



The Powder Magazine

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 2

SUMMER 2016

SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST

- From the site manager (page 2)
- The Stockbridge Letters (page 3)
- Meet Intern Kaitlin O'Connor (page 4)
- A message from the Friends CEO (page 5)

Carolina Beach town council, manager, and staff partner with Friends to bring dioramas back home

Thanks to the Carolina Beach Town Council, the town manager and his staff, and the Friends of Fort Fisher, four carefully crafted dioramas depicting a scene from Civil War history have returned home in Carolina Beach. A fifth diorama is on loan at the NC National Guard Training Center at Fort Fisher.

Originally, the dioramas were housed in the late John H. Foard Blockade Runner Museum at Carolina Beach. When the museum closed in 1982, they were acquired by New Hanover County for the Cape Fear Museum, where they were stored for more than



Pictured above (from left to right) are: Friends of Fort Fisher CEO Paul Laird, Mayor Pro-Tem LeAnn Pierce, Councilman Gary Doetsch, Councilman Tom Bridges, Friends Chairman John Coble, and Friends Past Chair Brig. Gen. (Ret.) James Carper at the unveiling. Shown below is the diorama *Boarding a Blockade Runner*

INSIDE THIS
ISSUE:

Staci Bowling as Mary Holloway	6
Beat the Heat Lecture Series	7
Junior Reserves Kids Activities	7
Welcome New Friends of Fort Fisher	8
Join the Friends of Fort Fisher	9



three decades. Lacking space, the museum offered the dioramas to Fort Fisher State Historic Site. Recognizing the historical significance of the models and the impeccable work of Lionel G. Forrest and John Raily, the Friends of Fort Fisher raised funds and contracted with Anchor Wood Products of Leland to build a new LED lighted display case for each of the five dioramas. Because there was no space available at the Fort Fisher museum, the Friends contacted the town of Carolina Beach. Officials there agreed to put the four dioramas on public display in the atrium at Town Hall.

In mid-June, town officials unveiled those four dioramas prior to the monthly town council meeting. Town Hall is located at 1121 N. Lake Park Blvd.

From the site manager, Jim Steele...



Dear Friends:

Summertime is here and that means Fort Fisher State Historic Site is overflowing with visitors! In fact, more than half of the 800,000-plus people we see every year visit during the three months between Memorial Day weekend and Labor Day weekend. Being in the heart of North Carolina's greatest tourism destination, the Lower Cape Fear, means the historic site benefits from other local attractions.

The Fort Fisher State Recreation Area, Carolina Beach State Park, the N.C. Aquarium at Fort Fisher, and other recreational opportunities abound on Pleasure Island. Visitors staying in Carolina Beach and Kure Beach have more to see and do than can be enjoyed in just one weekend, and that is a good problem to have. The strong tourism in our region is crucial to the local and state economies and Fort Fisher State Historic Site is key to this business. So we say bring even more visitors!

This summer I am happy to report that we have an exceptional bunch of seasonal employees, interns and volunteers. Kaitlin, Staci, Rick and Katherine are doing a great job and are giving costumed tours, musket demonstrations and tending to the myriad of tasks that go with visitor service. So bring your family and friends and enjoy the Friday "Junior Reserves" children's programs, the Saturday "Beat the Heat" historical lectures and especially site historian Ray Flowers's special guided tour "Fort Fisher Above the Scenes."

All of this and more make visits to Fort Fisher State Historic Site exceptional, memorable experiences, like the summer artillery program we held on June 25 (see photo below). Well over 3,500 people came out to hear, see, and learn about some of the field artillery used during the battles of Dec 1864 and Jan. 1865. If you like what we do here, please join the organization that helps make it all possible, the Friends of Fort Fisher! They are crucial to our success and we want you to be a part of it to ensure we continue educating visitors about North Carolina's Civil War history and preserving this great battlefield.

Don't forget your sunscreen,

Jim Steele



June 25, 2016 Summer Artillery Program

The Sidney Stockbridge Letters

By Becky Sawyer

Here at Fort Fisher from time to time, we receive interesting phone calls from folks who had relatives who fought here. Well, in April 2016, we received one of those

a letter from the battle that contained a sketch of the fort and souvenir of Colonel Lamb's signature. Mr. Stockbridge wanted to know if we were interested in seeing the letter. I said it would be great to have a perspective from a sailor's point of view of the battle and post battle account.

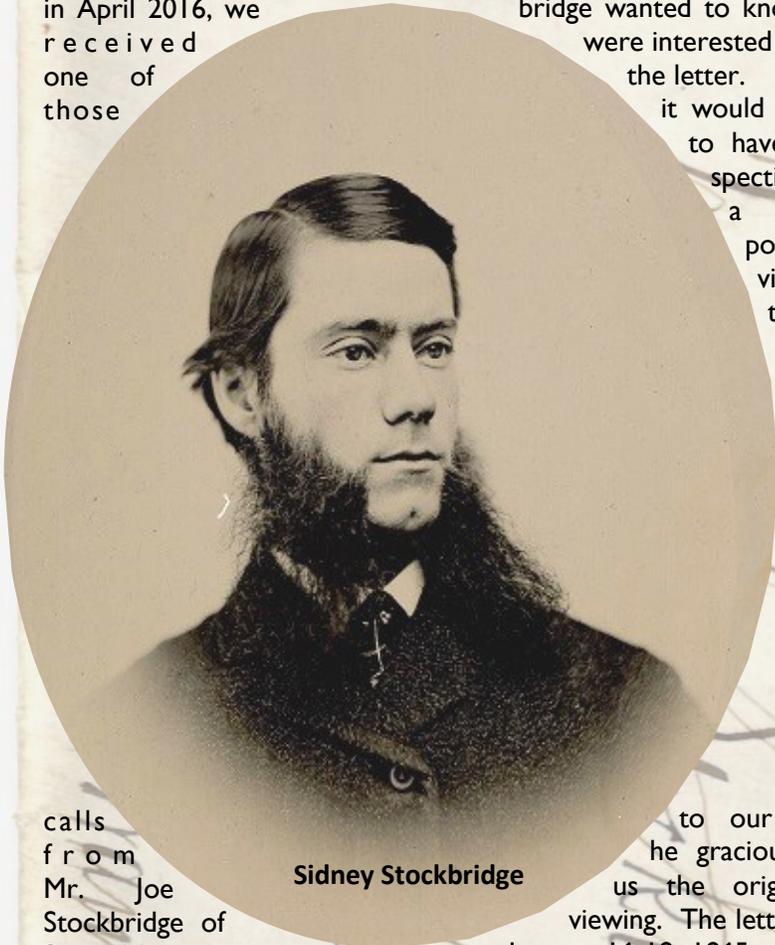


capture of Colonel Lamb's dog. Colonel Lamb had a dog? The interpretive staff was dumbfounded by this part of the letter.

After a series of phone calls, emails and correspondence, we developed a relationship with Mr. Stockbridge. He was delighted to know the site was excited about these letters and has graciously allowed us to use the letters for future interpretive purposes.

With the assistance of Christian Edwards from the NCDNCR Archives and History Collections Branch in Raleigh, we have worked out an agreement with Mr. Stockbridge to obtain the entire collection of approximately 30 letters dating from December 1864 to December 1865, all of which will be scanned and transcribed for a one-year loan.

So be on the lookout for potential exhibits regarding Sidney Stockbridge from the USS *Pawtuxet*.



Sidney Stockbridge

calls from Mr. Joe Stockbridge of Surry, Maine.

According to Mr. Stockbridge, he had a set of letters written by his great-uncle Sidney Stockbridge who served in the Paymaster's office on the USS *Pawtuxet* during the 2nd battle of Fort Fisher.

Within this collection was

Much to our delight, he graciously sent us the original for viewing. The letter, dated January 16-18, 1865, contained valuable information about the torpedoes at Battery Buchanan, the sketch of the fort from on deck of the USS *Pawtuxet* and from inside the fort, gruesome post battle descriptions of the fort and the apparent



Fort Fisher is

Getting to Know

Intern Kaitlin O'Connor

Tell us about where you grew up. I grew up in Raleigh, North Carolina. I am a proud survivor of pre-K to 12th grade Catholic schooling. I was active in sports, particularly softball. I spent many years at the lake with my family and friends on jet skis and boats, and now I've taken up sailing to get back on the water.

Tell us about your formal education. I now attend NC State University. When my family moved to Raleigh, we happened to befriend Wolfpack fans. That added with my love of wolves, I quickly swore my allegiance to the Red and White from State. I am a history major. I hope to pursue a career in either law enforcement or education.

What one word would you use to describe yourself? Compassionate.

What was the name of the last book you read? Would you recommend it? The last book I read was Mr. Jefferson and the Giant Moose by Lee Alan Dugatkin. It was for my American Borderlands class this past spring semester. I recommend it for history lovers as it is nonfiction...but it is very well written. The book discusses the European theory of American degeneracy and how Jefferson (and others) responded.

When did you first learn about Fort Fisher? Tell us about your first visit. Since I grew up in North Carolina, you can imagine that I learned about Fort Fisher at some point. But you'd be wrong. Sadly, I knew nothing about Fort Fisher until I applied for this internship through the NC Youth Advocacy & Involvement internship program. My first visit was actually about a month before my first day of work. I came down to Carolina Beach for a long weekend between final exams and

visited Fort Fisher. I was impressed by the artifacts on display, and began to make mental notes of the fort's history so I wouldn't be overwhelmed on the first day of work. (I still was overwhelmed. There's so much history on this little piece of land!)



Kaitlin O'Connor

Tell us about your historic weapons training. Have you handled weapons before? I handled weapons only recently at NC State's Citizen's Police Academy, which is conducted by the NCSU Police Department. I attended the Citizen's Academy to see if a career in law enforcement may be right for me. The last two classes, we were taught weapons safety then had the privilege to fire various police weapons, under officer supervision, at the county's firing range. So, I wasn't completely coming out of left field when I started historic weapons training.

Other than the Civil War, what is your favorite period in his-

tory and why do you find it compelling? While I enjoy many eras of history, I'd say my favorite area of study in American history was not a particular time period. I took American Environmental History in the fall of 2015. I really enjoyed looking at the whole of American history in the context of man and nature. How did man shape the environment? How did the landscape shape man and society? I've always enjoyed the outdoors, so I really enjoyed studying the relationship between history and nature. Often, we think as humans as the only agents of change in history, but this class showed that the environment shapes the American story just as much as people.

Many people wish there were more hours in the day. If there were, what kind of things would you do with them? Would you like the true answer or the honest answer? In truth, I would love to find a way to sail after work for a couple hours before unwinding at home for the night. But if I really had a couple more hours each day? Well, I'd probably just go to bed for an extra hour or two!

What are two of your favorite feature films? My favorite film is actually Lion King 2: Simba's Pride. Another favorite movie of mine is Remember the Titans.

What's the one thing about you that few people know? Growing up, I played basketball and softball. I am a decent athlete, but I actually practiced regularly on my own at home in order to impress my coaches and earn playing time. I was never quite good enough to be successful without that extra work, and when I got lazy and didn't practice at home, my performance would slip on the field or court. While I did not realize it then, I actually learned a fantastic life lesson.

An Appeal to our Friends & Supporters

By Paul Laird, CEO , Friends of Fort Fisher



Friends of Fort Fisher, Inc. ended another successful fiscal year on June 30th. While all the numbers will not be available until our independently conducted annual audit is completed this fall, I can report to you with confidence that our

Armstrong Cannon carriage. However, the most critical project that needs your immediate support is for the most enjoyed on-going program at Fort Fisher. For years hundreds of thousands of locals and visitors have flocked to Fort Fisher to witness the roar of Civil

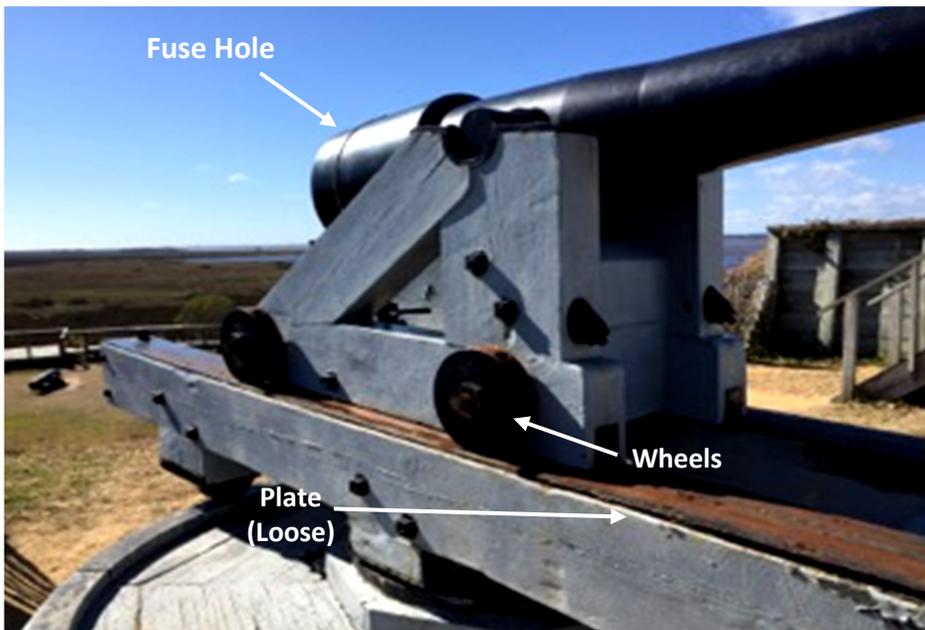
public. The cannon and carriage weigh over 6 tons and are in the elevated 25 foot gun chamber, making maintenance and repair difficult. Initial estimates to repair and replace parts of the carriage may be as high as \$25,000 and must be accomplished this fall.

Please consider making a generous donation to our "Telling Their Story" Phase II Campaign so the crowds will continue to see and hear the roar of Civil War heavy artillery at Fort Fisher.

Donors will receive special recognition and invitation to a special "firing" ceremony upon completion of the renovation and repair project.

I invite you to contact me with your questions and to discuss your support for this or our other projects. I may be contacted by email at plaird@friendsoffortfisher.com or telephone (910) 612-7067.

Thanks for your support and commitment to the preservation, interpretive and educational programs offered at Fort Fisher State Historic Site.



organization is financially strong and well governed by a dedicated board of directors and supported by Friends and volunteers.

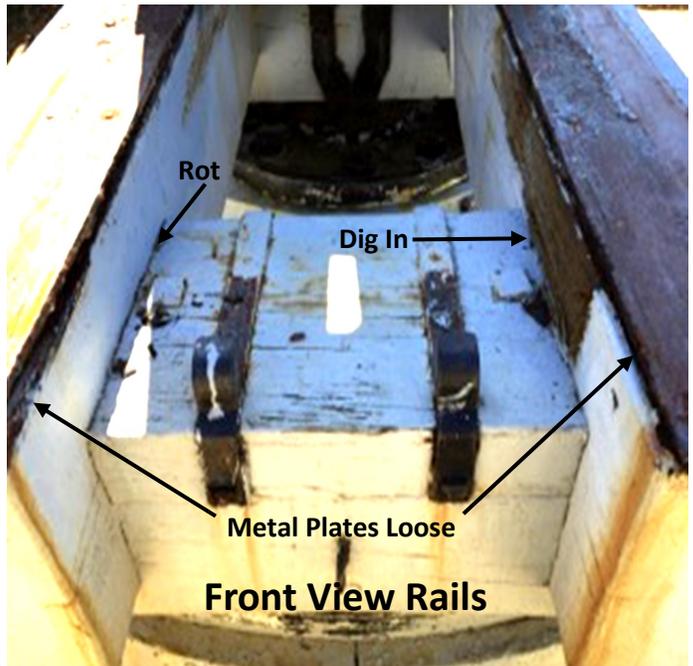
We earnestly need your support to carry out our fund raising priorities for the next year. On May 21st the Board approved an FY 2016-2017 budget of \$255,000. Included in that amount is a fund raising goal of \$51,000. The projects are all viewed as essential to keep the site and programs available for the over 800,000 annual visitors.

Ten new Historical Interpretive Markers are planned for the oceanfront side of the site, new audio/visual improvements to the Spencer Theatre in the Visitor Center, new exhibit cases for the main museum gallery and repairs to the wooden

War artillery – particularly the large Seacoast Rifled and Banded 32 Pounder Cannon mounted in Shepherd's Battery.

Time and the harsh salt air environment have taken a heavy toll on our 32 pounder wooden carriage and hardware. Unless expensive repairs are made in the coming months, live-fire demonstrations may become a thing of the past.

The handmade carriage and metal hardware is well over 30 years old and much of it must be replaced to maintain the integrity and safety of the cannon crew and visiting



Front View Rails

2016 Mary Holloway
Seasonal Interpreter

Staci Bowling

Where are you originally from and how long have you lived in the area? I'm from Reed City, Michigan and I've lived in the area for only a few weeks now.

Who was Mary Holloway and why are you using her name? Mary Holloway was one of Fort Fisher's first tour

guides. I'm using her name to help carry on her legacy and give people the costumed tour guide experience here at Fort Fisher. **What do you think will be your biggest challenges as the MHSI?** Wearing the wool outfit in the heat. This Michigan girl isn't accustomed to a lot of hot weather, especially in a wool uniform.

Tell us about your formal education, past, present, or what you hope to do in the future. I re-

ceived a certificate in Emergency Medical Technician Basic at Muskegon Community College. In August of this year, I will have completed my bachelors in Political Science at Ferris State University (GO Bulldogs!), and I'm unsure of my future plans. I may consider pursuing a master's degree in public administration or getting a law degree.

Are you pursuing/entering/retired from any particular profession? Right now I'm still considering my career options.

If you could have dinner with anyone from the 19th century, who

would it be, and what are a couple of things you might you ask him or her?

I would say any female relative of mine on my Grandmother Cadle Kingsbury's side. They grew up as farm girls in Nebraska and Missouri. From the family stories I've been told, it seems they were very tough,

reading and discussing.

Other than history, what are some of your interests, hobbies, or recreational pursuits?

I enjoy kayaking, reading, shopping, canning, and gardening. I can safely say I have quite the green thumb.

Can you give us a brief description of your upcoming tour schedule?

Depending on the day, I can give 1-3 tours per day, five days a week. Most are costumed, which is quite fun!

Have you found anything strange about Fort Fisher so far?

If not, tell us about something you find strange in general. Well, just some of the people I work with (just

joking), except maybe John, now he's quite weird. Other than that, I would say I find mushrooms weird. Tasty but weird. I mean who would have thought fungus could taste so good?

In conclusion, what else should we know about Mary, I mean, Staci Bowling?

I'm really excited to be here and I'm thankful for this opportunity. I enjoy engaging people and sharing the interesting history of Fort Fisher with them.

Thanks and welcome, Staci!



Staci Bowling

but interesting women. I'd love to actually get the chance to have dinner with at least one of them. The first question I would ask would be, "Can you teach me to lasso?"

Who are two of your favorite authors? I could think of several, but among them, I'd have to include Mary Connealy and Kelly Eileen Hake.

What, if anything, are you currently reading (besides this questionnaire)? I Timothy, as I'm the summer youth leader for North Pointe Community Church and that will be the first book of the Bible that we'll be

Summer Lecture Series

Saturday, July 2: "The WASP at Camp Davis"

During World War II, the Women's Airforce Service Pilots, or WASP, were the first women trained to fly our military's front line arsenal. Krystal Lee, an independent researcher, will share her research on this program and its connection with Fort Fisher and the Anti-aircraft School located at Camp Davis.

Saturday, July 9: "The Kure Beach U-Boat Attack"

There are those who swore it happened and there are those who say it never did. The question has always been, "What happened at the Dow Chemical Plant in Kure Beach during July 1942?" Join us as Ev Smith, a independent researcher, will discuss the story and his research of this unique local story.

Saturday, July 16: "To Prepare for Sherman's Coming: The Battle of Wise's Forks"

Mr. Wade Sokolosky, a retired career army officer, has produced what is not only a valuable book on the battle of Wise's (Wyse) Forks, March 7-11, 1865, but what surely may be the definitive study of one of the Civil War's overlooked yet significant battles. Copies of the book will be on sale and can be signed by the author.

Saturday, July 23: "After the Battle: the Experience of Fort Fisher's POWs"

What happened to Fort Fisher's defenders after the battle was over? Author and historian Richard Triebe discusses the plight of Fort Fisher's garrison in captivity. Copies of the Mr. Triebe's books will be on sale and he will be available to sign them.

Saturday, July 30: "North Carolina as the Last Confederate Capital" In the waning days of the Confederacy, from April 11 until April 26, 1865, North Carolina was the Capital of the Confederacy. Historian and author Michael Hardy will be discussing this important but overlooked part of Civil War history. Copies of Mr. Hardy's books will be on sale and he will be available to sign them.

Saturday, August 6: "Charles Towne on the Cape Fear"

The first Charles Town in the Carolina colony was not in South Carolina but centered around a central compound at Town Creek, on the Cape Fear River. Join author and historian Jack E. Fryar, Jr. as he shares the story of the rise and fall of Carolina's first Barbadian settlement.

Saturday, August 13: "After Fisher: Action at Sugarloaf Lines" With the fall of Fort Fisher, Union forces attention focused on capturing the port of Wilmington. Defending the southern approached was a series of earthworks anchored at Sugar loaf Hill on the Cape Fear River and bisecting the peninsula until it reached Myrtle Grove Sound. Historian and author Dr. Chris Fonieville will be on hand to discuss this important but frequently overlooked part of the Wilmington Campaign.

Please note: All lecture series programs will be held in the Spencer Theater inside the Fort Fisher Museum. Speaker's presenta-

tions will begin at 2:00 pm unless otherwise noted. Presentations are subject to change/cancellation without notice due to issues beyond our control. The Lecture Series is free and open to the public. This, and all educational programming at Fort Fisher, is supported by the Friends of Fort Fisher, its sustaining members, and the generous donations of its members, as well as the town of Carolina Beach, the town of Kure Beach, and New Hanover County.



Attention Junior Reserves

Summer 2016

Kid's Activities

Saturday, July 2: "School of the Soldier" Enlist with the Fort Fisher garrison and learn about the life of a Civil War soldier. Kids will learn the manual of arms, loading a musket in 9 steps and the life of a soldier on garrison duty. Costumed guides will be leading the activity and will conduct firings of the musket.

Saturday, July 8: "The Whole Garrison has Gone to Gardening!" "Do you have a garden at home? Learn about how the soldiers at Fort Fisher fed themselves and fought off disease. Take home your own potted plant!"

Saturday, July 15: "Archaeology at Fort Fisher" Explore the history of Fort Fisher through the archaeological record found both on land and in our local waterways. Maritime archaeolo-

Continued on page 8

Fort Fisher's Summer 2016 Kid's Activities Continued from page 7

gists from the North Carolina Underwater Archaeology Unit will be on hand to talk about the amazing historical finds in the Cape Fear region. Educational and hands-on activities will focus on the role of Archaeologists in understanding Fort Fisher's history and how they accomplish their important work.

Saturday, July 22: "Communications and Secret Codes"
How did Civil War units send messages over large distances without texting or cell phones? How could units be sure these messages would not fall into enemy hands? Come to Fort Fisher to learn the "Wig Wag" flag system to send messages and encrypt your own messages using cipher disks that you can take home!

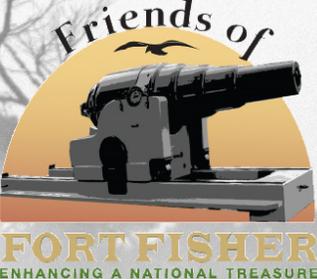
Saturday, July 29: "The Blockade Runners" Join the Fort Fisher signal corps and learn how blockade runners supplied the Confederacy with much needed supplies under the protection of the fort's guns. Be your own blockade runner and see if you can safely transport goods to and from the port of Wilmington. What will you decide is worthy of such risky transportation!?

Friday, August 5: "Toy Soldier Workshop" Soldiers of all ages have had uniquely designed uniforms. During the Civil War, the soldiers on both sides had "Blue and Gray" uniforms but also had colors to indicate branch of service. Learn about soldiers' uniforms, the colors they used and their equipment. The best part is you get to paint your own toy soldier to take home!

Saturday, August 12: "The Artillery Gunner" Learn how Fort Fisher artillerists had to use math and science to target ships far out at sea. Then try your hand at battering the "blockade" with water balloons! Take home your own quadrant to practice measuring launch angles for your own water balloon battles.

Please note: Unless otherwise noted, all kids' programming will be held from 10:00 am until 2:00 pm. All activities are subject to change without notice due to adverse weather conditions or site staffing. All programs are made possible by the support of the Friends of Fort Fisher and its sustaining members, as well as New Hanover County, the Town of Kure Beach, and the Town of Carolina Beach.

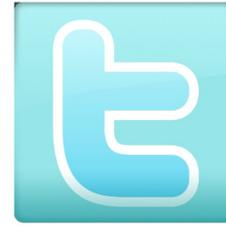
Welcome New Friends of Fort Fisher Members



<p>Del Clark Newport News, VA</p> <p>Thomas Dannel McArthur, WV</p> <p>Daniel Gaskell Jacksonville, NC</p> <p>Mike Robertson Kure Beach, NC</p>	<p>Vonda Rodriquez Raleigh, NC</p> <p>James Weber Wilmington, NC</p> <p>Spencer & Ellen Weig Wilmington, NC</p> <p>John Zervas Gettysburg, PA</p>
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Thank you for supporting NC's most visited battlefield & National Historic Landmark

Look for us on...



Join the Friends of Fort Fisher

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

Palisade Society	\$40
Mounds Society	\$100
Blockade Runner Society	\$250
Gibraltar of the South Society	\$500
Col. Charles F. Fisher Society	\$1000

BENEFITS

Palisade Society – basic level of annual support includes attractive decal and member card, listing in *The Powder Magazine* quarterly newsletter, 10% discount on all purchases from our Fort Fisher Museum Shop and invitations to member only events

Mounds Society - level of annual support includes all of the above benefits plus one complimentary honorarium or memorial in one issue of *The Powder Magazine* newsletter

Blockade Runner Society - level of annual support includes all of the above benefits plus a 6”x 9” engraved brick paver on Fort Fisher’s Walk of Honor

Gibraltar of the South Society - level of annual support which includes all of the above benefits except a larger 9” x 9” engraved brick paver, and a specially selected book annually from the Museum Shop

Col. Charles F. Fisher Society - level of annual support which includes all of the benefits of the Gibraltar level except the engraved brick paver is a permanent beautiful blue/gray 12” x 12” stone and may include an engraved emblem or logo

Other ways to contribute:

Memorial and Honor Gifts, Artifact Donations, In-Kind Gifts, Volunteers, Named Gift Opportunities, Bequests – Contact the Friends Executive Director for information

MEMBERSHIP ENROLLMENT FORM

Name _____
 Address _____

 City _____
 State _____ Zip _____
 Telephone _____
 Email _____

- New Renewal

All society memberships are based on a calendar year (Jan-Dec). Contributions are tax deductible, less the fair market value of goods and services received.

If you choose to waive your membership benefits, your contribution is fully tax-deductible.

- I wish to waive my society membership benefits
 I will be an Annual Society Member

Membership Categories

Palisade Society	\$40	_____
Mounds Society	\$100	_____
Blockade Runner Society	\$250	_____
Gibraltar of the South Society	\$500	_____
Col. Charles F. Fisher Society	\$1000	_____

Payment

- Cash Check Credit Card
 Make checks payable to **Friends of Fort Fisher**
 VISA MasterCard Discover

Mail to: Friends of Fort Fisher
 1610 Fort Fisher Blvd., Kure Beach, N.C. 28449

Name on Card _____
 Account # _____
 Expiration Date _____ 3-digit security _____

Payments or donations may be made securely on our website www.friendsoffortfisher.com

Fort Fisher State Historic Site

1610 Fort Fisher Blvd. South

Kure Beach, NC 28449

Phone: (910) 458-5538

E-mail: fisher@ncdcr.gov

www.nchistoricsites.org/fisher

Fort Fisher is getting to know new Intern Kaitlin O'Connor

Continued from page 4

Talent is important, but a lot of hard work combined with a little talent will take you much farther!

If your current work at Fort Fisher isn't your dream job, tell us what is. *I really am enjoying my job here at Fort Fisher, and working in a museum setting. (I have not ruled museum or public history work out as a career option.) My dream job would be teaching history at a community college, and writing history books (either engaging nonfiction or historical fiction) on the side. I wouldn't have to be a wildly successful author. I just enjoy writing and would love to be considered a good enough author to be published and respected!*

There's been a lot of discussion about charging admission to visit Fort Fisher. What are your thoughts about that? *I have a friend who attends UNC-W, and I was able to visit her once during the school year. We wanted to see the battleship, but the cost of admissions kept us away – we're broke college kids! So, I believe that admission to Fort Fisher should remain free. Charging admissions would dissuade people interested in the fort who cannot spare the money and people who are only visiting for a way to kill an hour or two, who wind up learning some valuable information about the Civil War. However, I see the benefit of raising more funds by charging admissions, so that argument is not without merit!*

If it were possible to give every visitor of Fort Fisher a practical parting gift, what would you give them? *I would give them a booklet with Timothy O'Sullivan's photographs. As you may be aware, O'Sullivan took photographs of the fort just weeks after the second battle took place in January 1865. I think understanding history is often helpful with visual aids. Hopefully, they would share the photo booklet with friends and family, and more people would learn about the history of Fort Fisher and its significance in the Civil War!*

This newsletter was proudly produced with support from the Friends of Fort Fisher

Friends of Fort Fisher
Board of Directors:

John M. Coble, Chairman
Brian Nunnally, Ph.D., Vice Chairman
Harry Parham, Treasurer
W. Paul Harris, Secretary
Brig. Gen. (Ret) James Carper, Past Chair
Ed Holloran
James Johnson
Geoffrey Losee
Mike McCarley
Mark McLamb
Norm Melton
Mike Robertson
M. Tyrone Rowell
Dennis St. Andrew
Richard Wallace
James Steele, III {ex officio}
Paul Laird, Executive Director {ex officio}



Web: www.friendsoffortfisher.com

E-mail: info@friendsoffortfisher.com