



Federal Point Historic Preservation Society

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Newsletter

Volume 20 No. 11

November 18, 2013

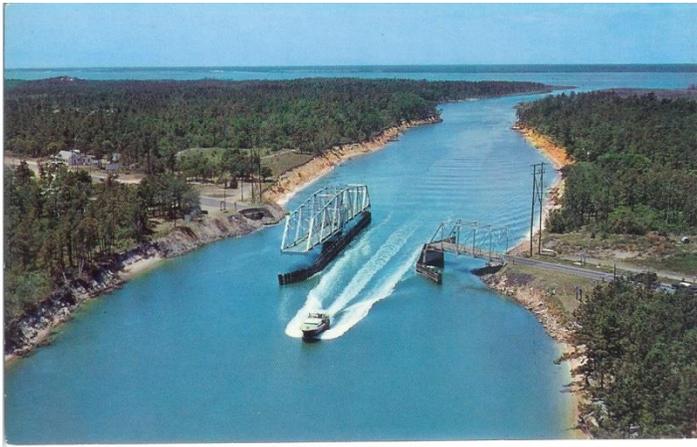
Darlene Bright, editor

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

Rebecca Taylor, production

www.FederalPointHistory.org

November Meeting Monday, November 18, 2013 7:30 PM



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

This month we have a very special program. Mr. Vernon Meshaw, a scrap metal dealer from Pender County is donating the large metal plaque that was once mounted on the Swing Bridge that crossed Snow's Cut to the Society. The bridge was used from 1931 to 1962 when the present high rise concrete bridge was opened.

He will help us finally solve the mystery of where the Swing Bridge went when it was no longer needed at Snow's Cut as he tells us the story of how he came to be in possession of the plaque. Then Frankie Jones, one of our members, will talk briefly about her father, the last bridge tender of the Swing Bridge. Elaine Henson will conclude with a pictorial program featuring the bridge and its history.

This will truly be a unique event and a look at some very important history of Federal Point. We hope you can join us as we celebrate the donation of this unique artifact.

Last Month's Meeting

Last month our speaker was Ron Griffin, an engineering graduate from MIT, who worked in the aerospace field until his retirement. Now his hobby is geneology by computer. Ron offered to help any member explore their family history. Just sign your request with Rebecca in the History Center office. He listed the range of websites available and showed what they could produce for you. The US census collects much information and it is not revealed to the public for 72 years, which means the 1940 details were just released in 2012. He then explained about the new genetic testing that can be done to find out your general ancestry and talked about what you can find out, and what you can't.

From the President, Barry Nelder

Society Presents 75 year plaque to Carolina Beach School!

On Saturday November 2nd, the Federal Point Historic Preservation Society presented one of our historic plaques to the Carolina Beach School in celebration of their seventy-fifth anniversary. It was a great event, hugely attended and we were honored to be part of it. Part of the fun was seeing Juanita Winner, Frankie Jones, and Pat Jones from the “Kindergarten class of 49!”



Don't forget, our December meeting is our Christmas potluck. It is on Monday, December 16 (our usual 3rd Monday of the month) but will begin at 6:30 and will be held at the Kure Beach Lutheran Church, where it has been for several years. **We still need volunteers to help get things set up and cleaned up. PLEASE let Rebecca know if you are available to give us a hand.**

Oral History

Mike Robertson - Part 1 "Family" Interviewed by Jeannie and John Gordon

Hans Kure, Sr. came down here I think around World War I, he incorporated the Land Development Company. He had 4 or 5 children, 2 of which were Hans, Jr. and Lawrence. Hans, Jr. was married to my grandmother, Jenny Linder. Lawrence was a traveling salesman and he wanted to marry my grandmother. He was away on trips and whatnot, and Hans came in the back door and he beat him to the punch. So, they were married and they lived either/or upstairs and he lived downstairs. And I think they worked together at the beach and I think the father was also involved in it. Hans, Jr. passed away and he had 5 girls including my mother.



Then within 11 months, Lawrence was married to her. My mother was 16, I think, because that was her senior year of high school, back then. She came for their honeymoon! From 1917, when my mother was born, and you add 16 to that, that would have been the year that they were married. But he treated the girls....they were his girls and there was never any question....

My mother met my father, Bill, during the War. They were both working at the shipyard and they got married and had 3 children, me, my older sister Pat, and the middle one is Toni. For the first couple/three years they lived up near Winston.

My dad grew up in Davie County, west of Winston, it's on the side of the Yadkin River, and he was the perfect country boy growing up. Did it all, shot raccoons, trapped rabbits, the whole deal. His family had a country store there and they had a very good business because they were the only thing in the area and, of course, that's where all the stories got told, lies got told and his mother was one to, if she saw anybody was in a bad way, she knew somebody over here needed something, she'd get those 2 together. She kept the community moving. They needed a church and she got in the middle of it and they had a church within 2-3 years. So my dad grew up in a large family. I think he had 5 or 6 brothers and sisters; and they were doers. The mother was a pusher and you need to learn this and learn that and go to college and amount to something. They grew up in the Depression and, like everybody else, they were affected by it.

Dad had probably done 6 different jobs by the time he wound up down here during the War; he was sitting in a room with about 300 people, being interviewed to work in the Shipyard. And they started asking questions about education and he said that it came down to him and one other boy that had finished college. It took 6 years to finish college because he was enjoying himself.

So he got a supervisor job at the Shipyard and met my Mom, and they had a good time. They enjoyed themselves. So, when the War years were over, they moved back to Bixby and then Mom had enough of red mud and red clay roads and everything else. But, hearing her tell, there were good stories about it. She enjoyed the experience, too. The mother and the daughter-in-law didn't get along because they were pretty much the same. But when they channeled it together, they did a lot of good things.

But Dad got a good job, finally, with a company called Premier Auto and he worked his way up, as a salesman and they had moved to Lexington, and Dad was always on the road. He was all over, working himself up and driving. He would sell to the car dealers. Course, the War years were over and the economy was busting loose. So he drove around and he was being able to talk to all these fellows and cars were selling. They had a good business. And then, pretty soon, he was in charge of everything east of the Mississippi. He was flying everywhere and showing salesmen how to sell. He was very good. And he made a lot of money doing it.



About every 6 months, L. C. would drive to Lexington and say how're you doing and how's things going and say "Bill, do you mind if I take my daughter back to Wilmington for a week or 2 and then I'll bring her back." It'd be OK. This went back and forth. Every time L. C. would come, he'd have the baby formula and stuff like that, 'cause they didn't have that out in the country. That was when they were living in the country. And he felt so bad for her, living up there in that poverty is what he'd say. He and my mom were good buds, she was not the youngest, but she was the tomboy that loved to go on the pier and fish and do things with him.

Dad finally came home and his daughter, Pat, his oldest daughter, she was born in '44, this was in 50 or '51, she didn't recognize him. He'd been gone so much. And he said 'noughs enough and L. C. been talking to him about why don't you come to the beach and, course, he'd been to the beach. So they worked out a deal to buy the pier. And Mom got to come back in '52. Let's see, in '44 my sister Pat was born and '50 my sister Toni was born and I was born in '54. So my Dad came down here. Of course, he was a country boy. He didn't know anything about the ocean and the pier and anything like that. But he understood marketing and he understood selling things and he looked at the picture of the beach in the '50s and there wasn't a heck of a lot going on. And my grandfather then came up to Wilmington Beach. And at that time, he bought the property from Wilmington Beach south, from the ocean to the river and, I think, he paid a million dollars for it. Back then.

The Swing Bridge at Snow's Cut 1931-1962 By Elaine Henson

In 1927 Congress authorized the continuation of the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway from Beaufort, NC to the mouth of the Cape Fear River, adding to the 800 miles of waterway already in use from Cape Cod to Beaufort. This part of the sheltered inland passage measured 93 miles and was under the supervision of Major William Arthur Snow of the Army Corps of Engineers, Wilmington District. A graduate of West Point and MIT and a WWI decorated veteran, Snow planned the route through natural inlets, sounds, salt water rivers, bays and one land cut.

That cut was from Seabreeze to the Cape Fear River transforming the Federal Point peninsula into an island thus requiring a bridge to be constructed. A temporary wooden bridge spanning the new waterway was built in just ten days in February of 1930. It served until a permanent steel swing bridge opened September 9, 1931. This two lane swing bridge was in place from 1931 until the present concrete high rise bridge opened on August 18, 1962.

For many years theories of what happened to the swing bridge after 1962



swirled around the area. Some said it was destroyed; others believed it was still in use in South Carolina, but no proof of either was ever documented. The question was put to rest a few weeks ago when Mr. Vernon Meshaw of Pender County contacted the Federal Point Historic Preservation Society. He revealed that the bridge had been purchased by the town of Sunset Beach. After determining it could not be retrofitted for their use, Sunset Beach contacted Mr. Meshaw to cut it up and sell it for scrap which he did. There was a plaque attached to the bridge which he has kept since its demise; it reads:

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
Historical Society of Topsail Island
Intracoastal Realty
Island Gazette
Island Treasures
Kure Beach Fishing Pier
Bob McKay- Network Real Estate
Pleasure Island Chamber of Commerce
SlapDash Publishing
Taylor's Heating & Air, Inc.
Tom Sayre Construction
Tucker Bros. Realty Company
Wilmington Water Tours
Winner Marine Construction
Winner RV Park

***Intracoastal Waterway From Beaufort To Cape Fear River NC
Built Under The Direction Of The Corps Of Engineers USA
For The N C State Highway Commission
Built By The Roanoke Bridge and Iron Works Inc.
Roanoke Va
1930-31***

WILMINGTON WATER TOURS

November 17th - Sunday
Civil War Prisoner Exchange with
Dr. Chris Fonvielle

Do Not Miss This One!



Dr. Chris Fonvielle will join us as we cruise up the beautiful Northeast Cape Fear River in her fall colors, bringing her Colonial and Civil War History alive. Our final destination is 25 miles upriver from Wilmington to Captain Doug and Diane's house in Castle Hayne. We will then return to Wilmington with a second group being shuttled up from Wilmington in a very comfortable ride.

Once at our destination & in the spirit of tradition and for fun we will transfer our passengers in the form of a "Prisoner Exchange." We promise not to abuse you too much, but as you know, not all prisoners survived their ordeal.

Make your reservation for either of the trips, but please do so soon. Dr. Fonvielle's trips are always well received and tend to sell out quickly.

There are two cruise options. # 1. Up river 9am to 12pm. We will depart from Wilmington at 9am for a 3- hour excursion to Castle Hayne. Return on Shuttle to Wilmington. # 2. Down river 12pm to 3pm. Board shuttle at 11:30 am from our office in Wilmington. At 12 pm we will board the boat in Castle Hayne and return to Wilmington at approximately 3 pm. Tickets are \$55.00 per person. Don't forget if you book your tour through the Federal Point History Center we get 20% of the ticket price.

Society Notes

Darlene Bright, History Center Director

- ❖ Please keep long time member **Mike Coleman and his family** in your thoughts and prayers. Mike's mother, Dixie Coleman, passed away November 2. She will be missed by all who knew her.
- ❖ This month we recorded 28 members at our October meeting. The History Center recorded 73 visitors! The gift shop took in \$144.00. The History Center was used by Got-'em-on Live and The Fort Fisher Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy.
- ❖ Thanks to **Sylvia Snook, Darlene Bright, Elaine Henson, Ron Griffin, and Pat Bolander** for keeping the History Center open while Rebecca was off!
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ Work on the new web site is underway. A huge thanks to Andre Boluin for helping design, set up and teach us how to maintain this much needed upgrade.
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ A big thanks to **Wilmington Water Tours** for their donation of 20% of the ticket price of tours booked through the History Center. We received a check for \$105.00 from them in October.

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

Federal Point Historic Preservation Society
P. O. Box 623
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FROM THE COOKBOOK COMMITTEE

Sweet Potato Yum Yum

2 1/2 cups cooked, mashed sweet potatoes
1 cup sugar
1 egg
1 Tbsp. vanilla
1 cup coconut

Topping

1 small can crushed pineapple
1 (4 oz.) bottle maraschino cherries and juice
1 cup sugar
3 Tbsp. flour



Mix sweet potatoes, sugar, egg, vanilla, and coconut. Put into greased 2 quart casserole. Bake at 350° for 45 minutes. Remove from oven. Mix pineapple, cherries, juice, 1 cup sugar, and flour. Cook until thick. Spread over potato mixture and serve.

Contributed by: Doris Bame