



Federal Point Historic Preservation Society

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Newsletter

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Darlene Bright, editor

Rebecca Taylor, production

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

www.FederalPointHistory.org

April Meeting Monday, April 15, 2013 7:30 pm

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



Billy Ray Morris, the new Director of the North Carolina Underwater Archaeology Lab, will talk to us about the ongoing re-examination and interpretation of the maritime aspects of the Fort Fisher campaign.

In 2012 Morris was appointed Deputy State Archaeologist to direct and supervise all aspects of the North Carolina maritime archaeology program including the Queen Anne's Revenge Project, and ongoing research and protection of shipwrecks of all types including Civil War blockade runners, merchant vessels, locally-built sail and steam powered fishing and river boats. He holds degrees from UNCW and East Carolina University's Program in Maritime Studies.

Last Month's Meeting

At our March meeting, Ann Hutteman, local historian spoke about Captain John Harper, of the steamship *Wilmington* and his importance in the founding of Carolina Beach. Capt. John Harper, ran the steamship *Wilmington* from 1891-1917. John's older brother ran daily trips from Smithville to Wilmington first, and then the brothers joined to bring the steamship *Passport* from the mouth of the river to Wilmington for a fare of 50 cents a head.

In 1891 the Harper brothers bought a steamer, already named *Wilmington*, in Philadelphia. The ship could carry 500 passengers. At that time a small railroad ran from Sugar Loaf to the beach for 25 cents. The Harpers also owned a dance pavillion at the end of the rail line and other properties at the Beach.



John Harper died in 1917 and is buried in Oakdale Cemetery. His granddaughter, Catherine Stribling, is alive and a resident at Autumn Care and eagerly talks about her family and grandfather. The steamer *Wilmington* became a fishing excursion ship in Tampa Bay until 1930, and is rumored to still be actively running in Brazil today.



2013 Cape Fear River Cruise/Fundraiser
Sunday May 19! 2:00 to 4:00 pm
Black Water Adventure

This year we're going to try something different. Working with Wilmington Water Tours, we will travel up the Cape Fear River from downtown Wilmington with Doug Springer, former Cape Fear Riverkeeper, narrating the history and natural features of the downtown waterfront and the Cape Fear River above Wilmington.

We will head up the Cape Fear to explore the upper reaches and black water systems of the river. From the Rose Hill Plantation to the mysterious Black River, the exploits of the early explorers and history of the basin comes alive. The Cape Fear is still largely unpopulated and looks much as it did when Wilmington, North Carolina was colonized in the late 1600's.

Captain Doug will lead you in narration, as we travel through the seclusion of the scenic cypress-lined banks and wind our way through time. A relaxing scenic cruise from historic downtown Wilmington up river is the ideal way to spend a memorable afternoon. The journey is comfortable, relaxing and inspirational, offering views of unspoiled nature and a variety of wildlife. Photographers, birders history and nature buffs will love the chance to see a wide variety of birds, alligators, bears, deer, wild turkeys, egrets, ibis, hawks, kingfishers, water snakes and many other native species.

Details: Sunday May 19, 2:00-4:00 pm (2 hours) Light refreshments will be served Tickets \$30.00 per person. Call the Federal Point History Center 910-458-0502 to reserve tickets. We do not take credit cards.

The boat, the *Wilmington*, named after Captain Harper's steamboat, **only holds 40 people so tickets will go fast.** The trip will depart from Wilmington Water Tours' dock which is on the Wilmington Riverwalk between Orange St. and Ann St.

President's Message



We learned a tremendous amount about Captain John Harper at last month's meeting. Thanks go to Ann Hutteman for all the time she put into researching and preparing her talk. After the meeting everyone talked about how much they had learned about the very beginnings of "the beach."

We're still waiting for word on our request for funding from the Kure Beach Town Council. If you know one of the councilmen please let them know you support our work.

Oral History

Earl Page Part 7 – Fishing

Compiled and edited by Ann Hertzler

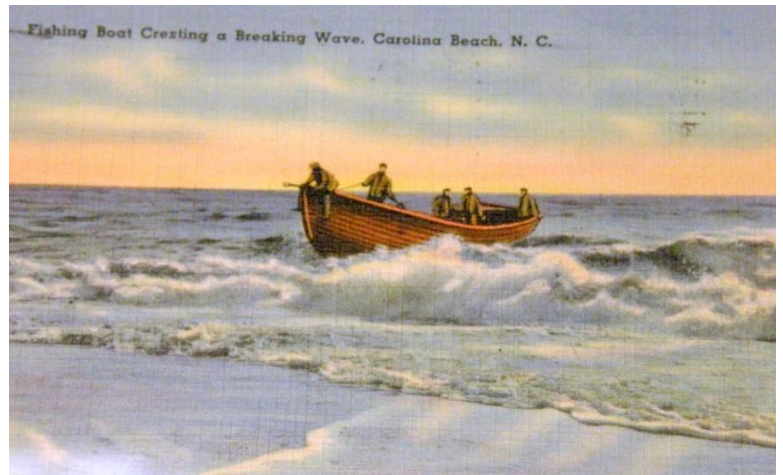


High Rock was northeast of Corncake Inlet approximately 2 ½ to 3 miles below Ft. Fisher pier. You don't see it. They all had their own separate marks - shoreline...you could see across the river...a tree... and you'd put that in with another one here and where they cross, that's where you anchor.

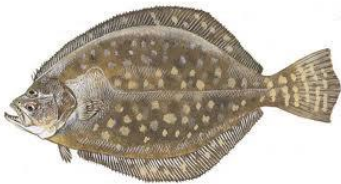
Six or seven Freeman fishermen fished with a rowboat. They'd go out to a place called High Rock in the early fall time of year. June, July and August, just forget it. It's not like it used to be cause the mullet don't run. Each fisherman would keep his own fish on a stringer, so when he came back in, he took his fish and sold 'em. There was always a crowd waiting. The man who owned the boat would take a percentage of the men's catch.

Fishing the seasons.

- Early fall was mullet, Black Trout or Speckled Trout. You catch them in nets, too.
- Winter was Roe mullet. You catch catfish in the river on trout lines.
- Spring was Virginia mullet, also known as Whiting. Spots don't come in until early August. You have to go off shore now to catch mackerel, King mackerel and Spanish mackerel.
- Summertime was black fish and gray trout. Sometimes you're trolling; other times bottom fished anchored in places that you'd found through experience.



The best Sheephead country for fishing was the sunken blockade runner, the *Modern Greece*. Sheephead love a wreck because they feed off the little barnacles that grow on the sides of the pilings under water. They lay over on their side and suck in the barnacle. The *Modern Greece* was off the end of the Ft. Fisher pier. Back in the early 30's, at dead low water, you could see the top rim of the smokestack, just a little bit of it. And then in 46 when it was gone, it kept a little whirlpool around it. You didn't have your GPS and all that stuff.



Earl Page did a lot of floundering at night - money fish because they could get a whole 25 cents a pound. They used pitch forks walking in the water with 20 ft. of line around their waist, with an 18-inch 3/8 copper tubing needle and a stopper on the other end. And when you hit one with the pitch fork, he's on the pitchfork floundering. Take that copper tubing, run up through his gills and just let him slide on down the line. You don't even touch him. You've got your Coleman 2-burner lantern hanging in your elbow. The tubing creates the needle. They have their face on one side with 2 eyes. Earl won \$5 from a sailor on an aircraft carrier one time when he told him the flounder had their eyes on one side.

When fishing, you're looking for the 2 eyes. To feed, he comes up and waddles down till he's covered over except 2 eyes. As a small fish swims above him, he's got him. How deep is the water when you flounder- mid thigh. You've got hip boots on. But you only do it on a rising tide because the flounder will not go up near the

shoreline on a falling tide. They would start down at Corncake Inlet on a rising tide and walk all the way back up to what's called the cribbin passage way. The cribbin is a hole in the Rocks there that separates one bay from the other bay. Like a big gate.

Earl did not sell fish off the truck but took most of them to Jessie Robertson's Fish & Tackle Shop in Carolina Beach or Clarence Danner's Fish House at Kure Beach. Danner's wife used to run the post office there in one little room. If you wanted some fish for supper, you went in a fish house and bought it. He was retail in 1946. Remember the Army was in there in the early 40s because the war was on. The Japanese didn't surrender until '45.

Society Notes

Darlene Bright, History Center Director

Our Business Members

Atlantic Towers
Ned Barnes, Attorney
Beach Portraits
Photography
Britt's Donut Shop
Charles Henson Painting
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
Cynthia Remahl-
Intracoastal Realty
Island Gazette
Island Treasures
Kure Beach Fishing Pier
B. Parker Protective &
Lock
Pleasure Island Chamber of
Commerce
SlapDash Publishing
Taylor's Heating & Air,
Inc.
Tucker Bros. Realty
Company
Wilmington Water Tours
Winner Marine
Construction

❖ This month we recorded 39 members and guests at our February meeting. The History Center recorded 55 visitors. The gift shop took in \$ 57.40.

❖ A huge thanks to Chris Fonvielle for leading the Walk to Sugar Loaf again this year. We netted \$225 in donations.

❖ Please welcome new member **Tony Phillips** of Carolina Beach.

❖ Thanks to our History Center Volunteers **Carl Filipiak** and **Ron Griffin** for working on the cataloging of the subject files. That project is finally beginning to move ahead.

❖ Newsletter: Thanks to **Cheri McNeill** for her always thorough proofing of the newsletter and **Lois Taylor** for her help getting the Newsletter in the mail.

❖ **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!** Rebecca has been madly clipping almost 10 years of old newspapers that had accumulated in our archives. Now we have lots and lots of clippings and new subject folders that need to be filed. No computer experience required. If you have a couple of hours a week for a short term project, please consider helping us get all our resources in tip-top shape. We also need people with some basic computer experience to enter these subject records into our online catalog, which is a much more long term project.

The Society desperately needs one or two people to revitalize the Historic Building Plaque Program! A number of the plaque's need to be refurbished and new properties scouted for future documentation.

Up Coming Programs and Events



Federal Point Historic Preservation Society

Program Change! Monday May 20, 2013: Membership Meeting. 7:30-9:00 pm. Local historian, author and publisher **Jack Fryar** will talk about the Revolutionary War period here in the Lower Cape Fear.

Monday June 17, 2013: Potluck Picnic. 6:30 – 8:30 pm. Summer Potluck/Picnic. The perfect time to bring friends and prospective members.

Friends Of Oakdale Cemetery 2013 Calendar Of Events



Saturday, April 27, 2013, 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. – Bird Tour

Enjoy a morning of birding at Oakdale with **Dr. James Parnell**, noted ornithologist and author of numerous books and articles about birds. Dr. Parnell is a retired professor of biology at UNC-W. Tour cancelled in event of inclement weather. Admission is \$10 for non-members; free for members.

Saturday, May 18, 2013, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon – Walking Tour

Ms. Robin Triplett will delight the group with a general historical tour of the cemetery. She will enlighten you with stories such as the Fireman and his dog, a murder in Cary that still remains unsolved just to name a few. Tour cancelled in event of inclement weather. Admission is \$10.00 for non-members; free for members

Saturday, June 15, 2013, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon – Walking Tour

Mr. Chris Nelson will lead the tour about most notable people of public service. He will give the details of the men who served as firemen in Wilmington and their events which may have led them to their final resting place in Oakdale. Tour cancelled in event of inclement weather. Admission is \$10.00 for non-members; free for members.

Saturday, July 20, 2013, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon – Walking Tour

Mr. Eric Kozen, Superintendent will take you on a special tour of the cemetery explaining its 150 + year old history. Give you a taste of horticulture specimens along with funerary art. Tour cancelled in event of inclement weather. Admission is \$10.00 for non-members; free for members.

North Carolina Historical Sites



Museum Of The Cape Fear Historical Complex, 801 Arsenal Avenue, Fayetteville NC. Saturday April 6. "SKIRMISHES AND SHORTAGES: NC IN 1863" Living history featuring musical performances by the Huckleberry Brothers Band, tintype/ambrotype photographer Harry Taylor, and guest speaker Raina Kellerman presenting on "Women in Civil War Arsenals." Discover the story of "Long Grabs" McSween, the unofficial war correspondent for the Fayetteville Observer. Learn more about his extraordinary life and listen to an interpretive reading of his letters. Musket firings at 10:30, 12:30, and 2:30. Hands on activities: Cartridge Rolling.

Bennett Place State Historic Site 4409 Bennett Memorial Rd, Durham NC. Saturday April 20 10:00 to 4:00. Sunday April, 21 10:00 to 3:00. "WAR AND SURRENDER DEPICTED THROUGH PHOTOGRAPHY, ART, AND JOURNALISM : Join us as we showcase the American Civil War throughout history and how it has been portrayed through photography, art, and journalism. Historians, artists, and authors will share their artwork, books, and exhibits on how the war has been viewed and preserved. Civil War soldiers will be encamped around the Bennett Farm demonstrating life as it was during the Civil War.. The annual Unity Monument wreath laying ceremony will take place with special presentations and guest speakers.

NC Museum of History, 5 E. Edenton Street Raleigh NC Sunday April 28, 2pm "THE POWER AND POPULARITY OF MUSIC IN THE CIVIL WAR" Christian L. McWhirter, Assistant Editor for the Papers of Abraham Lincoln will speak from published and archival material from the National Archives. McWhirter analyzes the numerous ways music influenced popular culture in the years surrounding the war and discusses its deep meaning for both whites and blacks, South and North

Officers

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

Directors

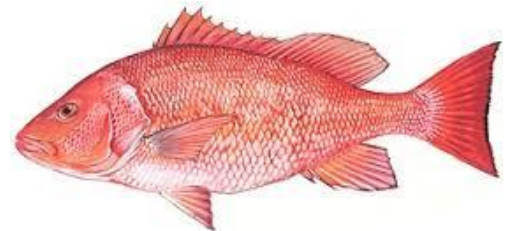
John Gordon (Chairman)
 Elaine Henson
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Thomas Gray
 Cheri McNeill
 Skippy Winner

Jean Stewart
 Leslie Bright
 Jim Dugan

Federal Point Historic Preservation Society**P. O. Box 623****Carolina Beach, NC 28428****FROM THE COOKBOOK COMMITTEE**

We're searching high and low for "local flavor" recipes to include.
 Here's a recipe from the original *Pleasure Island Cookbook* published
 by the Beach-O-Gram in 1975. Recipe by Mrs. John F. Canter

**Baked Red Snapper**

4 pounds red snapper
 2 sticks butter
 1 ¼ C. chopped onion
 1 ¼ C. chopped celery
 ¾ C. chopped green pepper
 4 cloves garlic minced
 1 can tomato sauce
 1 tsp. sugar
 1 Tbsp. Worcestershire
 ¼ C. dry white wine
 Salt
 Pepper



Season fish in an open baking pan.

Make a sauce with the butter, tomato sauce, sugar, onions, celery, green pepper, garlic, and Worcestershire.

Cook over low heat for 1 hour.

Pour wine over snapper and then sauce.

Bake at 300 for 1 hour.

Baste occasionally.

Serve with mashed potatoes.