation Society
Invite you to meet with us on**

**Sunday, October 17, 2010 3:00 pm
Carolina Beach Town Hall
1121 North Lake Park Boulevard**



History of Carolina Beach
presented by
Elaine B. Henson

Reception following at the Federal Point History Center

Special Workshop Scheduled!

“Preserving Old Photographs and Papers”

Saturday October 2 – 1:00pm-4:00 pm
At the Federal Point History Center

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.



The Federal Point Historic Preservation Society is 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 19th and 20th 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.**



Society Notes

- ❖ **Donations!** A huge thanks go out to Chuck Keener of Kure Beach for the box of books he brought by. The donation contains many Civil War titles that will enhance our ability to help local researchers on Civil War Topics.
- ❖ **New Members!** The Society welcomes new members: **Dan and Sue Larusso** of Wilmington and **Bobbie and Andrew (Bud) Clement** also of Wilimington.

❖ This month we recorded about 35 members and visitors at our monthly meeting. Fall seems to have begun early as we had a real drop off of activity at the History Center in the middle of August. We had 54 visitors to the History Center, and gift shop sales of \$65.80. Hopefully things will pick up again on the weekends in September and October.

❖ THANKS to our History Center Volunteers: **Lois Taylor**, who helps fold, label, stamp, and mail the Newsletters every month, and **Demetria Sapienza**, who comes every Tuesday to scan photos for the DIP. (Digital Image Project) She is also getting our subject files scanned and ready for formal archival preservation.

However, The History Center needs more volunteers, especially ones with clerical or basic computer skills. In the wake of our TAP (Traveling Archivist Program) Grant, we've worked to get more organized and get several different projects ready to go. If you could give us 2-3 hours a week to help with computer input and indexing, PLEASE let Rebecca know!

❖ **Don't Forget! 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 still need volunteers for **Island Day** on Sunday, September 26. This afternoon celebration of the end of the tourist season is being organized as a joint program of the PEI, and the Towns of Carolina Beach and Kure Beach. We need one shift of workers to help set up in the morning and another to man our booth and invite people to join FPHPS during the afternoon.

❖ We also need volunteers to bring dessert type goodies to the joint meeting with the **Historical Society of the Lower Cape Fear**. We're the hosts and want to make our friends from Wilmington feel welcome.

❖ **Treasurer's Report** by Demetria Sapienza. We ended the fiscal year 2009-2010 in good shape. Our expenses came in well under budget, and our income was higher than anticipated due to the overwhelming response to the Cruise. The budget for fiscal 2010-2011 was approved by the Board at their July meeting. Copies are available on request.

❖ **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

Now Available!

Miss a Newsletter?

Remember an article or speaker you want to read about again?

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We now have spiral bound copies of ALL of our Newsletters available for Sale.

Costs are: for	1 year \$3.00
	2 years \$5.00
	5 years \$12.00
	10 years \$22.00

For a full run of 15 years the cost is \$34.00

available in the History Center Gift Shop.

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.

Sunday, September 26, 2010. ISLAND DAY At the Lake 1:00pm – 5:00 pm

This celebration of the end of the tourist season is being organized as a joint program of the PEI and the Towns of Carolina Beach and Kure Beach. It’s meant to be a simple, fun, and laid-back celebration of all that’s good about the area we choose to call home. Plan to at least pass by, and say “Hi” to our members who are passing our information about FPHPS.

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 17, 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 Sunday, October 17, 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 our board member **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 Wilmington 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
Demetria Sapienza -- Treasurer

Leslie Bright
Elaine Henson
Jack Travis

Directors

Ray Flowers
Cheri McNeill
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Federal Point Historic Preservation Society

**P. O. Box 623
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