



# Federal Point Historic Preservation Society

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## Newsletter

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

[www.FederalPointHistory.org](http://www.FederalPointHistory.org)

### November Meeting Monday, November 21, 2011

7:30 pm

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

Mark Wilde-Ramsing will fill us in on the current state of the *Queen Anne's Revenge* shipwreck and its artifacts 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*.



Recently promoted to head the Underwater Archaeology Branch, Mark Wilde-Ramsing has had a long career with the State's underwater agency having first begun as a student in the 1975 field school. He has received degrees in anthropology from Wake Forest and Catholic University and in 2009 completed his doctorate in Coastal Resource Management from East Carolina University.

### Last Month's Meeting

One of our own, Elaine Henson, presented a picture essay on The Bame Family of Carolina Beach. J. R. Bame moved to the beach from Barber, N. C. in 1926 and built a cottage for his growing family of ten children. His business empire began with a grocery store and gas station and soon included a hotel. The area boomed when Snow's Cut opened in 1930. A fire in 1940 destroyed the famous Pavilion and the Bame Hotel but spared the gas station. Within eight months the town had rebuilt with the hotel now doubled in size. Elaine shared many photographs of both the growing town and three generations of growing family.



## President's Message

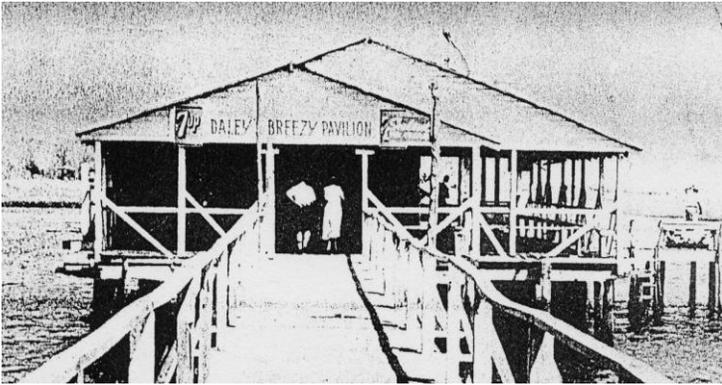
Elaine Henson's presentation of the early days in Carolina Beach and the importance of the Bame family, was given to a standing room only crowd. Thanks to Elaine and the Bame family.

Our speaker on the 21<sup>st</sup> will be Mark Wilde-Ramsing, he is the manager of the Underwater Archaeology Lab. He will talk about the Queen Anne's Revenge.

Don't forget the Christmas party on Monday Dec. 12 at Kure Memorial Lutheran Church. See you at our November meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

Barry

### Dorothy McQuillan Part 4. Freeman Oral History by Ann Hertzler



Dot's family was related to the **Freemans**. They all went to school together. Ellis Freeman had a little country store right down there where a lot of people went. The store was on the old road before they put in this double road. He sold gasoline with the old pump. He knew everybody around. Jack Lewis said a bunch of fellas down there paid his father's bail to get him out of jail. Many "sea farmers" down here just fished and shrimped. They'd pole all the way across the river to Winnabow and Delco.

Dot knew Corinne Freeman who used to have a place of business in SeaBreeze with her husband Bruce Freeman. Corinne and her friend, Olivia, were the cooks and sold "some good food." One of the piers out there came from Bruce's place where you danced with Big Bands. Dot's husband took her once to see Duke Ellington or was it Lionel Hampton? Her husband loved to dance, but Dot just never really loved the party life. Dot remembers when Mrs. George Johnson from Seabreeze got the city busses to come in off the main road through SeaBreeze. The last bus would run about 12 or 1 o'clock.

SeaBreeze had some boats that cost a certain amount to go across and you would dance til you got ready to come back over to this side. It was an evening thing and a weekend thing, not an everyday thing. Everybody at Seabreeze worked weekends and holidays. There used to be a place over there just for Blacks called Bop City. A lot of Black soldiers from Ft. Fisher used to come up to this neighborhood. Matter of fact, Dot's sister married a soldier that used to be at Ft. Fisher in the service. Some of the Freemans married some of the guys that used to be down at Ft. Fisher.

Dot remembers Hurricane Hazel going through here tearing everything up. She saw the buildings from Carolina Beach floating down the Inland Waterway - refrigerators, stuff that come out of some of the businesses at Carolina Beach, furniture and big stuff from the houses came floating down the river. And at Seabreeze that water was almost to her mother's house. Hurricane Hazel was bad. Dot thinks they went somewhere when Hurricane Hazel hit but that next morning, they came back. Now victims are sent to the schools but the schools are not a safe place. Gregory School's dining area is a whole lot of big glass. Most of the time you go to Hoggard; one time the flat top roof caved in. As big as Wilmington is, they should have a good shelter for people to go to for safety during hurricanes.



## The Freeman Family 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.

**1876**

The land now Carolina Beach came into the hands of **Bruce Freeman** and remained in his family for many years. His family still owns land on Federal Point. WILM.STAR, 6-15-1941.



**August 7, 1887**

“**Chief Justice**” **Freeman** opened a law dispensary at Carolina Beach, and he was prepared to issue “writs at living prices. Special attention given to mandamuses, quo warrants, scieri facieses, capiases and respondum, etc. The blind goddess always on hand with scales in good condition.” WILM.STAR 8-7-1887.

**February 3, 1888**

In view of the largely increased river travel last season, Capt. Harper and the New Hanover Transit Company was to put another vessel to serve all points on the lower Cape Fear River, in addition to the steamer PASSPORT. Capt. John Harper “gives due notice that if any man has red clay on his boots and a blue jeans suit, he will carry him on the steamer for nothing, provided it can be shown clearly after a judicial investigation before “**Chief Justice**” **Freeman** that the man has no money and never had any, as the Captain is determined to bring our up-country friends to Wilmington and the nearby beach” WILM. STAR 2-2-1888.

**September 29, 1889**

**Archie Freeman** hauled in over 2,000 mullets at Carolina Beach. WILM.STAR, 9-29-1889.

**August 15, 1891**

Professor Edward Jewell, the good-looking young aeronaut, left the earth in his balloon at 6 p.m. and was borne upward into the boundless space on the horizontal bar attached to his big canvas balloon inflated with hot air. He went up to 5,000 feet and came down in the ocean about one mile from shore. About 1,800 people, men and women, old and young, and many children had collected to witness the spectacle.

**Bruce and Rowland Freeman** with five men each went to Jewell's rescue with their whale boats. Professor Jewell, when about six feet from the water, sprang into the surf and against the tide and through the breakers swam one mile to the shore, as reckoned by the Freemans. The boats brought in the balloon and all was well. The elegant blue silk shirt and buff silk tights were, of course, dripping as the tired man reached the shore. He was still wearing his brown Derby hat. WILM.MESSENGER, 6-18-1891.



**July 22, 1893**

Papers of incorporation were filed in Superior Court for the Carolina Beach Pleasure Club. The incorporators were Messrs. Hans A. Kure, **E.H. Freeman**, J.J. Dray, W.H. Gerken, F. Richter and F.B. Rice. The capital stock was \$5,000 and the limit of corporation was 30 years. The general purpose and business of the company was social. WILM.MESSENGER, 7-23-1893.

### March 26, 1907

Members of the Board of County Commissioners went down into Federal Point and Masonboro Townships to confer with committees of citizens representing rival delegations urging the permanent improvement of one of the county roads leading into that section. The Commissioners are at sea as to which of two routes to adopt, the people of the townships differing upon which is best. Messrs. Melvin Horne, Owen Martindale and **Horton Freeman** urged the adoption of the old Federal Point Road, and Messrs. G. W. Trask, George W. Rogers and D. J. Fergus urged the adoption of the "Masonboro route." A decision was postponed until the next meeting. WILMINGTON STAR, 3-28-1907.

### June 5, 1910

**Ellis Freeman**, the well known caterer, was prepared to furnish Myrtle Grove oysters at Carolina Beach. He was making a specialty of roasts. "Truelove's Sauce", new, delicious and appetizing, was the latest attraction with oysters. WILMINGTON DISPATCH, 6-3-1910.



### May 23, 1911

There were persistent rumors that there was planned big development for Carolina Beach. It was known that T. F. Boyd and several other citizens of Hamlet, N.C., as well as several gentlemen from Michigan, interested in such a project. It had been learned that Roland Freeman, one of the heirs to the **Freeman estate**, colored, (which owns considerable quantities of land near Carolina Beach) had practically closed negotiations for the sale of 250 acres of land owned by the estate and that he had also agreed to give options on a like amount of territory. The home of Roland Freeman was near the beach. From the rumors it seemed that an effort was being considered to promote the advantages of Carolina Beach. WILMINGTON DISPATCH, 5-23-1911.

### August 18, 1914

Real Estate Transfer – **J. N. Freeman** and wife transfer to A. W. Pate, trustee, for the Wilmington & Carolina Beach Railway, for \$1 and other considerations, a 100-foot right-of-way through their lands in Federal Point Township. WILMINGTON STAR, 8-19-1914.

### July 3, 1930

Six local fishermen fishing off Carolina Beach reported a catch of 80 sheephead in 2 ½ hours. The haul was said to be the largest of its kind ever landed at Carolina Beach.

The party of anglers consisted of E.H. Tolar, Harry DeCover, Horace Pearsall, T.E. Loftin, Bill Watson and **Ellis Freeman**. The fish weighed from 1 to 10 pounds each. WILM.STAR, 7-4-1930.

### Jones "Neil" Pharr

We recently lost a loved and respected member of our community. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family and friends of J. Neil Pharr, who died on October 19<sup>th</sup>. Neil owned the Carolina Beach Drug Store and was the pharmacist there for many years until it closed in the late '80's. He was also a two term mayor of Carolina Beach and the thing most remembered about him is that he always tried to help everyone who came to him for help and advice.

Neil grew up in Concord and graduated from the Pharmacy School at UNC-Chapel Hill and worked as a pharmacist at Pike's Pharmacy in Concord and then came to Carolina Beach where he became the town pharmacist and friend to all.

## *Society Notes*

**From Darlene Bright, History Center Director:** Funds are tight, as it is with all non-profits. Donations are down and in order to meet our day to day operating expenses for the History Center, and move forward with new exhibits, programs, and continuing with the development of our research library, we have to be creative and come up with some additional fundraisers. Demetria has sent out a plea by e-mail and I am using the newsletter to try and get more people involved. We need ideas and hands and feet to get it done. Please step forward with any ideas or time that you might have. Every little bit helps.

- ❖ **DONATIONS!** **Thomas Gray** has donated an original surveyor's map of ownership of the lands above and below Telfair's Creek (which became Snow's Cut.) It is undated but Captain Harper's railroad is on it so it must have been done sometime in the early years of the 1900's. Also, Billie Clark donated 50 manila envelopes and two reams of white paper.
- ❖ **New Members:** Welcome to new members **Eileen Kapler** of Carolina Beach, and **David McLemore** of Clinton, NC, and **Donna Bernardino-Carr** renewed as a LIFETIME member.
- ❖ This month we recorded 55 visitors to the **History Center** and 65 members and visitors at our monthly meeting. The Gift Shop took in \$ 212.86.
- ❖ **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). **Phil Sapenzia** power washed the handicapped ramp so I can now use it even when its rainy and **Leslie Bright** worked on the side door locks so my keys work in them again. Thanks to **Elaine Henson** and **Sylvia Snook** and **Ron Griffin** who covered the History Center when Rebecca needed to be away.
- ❖ A huge thanks to **Cheri McNeill** for proofing the Newsletter every month. She can find stuff none of the rest of us see!
- ❖ **Treasurer's Report:** It's time to get serious about raising the \$3,000 deficit in this year's budget due to the fact that we didn't get our requested funds from the town of Kure Beach. The members of our fund raising committee are Cheri McNeill, John Gordon, Jeannie Gordon, Barry Nelder and Darlene Bright. We will be meeting sometime in November to look at all our options so PLEASE if you have an idea for a "high profit/low-workload" way to supplement this year's budget let one of the committee members know!

**The Holidays are coming!** Plans are underway for our annual Christmas potluck. We will be at Kure Memorial Lutheran Church again this year. The date will be **December 12** (one week earlier then our usual meeting) and **we'll begin at 6:30.**

## ***Our Business Members***

Beach Portraits  
Photography  
Britt's Donut Shop  
Coastal K-9 Bakery, Inc.  
First Bank  
First Citizens Bank  
Frank's Pizza  
Got-Em-On-Live Bait  
Club  
Hanover Iron Works, Inc.  
Historical Society of  
Topsail Island  
Hoplite Pub & Beer  
Garden  
*Island Gazette*  
Kure Beach Fishing Pier  
Monarch Mortgage  
B. Parker Protective &  
Lock  
Pleasure Island Chamber  
of Commerce  
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.**

Officers

Directors

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

Leslie Bright  
Elaine Henson  
Jack Travis

Thomas Gray  
Cheri McNeill  
Pat Bolander

Jean Stewart  
John Gordon  
Skippy Winner

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**P. O. Box 623**  
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**Gift Shop - SALE!**

It's looks like winter is actually here.. So we have put all the **LONG SLEVED T-SHIRTS** on sale for **\$14.00** -- that's **\$4.00** off! We have plenty in a variety of sizes in forest green and "sand" which is sort of an off/white.

**Mugs** are still on sale! And we now have **gift boxes** to go with them. A **PERFECT** Holiday gift for friends and family.

Also on sale are a number of Susan Taylor Block's Arcadia titles; ***Cape Fear Beaches***, ***Cape Fear Lost*** and ***Along the Cape Fear***. They normally sell for 19.95 but for this month they are priced at **\$15.00**.