



Federal Point Historic Preservation Society

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Newsletter

Volume 21, No.5

May, 2014

Darlene Bright, editor

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

Rebecca Taylor, production

New Web Site! www.Federal-Point-History.org



May Meeting Monday, May 19, 2014 7:30 PM

The Federal Point Historic Preservation Society will hold its monthly meeting on **Monday, May 19, 7:30 pm at the Federal Point History Center, 1121-A North Lake Park Blvd., adjacent to Carolina Beach Town Hall.**

This month's speaker will be author and publisher Daniel Ray Norris. He will be speaking on his new book *Britt's Donuts: Forever Sweet* which he co-authored with Halyn Prusa.



Beautifully designed and seriously researched, *Forever Sweet* traces the origins and growth of this most beloved family business. Behind the scenes donut making secrets are finally revealed. Never before published photos illustrate its history and interviews with current and past employees showcase the enduring impact that Britts's Donuts has had on people's lives. Daniel will, of course, be available to sign purchased books after the meeting.

Last Month's Program



Our April speaker, Dr. Chris Fonvielle, talked about his new book and showed a variety of photos from his new book, *Faces of Fort Fisher*, highlighting many people who were assigned to the Fort or lived nearby. More supplies came in through the two entries into the Cape Fear River than into all the other southern ports combined. He showed paintings of many of the blockade runner ships and their masters. The success rate for these valuable trips reached about 80%. He hopes to follow this volume with at least two additional ones as he expands his collection of original photos.

President's Message: From Barry Nelder

The Sugar Loaf Civil War Earthworks Preservation Group is moving along with work on the Lewis property. We've had another work day and Leslie and I would like to thank Marie Metcalf, Richard Both, and Mary Jo Stewart and her husband, for their hard work on Saturday May 3.

The Nominating Committee is hard at work preparing a slate of officers and board members to be voted on at the July meeting. It will be an important meeting, so please plan to attend. Anyone who would like to serve please give Darlene a call.



Oral History
Joseph Ryder Lewis, Jr. Part II
Interviewed by Ann Hertzler and Jeannie Gordon

My daddy had the house built from his World War II bonus or something. I think it was a \$1000 and that pretty well closed the house in. So I was probably 2 or 3 years old when we actually moved into the house. That was part of the Lewis estate. My grandparents, on the Lewis side, deeded out parcels of land to their various children.

Their main activity was farming or fishing. And right across the street [from the History Center] was the main garden area, up until the middle 50's or so, and now, when I got hold of it, it was classified as wetlands. Couldn't do anything on it. But it used to be main farmland over there. Sweet potatoes were very important, a very important crop. Collards, a very important crop. They had watermelon patches, they had soy beans and they had other things for the animals.

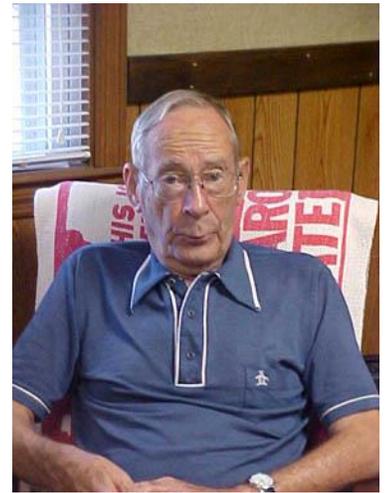
Where we were living, out on the highway, was not in the town of Carolina Beach. The town of Carolina Beach started at the first street that goes across from St. Joseph Street. That went up there to that nursing home. That was the northern end of Carolina Beach.

My parents would not allow my brother and I, who was a couple years younger than I am, to go down there and roam around that beach, or to go up on the Boardwalk. That's when we were young, unless we were escorted. You see, a lot of this stuff that went on, well like, Jimmy Davis and Milton Warwick, who came along later than I did, they were right there in town where they were involved in everything. I was in the country. And we had a big garden out back of our house, pole beans, sweet potatoes, pig pen. We had hogs, milk goats and milk cows and we did have a nanny goat.

The house that my grandparents lived in, I became the owner of it much later, but it was down where that first development is, just this side of the movie theater...Carolina Beach Village, isn't it? All right, the first house there, as you drive in there, to the left, would have been right on the grounds where my grandparent's home was. The sound was there, but at low tide you could not float a boat. You could walk out in the mud if you wanted to, but you might be up to your knees or further in the mud. There was no water. Eventually, the first thing that was dredged was a little 80 ft. canal on the other side and the fill dirt from that was used to help build Canal Drive. This was not made into a nice waterway area until about the late 50's or whenever the town of Carolina Beach had the first berm project, planned on good sand underneath that mud out there. They dredged it out.

I don't remember when we got power. I was probably 6 or 7 years old, or a little older, when we got electricity along there. We finally got a well with an electric pump on it. But we had the outhouse as long as I was growing up.

We had chickens. I remember one time Mom said, "that old rooster out there is getting after your baby sister, I want you boys, me and my brother, to kill that thing. We're going to eat him Sunday. Well, we'd killed chickens before, but the way we did it was you had to hold the chicken with his head on a piece of wood and the other would chop his head off. You'd get blood on you and all that kind of stuff. Well, we'd seen some of these older people take one and wring his neck. We decided we were gonna wring his neck. So we did it. But the point was we just swung him around and when we finally turned him loose, he just started wobbling on off. Then we had to go catch him again and kill him the way we normally would have.



You didn't take a bath every day, and a lot of times, one of the good times to take a bath was when my mother was washing clothes out in the backyard. We had an old iron pot out there, you had fire around it. That's where you got hot water and that's where the clothes were put in to clean them. And then you took them out and put them in these tubs for rinsing. Well, a lot of times we got our bath in there.

We had a little ole scooter, we got that for Christmas one time, and that was a big deal, just a little ole tiny two-wheeled scooter that we could ride on the highway—traffic was very, very little.

We did get to swim a little bit in the ocean and my daddy and my brother and I did a lot of floundering. But it was at night. He had a gasoline lantern, and we would go over to the river. There were plenty of places you could go to the river back then, Sugar Loaf was one of them. Just drive right there. And you'd go at low tide and the wind had to be the right way for you to do it. And you'd walk right along the edge of the water. The flounder would be bedded up right in the edge of the water and the only thing you'd see is his eyes. But that's the way we did our main fishing, and we did a lot of that floundering. You had a gig and you stuck it through 'em and then you took your hand and put it underneath and brought him up and put him on a string or line and we'd just drag them in the water behind us.

Happy Birthday to Us! Founded: March 28, 1994

Can you believe the *Federal Point Historic Preservation Society* is TWENTY years old? Here are a few highlights from the Society's Early History.



The 1990's

- ❖ October 21, 22, 23, 1994: First fundraiser “Ocean Plaza Ballroom Blast”
Featuring Chicken Hicks
- ❖ June 22, 1994: First Speaker, Catherine Bishir of the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, Historic Preservation Section
- ❖ Fall 1994: First Newsletter, editor Sandy Jackson
- ❖ December 1994 – October 1995: First Preservation Campaign - Protection and preservation of the historic plantation ruins of Sedgeley Abbey
- ❖ March 1995: Lighthouse logo, created by Martin Peebles, adopted
- ❖ Spring 1995: Agreement with Town of Carolina Beach for the construction of the Beauregard Shipwreck Overlook
- ❖ April 1995: Bingo fundraiser
- ❖ Ocean Plaza and Joy Lee Apartments nominated to the National Register of Historic Places
- ❖ July 1995: Fort Fisher Revetment Project, advocacy, support, and ground breaking
- ❖ October 20-22, 1995: Second Annual Ocean Plaza Reunion
- ❖ Received \$10,000 grant from North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources for compiling an inventory of known historic sites and cartographic inventory of Federal Point, directed by Sandy Jackson
- ❖ May 26th, 1996: Hosted a celebration marking the 50th Anniversary of the Ocean Plaza Building. Wilmington Concert Band performed, followed by a fashion show in keeping with the original opening in 1946

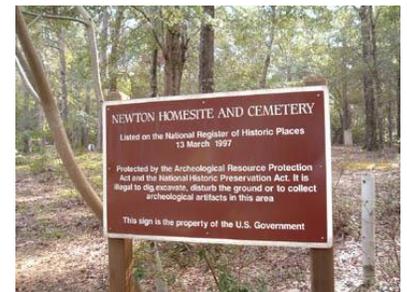


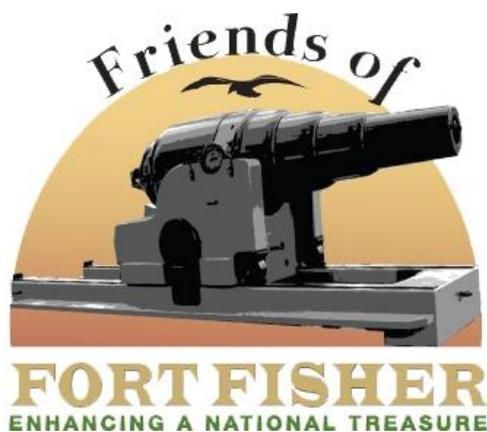


- ❖ August 18, 1996: Participated in Belk “Preservation Celebration” fundraiser
- ❖ June 22, 1997: Oakdale Cemetery guided tour by E. F. “Gene” Risley Jr.
- ❖ Saturday October 18, 1997: Barbeque fundraiser
- ❖ November 15, 1997: Traditional Holiday Decorating Workshop, hosted by Fort Fisher State Historic Site, with demonstrations by staff members of Tryon Palace
- ❖ February, 1998: First Cookbook
- ❖ February, 1999 - Entered into a lease with the Town of Carolina Beach of Gazebo structure to be converted into the Federal Point History Center
- ❖ March 1998: Published *Monuments & Markers of Federal Point, North Carolina* compiled by Sandy Jackson



- ❖ May, 1998: Fundraiser: Raffle of framed art print of the Federal Point Lighthouse by Kay Robbins
- ❖ Summer, 1998: Entered into an agreement with MOTSU to maintain, prepare signage and protect the Newton Homesite and Graveyard. Work began with construction of a wooden fence
- ❖ February, 1998 - House Plaque Committee was formed and drafted guidelines for plaquing historic buildings
- ❖ September, 1998 – the first historic plaques were awarded to the Loughlin Cottage, Burnett Beach Cottage, and Ocean Plaza Ballroom, all over 50 years old and of significance to the community
- ❖ December 5, 1998 : “Down East” Barbecue fundraiser
- ❖ April 1999: Sugar Loaf Battle marker moved from Dow Rd. to Federal Point History Center
- ❖ May 23, 1999: First fundraising Cruise – Aboard Pirate IV
- ❖ June 27, 1999: Commemorative Ceremony held celebrating the listing of Newton Homesite and Graveyard in the National Register of Historic Places
- ❖ May, 1999: First Student Essay Contest open to fifth grade classes at Carolina Beach Elementary School was won by Waverly Jones
- ❖ October 22, 1999: Ground breaking for renovation of the Gazebo structure to become the Federal Point History Center





From the Friends of Fort Fisher Looking for Descendents!

The Friends of Fort Fisher are gathering contact information for any descendents of soldiers involved in the building of Fort Fisher or any of the other forts in the Cape Fear area. They would also like to find descendents of men who fought in the battles for Fort Fisher, Fort Holmes, Fort Caswell, Fort Johnston, and Fort Anderson, as well as blockade runner captains, crew and pilots, basically anyone who was involved in the Wilmington Campaign.

Visit their website at: www.friendsoffortfisher.com for links to projects and events including the 150th Battle reenactment and the descendents reunion in January 2015. Contact John Golden at johngolden@ec.rr.com for more information.

Society Notes Darlene Bright, History Center Director

- ❖ The History Center recorded 39 visitors in April. We had 35 at the April meeting. The gift shop took in a healthy \$292.60. The History Center was used by Got-‘em-on Live, the UDC and the Sugar Loaf Preservation Group.
- ❖ Welcome to new member **Sherry Howell** of Wilmington. Thanks also to our History Center Volunteer **Carl Filipiak** who has almost finished cataloging the subject files,. He’s gone north (to Ohio) for the summer but may be back in the fall to see the project through to its completion. Also, thanks AGAIN to **Andre’ Blouin** for all the time he’s put into the new website. The website is up and it’s chock full of all kinds of great information. Please take time to visit: www.federal-point-history.org.
- ❖ **And don’t forget!** If you take a trip with **Wilmington Water Tours** please tell them you are a member of FPHPS! If you do we get a portion of your ticket price. Call us 458-0502, or them 338-3134. www.wilmingtonwatertours.net

Featured Business Member Atlantic Towers



Atlantic Towers is an eleven-story high rise condominium complex located oceanfront in beautiful Carolina Beach, North Carolina. Atlantic Towers offers unique and attractive one and two bedroom suites. All suites are fully furnished, including a full kitchen. Each living/dining room area opens onto a private balcony with an extraordinary view of Carolina Beach and the Atlantic Ocean. We also offer an oceanfront outdoor pool, indoor heated pool, gazebo with a sundeck and grilling area, video game room, and laundry facility for our guests' convenience. Wireless internet is available in each room. Atlantic Towers is the premier resort on Carolina Beach.

Officers

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

Directors

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

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

Please Support Our Business Members!

Atlantic Towers**Ned Barnes, Attorney****Britt's Donut Shop****Carolina Marine Terminal****Charles Henson Painting****Coastal K-9 Bakery, Inc.****First Bank****Frank's Pizza****Got-Em-On-Live Bait Club****Hanover Iron Works****Historical Society of Topsail Island****Intracoastal Realty*****Island Gazette*****Island Treasures****Kure Beach Fishing Pier****Bob McKoy- Network Real Estate****Olde Salty's****Pleasure Island Chamber of Commerce****Pleasure Island Foundation for a Sustainable
Community****SlapDash Publishing****Tom Sayre Construction****Tucker Bros. Realty Company****Wilmington Water Tours****Winner Marine Construction****Winner RV Park**