FORT FISHER STATE HISTORIC SITE

The Powder Magazine

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 3

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

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Artifacts hidden beneath the sand to be the focus of site's July 28th program

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Beat the Heal **Lecture Series**

Bluegrass Concert

New Friends of Fort Fisher

Join the Friends today

On July 28, 2014, Fort Fisher past for future generations. hosts its second summer program, "Hidden Beneath the Sand": Fort Fisher Archaeology on the Land and at Sea. This program will explore the history of Fort Fisher through the archaeological record found both on land and in our local waterways.

John Morris, director of the NC Underwater Archaeology Branch, will be bringing in the tools his unit uses to discover clues to the amazing historical finds in waters of North Carolina and the Cape Fear region. Staff of the North Carolina Underwater Archaeology Lab will talk about their job in uncovering the past. Morris will bring in artifacts that are being conserved and discuss the process to save our

For the kids, Seasonal Interpreter Nick Monroe will be leading educational and hands-on activities that focus on the role of archaeologists in understanding Fort Fisher's history and how they accomplish their important work. "Digging Up the Past" will have children learning about the job of archeologists in finding artifacts. Kids then try to figure out the interconnected story between the different items.

To round out the day, Civil War historian and author Richard Triebe will on hand to discuss about his new book, "Point Lookout Prison and Hospital." He will be making two presentations in the Spencer Theater,

located inside the museum, at 11:30 am and 1:30 pm. Triebe will also be on hand to sign copies of his book from 9:30 am to 4:00 pm.

The archaeology program runs 10 am-4 pm and is free and open to the public. Guided tours will be given throughout the day. A costumed guided tour, with a musket demonstration, will be offered at 11:30 am and 1:30 pm. Our "Above the Scenes" donation tour with site historian Ray Flowers will be offered at 12:30

All Fort Fisher programming is made possible by the Friends of Fort Fisher, the nonprofit group that supports the site, and its sustaining members.

From the site manager, James C. Steele

Dear Friends:

Summer has arrived here at Fort Fisher, bringing with it blazing sunshine, steaming humidity, afternoon thunderstorms and swarms of biting insects. But more importantly, summer brings tourists by the tens of thousands and more. We welcome them all, and know that the summer visitation bonanza is our opportunity to educate more people about their Civil War heritage than

we will see the rest of the year. We take this responsibility seriously, increasing tours, programs and other historical activities to meet the demand. It is not easy, but everyone here welcomes the excitement of it all. For us it is what summer is all about.

But even though sometimes it is all we can do to manage the summertime boom, we are also preparing for the greatest Civil War program North Carolina will see in 2015: The 150th anniversary of the Battle of Fort Fisher. Scheduled for January 17-18, this program will be the biggest and best ever conducted here. Both days will feature large-scale battle reenactments with hundreds of soldiers storming Shepherd's Battery.

There will be commemorative ceremonies, distinguished speakers and historians, nighttime lantern tours, children's activities and more. The fort will have a new palisade fence and exciting, brand-new tour trail waysides (finally!). There will be other new exhibits, the crown jewel of which will be the legendary Whitworth Gun (see unloading photos below) on loan from our friends in the United States Navy. All of this and more is in the works, so whatever you do, do not miss the 150th anniversary event and bring all of your friends and family!

Sincerely, Jim Steele







Civil War 150th anniversary-Fort Fisher Steads North Carolina Commemoration

January 2015 will mark the 150th Anniversary of the 2nd Battle of Fort Fisher whose capture closed the Confederacy's main supply lifeline in January 1865 and precipitated the end of the Civil War and the restoration of peace only three months later.

<u>Mark your calendars</u> and plan to join the Friends of Fort Fisher for the largest commemorative and memorial program in North Carolina marking the Sesquicentennial of the Civil War.

The weekend on January 17 and 18 will bring together nationally known historians, authors and presenters, several hundred re-enactors, period martial music, state and national officials for a memorial program to honor the sacrifices of all those who took part in the Fort Fisher and Wilmington Campaign.

National Park Service Director Emeritus Edwin Bearss will keynote the opening Memorial services. Bearss is among the top Civil War historians and authors and is frequently seen on The History Channel and crisscrosses the nation speaking and leading battlefield tours.

The two-day anniversary observance program will also feature special VIP tours led by noted historians and experts, night-time cannon firing and lantern tours presenting historical vignettes with interpreters acting the roles of noted Fort Fisher personages.

Leading up to the weekend activities, the Friends will host a two day Descendants Reunion for those with ancestors, both Union and Confederate, who took part in the Fort Fisher and Wilmington Campaign. They will come together to learn more about the battles and campaign and their ancestor's part in this most important period in American history.

Descendants will tell their own ancestors stories and bring memorabilia to display and discuss. More information on the Descendants Reunion will be released in the coming months. In the meantime, if you had an ancestor engaged at Fort Fisher or Wilmington, please go to the Friends

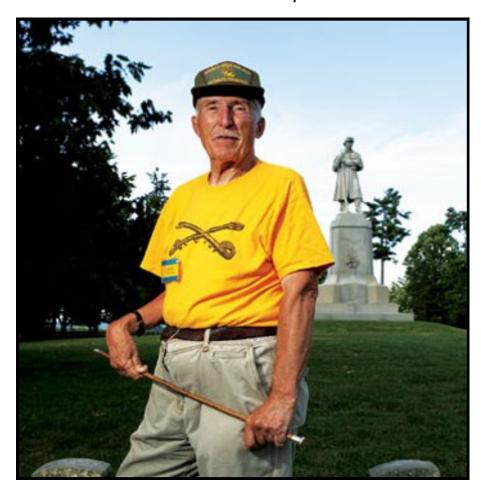
website www.friendsoffortfisher.com to submit a simple online ancestor form so we can enter your information in our database and keep you apprised of news and details relating to the 150th Anniversary Observance and the Descendants Reunion.

Nearly 200 have already submitted their ancestor's information.

The Fort Fisher 150th Anniversary Observance is being made possible

through donations from individuals and businesses.

Support is also provided by New Hanover County, Town of Kure Beach, Town of Carolina Beach, the Pleasure Island Chamber of Commerce and the Wilmington and Beaches Convention and Visitors Bureau. By Paul Laird, CEO, Friends of Fort Fisher



Renowned historian, author, and battlefield expert Ed Bearss will keynote the opening Memorial services at Fort Fisher State Historic Site in January 2015. The event is open to the public.

Summer at Fort Fisher includes Junior Reserves and Beat the Heat Lecture Series

Our annual "Beat the Heat" lecture series and the Junior Reserves activities are shaping up to make it a big summer. Summer programs will be continuing until August 15 and are designed to enlighten and entertain the family.

This year's schedule was created with

the North Carolina Civil War Sesquicentennial's themes of sacrifice and memory in mind. The Junior Reserves activities are geared for families visiting Fort Fisher. These programs use hands-on activities to highlight moments of a Soldier's life on both sides of the Civil War. Through the Beat the Heat Lectures, staff members, historians and authors can present information about the history of Fort Fisher and the local area.

If you would like more information, contact John Moseley at 910-458-5538 or john.moseley@ncdcr.gov.

2014 Junior Reserves
Programs Calendar
July 5, 10:00am to 2:00pm
Program: "Join the Army"
School of the Soldier
July 11, 10:00am to 12:00pm
Program: "The Soldier's
Garden"
July 18, 10:00am to 12:00pm

July 18, 10:00am to 12:00pm Program "Codes and Ciphers"

July 25, 10:00am to 12:00pm Program: "Uncovering History through Archeology" August I, 10:00am to 2:00pm

Program "Attention Cannoneers"

August 8, 10:00am to 12:00pm Program: Townball August 15, 10:00am to 12:00pm

Program: Signal Flags

2014 "Beat the Heat" Lecture Series
Date: July 3, 2:30 to 3:30pm

Topic: The Medal of Honor: New Hanover County Recipients

Speaker: John Moseley, Assistant Site

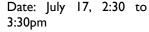
Manager, Fort Fisher State Historic Site

Date: July 10, 2:30 to 3:30pm

Topic: Invisible Enemies: Malaria and Yellow Fever During the Civil War

Speaker: Shannon Walker, Interpreter II, Brunswick Town/ Fort Anderson State

Historic Site



Topic: Fort Fisher: Six Degrees of Separation Speaker: Ray Flowers, Interpreter II, Fort Fisher State Historic Site

Date: July 23, 2:30 to 3:30pm

Topic: The Soldier's Gardens

Speaker: Becky Sawyer, Interpreter III, Fort Fisher State Historic Site

Date: July 30, 2:30 to 3:30pm

Topic: Heart, Hearth & Home: A Trove of Lettered Memories Treasured by the Lambs
Speaker: Ray Flowers,

Speaker: Ray Flowers, Interpreter II, Fort Fisher State Historic Site

Date: August 7, 2:30 to 3:30pm

Topic: Torpedo Warfare in the Cape Fear River Speaker: Jim McKee, Interpreter III, Brunswick Town Fort Anderson State Historic Site

Date: August 14, 2:30 to 3:30pm

Topic: Point Lookout Prison Camp and Hospital

Speaker: Richard Triebe, Civil War author

State Historic Site **July 2014** July 3..... Medal of Honor: New Hanover County Recipients July 10....Invisible Enemies: Malaria and Yellow Fever July 17... Fort Fisher: Six degrees of separation July 23...The Soldier's Gardens July 30... Hearth & Home: A Trove of Lettered Memories of the Lambs EACH THURSDAY **АТ 2:30 РМ** IN OUR AUDITORIUM FREE Some program components may be subject to change.

The Beat the Heat Lecture Series takes place every Thursday at 2:30 pm.

Heet Kak Harrae...

Where are you originally from and how long have you lived in the area? I was born and raised in Richmond, Virginia. I moved to Wilmington in 2012 to pursue a master's degree in public history from the University of North Carolina Wilmington.

Who was Mary Holloway and why are you using her name? Mary Holloway was the first person to give costumed guided tours at Fort Fisher. The position is funded by the Friends group.

What do you think will be your biggest challenges as the MHSI? I think the biggest challenge facing any MHSI is to effectively engage all visitors equally so that everyone understands the historical importance of Fort Fisher to North Carolina and the United States as a whole.

Tell us about your formal education, past, present, or future. I received my Bachelor's degree in history from Colorado College in 2007, a teaching certificate in social studies from the University of Richmond and am currently completing my master's degree in public history.

Are you pursuing/entering/retired from any particular profession? My goal is to enter into the museum profession at historic sites or museums. My passion is history education and I hope to work as a museum or historic site educator.

When did you first visit FF? Honestly, my first visit to Fort Fisher happened when I interviewed for the position. I have a passion for history and a desire to see the general public appreciate history as much as I do.

What are a few of the things you like most about working at FF? I really enjoy working with the public as an educator, teaching about the history of this important place. Nothing is more exciting than seeing someone learn something new they had never heard before. The staff has been very helpful and kind and the camaraderie makes working at Fort Fisher a great experience. It also does not hurt that I get to give tours in costume with musket demonstrations. It is something I have been looking to do for several years and I am very excited about it.



Nick Monroe is Fort Fisher's 2014 Mary Holloway Seasonal Interpreter

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 think it would have to be Theodore Roosevelt. He was such an avid outdoorsman I would want to know did he have plans to climb the seven tallest mountains in the world. Of course I would want to know what drove him to enter politics when he spent time as a cowboy and a soldier, like every little boy's fantasy. It would be interesting to pick his brain about technology and the role it plays in society today.

Who are two of your favorite authors? One of my favorite authors of all time is definitely Joseph Heller. I remember reading *Catch-22* when I was fairly young and the concept that bureaucracy and rationality keeps people between a rock and a hard place really struck me, especially in the context of war.

(Continued on page 9)

FINANCING THE WAR

OR WHERE DID THE NORTH AND SOUTH
FIND THEIR SILVER BULLETS?

BY JIM MILLER

Part 3 of 3

In hindsight, one can argue that this combination of financing schemes formed a very successful and sustainable strategy for funding a war and maintaining a government. While this combination of strategies did foster some inflation, it was minimal when compared to that experienced in the South, as we will see shortly.

When considering how it would finance itself, the Confederate national government faced the conundrum of philosophy versus practicality. Practical politics and state-building strategies alike gave decision makers multiple inter-changeable financing options. The government could chose from among a national banking system, longterm loans/bonds, notes (currency), taxes and impressments. Normally, as was the case in the north, a state would use a flexible combination of these options. In the south, however, philosophical opposition to a national bank, with its inherent subordination of states rights, and to property based taxation, because of its dual threat to states rights and slavery, pushed the Confederacy to initially use several revenue sources, two of which were distinctly Southern in nature.

Recognizing that tariffs neither consolidated power in the national government nor posed a threat to slavery, the Southern legislators enacted tariffs that were similar to those in place in the antebellum period. The second, and decidedly Southern resource, was a tax on cotton exports. Here again, this tax neither unduly strengthened the central government, since a large bureaucracy was not needed to enforce the tax, nor posed a threat to slavery. The govern-

ment also sold bonds at a rapid rate, despite a general philosophical opposition to a large national debt. As with the cotton tax, a large bureaucracy was not needed to support a bond program, so opposition to a large debt was overcome. Finally, in what was a revenue source unique to the Confederacy, citizens responded, initially with great gusto, to a call for donations of gold and other financial assets. In the very early months of the war, this mechanism raised nearly 35% of all Confederate revenue.

Early in 1861, Southern expectations for these various revenue sources were high. The tariff was generating nearly 65% of all government revenue and much of the balance came from the aforementioned donations. Christopher Memminger, first Treasury Secretary of the Confederate States, expected the tariff would generate nearly \$25 million in 1861 alone. He also anticipated the receipt of \$20 million from the cotton tax. These optimistic expectations quickly ran into three doses of wartime reality. First, and most significant, the growing effectiveness of the union blockade crippled the collection of the tariff. Not the \$25 million that Mr. Memminger expected in 1861, but only \$3.4 million was collected....during the entire war! Second, the cotton tax also ran head-on into both the blockade and the self-imposed Southern embargo on cotton (an unsuccessful attempt to force recognition of the Confederacy by Great Britain.) As a result, revenue from the tax came to only \$30 thousand, nowhere near the hoped for \$20 million. Third, as Southern battlefield experiences waxed then waned, private donations fell precipitously, from nearly 35% of government revenue in early 1861 to less than one fifth of 1% (.002) over the course of the war.

Without effective access to tariffs or the cotton tax, the South relied more heavily on the issuance of bonds and the printing of notes. As long as the fortunes of the Confederate men at arms were bright, Confederate bonds sold well, both at home and abroad. Between February 1861 and February 1862 the sale of bonds raised approximately \$22 million, equivalent to 22.5% of total Southern revenue. Here again, however, the realities of war and its attendant fiscal problems effectively drove the Southern public and banking houses out of the government bond market.

Even international sales of the bonds suffered as the battles in America ebbed and flowed for and against Southern interests. While bond sales in calendar year 1861generated nearly 26% of government revenue, in 1862 that figure fell to only 7.7%. Then, in 1863, bond sale revenue rose again to over 25% of revenue...

Over the course of the war,

approximately 21% of Confederate income came from the sale of bonds. Even bond sales, as has been seen, did not provide the Confederate Treasury with a reliable, consistent source of revenue. Despite this, and despite the shortcomings of most of their other revenue sources, the Confederacy continued to resist the imposition of taxes on property and income. While such taxes in the North would raise nearly 20% of total revenue, with the added benefit of supporting bond sales, in the South, only about 8% of revenue eventually came from such taxes.

(Continued on page 7)

FINANCING THE WAR

Continued from page 6

The opposition to a strong central government and the fear of exposing slavery to taxation continued to affect the Southern lawmakers throughout the war. What taxes were enacted proved to be ineffectual. One successful tax, enacted in 1863, was a "tax in kind" which was equivalent to 10% of all agricultural production in the states. This tax (really more of an impressment,) was used as a means of provisioning the Confederate armies.

With all other practical revenue sources partially or completely foreclosed to it, the Confederate Treasury turned to its one last bastion, the printing press. What we call currency today was typically termed "notes" in both North and South. In the north they were greenbacks. In the South, greybacks. Some bore interest, some did not. Some had limits on how they could be used. Most were convertible into gold, but at values set by the market. The similarities between greenbacks and greybacks diverged significantly when it came to their production volumes. In the North, money supply (notes/greenbacks) doubled during the course of the war. In the South, the money supply increased 20 times over.

An explosion of money supply of the magnitude experienced in the South, had to result in a corresponding surge in inflation. Certainly, many factors contributed to that surge, including the increasing failures on the battlefield and the blockade driven shortages of goods. These factors had the effect of creating a desire, in the public, to hold and take payment for goods in gold, further depressing the value of the greyback. As a result, the Confederacy, over the course of the war, experienced severe inflation. By one count, an index of commodities, which rested at 100 in early 1861, rose to 9200 by April, 1865 with a majority of that jump coming between October, 1864 and the end of the war. In that seven-month period, the index rose from 2800 to 9200. Translated into every day parlance, an item costing \$1 in the South in 1861 had risen to cost \$92 by the end of the war. In contrast, by the end of the war northern prices had inflated from an index of 100 to 180 (a \$1 item would have risen in cost to \$1.80.) A practical look at the inflation in the South reveals that the Confederate dollar equivalent in gold (or specie as many called it) went from a high of \$0.90 in early 1861 to a low of \$0.017 in 1865.

At Ft. Fisher the inflationary spiral was documented extensively in the diary kept by Colonel William Lamb. He gives many comparisons of prices for the same or similar items. In early 1861, for example, he reported paying \$4.70 per yard for "navy flannel." By late 1864 the same flannel cost him over \$45 a yard, and he had to pay in gold. In 1861 the colonel paid \$8.95 for a pair of socks, a pair of gloves and a pair of pants. In 1864 he had to pay \$700 for an overcoat and \$50 for



Col. William Lamb

a pair of shoes. In 1861 a horse, bridle and saddle set him back \$170. By 1864 a used saddle alone cost him \$476. Colonel Lamb also lamented the plight of the private soldier whose monthly salary was just \$11 (Confederate) which was equivalent to \$0.50 in gold. He found this to be a factor in some of the desertions experienced in the forces defending the Cape Fear Region.

Compounding the inflationary impact on Confederate notes was the fact that they were easily, and therefore frequently, counterfeited. As an example of how prevalent the problem was, one northern counterfeiter, Samuel C. Upham of Philadelphia, is said to have flooded the South with the equivalent of up to 2.5% of the entire confederate money supply between June, 1862 and August 1863. In fact, Jefferson Davis put a \$10,000 bounty on Upham's head! In the North, counterfeiting was a much smaller problem, yet it still led to the formation of the Secret Service to counteract it.

Conclusion:

Faced with the daunting task of financing a war and, in the South, building a new country, the two sides in the Civil War used the financial tools at their disposal. Ultimately the North proved to have the better financing scheme, one that provided a consistent, sustainable source of funds. While it did face some inflation and counterfeiting issues, the northern treasury under the very capable guidance of Salmon P. Chase, took full advantage of the options at its disposal to finance the war.

In the South, by contrast, the realities of war and political philosophy proved to be a severely limiting factor in the government's efforts to finance itself. Christopher Memminger and his successors in the office of Secretary of the Treasury, found their options to be significantly restricted. In the absence of any steady source of funds, the hyper-inflationary move of printing currency was the only viable, sustainable alternative available. The financial woes of the Confederacy, including in particular the fact its bonds became worthless, lasted long after the war ended. Many of its citizens had invested extensively in Confederate bonds, in essence risking their family fortunes. That legacy of financial ruin lasted for generations after the end of hostilities.

In the end, as it turns out, the North had more of those "silver bullets" to which the Chinese saying referred.

Editor's note: In addition to being a talented writer, author Jim Miller is a much-appreciated volunteer and long-term member of the Friends of Fort Fisher. Parts I and 2 of "Financing the War" are still available for viewing in the October 2013 and January 2014 issues of The Powder Magazine, which can be found at www.friendsoffortfisher.com.



Friends of Fort Fisher present a Bluegrass Concert featuring IBMA award winners



Saturday, Nov. 1, 2014 7 pm



Odell Williamson Auditorium

Brunswick Community College 50 College Road NW, Bolivia, NC 28422



Tickets on sale Aug. I Call 910-755-7416 or 1-800-954-1050 ext 7416 or visit on the web at www.bccowa.com

Proceeds benefit Fort Fisher State Historic Site

I am also a fan of Christopher Moore's books. He writes mostly about the struggles of everyday people complicated by extraordinary or supernatural circumstances. His books are very humorous and are what I read when I need to decompress, or a change from history theory.

What, if anything, are you currently reading (besides this questionnaire)? I am currently reading, *Past into Present*, by Stacy Roth. My master's thesis is looking at first person interpretation at historic sites and Stacy Roth's book focuses on the controversial issues surrounding interpretation at historic sites. *Past Into Present* looks specifically at the spontaneous, conversational style of interpretation found at places like Colonial Williamsburg.

What are your hobbies or interests besides history? I am an avid runner. I have run 4 half marathons in the past two years so I very much like being active. One of my favorite hobbies is horseback riding, which I have done since I was ten years old.

What are your thoughts about the notion of charging admission to FF? As an emerging museum professional I recognize the value of an added revenue stream for Fort Fisher. Many visitors already expect an admission fee and in a world of shrinking cultural budgets, the extra income could be helpful for maintenance and educational programming.

What do you think every visitor should know (or remember) about FF? I think every visitor to Fort Fisher should remember that it was the key to the South. When Fort Fisher fell, the war ended quickly.

Can you give us a brief description of your work and/or tour schedule? I give costumed tours at 11:30 and 1:30 Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.

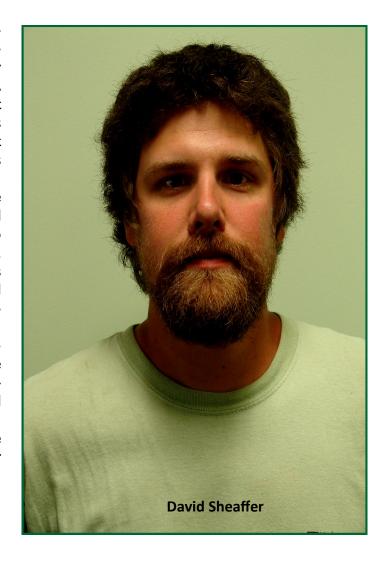
Fort Fisher State Historic Site promotes Sheaffer

Fort Fisher State Historic Site is pleased to announce the promotion of former Site Assistant David Sheaffer to Maintenance Mechanic II. David now serves as manager of the site's maintenance unit. A former seasonal employee at the NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources, David has worked at several State Parks and joined the Fort Fisher staff in 2012, quickly earning a reputation as one of Fort Fisher's most valuable employees.

One of his first responsibilities as maintenance manager will be to orient the site assistant who will replace him. This full time position is expected to be filled sometime this summer. Two years ago, David became certified in 19th century small arms and artillery. He also eagerly dresses out in period clothing to participate in special events, site promotions, and other much appreciated venues.

Some of David's greatest assets are his ability to multi-task and problem solve. Due to the sheer size and complexity of the site, problems frequently arise that require immediate attention and a calm, confident approach. David delivers on both.

A native of Snow Camp, North Carolina, he lives in Wilmington with his wife Aubrie and their young daughter Ada. Congratulations, David!



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Thank You for supporting NC's most visited battlefield and National Historic Landmark

wook for us on..







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Individual Membership\$25Family Membership\$40Military/Student Membership\$20

BENEFITS

Members receive subscriptions to *The Powder Magazine* quarterly newsletter, membership card, notice of educational programs and special events, a 15% discount in the Fort Fisher Museum Store, and invitations to special Friends of Fort Fisher events throughout the year.

SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIP \$500 and Up

All of the benefits above, plus acknowledgement in *The Powder Magazine* quarterly newsletter, VIP acknowledgement in all special programs and recognition on the museum's permanent donor board.

BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP

\$100 and Up

Benefits will be extended to a designated representative of the business. In addition, the business shall be entitled to one free display advertisement (business card sized) in the next edition of *The Powder Magazine*.

ARMSTRONG SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP \$500 and Up

Gifts are placed into a restricted fund for capital improvements. Benefits include membership for the year in which the gift is received, permanent recognition on the museum's donor wall and at the annual meeting of the Friends of Fort Fisher.

OTHER WAYS TO CONTRIBUTE

Memorial & Honor Gifts Artifact Donations Volunteers Named Gift Opportunities Bequests

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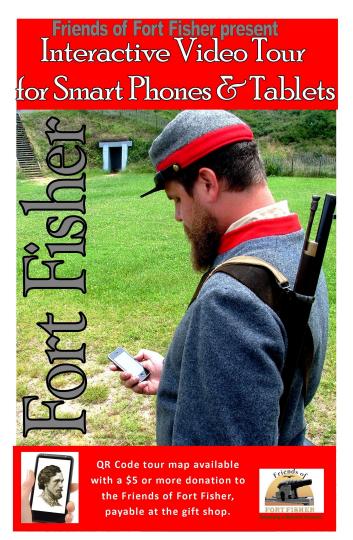
Fort Fisher State Historic Site

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www.nchistoricsites.org/fisher





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

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