

Happy New Year  
2014

FORT FISHER  
STATE  
HISTORIC SITE

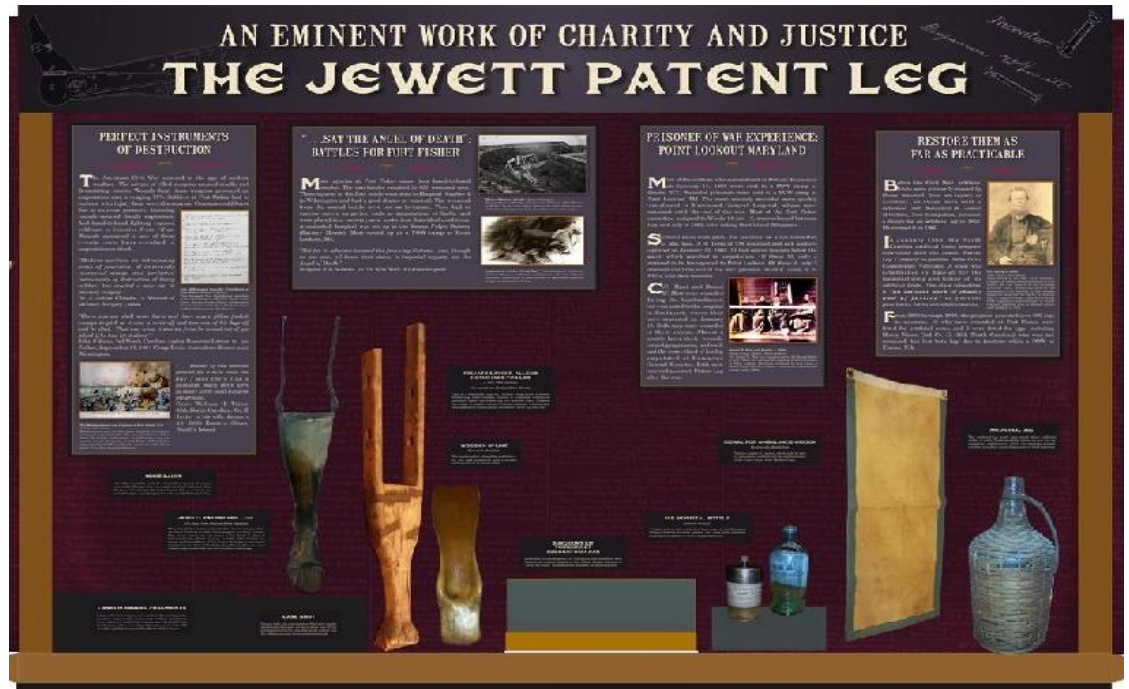
# The Powder Magazine

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2014

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

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## Fort Fisher to commemorate 149th anniversary with medical services program, new exhibit

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On January 18, 2014, Fort Fisher will commemorate the 149<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1865 battle with a free program entitled "Always near the front, with instruments and tourniquets: The Medical Service at Fort Fisher." To be held 10 am to 4 pm, the program will focus on the medical services and healthcare available to the soldiers on both sides of the attack.

Civil War re-enactors will set up displays and discuss various medical tools and the care of injured and sick soldiers. Infantry units will be on hand to discuss camp

life, garrison duty, and conduct the manual of arms and firing demonstrations. Artillery units will conduct drills and firing demonstrations which will consist of the site's rifled and banded 32 pound cannon and the Site's bronze 12 pound Napoleon cannon. The schedule will alternate between the infantry and artillery drill. Also on site will be Civil War sutlers and an individual portraying a Civil War photographer.

Several Civil War authors will be on hand to talk about their research and sign copies of their books. Ansley Wegner, author of *Phantom Pain:*

*North Carolina's Artificial Limb Program for Confederate Veterans*, will talk about North Carolina's artificial limb program after the Civil War. Author Richard Triebe will talk about the North Carolina Troops who were captured at Fort Fisher and sent to the Prisoner of War camp in Elmira, New York and their struggles to survive. He will also be available to sign copies of his book *From Fort Fisher to Elmira and Confederate Fort Fisher: A Roster 1864-1865*. Noted Civil War historian and author Michael Hardy will also be part of the book signing and selling.

Continued on page 8

## From the site manager, James C. Steele



Dear Friends:

The New Year is here, and that means it is time for our annual Fort Fisher commemorative program! 2014 marks the 149<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the battle that captured Fort Fisher, closed the port of Wilmington and doomed the Confederate States of America. This year's program is scheduled for Saturday, January 18, 2014. It commemorates the soldiers, sailors, and marines of the Union and the Confederacy who fought, bled and died here with an examination of the medical services of Fort Fisher. Civil War medicine is a fascinating topic. To explore it, we will bring you historical lectures, field hospital demonstrations, and even a new exhibit showcasing the rare Jewett Patent Leg, an artificial limb provided to amputee North Carolina veterans by a state program after the war. And of course we will have living history encampments where you can see Civil War soldiers demonstrate infantry tactics and fire cannons!

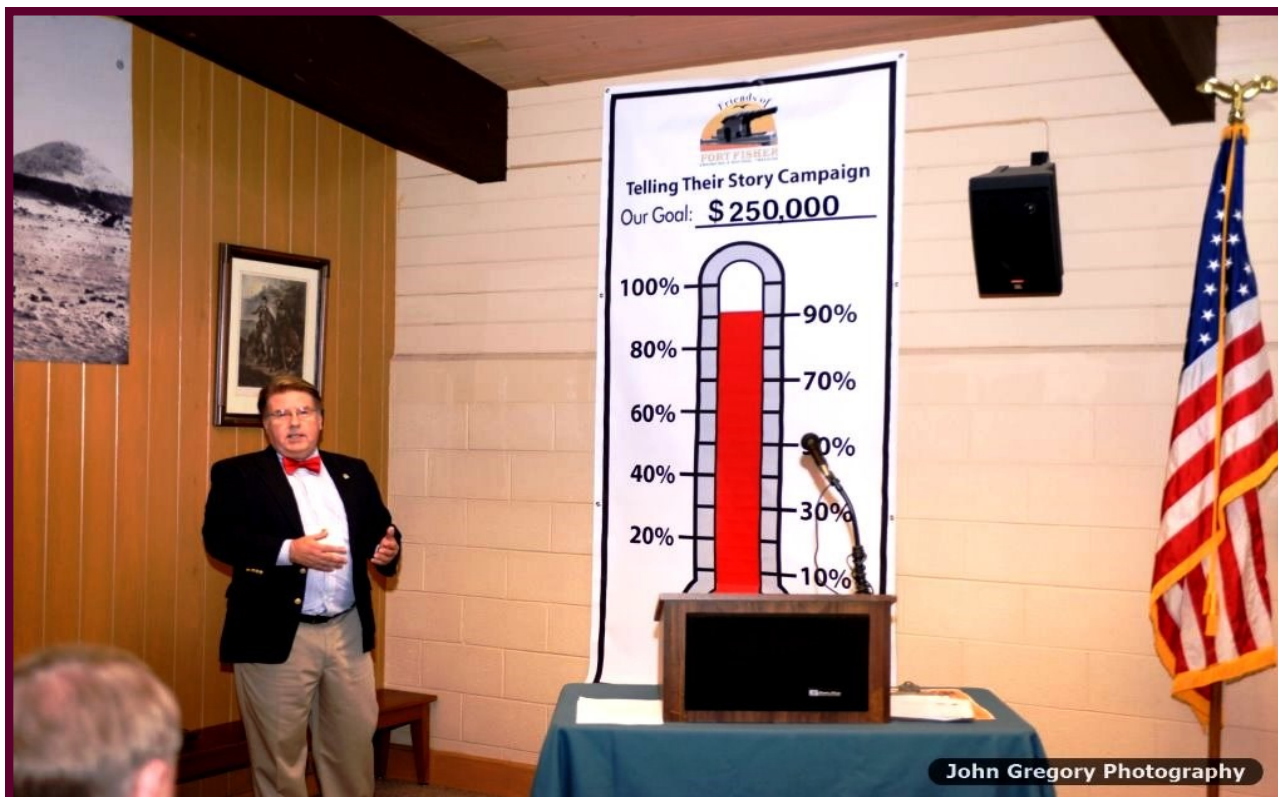
We are very excited about this year's program and hope you will all come out to be a part of it. And remember that this event is the prelude to our 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary program in 2015. This will be the flagship event of North Carolina's Civil War 150 programming. The Friends of Fort Fisher and site staff are already hard at work planning for it, and while it is too early to share details, rest assured we will host a large-scale battle reenactment on the fortifications just as we did for the 145<sup>th</sup> anniversary program in 2010. So come see us for a great program on January 18 and plan to be here for the big 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary next year. Remember, your support makes all of what we do possible, so if you are not yet a member of the Friends of Fort Fisher, please join today. By doing so, you will be doing your part to preserve this historic site, to educate the public about Civil War history, and to commemorate the brave men who served here.

Sincerely,  
Jim Steele



Fort Fisher is grateful to volunteers with the US Navy Riverines, who helped install vehicle barrier posts at Battery Buchanan this fall. Standing from left to right are: Bryon Cain, Jerry Morgan, Steve Vaillancourt, Fort Fisher Maintenance Assistant David Sheaffer, Paul Imhoff, Willie Coco, and Chris Johnson. Kneeling at right are Tim Pancost and Jeff Mather.





Paul Laird addresses members of the Friends of Fort Fisher at their Annual Meeting held Nov. 16.

## Friends annual meeting update

On a gorgeous Saturday, November 16, 2013, members of the Friends of Fort Fisher, Inc. held their Annual Meeting at the state's most popular and visited historic site and battlefield.

The meeting began with a generous reception hosted by the ladies from the Fort Fisher Chapter 2325, UDC. Friends Board Chair Brigadier General Jim Carpenter (Ret.), Site Manager Jim Steele, and Friends Executive Director Paul Laird recapped the many successes of 2013 and discussed the Friends' ambitious plans for 2014 and 2015.

Two key agenda items included the Implementation of the 5-year strategic plan and continued fundraising in preparation for the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary observance of the Battle of Fort Fisher, scheduled for January 2015. Also discussed was the upcoming program's impact of bringing thousands of visitors to both the island and the historic site in the off-season.

Executive Director Paul Laird announced another

milestone in the Friends "Telling Their Story" Campaign to provide needed capital improvements to the historic site in time for the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary program.

In June of this year, the first milestone was achieved with a replica of the iconic Armstrong Cannon placed as an educational exhibit. As Laird noted, through assistance from local legislators Rep. Ted Davis, Jr., Rep. Susi Hamilton, Senator Bill Rabon, Senator Thom Goolsby, and support from NC Department of Cultural Resources Secretary Susan Kluttz, funding has been earmarked for the replacement of the fort's defensive palisade. The total campaign goal of \$250,000 for capital improvement projects is now 90% complete. Additional funds are still required for new historical interpretive markers and trailside benches.

Noted Friends member, historian and author Dr. Chris Fonvielle was the featured speaker for the Annual Meeting. Fonvielle provided stories of individuals with connections to the Fort Fisher story that are included in his new book, *Faces of Fort Fisher, 1861-1864*. The book is available at the Fort Fisher Museum Store.

# FINANCING THE WAR

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

BY JIM MILLER

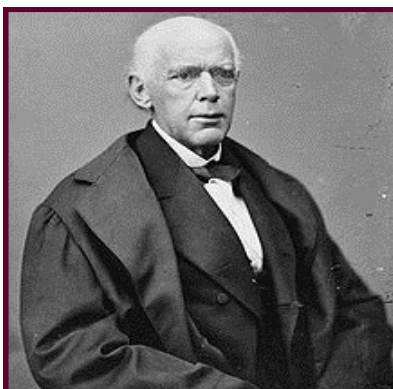
## Part 2

By April of 1861, as the peaceful, albeit raucous, secession of the southern confederacy moved inexorably toward full-scale warfare with the North, questions arose regarding how the fledgling state would finance its governmental operation and military endeavors. The south found itself facing an ages old truism, there are basically only three ways to finance a government (or a war): tax, borrow or print. Both governments knew there would be a substantial cost involved in maintaining (or building, in the case of the Confederacy) its governmental operations. Add in the unknown of financing a war, and it was obvious that financial strategies were vitally needed. As a gauge of the impact of the combined costs of government and military operations in the Civil War, one need look only as far as the records kept by the federal government. In the 1850's federal expenditures averaged roughly \$1 million a week. By mid-1861 that figure had risen to a rate of approximately \$1.5 million a day. By wars end, federal expenditures reached \$3.5 million a day, meaning the US Government became the first sovereign state to spend over \$1 billion in a single year.<sup>7</sup>

It was understood in both Washington and Richmond that significant revenues were needed at the respective federal levels. Having come to the same realization, the two combatant states either chose, or were forced to use differing strategies to secure that financing. While it might seem that the more established national government in Washington had the advantage of experience with regard to government finance, we should remember that many of the Confederacy's legislators had equivalent experience gained in the im-

mediate pre-war national government. As we will see, however, having similar experience did not lead to similar financing schemes.

Freed from the need to compromise, representative of the two contending governments followed their phil-



Salmon P. Chase

osophical beliefs when establishing their financial strategies. In the north, the use of significant public debt supported by a national bank and taxes proved to be a very effective means of financing the war. Taxes included tariffs on imports as well as levies on legal documents, liquor, advertising and income. The income tax, passed in August 1861, was graduated, rising from 3% on income over \$800, to 5% on income over \$10,000. Note that \$800 represented the typical middle class annual income at the time. In 1864 the upper rate doubled to 10%.<sup>8</sup>

The tax based revenue-generating policies of the North made its debt quite secure and attractive to potential purchasers. This allowed the North to expand its sale of bonds several fold. Clearest evidence of this is seen in the growth of the national debt. In 1860

that figure was approximately \$65 million. By 1866, the national debt had grown to over \$2.6 billion! The attractiveness of the bonds was not lost on an enterprising Philadelphia based banker, Jay Cooke. He devised what may have been the first war bond sale directly to the public, thereby bypassing the large financial institutions, which normally bought most government debt issues. Bonds came in denominations as small as \$10 and Cooke, with the support of Treasury Secretary Salmon P. Chase, instituted a payment plan allowing individuals to buy bonds over time. As a result, nearly 5% of the population bought war bonds, an amazing figure when you consider that less than 1% of the population had bank accounts at the time.<sup>9</sup>

The northern treasury also resorted to the printing press to secure financing. Over \$450 million worth of legal tender, or "greenbacks" so called because of the green ink used to print the reverse side, were issued.<sup>10</sup> This "fiat" money could not be used to pay taxes and was convertible into gold only at rates determined in financial markets. Those rates fluctuated in line with union experience on the battlefield.

Altogether, the Union accounted for 21% of its revenue from tariffs and taxes. Another 66% of northern financing came from the issuance of debt (bond sales.) Approximately 12% of revenue came from the printing of greenbacks.

*Editor's note: stay tuned for Part 3 (the conclusion) of Jim Miller's "Financing the War—or where did the North and South Find Their Silver Bullets?"—in the next issue of The Powder Magazine, Fort Fisher's quarterly newsletter.*

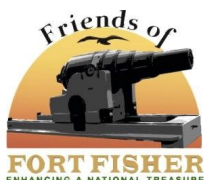


# Fort Fisher State Historic Site planning numerous programs throughout the new year

Fort Fisher State Historic Site plans to host numerous programs throughout 2014. All programs are free and made possible due to the support of the Friends of Fort Fisher and its sustaining members Troy and Lori Barbour, Mike McCarley, Tammy and Jack Moore, Brian and Deedra Nunnally and Jim and Catherine Taylor.

Please note that all programs and dates are subject to change. Please contact the site at 910-458-5538 to verify dates and times.

- ♦ January 18, 2014: 149th Battle Commemoration
- ♦ March 2, 2014: "Be a Visitor in Your Own Hometown" Day
- ♦ March 22, 2014: Medal of Honor Commemoration Program
- ♦ April 5, 2014: Civil War Trust Park Day
- ♦ May 10, 2014: Confederate Memorial Day
- ♦ June 14, 2014: 2nd Saturday: Artillery at Fort Fisher
- ♦ July 12, 2014: 2nd Saturday: The Navy at Fort Fisher
- ♦ August 9, 2014: 2nd Saturday: The Soldier's Gardens at Fort Fisher
- ♦ September 27, 2014: Rose Greenhow Memorial Commemoration
- ♦ September 28, 2014: Island Day
- ♦ October 25, 2014: Fall Festival
- ♦ December 9, 2014: Holiday Open House



Replica of the Armstrong Cannon on display at Fort Fisher  
Photo by John Gregory Photography

Fort Fisher welcomes a new addition to the family



*Ada Lynn Sheaffer*

Congratulations to David and Aubrie Sheaffer on the arrival of an adorable new daughter, Ada Lynn, their first child, born on 12-4-2013. David reports that, a few weeks into the project now, both mom and daughter are doing fine. When not changing diapers, David is a vital part of our site maintenance team. Happy Birthday Ada!



# Welcome New Friends of Fort Fisher

Robert Barry  
State College, PA

Peggy P. Leudtke  
Carolina Beach, NC

Philip & Lorna Bobalek  
Wilmington, NC

James L. Price  
Wilmington, NC

Douglas Carper  
Richmond, VA

Fr. Frank Steep, III  
Kure Beach, NC

Josephine Gee  
North Myrtle Beach, SC

Bryan & Lori Strickland  
Concord, NC

Della Jones, David & Benjamin Fried  
Atlanta, GA

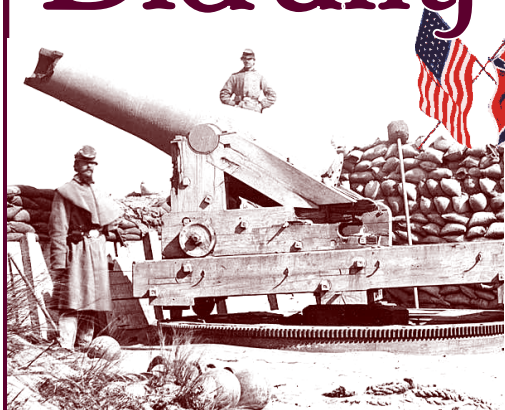
Stan Westhead  
Wilmington, NC

Marla Jones Ivester  
Gastonia, NC

Jeff Williams  
Knoxville, TN

Landon Zimmer  
Wilmington, NC

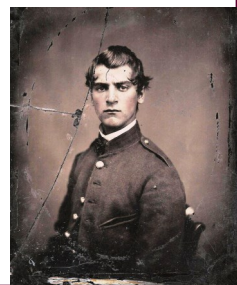
## Did any of your ancestors serve at Fort Fisher?



*If so, please let us know*

**910-458-5538**

**[fisher@ncdcr.gov](mailto:fisher@ncdcr.gov)**



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 \_\_\_\_\_

THE POWDER MAGAZINE



## Fort Fisher State Historic Site

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Kure Beach, NC 28449

Phone: (910) 458-5538

E-mail: [fisher@ncdcr.gov](mailto:fisher@ncdcr.gov)

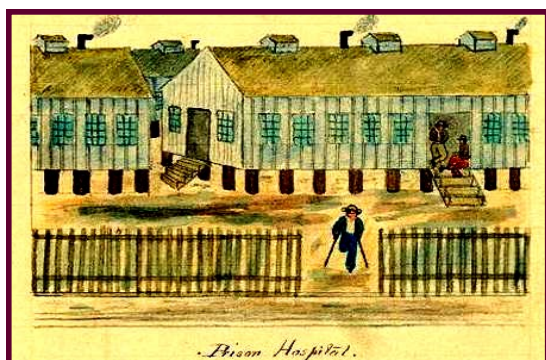
[www.nchistoricsites.org/fisher](http://www.nchistoricsites.org/fisher)

## Fort Fisher's 149th anniversary program to focus on war's medical services, and new exhibit

Continued from page 1

Another exciting portion of the 149th program will be the debut of a new exhibit, entitled "An Eminent Work of Charity and Justice: The Jewett Patent Leg," which will be on display in the visitor's center. The exhibit's concept was developed from the recent loan of artifacts from the descendants of Private David F. Allen, who lost his leg during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battle of Fort Fisher. The exhibit will feature not only Private David F. Allen's Jewett Patent Leg, but also his homemade prosthetic limb which many veterans resorted to after their state-issued leg wore out. Much of this past year was spent researching Fort Fisher veterans who received a Jewett Patent leg, as well as locating images and artifacts to be placed in this exhibit. Thanks go to Bentonville Battlefield for the loan of many of the medical artifacts and to the Lemoyne House and Washington County Historical Society in Washington, PA for the continued loan of the Civil War surgeon's kit. The exhibit will explore everything from the dangers of a soldier's daily life to perilous combat duty during the Battles of Fort Fisher to the prisoner of war experience at Point Lookout, Maryland.

Come see for yourself at Fort Fisher's 149th Anniversary program on January 18, 2014. All programming is made possible due to the support of the Friends of Fort Fisher and its sustaining members Troy and Lori Barbour, Mike McCarley, Tammy and Jack Moore, Brian and Deedra Nunnally and Jim and Catherine Taylor.



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

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