



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

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

Rebecca Taylor, production

www.FederalPointHistory.org



April Meeting Monday, April 18, 2011 7:30 pm

The Federal Point Historic Preservation Society will hold its monthly meeting on **Monday, April 18 at 7:30 pm at the Federal Point History Center**, 1121-A North Lake Park Blvd., adjacent to Carolina Beach Town Hall.

Andrew's presentation will be on "The Confederate Navy and Marine Corps in NC and Their Interpretation at NC Historic Sites." Did you know that though the C.S. Navy could never achieve equality with the Union Navy it used technological innovation, such as ironclads, submarines, torpedo boats, and naval mines (then known as torpedoes) to gain advantage over the Union Navy. In February 1861, the Confederate Navy had thirty ships, only fourteen of which were seaworthy, while the Union Navy had ninety vessels. The C.S. Navy eventually grew to 101 ships to meet the rise in naval conflicts and enemy threats.

Andrew Dupstadt is the Assistant Curator of Education for the North Carolina Division of State Historic Sites. He has a BA in history and an MA in public history from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, where he served as Teaching Assistant to renowned Civil War historian Chris Fonvielle. Previously, he has worked at the CSS Neuse State Historic Site, Fort Fisher State Historic Site, Tryon Palace Historic Sites and Gardens, and the Carteret County Historical Society. He also has a wonderful blog: check out: <http://civilwarnavy.blogspot.com/>



Last Month's Meeting

Speaker Jay Barnes, talked about his new book, Hurricane Hazel in 1954. NC ranks third in states most hit by hurricanes after Florida and Texas. In a season running from June 1 to November 30, over half of our hurricanes reach landfall in September. Mr. Barnes' first book on NC hurricane history was published in 1994, followed quickly by one on Bertha and Fran in 1997. Florida's hurricane history came out in 1998 with a second edition in 2008. *Hurricane Hazel in the Carolinas* was published in 2010. Hazel was the only category 4 storm to make landfall in the past 100 years. Carolina Beach was devastated by Hazel, partly due to an unusual high tide. First it hit Haiti causing over 1000 deaths, followed by storm surge of 13 to 18 feet and sustained winds of over 135 mph along the NC coast. Destruction in NC cost 17 million dollars. It impacted 7 states and caused the greatest flood ever in Canada. 19 people were killed in NC.

President's Message

Thanks again to everyone who helped with Sugar Loaf Artillery Day. We had a fine day for the event and everything went well. Between the Barbeque, gift shop and book sales and the Walk we took in about \$900.00! Well worth the work everyone put in. Our March program on Hurricane Hazel was very informative. Some of our members experienced that event first hand, either here in New Hanover County or further north. Hope to see many of you at the April meeting on the 18th where Andrew Dupstadt will be telling us about the Confederate Navy and Marines for a great Civil War program.

-- Ron

Sugar Loaf Artillery Day Saturday March 19

What a Day!



Special thanks to Jack Travis for the idea of the event and for making sure we had reenactors to feature!



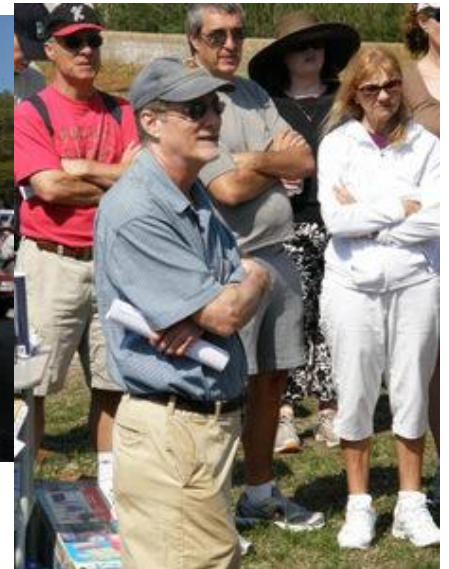
Huge thanks to our Volunteers!
Breakfast for the Reenactors and Volunteers was donated and set up by Virginia Francis and Lois Taylor.

Volunteers on the barbeque line included Leslie Bright, Cheri McNeill, Paul Slebodnik, Phil Sapienza, Jim Dugan, Ray Flowers and John Gordon.

People who donated desserts to sell with the barbeque included Carol Ufferman, Cheri McNeil, Pat Bolander, Debbie Price, Demetria Sapienza, Jeannie Gordon, Juanita Winner, Mary Ann Targonski, and Louanna McGurren.

General traffic control was handled with diplomacy by Debbie and Ron Price.

And of course Darlene Bright was front and center directing all the action inside and out. Her experience with this kind of events is invaluable.



A huge thanks to Dr. Chris Fonvielle for leading our Sugar Loaf Walk again this year!



Historian Ray Flowers speaks to the walkers before they start

Oral History by Ann Hertzler Ray Rothrock Part 2 –Kure Beach Rentals

Because Ray's Dad quit the Shipyard when WW II was at its peak, he was called to be examined for the Army. He was 33 years old and had seven children. Ray very well remembers that day his Dad got on the Cattle-Car in Kure Beach to go to Ft. Bragg. His Mother and all the children were standing with his Dad, all crying because they thought they may never see their Dad again. He got back from Ft. Bragg about 2 a.m. the next morning, having walked and hitch-hiked back to Kure Beach after failing the physical.

Ray's Dad was a workaholic. When he left the shipyard, he went into the reupholstering and refinishing business. After the War Ray's Dad bought half the Army Mess Hall at Ft. Fisher, a huge building. They took it apart, moved it to Monkey Junction area, and put it back together for the back end of his furniture business. It was across the highway from the Army Surplus Store and sat right where Sanders Road is now. Ray's Grandfather and Grandmother on his Mother's side of the family had built the building which is now the Army Surplus Store and also lived in that building where his Grandfather refinished furniture. With this furniture business on Carolina Beach, his Dad and Mom had a total of 4 business locations, with the others being in Wilmington, all on Castle Street. Ray's Mother was the seamstress, doing all the sewing for the furniture to be reupholstered in addition to making drapes and slipcovers.

His Dad, Ray, and his older brother Corkey looked after the cottages, staying at the beach all the time. His Mother and other brothers and sisters would come down and spend some time. Ray's Dad bought an Army Surplus Jeep to drive around the beach which the children really enjoyed. There was no Buffer Zone while Ray was growing up, so the woods all the way to the Cape Fear River was a great place to play and hunt. Sunny Point wasn't commissioned until sometime in '55 or '56.

In 1947, Ray's Dad got a telephone. The number 5454 was all you had to dial. Ray will never forget when you had to start dialing 8 in front of those four numbers. Everybody complained about having to dial so many numbers. In 2010 you have to dial the area code and another eight numbers to talk to someone in the U.S. When Ray's Dad passed away in 1987, Ray was able to obtain the 458-5454 number for the Charter Fishing Business he had purchased from his Dad.

Most of the people who came down to Kure Beach wanted to rent a place to accommodate their family to enjoy the beach and go fishing. They shopped for groceries and cooked more than going to eat at restaurants. After swimming and fishing during the day, all would go to Carolina Beach to enjoy the Boardwalk and Amusement Park. The Amusement Park was where the Marriot is today and included a Ferris Wheel, tilt-a-whirl, and all those things you find at an Amusement Park. The Boardwalk had lots of places to attempt to win something, Bumping Cars and, of course, Britt's Donuts. Ray thinks they were a nickel a piece back then! After the World War II, jetties were installed for beach stabilization and then it was learned they were not only unsafe for swimmers, they caused beach erosion to the south. The picture shows Ray's mother Billie and jetties on the beach.



Ray's family went to Kure Beach Lutheran Church – Sunday school, church, picnics and dinners. The island churches started a Boy's Basketball League playing in the old City Hall Gymnasium at Carolina Beach. Ray doesn't remember winning, but certainly enjoyed playing.

Ethel Dow Chemical was an operating plant that took water in from the ocean intake pipes and discharged into the Cape Fear River. They had a plant on the oceanfront and on the riverfront. The kids use to go there and play around just to see what was going on and enjoy the ocean waves coming in. Next to the Army Base at Ft. Fisher, it was one of the largest employers on the Island. Back then it was not known as Pleasure Island.

The pickup truck Ray's Dad had for the furniture business had tall rack sides on the bed so as to cover it with a tarpaulin to keep the furniture from getting wet when it was raining. When evacuating for Hurricanes, his Dad would put the tarpaulin on the truck, load all the children and dog in the back, drive to Lumberton, and park in a metal tobacco warehouse until it was safe to go back to Kure Beach. Looking back, Ray feels it was one of the most unsafe places to be. They waited for hours, seemed like it was a day or two before they let traffic come back across the swing bridge over Snow's Cut. Back then, they did not open schools in Wilmington to house families during hurricanes.

The Civil War Sesquicentennial



Well the 150th anniversary is upon us and the flow of books, conferences, web sites, and commemorative events is building from a trickle to a stream – which will surely be a flood by the time we get to Fort Fisher’s commemoration in January of 2015. Here are just a few of the commemoratives that have passed my desk in the last month. If only there had been computers and “social media” in the 1860’s!

Do you TWITTER or BLOG? If so you’ll love these new online feeds.

Twitter: @CivilianWartime

Blog:

<http://civilianwartime.wordpress.com/>

The indefatigable LeRay Umfleet of NC DCR is tweeting the war daily from actual personal accounts from the civilian “home front.” A great way to follow the war day-by-day mostly from a woman’s point of view. Among the tweets so far:
“...a foreboding for the future weighs on me all the time ...”

Catherine Ann Devereux Edmondston, 3-14-1861.

Or for more detailed accounts check out her blog which includes full citations to the diaries and letters that are her source material. A few entries from the blog:



March 19 [1861]

I have finished all the squares for my quilt. I think I shall call it a DISUNION QUILT as it will be made different from any I ever saw.

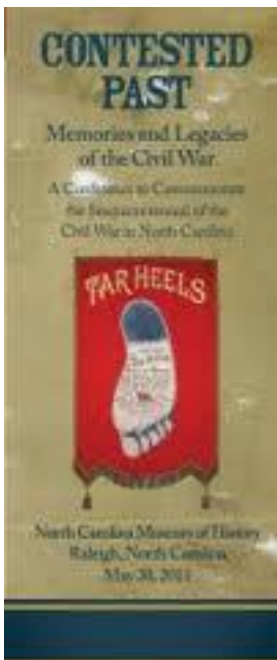
Sources: Thomas C. Parramore, F. Roy Johnson, and E. Frank Stephenson, Jr., eds. *Before the Rebel Flag Fell*. (Murfreesboro, NC: Johnson Publishing Company, 1965). PC 222 Annie Darden Diaries. North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh, NC. <http://www.archives.ncdcr.gov/>

April 1st [1861]

Today old April came with its clouds, sunshine, & showers. Jet carried Stumpie & Rosie up to Bill Magets this morning, to stay with Jennie, a few days. I have spent a very lonely day. We miss the girls so much. I cut out a calico dress, for myself, have been sewing, & writing to while away the lonely hours. Oh! My Saviour help me to thank & bless thy holy name, that tis as well, with us, as it is.

Source: PC 222 Annie Darden Diaries. North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh, NC.

And don’t miss this YOUTUBE video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0vPVTqWJd28> The Robert E. Lee character seems a bit old to me but the cheering re-enactors will have you ready to sign up for the fight today.



CONFERENCES: The NC Literary and Historical Association will present *Contested Past: Memories and Legacies of the Civil War* on May 20, at the North Carolina Museum of History. Beginning at 9:00 am with the keynote speaker David Blight of Yale University whose topic will be “*Race and Reunion: Has Civil War Memory United or Divided America?*” Other topics and presenters include: *Public Memory in the South: The Role of the United Daughters of the Confederacy in Salisbury, NC* by Erica St. Lawrence of NC State; *Set in Stone: North Carolina’s Adaptation of the Lost Cause* by Chris Meekins of the NC Office of History and Archives; and *Competing Memories: Prisons in the North and the South in the Civil War* by James Gillispie, Sampson Community College. The entire program with a total of 18 speakers costs \$25.00. For the full brochure and registration information see: <http://www.nccivilwar150.com/events/memory.htm>.

NEW BOOKS: [Both are available at the New Hanover County Public Library]

Shifting Loyalties: The Union Occupation of Eastern North Carolina by Judkin Browning. University of North Carolina Press, 2011. It’s hard to remember that while Wilmington, guarded by Fort Fisher, was the lifeline of the Confederacy throughout the war Beaufort, and New Bern were occupied by Union forces having been taken 1862.

After the War: the Lives and Images of Major Civil War Figures After the Shooting Stopped by David Hardin. Iven R. Dee Publisher, 2010. Did you know that Jefferson Davis’s daughter was engaged to marry the Grandson of Samuel May -- the renowned Massachusetts abolitionist? Or, that Ulysses Grant

aces to complete his memoirs and provide for this family while dying of cancer? Also included are stories of the lives of Tom Sherman, Mary Boyken Chesnut, John Bell Hood, Nathan Bedford Forrest, Mary Todd Lincoln, Joseph E. Johnston, Robert E. Lee George H. Thomas and Elizabeth and George A. Custer.

Postcard Collection Special Fund Begins!



We have our first donation of \$50.00 for the postcard collection. I have managed to purchase a postcard showing the History Center before it became the History Center and two of the Blockade Runners of the Confederacy Museum.



If you want to help us collect these important images for our archival collection send a donation to: FPHPS, P.O. Box 62e, Carolina Beach NC 28428. Be sure to mark the check as "For the postcard collection."

Society Notes

Donations! The donations just keep coming!

- ❖ **John Nelms** brought us a signed survey map done by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers of an area called New Snow's Marsh. We thought it might be a preliminary survey for the cut to be made for the Intercoastal Waterway. However it's dated 1894. This one is going to take some research.
- ❖ **Charlie Lancaster** brought us 7 Civil War books including *Secret Missions of the Civil War* by Philip Van Doren Stern and the *Civil War an Illustrated History* by Geoffrey C. Ward. All the books are a great addition to the Library's Civil War section.
- ❖ **Thomas Gray** has donated a collection of hand written original minutes of the Federal Point School Committee from 1869 to 1877. With them is a type written transcript done in 1916. This is a major addition to our files on the Schools of Federal Point.
- ❖ **Jimmy Fergus** of the long time Carolina Beach Ferrgus Family brought us a number of family pictures to scan as well as other family documents that add much to our family history files.
- ❖ An anonymous donor left a copy of the book *The Approaching Fury: Voices of the Storm 1820-1861* by Stephen Oates and a very nice Ken Badoian print of the Blockade Runner the *Advance* on my desk at the last meeting. I'd sure like to know who you are so we can thank you properly and do the paperwork to officially add the materials to our collection.
- ❖ This month we recorded 66 visitors to the History Center and 37 members and visitors at our monthly meeting. We counted approximately 250 people at Sugar Loaf Artillery Day with 40 people going on Chris Fonvielle's annual Walk to Sugar Loaf. The History Center took in \$186.49 in the gift shop.

BB&T
 Beach Portraits Photography
 Bert Croom Investigations
 Britt's Donut Shop
 Coastal K-9 Bakery, Inc.
 First Bank
 First Citizens Bank
 Friends of Fort Fisher
 Frank's Pizza
 Got-Em-On-Live Bait Club
 Hanover Iron Works, Inc.
 Harbor Masters Restaurant
 Historical Society of Topsail
 Island
 Hoplite Pub & Beer Garden
Island Gazette
 Monarch Mortgage
 Musclemworx Fitness Systems
 B. Parker Protective & Lock
 Pleasure Island Chamber of
 Commerce
 Russo's Motel
 Shuckin' Shack
 SlapDash Publishing
 The Shoppes at Squigley's
 Taylor's Heating & Air, Inc.
 Tucker Bros. Realty
 Company
 Winner Fishing and Cruise
 Boats
 Winner Marine
 Construction and
 Salvage, LLC

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

- ❖ Thanks to our History Center Volunteers; **Lois Taylor**, for helping with the Newsletter mailing and **Demetria Sapienza** who comes every Tuesday to scan photos for the DIP. (Digital Image Project). **Pat Bolander, Ron Griffin**, and **Sylvia Snook** helped keep the History Center open and **Darlene and Leslie Bright** continue to spend time on all kinds of projects around the History Center.

New Members: Two new members this month: **Kaye Lavin** of Wilmington and the **First Bank** at Monkey Junction. Welcome new members!

- ❖ **Treasurer's Report** by Demetria Sapienza. The Sugar Loaf Artillery Day brought in just over \$900.00 from the Barbeque, the Fonvielle Walk and books purchased from the gift shop. Membership renewals continue to come in a steady flow. I have begun the process of preparing a budget request for the 2011-2012 budget with the help of Darlene for History Center items.

Federal Point Historic Preservation Society

Upcoming Events

Monday April 18, 2011: Membership Meeting. 7:30-9:00 pm. **The Andrew Dupstadt** will speak on the Confederate Navy and Marines and their activity in eastern North Carolina.

Monday, May 16, 2011: Membership Meeting. 7:30-9:00 pm.

Chris Fonvielle will talk about his new book, **Fort Fisher 1865** which features the 1865 photographs of Fort Fisher by T.H. O'Sullivan.

Beach Portraits Photography

Business member John Gregory had come up with a great way for members to preserve their family history AND benefit our Society. For a \$75 donation to our Society you will receive a Gift Certificate for one Family Portrait Session AND a finished 10 by 13 Portrait. This is an exceptionally generous offer and is worth \$185 retail.

Officers

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

Leslie Bright
 Elaine Henson
 Jack Travis

Directors

Ray Flowers
 Cheri McNeill
 Pat Bolander

Jean Stewart
 John Gordon
 Skippy Winner

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