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The Powder Magazine



VOLUME 3, ISSUE 4

FALL 2011

Fort Fisher Fall Festival slated for Oct. 22

Ready for some fun this Fall? Join us Saturday, October 22, as Fort Fisher State Historic Site hosts the Fort Fisher Fall Festival from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Highlighting this event will be scenic hayrides, children's activities, guided tours, and multiple firings of the site's "big gun," the 32-pound rifled and banded cannon.

This free event will also mark the debut of a special new exhibit: the Freeman Medal of Honor and its associated artifacts. At 1:30 p.m. in the visitor's center, Curator of History Ray Flowers will discuss

the history of this exhibit, including the acquisition of these impressive Civil War artifacts



and the brave soldier behind the medal. Tours of the site will be offered at 9: 30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., and 3:30 pm. Cannon firings are scheduled for 10 a.m., 12 noon,

2 p.m., 4 p.m., and 5:30 p.m. This schedule, along with other program components, is subject to change due to circumstances beyond the site's control. Visitors, residents, and motorists are advised that noise from cannon firings is extremely loud.

Visitors are warned to stay out of barricaded safety ranges for their own protection. No smoking is allowed in the firing areas.

Visitors are also cautioned to please turn down hearing aids, warn children, and control pets during all firings.

For more information on the event, contact Ray Flowers at 910 -458-5538.

Friends of Fort Fisher announce Annual Meeting you don't want to miss Nov. 12

The Civil War Sesquicentennial is in full swing and Fort Fisher is at the nexus for commemoration in the region. Join Friends members for a grand afternoon of great friends, a wonderful program and a very special announcement regarding site enhancements soon to take place. On Saturday, Nov. 12, be the first to hear all about it at 12:00 noon under the big walled tent behind the visitor center while enjoying a delicious meal prepared by Middle of the Island catering. Deputy State Archaeologist Mark Wilde-Ramsing will re-



Mark Wilde-Ramsing

gale members with plans for the upcoming 50th anniversary of

underwater archaeology in North Carolina and the project that started it all – the story of the blockade runner *Modern Greece* and the recovery of thousands of her artifacts in 1962 and their continuing conservation today at the Underwater Archaeology Branch lab at Fort Fisher. A new exhibit on the *Modern Greece* is scheduled to open in the Fort Fisher Museum at the January 2012 battle observance.

For information and member reservations please contact Paul Laird at 910-612-7067 or by email at info@friendsoffortfisher.com.

By Paul Laird, Dev. Director

From the Site Manager's Desk



Dear Friends:

Fall has arrived at Fort Fisher. The crowds of summertime tourists are gone, replaced by a steady stream of snowbirds passing through on the way to warmer climes. This is my favorite time of the year. After a long summer I welcome the cooler temperatures and the changing scenery. In mid-September I took a photo along the oceanfront revetment wall. The north wind was chilly, the sea was black and churning, and the heavy clouds were spitting rain. The new look is beautiful and dramatic, and I cannot get enough of it. It was one of those days when I realize how fortunate I am to work at the greatest historic site in North Carolina. I encourage everyone to visit Fort Fisher this fall and winter; without the blazing sun and beachgoers one acquires a whole new perspective.

In September, site staff and volunteers had to say a sad goodbye. Amy Manor Thornton, Fort Fisher's assistant manager and program coordinator, has moved on to new challenges at the Cape Fear Museum. For four years, Amy produced outstanding educational programs and special events and kept the trains running on time. Her vision for Fort Fisher was to make it the premier Civil War battlefield in the nation, and she gave 100% moving Fort Fisher in that direction every day. Amy's winning attitude and gracious personality are missed here, but we wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

Enjoy this issue of *The Powder Magazine*; lots of great stuff here! Best regards, Jim

Museum Store Corner by Becky Sawyer

Coffee, candles, and Christmas ornaments

In this edition of the Museum Store Corner ---we are highlighting some new and exciting items for the Fall/Winter season here at Fort Fisher.

First is the Federal Point Lighthouse ornament. The ornament focuses on the history of the 2nd Federal Point Lighthouse which was in service from 1837-1863 and originally stood in the area of current day Battle Acre. The brass ornament will highlight the image of the lighthouse painted by Captain George Tait as seen in our museum exhibits and the architectural drawing



of the lighthouse created by a local draftsman at Cape Fear Community College. We anticipate the ornament arriv-

ing in December/January.

Our second addition to the store will be the debut of "Battery Buchanan Blend" coffee. Based from historic civil war coffee recipes – this coffee is a special blend of South American coffee and Chicory – a commonly used plant during the war as a coffee substitute. Sold in approx. 1 pound bags – this coffee has been made especially for the *Friends of Fort Fisher* – all sales proceeds from not only our museum store but also from the supplier's on-line store will benefit the site (visit

www.beecherscoffee.com). As incentive for our members -- be sure to see the 10% coupon off of *Battery Buchanan Blend* on page 9 of this edition of *The Powder Magazine*.

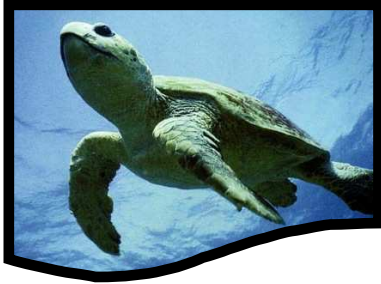
The holiday season is rapidly approaching, so be sure to check out our new products - whether it is Christmas ornaments, Civil War recipe coffee or our great smelling candles such as our new "Pumpkin Spice" to perk up the room – it can all be found in the museum store at Fort Fisher. Pick up something special for the history lover in your family.

New
Products



Life at the Fort

BY
Jessica Sutton



Fort Fisher fauna: predawn visitor quietly leaves nest and tracks along beach strand

Given Fort Fisher's proximity to the Atlantic Ocean, it's not uncommon for site personnel to encounter many different types of marine life. On a clear morning in early August, we had a rare and endangered visitor—a loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*). She was already gone by the time we realized she had come ashore, which is the case with most nesting sea turtles since they typically nest under the cover of darkness. All she left were her nest of precious eggs and a set of distinctive tracks in the sand. As you can see in the photo below, sea turtle tracks look remarkably like a tractor tire track. At North Carolina beaches, for 6 to 8 weeks every summer beginning in mid to late May and ending in early to mid July, loggerheads come ashore to lay their eggs. A nesting in early August, like the one we encountered, is less common but not unheard of. Because the nest was laid in an area that

is known to wash out in the event of a tropical system and because of its proximity to the revetment wall, the staff relocated the nest to the safety of the beach by the south gazebo. Jackie Cullipher from Fort Fisher State Recreation Area came to assist and collect the necessary data for NC Wildlife Resources Commission. There were 103 eggs in the nest, which is an average number for a loggerhead. One egg was taken for DNA analysis for further research on the nesting habits of these creatures. The eggs themselves look like ping pong balls in size and color, but they are leathery like most other reptile eggs. It takes about 60 days of incubation before the eggs hatch. The hatchlings are tiny compared to the size of their parents. They only weigh a few ounces and are small enough to fit in the palm of your hand.

Continued on page 4



Friends of Fort Fisher Board of Directors

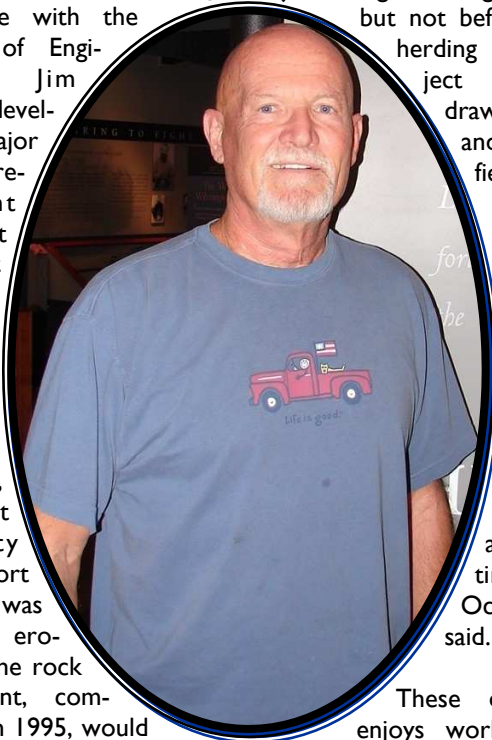
Meet Our Board: James T. (Jim) Carper

Meet Jim Carper, retired engineer, retired military man and very active Granddad. A man of many talents, Jim's professional and military experience reflects the life of a patriot and patriarch in big demand.

A self-described general contractor, Carper retired as deputy Adjutant General of the 30th Brigade Army National Guard and as director of the National Guard Training Center. He left the National Guard in 1999 after 31 years of service.

Though born in Virginia, Jim considers himself a native North Carolinian because he moved here at such a young age. Living in Raleigh, the former NCSU civil engineering student and ROTC graduate would garner much of his practical military experience in Vietnam. Years later, he would settle back in North Carolina and work in the US Army Corps of Engineers'

Wilmington office. During his time with the Corps of Engineers, Jim helped develop a major rock revetment project at Fort Fisher State Historic Site. Over the decades, the vast majority of Fort Fisher was lost to erosion. The rock revetment, completed in 1995, would help slow the effects of the erosion on the site. Carper retired shortly after the pro-



Jim Carper

ject was given the green light, but not before shepherding the project off the drawing board and into the field.

"We had to break ground in September (1995) and I retired in October," he said.

These days, Jim enjoys working with his hands and spending time with his family, which includes six children and 11

grandchildren. He also enjoys serving on the board of the Friends of Fort Fisher, crediting his fellow board member Earl Lane with encouraging him to stay active at Fort Fisher.

Asked what people should take away from a visit to Fort Fisher, Carper said, "We're talking about an important national treasure here. People need to realize that it deserves our respect and protection. The historical and military significance of this site is tremendous." Carper should know. While serving in his country, he was decorated 12 times, including being awarded the Bronze Star medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, and the Humanitarian Service Medal, among others.

By Si Lawrence, III, Media Specialist

Fort Fisher Fauna, continued from page 3

Loggerheads got their name because of the large size and brownish color of their heads. Sailors often mistook them for logs in the water. They have powerful jaws which enable them to eat a diet consisting of crustaceans, marine snails (including whelks and conchs), and occasionally fish, seaweed (or sargassum) and even jellyfish. They can weigh up to 300 pounds with the shells growing as large as 3 feet across. They live to be at least 50 years old in the wild. It is commonly thought female sea turtles lay multiple nests in a breeding season then do not lay a nest again for a few years. They are also thought to be about 30 years old when they start breeding.

Sadly, despite our efforts, this story does not have the happy ending we had hoped for: we believe the nest did not likely survive the impact of Hurricane Irene to our area. Given the fact that loggerheads are a federally-protected endangered species, this was truly unfortunate. For the record, it is unlawful to disturb a nesting female or the nest after it is laid without the supervision of authorities trained in the care and management of sea turtle nests. Hopefully, Mother Nature will continue to send more of these welcome visitors to Fort Fisher.



Katie Shilling of Morrisville, NC, was among the many who thought last summer's 2nd Saturdays programs were a blast. The free events combined history, arts, and heritage at NC's historic sites and museums.



Civil War Medicine , Part 1 of 2

General Braxton Bragg, CSA

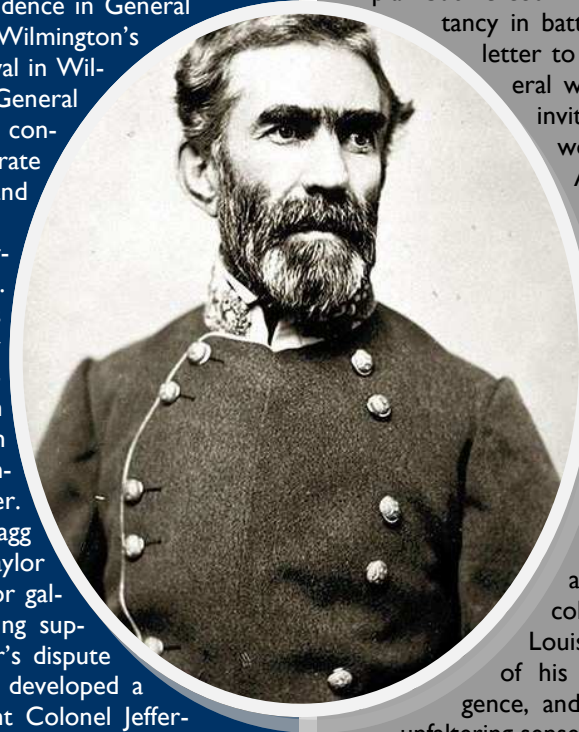
By Jack Hisley, MD

“General Braxton Bragg is going to Wilmington. Good-bye Wilmington.”- Richmond Examiner 26 Oct 1864

In response to the Examiner editorial, the editor of the Wilmington Daily Journal expressed outrage that the Examiner editor should make such a flippant comment about Bragg’s return to his native state. The Daily Journal editor exclaimed: “Wilmington has confidence in General Bragg’s ability to provide for Wilmington’s defense.” At the time of his arrival in Wilmington on 22 October 1864, General Bragg was the most despised and controversial officer in the Confederate Army. Was this sentiment fair and just?

Braxton Bragg was born in Warrington, NC on 22 March 1817. After graduating fifth in his class at the United States Military Academy by age 20, he was commissioned Second Lieutenant in the United States Army. As an artilleryist, Bragg served in the Seminole Wars and on the frontier. During the War with Mexico, Bragg served under General Zachary Taylor and was brevetted three times for gallantry. Because of his unwavering support of General Taylor in Taylor’s dispute with General Winfield Scott, he developed a lifelong friendship with Lieutenant Colonel Jefferson Davis, who was Zachary Taylor’s son-in-law. After the War with Mexico, Braxton Bragg, who was held in high regard by his comrades-in-arms, returned home a hero. In 1856, Bragg resigned his commission in the US Army to become a Louisiana planter. While living in Louisiana, he used his civil engineering skills to design a drainage and levee system for the state.

When Louisiana seceded in 1861, Braxton Bragg accepted a commission as Major General in the Louisiana Militia. Because of his war experience, he was appointed Brigadier General in the regular army of the Confederacy on 7 March 1861 and was given command of the gulf coast between Mobile and Pensacola. On 12 April 1861, Braxton Bragg was promoted to full general and soon relieved Major General



P.G.T. Beauregard, becoming the Commander of the Army of Tennessee. While in this post, Bragg frequently demonstrated his ineptitude for high command. As author Tom Connolly commented in his book *Army of the Heartland*, “Bragg’s worst fault as a leader was his constant fear of making a mistake and his hesitancy in committing his troops. He could drill but he could not engage; he could plan but he could not change his mind.” Of his hesitancy in battle, a southern woman wrote in a letter to her friend: “My dear, if the General were near the gates of heaven and invited in at the critical moment, he would fall back.”

At this time in his life, Bragg seemed to become dysfunctional. He developed horrible interpersonal relationships, constantly blaming others for his failures. As a result, he continually had major quarrels with most all of the middle and senior leadership in the Army of Tennessee. His behavior seemed out of character to those who had served with him during the Seminole Wars, the War with Mexico, and the frontier, as well as with colleagues during his planter days in Louisiana. His friends had often spoken of his high moral character, his intelligence, and his planning skills, as well as his unfaltering sense of duty.

Because of Bragg’s difficulties in the west, Jefferson Davis transferred him to Richmond where he assumed administrative duties. On 26 October 1864, Bragg was named commander of the newly formed Department of North Carolina and moved to Wilmington where he served for the remainder of the war. After the battle of Bentonville, NC, Bragg joined Davis in Richmond. He was captured along with Davis on 9 May 1865 in Georgia. After his parole, Bragg served as Chief Engineer for the State of Alabama, and was charged with navigation improvements in Mobile Bay.

Stay tuned for part 2 of this story coming in the Jan issue of The Powder Magazine.

Private William H. Freeman, 169th New York Volunteers, and recipient of the Medal of Honor

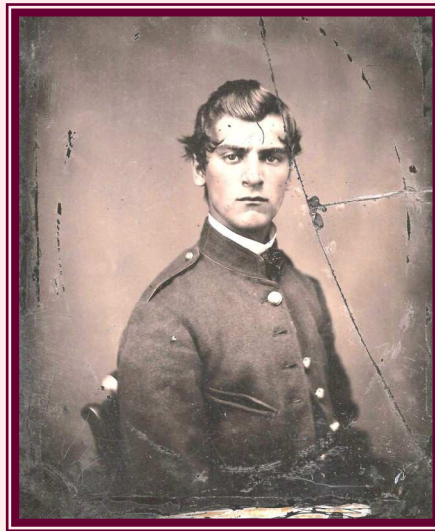
Fort Fisher, North Carolina – January 15, 1865: At approximately 3:45 p.m. Colonel Louis Bell's veteran Third Brigade, Second Division, XXIV Army Corps was ordered into the fray. About 1,100 strong and charging in echelon from right to left were the 169th New York, 4th New Hampshire, 115th New York and the 13th Indiana. The oblique maneuver brought the third wave onto the Wilmington Road where with Bell in the vanguard they continued south in the direction of the River Road Sally Port and the Western Salient of the fort.

Colonel Alonzo Alden of the 169th New York recalled, "... the column moved to the front and right, diagonally, over a very uneven surface, encountering sand dunes and swamps; bursting shells, grape and canister, and sharpshooters' bullets, occasioning casualties with great frequency in all the regiments of the brigade, until at last we struck a road leading over a bridge that spanned a muddy swale or brook, over which the enemy's projectiles swept, producing many casualties." But just as the column approached the wagon bridge fronting the gate the twenty-seven year old brigade commander was felled by a musket ball.

Now brigade command devolved to Colonel Alonzo Alden while subsequent command of the regiment fell to Lieutenant Colonel James Colvin. Alden would write that, "The charging column passed the northwest flank of the fort and the sally port just at that point, to the rear of the northwest wing, and deployed under the cover of the elevated sand banks and sand mounds ... From this alignment, the Third Brigade fought the Confederate garrison of this northwest wing over the heaps of rubbish, wrecks of gun carriages, barracks and broken guns..."

Led by Alden into the vortex of the maelstrom the colors of the 4th New Hampshire (Bell's old regiment) the 115th New York and 13th Indiana were

soon upon the parapet and traverses of Shepherd's Battery. Though mortally wounded, Bell was informed of the developments along the ramparts of Fort Fisher. He rallied momentarily and bade those attending him, "Lift me up a little, if you please...I want to see my colors on the parapet." The attendants complied and the dying colonel was heard to say, "I am satisfied." [Sadly, Bell never saw the six week old son, Louis Junior, who would be baptized by the com-



mander's coffin. Compounding the tragedy, just four months later his beautiful widowed wife, Molly, passed away; it was said that she grieved herself to death.]

About five o'clock, with the assault stymied the Third Brigade was ordered forward again. At this time an action ensued that Congress would eventually recognize and that Alden would never forget, "A little circumstance occurring at this juncture was indelibly stamped upon my memory because of the bravery involved. I had in my hand a substitute for the brigade headquarters flag; the color bearer had either been shot or for some reason was absent. I called for someone to take the colors. My private orderly who was with me called out, "I will carry your colors, Colonel." I had a just pride in my orderly, who was only 16 years old when he enlisted as a private. The young hero, William H. Free-

man, takes equal pride in his narration of this crisis to his friends and companions."

The 169th's regimental commander, Lieutenant Colonel Colvin, would also note Freeman's bravery, and though the young private would survive the charge unscathed many of his comrades would not. By the time the Confederates capitulated at least 115 officers and men from the Third Brigade had been killed or wounded, forty from the 169th New York alone. For this daring act Private Freeman would eventually be awarded his country's highest military award – the Medal of Honor. Of the nine army officers and men who received the Medal of Honor for actions at Fort Fisher, Freeman was the only one from the Third Brigade.

Flash forward to the present: On behalf of Fort Fisher State Historic Site, it is with great pleasure that I thank the descendants of Private William H. Freeman 169th New York Volunteers for their recent and generous donation. Among the accessioned personal effects of Private Freeman are to be found an original beautiful hand tinted tin-type image of the young soldier in uniform, (An expensive image I would assume, the buttons on his uniform have been gilded and color has been added to the cheeks of his face.) This image was donated by Ms. Shirley Hoffman. A flag bearing the legend **FORT FISHER**., his GAR pin, and in its' original case – his Medal of Honor, were donated by Mr. James Freeman. Ms. Hoffman also submitted a copy of an image showing Freeman late in life wearing a suit and the GAR Badge. For the site, the acquisition of these most thoughtful gifts on the eve of the Civil War Sesquicentennial is serendipitous indeed.

It is also at this time that I would like to thank Mr. Steven Weizbicki, who has to be the foremost authority on the 169th New York Volunteers, for his tireless time and interest and most generous submissions of information on both the unit and the man. Most of the his-

Private William H. Freeman, continued from page 6

torical documentation culled from this article was submitted by Mr. Weizbicki.

Post Script: The flag is comprised of three vertical bars of blue, white and red, bearing the words "Fort Fisher" (possibly added post war) across the center bar and is suspected of being a signal flag. Interestingly enough Alden (who would be promoted to Brevet Brigadier General for his services at Fort Fisher) recorded that in the wake of the battle, "The writer, in connection with several other officers, availed himself of the privilege and the comforts of the general headquarters bombproof, where were several cots with luxurious bedding. He occupied the cot evidently belonging to Colonel Lamb, the Confederate commander of Fort Fisher, upon which he found a sea glass and a signal flag that had been used in the Confederate service."

Then on July 5, 1876 in celebration of the country's centennial, **The Troy Daily Times** reported that, "At Gen. Alden's house on North Second street, in addition to the tasteful drapery, we noticed a flag bearing the words "Fort Fisher," which was taken by Gen. Alden's command at the storming of that fort."

Both General Alden and his orderly Private Freeman called Troy, New York home. Mr. Weizbicki has surmised that upon the General's passing in 1900, that his widow passed the flag to Freeman. Today, both General Alden and Private Freeman rest in Oakwood Cemetery in Troy New York.



By Ray Flowers, Curator of History

Save the Date



Tuesday
Dec. 6, 2011

Holiday Open House
10:00 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Fort Fisher

Friends of Fort Fisher and UDC to host Holiday Open House on Tues, Dec. 6

You are invited to a Holiday Open House at Fort Fisher State Historic Site on Tuesday, Dec. 6, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Enjoy our wassail bowl, decorations, refreshments, and live seasonal music of the period. Special one-time discounts for all purchases in the museum store for that history lover on your gift list. This free event will be held in the visitor's center. The event is sponsored by the Friends of Fort Fisher and the Fort Fisher Chapter No. 2325 UDC.



Happy Holidays!



Friends partner with UNCW's Cameron School of Business for marketing plan

Friends of Fort Fisher is pleased to announce a new partnership with UNCW's Cameron School of Business.

Two Promotions Management marketing classes led by instructor and Clove Marketing President Tori Jones have undertaken work on producing a comprehensive marketing plan for the Friends and Fort Fisher State Historic Site.

The marketing students are being immersed in all things Fort Fisher, and will report the following deliverables to the Friends this December: ID of target groups and stakeholders, message development for identified groups, ways to improve the visitor experience, internal recognition, reward and training programs, social networking and website plan, membership retention and recruit-

ment, public relations plan including a publicity and event calendar, advertising plan, costs, timeframes for all of the above and an implementation strategy.

This partnership will be of tremendous value to the Friends of Fort Fisher and will provide the UNCW students important hands-on experience in working with "real world" clients. The marketing plan is an outgrowth of the site's new strategic plan that is in the final review stages before formal approval by the NC Department of Cultural Resources.

Ongoing partnerships with UNCW and other public institutions are essential for strategic plan fulfillment and benefit both the students and the historic site.

By Paul Laird, Development Director



**NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF
CULTURAL
RESOURCES**
WWW.NCCULTURE.COM

**Welcome
New
Friends of
Fort Fisher**

James Campen
Red Springs, NC

Alan J. Earl
Carolina Beach, NC

Frank & Margaret Fisher
Kure Beach, NC

Don Hatch
Spring Grove, IL

William C. Johnson
Fremont, MI

Adam Medlin
Sanford, NC

Brad Owens
Fort Mill, SC

David Peglau &
Dottie Hickok
Fayetteville, NC

Jim Ring
Kure Beach, NC

Rita's Italian Ice
Wilmington, NC

Sweet Bliss, LLC
Wilmington, NC

Jack Travis
Wilmington, NC

Matthew & Hannah Young
Belmont, NC

Wow! 

Clip this coupon for a 10% discount on Battery Buchanan Blend Coffee available at the museum store

Battery Buchanan Blend





10% off

the purchase price of a 1 lb. bag with this coupon

Not valid with any other offer. Expires Dec. 10, 2011.

Civil War Coffee

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
P.O. Box 169 Kure Beach, NC 28449

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Account # _____

Expiration Date _____ 3-digit security code _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Fort Fisher State Historic Site

1610 Fort Fisher Blvd. South

P.O. Box 169

Kure Beach, NC 28449

Phone: (910) 458-5538

E-mail: fisher@ncdcr.gov

www.nchistoricsites.org/fisher



Fort Fisher

Upcoming Events

- ◆ Fort Fisher Fall Festival
October 22, 2011

- ◆ Fort Fisher Annual Meeting
November 12, 2011

- ◆ Holiday Open House
December 6, 2011

- ◆ Lights of the Great Armada
147th Anniversary Battle
January 21-22, 2012



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

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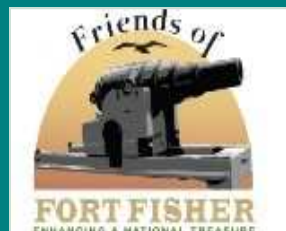
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