



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



April Meeting
Monday, April 16 -- 7:30pm

**Development Through Leisure: A History of Beach Going
in Carolina's Playground**
An exhibit by Devin Kelly, Senior, UNCW

The Federal Point Historic Preservation Society will hold its monthly meeting on **Monday, April 16 at 7:30 pm at the Federal Point History Center**, 1121-A North Lake Park Blvd., adjacent to Carolina Beach Town Hall.

This month our program will be a change from our usual format. Devin Kelly, a senior in Public History at UNCW has been working on a new exhibit for us this entire school year. We will “cut the ribbon” on the exhibit and Devin will take a few minutes to share some of the things she learned about the beaches of the Federal Point area. Refreshments and time to take in the exhibit will round out the evening. One of the things incorporated in her exhibit is the “Carolina Moon” that so many people had their pictures taken in during the 40’s and 50’s. Anyone who comes to the opening will have the chance to take home their own picture taken with the classic backdrop.

Devin chose this project because, “I think the history of the Lower Cape Fear is fascinating, but I was really interested in the cultural study of the beach. I also think it’s fascinating to look at how places develop compared to each other and how that impacts their future. It is especially interesting because I am familiar with the Carolina Beach area, “I’ve been going to those beaches for years, so I jumped on the chance to explore the history.”

In May, Devin will receive her BA in History. She says “I picked Public History because its a really great way to make the past accessible to the general public. I’ve had an amazing mentor in Dr. Tammy Gordon. She has supported me every step of the way, teaching me and showing me exactly what it takes to be a Public Historian and a curator. I also love how many different jobs there are to putting together an exhibit. One has to be a builder, a designer, a collaborator, a researcher and many other things to be able to successfully make an exhibit; and that’s been really fun.”

Devin graduated from Apex High School in 2008. Her family moved to the Apex area in 1998. She picked UNCW “partially because of its proximity to the beach (anyone who tells you they didn't is probably lying haha) but also because its a great school that has grown a lot in my time there. It was just around the size I was looking for, and its a beautiful campus. My first visit to UNCW, I fell in love with the campus and community.”

On her plans for the future Devin says, “After graduation, I plan to take time off of school to work and, hopefully, travel a bit before heading back to graduate school in Public History. My ideal job would be one that enables me to work in the History field, either in Museum Education or Exhibits.

Last Month's Meeting

Jim Steele the manager of Fort Fisher State Historic Site was our speaker. He talked about the history of the site noting that the site was the first designated National Historic Landmark. It's significance was as the protector of the Port of Wilmington. After 1864 it was the only southern port open to bring supplies in to Robert E. Lee's army.

Beach erosion has destroyed most of the sea face of the original fort which extended for more than a mile along the ocean. In 1996 the Corps of Engineers installed 3000 feet of revetment to stop this erosion. Over a half million visitors come to the Fort each year, and guided tours are offered on the hour every day the fort is open to the public.



The Fort Fisher Strategic Planning Committee was formed two years ago to create ideas for the future of the site. Current plans include replacement of the 50 year old palisade fence which has deteriorated greatly. A model of the fabled Armstrong gun is being fabricated to be displayed at the visitor's center and more interpretive signs will be placed along the trail around the mounds. New sidewalk and interpretive signs are also planned for Battle Acre which has long been ignored. A lively discussion followed Mr. Steele's presentation.



President's Message

A HUGE thanks to Chris Fonvielle for leading a narrated walk to Sugar Loaf the anchor of extensive Civil War military earthworks. These entrenchments, built by Confederate forces to protect Fort Fisher from a land attack from Union troops landing north of the Fort's Palisade ran from Myrtle Grove Sound to the Cape Fear River, through property that is now the Carolina Beach Municipal Complex and Carolina Beach State Park. A group of 24 hardy walkers managed to dodge the thundershowers and make it back to the History Center by 5 PM. Chris donates his time to us for this annual fundraiser so next time you see him take a moment to thank him.

We're still lobbying the towns of Carolina Beach, and Kure Beach for help in keeping the History Center open. If you get a chance to talk to of our elected officials, be sure to explain that we're NOT asking for money for the Preservation Society. We are asking for money to keep the History Center and its exhibits, library and archive open to the GENERAL PUBLIC.

Our program this month will be a new experience for all of us. Please make plans to stop by on April 16 or any time after that to see the new exhibit.
-- Barry

Brenda Coffey Part IV Kure Beach Celebrates Compiled and edited by Ann Hertzler



Brenda's grandmother was secretary of the Progressive Action Committee organized to make Kure Beach a town. In 1947 when Kure Beach was incorporated they entered a Fishing Float in the First Azalea Parade in Wilmington. (see picture) Brenda's grandmother (Ma Fry) is in the middle with the fishing bonnet. Brenda's grandfather (Pa Fry) is on the back waving. The picture shows the little children that were on the float - probably both of Margaret Ford's boys and Doris Stathus. Brenda had the mumps and couldn't go. The fish balloons hanging over the side were put on the float to look like they were catching fish.

In April 2007 Kure Beach celebrated 60 years. Brenda's picture was shown on the cover of Snow's Cut Monthly (April 2007). The picture at the right shows Brenda holding a copy of the Snow's Cut Monthly – looking to the future. The picture was taken in the middle of 3rd Street in front of 109 S. 3rd. To the right is a house that the Fordham's lived in (this is where Big Daddy's is located now). The street was dirt. To the left is the house that Brenda's parents briefly rented while their "barracks" was being remodeled. That house is still standing.

On April 4, 2007, the Island Gazette also featured Brenda's story growing up at Kure Beach and the story of her family.



Tickets Now on Sale! Lower Cape Fear River History Cruise

**Aboard the Royal Winner Princess II
May 20, 2012 2pm – 6 pm
\$35.00 per ticket**

**Call your family, call your friends. This is a very special event
that only happens once every two years.**

The “other” Commemoration The Bicentennial of The War of 1812 in North Carolina

[Pictures are from the NCDCCR web site]



Dolly Madison

With all the brouhaha over the Civil War Sesquicentennial it seems that the Bicentennial of the War of 1812 has snuck up on us – even though the year is right there in the name. But it didn’t sneak up on the people at North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources. They’ve got a great web site up with all kinds of information about the role North Carolina played in the war as well as information on a major Symposium being planned for Beaufort on June 29th.

The War of 1812 Committee has partnered with the North Carolina Maritime History Council, the Daughters of the War of 1812, the North Carolina Maritime Museum, and the Friends of the Maritime Museum to develop an informative symposium that will be on June 29th, 2012. Prominent scholars will be on hand to present information on the importance of the War of 1812, and North Carolina’s role in the war effort, with emphasis on the naval war. More information on the symposium, including a schedule of events, will be posted to their web site soon.

Among the events being planned by the Division of State Historic Sites are:

June 9: Lecture “An Overview of the War of 1812” by Ed Hodges, **Historic Bath**

June 9-10: Special event Living history, lectures, exhibit, **House-in-the-Horseshoe**

June 29-30, 2012: Symposium 1812 Symposium at Beaufort on the Naval War and Privateering. Lectures and opening of the War of 1812 Naval War Exhibit, North Carolina Maritime Museum. Living history, historic house tours, and family activities.

July 4: Special event “4th of July Celebration,” including living history, music, and displays, **State Capitol**

September 22-23: Living history militia encampment, **Vance Birthplace**



Otway Burns

October 20: 1812 Symposium Lectures, living history, Southport, co-sponsored by **Brunswick Town/Ft. Anderson and Ft. Fisher**

Web sites of interest on the War Of 1812

NC DCR Archives and History: <http://nc1812.wordpress.com/category/news-history/>

Information on “famous” North Carolinians who contributed to the nation’s defense including Dolly Madison, General Andrew Jackson, Otway Burns, and Captain Johnston Blakely:

http://www.carolana.com/NC/1800s/antebellum/war_of_1812.html



Andrew Jackson

For those of you who are true military history buffs: <http://www.history.army.mil/books/AMH/AMH-06.htm>

The Known Military Units from North Carolina:

http://www.carolana.com/NC/1800s/antebellum/war_of_1812_military_units.html

A great online exhibit of artifacts from the period: http://nc1812.ncder.gov/moh_1812_artifates.pdf

The life of North Carolina coastal hero Otway Burns: <http://nc1812.wordpress.com/2011/04/07/the-ups-and-downs-of-a-seafaring-man/>

The defense of Wilmington, 1813: <http://nc1812.wordpress.com/2011/09/21/the-defense-of-wilmington-1813/>

Society Notes

Darlene Bright, History Center Director

- ❖ This month we recorded 29 members and guests at our March meeting and program. We had 55 visitors to the History Center, as well as eight visitors on “Be A Tourist” day March 3. The Fonvielle walk to Sugar Loaf brought in another 24. The gift shop took in \$ 87.94.
- ❖ Thanks to our History Center Volunteers; **Lois Taylor**, for helping with the Newsletter and covering the desk, **Demetria Sapienza** for her work on the History Center’s photographic collection as well as all the work she does as Society Treasurer. Thanks also to Ron Griffin and Darlene for covering the desk for me to be off, and to Cheri McNeill for proof reading the Newsletter again this month. Our stealth cleaners this month were Ron Griffin and Virginia Francis. – thanks so much! It is really making a difference in how the History Center looks to have a good cleaning once a month. Thanks as always to Darlene who keeps the History Center afloat with her knowledge, time and energy.
- ❖ **Treasurer’s Report:** We’re now in the process of preparing our annual budget requests to the Towns of Carolina Beach and Kure Beach. That money is always earmarked for History Center operations and continues to be the primary reason we can keep the Center open to the general public three days a week.
- ❖ **New Members:** Welcome to **Norm Melton** from Wilmington, **Mary Grinnell** of Carolina Beach, and **Melanie and Sam McDonald** of Carolina Beach.

Our Business Members

Atlantic Towers
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
B. Parker Protective & Lock
Pleasure Island Chamber of
Commerce
SlapDash Publishing
Taylor’s Heating & Air, Inc.
Tucker Bros. Realty Company
Winner Fishing and Cruise
Boats

Officers

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

Directors

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

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FPHPS Upcoming Meetings and Events

Monday April 16, 2012: Membership Meeting. 7:30-9:00 pm Devin Kelly, Senior in Public History, UNCW will report on her research on the history and the development of the “beach resort.” We will also “open” her exhibit that will run through next summer.

Sunday May 20, 2012: History Cruise. 2:00 pm – 6:00 pm. Don’t miss this biennial event. We’re aboard the Royal Winner Princess II and will be on the river for 4 hours. Narrators include Chris Fonvielle, Richard Lawrence, Jack Fryar, and Leslie Bright. Also aboard will be John Golden as Capt. Roberts the blockade runner. Tickets are \$35.00. Make reservations by calling 910-458-0502 or e-mailing to FPHPS@yahoo.com. Tickets will be mailed to you upon receipt of payment mailed to FPHPS, P.O. Box 623, Carolina Beach, NC 28428.

Monday May 21, 2012: Membership Meeting. 7:30-9:00 pm. Lois Wheatley, author of *Images of America, Carolina Beach* will share stories about the vintage photographs she has collected in this book just published by Arcadia Books.

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 the 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.