



Spring Fever at Ocracoke School?

These island youngens were found in the Alice Ronthaler collection in the museum library. Unfortunately, the photo is not labeled and we don't know when or where it was taken. We're guessing that it's a school photo, but when? Some of us are sure we see some O'Neal resemblance in those boys. Please contact the museum at 928-7375 if you can identify these kids.

Ocracoke Preservation Society

P.O. Box 1240
Ocracoke, NC 27960-1240



Butsie Brown

When newspapers were first delivered to Ocracoke, the islanders would recycle them to wrap the mullet they purchased.

As time passed, when buying a newspaper, people would ask for a "Mullet Wrapper."

 Please check the date at the top right side of your mailing label to determine when your membership expires. Thanks for your support.

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The Mullet Wrapper

Volume 13, Issue 1

Ocracoke Preservation Society

Spring 2009

OPS Receives Grant for Museum Porch Talks

We're very excited to announce that Ocracoke Arts Council recently approved a grant to provide funding for a new kind of Porch Talk at the Museum. Although we've hosted family-friendly Porch Talks every summer since the Museum first opened, none of them has focused on hands-on participation for kids. OPS administrator DeAnna Locke would like to add a children's component to some of this year's presentations. She's developing Porch Talks geared toward the Museum's young visitors, with "make and take" projects for the children to do.

"Children are welcome at all of our Porch Talks," DeAnna said. "But I'd like to add some activities that would encourage even more participation."

The new Porch Talks are still under development, but DeAnna hopes to include such activities as decoy painting, fishing, learning about traditional quilt patterns and getting water from a cistern. She plans to offer four Porch Talks this summer that focus on children.

"I do believe that it's these hands-on learning experiences that bring history to life for children," she said. "If we provide something tangible for our young visitors to take away from the museum, then they'll leave with their own piece of Ocracoke's heritage."

Ocracoke Arts Council grant will pay for materials for the hands-on activities and for any advertising costs for the children's Porch Talks, as part of its Heritage Crafts program. Ocracoke Arts Council distributes monies from the National Endowment for the Arts and the North Carolina Arts Council through the Beaufort Arts Council's Regional Arts Program.

The 2009 Porch Talk schedule will be posted on our website soon (www.ocracokepreservation.org). If you're on the island, please stop by the Museum and see what's happening.

Porch Talks Are An Important Part of OPS Heritage

The new children's Porch Talks that will be added this year are just another part of our long tradition of informal and informative gatherings to celebrate Ocracoke's history and culture.

The Museum opened its doors for the first time in the summer of 1991. We were only open part-time back then, but we hosted our first Porch Talks with book signings by local authors and a presentation on Ocracoke seashells. Early Porch Talk volunteers included the director of the Elizabeth II project at Roanoke Island, a hurricane specialist, members of the US Coast Guard and staff from the Chicamacomico Lifesaving Station.

Local Porch Talk volunteers were Larry Williams, who told stories about old Ocracoke and James Barrie Gaskill and Rex O'Neal, who gave presentations on commercial fishing.



James Barrie Gaskill and Rex O'Neal's 1995 Porch Talk.

Even before the Museum was a reality, OPS provided heritage exhibits and demonstrations. In July 1983, OPS hosted Ocracoke History Days, a three-day long exhibit held at the Berkley Center over Independence Day weekend. Over 900 people visited History Days, which included displays on the Coast Guard's role on Ocracoke, shipwrecks and ship models, fishing and hunting, hurricanes and weather, quilting and other needlecrafts, WWI and WWII on the island, Ocracoke maps, deeds and wills, island livestock (including the Wild Ponies), and antiques. There were also lectures and slideshows about Ocracoke's olden days.



NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE ARTS

This project was supported by the North Carolina Arts Council with funding from the state of North Carolina and the National Endowment for the Arts, which believes that a great nation deserves



www.ncarts.org

Mission Statement

The Ocracoke Preservation Society was incorporated as a non-profit group existing under the laws and regulations of the state of North Carolina and dedicated to:

- Encouraging, assisting, advising and participating in the identification, preservation, and restoration of significant structures, buildings, districts, objects of local interest, historic charm, distinctive character and natural endowments of Ocracoke Island;
- Facilitating and encouraging public participation in preservation programs and activities;
- Cooperating with other agencies, organizations and individuals, public and private, including the extension of such technical and financial assistance as may be available;
- Purchasing, accepting, holding and administering gifts of money, securities or other property of whatsoever character for the purpose of carrying out its program;
- Carrying out any other function related to its overall purposes not otherwise inconsistent with the law.



Executive Committee

President	Bill Jones	Trustee	Paula Schramel
Vice-president . . .	Gene Ballance	Trustee	Dave Frum
Secretary	Gail Hamilton	Trustee	Philip Howard
Treasurer	Linda Scarborough	Trustee	Betty Helen Chamberlin
Member at Large .	Ruth Toth	Trustee	Ralph Buxton

AN ADDITIONAL WAY TO INCREASE YOUR DONATION

Contribute to OPS when you shop at a Food Lion store. Just register your "MVP" card with Food Lion, designating Ocracoke Preservation as your charity. They will donate a portion of your purchase to OPS. (This will not affect your grocery bill.) Registration can be done on-line at www.foodlion.com or by phone at 1-800-210-9569. Participation requires renewal each fall. Or include your twelve digit "MVP" number on your membership form (or send it to us) and we will register you for this program.

CORPORATE MATCHING GIFTS PROGRAMS

Many companies offer a Matching Gift Program for their employees, retirees, directors and officers who make charitable contributions to non-profit organizations. Please contact your personnel or benefit office to inquire about their matching gifts policy. Submit the appropriate form to OPS along with your donation.

Collections Committee

Janey Jacoby-Chair
DeAnna Locke
Gail Hamilton

Museum Committee

Bill Jones
Dave Frum
Philip Howard

Historic District / Land Trust Committee

Trudy Clark-Chair
Jen Esham
Paula Schramel
Frank Brown
Ed Norvell

Development Committee

Janey Jacoby-Chair
Linda Scarborough
Frank Brown
Ed Norvell-Consultant

Save an Old Boat Committee

Al Scarborough-Chair
James Barrie Gaskill
Frank Brown
Ruth Toth
Vince O'Neal
Tom Wright

Finance Committee

Linda Scarborough-Chair
Ralph Buxton
Ellen Gaskill

Personnel Committee

Linda Scarborough-Chair
Betty Helen Chamberlin
Philip Howard

Membership Committee

Linda Scarborough
Janis Reeder
Ralph & Vera Buxton

Special Events Committee

DeAnna Locke-Chair
Ralph & Vera Buxton
Ruth Toth
Paula Schramel

OPS PARTICIPATES IN WOMEN'S ART EXHIBIT

By Ann Ehringhaus

On October 3, 2008 an exhibit of artwork by fifty-five women who attended Black Mountain College (1933-1957) opened at the Black Mountain College Museum + Arts Center in downtown Asheville, NC. This exhibit, entitled "The Shape of Imagination: Women of Black Mountain College" includes visual art, furniture, pottery, and original college publications. Black Mountain College (BMC) was an educational experiment located on two different campuses around Black Mountain, NC, near Asheville. This current exhibit is the first major attempt to highlight the important female artists and thinkers who also attended.

So how does Ocracoke figure into this exhibit? OPS has loaned one photograph to this exhibit. Since 2000 OPS has purchased approximately fifty black and white photographs by Martha McMillan Roberts, who attended BMC and who came to photograph Ocracoke in July 1955. She was part of a photographic project documenting small towns that were being affected by the oil industry, funded by Standard Oil. Her photographs of Ocracoke are portraits and samples of island life in the 1950's.

Also of note is the fact that Theodore and Alice Rondthaler worked on the staff of BMC before moving to Ocracoke, where Mr. Rondthaler served as Principal of Ocracoke School from 1946-1962. Many people the Rondthalers had met at BMC came to visit them on Ocracoke.

OPS has loaned one photograph to this exhibit. It is an image of the side porch at the Community Store, with the harbor in the background. Six men are visiting together in the early morning light. The image conveys a strong sense of community. One final note of connection between BMC and Ocracoke: the Program Director at Black Mountain College Museum and Arts Center is Alice Sebrell, sister of Bob Sebrell and Ann Ehringhaus. We can celebrate many links between Ocracoke and Black Mountain College.



OPS MUSEUM HOURS

The OPS Museum opened for the season on April 6th.

Spring Hours are:
Monday - Friday 10 - 4
Saturday 11 - 4

Summer Hours will begin June 15th
Monday - Friday 10 - 5
Saturday 11 - 4

Answers to the Fall Issue's Pop Quiz

Gaynelle Tillett and Maxine Mason get an A+ for identifying the former Ocracoke School students featured on the back page of the Fall 2008 Mullet Wrapper.

In the front row are (left to right): Josephine "Joey" Ballance, Annie Lou Gaskill Gaskins, Marian Belle Garrish Hoggard, Lydia Frieda Williams Spencer, and Jimmy Spencer.

In the middle row are: Alice Belle Williams Clark, Elizabeth Williams Parsons, and Walter C. O'Neal

In the back row are; Eleanor Gaskins, Sigma Willis, Lovelle Spencer Midgett, Lonnie Burrus, Jr. and Johnny Boy Midgette

The Mullet Wrapper

Volume 13, Issue 1, Spring 2009

The Mullet Wrapper welcomes materials submitted for publication, including historical and genealogical information, historic photographs, manuscripts and publications, news, and announcements.

The Mullet Wrapper reserves the right to edit all material. Submitted materials will not be returned without a request.

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Sundae Horn

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Village Print

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Donations Made September 1, 2008 – March 20, 2009

<p>Donations Avon Cottages Calvert Barksdale Gene and Kay Baynor Therese (Butsie) Brown Gail Hamilton Amy Howard Cornelius and Mary Klots Ocracoke Festival Nancy Reynolds Loren and Patricia Schweninger Marybeth Smith Beverly Sullivan Village Craftsmen John Walli Katherine and George Woodwell</p>	<p>Land Trust Fund William and Barbara Holloman Patricia M. Kelly Malcolm Jr. & RoseAnne Kroeber John J. Lavin Carroll and Andy Preston R. Tucker Scully and Lee Kimball Christine and Emory Stafford</p> <p>Fencing Fund Raylan and Ruth Roetman – in memory of Don and Ethel Roetman</p> <p>Collections Management Fund Claire Duckett Richard and Janey Jacoby</p> <p>Building Fund (Museum) Robert E. Roy</p> <p>Historic District Fund Ronald and Barb Gibson R. Tucker Scully and Lee Kimball John R. and Lee Mitchell JIII</p>	<p>Save An Old Boat Fund Thomas and Diana Beausang – in memory of Fred Wetherill</p> <p>Ann Calandro – in memory of Jacob Hall Miller (3/12/89 – 9/13/08)</p> <p>Honorary Donations Carolyn Armstrong – in honor of Glenda Bertolini's 70th birthday</p> <p>Julie and Chris Osburn – in honor of "friends and family who attended wedding on 9/15/08"</p> <p>Rosemary Wetherill – in honor of Thomas and Diana Beausang</p> <p>James H. Wylie – in honor of Bill Jones</p>
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Memorial Donations

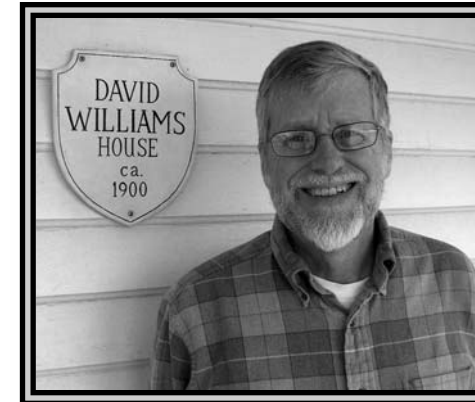
Given By	In Memory of:
Eugenia Esham	David E. Esham
Eugenia Esham	Harvey Parker, stepfather of Berry Collier
Marilyn Ford	John P. Ford
Jack Spencer Goodwin	Capt. Thurston Gaskill
Kathleen and Robert Hornung	Margot Rochester
Raylan and Ruth Roetman	Don and Ethel Roetman
Christine and Emory Stafford	Hugh Allen Stafford
Rainey Stolp	Don and Ethel Roetman
Gloria Van Nostrand	Dr. Leslie Van Nostrand

OPS Wish List

The OPS Museum is always looking for more volunteers. If you are able to help, we are certain to have a job that suites your schedule and your interests. The work's not hard and it is a great way to learn about Ocracoke. If you would like to help out, call DeAnna at 928-7375.

From the desk of ... **the OPS President**

It is a great privilege to be writing as the "President" of OPS! My wife, Lida, and I moved to Ocracoke in December of 2007. I hoped I would find ways to contribute to life on this beautiful island, but I never dreamed an opportunity like this would come so soon.



I worked often last year as a volunteer in the Museum Gift Shop. It was no surprise to me that the museum works to preserve the island's past and heritage. The Brogue Room, the Boy Scout history, the quilts and the tribute to Muzel Bryant are very popular exhibits. Many visitors are searching for more of the island's Civil War and World War II history. And, of course, Blackbeard is a popular subject.

But I was a bit surprised to see another function of the museum. We seem to be a "First Greeter" to the island for many guests, especially day visitors. Many of the tour buses park and unload just outside our door.

Our Gift Shop volunteers answer endless questions about what there is to do and where things are. We expect questions like "Where is the

bathroom?" but are just as likely to be asked "Where is the lighthouse?" People ask for directions to the British Cemetery, the Civil War marker, even the beach. And of course "How do I get to Teach's Hole and where can we park?" are frequent questions.

I'm so thankful for our great staff: DeAnna Locke (Administrator), Marcy Brenner (Office Manager), Vera Buxton (Gift Shop Manager), and volunteers like Janey Jacoby (Collections) and Linda Scarborough (Treasurer) who work tirelessly to keep the museum strong and well maintained.

We are also excited to be one of several organizations to have received a generous gift from the estate of Gerry Beveridge, a lifetime member and supporter of OPS. According to the terms of the estate, this gift is to be used "for preservation of buildings and the preservation and promotion of the history and heritage of Ocracoke Island."

This is a wonderful opportunity; the Executive Committee is just beginning to consider possible options for using this gift. But we all understand that this money is not for "operating expenses." The generous gifts of money and volunteer time are still the lifeblood of OPS.

So please join me in considering ways that we can all work to help OPS in its mission to preserve and enhance our very special island home. And come to the museum often.

Bill Jones

You Could Win This Beautiful Quilt!

This year's raffle quilt is a traditional Crazy Quilt pattern with black sashing, and is strikingly gorgeous. Each piece was lovingly stitched, embroidered and donated by the Ocracoke Needle and Thread Club, a.k.a. the Quilters. Of course, this photo doesn't do it justice, so please stop by the museum and see the quilt in person. And don't forget to send in your raffle tickets (attached to the enclosed membership form.) Good Luck!



From the desk of ... **the OPS Administrator**

Just as we all say every year: I cannot believe winter is gone and it's time to gear up for another season. But, here it is! We've been busy at OPS and we have a lot to show for our work. Last fall we hired Marcy Brenner as our Bookkeeper/Office Manager. Bill Jones came on board as the President of the OPS Executive Committee on January 1st. Then, we hired Vera Buxton as the new Gift Shop Manager. What a team! We worked hard to get the museum ready to open on Monday, April 6th. Some of the interior of the museum has been painted and several maintenance projects have been tackled. Vera has worked diligently to get the gift shop cleaned, stocked and arranged nicely; and some of our favorite exhibits have been spruced up a bit. As usual, Yolanda Contraeras has done a wonderful job getting the building spring-cleaned and ready for visitors. The beautiful new quilt, donated by the Ocracoke Needle and Thread Club, is on the bed and raffle tickets are selling steadily. Things are looking great!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Janey Jacoby for all she accomplished during her tenure as Executive Committee President. She works faithfully and tirelessly! We cannot thank her enough for all she's done for OPS in the past, but we are very fortunate and appreciative that Janey is willing to continue to help us through her numerous volunteer projects. Along with Janey, often comes the generosity of her husband, Dick Jacoby. Thank you, Janey and Dick, for all you do.

Although everyone is worried (rightly so) about our nation's economy and the ramifications the recession will have on tourism on Ocracoke, I'm excited about another season at the OPS Museum. We have great exhibits and exciting programs available free-of-charge to our visitors. We have reasonably priced merchandise in our gift shop and raffle tickets for our quilt still cost \$1.00. Our paid and volunteer staff is here to greet you and assist you in any way we can. Come see us soon. We look forward to your visit!

DeAnna Locke



From the Museum Gift Shop:

We are pleased to say that everything seems to be falling into place in the Gift Shop for the beginning of our 2009 season. We will be adding a few new titles in both the Children's and Adult book sections. We are having difficulty in obtaining books on Portsmouth Island, so if anyone has any information about new or existing books we would be delighted to hear it.

As always we want to begin our season with a thank you to all our new and returning volunteers. The gift shop is able to

function at such a high level due to the generosity of our volunteers. We encourage anyone who would like to become a gift shop volunteer to give us a call and come by for a visit.

To all of you who visit Ocracoke, please put us on your visitor list and come by and introduce yourself. We would very much like to meet you.

Vera Buxton, Gift Shop Manager

continued from front page

The History Days event was so successful that OPS offered it again in 1984. This time, hoping for some cooler weather, they scheduled it for October. In spite of the off-season timing and the presence of Hurricane Josephine offshore stirring up the weather, over 500 people attended. New exhibits at the 1984 History Days included Ocracoke seashells, National Park Service, and old home movies.

Museum visitors will recognize the History Days displays as laying the groundwork for what would become our permanent exhibits, and many of the topics from those days are still presented in our Porch Talks.

Over the years, the Porch Talks (which are sometimes more accurately called "back yard talks") have become much-anticipated and well-attended events for visitors and residents alike. Their focus has ranged from book signings (local and off-island authors) to entertainment (storytelling and music and the Rumgagger) to nostalgia (Mounted Boy Scouts) to wild Ocracoke (shelling, birdwatching, ponies) to conservation and preservation efforts (NC Coastwatch; saving the Fish House) with liberal doses of history and culture (Portsmouth, WWII, British Cemetery, figs, quilts, square dancing.)



photo courtesy Ann Ehrlinghaus

For several years, Ben "Blackbeard" Cherry perform at the Museum on the afternoon of July 3rd, drawing crowds of 150 or more, according to former OPS Administrator Julie Howard.

Other popular Porch Talks included local people, Julie said.

"Earl O'Neal and his panel of 'native oldsters' were regular entries on my calendar every year. People seemed to enjoy history talks from the locals. Philip Howard's square dance demonstrations were enthusiastically attended," she said. "And last, but not least, the 1950's Mounted Boy Scout troop was very popular, but it got harder and harder to get them all together."

Donald Davis, a professional storyteller who makes his home on Ocracoke, offers two weeklong storytelling workshops on the island each year. His students get some practice telling stories to an audience at Porch Talks. These storytelling workshops have become some of the most popular talks, bringing good-sized crowds every time.

2008 Porch Talk topics included something to please everyone: storytelling, the Lifesaving Service, pirate songs and tales, sea songs and stories, the Ocracoke brogue, shelling on Ocracoke, waterfowl hunting, oyster maps, figs, Ocracoke Working Watermen's Association, Ocracoke history Q and A with a panel of older residents, the wild ponies, the old mailboat Aleta, Portsmouth Island and flying into Ocracoke on a small plane.

"I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who so generously donates their time to present these wonderful programs," DeAnna said. "If you have a topic you would like to present at a Porch Talk, please let me know. You'll be greatly appreciated."

We're working on a great schedule of Porch Talks for 2009, including the new activities geared toward children, so please plan to attend these fun and educational events.

Digging up Uncle Evans

By Rob Temple

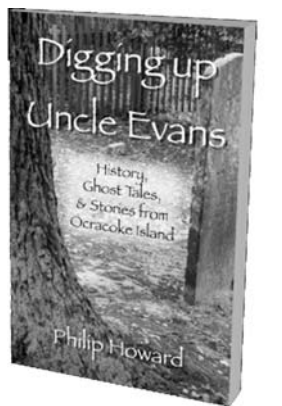
Since his early childhood, Philip Howard has been captivated by the stories told to him by Ocracoke friends and relatives. About fifteen years ago it occurred to him that Ocracoke's trove of oral history was in danger of extinction, and he began to collect stories and write them down.

After years of telling stories and sharing Ocracoke history at OPS Museum Porch talks, on stage at the Ocracoke Festival and Ocracoke Opry, and in his popular Ghost and History Walks, Philip has compiled some of his favorites into a new book:

Digging Up Uncle Evans: History, Ghost Tales & Stories from Ocracoke Island (Black Squall Books \$14.95.) While the main focus is on ghost stories, the book also includes a wealth of Ocracoke history and geography, as well as a scattering of interesting photographs.

The ghostly tone is set in the first chapter, "A Perplexing Dream," which presents a mystery that subtly haunts the reader until it is resolved in the final chapter, "Digging Up Uncle Evans."

Digging Up Uncle Evans is one of many fine books of local interest that are available in the OPS Museum Gift Shop.



PEOPLE MAKE IT HAPPEN

The Ocracoke Preservation Society Museum is very grateful to the many people who have volunteered their time and services, as well as those who have loaned or donated items to the museum. These many contributions make the David Williams House museum a wonderful place to visit. Our sincere thanks to you all.

People Who Donated Time, Service, or Miscellaneous Goods/Services

Laura Michaels and Sherry Atkinson.....	On-going removal of trash and recyclables
Rosemary Wetherill.....	Potholders to sell in gift shop and repair work on flag
Cindy Hichens.....	Potholders to sell in gift shop and Christmas placemats for raffle
Barbara Martini.....	Quilt square kits to sell in gift shop
David Scott Esham.....	Storm preparation
David Frum.....	Yard work
Philip Howard.....	Yard work and help with various maintenance projects, copy of his book, Digging Up Uncle Evans, for library
Ralph and Vera Buxton.....	Yard work, various cleaning and maintenance projects, donation of lampshade
Ken Laton.....	2 cases of copy paper for office
Sarah M. Fore.....	Antique spice tins and bottle
Vince Rockel.....	Large storage cabinet
Phyllis Wall and Jamie Tunnell.....	Work to assemble fall Mullet Wrapper
Al Scarborough.....	Led museum tour for military officers, set up & took away Christmas tree
Dick Jacoby.....	Installed dehumidifier, hung storage cabinet, put up Christmas tree, maintenance and repair work on computers, moved display case
Greg and Janet Duncan.....	Contributed time and supplies to refurbish Lifecar
One Boat Guide and Sunny Day Guide.....	Free advertisements
Julia Howard.....	100+ oyster shell Santa ornaments, donated time to edit OPS brochure and brogue booklet
David Senseney.....	Photo from class trip, photo of boats docked in Silver Lake, "A Tale of Blackbeard" T-shirts and historic letter to Jake Alligood
Bill Monticone & Bill Jones.....	Put up Christmas tree
Chester Lynn & Pat Austin.....	Decorated community Christmas tree and outside of OPS Museum
Linda Scarborough.....	Tested Christmas lights
Ocracoke Civic and Business Association.....	Purchased community Christmas tree
Earl O'Neal.....	Photo of "Ward's Ponies"
Paula Schramel, Susan Dodd, Julia Howard.....	Helped with Wassail Party
Gary Coxe, Bill Jones.....	
A big thanks to all the cookie bakers who provided goodies for the Wassail Party	
Reggie Mosser & Luis Delfino.....	On-going work in library
Rob Temple.....	Re-caned 4 chairs
Ruth Toth.....	Previewed interview DVDs
Chester Lynn.....	Loaned Variety Show pictures for scanning, donated Portsmouth note cards
Steve Tweedie.....	Helped move display case
Janey Jacoby.....	On-going work on Collections Management
Janis Reeder.....	On-going assistance with bookkeeping
Carol Pahl.....	On-going work on the OPS website
Linda Scarborough.....	Countless hours as OPS Treasurer

We appreciate every kindness which has been extended to OPS. If we have left out anyone who has donated or volunteered, please understand that it is an unintentional mistake and help us correct it by notifying us with accurate information.

Calendar of Events



OPS Spring Membership Meeting and Potluck May 12th @ 6pm at the Ocracoke Community Center. After the wonderful meal and short business meeting, our program will be a Porch Talk Sampler. Expect to be entertained and educated by Gene Ballance, Dave Frum, and Rob Temple, as they tell us about saving the Ocracoke Fish House, Life on Portsmouth Island and Sailing the Seas as a Rumgagger.

Ocracoke Festival, Music and Storytelling Festival, June 5-7th 2009. For more information visit www.ocracokefestival.org

July 4th Festivities all day throughout the village. For more information visit www.ocracokevillage.com

English Village Honors Ocracoke's British Cemetery

Last summer, Keith and June Mobey of Purton, Wiltshire, England visited Ocracoke and paid tribute to the sailors from the HMT Bedfordshire. They brought a wreath of poppies on behalf of all the villagers of Purton, "who respect and honor those who died during the harrowing years of WWII."

While on Ocracoke, Mr. Mobey also visited the museum and talked with DeAnna Locke about the British Cemetery. When he returned home to England, he sent DeAnna a copy of an article he wrote for his village magazine and some photos of the event.

The Mobey's daughter, Sara, helped arrange the ceremony by contacting US Coast Guard Chief Petty Officer Eric Watson, who gave them permission to lay the wreath of poppies on Sub. Lt. Cunningham's grave. Four Coast Guardsmen were in attendance. Inscribed on the wreath were these words:

**You gave your lives that we may live
And far from home you lie
Our grateful hearts will hold you near
As all the years go by**

Mr. Mobey was impressed with the caretaking of the British Ceremony. In his article he wrote, "the graves are immaculate, the flower beds are beautiful, and each day the British Navy flag is raised."

In his letter to DeAnna he added, "I was met in the cemetery by four Coast Guardsmen who assisted me with great courtesy and help... My wife and I were touched by the care and dedication given to the cemetery, and the memories of it will remain with us forever."

Commander U.S. Coast Guard Sector North Carolina, the Friends of the Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum, and the Ocracoke Community, request the pleasure of your company to honor those British and Canadian sailors who go gallantly gave their lives during WWII. On May 8th at 11:00am, the Coast Guard Military Honors Ceremony at the Ocracoke Cemetery Site. Reception is at 1:00pm at the Ocracoke Community Center.

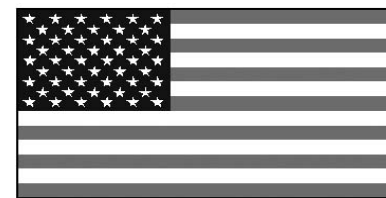


Photo on left: Theodore Mutro poses with Commander Tom Cunningham Royal Naval Reserve, Retired, during the May 2005 British Cemetery ceremony. He is the son of Sub. Lt. T. Cunningham, whose body washed ashore on Ocracoke from the HMT Bedfordshire. Photo courtesy of Earl O'Neal.

Theodore Mutro was born in Chester, PA and was stationed at Ocracoke with the United States Coast Guard in 1941, and stayed on the island the rest of his life. He was the last living member of the burial detail during World War II for Stanley Craig and Sub. Lt. Tom Cunningham of the HMT Bedfordshire on May 14, 1942. Mutro passed away on Ocracoke March 2, 2009.

Photo on right: Burial in 1942. Lowering Sub. Lt. Cunningham's casket are: Theodore Mutro (left foreground), Chief BM Arnold Tolson (left rear) and Chief BM Thomas Harvey Wahab (right), all of the U.S. Coast Guard. Photo by Aycock Brown and courtesy of the Outer Banks History Center.



Keith Mobey with the Coast Guardsmen who helped with the ceremony



British Cemetery at Ocracoke



OPS Trustees Award Two Prizes for Historic Preservation

By Paula Schramel

Since 1989, The Ocracoke Preservation Society has recognized preservation efforts in the Ocracoke Historic District by announcing an annual Historic Preservation Award.



This award is given each year to a person or group that has saved or restored an older structure on Ocracoke. Sometimes this award is given to a structure that has been lovingly maintained - it may be a house that you don't even notice because it looks the same as it always has looked. Other times, a major renovation provides a facelift, but still maintains the historical integrity.



This year, the trustees broke with tradition and awarded two preservation awards. The first award went to a little house on a lovely piece of property near the lighthouse, owned by the Mitchell family of Charleston, West Virginia. A recent renovation has preserved the character of the structure. The Tilman W. O'Neal house was built in the 1890s and is a story and a jump house with original rear ell, with a recessed porch with vertical sheathed porch wall, exterior end corbelled brick chimney, wood shake siding, 2/2 and 4/4 sash, and a hipped front porch with bungalow style posts, probably 1920s replacements. On the north side of the ell is a large screened porch addition. The small scale of the house is a distinctive characteristic of Ocracoke cottages.

The trustees voted unanimously to award a second Preservation Award this year.

The Community Store is a 1-story frame gable front building, 3 bays wide and was built in the 1950s on the site of the old Amasa Fulcher Store. The old store was connected to fish houses and to the Will Willis Dock. Amasa Fulcher was a prominent Ocracoker who had also been part owner of the JW McWilliams Store. This plain vernacular building is covered with asbestos shingles and weatherboard with an exterior brick chimney on the front gable end. The current front is located in the north flank facing the parking area and has a newer shed porch with turned wooden posts.



The Community Store sat empty for most of 2006 and 2007. Everyone was happy to see work commencing when Susan and James Paul leased the building from owner David Senseney. It began to come alive again as the old Community Store. The outside of the building was spruced up and everyone had a smile on their face when they walked inside for the first time when it reopened. The Historic District Committee has a checklist of considerations for this award, but the inside of the structure is not considered. In the case of the Community Store, the inside is public space and everyone agreed that special recognition be given for such a loving restoration within the constraints of a commercial business.

Renovating and preserving a historic structure certainly is a challenge, but the benefits and satisfaction to owners, tenants, and the community are great. **Congratulations** to both award recipients.

The Navy Discovers O-C-R-A-C-O-K-E, as Related by Donald Eberly

Last year, David Eberly of Swarthmore, Pennsylvania, visited the Museum and brought in a letter describing WWII-era Ocracoke. The letter was written by his father, Donald Eberly, and tells the story of how the Navy first came to the island.

Eberly hailed from Lancaster, PA and served in the U.S. Coast Guard. He transferred to the Navy when the war started, and started out as a signalman on the "sub chasers" that patrolled the Outer Banks searching for German U-boats.

He wrote this letter a few years later, when he was stationed in San Francisco aboard the USS La Salle. It's addressed to his mother and stepfather, Miriam and Irvin Harrison, who are reminded to keep the information to themselves because it is "disclosing military information." He asks them to keep his letters because "some day I'll get a kick out of reading them..."

It was "misfortune," he wrote, that made the Navy discover Ocracoke. While on patrol between Norfolk and Morehead City, "a storm came up, one of those typical Hatteras gales, and blew our little puddle jumper in circles. During a lull we began to seek a landfall hoping very much to find Lookout Bight or Cape Lookout. Closing in to the beach we spied a Coast Guard Surf Station. I tried vainly to raise them by blinker lights, but failed miserably. We got closer and closer til all could feel the sand underneath. I tried again and managed to get a response. 'What station' I asked, or words to that effect. The light on the top of the station replied O-C-R-A-C-O-K-E. I asked for a repeat. O-C-R-A-C-O-K-E, and again and again. Where in the hell is okycokee as we pronounced it....Fortunately we made [radio] contact. They pronounced the name correctly and then spelled it, we looked on the chart and sure enough there was such a place."

The "worrywart" machinist mate announced that they didn't have enough fuel to get back to Morehead City, so the crew made their way slowly into Ocracoke, narrowly avoiding running aground, even with a local pilot boat to guide them through the shallow waters. They had a "good night's rest" on Ocracoke and left the next day.

"Thus," he wrote, "we broke the ice at Ocracoke. I say this because after the Navy found we had gone in they decided to make a small boat base out of it. All it needed was a little dredging. They dredged and they buoyed so that the next time we pulled in there it looked like a different place."

Later, Eberly and his shipmates used Ocracoke as their base when they were sent out to patrol for mines. It was then that he learned more about the island, from the nightlife to the insect life (he's unprintably poetic about mosquitoes), from pirates to shipwrecks. Here are some of his observations:

"There are no sidewalks, the streets are of sand, I mean loose sand. The houses are fraim [sic], one to a family, a few automobiles, mostly jalopys. They don't manufacture anything but children, all they do is fish and a little farming.

"The one place of entertainment is a shack wherein sits a jukebox with all the latest records of about 3 yrs. previous. Refreshments consist of soda pop and candy. We did manage to get a hold of some hooch, which either made you damn sick or slapped you silly in the face. Crawley got sick. I got silly.

"There were gals at the dance and they had their shoes on. I mention this because I hadn't seen any on the girls in the daytime... Those gals sure didn't want any lovin from we sailors but the boys who lived there done all right for themselves. Probably because their moms were there I suppose."

After the war, Eberly became a physician and operated a General Practice in Wenonah, New Jersey and later worked in the Student Health department of the University of Pennsylvania. His experience on Ocracoke led to a lifelong interest in the Outer Banks, and although Eberly passed away in 1990, his children and their families still visit the area frequently.

His son, David Eberly, says he and his siblings grew up hearing stories about their father's adventures, but didn't find the letter until after he died.

"[Ocracoke] is a beautiful and fascinating place where I enjoy just walking around and reflecting on the life of my father," David Eberly said. When he visited Ocracoke, he brought a typed transcript of the letter, but the family has agreed to donate the original to OPS when they come back this summer.



This is the photo of the old Spanish Casino, which was located at the intersection of Old Beach Road and Back Road. We think this is probably where Mr. Eberly went to the dance. Photo courtesy of Earl O'Neal.