



Federal Point Historic Preservation Society

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Newsletter

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March, 2013

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

www.FederalPointHistory.org

March Meeting Monday, March 18, 2013 7:30 pm

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



Ann Hewlett Hutteman, local historian and writer will speak to us about the life and times of Captain John Harper, ship captain, land developer, and an important figure in the founding of Carolina Beach.

A sixth-generation Wilmingtonian, Ann attended Wilmington College and taught school in this area. Her father's family, the Hewletts, have lived in the Masonboro Sound area since the American Revolution. Ann calls them "real clam diggers." Ann's book *Wilmington, NC A Postcard History* is a significant resource for people doing local history research. She has also written a number of local church histories and is an expert genealogist.

Also this Month! Chris Fonvielle Leads Walk to Sugarloaf Saturday March 16, 2013 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Parts of the Civil War "Battle of Fort Fisher" were fought across the Federal Point peninsula well north of the Fort itself. And if you know where to look you can still see remnants of the trenches and embankments today.

Again this year Dr. Chris Fonvielle will lead this popular narrated walk from the Federal Point History Center (1121 N. Lake Park Blvd.) through the Carolina Beach State Park to Sugarloaf, a landmark on the banks of the Cape Fear River.



The walk will last about 2 hours. A \$5.00 donation is requested and can be paid the day of the walk. There is a limit of 25 participants so everyone can see and hear Dr. Fonvielle's narration. Reservations may be made by calling the Federal Point History Center. Call 910-458-0502.

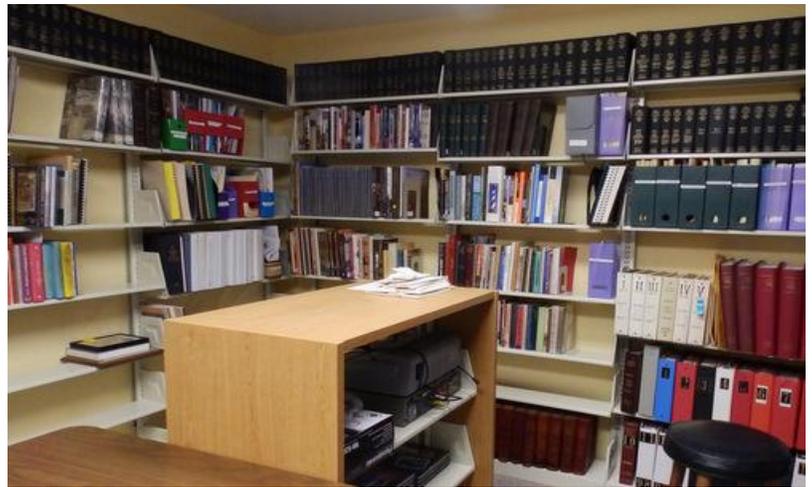


Last Month's Meeting

Our February meeting was a success as Frances Massey told us about the history of the Island of Lights Committee. Originally founded in 1989-1990 as a project of the short lived Carolina Beach Jaycees, by early 1991 a formal *Island of Lights Committee* had a membership of 20 volunteers. Today they have an active membership of almost 50.

Their ongoing fundraising projects include the April fashion show, a booth at the October Jazz Festival, and, of course, the annual Christmas ornament and Christmas card. Events currently include the Lights on the Lake, the Christmas Parade, the Holiday flotilla, a tour of homes, and the New Years Eve countdown.

Also Last Month Ribbon Cut for the opening of renovated Library and Archive



President's Message

The good news is that the Carolina Beach Town Council voted to fully fund our request for funding at their February 12th meeting. It sure helps to have that in place as we plan for the 2013-2014 budget. I am now working with Kure Beach Mayor Dean Lambeth to be sure our request gets a fair hearing as the budget process goes forward.

I have been attending the "Coffee with the Mayor" and have given him a list of our Kure Beach members and pointed out to him the high % of members from Kure Beach. I will also hand deliver our 12 page application to him. It is also my intention to go to the upcoming budget meetings in April for follow up.

Kure Beach RESIDENTS please take time to call one or two Council members and let them know why the Federal Point History Center is a worthwhile project for receiving funding. REMEMBER, the money isn't going to our organization – it goes to keep the History Center OPEN to residents, researchers, visitors and anyone studying the history of the entire Federal Point area.

Oral History
Earl Page Part 6 – Fort Fisher Pier
Compiled and edited by Ann Hertzler

The 5 piers going from south to north were Fort Fisher Pier, Kure Pier, Center Pier, the Steel Pier in the heart of Carolina Beach with the sky ride/lift, and the Northern Extension Pier. Now we have two – The Northern Extension and Mike's at Kure Beach.



The Ft. Fisher pier, first built in 1938 was at the end of the highway. Only one bus between Wilmington and Carolina Beach would come down here and turn around further south than the cement gateways to Ft Fisher; but not beyond where the Ft. Fisher State Park/Aquarium is now. 500 ft.

north of the museum was the end of the highway. The highway used to be over along side the cliff with a huge, beautiful beach that was inaccessible. You could see part of it on low tide. A piling stood there for years after Hazel.



The pier with the bait shop was here with the cottages which had a restaurant. When you drove in to the pier or the restaurant, eight cottages were on the right hand side. There was nothing near the pier before they built the Blue Top. It was all forest.

Notice the difference in the two pictures of Fort Fisher Pier. The second picture has a platform on to load a boat. The boat would put out its anchor when it reached this platform and then put two guidelines to keep the boat from rocking so people could come aboard. They didn't have to go through the breakers then. This pier was 26 ft. wide and the nicest pier on the beach. All the other boats had to go through the surf. You could go up to Masonboro Inlet. Corncake Inlet was not deep enough for boats this size. It's filled in now. Just this side of Bald Head was a nice inlet for outboards. If you got on the other side of Corncake, you were on Bald Head.

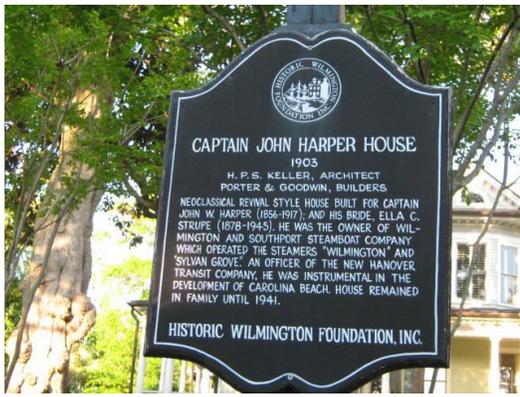
There were no inlets around here then. Masonboro was a man-made inlet, the one with the rocks on each side. Mother-nature made Corncake and also cut another inlet between Ft. Fisher Pier and Corncake. But it was only accessible by small Motorboats a few years. You went out to a place called High Rock, just a hop and a skip out in the ocean which was excellent fishing. Spanish mackerel were jumping everywhere. They'd jump in the boat it was so thick out there.



Ft. Fisher Pier

They did not have head boats and party boats like they do now to take people out.

Carl Winner was one of the first ones to go out through the surf. And you helped him with the boat., bringing it up on the hill and putting it in the water. Not so much the women, but the men. You've already paid him his money and now you're going to help put the boat in the water. That was common. Nobody gave it a second thought.



Captain John Harper from the Bill Reaves Files

August 17, 1880 The steamer PASSPORT was to make her last trip of the season to the “Rocks” at New Inlet. Capt. John W. Harper, master of the steamer, stated that “the tide will exactly suit for a good day’s fishing at this point, being low water about 12 noon”. WILM.STAR, 8-13-1880

August 14, 1883 A moonlight excursion was offered on the steamboat PASSPORT to Federal Point. Music and dancing, Sheepshead Supper at Mayo’s Place. Fare for round trip 50 cents. One hour at Federal Point. John W. Harper and George N. Harriss, Managers. WILMSTAR, 8-14-1883.

June 5, 1887 Fifteen miles from Wilmington on the banks of the ocean is situated Carolina Beach which is daily, rapidly, and deservedly growing in popular favor. How is it reached? One hour is hardly spent on the steamer PASSPORT when the boat moves slowly to Harper’s Pier, where the pleasure seekers disembark to find in readiness a train of cars awaiting to carry them to their destination. These cars are made after the manner of cars used at Coney Island and are convenient and commodious. A ride of five or six minutes through a level and interesting country, filled with flowers and green shrubbery, brings you in full view of the ocean.

Out of the sand many houses have arisen, and a spacious pavilion, with smooth floors which invite the dancer, stands ready for the reception of guests. Bathing houses, conveniently situated, are erected. The shore is hard and as level as a ballroom floor, and so gentle and sloping is the incline that the swimmer can easily and without danger penetrate beyond the breakers. Opposite the beach are wrecks of blockaders, and he who is fortunate enough to find a day so calm as to allow him to reach them, will find the merriest sport with hook and line and sheepshead that the Atlantic coast produce; and just beyond the wrecks are the far famed blackfish grounds, whose reputation for numberless fish has enticed many landmen to visit them.

September 12, 1898 Capt. John W. Harper, of the steamer WILMINGTON, gave a free excursion to the old and sick colored people of the city. He carried about 600 of them to Carolina Beach and brought them back by 5 p.m. They enjoyed the outing to the fullest extent. They enjoyed the refreshing ocean breezes and many took surf baths. Many of the people were so old and feeble that their friends took them to and from the boat in carriages. WILM.SEMI WEEKLY MESSENGER, 9-16-1898.

March 10, 1900 Oceanic Hotel, on Carolina Beach, was being thoroughly repaired and was to be in readiness for the entertainment of guests just as soon as the season opens. Capt. J. W. Harper told a reporter that extensive preparations were to be made to afford guests the very best accommodations. Four new cottages had just been completed and about eight more were to be finished before the season opened. Cottage owners were doing extensive repairs and adding improvements to their property, and it was not to be long before the beach would be in first class order. WILM.MESSENGER, 3-11-1900.

September 1, 1902 Capt. John W. Harper began work on the handsome pavilion at Carolina Beach. Capt. Tom McGee was to superintend the work. WILMINGTON MESSENGER, 8-21-1902.

September 28, 1905. At a meeting of the stockholders of the New Hanover Transit Company held on board the steamer WILMINGTON, a deal was consummated by which Captain J. W. Harper became the principal owner of the property on Carolina Beach where is located the pavilion and other buildings; also the railroad from the river pier to the beach including all rolling stock. The consideration was \$12,000. The New Hanover Transit Company was organized some years ago with Mr. H. C. McQueen as president. It was Captain Harper’s intention to make Carolina Beach one of the best known resorts along the Atlantic Coast. WILMINGTON MESSENGER, 9-29-1905



May 23, 1911 Although there had not been any confirmation of the report, it was practically confirmed that Captain Harper had sold his holdings at Carolina Beach to a company of stockholders who were to develop the beach. The New Hanover Transit Company, of which Captain Harper was the principal owner, controlled about 200 acres of land at the beach, the railway from that resort to the Cape Fear River pier two miles across the peninsula, and the river connection of the steamer WILMINGTON.

It was rumored that the consideration was between \$20,000 and \$25,000. The gentlemen interested in the development of Carolina Beach had been patrons and owners of property at Southern Pines and Pinehurst. One of the first improvements to be considered by the developers was the establishment of an electric line between Wilmington and the beach, possibly all the way to the site of Fort Fisher. WILMINGTON DISPATCH, 5-24-1911.

Now available in the Gift Shop!

Back by popular demand, we have new Society t-shirts available in all adult sizes from medium and XXL. Colors are “heathered” bright turquoise blue and cardinal red.

Society Notes

Darlene Bright, History Center Director

❖ *Active member and longtime Social Committee chair, Virginia Frances, passed away Thursday March 7 after a long struggle with a number of health issues. Please keep her family in your thoughts and prayers.*

❖ This month we recorded 23 members and guests at our February meeting. The History Center recorded 32 visitors. The gift shop took in \$100.99.

❖ Please welcome new business member **Cynthia Remahl, Realtor, with Intracoastal Realty Corporation of Carolina Beach.**

❖ Thanks to our History Center Volunteers **Demetria Sapienza** and **Lois Taylor** for keeping the History Center open when Rebecca needed a day off. And, thanks to **Cheri McNeill** for her always thorough proofing of the newsletter and **Lois Taylor** for her help getting the Newsletter in the mail.

❖ Thanks to **Carl Filipiak** who has begun cataloging all our subject files on Friday mornings! It’s going to be great to have those files indexed in our regular catalog.

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

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.

Officers

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

Directors

John Gordon (Chairman)	Thomas Gray	Jean Stewart
Elaine Henson	Cheri McNeill	Leslie Bright
Byron Moore	Skippy Winner	Jim Dugan

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P. O. Box 623

Carolina Beach, NC 28428



FROM THE COOKBOOK COMMITTEE

HERE'S ONE FOR ST. PARTICK'S DAY STUFFED CABBAGE SOUP

2 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
1 quart chicken stock
1 ½ pounds ground beef
Salt
Pepper
1 tsp. Lowery's seasoning salt
1 bay leaf
1 onion, chopped
2 cloves garlic, minced
1 carrot, thinly sliced with a vegetable peeler into strips then finely chopped
1 (6 oz.) can sliced black olives
2 cups sliced mushrooms
1 head Savoy cabbage, thinly sliced
1 (28 oz.) can diced tomatoes
¼ cup tomato paste

Heat a deep pot over medium high heat.
Add the extra-virgin olive oil, once hot add meat and brown. Season the meat with salt and pepper and seasoning salt. Add bay leaf, onions, garlic, olives, mushrooms and carrots. Cook veggies 2 to 3 minutes to begin to soften them. Add cabbage and wilt it down a bit. Add tomatoes, tomato paste, and chicken stock and cover the pot. Raise the heat to high and bring the soup to a simmer. Simmer for about 10 minutes .
Serve in a big soup bowl with a scoop of cooked white rice in the middle.

From: Kendal Doestch

