



Federal Point Historic Preservation Society

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Newsletter

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August, 2011

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

Rebecca Taylor, production

www.FederalPointHistory.org



August Meeting

Monday, August 15, 2011

7:30 pm

The Federal Point Historic Preservation Society will hold its monthly meeting on **Monday, August 15, 7:30 pm at the Federal Point History Center**, 1121-A North Lake Park Blvd., adjacent to Carolina Beach Town Hall.

In 1986 Susi Clontz was working at the North Carolina Aquarium at Fort Fisher. She befriended many people including school teacher Charlie Baker. Charlie was also the sea turtle monitoring coordinator of Figure Eight and Hutaff Islands. After many conversations with Susi about animal conservation, Charlie mentioned that Kure Beach was in need of a coordinator and thought Susi would be perfect for the job. Being the country girl that she was, Susi was somewhat reluctant but Charlie persisted promising to teach her all she needed to know about sea turtles.

In 1987 with new found knowledge and permit in hand Susi began her first season as sea turtle monitoring coordinator of Kure Beach. At first she walked the three miles of beach every morning alone searching for signs of nesting turtles - something that she had only seen in pictures. It didn't take long before she realized that she couldn't do this by herself so she drafted her husband Rusty who was willing to help but just as inexperienced as Susi. Neither of them had ever seen a real crawl. They were told it looked like a single tractor tire track coming out of the water and going back in. They did finally find one that season and the excitement was overwhelming. They were hooked for life.

For many years it was just Rusty and Susi but along the way they gathered others that were just as interested in helping save the sea turtles as they were. In 2001 the volunteer program was officially put in place to help Susi and Rusty with nest monitoring and in 2003 "The Pleasure Island Sea Turtle Project" was born and became incorporated as a non-profit organization. Susi and Rusty were surprised at the overwhelming support they received from the community. They had no idea there were so many people who loved sea turtles as much as they do.

Last Month's Meeting

Charen Fink, a nurse, presented a fascinating program on "Nursing and Civil War Medicine." With over 660,000 deaths during the Civil War years, Fink reported that 2/3 of those were due to diseases such as small pox and malaria and illnesses such as tonsillitis, pneumonia and the common cold. With no antibiotics or vaccines the most commonly used medicines often themselves poisonous, were leeches, maggots, whiskey and blood letting were often the choice of treatment used by physicians. Fink showed a fascinating variety of medical devices and talked about the life of a surgeon and nurse.

President's Message

It is hard to believe that August has arrived and school will be starting soon. I am looking forward to, along with your help, to making this the most productive ever for our History Center. Our August program is the history of the Pleasure Island Sea Turtle Project and hopefully by our September meeting, with Southport author Larry Maisel the weather will have broken. Weather or not, come join us for these fascinating programs.

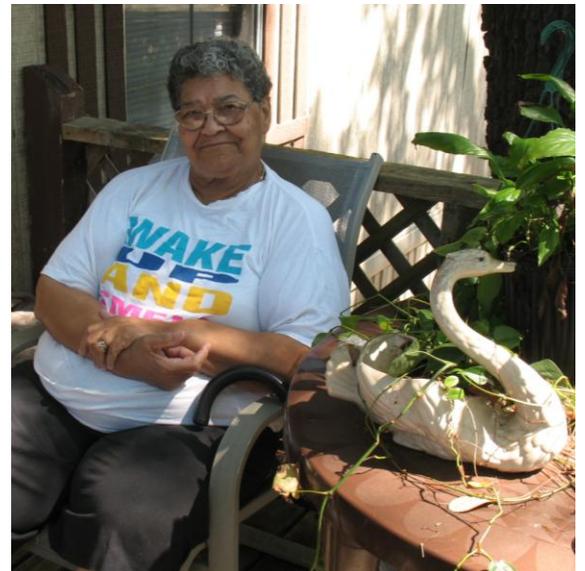
-Barry

Oral History by Ann Hertzler Dorothy McQuillan Part 1. Carolina Beach

Dorothy Farrow McQuillan was born in Wilmington, North Carolina November 20, 1937 the third of nine children - 3 boys and 6 girls. She was born at home where they lived on the Carolina Beach side of the swing bridge up on the hill where Pleasure Cay is now. Dot's people used to own that land. She was delivered by a mid-wife, either Lizzie or Miss Hannah. But her birth date was listed as the 27th, the day it was recorded downtown.

As children they played under oak trees down next to the water where they went to swim. Dot was not a water person. Her Momma used to tell them "Don't y'all cross to Carolina Beach to the inland waterway." People would swim in what they know as the canal where drowning most likely happened with the tides. Some of Dot's Freeman cousins were drowned there.

They were just children back then in the 30s and 40s playing stick ball and doing kids stuff - run and play and hop and skip and jump and growing up. They had an old play house where they used old pots to pretend they were cooking. They had a big open field with yellow white sand. They called white sand their rice or grits, the yellow sand was the eggs, and the poke leaves were the collards. The polk berries were used to make "pretend" Kool Aid. They walked all the way down Old Dow Road and picked plums and briarberries (*blackberries*).



They made dolls with clothes from old material and rags. They platted or braided straw for doll hair with ribbons. They called the dolls their children. When grownups were visiting, the kids place was supposed to be

outside. As the older generations started dying out, they sold their land. Dot would like to see the area stay just like it is because if someone were to come in and take over, it wouldn't be like it is now.

Dot's family had a pump, a well, and a big tin tub for bathing. The water didn't have to be heated in the summer - just leave it out in the sun to warm. In winter, water was heated on the stove. With no electricity, they used oil lamps for light. Their first radio - an old Philco - used a battery. Windows were opened when it was hot so mosquitoes got in. Windows had big shutters. An ice man brought ice. Trash, boxes and stuff, were burned in a drum out in the yard. They don't want you to burn trash now because of the fire hazard.

No one worried about anybody breaking in and stealing. If people came through your yard and wanted some water, they would help themselves and leave you a little note saying thank you. Now you have to lock up everything.

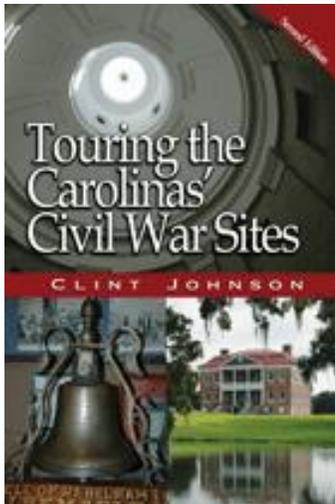
Dot's mother loved the outdoors - oystering and clamming. She worked at Carolina Beach cleaning motels and cooking for restaurants. Dot started working at the Chinese Restaurant when she was about 12. It used to be David's Restaurant on Carolina Beach going down to the dock, just before the gas station, right on that corner near Hardee's.

Book Review

***Touring the Carolinas' Civil War Sites* by Clint Johnson.**

(Published by: Blair, 2011)

We're all going to see a whole lot of new books on the Civil War over the next four years. But for those who want to go visiting to the various battle sites and landmarks this is a must have right now. It covers just North Carolina and South Carolina but it manages to span the various significant sites in a roughly chronological order. Especially interesting is Tour #8 which covers the early days of the war on Roanoke Island and the Outer Banks. I plan to use it when we go up to Hatteras for Flags Over Hatteras the end of August.



It's always interesting to me that New Bern and Ft. Macon fell to the Union so early in the war. Tours #9 and #10 cover that early part of the war from Hatteras and Roanoke to Beaufort and its surrounding area. The author doesn't miss other parts of the state. With Tours #14 and #15 he takes in the fighting in the mountains and western part of North and South Carolina. And of course at the end is Tour #20 that covers Wilmington, Fort Fisher, Southport and Fort Anderson.

I did learn a number of new things from the Wilmington section, especially from the tour of Oakdale Cemetery. With the most detailed directions I've seen you will be able to locate every significant confederate grave including those of Capt. John Newland Maffitt, General John D. Barry, General William MacRae, General H. C. Whiting, and of course the well known spy Rose O'Neal Greenhow who are all buried at Oakdale. Did you know that the monument of a Civil War soldier that stands above the grave of unknown Confederates is about to blow his own hand off? It is also apparently a generic sculpture as the author says he has seen the same one guarding Union soldiers in the North. I was also impressed that he includes directions to Sugar Loaf for those who'll make the walk. The book ends with a long list of websites of local tourism, historic site, and museum locations.

Whether you are setting out on a Civil War trip away from home or if you just want to refresh your memory of our local location, this one's worth keeping in your glovebox, or on the back seat of your car.

RESEARCH HELP!



At the History Center we received the following e-mail: *“I am trying to find out about a water surge/wave that hit Carolina Beach sometime between 1950 & 1961. It supposedly hit the Bame Hotel and Ms. Webb’s. Webb’s Motel across the Street had to be evacuated by rowboat.”*

Judy Moore has brought us some pictures from a 1946 “flood” but we’re not sure if that’s from a hurricane or not – as there is no hurricanes listed in the historical records for SE NC in September of 1946.

Can anyone give me clues to the event he is asking about? –FPHPS@yahoo.com



Author Lois Wheatley still needs your help! She’s gotten a lot of great pictures from a number of our members but could still use more. So it’s not too late to open your photo albums and your Carolina Beach memories so that she can make this a truly great and meaningful publication. Lois can be contacted at (910) 465-6801 or at lois@theloissite.com. She will scan your photographs and return them to you as promptly as possible.

brad@oceandrivemovie.com. Movie Research! Bill Yoder of OD Movie Development came by the History Center recently. Currently under development is a feature film based on Chicken Hicks and the birth of the Shag. He is looking for pictures and stories of people and places of the Carolina Beach Boardwalk from the years 1943 to 1955. His contact information is **Brad Yoder, Producer, 336-307-5252.**

Society Notes

❖ **DONATIONS!** In July we had a number of donations, both in goods, and in time. Darlene bought us a Swiffer for dusting and bought four cases of canned drinks. Thanks also go to Phil Sapienza for getting bugs out of two of our exhibits and for agreeing to take the lead on our project to transfer our video files to digital format. Biggest thanks of all go to Leslie Bright for spending a day working to repair and refurbish the gazebo at the General Beauregard overlook. Rick Ivester was the member who found that it needed repair and made sure we knew about it. Members: please don’t hesitate to bring anything that needs work to our attention.

- ❖ This month we recorded 83 visitors to the History Center and 52 members and visitors at our monthly meeting. The History Center took in a whoppin' \$337.34 in the gift shop. Don't forget: new in the gift shop are cute and fluffy turtles, seahorses, and hermit crabs – YES, CUTE AND FLUFFY! Perfect for the grandkids.
- ❖ 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). **Darlene and Leslie Bright** continue to spend time on all kinds of projects around the History Center.
- ❖ We still need volunteers for a 2 hour --- one time only, cleaning of the History Center. We've had people step up for August and September but have plenty of openings for the Fall!
- ❖ New Members: Welcome to **Andre Blouin** of Wilmington.

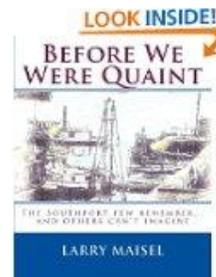
***Federal Point Historic Preservation Society
Events Calendar Summer/Fall 2011***



Monday, August 15, 2011 Membership Meeting. 7:30-9:00 pm
Members of the **Pleasure Island Sea Turtle Project** will discuss the physical traits, characteristics and life cycle of sea turtles, especially those that inhabit our area and the work that the Pleasure Island Sea Turtle Project does to protect them.

Monday, September 19, 2011: Membership Meeting. 7:30-9:00 pm **Larry Maisel** author of *Before We Were Quaint* will share stories of old

Southport and of the relationship between the two banks of the Cape Fear River. A former broadcast journalist, he moved to this area in 1990 and worked closely with the late Susie Carson on two of her books.



Monday October 17, 2011: Membership Meeting. 7:30-9:00 pm. Elaine Henson, author of *Carolina Beach, A Postcard History* will talk to us about the **Bame family** and their relationship with "The Beach" over the past 80 years; which grew to include owning several beach businesses, hotels, piers, as well as providing two Carolina Beach mayors, a fire chief over three generations.



Monday, November 21, 2011: Membership Meeting. 7:30-9:00 pm. **Mark Wilde-Ramsing** is back to present the news from the wrecksite of *Queen Anne's Revenge*, as well as other activities in the world of underwater archaeology including a look back 50 years to the beginnings of the Fort Fisher lab and the salvage of the blockade runner *Modern Greece*.



Officers

President – Barry Nelder
Vice-President – Annette Winner
Secretary – Lois Taylor
Treasurer – Demetria Sapienza

Directors

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|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Leslie Bright | Thomas Gray | Jean Stewart |
| Elaine Henson | Cheri McNeill | John Gordon |
| Jack Travis | Pat Bolander | Skippy Winner |

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Beach Portraits Photography

Business member John Gregory has 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.

On Sale!

All Mugs now \$4.95!

And we've still got plenty of copies of Daniel Norris's two coffee table books: *Carolina Beach: Images and Icons of a Bygone era* (vol. 1) and *Carolina Beach: Friends and Neighbors Remembered* (vol. 2) on sale. They normally list at \$29.95 but we have them marked at \$22.50. With sales tax down to 7% it's a great time to stock up now for copies to give family and friends.

