

SPECIAL  
POINTS OF  
INTEREST

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## NCDCCR Sec. Kluttz & staff meet with Friends of Ft. Fisher to promote infrastructure bond

North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources Secretary Susan Kluttz (far right in photo) and members of her staff recently visited Fort Fisher State Historic Site to celebrate the site and promote Connect NC, Gov. Pat McCrory's \$2.85 billion bond proposal for strategic investments in our state's transportation and infrastructure.

If placed on the ballot and approved by voters, the bond would fund, among other things, repair projects at Fort Fisher and other historic sites across the state. Specifically, it would fund replacement of the museum's roof, re-shingling of the site's maintenance building, and replacement of the public restroom heat pump system.

Accompanying Secretary

Kluttz were Chief Deputy Secretary Karin Cochran, Deputy Secretary and director of Archives and History Dr. Kevin Cherry, Mark Cooney, director of capital projects, Keith Hardison, director of NC Historic Sites, and Marketing and Communications Director Cary Cox.

Secretary Kluttz said there would be no tax increase to support the Connect NC bond issue.

"Currently, interest rates are historically low, so the timing is good," she said. "We are eager to work with the General Assembly, but we need your help. The General Assembly must approve this in order for the bond issue to be on the November ballot. We are confident

that, if we give the citizens of North Carolina a chance to vote on it, they will pass it."

Prior to holding a press conference to promote the bond proposal, Secretary Kluttz and her staff met with Friends of Fort Fisher board members, the nonprofit group that supports the site.

Discussion topics included the criteria developed for prioritizing bond proposal funds and what the Friends group could do to best position the site for future consideration of facilities funding. Dr. Cherry told the Friends' board members that Fort Fisher—the most heavily visited historic site in the state—was definitely considered a priority.

# From the site manager, James C. Steele



Dear Friends:

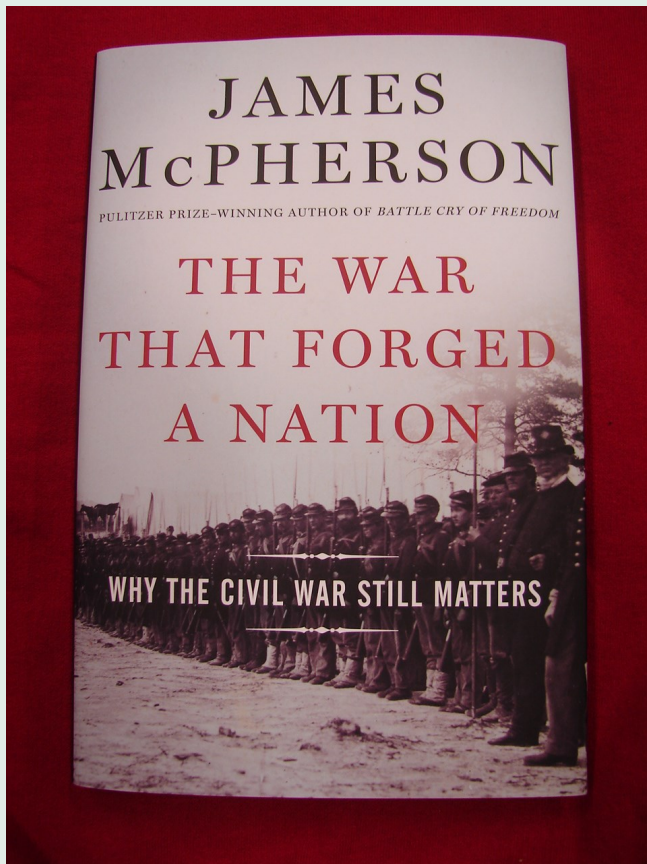
Summer is in full swing here at Fort Fisher State Historic Site. In spite of the occasional heat wave and shark alert, Fort Fisher is hosting an overwhelming number of visitors. However, site staff and volunteers take it in stride like the professionals they are, while continuing to offer excellent visitor service and a variety of educational programming. Here is some really good news: During fiscal year 2015, which ended June 30, 2015, no less than 824,164 people visited the Rebel Gibraltar. Given that in recent years our visitation has averaged around 650,000 this is a tremendous increase! I cannot explain why, but we are thrilled to have such great numbers!

During the six months that have passed since our biggest event ever, January's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemoration, I am pleased to report that staff continues to implement quality educational programming on a regular basis. In addition to traditional programs focusing on living history and artillery demonstrations, new and innovative programming has been implemented with great success. Of particular note was our Victory in Europe program. Visitors enjoyed World War II living history complete with G.I.s, Jeeps and vintage motorcycles, recalling when Fort Fisher was an active training base during the 1940s. With the focus now off of the Civil War sesquicentennial we plan to expand on this success with new events.

In closing I ask you to continue your support of this site with a membership in the Friends of Fort Fisher and/or a memorial paver in our Walk of Honor. Check out the website listed on the back page of this newsletter. The Friends provide funding and volunteers and too many other things to list. The Friends are a great organization and make everything we do here possible. Enjoy the rest of the summer and we look forward to seeing you here soon!

Sincerely,  
Jim

## What's new in the Fort Fisher Museum Store?



This summer got off to a busy start. We have some new items in our museum store this season. First for the kid in all of us who love to smash pennies – we have new penny coin albums and “Penny Bands.” The penny bands are for kids and adults alike to keep their mashed pennies in a cool wristband. The penny bands retail for \$5.50 plus tax.

For history lovers, we have some new books in the bookstore: *The Civil War at Sea* by Craig Symonds. and *Union Combined Operations in the Civil War* edited by Craig Symonds. and *The War that Forged a Nation: Why the Civil War Still Matters* by James McPherson.

In the latter of the three, McPherson examines why the Civil War remains so deeply and firmly embedded within our national consciousness. This book is poignant and relative to the recent issues facing Civil War history during the past few weeks. The book is hardbound and retails for \$27.95 plus tax.

In *Union Combined Operations in the Civil War*, you'll find a collection of 10 articles focusing on the combined Union operations of the Civil War, including an article about the Wilmington Campaign by Dr. Chris Fonvielle. This softcover book retails for \$30.00 plus tax.

*The Civil War at Sea* focuses on the operational history of the Civil War navies on both sides. Topics such as the changes in technology, the establishment, management and impact of the blockade, commerce raiding and commerce defense and then combined operations of the navies. The softcover book retails for \$17.95.

Be sure to peruse our museum store when you visit us here at Fort Fisher where you're sure to find something you like! And remember, Friends of Fort Fisher members receive a 15% discount in the museum store, so join today!



## *Education: ur aim is true*



### **Fort's artillery simulator teaches science and mathematics behind artillerist's job**

Over the past few years, many school and military tour groups have enjoyed our “Attention Cannoneers!” hands-on activity. Using the site’s reproduction 12-lb bronze Napoleon field piece, visitors have learned about Civil War artillery and practiced period field artillery drill under the command of a costumed interpreter. Unfortunately, this hands-on educational experience has been a *non-firing* program and left many wishing to understand the skills needed to hit a distant target.

To remedy this, intern Nick Monroe, Site Assistant Matt Gregg, Maintenance Supervisor David Sheaffer, and Education Director John Moseley, set about designing a simple machine to teach the science and mathematics behind the artillerist’s job. This artillery simulator gives visitors a hands-on activity utilizing geometry and physics by sending a “round” at a target. Using spare lumber, a funnel, duct tape, surgical tubing, and water balloons, the design team created a

prototype designed to simulate the launching of an artillery round.

The wooden beams represent the cannon’s carriage, the surgical tubing represents the cannon’s tube and the force of exploding gunpowder, and water balloons represent the shot. By pulling back on the surgical tubing power is delivered to a basket holding a water balloon. By varying the angle of the surgical tubing and moving the carriage, the shot makes a high arc or low trajectory and goes left or right..

For our annual June artillery program, the Junior Reserves kid’s summer activity used this new device to help our young aspiring artillerists to learn the tools of their trade. Since the simulator used water balloons as ammunition, it was easy for these gunners to track the flight of the “shot” through the air and mark their landing. Various targets were set out on the south airstrip to check the young gunner’s accuracy. Since we were experiencing wind gusts coming up from the

south, the conditions made the gunners adjust the aim, angle of flight and strength of pull on the tubing.

Many of our gunners experienced firsthand the fact that more power does not always equate a longer distance. As we found out during testing, pulling back too far on the tubing caused the “round” to explode before exiting the holding basket. Likewise, simply adding more powder to an artillery tube can cause the gun to burst injuring the crew. Figuring out all the facets of the artillerist’s job was educational and entertaining. This simulator was enjoyed not only by the kids, but by the adults as well.

Now Fort Fisher can use “Cannoneers Attention!” and the artillery simulator to expand the educational experience for future visitors. As an educational tool, the simulator allows us to teach science and mathematics curriculum within context of Fort Fisher’s history. Since it’s portable, it will also allow us to travel to local schools to conduct outreach programs.



It's Free!

## Fort Fisher's Summer of 2015 Junior Reserves Activities have something fun for kids of all ages

Fort Fisher State Historic Site is pleased to announce the return of the Junior Reserves Summer Activities for 2015. With most students out of school for the summer, these activities are designed to appeal to a variety of ages because they combine fun and interactive education. Best of all, the activities are free and open to the public. Fort Fisher's 2015 Junior Reserves Kids Activities take place on Fridays or Saturdays from 10 am-1 pm, depending on holidays.

Ever wonder how communication took place during the Civil War? On Friday, July 17, the site will host "Secret Communications," during which visitors can learn how long-distance messages were sent during the Civil War. Young visitors might be surprised to learn that Union and Confederate soldiers managed to communicate despite the lack of cell phones, texting, and other benefits of modern technology.

On Saturday, July 25, weather

permitting, the site will present "Townball," a form of period baseball open to kids of all ages. Using the 1860 rules, visitors will learn how this entertaining sport grew in popularity prior to the Civil War. The site will provide the necessary equipment, so all kids have to do is show up and join the fun.

On Friday, July 31, the site will host "Jumping the Bar" at which kids can join the Fort Fisher signal corps and learn how blockade runners supplied the Confederacy with much-needed supplies under the effective protection of the fort's guns. The staff will encourage each participant to imagine being your own blockade runner and see if you can safely transport goods to and from the port of Wilmington. Among other things, participants will determine what constitutes cargo worthy enough to travel under such risky conditions.

Speaking of blockaders, on Friday, August 7, kids can learn how Fort Fisher artilleryists used crafty math skills to target ships far out at sea when the site hosts the program "Running the

Blockade." In the process of calculating target distance, trajectory, and a few other surprises, kids can try their hand at battering the blockade with water balloons on a warm summer day.

On Friday, August 14, the site will host "The Blue and the Gray," an opportunity for kids to learn about soldiers' uniforms and why they chose the colors they used. Among other things, participants will be invited to paint their own toy soldier to take home. All programming is made possible by generous support from the Friends of Fort Fisher, its Sustaining Members (Troy and Lori Barbour, Mike McCarley, Tammy & Jack Moore, Brian & Deedra Nunnally, Jim and Catherine Taylor, Patrick O. McCullough, Forrest Goodman, Jr., Wilson Grab, & Ivarlee E. & Thomas E. Mulligan), the town of Carolina Beach, and New Hanover County.

Please note, all Junior Reserves program components are subject to change.



# BEAT the HEAT!

Ready for some sunburn relief that lets you learn a little something in the process? Join us in Fort Fisher's Spencer Theater for the 2015 Summer "Beat the Heat" Lecture Series, our free lecture series—in our air conditioned theatre—open to the public and featuring fascinating historical topics.

Unless otherwise noted, all of our summer series lectures begin promptly at 2 pm.

On Saturday, July 18, Ray Flowers, curator of history at Fort Fisher, will be discussing Col. William Lamb's role in constructing Fort Fisher to protect the blockade runners and the Port of Wilmington. By 1863, Wilmington had become the most important port of call for the Confederacy's blockade running ships. Protecting the ships that brought in those needed supplies to the Confederacy was extremely vital.



Ray Flowers



Rev. Dennis Levin

"General Braxton Bragg: a Re-appraisal" will be presented by Rev. Dennis Levin on Saturday, July 25. According to many historians and authors, it's difficult to find a more polarizing figure in the Confederacy than Gen. Bragg. Rev. Levin, a retired US Army Lt. Colonel himself, will discuss his research into the man, the controversy, and the military decisions that went into making him controversial.

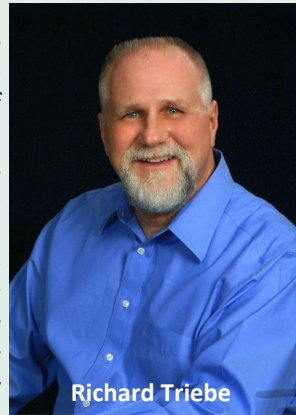


Michael Hardy

On Saturday, August 1, author and historian Michael Hardy will present "North Carolina as the Last Confed-

erate Capital." In the waning days of the Confederacy, North Carolina was the Capital of the Confederacy. Hardy's discussion will focus on this important, but overlooked, part of Civil War history. Following his presentation, Mr. Hardy will be available to greet visitors and sign copies of his books.

On Saturday, August 8, the Summer Lecture Series will highlight "After the Battle: the Experience of Fort Fisher's POWs," as presented by author and historian Richard Triebe. In this compelling discussion, visitors will learn about the grim existence of captive prisoners from the Battle of Fort Fisher. Mr. Triebe will also be available to sign copies of his books.



Richard Triebe

Last, but not least, on Saturday, August 15, Col. Wade Sokolosky will present "To Prepare for Sherman's Coming: The Battle of Wise's (Wyse) Forks, March 1865." Guests of the lecture are encouraged to have Col. Sokolosky sign a copy of his book that focuses on this overlooked, yet significant, Civil War battle.



Col. Sokolosky

All "Beat the Heat" programming is made possible by the Friends of Fort Fisher, its Sustaining Members (Troy and

Lori Barbour, Mike McCarley, Tammy & Jack Moore, Brian & Deedra Nunnally, Jim and Catherine Taylor, Patrick O. McCullough, Forrest Goodman, Jr., Wilson Grab, & Ivarlee E. & Thomas E. Mulligan), the town of Carolina Beach, and New Hanover County.

Please note, all lectures are subject to change or cancellation due to forces beyond our control. Please call the site at 910-458-5538 to confirm speakers and times.



# 2015

# Summer Lecture Series

# Rising junior at North Brunswick High wins Civil War Prize as part of National History Day in NC



Fort Fisher State Historic Site and the Friends of Fort Fisher are proud to recognize Rebecca Harris, a rising junior at North Brunswick High School. Rebecca recently won the Civil War Prize as part of National History Day in North Carolina. As a co-sponsor of the contest, the Friends of Fort Fisher contributed a \$100 prize for the winner. In North Carolina, the competition is sponsored by the Federation of North Carolina Historical Societies.

The title of Rebecca's essay was "Words of Silence: Lt. General James Longstreet and the Battle of Gettysburg."

Rebecca and her twin sisters, Sarah and Deborah, are the daughters of William (Buddy) and Catherine Harris of Brunswick County.

When she isn't winning contests by virtue of what she's learned from Ms. Douglass, her Honors American History teacher, Rebecca doesn't mind answering a few questions about being an exceptional student and a budding history buff:

**—What inspired you to write what you wrote for the contest?**

I wrote my paper on Lt. Gen. Longstreet because I wanted to research someone who was essentially unheard of. I chose a Confederate leader because I feel that the South gets robbed of their true history. When we begin to learn about the Civil War in school, we are constantly bombarded by the fact that the South owned slaves. The Civil War was fought over so much more than that. It was fought for the freedom of States' Rights. Longstreet and the men he commanded fought with their hearts and souls for the place they call home. It was an honor to discover their story.

**—Is history one of your favorite subjects?**

I'm not sure if I have a favorite subject. I do enjoy history. I find it interesting to discover the circumstances that

made our world the way it is today.

**—Who from the 19<sup>th</sup> century would you enjoy meeting and what might you ask them?**

Oh, that's a tough one. I suppose if I had to pick one person, it would have to be Lt. Gen. Longstreet. For biased reasons, of course! I would probably ask him if he thinks that the CSA could win the Civil War, if he has any doubts in himself or his cause, what General Lee was like, and a plethora of other questions. If I could, I would like to talk to Lt.



Rebecca Harris

Gen. Longstreet after the Battle of Gettysburg, particularly after Pickett's Charge. However, I feel that there would be no words exchanged between him and I at that time, just a kind of understood profound silence.

**—Do you think you would consider majoring in history if/when you have plans to attend college?**

I do plan on attending college, but I keep changing my mind about what I want to go for! There is so much in God's world to know and discover! As of today, I would like to become a medical scientist. So, I will probably not major in history, but science.

**—Would you consider a career in the museum field or other history-related profession?**

Possibly, but I am more focused on a scientific career.

**—Do you have a favorite author (historical or not)?**

Another tough one! I love to read and I have read a lot of books (historical included), but I do not have a favorite author. One of my favorite books is *The Book Thief*, but I do not approve of the language it contains. Currently, I am reading Herman Wouk's *The Winds of War*, John Jakes' *North and South*, and I plan to read Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird* sequel, *Go Set a Watchman*. If you haven't already guessed, I like to read multiple books at the same time.

**—When was the first time you visited Fort Fisher and what do you think everyone should know about the fort?**

I do not remember when my first trip to Fort Fisher was, but I remember the trip itself. I went with my Dad, Mom and sisters. I remember seeing a lot of sand and cannons.

I have since been to Fort Fisher many times, one of which was during an 8th grade field trip. Things everyone should know about the Fort: If you visit during the summer, wear sunscreen! It is hot! Bring water too! You also need to keep your mind open when you visit.

Even though it might not look like the typical fort with stone walls and a moat, it was the last Confederate fort to fall to the Union and is an important part of North Carolina and the South's history.

**Congratulations, Rebecca, from the staff of Fort Fisher State Historic Site and the Friends of Fort Fisher.**



# 12 Questions with Hope Reilly, Fort Fisher's 2015 Mary Holloway Seasonal Interpreter



Hope Reilly

**1) Where are you originally from and how long have you lived in the area?** I am originally from Raleigh, NC, and I have lived in Wilmington for the last 3 years attending UNCW.

**2) Who was Mary Holloway and why are you using her name?** Mary Holloway was the site's first tour guide, and I am honored to use her name as I carry on this legacy.

**3) What do you think will be your biggest challenge as the MHSI?** I think the biggest challenge will be to remember to wear sunscreen all summer long. **Tell us about your formal education.** I am a graduate of UNCW with bachelors in both History and Anthropology, and I will be attending the College of Charleston in the fall to earn a Masters of History degree. I am hoping to become a professor of history, a researcher, and an archaeologist in the future.

**4) When did you first visit Fort Fisher?** I first visited Fort Fisher Spring 2014.

**5) What are a few of the things you like most about working at Fort Fisher?** I like interacting with visitors that show an interest and a passion for history and learning more about the site. Helping visitors to learn more about the site is probably the most rewarding part of working at the fort.

**6) If you could have dinner with anyone from the 19th century, who would it be, and what are a couple of things you might ask him or her?** If I could have dinner with anyone from the 19<sup>th</sup> century it would have to be with Lewis Henry Morgan. I would ask him if his views on the evolution of culture still hold true, and how his experiences with the Iroquois changed his personal life. I would also ask if there was any research he wished had become more popular.

**7) Who are your favorite authors?** My favorite authors are J.R.R. Tolkien, and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

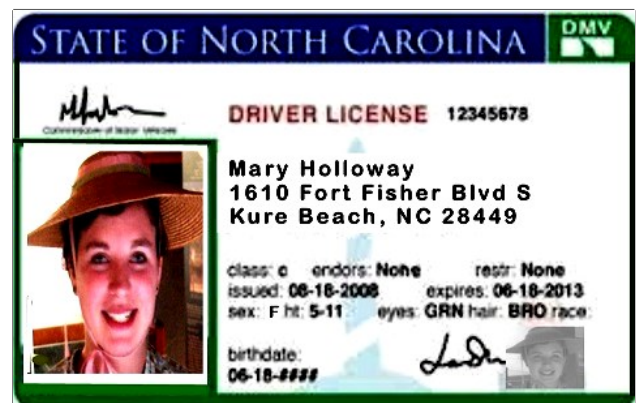
**8) What have you read recently?** *A Song of Fire and Ice* by George R.R. Martin and *When Affirmative Action was White* by Ira Katznelson.

**9) What are your hobbies or interests besides history?** I am interested in anthropology, specifically biological archaeology, as well as history. I also like to paint or sketch in my free time, and I love to go geocaching and camping.

**10) What are your thoughts about charging admission to Fort Fisher?** I think that charging admission to the museum is not realistic, and it might prevent people from visiting the museum that might not normally be exposed to history because they could not afford the admission.

**11) What do you think every visitor should know or remember about Fort Fisher?** I think every visitor should leave Fort Fisher knowing that it was the lifeline of the Confederacy efforts during the Civil War, and that the fort is rich with history. Not only is it an important Civil War site, but it was important during WWII.

**12) What can you tell us about your tour schedule?** I will be giving tours periodically during the week, until I return to school.





# Welcome New Friends of Fort Fisher March-June 2015



**Morris Bloodworth**  
Carolina Beach, NC

**Christian LaMirand**  
KC Photography  
Dunn, NC

**Katie Bork**  
Katie Bork Photography  
Wilmington, NC

**Austin Lowry**  
Mikhail's Photography  
Raleigh, NC

**Regina W. Daly**  
Catskill, NY

**James Neustadt**  
Leland, NC

**Melissa Edge**  
Melissa Edge Photography  
Elizabethtown, NC

**Drew A. Pallo**  
Vienna, VA

**Richard J. Gallo**  
Brooklyn, NY

**Don Saunders**  
Greensboro, NC

**Millie Holloman**  
Millie Holloman Photography  
Wilmington, NC

**Joel R. Sikes**  
Murfreesboro, TN

**Mr. & Mrs. Michael A. Spaulding**  
Dayton, OH

**Jim Kornegay**  
Wallace, NC

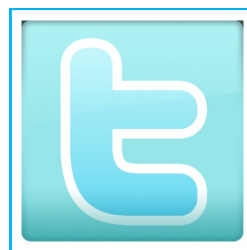
**Dr. Jonathan Whiting**  
Osborn, SC

**Michael Kuhn**  
Photographer  
Freeport, ME

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



Look 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  
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### MEMBERSHIP ENROLLMENT FORM

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City \_\_\_\_\_  
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☐ New

☐ Renewal

All 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 membership benefits

☐ My employer has a matching gift program.  
Proper forms are enclosed

### Membership Categories

Individual	\$25	_____
Family	\$40	_____
Military/Student	\$20	_____
Sustaining	\$500+	_____
Business	\$100+	_____
Armstrong Society	\$500+	_____

### Payment

☐ Cash ☐ Check ☐ Credit Card

Make checks payable to **Friends of Fort Fisher**

☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard

Mail to: Friends of Fort Fisher

1610 Fort Fisher Blvd., Kure Beach, N.C. 28449

Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_

Account # \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_ 3-digit security code \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

THE POWDER MAGAZINE

## Fort Fisher State Historic Site

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[www.nchistoricsites.org/fisher](http://www.nchistoricsites.org/fisher)

Interested in joining the Friends  
of Fort Fisher? Please visit  
[www.friendsoffortfisher.com](http://www.friendsoffortfisher.com)

It's  
Free!



**Fort Fisher  
Holiday Open House  
10 am-4 pm  
Tuesday, Dec. 8, 2015  
Seasonal Entertainment,  
Refreshments, & Museum Store  
Discounts**

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

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