



Federal Point Historic Preservation Society

P.O. Box 623, Carolina Beach, North Carolina 28428

Phone: 910-458-0502 e-mail: fpfps@yahoo.com

Newsletter

Volume 20 No. 10

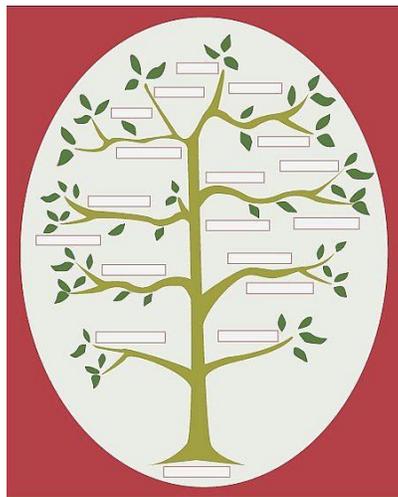
October, 2013

Darlene Bright, editor

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

Rebecca Taylor, production

www.FederalPointHistory.org



October Meeting Monday, October 21, 2013 7:30 PM

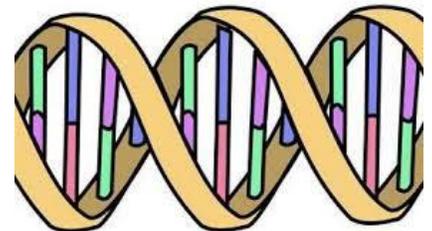
The Federal Point Historic Preservation Society will hold its monthly meeting on **Monday, October 21, 7:30 pm at the Federal Point History Center**, 1121-A North Lake Park Blvd., adjacent to Carolina Beach Town Hall.

This month Ron Griffin will be doing a presentation on DNA Testing for Genealogy. His talk will be a follow up to another presentation he made 6 years ago. There will be a brief review of genealogy in general and also a discussion of the 1940 Federal Census before getting into the main subject.

Ron served 4 years in the Air Force during the Korean War period. After earning his engineering degrees from Rutgers and MIT, he spent the next 34 years working in the aerospace engineering industry at locations in Southern California and Silver Spring, MD before retiring in 1994 and relocating to Kure Beach in 1995.

Ron has been a member of the Society for over 15 years. He has served as Director, President and member of the Cemetery Committee. He also volunteers at the History Center from time to time.

Ron has been researching his own family history for over 25 years. He occasionally helps others with their research and has, in the past assisted two of our members with their applications for membership in the UDC.



Last Month's Meeting

At our September meeting John Moseley, assistant site manager at Fort Fisher, talked about scurvy and the importance of vitamin C in controlling that disease. Many soldiers and sailors of the 16th to 18th centuries were afflicted and many strange theories were suggested as the cause and ways to prevent it. Sir Gilbert Blane (1749-1834) was the British naval doctor who first recommend lime or lemon juice, thus the term "limeys" for British sailors. Soldiers posted at Forts Fisher and Anderson were very poorly fed so the men started vegetable gardens to supplement their diets.



President's Message

A huge thanks goes out to the members who helped out for Island Day on Sunday September 29. Darlene and Leslie Bright set up our tent and Pat Bolander, Jean Stewart, Juanita Winner, Pam and

Ray Bramhall, Elaine and Skip Henson all spent time at the table giving out our brochures and answering questions. Thanks also to Don and Sylvia Snook who helped Elaine and Skip tear down and put away all our paraphenalia. It was a great day and another chance to raise our community profile.



What is Oral History? By the Editors

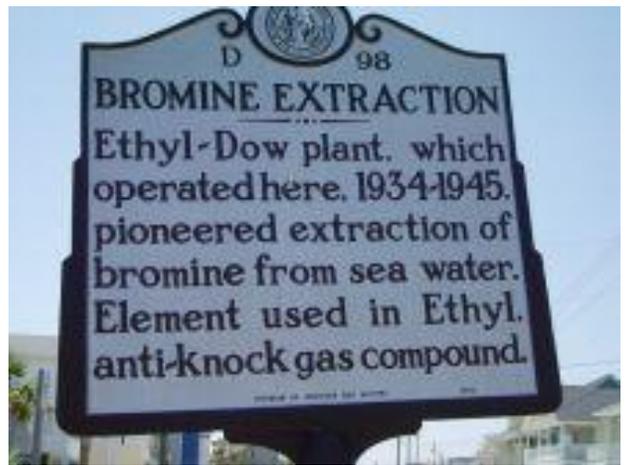
We've been running stories gleaned from our oral history archives for several years. However we should have been more clear about what Oral History is and what it is not. Oral history is about preserving the *memories* of our community elders – as they remember them. Good oral history reflects the language and “way things were” in the words of the person being recorded. Oral history is NOT meant to be documented history. Any two people may remember the same incident very differently. Examples: the story of the Ethyl Dow plant being fired on from a U-Boat during WWII. Also the tales of the Fort Fisher Hermit – some think he was a hero and others think he was a bum? Who's right? How do we prove it?

That said, last month's interview with Jimmy Davis stated; ***“The only thing that was on that side of Dow Road, was the old Dow Plant. It was down toward Kure Beach almost where that bad curve is they made poison gas during the war.”*** For the record they did not EVER make poison gas at the Dow Plant.

The text from the historic marker, WHICH IS documented history says; ***“The Ethyl-Dow plant, which operated here, 1934-1945, pioneered extraction of bromine from sea water. Element used in Ethyl, anti-knock gas compound.”***

There is a nice article on the plant and its history at the following web site: <http://www.ncmarkers.com/Markers.aspx?MarkerId=D-98>. Or, go to google, type in “North Carolina historic highway markers.” At the state site search “Dow” under New Hanover County. There is a much longer essay about the Dow Plant and it's fascinating history.

I will try from now on to insert within brackets corrections to patently false statements. Please, if I miss something and there is a statement that is historically inaccurate please let me know by phone or e-mail and I'll run a notice in the next newsletter. But remember; at least a few people must have truly believed that “poison gas” was being made during that long ago war, and that's worth documenting also.

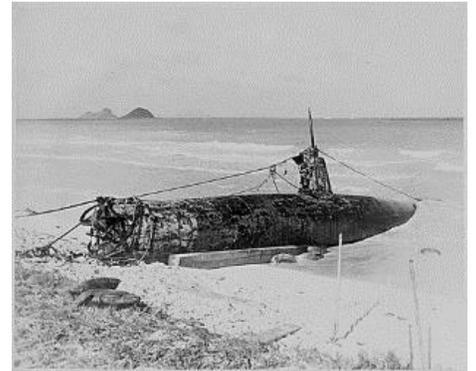


Oral History -- Jimmy Davis Part 4: World War II on the Beach Interview by Ann Hertzler and Jeannie Gordon



About World War II. I remember the soldiers being here. That was a little army base right there. And then Fort Fisher was the big base. And about ... you know where the little test center used to be, the LeQue Test Center in Kure Beach. There was a base back off of there. The main purpose for the guys was a recreation. Guys coming from over-seas – that had served over there maybe 3 or 4 years and they didn't have but about 2 or 3 months to get out. They sent them down here for R & R. That was recreation. And they would let them go to the beach every night you know. Or do whatever they wanted to. But they did have some that was in training. So it was a training base but it was really set up for these guys coming back from overseas.

I never saw a submarine. But I saw a torpedo on the beach; a live one. Right there where that test center was at. It come up on the beach and stopped. Everything on the beach was blacked out. car lights and everything. You just had about one streak across your car light. People didn't do much driving at night during the war. And all the ocean front buildings was blacked out. The windows was painted black.



Yeah we had rations. Tokens you had to get milk with, and bread, not bread, milk, butter, or any kind of meats, and sugar stamps, and gas stamps, and stuff like that. Even shoe stamps. You could only get so many pair of shoes a year. And you had tire stamps where for your car you couldn't get but so many tires for your car. I was standing in those lines. I knew when we went to the grocery store mother would say take the soap and go in that line, and you knew the clerk knew who was in which line.

I knew a lady that lived behind us after the war ... they were Davises too but no kin. I went in their house with one of the boys. He said come here a minute Jimmy I want to show you something. Under her sink was full of 2 pound bags of sugar where she hoarded. She'd give people meat stamps for their sugar stamps. 'Cause she had enough meat... or whatever she had, she'd give them that to get.... I don't know why she wanted so much sugar.

But it seemed like everybody knew everybody, everybody got along. I don't remember much about my father's side. I know he had one brother that lived in Wilmington, who was a preacher – Johnny Davis. But I was kin to everybody on the beach - The Ludwigs, the Earnharts, the Bames, the Slys, and the Klutzes. In fact I think I told you that story about my oldest son back then when he was going to school. Did I tell you about that? He came home one day. He was in maybe 3rd, maybe 4th grade. He come in and told his mama he met a little girl at school he really liked. She said well that's good son. She said do you play together? He said yes we play together. We get along good. she said well who is it? He said Diane Walton. She said son, she's your cousin. He said she is? She said yeah. So he dropped that. A couple of months later he come in and said he'd met another little girl. And she said well who is it? She told him [she was a cousin, too]who it was. He said mama am I kin to everybody on this beach? So he didn't mess with no more girls on the beach because he knew they were kin to him.



**You can now Purchase
Wilmington Water Tours Tickets
At the Federal Point History Center
Call 910-458-0502 Or 910-338-3134**

Some upcoming cruises of special interest to our membership.

- Thursday October 17, 10 am-12 pm “History and Mystery under the Cape Fear River”
- Thursday October 17, 6 pm – 8 pm “Wine Tasting Cruise”
- Friday October 18, 6 pm – 8 pm “Full Moon Cruise”

Call the History Center at 910-458-0502 to book your tickets!

To see ALL their wonderful tours visit: WWW.WilmingtonWaterTours.net

Sugar Loaf Line of Defense Update



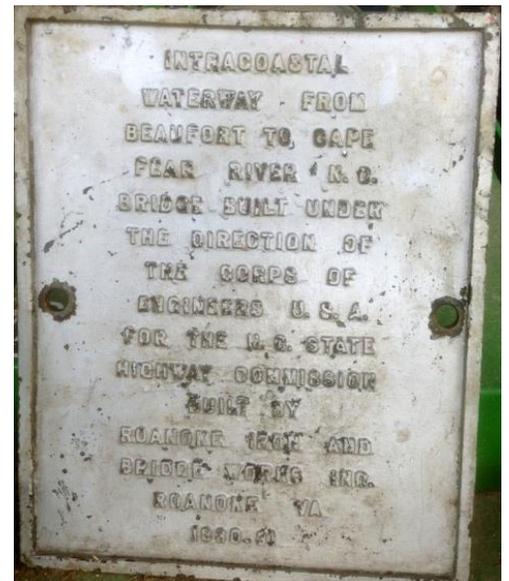
At Tuesday night's, October 8, Carolina Beach Town Council meeting, Council voted to rescind the Conditional Use Permit to put their waste transfer station on land off Lake Park Blvd., which has a portion of the Civil War Sugar Loaf line of Trenches. **Councilwoman, Jody Smith, amended the motion to include that Town staff work with the Society and others to use the property as Ryder Lewis wished when he donated the property to the Town.** In conversation with Jerry Haire, Project Manager for the Town, he suggested that our group and other interested parties come up with a plan to preserve this portion of the historical site.

Donation!

Mr. Vernon Meshaw is donating the long lost plaque that was on the old swing bridge over Snow's Cut to the Society. It memorializes the construction of the ICW in North Carolina. He will officially present it to us at our **November 18 meeting** and tell us the story of how it came into his possession.

To complete the evening **Frankie Jones** will talk about her father, the last bridge tender of that bridge and **Elaine Henson** will show pictures and talk about the swing bridge and its importance to the development of the beaches from the 1930's through the 1950's.

The program originally scheduled for the November meeting; Lori Sanderlin's program on Death and Dying customs during the Civil War has been moved to the Spring so we can present this very special event.



UPCOMING!
Federal Point Historic Preservation Society

Saturday November 9, 2013: NEWTON CEMETERY CLEAN-UP. 9:00- 12:00.
Come out and join our membership while we clean up this colonial cemetery.
Please bring rakes, clippers, and a lawn mower or blower if you have one!

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 McKoy- 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

Society Notes

Darlene Bright, History Center Director

- ❖ Our sympathies to the family of **Bill Parker, of Parker Protective Services**. He was a long time business member of the Society who passed back in April.
- ❖ This month we recorded 29 members at our August Meeting. The History Center recorded 54 visitors! The gift shop took in \$22.97 The History Center was used by Got-'em-on Live and the UDC.
- ❖ New Members. Welcome to **Sharon and Gary Walters** of Carolina Beach and Le Ann and Kyle Pierce of Carolina Beach.
- ❖ Thanks to Pat Bolander, Ron Griffin, Lois Taylor, Carol Ufferman, Demetria Sapienza and Darlene Bright for keeping the History Center open while Rebecca was on vacation!
- ❖ Thanks to our History Center Volunteers **Carl Filipiak** for working on the cataloging of the subject files. He's finished the first drawer and keeps going strong.
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ Thanks to our new History Center volunteer **Andre Blouin** who is beginning to work on a new and improved web site and getting the gift shop books for sale on our web site.

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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FROM THE COOKBOOK COMMITTEE**Here's one to do with the kids and grandkids for Halloween.****CARAMEL CORN****DIRECTIONS**

Put 16 cups of POPPED popcorn in a large grocery bag (set aside)

Caramel Mixture**INGREDIENTS**

1 cup brown sugar
1/2 cup Karo syrup
1 stick butter

DIRECTIONS

Microwave (boil) for 3 minutes. Stir in 1/2 teaspoon baking soda until creamy. Pour mixture in bag of popcorn, fold down TWICE.

Microwave for 1 minute – shake. Microwave for 1 minute – shake. Microwave for 1/2 minute – shake. Pour into bowl and enjoy. **Contributed by: Virginia Francis**

