

FORT FISHER
STATE
HISTORIC SITE

The Powder Magazine

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 4

FALL 2014

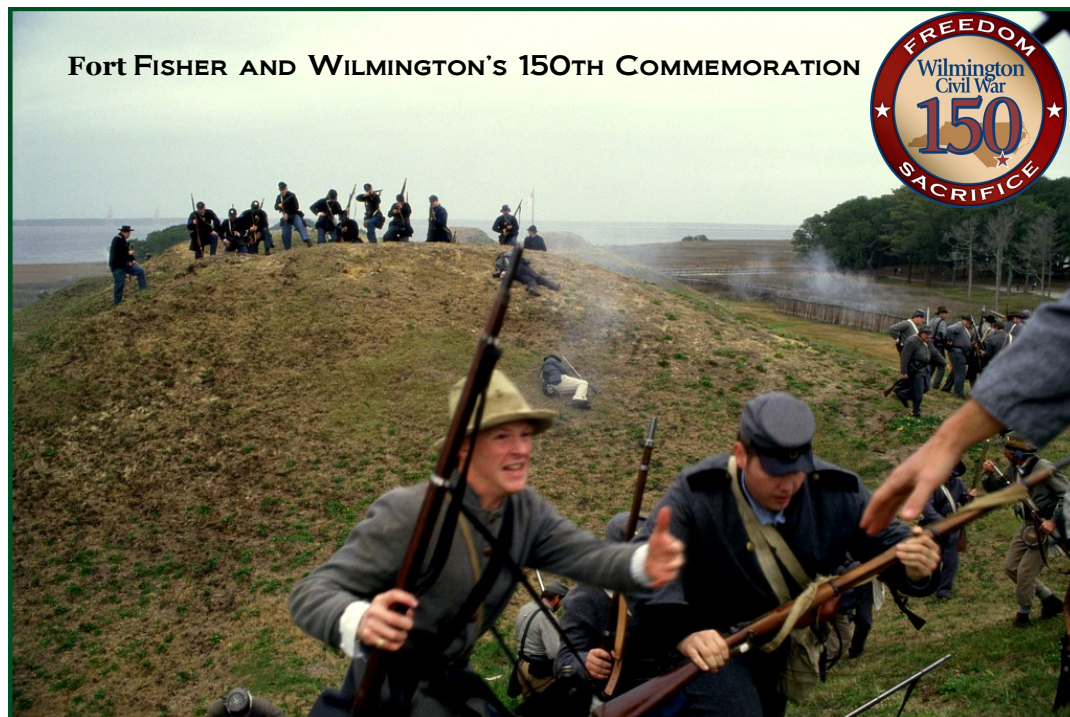
SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST

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Industry partners charge ahead with marketing efforts for Civil War 150

By Connie Nelson, Communications/PR Director, Wilmington and Beaches CVB

It all began about 18 months ago when the Friends of Fort Fisher contacted the Wilmington and Beaches Convention & Visitors Bureau [CVB] to brainstorm ideas on how to generate visitor interest in the Civil War Sesquicentennial and regional events leading up to (and including) Fort Fisher's 150th Anniversary in 2015. Thus, the Civil War Heritage Coalition was established to align and integrate individual organizations' plans for special events and programming. The Coalition

met in April 2013 and January 2014. The Friends of Fort Fisher took the lead in bringing partners in New Hanover, Brunswick and Pender counties together. The CVB took the lead in gathering regional events and designing/implementing a Civil War 150 marketing campaign.

The CVB gathered event information and designed a Wilmington Civil War 150 logo, which is prominently featured on the marketing campaign's centerpiece: a unique web landing page at

www.wilmingtoncivilwar150.com. Developed and launched (in January) by the CVB, the microsite includes sections for Commemorative Events, Attractions & Exhibits, Monuments & Markers, Special Lodging Rates & Packages, Civil War Symposium, and a Video/Photo Gallery.

In addition to the logo and microsite, other components include print and online marketing, public relations, and social media, including:

Continued on page 3

From the site manager, James C. Steele



Dear Friends:

Summertime is over at Fort Fisher. Most years this means the staff breathes a collective sigh of relief, takes some well-earned leave and resumes work at a saner pace. But not this year. After educating and entertaining more than 300,000 visitors between Memorial Day and Labor Day, the staff is going all out preparing for the 150th anniversary commemoration of the fall of Fort Fisher.

And what an event it is going to be! Everybody's favorite is the reenactment of the assault on Sheppard's Battery. For the 150th, there will be large-scale action there with more than 400 troops battling across the ramparts. There will be nighttime lantern tours featuring historical Fort Fisher vignettes. The legendary historian and battlefield tour guide Ed Bearss will be the keynote speaker at a commemorative ceremony on Battle Acre. New exhibits will be unveiled, including the legendary 12-pounder Whitworth Gun, personal effects of Colonel William Lamb, and the Medal of Honor won by Private Bruce Anderson of the 142nd New York Volunteers. On top of that, the tour trail will feature new interpretive waysides and a newly constructed palisade fence.

The Friends of Fort Fisher are busy too with program preparations, fundraising, and organizing a gathering of descendants of the soldiers who served at Fort Fisher. This will be an exciting program on January 15-16, and if you or anyone you know has a Fort Fisher ancestor please let us know. We want you to attend and share your heritage.

In closing, thank you for all you do to make Fort Fisher the premier Civil War site in North Carolina. I look forward to seeing you all here on January 17-18, 2015 for the greatest program you will ever see.

Best regards,
Jim

Fort Fisher welcomes Site Assistant Matt Gregg



Site Assistant Matt Gregg

Meet Matthew Gregg, Fort Fisher's new site assistant. Matt is originally from Trinity, NC, all the way over in Randolph County.

A vital part of Fort Fisher's maintenance team, Matt is a man of many talents and it shows. A graduate of UNC-G with a bachelor's in history, he's taken up the interpretive torch and decided to run with it.

He's already found a period uniform with his name on it and next month, he'll undergo small arms training to help educate Fort Fisher visitors with musket demos and small arms interpretation.

Matt is grateful to have made it into the museum field at such a young age (he's only 27). During and after UNC-G, he worked as an associate sales leader at Eddie Bauer, but it's clear his heart belongs to history. His resume includes volunteering at Guilford Battleground in Greensboro, NC. Apparently, public service runs in the Gregg family; his older brother works for Idaho Fish and Game.

On a personal note, Matt recently proposed to his fiancé, Emily McKenzie, a graphic artist at UNC-G, on the beach near Fort Fisher. In his spare time, Matt the Marksman enjoys target shooting and yelling "Pull" at clay pigeon traps. He also enjoys spending time with his chocolate lab, Bentley. Matt's first day on the job was Aug 1. Welcome Matt. And congratulations to you and Emily.

Patriot Guard Riders raise Tribute Flag at Shepherd's Battery to honor pair of soldiers killed at Fort Fisher



Story by John Moseley

On Tuesday, August 12, 2014, the Patriot Guard Riders, North Carolina Chapter, came to Fort Fisher for a special ceremony.

The town of Hoosick Falls, New York asked us to be a part of their Tribute Flag Program. The program is dedicated to flying their 6' x 9' casket flag over every cemetery where a son of Hoosick Falls is buried. This Tribute Flag began its journey having been flown over the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery, seven National Cemeteries throughout Europe and Sicily to honor the town's request to fly this flag at their cemeteries where Hoosick Falls veterans are buried.

The Patriot Guard Riders committed their resources to see that this Tribute Flag is flown over the 17 Civil War Battlefield cemeteries where 25 sons of Hoosick Falls lay in eternal rest. Tuesday morning the flag was flown over Shepherd's Bat-

tery for Private Jeremiah Kimball 169th Infantry, Company A killed 15 January, 1865 and Private James Van Acker 169th Infantry, Company C killed in the magazine explosion on 16 January, 1865.

The staff of Fort Fisher would like to thank the Town of Hoosick Falls, NY for contacting us about this opportunity. We would also like to express our sincere thanks to the Patriot Guard Riders who brought the flag to the site, performed the ceremony and continue to honor and draw attention to the military men and women who have given the ultimate sacrifice for our country.

Industry partners promote Fort Fisher and Wilmington's Civil War 150 commemoration (continued from page 1)

- Media campaign targeting Civil War enthusiasts: print ads & online banners in Civil War heritage publications (Fall)
- Eblasts featuring landing page www.WilmingtonCivilWar150.com to email list of 200,000 history buffs in targeted feeder markets (June, Sept)
- Especially as editorial in eNewsletters to 50,000 subscribers (Oct, Nov)
- 2014 Official Visitors Guide: Civil War Sesquicentennial section
- Public Relations:
 - Included Civil War 150 information in "What's New for 2014" release & tradeshow pitch sheets (NYC, Washington DC, Raleigh/Triangle)
 - Developed/distributed "Ties to the Civil War" press release (Sept.), targeting Civil War mass market and re-enactor publications, education and travel writers in top feeder markets
 - Develop/distribute additional press releases targeting in-state media, freelance journalists, tradeshow attendees: Civil War 150 event roundup (October) & Fort Fisher Anniversary (December)
 - Monitor editorial calendars and lead sources; one-off Civil War editorial opportunities/requests
 - Share press releases, calendar listings with N.C. Division of Tourism
- Social Media efforts via Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube destination pages (196,500 Likes/Fans) highlight related events with social media posts, call for photos, testimonials, etc. (Fall/Winter)

Call to Action: Now is the time to prepare for the 10,000+ visitors expected to converge on Pleasure Island during Fort Fisher's 150th Anniversary commemoration, January 16-18. In order to provide a positive visitor experience, the CVB encourages accommodations, restaurants and shops that may not normally be open at that time of year to consider opening to better serve our visitors and to potentially boost your business. The CVB also needs Fall/Winter/Civil War theme hotel/attraction packages. Please send special offers/packages and event information to Caitlin Mulholland, CVB marketing assistant: marketingassist@wilmingtonandbeaches.com

Civil War Medicine:

Lt. Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest

By Jack Hisley, MD

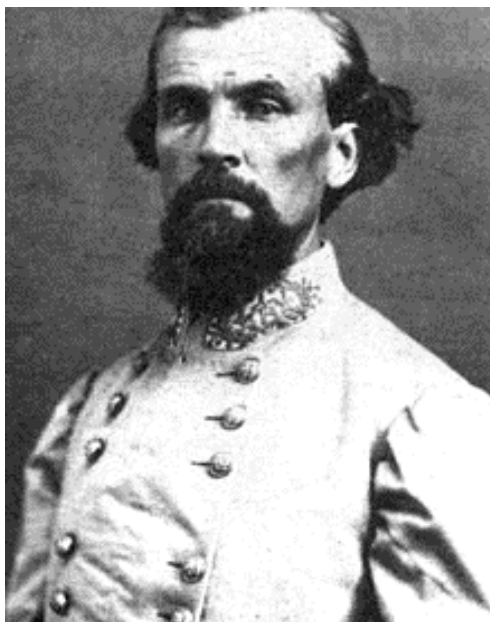
Although self educated, Nathan Bedford Forrest was among the South's most successful and highly regarded generals. Like all great horsemen reared on the frontier, Forrest feared no danger and his exploits were legendary. In 1864, northern General William Tecumseh Sherman wired Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton, exclaiming: "Forrest is the very devil; if we must sacrifice 10,000 lives and bankrupt the Federal treasury, it will be worth it. There will never be peace in Tennessee until Forrest is dead."

Bedford, as known to his family and close friends, was born on 13 July 1821. He was the eldest of 11 children. At an early age he learned to live by his instincts. Life on the frontier of Tennessee was his classroom. Determined to never know the poverty he had experienced as a boy, Bedford became a successful planter and slave trader. Before the American Civil War, he was one of the richest men in the South.

After South Carolina seceded from the Union, Forrest, along with his brother Jeffrey and his 15-year old son, joined the Tennessee Mounted Rifles on 14 June 1861. Because of his prominence in southern society, Private Nathan Bedford Forrest was soon promoted to Colonel of the famous 7th Tennessee Cavalry, which he gallantly led throughout the war, frequently appearing in numerous battles in the southwestern area of operation. Much of his personal fortune was used to equip the 7th Tennessee Cavalry. Forrest was an aggressive cavalryman who led from the front and often intimidated the enemy with his physical presence at 6'2" and 210 pounds. He sharpened both edges of his heavy saber and used it often. When one of his West Point educated officers reminded him that the saber was made more for show than for

fighting, he retorted: "Damn such nonsense. War means fightin' and fightin' means killin'. Turn the grind stone!"

The 7th Tennessee Cavalry appeared in numerous battles in the west, winning most of them, despite their inferior numbers. Forrest was wounded 4



Lt. Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest, CSA

times and had 30 horses shot out from under him. In addition to his multiple wounds, he often suffered debilitating episodes of fever and dysentery, as did many of his compatriots. Dysentery and diarrhea, called "quickstep" by the soldiers and "alvine flux" by the doctors (*alvine* – relating to the intestines; *flux* – flowing), had many causes, the most common and serious of which was Typhoid Fever. The fluxes caused more sickness and disabled more armies, and caused more deaths than any other agent or force throughout the entire war. When stricken with the flux, water, minerals and nutrients were freely lost, the intestinal walls became ulcerated, and

bloody stools soon followed. Various microbes then readily entered the circulation and rapidly spread infection throughout the body. Robert Koch, the first scientist to verify the germ theory of disease, didn't publish his postulates until 1890. Until that time, the cause of the fluxes remained a mystery.

On 21 October 1861, Forrest experienced chills, fever, and dysentery, which incapacitated him until 4 November 1861. At Fort Donelson on 15 February 1862, a solid cannon shot passed behind his leg, immediately killing his horse and violently sending him to the ground. His recovery from numbness in both legs was slow but complete. At Shiloh on 8 April 1862, a 58-caliber ball from a Lorenz rifle entered his abdomen just above his left hip, traversed the muscle of his back, and lodged near his spine. His right leg, paralyzed, hung useless in the stirrup. Furloughed to Memphis for three weeks, Forrest returned to duty although his wound was seriously infected and quite painful. The ball was finally removed. As before, Forrest fully recovered and returned to the field on 15 June 1862. On 17 September 1862 he was unhorsed and fell to the ground, this time dislocating his right shoulder. He refused to leave the field and accepted command of all operations in middle Tennessee. Once again, Forrest was unhorsed in February 1863, but this time, his injuries were minor.

At Columbus, Tennessee, a former artillery officer, Lt. Andrew Wells Gould attempted to assassinate Forrest. The bullet from Gould's pistol, shot at close range, entered Forrest's left hip, struck the pelvic bone, and was deflected upward, where it passed through his abdomen without damaging any vital structures. Forrest stabbed his

(Continued on page 5)

LT. GEN. NATHAN BEDFORD FORREST, CSA

(continued from page 4)

would-be assassin with his knife and refused to have the ball removed. This time, his recovery was delayed because of considerable blood loss and he did not return to the saddle until 25 June 1863. Prior to the Battle of Chickamauga in September 1863, Forrest was wounded but as before, refused to leave the field. When his horse fell at Fort Pillow on 25 April 1864, Forrest suffered only minor injuries. Although his activity was restricted by exhaustion and extreme fatigue, Forrest refused to relinquish his command.

After the Battle of Brice's Crossroads on 11 June 1864, Forrest fainted, fell from his horse, and remained unconscious for approximately one hour. Throughout this time, fainting spells, extreme exhaustion, infected skin abscesses and episodes of dysentery continued to be his nemesis. At the Battle of Tupelo on 15 July 1864, Forrest was shot in the right foot at the base of the great toe. Once the hemorrhage had been controlled, he mounted his horse and, as he had done many, many times before, led his troops from the front. Healing of the foot wound was delayed. Although he couldn't place his foot in a boot, Forrest nevertheless continued to command his troops - from a farm buggy. During fighting at Ebenezer Church in Alabama, Forrest received multiple saber bruises about the head and shoulders.

Throughout the remainder of the war, Forrest's health continued its deterioration, which had first begun prior to April 1864. Recurrent skin abscesses, episodes of diarrhea, and poor wound healing most likely intensified his latent diabetes mellitus. Although diabetes can emerge at any age, overt disease usually occurs between the ages of 40 to 60 years. Disturbances in insulin production lead to the interference of carbohydrate metabolism and result in the classic tetrad of constant thirst, increased sugar in the urine, increased appetite, and weight loss. Forrest exhibited these signs and symptoms, especially the caloric deficit caused by the increased loss of sugar in his urine. Diabetes mellitus is a chronic, incurable, and fatal disease that was unmanageable until the discovery of insulin in 1921.

Although Englishman Matthew Dobson demonstrated the presence of sugar in the urine of diabetics in the 18th century, not much progress was made until the late 19th century, when the removal of a dog's pancre-

as produced a disease in canines similar to diabetes in man.

Following the war, Nathan Bedford Forrest returned to his plantation



where he continued to experience declining health. Mary Ann, Nathan's wife, observed his persistent weight loss despite

his ravenous appetite. Since diabetics are unable to utilize glucose without insulin, large amounts of calories are lost every day. The body compensates for the deficit by breaking down muscle protein to keep up with the caloric demand, resulting in decreased muscle mass, weakness, fatigue, and profound weight loss. By 1873, Forrest was experiencing recurrent episodes of explosive diabetic diarrhea.

Owing to his declining health, he sought benefit from the healing waters of Hurricane Springs in Tennessee. Unable to leave his bed, Forrest was transported back to Memphis. He weighed 100 pounds when he passed away in a diabetic coma on 29 October 1877. Lieutenant General Nathan Bedford Forrest was buried in Memphis' Elmwood Cemetery.

In 1904, he and his wife were re-interred and their remains were moved to their final resting place in a city park originally named Forrest Park in his honor.

Friends of Fort Fisher present a Bluegrass Concert
featuring IBMA award winners

Balsam Range

Saturday, Nov. 1, 2014 7 pm
Odell Williamson Auditorium

Brunswick Community College, 50 College Road NW, Bolivia, NC 28422



Call 910-755-7416 or
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or visit on the web at www.bccowa.com

Proceeds benefit Fort Fisher State Historic Site



Fort Fisher's December 6, 2014 program sets the stage for 150th commemoration

Story by John Moseley



On Saturday, December 6, Fort Fisher will host re-enactors for a one day program entitled "We Kept Our Courage Up." This program will focus on commemorating the first Federal attack on Fort Fisher in December 1864. The Confederate defenders at Fort Fisher withstood a heavy naval bombardment and a floating bomb. Civil War re-enactors will set up displays of camp life and talk with visitors about the life of the soldiers, sailors and Marines from both sides of the December 1864 campaign.

Throughout the day, Fort Fisher will be firing the site's 32-pound Seacoast Rifled and Banded cannon. Costumed interpreters will be on hand to interpret the drill and equipment of the massive rifled cannon that would have been found at Fort Fisher during the attack in December 1864. The 32-pound cannon will be fired at 10 am, 12 pm, 2 pm, and 4 pm. Also on hand will be a Confederate infantry unit that will conduct the manual of arms and firing demonstrations. They will be holding their demonstrations at 11:00 am, 1:00 pm and 3:00 pm. All Fort Fisher programming is made possible through the support of the Friends of Fort Fisher and its sustaining

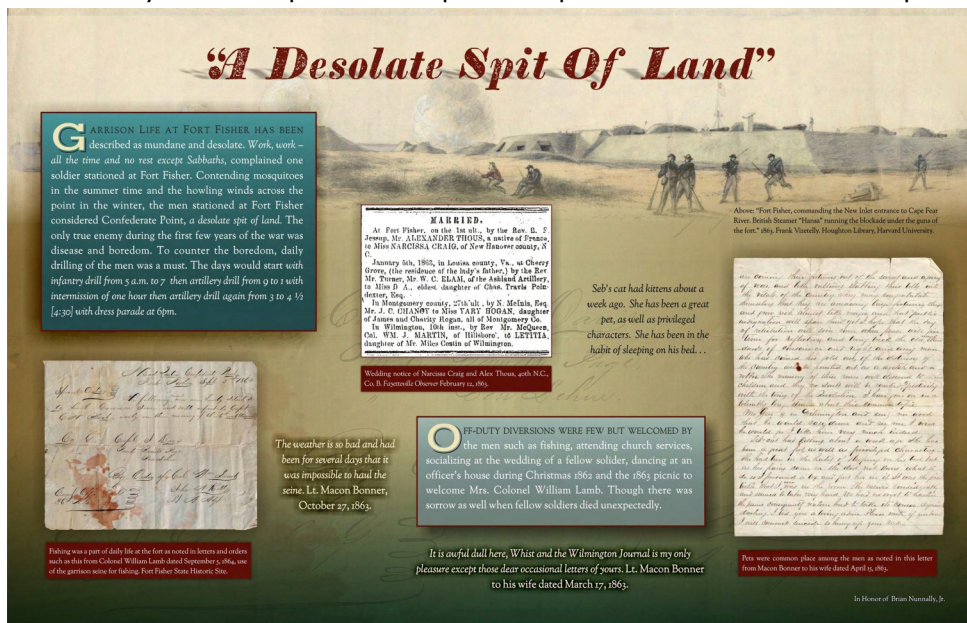
members: Troy & Lori Barbour, Dr. Edward Halloran, Ernest Kniffen, Mike McCarley, Patrick O. McCullough, Jack and Tammy Moore, Dr. Brian K. Nunnally, and Jim & Catherine Taylor.

Fort Fisher staff working diligently to develop 19 new wayside exhibit panels for tour trail

Story by Becky Sawyer

For the past year or so, the Fort Fisher staff has been hard at work researching and discovering new topics to write on for the wayside exhibits. Following the site's new interpretation plan and the goal to have new interpretive panels in place by the 150th Anniversary, the staff has put together 19 new wayside exhibit panels. These panels are phase one of the revised and expand-

ed walking trails project. The goal is to replace the existing and outdated wayside panels along the tour trail with panels that discuss current and/or newly discovered topics and images. The staff also wanted to highlight human interest stories such as garrison life, the soldier's garden, and post-war occupation, none of which has been done before. Also, the addition of color battle maps on the 2nd battle of Fort Fisher battlefield panels will enhance the interpretation of the battle. Panels directly behind the visitor center will feature the four O'Sullivan images showing the entire land face of Fort Fisher in a panoramic view. Funding for these panels would not be possible without the generous support of the Friends of Fort Fisher, its sustaining members, and active and amazing design staff in Raleigh. So be sure to come visit us in 2015 when we



The Rebel Rose, part



Story by Ray Flowers

Rose O'Neal Greenhow, a.k.a. the notorious "Rebel Rose" was a renowned Confederate spy and Southern emissary. She was born in Maryland about thirty-five miles northwest of Washington, D.C. in 1813 or 1814. Rose was the middle child of five girls born to John and Eliza O'Neal who were Roman Catholic, planters and slave owners.

The O'Neal's enjoyed modest wealth from their production of wheat and tobacco until 1817 when John was murdered by one of his slaves. In the wake of O'Neal's death the family faced increasing financial hardship and by 1828 the family was so destitute that Eliza was forced to send two of her daughters (Rose and an older sibling) to the capital city to live with their aunt.

In D.C., Eliza's sister and her husband ran a boarding house in the Old Brick Capitol that catered to Southern politicians, justices and other distinguished visitors. While living under her aunt and uncle's roof, Rose was introduced to numerous prestigious boarders.

In time she would make the acquaintance of virtually everyone of importance in Washington Society and the likes of John C. Calhoun, Dolly Madison, Daniel Webster, Roger Brooke Taney, Henry Clay, Jefferson Davis and James Buchanan would be counted among her many intimates and associates.

In 1835 Rose married a man fifteen years her senior, Dr. Robert Greenhow Jr. He was a highly regarded employee of the state department and their union produced eight children. Sadly, in 1854 Rose like her mother was widowed in an untimely manner when Robert was killed in an accident in San Francisco, California. Despite the tragedy Dr. Greenhow had left the family financially secure. During the interim following her husband's death and the election of Abraham Lincoln in

1860, Rose busied herself in Washington supporting President James Buchanan and furthering the Southern Democratic agenda.

When war broke out in 1861



"Rebel Rose" Greenhow

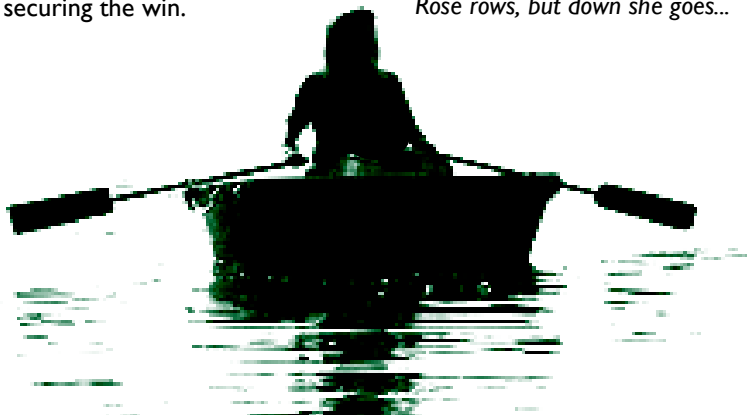
there could be no doubt where Mrs. Greenhow's sympathies lay. In July, she sent two messages to Confederate General Beauregard alerting him to the impending Federal advance on his position at Manassas, Virginia.

In the wake of the Rebel victory on the 21st Confederate President Jefferson Davis credited Rose's intelligence with securing the win.

Suspected of espionage Mrs. Greenhow was placed under house arrest the following month by the head of the Secret Service Allan Pinkerton. Amidst mounting evidence agents eventually searched her home where they discovered maps of Washington defenses and other military information that led to her transfer to Old Capitol Prison in January of '62. Not to be dissuaded in her clandestine activities she continued to blatantly oppose her captors; at one point she displayed a Confederate flag from her prison window. By the end of the following May the Federals were so frustrated by her continued defiance that they banished her from the North.

Deported to the Confederate Capitol of Richmond, Virginia she received a heroine's welcome upon her arrival. Over the next year Rose composed her memoir, *My Imprisonment and the First Year of Abolition Rule at Washington*. During that time Confederate hopes of foreign intervention on behalf of the South had begun to dissipate. Two Southern invasions into the North had been turned back while the issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation had altered the war's policy in the eyes of the world. In a last ditch effort to rekindle support for the rebellion abroad the president dispatched Rose on what could only be considered a long-shot mission to gain European recognition for the Confederacy.

Editor's Note: Stay tuned for part 2 of "The Rebel Rose" in the Winter 2015 issue of The Powder Magazine, in which Rose rows, but down she goes...



Welcome New Friends of Fort Fisher

Edward & Margaret Barclay
Wilmington, NC

Susan Taylor Block
Wilmington, NC

Phyllis M. Buie
Wilmington, NC

Robert & Katie Brewer
Gaithersburg, MD

Blockade Runner Chapter 2428, UDC
Wrightsville Beach, NC

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Two X Two Lifestyle Photography
Wrightsville Beach, NC

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

Mark your calendar...



Friends of Fort Fisher Annual Meeting

When: Saturday, November 15, 2014
Where: Fort Fisher State Historic Site
Time: 10:00 am-11:30 am
Agenda: Review accomplishments, elect directors, get preview of 150th Fort Fisher Anniversary Observance events



Please note: anyone interested in being considered for serving as a new director should contact Executive Director Paul Laird at (910) 612-7067 by October 15. Please RSVP for Annual Meeting by November 10, 2014



Fort Fisher Holiday Open House

--Free & open to the public--

Tuesday, December 9, 2014
10 am – 4 pm



Enjoy seasonal refreshments, decorations, and entertainment throughout the day, with performances by the Murray Middle School Jazz Band, John Golden as Blockade Runner Captain Roberts, and Dr. John Bennett and Masonboro Parlor presenting period music and dance. Enjoy a 25% discount in the Museum Shop and join us for our 2014 Musket Raffle Drawing.

Sponsored by the Friends of Fort Fisher and Fort Fisher Chapter 2325, UDC

Fort Fisher State Historic Site

1610 Fort Fisher Blvd. South

Kure Beach, NC 28449

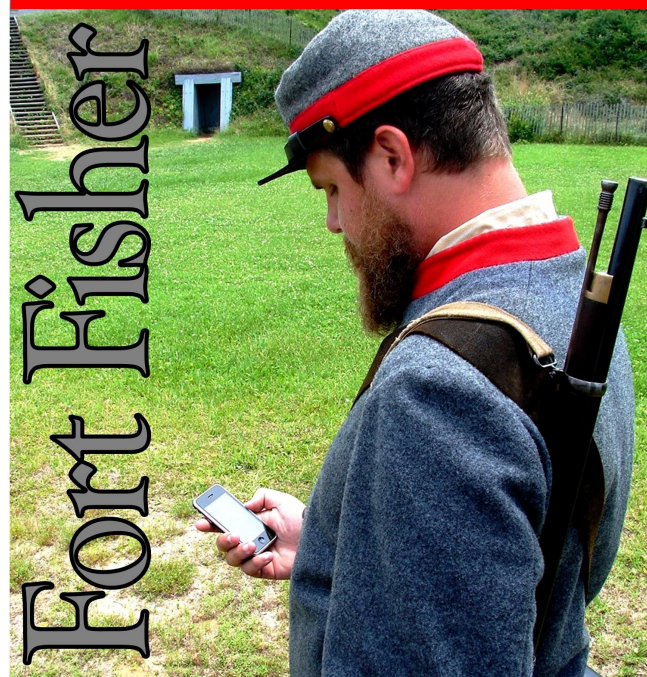
Phone: (910) 458-5538

E-mail: fisher@ncdcr.gov

www.nchistoricsites.org/fisher

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of Fort Fisher? Please visit
www.friendsoffortfisher.com

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Interactive Video Tour
for Smart Phones & Tablets



QR Code tour map available
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