FORT FISHER STATE HISTORIC SITE

# The Powder Magazine

**VOLUME 5, ISSUE 4** 

OCTOBER 2013

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## Friends' annual meeting on Nov. 16 to highlight Fonvielle, capital campaign, and elections...by Paul Laird

Members and the public will not want to miss the Friends of Fort Fisher's 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting at 10:00 A.M. on Saturday, November 16 at the Fort Fisher State Historic Site Museum and Visitor Center in Kure Beach, NC.

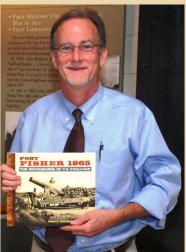
This year's annual meeting is a time to celebrate several notable achievements and who better to capture the story of Fort Fisher and the Friends' work to preserve and present that story than Dr. Chris E. Fonvielle, historian, author, professor and the acknowledged authority on the Wilmington Campaign during the Civil War.

Fort Fisher's strategic importance and the battles that led to its capture are well known. The individual stories of those who were engulfed in the



Laurel Lamb Scott & Sally Lamb Scott

Fort Fisher saga will be told as only Chris Fonvielle can relate -



Dr. Chris E. Fonvielle, Jr.

"Telling Their Story" as it was.

Speaking of our "Telling Their Story" campaign to make site improvements in preparation for the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event in January 2015, we will announce another BIG campaign milestone. The first milestone

occurred in June with the unveiling of the replica Armstrong Cannon and exhibit panels behind the visitor center.

We are also looking for prospective directors for the governing board. If you have an interest and can devote time, talent and treasure, please contact Paul Laird at plaird@friendsoffortfisher.com for more information on board responsibilities.

A standing-room-only crowd to hear Dr. Fonvielle and our campaign announcement is expected so please RSVP to Paul Laird as soon as possible to ensure you have one of the limited seats. Members of the Friends of Fort Fisher will receive priority seating. All events are made possible by the Friends of Fort Fisher and its sustaining members Jim and Catherine Taylor, Ernest R Kniffen, Brian and Deidra Nunnally, Tammy and Jack Moore, and Mike McCarley.

## Descendants of Col. Lamb plan to honor his memory with family artifacts

Thanks to the generosity of Sally Lamb Scott of Austin, TX and Laurel Lamb Scott of San Angelo, TX., Fort Fisher State Historic Site may commemorate the 2015 Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War with newly-donated artifacts passed down from within the family of Col. William Lamb, the Confederate fort's commander, and his wife Daisy. The artifacts include a pair of chairs which Col. Lamb reportedly salvaged from a blockade runner and gave to his wife as a gift. There is also a portable field desk, which contains letters, photos, and an inkwell.

Sally Lamb Scott describes the artifacts as follows:

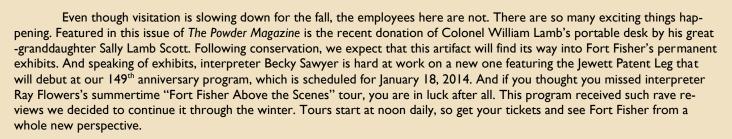
**Continued on page 5** 

## From the site manager, James C. Steele

Dear Friends:

The summer tourism season at Fort Fisher is over, and it seemed to go so quickly. Between Memorial Day and Labor Day, more than 245,000 people visited the Rebel Gibraltar. Even though this was my seventh Fort Fisher summer, I am still amazed that we see a quarter-million visitors every tourist season.

That one of the Civil War's pivotal battles occurred where today exists North Carolina's greatest tourism region—the Lower Cape Fear—is a happy coincidence that ensures Fort Fisher will always be one of our state's leading historic sites. So if you visited this summer, thank you from all of us who work and volunteer here.



In closing, I call your attention to page 6. If you had an ancestor that served at Fort Fisher on either side of the battle, staff and Friends are very interested in helping you "tell their story." Furthermore we are compiling a list of the descendants of these soldiers, sailors and marines with a view towards a special reunion event someday. So please fill out this form and share it with family and friends. Thanks again to all our visitors and Friends for all you do.

Best regards, Jim

## Make it a wedding to remember at Fort Fisher



Create a new chapter in your family's history at Fort Fisher State Historic Site. Through our special event rentals, you can have your wedding or special event amongst the gnarled live oaks and scenic views of the Cape Fear River and the Atlantic Ocean.

Choose from multiple event locations: Fort Fisher has two oceanfront gazebos and two maritime forest groves, which make spectacular backdrops for your wedding or other special event.

Many couples have chosen the North Gazebo for its spectacular view of the ocean and the convenience of their guests to the visitor center. The South Gazebo, located at the southern end of the historic site, offers opportunities for couples wishing for more of a beachfront wedding atmosphere (sorry, not available May 15-Sept. 15). Couples generally use the Ocean Grove area as it provides a maritime forest grove

area that brings shade during summer weddings and includes an oceanfront bluff. Those couples seeking a more secluded area and an amazing view of the Cape Fear River, especially at sunset, recommend the Fort Grove area behind the fortification's earthen walls.

Site specific permits are required for any special events conducted on Fort Fisher's property or to use the facilities. The dollars generated by the permits will ensure that Fort Fisher State Historic Site will be able to support its mission to visitors for years to come. To receive a digital copy of Fort Fisher's permit application, guidelines, and location brochure, contact the site at (910) 458-5538 or send us an email at fisher@ncdcr.gov.

# Fort Fisher to celebrate the season at its Holiday Open House scheduled for December 10, 2013

Join us in celebrating the season at Fort Fisher State Historic Site as we host our Annual Holiday Open House on Dec. 10, 2013. Enjoy seasonal refreshments, decorations, and entertainment throughout the day, including musical performances guaranteed to delight.

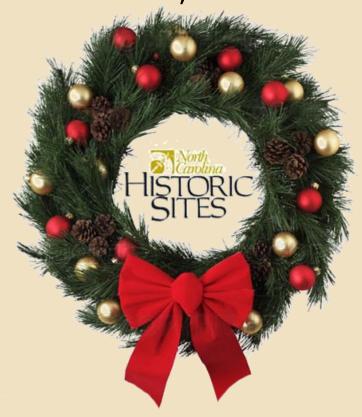
The free program is sponsored by Fort Fisher Chapter 2325 of the UDC and the Friends of Fort Fisher. It is open to the public and will be held from 10 am to 4 pm at the visitor center. There will be a one-day only discount of 25% off in the gift shop.

## Fort Fisher's 149th anniversary program to highlight medical service

Mark your calendar for the 149th anniversary of the Battle of Fort Fisher. "Healing the Troops: The Military Medical Service at Fort Fisher" will be held on Jan. 18, 2014, from 10 am to 4 pm.

This program will focus on the medical service of both sides of the struggle and the healthcare available to the soldiers. Civil War re-enactors will set up displays demonstrating various medical tools and the care of wounded, injured, and sick soldiers.

The program is free and open to the public. All programming is made possible by the Friends of Fort Fisher and its sustaining members. Program components are subject to change.





## FINANCING THE WAR

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

BY JIM MILLER

#### Part 1

The battles and military intrigues of the Civil War have been examined thoroughly by historians, and others, since before the last shot was even fired in 1865. Yet, as the proverbial Chinese saying goes, "Wars are fought with silver bullets." Put another way, it costs money to fight a war, and the side having the greatest financial resources ("silver bullets") is normally the winner.

How a government, whether well established or one trying to establish itself, determines it will finance its state building and military operations will directly affect its success. As stated in the July 9, 1861 edition of "The Charleston Mercury," "The political independence and power of a people depend upon that people's financial ability. It is a true saying that (these) are as often determined by the length of the purse as by that of the sword. Rose Razaghian, in her paper, "Financing the Civil War: The Confederacy's Financial Strategy" noted that, "...the duration and outcome (of the war) was not only a function of military strategies and technology, but also depended on the state's ability to gather and secure resources for the war effort."2

This article will examine how the two combatants in the Civil War planned to finance their war efforts, how effective those strategies were, what changes were made as the war progressed, and what effects were experienced by both sides as a result of the application of their respective strategies.

Before examining the wartime financial strategies of the Union and Confederacy, it is important to understand how

those strategies were shaped in the antebellum period. What political factions existed in the pre-war years, and what were their philosophies with regard to financing a government? Of equal importance, we need to know if and how the various factions cooperated in authorizing the financing of the federal government.

In a broad sense, two political factions can be identified in the antebellum period, running approximately from the end of the War of 1812 until late 1860. These so called ideological camps were defined, roughly, along both philosophical and geographic lines. One camp supported a philosophy that embraced the concept of states' rights as opposed to a strong central government, an agrarian based political and economic structure and slavery. These beliefs can be traced to political parties such as the Democratic-Republicans, Jacksonian, and Democrats. All were dominated by southern, or southern sympathizing members and had leaders such as Jefferson and Jackson.

The second camp philosophically favored a stronger federal government, an industrial based economy and free states (anti-slavery.) With leaders such as Hamilton and Clay, this camp centered in the Federalist, Whig and Republican parties and was dominated by northerners and their sympathizers. <sup>3</sup>

Economically, the two camps were nearly polar opposites. The northern faction supported a national bank, large public debt, high tariffs and taxes to finance the government. Conversely, southern sentiment was adamant in its opposition to a national bank and a large public debt because both had the trap-

pings of a large, centralized government bureaucracy. Likewise, they resisted the imposition of high tariffs for fear of offending the British, the largest consumer of southern cotton, to the point of retaliation in the form of British tariffs. Taxation of property was also vehemently opposed for fear that such taxes would have included a significant southern asset, namely slaves. <sup>4</sup>

In the years running up to the Civil War, these two dominant groups, and other secondary factions, were forced, time and again, to forge alliances or compromises in order to effectively finance the government. Financing the government was, arguably, one of, if not the most contentious issues in that antebellum period. An example of this fact is seen in the debates and resultant compromises over establishing and setting tariff rates. The South consistently opposed high tariffs because of the aforementioned fear of British retaliation against southern agricultural products. Conversely, northern interests, being less dependent on foreign markets for their industrial production, were more favorably inclined to the use of tariffs. However, as will be seen, sectional philosophical differences had to be resolved in order to finance government operations.

The strong resistance in the antebellum south to taxation and a national bank aligned with an independent Treasury Department forced the legislators to rely on two sources of revenue, tariffs and land sales. Of these two, tariffs made up more than 80% of average revenue in the pre-war years. It can be argued that tariffs were the primary

(Continued on page 5)

## FINANCING THE WAR, PART 1 (continued from page 4)

funding vehicle in the pre-war years because any discussion of the use of taxation would have led to the question of slavery and the "value" of slaves. To avoid that explosive subject, legislators, south and north, would turn to tariffs. However, southerners did not give up easily.

In the face of stiff southern opposition, the passage of tariffs up through the 1820's was accomplished through a coalition of northern and "western" (what today is the Midwest) interests. The western interests wanted infrastructure enhancements, including roads, bridges and canals to help get their agricultural products to market. The northern interests aligned with them by promising to pass legislation regarding infrastructure works. This "American System," a phrase coined by Henry Clay, worked very well until Andrew Jackson vetoed several infrastructure improvement bills in 1830, effectively destroying the coalition.

Then, in 1833, after South Carolina attempted to "nullify" various tariffs, the contending parties, north south and west, reached the compromise of 1833 that, among other things, reduced tariffs over a nine-year period.<sup>5</sup>

Both sides during the Civil War had, for their consideration, the history of the financing of the war with Mexico. This conflict was financed almost exclusively, and successfully, by import tariffs.<sup>6</sup> The question, then, was would either side use this tactic and if so, how effectively? For the answer to this question and more, check out part 2 of "Financing the War" in the next issue of *The Powder Magazine*.

#### **Footnotes:**

- I. Gordon, John Steele. 2011. "The High Cost of War." in Barron's (www.djreprints.com) April 9,2011
- 2.Razaghian, Rose. 2005. "Financing the Civil War: The Confederacy's financial Strategy." Yale International Center for Finance, Working Paper no. 04-45. pg.4.
- 3. Razaghian. "Financing the Civil War: The Confederacy's financial Strategy." pg.2.
- 4. Razaghian. "Financing the Civil War: The Confederacy's financial Strategy." pg.3.
- 5. Irwin, Douglas. 2006. "Antebellum Tariff Politics: Coalition Formation and Shifting Regional Interests." National Bureau of Economic Research; Working Paper no. 12161.
- 6. Razaghian. "Financing the Civil War: The Confederacy's financial Strategy." pg. 6.

#### Descendants of Col. Lamb donating artifacts (continued from page 1)

"My father inherited the desk from his father, Henry Whiting Lamb, and the chairs were also in the Lamb family home at 4 Court Street, Portsmouth, Va. ( this home was built by Col. Lamb's father for his daughter). My father, William Lamb, purchased his brother's share of this house, and my grandmother, Rebecca Waddy Lamb lived in this house until her death. The house is now in the historical registry. The chairs were a gift to Sarah Chafee Lamb (Daisy) from an English blockade runner, and I believe they were first used in the little cottage she inhabited on the Fort."

"My dad told me the desk was called a 'traveling desk' as it could be tied on the back of a horse and used in the field," wrote Ms. Scott. "I am fairly sure the inkwell was used with a quill pen, which was popular at the time."

Ms. Scott said there are still several descendants of Col. William and Daisy Lamb. "My immediate family include, myself, my daughter, Laurel L. Scott of San Angelo, TX, my sons, Steven M Scott of Eden, TX., Gregory William Lamb Scott, of Austin, TX., Sara Scott Friedel of Round Rock, TX., Cody R. Scott of Eden, TX, and his daughter, Juliet Isabella Scott, and Kyle Travis Scott of Corpus Christi, TX., Zachariah William Lamb Scott, of Dallas TX., and his brother, Jacob David Scott of Austin, TX."

Lastly, Ms. Scott said she was happy to have the artifacts saved for posterity at Fort Fisher. Once research and paperwork on the artifacts have been completed, they are expected to undergo conservation. Site personnel assisting with the artifact research include Ray Flowers, John Moseley, and Becky Sawyer.



Laurel Lamb Scott, left, and Sally Lamb Scott stand with the Fort Fisher exhibit "Heart, Hearth, and Home" featuring household utensils which belonged to their ancestors, fort commander Col. William

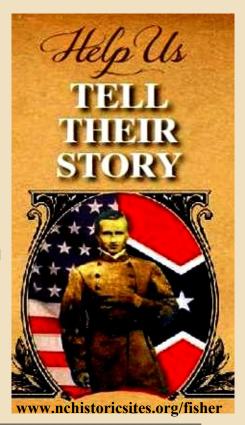
Lamb and his wife Daisy.

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Your Name:

## Did any of your ancestors serve at Fort Fisher? If they did, we want to know!

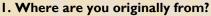
Staff and Friends of Fort Fisher are very interested in your ancestors' service, and in getting to know you, too. Whether they wore Union Blue or Confederate Gray, their experience is part of Fort Fisher's history. You and other descendants of these brave men share a common heritage, and we need your help telling their stories. Please take the time to fill out this form and, as a token of our appreciation, we will give you a 10% discount on your next gift shop purchase. Please note: if you are uncertain about your ancestor's military service, our staff will be happy to assist with research from our reference library and from online resources. Please return this form to FFSHS, 1610 Fort Fisher Blvd., Kure Beach, NC, 28449



Names of immediate family:				
Address:				
Phone numbers:	Email address:			
Your ancestor's name:				
Relationship to you:	_Rank:			
Unit (if known)	Please check all that apply:			
Confederate	Union			
Survived war	Wounded			
Died in battle at Fort Fisher or other battle				
Information you wish to share about your ancestor's experience at Fort Fisher:				
Would you like the Friends of Fort Fisher to contact you regarding special events & opportunities?				
Yes	No, thanks			
THE POWDER MAGAZINE				

## Volunteer Spotlight

# Benjamin (Ben)



I am originally from Raleigh, NC.

2. Tell us about your family, including pets.

My family is my dad James, my mother Helen, and sister Evie. We also have two dogs named Jack and Emme and a cat named Peter

#### 3. How did you become affiliated with Fort Fisher?

When I relocated to Wilmington I wanted to become affiliated with a historic site or museum since I was a History major in college. After trying to get volunteer work at a few places I eventually decided to ask if there was any work up at the Fort.

#### 4. How old were you when you first visited Fort Fisher and what do you remember about it?

Even though I have been coming to Wilmington since I was little I had never heard of Fort Fisher and came for the first time just this past June. So I was 23 the first time I saw the fort. The thing I remember the most was seeing the mounds for the first time and wondering how much work must have gone into their construction

#### 5. Tell us about your formal education, past, present, or future plans.

I went to High School in Maryland and attended college at Auburn University

#### 6. Are you pursuing/entering/retired from any particular profession?

Right now I am simply looking for any job so that I can start making money before finding something more serious.

#### 7. What are a few of the things you like most about Fort Fisher?

When I came to the fort for the first time I really enjoyed the map display and the displays of the various artifacts. I enjoyed working at the fort that summer because there was usually a good crowd of people visiting to interact with.

#### 8. Who are your favorite authors?

My favorite authors are John Irving and William Golding

#### 9. What, if anything, are you currently reading (besides this questionnaire)?

Right now I'm reading A Prayer for Owen Meany

#### 10. What are your hobbies and interests in your spare time?

Reading and playing the guitar

#### II. What do you think every visitor should knows (or remember) about Fort Fisher?

I think the main thing to remember about the fort is its importance to keeping Wilmington's port open and how important the city was to the Confederate war effort

#### 12. Any ideas to help improve the visitor's experience at Fort Fisher?

I think the information at the museum is very effective in explaining the importance of the fort so I can't think of anything which would improve it

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## Welcome New Friends of Fort Fisher

Ronnie H. Hamm Raeford, NC

Noah Janis Oak Island, NC

Adam W. Jones Chapel Hill, NC

**Grace Mastalli Wilmington, NC** 

Scott Maxey
Wilmington, NC

Mildred D. Nelms
Jacksonville, FL

Yvonne Nolan Hope Mills, NC

Brig. Gen. Gary H. Pendleton (Ret)
Raleigh, NC

Karl O. Pierce, Jr., D.D.S. Wilmington, NC

Darwin & Deborah Roseman Cary, NC

Phyllis Rosenthal Jamaica Estates, NY

Ainslie & Robert Uhl
Del Mar, CA

Tom Ullring Greensboro, NC

Robin Vaughn Shippensburg, PA

John F. White, D.D.S. Wilmington, NC

Steven Warner Morrisville, NY

Mary Cobb F. Woodard
Oak Island, NC

Richard Peyton Woodson, III
Raleigh, NC

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

## wook for us on.







### Join the Friends of Fort Fisher

#### **MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES**

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

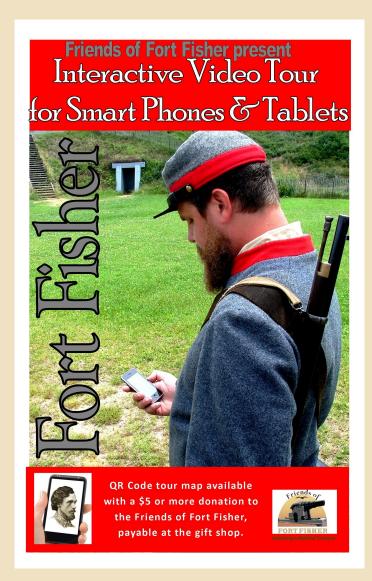
MEMBERSHIP ENROLLMENT FORM Name	Membership	•			
	Individual		\$25		
Address	Family		\$40		
	Military/Studen	t	\$20		
City	Sustaining		\$500+		
State Zip	Business		\$100+		
Telephone	Armstrong Society		\$500+		
Email	Payment	_ Cash	□ Check	□ Credit Card	
□ New □ Renewal	Make checks payable to Friends of Fort Fisher				
All contributions are tax deductible, less the fair market value		□ VISA	□ Mast	terCard	
of goods and services received.	Mail to: Friends of Fort Fisher 1610 Fort Fisher Blvd., Kure Beach, N.C. 28449				
If you choose to waive your membership benefits, your contribution is fully tax-deductible.					
	Name on Card				
☐ I wish to waive my membership benefits	Account #				
☐ My employer has a matching gift program.	Expiration Date	e	3-digit se	curity code	
Proper forms are enclosed	Signature			Date	

#### **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



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

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