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The Powder Magazine

VOLUME 9, ISSUE 4

SPRING 2018

Friends and NCDNCR advance plans for new Fort Fisher Interpretive Center

The Friends of Fort Fisher leadership and Department of Natural and Cultural Resources have concluded the initial Advance Planning phase for a new and exciting Fort Fisher museum and visitor center. Architectural firm Clark Nexsen has submitted the plans to the State Office of Construction for review before the next phase of schematic design is undertaken.

The 6-month Advance Planning phase weighed many options, challenges and alternatives for the new, larger facility including flood zones, the U.S. Army's buffer zone, viewscapes, historic and cul-

tural landscape disruption, traffic and pedestrian safety patterns, to name a few.

The artist renderings shown on page 3 only hint at what will



be available with the new facility but with double the exhibit gallery space as the current facility, we will be able to tell a more comprehensive story of the im-

portance of Fort Fisher during and after the Civil War. New classroom, orientation auditorium, multi-purpose space with catering kitchen and expanded museum store in a two level facility will provide beautiful views of the fort, ocean and Cape Fear River. Plans also call for reconstruction of a portion of the fort containing the covered sallyport entrance, reconstructed gun chambers and a bombproof tunnel to demonstrate engineering and construction techniques employed in the fort's building. This project has been championed by State Representative Ted Davis, Jr. (House District 19) and NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources Secretary Susi

Continued on page 3

Volunteers needed for Park Day 2018

Ready to flex your muscles for a good cause? As part of Civil War Trust Park Day, volunteers of all ages are needed Saturday, April 7, 2018 from 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon to help beautify and preserve Fort Fisher, the largest earthen fortification in the Confederacy,

Now in its 21st year, Park Day is an annual hands-on preservation event created by the Civil War Trust to assist with the maintenance of America's Civil War Sites.



Volunteers of all skills and ability levels are welcome—and encouraged—to participate.

Many activities are appropriate for groups such as scout troops, service clubs, and church

youth groups. At noon, all registered volunteers will be treated to lunch provided by the Friends of Fort Fisher, the non-profit group which supports the site, along with its sustaining members.

All Park Day 2018 volunteers are asked to register in advance by calling Assistant Site Manager John Moseley at (910) 251-7342 or email him at john.moseley@ncdcr.gov.

In addition to lunch, registered volunteers will receive a free Civil War Trust Park Day t-shirt. Some gloves and tools will also be supplied.

From the site manager, Jim Steele...

Dear Friends:

It is springtime at Fort Fisher, and that means the busy season has arrived. Over the next two months, April and May, the battlefield will be overwhelmed with thousands of school children from all over the state of North Carolina. Staff and volunteers will have their hands full providing basic visitor service, battlefield tours, historic weapons demonstrations and many more activities. In 2017, Fort Fisher hosted 166 organized school groups, representing nearly 8,700 children. For 2018 it looks like we will have even bigger numbers. But our staff and volunteers are professionals at managing these busloads of young people, and take pride in helping them learn about their North Carolina and Civil War history.

After the school field trip season ends comes Memorial Day, and that is when the summer tourist season will explode. The historic site will see at least half of its annual visitation during the summer, which numbered almost 835,000 visitors. So we are looking for more part-time employees and volunteers to help us serve this audience. If you would like to be a part of the Fort Fisher team and help our visitors make the most of their experience, we want you! So contact us for an opportunity to discuss how you can contribute in a way that is most rewarding for you.

In other news, Fort Fisher is in the final stages of the advance planning process. The project is under review by the Office of State Construction, and a proposal has been submitted for our architects to begin detailed design of a new visitor center and reconstructed earthworks! This is such an exciting project, and we are thrilled by the progress. But we need your help to get over the finish line. A big, strong non-profit is needed to secure the political and financial support this project needs, and that is the Friends of Fort Fisher. Your joining the Friends is key to our success, and the best way for you to become involved, so do not delay and fill out and mail your membership application today. You'll be glad you did!

Thank you,
Jim Steele

Friends of Fort Fisher announce Brian Clark winner of the Model 1859 Sharps Rifle Raffle

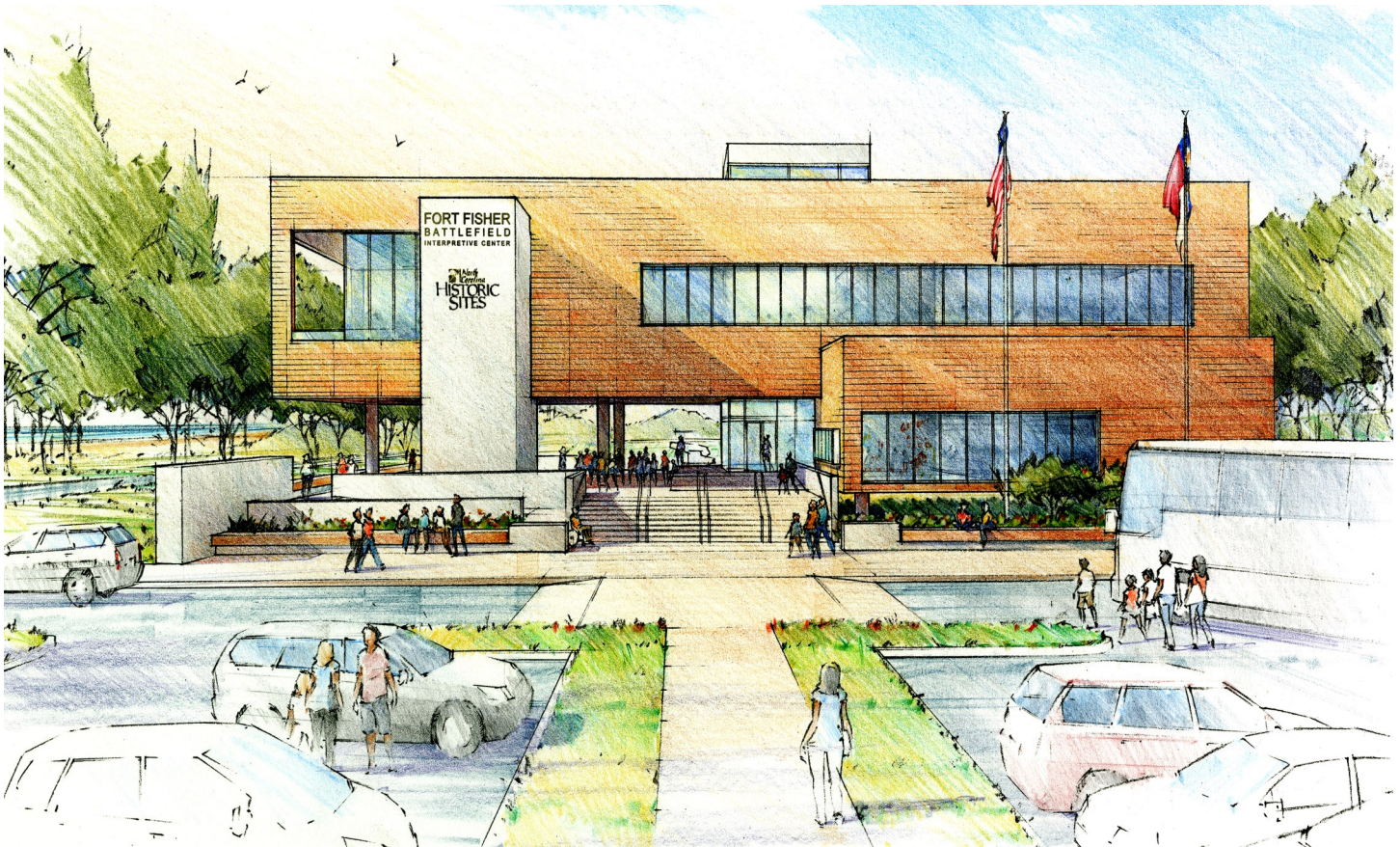
The Friends of Fort Fisher announced that Brian Clark of Morganton, NC, was the winner of the Model 1859 Sharps reproduction rifle raffled off at the site's commemoration of the 153rd anniversary of the Battle of Fort Fisher held in mid January. After learning of his good fortune, Mr. Clark wrote the following email to Friends executive director Paul Laird:

"Mr. Laird: I have received your email. I'm very excited to have won such a prized rifle...it will be cherished. As a military collector having won this rifle from Fort Fisher adds to its significance. When I receive the rifle I will be more than happy to take a photograph and send to you with a signed photo release. Thank you, Brian Clark."

Congratulations Mr. Clark!



Raffle winner Brian Clark



Artist concepts subject to change

Friends & NCDNCR advance plans for new Fort Fisher Interpretive Center continued from page 1

Hamilton. They have secured \$5.4 million to date for the Fort Fisher project. The estimated project cost for the new museum and visitor center is approximately \$13 million which does not include new exhibit fabrication and installation. Depending on numerous factors that cost will be determined as the exhibit design progresses with the museum design firm of Riggs Ward.

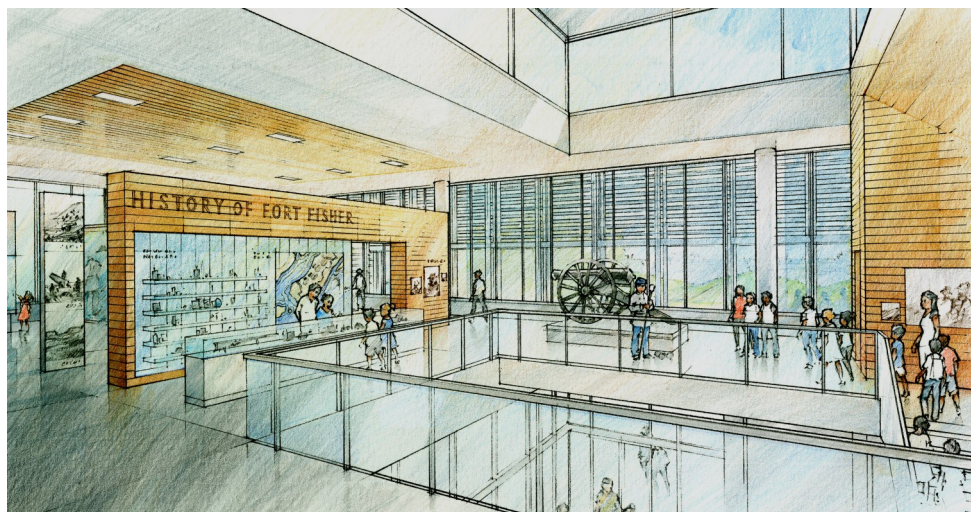
As partners working to bringing the Fort Fisher project to fruition the Friends will be leading a capital campaign to raise the necessary funding for the new exhibit galleries and some assistance with reconstruction of the fort sallyport, bombproof and elevated gun chambers.

The Friends have engaged Capital Development Services of Winston-Salem to provide campaign counsel to the Friends as we move toward a capital

campaign.

We will need broad public support to see this project a reality worthy of the sacrifices made here over 150 years ago.

If you can provide assistance, services or work as a volunteer on the campaign please contact me at plaird@friendsoffortfisher.com or telephone (910) 612-7067.



Artist concepts subject to change

RESEARCH

Update

By Becky Sawyer



Combing through available online resources yields new information about Fort Fisher vets

With the availability of online newspaper search engines like Newspapers.com and genealogybank.com – historians are able to find unknown research tidbits more easily than ever before. Gone are the days of looking at reels of microfilmed newspapers and hoping for a chance to find something. Search engines on these digital newspaper websites allow the researcher to find specific information by topic, date and location.

Here recently, the staff has been combing through the historical newspapers databases looking for information about anything Fort Fisher related to help us interpret the story of the battles. As part of my own quest, I was looking for any causality list for the Union forces who fought during the attacks on the fort. In our research library, we have a copy of the list of Confederate wounded and killed but never for the Union casualties. This was a big hole missing from the story

of Fort Fisher. We knew there was a list because Sgt. Major Edward King Whiteman's father saw his son's name listed in the newspaper that he had been killed at the attack on Fort Fisher. The capture of Fort Fisher made front page news, specifically with the New York newspapers such as the *New York Tribune* and the *New York Daily Herald*. Low and behold, I found the list of the sailors and marines who were killed from the 100 pound Parrott guns exploding during the first battle which was printed on January 17, 1865.

Combing through the next few editions, I finally found the list of the Union casualties which included the dead and wounded buried on page 6 of the January 23rd edition *New York Tribune*. With this newly found information, our goal is to transcribe the list and have it available for future visitors who are looking for information about their relatives who fought here.



Fort Fisher raffling 246-piece A Classic Toy Soldier, Inc. 'Battle of the Blue and Gray' Playset

By Ray Flowers, Curator of History

Last year, at Fort Fisher State Historic Site we unveiled a temporary exhibit aimed at targeting both the young and young at heart. Entitled, "Heroes in Blue and Gray, America's Civil War Centennial – thru the eyes of a child", it is a collection of children's books and bewitching toys edifying the hundredth anniversary of the Civil War. Ah, those marvelous toys! They made an indelible impression.

In the late 50's, in response to a presidential decree and in conjunction with the approaching Centennial, a marketing campaign of unprecedented proportions was launched inundating the populace with a mesmerizing barrage of media and merchandising that promoted Civil War tours, battle re-creations, museum exhibits, television programs, movies, books, magazines and toys – and though Marx, the planet's largest toy manufacturer, and Britains, the world's best known toy soldier company, probably produced the most coveted and influential examples of the day, it seemed that practically every toy maker contributed an enchanted plaything or two.

Within the exhibit of astonishing toys is featured the Remco "Johnny Rebel" cannon, that could propel a plastic ball thirty-five feet, (the cat's in trouble). The television commercial that advertised this diminutive artillery piece can be found on "You Tube" and boy is it a hoot. There's also a rare 1962 Marx Blue and Gray Playset "demonstrator" on display, with every part factory glued, screwed or stapled to the board. This item is on loan through the gen-

erosity of Mr. George Kroll, one of the country's premiere toy collectors. There are also guns, swords and books galore to be found as well as a whole floor full of Britains "Swoppets." Alto-

gether, this treasure chest of magical toys beguiled the imagination and collective memory of an entire generation, inspiring youngsters across the land with the legacy of America's "Heroes in Blue and Gray."

Today, many toy enthusiasts, who grew up in the late 1950's to mid-1960's, consider that decade to be the "Golden Era of Playsets." During that time Marx produced some of the most exalted toys ever imagined and of course the "Blue and Gray" Playsets, like the one on display, were among the most coveted. Now, as an homage to the past, a site fund raiser brings the exhibit full-circle. A Classic Toy Soldier, Inc. "Battle of the Blue and Gray" Playset is being raffled. This 246-piece set has it all, 120 toy soldiers, two wagons, horses, three cannons, a limber, a caisson, a redoubt, a tin litho mansion with porch, a destroyed mansion, stone walls, fences, trees, a vegetable garden, flags and more. Altogether, a \$284 value (including shipping and handling) for some lucky winner. Tickets are \$3 dollars each or 2 for \$5, you do not have to be present to win, we will ship. Drawing will be on Saturday, July 7, 2018 – So be sure to, "Support the Fort – take a chance!"



Last year's lucky playset winner Anthony McCaskey displays the Civil War playset he was awarded at the site's Holiday Open House.

Fort Fisher announces 2018 Junior Reserves Activities

Fort Fisher State Historic Site's summer kid's activities, designated the "Junior Reserves" is back for its 6th year. This program is intended to entertain and educate through hands-on activities related to Fort Fisher's history.

The Junior Reserves were a group of young men, usually age 17, who were



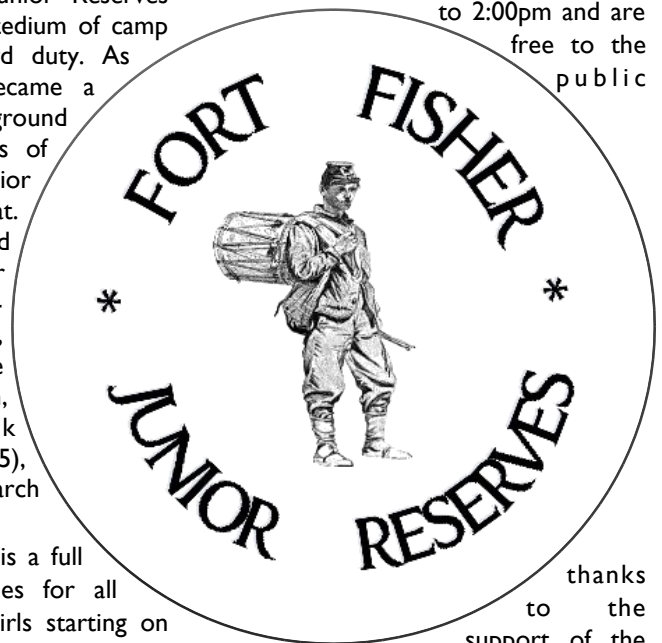
conscripted, or drafted, to fill a shortage of men. Used to guard key military points, Confederate officials did not intend for the Reserves to fight nor leave the states where they had been recruited. While in military service, members of the Junior Reserves endured the usual tedium of camp life, drill, and guard duty. As North Carolina became a more active battleground in the final months of the war, the Junior Reserves saw combat. They helped defend Fort Fisher, near Wilmington, on December 25, 1864, and fought in the battles of Kinston, or Wyse Fork (March 8–10, 1865), and Bentonville (March 18–21, 1865).

This year there is a full schedule of activities for all ages of boys and girls starting on Friday June 15 and running until Friday, August 10. Junior Reserves programs highlight a topic related to activities that would have been seen at Fort Fisher between 1861 to current day. Since they are outdoor summer activities, they are



subject to cancellation or changes due to issues outside our control such as adverse weather conditions.

These activities run from 10:00am to 2:00pm and are free to the public



thanks to the support of the

Friends of Fort Fisher.

For more information on any of these Junior Reserves activities, please contact the site at 910-251-7340.

2018 Junior Reserves Schedule

Date	Topic	Date	Topic
June 16	"Toy Soldier Workshop"	July 21	"Archeology: Digging through the Past"
June 23	"Anti-Aircraft Artillery Gunner"	July 28	"Civil War Communications"
July 1	"The School of the Soldier"	August 4	"Protecting the Blockade Runners"
July 7	"Attention Cannoneers!"	August 11	"The Soldiers Garden"
July 14	"Town Ball"		

Meet Mark D. Grim, Jr., US Marine Colonel (Ret), retired attorney, reenactor, & Fort Fisher volunteer

Mark D. Grim, Jr. of Biglerville, PA, is a retired Colonel, US Marine Corps, with over 25 years of service and also a retired Pennsylvania attorney. He is a graduate of Ursinus College, Widener School of Law, US Marine Corps Command & Staff College, and the US Army War College. He is descended from a Civil War veteran, his great uncle, Corporal Andrew J. Grim, who served in Company C, 51st P.V.I. from September 1861-May 1864 when he was wounded (a second time) at Spotsylvania Courthouse. On June 6, 1864, he died of the wounds.

1. You've spent a good portion of your adult life in Pennsylvania. What would you say brought you to the Cape Fear area? Our oldest son and his family (i.e., our three grandchildren) who reside in Wilmington brought us back to North Carolina.

2. Tell us about your military background and subsequent legal profession. I retired from active duty at Camp Lejeune as a Colonel in the U.S. Marine Corps in 2000. Although a judge advocate by military occupational speciality (MOS), I served in a variety of other assignments outside my MOS. Following my retirement, I served as a Court Administrator in both North Carolina and Pennsylvania.

3. What inspired you to become a

reenacting? Approximately 7 years, when I began portraying Brevet Major General John F. Hartranft, USV, as a member of the Confederation of Union Generals.



history buff? I have always had an interest in history, but it peaked when I discovered that I had a relative who fought in the Union Army (51st P.V.I.) during the Civil War.

4. Roughly how long have you been

5. What's the hardest thing about portraying Union Col. John F. Hartranft at a reenactment or scheduled event? Ensuring that I am fully prepared for an event as all presentations are conducted in "first person."

6. What has surprised you the most about volunteering at Fort Fisher? The size of the fort and its singular importance in enabling much needed supplies to come through the port of Wilmington for the Confederate Army, primarily the Army of Northern Virginia.

7. What day(s) are you typically at Fisher and are

you planning to give tours? I am generally at Fort Fisher on Wednesday and do ultimately plan to give tours.

8. Tell us briefly about your fa-

Welcome New Friends of Fort Fisher Members

Joseph Benson
Carolina Beach, NC

Harold Boswell
Wilmington, NC

Richard Brandes
Leland, NC

Paul Carlsen
Nyack, NY

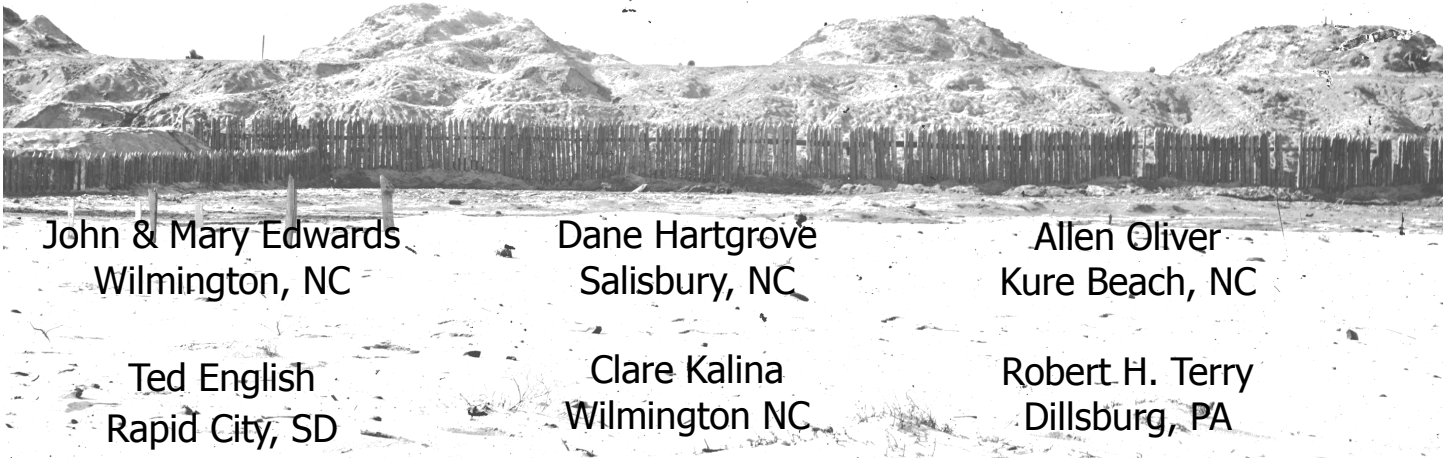


Jim Kalina
Wilmington, NC

Eugene Lisewski
Kure Beach, NC

Darrin Moore
Whiteville, NC

Joshua Myers
Greensboro, NC



John & Mary Edwards
Wilmington, NC

Dane Hartgrove
Salisbury, NC

Allen Oliver
Kure Beach, NC

Ted English
Rapid City, SD

Clare Kalina
Wilmington NC

Robert H. Terry
Dillsburg, PA

Thank you for supporting NC's most visited battlefield and national historic landmark.

Meet Mark D. Grim, Jr. continued from page 7

ther's World War II connection to Fort Fisher. My father was a U.S. Army officer in the Southwest Pacific Area where he served as battalion surgeon of the 49th Coast Artillery Battalion. From what I understand, this battalion was formerly the Second Battalion, 54th Coast Artillery Regiment, which initially trained at Ft. Fisher. My father, however, joined the battalion in the Southwest Pacific, not at Ft. Fisher.

9. Name two of your favorite au-

thors (one historical and one contemporary), and tell us what you are presently reading. Favorite historical authors: Noah Trudeau and Ralph Peters; favorite contemporary author: Jeff Shara. Currently reading "The Wilmington Campaign and the Battles of Fort Fisher" by Mark Moore. Most recently read: "Churchill's Ministry of Ungentlemanly Warfare" by Giles Milton.

10. There's been a lot of discussion about charging admission to Fort Fisher. What are your thoughts about this? Undecided about this issue at this point. Depending on future state funding, however, an admission charge may be necessary for the continued financial survival of Ft. Fisher operations.

11. What's the last thing you searched for on Google? Airline tickets

12. What one word or phrase best describes you? Being a retired Marine, "Semper Fidelis"

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) 251-7340

E-mail: fisher@ncdcr.gov

www.nchistoricsites.org/fisher

Fort Fisher Staff

James C. Steele, Site Manager

John Moseley, Assistant Site Manager

Becky Sawyer, Collections Mng./Interpreter III

Ray Flowers, Historic Interpreter II

Si Lawrence, Public Info & Special Events

William S. Register, Chief of Police

David Sheaffer, Maintenance Manager

Jesse Hoskins, Site Assistant

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, April 28, 2018

10 am at Battle Acre

**Confederate Memorial Day
Fort Fisher State Historic Site**



Special guest speaker CDR David Everette, USNR and descendant of a Confederate soldier at Fort Fisher, as well as commander of JROTC at Hoggard High School. Free & open to the public, the ceremony is sponsored by Fort Fisher Chapter 2325 of the UDC. Join us!

THE POWDER MAGAZINE

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

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