

FORT FISHER
STATE
HISTORIC SITE

The Powder Magazine

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 2

APRIL 2014

SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST

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State Rep. Rayne Brown, third from right, with her support team, site staff, and local & state officials

State Rep. Rayne Brown offers praise and support on debut visit to fort

On her debut visit in February, NC Rep. Rayne Brown (R-Davidson), Co-chair for Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government, members of her support team, and Division of Historic Sites Director Keith Hardison and Deputy Director Dale Coats converged on Fort Fisher State Historic Site to meet with the staff, tour the fort, and inspect the historic landmark that draws hundreds of thousands of visitors annually.

After a warm welcome by Hardison and Friends of Fort Fisher Executive Director Paul Laird, the group was led by Site Manager Jim Steele on a tour of the visitor's center. Rep. Brown, her support team, State Rep. Ted Davis Jr. (R-New Hanover), and Wilmington and Beaches CVB Communications Director Connie Nelson, first examined the site's fiber optic battle map and later perused the museum's exhibit cases and artifacts.

Despite windy conditions throughout the morning Assistant Site Manager John Moseley led the group on a tour of the fort's remains, including stops at the site's wayside exhibits and a walk to the top of the earthworks. Moseley explained that while the view of the Atlantic Ocean and Cape Fear River were visually stunning, soldiers stationed at Fort Fisher grew accustomed to harsh conditions like bottomless sand, relentless mosquitoes, and brutally severe weather conditions.

Site Manager Jim Steele took the group on a tour of Battle Acre and explained the significance of the monument placed there in 1932 by the United Daughters of the Confederacy. Friends Director Paul Laird described how the Friends of Fort Fisher work to support the site through advocacy and fundraising. Rep. Brown told the staff she was impressed with what she saw and learned that day and would pass along her appreciation for the visit to her legislative colleagues in Raleigh.

From the site manager, James C. Steele



Dear Friends:

Welcome once again to *The Powder Magazine*, the official newsletter of Fort Fisher and its Friends. *The Powder Magazine* is now entering its fifth year of publication, a fact that makes all the staff, volunteers and Friends quite proud. Our objectives with this newsletter are to inform, educate and entertain, and we are always looking for material. If you have a Fort Fisher story to tell, write it down and send it to us! Our space is limited of course, so we are seeking articles that range from one-half page to two full pages. Our editorial staff will review it, and if the content is a good fit we will be happy to publish it in *The Powder Magazine*.

Before closing, I want to tell you about an exciting project. As anyone who has been to Fort Fisher lately knows, the earthworks are overrun with Yaupon. Many years of manually cutting this aggressive shrub only made the problem worse. We decided to try a technique used by the National Park Service, the controlled burn. Fire suppresses Yaupon and encourages the growth of native grasses. So on February 19, the controlled burn experts of the NC Forest Service got to work. With assistance from NC State Parks, New Hanover County Fire and Rescue and site maintenance staff, the foresters burned the land face of Fort Fisher and achieved an approximate 50% reduction in the Yaupon (see photo page 5). This was only the first controlled burn we have planned. Another will be conducted this fall and then more as needed. The ultimate goal is to have the earthworks covered by a mix of native grasses that will give the ramparts protection from erosion, a pleasing appearance and easy maintenance. Eventually we should need to burn only every few years. Wish us luck, because cutting acres of Yaupon with a bush axe is no picnic

Best regards,
Jim

Park Day 2014 volunteers needed

As part of Park Day 2014, individual and group volunteers are needed Saturday, April 5, from 8:30 to 1 pm to help beautify and preserve Fort Fisher State Historic Site, the largest earthen fortification in the Confederacy, which once protected the port of Wilmington and the vital blockade running trade on the Cape Fear River.

Now in its 18th 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 aged 10 and up, of all ability levels, are encouraged to participate. Many activities are appropriate for groups such as scout troops, service clubs, and church youth groups. All volunteers are asked to register in advance by calling (910) 458-5538 or emailing john.moseley@ncdcr.gov.

Volunteers will be treated to lunch provided by the Friends of Fort Fisher (the non-profit group which supports the site and makes all programming possible) along with its sustaining members—Troy and Lori Barbour, Mike McCarley, Ernest Kniffen, Tammy and Jack Moore, Brian and Deedra Nunnally and Jim and Catherine Taylor. Volunteer to preserve history!

THE POWDER MAGAZINE

the Fort Wish Fisher list

- ◆ Cordless drill
- ◆ Upright vacuum
- ◆ Pressure washer
- ◆ Floor polisher
- ◆ First aid kits
- ◆ Utility/golf cart
- ◆ Gas weed eater

Donated items go to the Friends of Fort Fisher, a non-profit 501 (c)(3) and your donation is tax deductible. Please contact anyone at the fort at (910) 458-5538 if you are interested in donating.



Marines' 9-mile hike of Pleasure Island halts at Fort Fisher SHS

On Thursday, February 27, 2014, Fort Fisher was proud to host the General Support Company of the Second Maintenance Battalion, 2nd Marine Logistics Group, 2nd Marine Expeditionary Force. This company of Marines completed a nine mile hike that started at the Snow's Cut boat landing and ended at Fort Fisher. Along the way, the company followed the historical line of advance used by Union forces that approached Fort Fisher in January 1865.

Along the route, the Marines learned about the battle of Fort Fisher and most importantly to them the 6 Medal of Honor recipients. Hiking along with the Marines was Assistant Site Manager John Moseley, who was able to provide more information and point out specific locations of historic interest at the stops and during the hike. With stops at Carolina Beach State Park, Carolina Lake and Kure Beach's Oceanfront Park, the story of the Fort Fisher campaign unfolded to include stories of the Marines serving in January 15, 1865. After reaching Fort Fisher, the company completed the hike with a battlefield tour of the fort.

To show their appreciation for the effort and hard work that the staff of Fort Fisher put into the day, a letter of appreciation and special plaque, created by the General Support Company, was presented to the staff of Fort Fisher (see photo above left). As always, the staff of Fort Fisher State Historic Site stand ready to help our men and women in uniform with any opportunity to further their professional military education.

Civil War Medicine:

B.G. James Johnston Pettigrew, CSA

By Jack Hisley, MD

James Johnston Pettigrew was born in Tyrrell County, North Carolina in 1828. His father was a wealthy French Huguenot; his mother Ann was the first cousin of the mother of John Gibbon, who graduated from West-Point in 1847. General John Gibbon and James Pettigrew were second cousins whose paths would fatefully cross at Gettysburg on 3 July 1863.

Despite continual episodes of poor health during his childhood, a precocious James Pettigrew successfully passed his entrance examinations and was admitted to the University of North Carolina one month before reaching his fifteenth birthday. While at the University, he excelled in mathematics and classical languages. President James Polk and his Secretary of the Navy, John Y. Mason, who were alumni of the University, attended graduation ceremonies and heard young Pettigrew's valedictory speech. Impressed by Pettigrew's academic prowess, Secretary Mason appointed him Assistant Professor of Astronomy at the United States Naval Observatory, where he served under the world renowned oceanographer and Superintendent Commander Matthew Fountain Maury. When Virginia seceded in April 1861, Commander Maury moved his family to Fredericksburg, VA. Maury became Chief of Seacoast, River, and Harbor Defenses in the Confederate Navy.

After a brief tenure at the U.S. Naval Observatory, James Pettigrew resigned and studied law in Baltimore, where he developed intermittent fevers, which were most likely related to malaria. He experienced several episodes of the fever during his travels in Western Europe. In 1852, he returned to Charleston, SC and joined the prestigious law firm of his father's first cousin, James Louis Pettigrew. James became

active in South Carolina politics. During the summer Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1854 in Charleston, Pettigrew contracted the disease while helping the sick. In 1860, he developed "break bone fever", a tropical infection caused by the dengue virus, which is carried by the same mosquito genus that harbors the Yellow Fe-



B.G. James Johnston Pettigrew, CSA

ver virus. Although potentially life threatening, Pettigrew survived the illness. In November 1860, Colonel Pettigrew joined the First Regiment of Rifles of South Carolina. By July 1861, he was elected Colonel of the 22nd North Carolina Infantry.

On 3 May 1862 during the Battle of Seven Pines, the now Brigadier General Pettigrew was severely wounded while advancing on an enemy position. A Minie ball entered near the base of his neck, narrowly missing his trachea as it traveled beneath his clavicle and shattered his right shoulder, damaging the nerves to his arm. Although the bleeding was profuse, Colonel James M. Bull was

able to control Pettigrew's blood loss by applying a pressure dressing. Before losing consciousness, General Pettigrew, believing his wound was fatal, refused to allow his men to break ranks and carry him to the rear.

During a Federal counterattack, Pettigrew was shot again in the left arm and bayoneted in the right leg. Now a prisoner of war, Pettigrew was attended by a Union Army doctor who arranged transportation first to Fortress Monroe in Virginia, and then by steamer to Baltimore, Maryland. General Pettigrew convalesced at Guy's Monument House Hotel with other distinguished prisoners. When his special quarters became a public issue, he was transferred to Fort Delaware on Pea Patch Island. Pettigrew was the first general to be housed at that particular fort. By the war's end, 33,000 prisoners would have passed through the gates of Fort Delaware. Although the living conditions and food were decent, 2500 men would die - over one half would be felled by the smallpox outbreak of 1863.

During his convalescence, General Pettigrew requested a transfer to Baltimore where a galvanic battery could be attached to his right arm, which had been paralyzed since his injury at Seven Pines. The use of electricity and magnetism as a medical "cure all" was popular in the nineteenth century. Luigi Galvani first discovered direct current in 1791, and by 1800, Alessandro Volta had found a way to store galvanic electricity in a battery. Contemporary quacks cleverly used electric current to treat a whole host of maladies. Electric belts, hairbrushes, spectacles, shoes, and many other imaginative devices were used to provide an electric current with the understanding that whatever human

(Continued on page 5)

B.G. JAMES JOHNSTON PETTIGREW, CSA (continued from page 4)

part it touched, would be improved. General Pettigrew's request was flatly denied.

On 5 August 1862, Pettigrew was exchanged for a Union general at Aiken Landing, Virginia. Brigadier General James Johnston Pettigrew was then given command of a brigade at Petersburg, VA, which would become known as "Pettigrew's Brigade". Colonel Henry K. Burgwyn, who was also a distinguished alumnus of the University of North Carolina, and Commander of the 26th North Carolina Infantry, was transferred to the Pettigrew Brigade, which was composed entirely of NC troops.

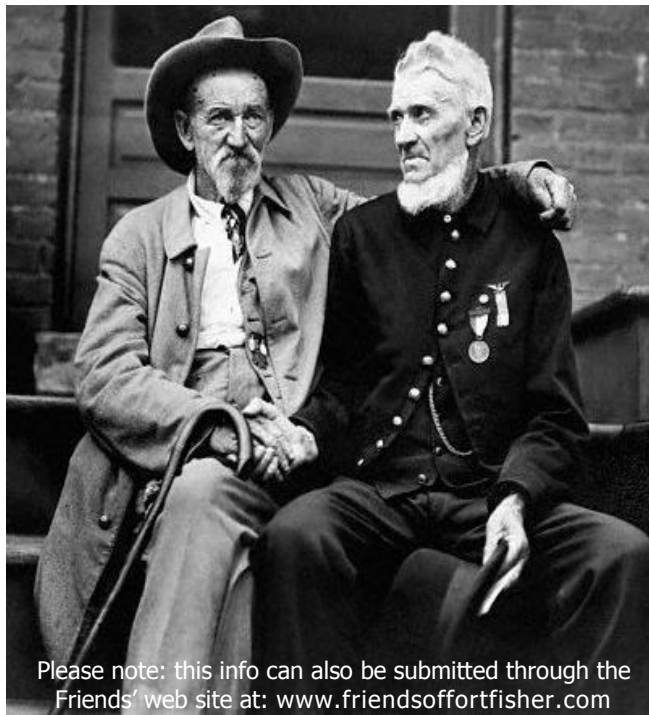
In May of 1863, Pettigrew's Brigade joined the Army of Northern Virginia for the Pennsylvania Campaign. When Major General Henry Heth was wounded on the first day at Gettysburg, General Pettigrew assumed command of Heth's battered division. On 3 July 1863, General Robert E. Lee selected Pettigrew's division to march at the left of Major General George Pickett's Division in the infamous assault of Cemetery Ridge. Ironically, James Pettigrew's second cousin, General John Gibbon, was also on Cemetery Ridge. During the charge, Pettigrew's horse was shot from under him. He proceeded on foot, reaching within 100 yards of the Cemetery Ridge stonewall when his left hand was shattered by canister shot. He remained with his men until it became obvious that the assault had failed. Walking back to Cemetery Ridge, Pettigrew met General Lee, who noticed his wound and exclaimed: "General, I am sorry to see you are wounded; go to the rear". Until General Heth had recovered, Pettigrew commanded his division during the retreat to the Potomac River. On 14 July, a Union cavalryman shot General Pettigrew at close range. The ball entered the left lower quadrant of his abdomen, piercing his descending colon. Refusing to be left in Union hands, Pettigrew was carried to the rear and across the Potomac before traveling 22 miles to Edgewood Manor Plantation near Bunker Hill, West Virginia. He died from peritonitis 3 days later on 17 July 1863. General Pettigrew was returned to North Carolina, where he was buried in Raleigh on a day of public mourning. After the war, he was reinterred at his family estate Bonarva in Tyrrell County, NC. Upon Pettigrew's passing, General Lee remarked: "The Army has lost a brave soldier and the Confederacy an accomplished officer".



This past February, Fort Fisher State Historic Site conducted a controlled burn of the site's land face earthworks to eradicate Yau-pon, an aggressively dense shrub that overruns the mounds and chokes off other native plants that aid in erosion control at the historic site. The controlled burn allows for the replacement of native grasses that help protect against erosion, enhance the appearance of the earthworks, and allow for nearly maintenance-free conditions after a series of annual controlled burns.

Were any of your ancestors in the Fort Fisher & Wilmington campaign? If they were, 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***



Please note: this info can also be submitted through the Friends' web site at: www.friendsoffortfisher.com

Your Name: _____

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:

- | | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Confederate | <input type="checkbox"/> Union |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Survived war | <input type="checkbox"/> Wounded |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 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

Fort Fisher recognizes National Medal of Honor Day with commemorative program

In 1990, Congress, designated March 25 annually as "National Medal of Honor Day" to honor those who have received our Nation's highest military award. Congress chose March 25th to highlight this special day because it was on March 25, 1863 that the first Medals of Honor were presented.

On Saturday, March 22, 2014, Fort Fisher State Historic Site organized its very first commemorative program to focus on the Medal of Honor and those individuals who have been awarded the medal for their actions. The Medal of Honor is the highest distinction that can be awarded by the President, in the name of the Congress, to members of the Armed Forces who have distinguished themselves conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of their lives above and beyond the call of duty.

The Medal of Honor was originally created to recognize the acts of bravery by Union enlisted Navy, Marine Corps, and Army personnel during the

Civil War. Historic Interpreter Jim McKee, from Brunswick Town/ Fort Anderson State Historic Site, assisted with the program by portraying a Un-



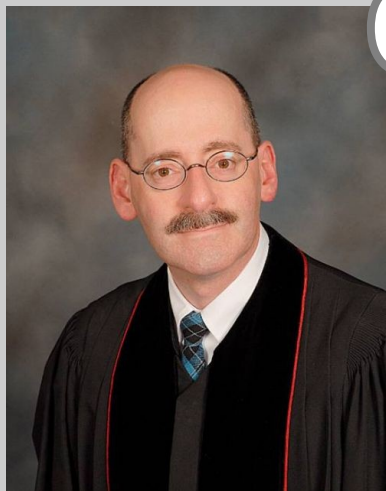
ion artilleryman and discussing Civil War artillery using the site's 12-pounder bronze Napoleon cannon as a display. Assistant Site Manager John

Moseley conducted a presentation about the history of the Medal of Honor and those individuals awarded for their actions during the battles at Fort Fisher and the 4 individuals with ties to New Hanover County.

The Cape Fear region is no stranger to Medal of Honor recipients. The fighting at Fort Fisher and during Wilmington Campaign, from December 1864 to February 1865, saw 70 Union men nominated for the Medal of Honor. All were approved, but only 69 ever received them. For some men, it took up to 50 years and legal action to receive the honor due their actions. Since the Medal was first given on March 25, 1863, 19 North Carolinians have been recognized for their actions with the Medal of Honor. New Hanover County's four recipients span the wars, both large and small, of the 20th century; one from actions in Mexico in 1914, two from World War II, and one from the Vietnam War.

Fort Fisher State Historic Site to host the
Fort Fisher Chapter 2325 UDC memorial program

Confederate Memorial Day Ceremony



Dr. Walter L. Taylor

Join us at 10 am
Saturday, May
10, 2014, at
Battle Acre



**Guest speaker Dr. Walter L. Taylor of
Oak Island Presbyterian Church to speak
on "Religion in the South: How it affected
soldiers and family"**

Welcome New Friends of Fort Fisher

Lance E.J. Adams
Durham, NC

Edward Kelly
Leland, NC

Anchored in Love Photos/Video

Kelly Edwards
Wilmington, NC

Elizabeth Lyles
Henderson, NC

Walter M. Bullard, Jr.
Wilmington, NC

The Robin Masters Family
Wilmington, NC

Cape Fear Riverboats, Inc.
Capt. Carl Marshburn
Wilmington, NC

Harry Mathewson
Tacoma, WA

Fredy Southerland
Wilmington, NC

Ty Cathey
Wilmington, NC

Dennis St. Andrew, PCC
Sons of Union Veterans-NC Dept Cdr
Cary, NC

Richard Dishman
New York, NY

Edwin Tisdale
Wilmington, NC

Rev. Andrew Hart
Huntington, NY

Eric & Allison Hoffman
Weddington, NC

**Thank You for supporting NC's most
visited battlefield and 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
Named Gift Opportunities
Bequests

MEMBERSHIP ENROLLMENT FORM

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____
Telephone _____
Email _____

☐ 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 _____

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Fort Fisher State Historic Site

1610 Fort Fisher Blvd. South

Kure Beach, NC 28449

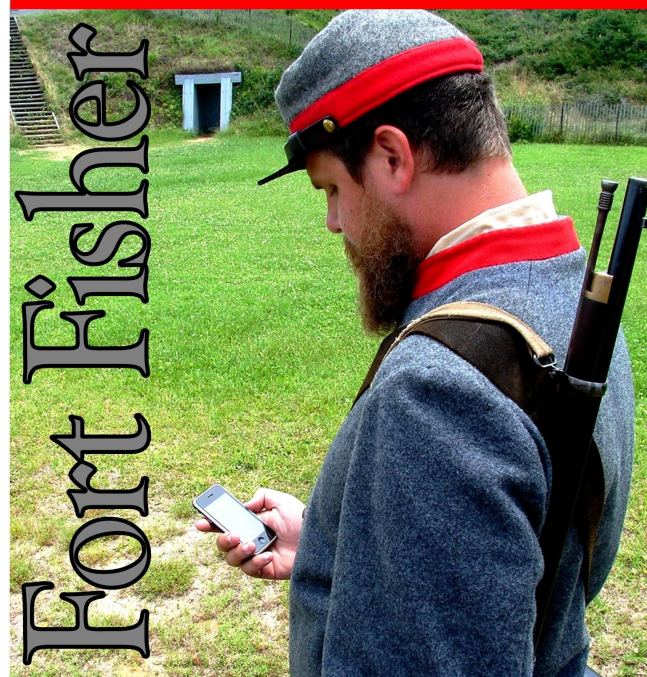
Phone: (910) 458-5538

E-mail: fisher@ncdcr.gov

www.nchistoricsites.org/fisher



Friends of Fort Fisher present Interactive Video Tour for Smart Phones & Tablets



QR Code tour map available
with a \$5 or more donation to
the Friends of Fort Fisher,
payable at the gift shop.



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

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