

SPECIAL  
POINTS OF  
INTEREST

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## Artificial leg loaned to Fort Fisher reflects a Civil War soldier's sacrifice and 'Phantom Pain'

Thanks to the generosity of the Allen-Malpass family of Castle Hayne and St. Paul's, NC, a rare and interesting Civil War artifact—a soldier's prosthetic leg—has been loaned to Fort Fisher State Historic Site and will ultimately become part of a new temporary exhibit in the museum. Members of the Allen-Malpass family are descendants of Confederate Pvt. David F. Allen (40<sup>th</sup> NC, Company K). Pvt. Allen was seriously wounded at the 2<sup>nd</sup> battle of Fort Fisher in January, 1865. After the fort fell, he was among a group of Confederates sent to a prison camp at Pt. Lookout, Md., where his injured leg was amputated. He was issued the artificial limb—known as a Jewett patent leg—in 1866. The artifact is currently undergoing conservation work.

Ansley Wegner, a research historian with the NC Office of Archives and History, inspected the loaned artifact and, after investigating paperwork on



the artifact, determined that it was an authentic, registered Jewett leg. Ms. Wegner is an author and leading authority on NC Civil War amputees. According to her published findings, about 75 percent of the operations performed by surgeons during

the Civil War were amputations. For those who survived amputation and the resulting infections, the pursuit of artificial limbs was natural. Artificial legs, and to a lesser extent, arms, also helped

(Continued on page 3)

## Volunteers needed for Park Day 2013 on April 6



As part of Park Day 2013, individual and group volunteers are needed on Saturday, April 6, 2013, to help beautify and preserve Fort Fisher State Historic Site. 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. Volunteers will be treated to lunch provided by the Friends of Fort Fisher, the non-profit group which helps support the site along with its sustaining members—Mike McCarley, Brian Nunnally, Ernie Kniffen, Tammy and Jack Moore, and Jim and Catherine Taylor. To help, please call 910-458-5538,

## From the site manager, James C. Steele



Greetings and welcome to the Spring 2013 issue of *The Powder Magazine*, the official newsletter of Fort Fisher State Historic Site and the Friends of Fort Fisher. Springtime is officially here, but apparently the weather did not get the news. It is cold and downright frosty outside, but Fort Fisher employees are savoring the cool weather, anticipating the summertime heat and humidity we know is on the way. Also on the way is North Carolina's biennial budget for 2013-2015. As I write these words, the proposed budget for the N.C. Department of Cultural Resources contains substantial reductions that may force the closure of some of our state historic sites and museums. However, I want to assure our Friends and guests that Fort Fisher is prepared to weather these hard times.

With more than 500,000 visitors per year, and being located in the heart of our state's most vibrant tourism region, Fort Fisher will remain a priority site in the agency. And with your support we will continue to provide high-quality visitor service and programming. So, if you are not already a member, please take a moment and join the Friends of Fort Fisher. Our partnership with the Friends is key to everything we do here, and it is your opportunity to help make Fort Fisher one of the premier Civil War battlefields in the nation.

In the last issue I told you we were rebuilding the bridge in front of the River Road gate at Shepard's Battery. Well, work has begun and we could not be more pleased with the progress. The new bridge will be stronger, wider, safer and more attractive than the old one. By the time you read this it will be completed and ready to accommodate thousands of happy summertime tourists. Have a wonderful spring and visit soon!

Sincerely,  
Jim Steele

## Fort Fisher Wish List

- ◆ Gas leaf blower
- ◆ Cordless drill
- ◆ Upright vacuum
- ◆ Push/riding mower
- ◆ Pressure washer
- ◆ Floor polisher
- ◆ Utility/golf cart

Donated items go to the Friends of Fort Fisher, a non-profit 501 (c) (3) and your donation is tax deductible. Please call 910-458-5538.

THE POWDER MAGAZINE

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# Visitors, it's for you...

## Smartphone QR code tour coming to Fort Fisher



Look for a new adventure this summer at Fort Fisher. In addition to the ever-popular self-guided and interpreter-led tours, a new low cost service will be available for visitors with smart phones to explore even more stories of Fort Fisher.

The Friends of Fort Fisher has developed a new 10-stop tour that utilizes QR codes to convey short stories through narration, film clips and other graphics. Each stop narration lasts between 60-90 seconds. The tour encompasses the main trail around the remnants of the fort, as well as areas across the highway including the oceanside trail and Battle Acre. This new tour may be taken at your leisure in any order or sequence.

The Friends worked with noted historian/entertainer John C. Golden to record tour narrations that were written by site staff members and Friends director Paul Laird. Carolina Video Edit Centers' Monte Coughlin and Rich Gehron produced the recorded narration and created the graphics, musical background, and video clips for the supporting web sites. We are also indebted to "Confederate Goliath" producer Patrick Weaver for allowing us to use video clips from the documentary video (available in our Museum Shop).

For a small charge, visitors may purchase the tour at the front desk and will be given a site map with the tour site stops identified and QR Codes printed for easy smartphone scanning.

We are excited to launch this new interpretive service at Fort Fisher. All funds raised by the purchase of the QR Code Tour will remain at Fort Fisher to help provide for more great programs and events for the public.

## Artificial leg (continued from page 1)

the amputees get back to work in order to support themselves and their families.

Ms. Wegner said the United States government assisted Union amputees after the Civil War, but Confederate veterans were considered the responsibilities of the states. North Carolina responded quickly to the needs of her citizens and became the first of the former Confederate states to offer artificial limbs to amputees. The General Assembly passed a Resolution in February 1866 to provide artificial legs to amputees. Artificial arms were offered later. The state contracted with Jewett's Patent Leg Company, and a temporary factory was set up in Raleigh. During the five years that the state operated the artificial limbs program, 1,550 Confederate veterans contacted the state for help.

Ms. Wegner is the author of *Phantom Pain: North Carolina's Artificial-Limbs Program for Confederate Veterans*. The book is available through the NC Historical Publications Section in Raleigh, N.C.

Save the Date



May 11, 2013, 4 pm



Confederate Memorial  
Day Service at Fort Fisher

Sponsored by Fort Fisher Chapter 2325, UDC



## Civil War Medicine:

# MG Robert Frederick Hoke, CSA

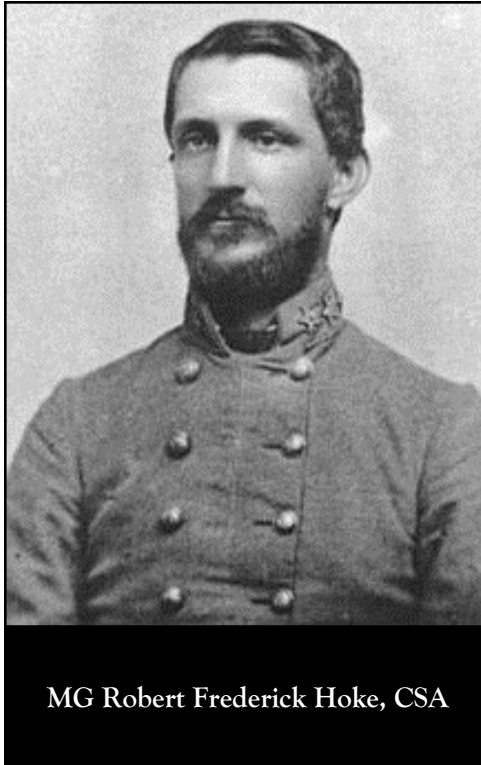
By Jack Hisley, MD

Robert Hoke, son of Michael Hoke, was born in Lincolnton, NC on 27 May 1837. In 1844, Michael died of a heart attack during his campaign for governor of North Carolina. He left behind his young wife Francis, seven-year-old Robert, and his little sister Mary.

Robert's formal education began at the Lincolnton Academy and culminated at the Kentucky Military Institute. Before completing his studies in Kentucky, Robert returned home to NC to run the family's cotton mills and iron works. In April 1861, with no prior military experience, Robert joined the 1<sup>st</sup> North Carolina regiment as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant. Because of his leadership qualities, he soon became NC's rising star. At the battle of Big Bethel, General D.H. Hill commended Captain Hoke for his "coolness, judgment, and efficiency". Following North Carolina's regimental reorganization, Hoke was commissioned Lieutenant Colonel in Colonel C.M. Avery's 33<sup>rd</sup> NC regiment. After the battle of New Bern on 14 March 1862, he was distinguished for gallantry and given command of the 21<sup>st</sup> NC infantry. Colonel Hoke once again distinguished himself at Fredericksburg, receiving high praises from Jubal Anderson Early and Thomas Johnathan ("Stonewall") Jackson.

In January 1863, Hoke received his first star. Brigadier General Hoke was severely wounded at Chancellorsville on 4 May 1863. Returning to duty in January 1864, he reported to General Pickett at Petersburg. His brigade was forwarded to North Carolina where he organized the movement against New Bern. Because of his "brilliant achievement" at Plymouth, which resulted in the surrender of a Union garrison of 3,000 men, the

Confederate Congress voted him a resolution of thanks and promoted him to Major General. General Robert E. Lee wrote to President Davis: "I am very glad of General Hoke's promotion, though sorry to lose him unless he can



MG Robert Frederick Hoke, CSA

be sent to me with a division."

In December 1864, General Hoke joined General Braxton Bragg at Wilmington. During both battles at Fort Fisher in December 1864 and January 1865, General Bragg held Hoke's division in reserve and would not commit it to battle. Following the fall of Fort Fisher, General Bragg abandoned Wilmington and Hoke's division moved to Kinston, NC in an effort to keep Federal forces under General Jacob Cox from moving west to unite with General William T. Sherman. After

evacuating Kinston, Hoke joined Joseph E. Johnston's army of Tennessee. The entire army approached Sherman at Bentonville on the 19th-21st of March 1865, engaging in the largest land battle fought in North Carolina. MG Hoke stayed with Johnston's army until its surrender to Sherman at Durham Station, NC on 26 April 1865. Robert Hoke was paroled on 1 May 1865 and received a pardon from the Federal Government on 14 June 1865.

Despite a lack of military experience, Robert Hoke served with distinction in eleven major battles and campaigns. He was wounded three times, one of which was severe and life threatening. During the battle of Mechanicsville on 26 June 1862, Hoke was wounded and had to leave the field. Shortly thereafter, he resumed command and fought at Manassas in August. On 13 December 1862, he was engaged at Fredericksburg when a shell fragment struck his horse, causing it to fall to its knees. Hoke fell also, but caught one foot in the stirrup. The horse regained its footing and ran, dragging Hoke by his leg. His aides were able to reign in the charging horse, an action that spared Colonel Hoke from more serious injuries. Although shaken, he recovered and remained in command.

On 4 May 1863 at Chancellorsville, Virginia, Brigadier General Hoke suffered a near fatal injury. A Minie ball entered the lateral aspect of his left clavicle (collar bone) and passed through the shoulder joint, shattering the head of the humerus and the acromion process, which is the articulating surface of the humeral head. The exit wound was in the area of the scapula. Fortunately, major vessel and nerve structures were not damaged. Surgery

Continued on page 5

## Civil War Medicine: MG Robert Frederick Hoke, CSA (continued from page 4)

was performed that day, with a complete resection of the head of the humerus and the acromion process, which is a component of the scapula, or shoulder blade. Although not fully recovered, Hoke returned to duty in December 1863 in time for the Carolina Campaign. In late January 1865 following the fall of Fort Fisher, Major General Hoke developed a large carbuncle (abscess) on his face, which was drained at General Hospital Number 4 in Wilmington, NC. Also at that time, he was diagnosed with diabetes mellitus, which most likely was mild and of adult onset.

Although Matthew Dobson proved that the sweetness of a diabetic's urine was due to the presence of glucose in 1776, effective treatment for the disease was not available until Drs. Banting and Best at the University of Toronto discovered insulin in 1921. Until that time, most diabetics

experienced a lifetime of poor health characterized by weight loss, repeated bacterial infections such as carbuncles, and eventually died after lapsing into a coma.

Early in the Civil War, battlefield surgeons had little experience with amputations, which quickly became the war's most common surgical procedure. As the war progressed, surgeons became more skilled and increasingly complex resections such as that performed on Hoke's left shoulder became more common. The mortality rate of shoulder disarticulation and forequarter amputation was quite high, approaching 50 percent. Miraculously, Hoke survived the operation and its aftermath. Most likely, although he had

no use of his shoulder, he did have limited use of his lower arm and fingers.

The low velocity Minie ball caused catastrophic injuries. At the Battle of Chickamanga, the two Minie balls that struck General John Bell Hood shattered 5 inches of his upper thighbone (or femur).

Amputations like Hood's, which was 4 inches from his hip, carried a mortality rate of 83%. An upper arm amputation like that performed on Generals Stonewall Jackson and Oliver O. Howard carried a mortality rate of 24%. Resections such as that performed on Hoke significantly increased the risk.

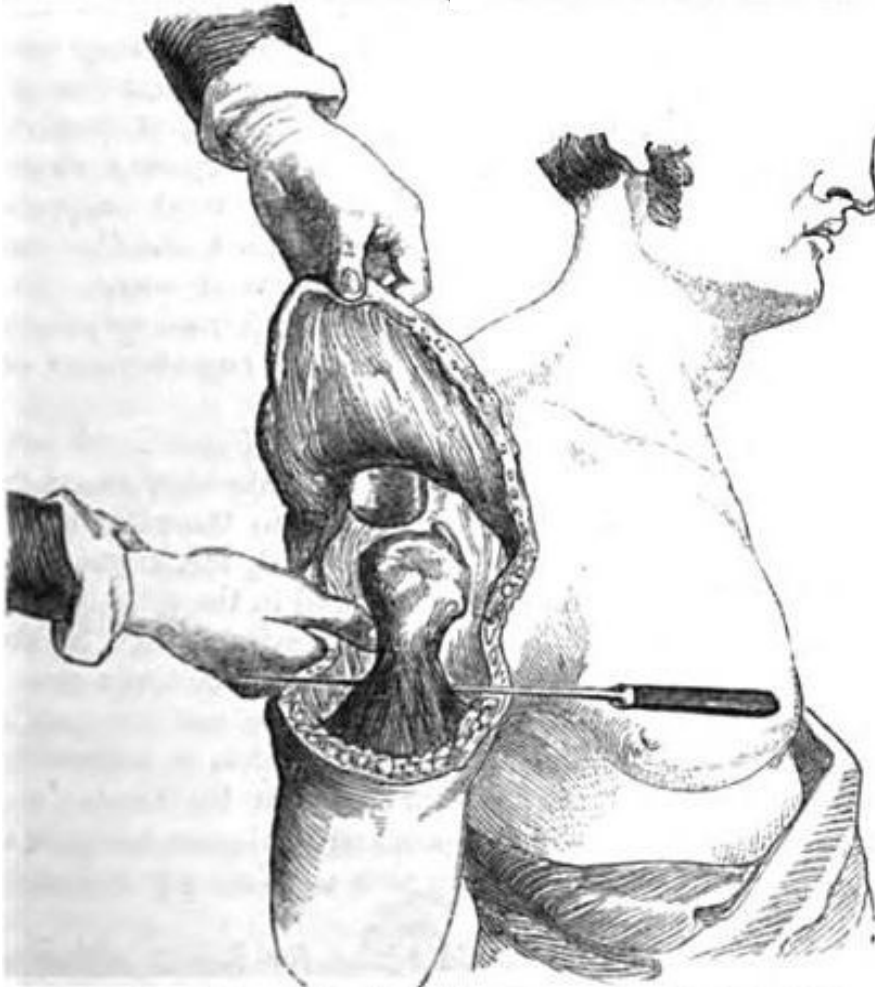
The soft lead Minie ball, with its low velocity, caused large, gaping holes, splintered bones, and destroyed muscles, arteries, and nerves beyond repair. Hoke survived because of the timing: the surgery was immediate, and performed during late 1863 – by this time, surgeons had gained considerable experience in skeletal injury/wound repair.

After his pardon, Hoke, who had lost his family business in Lincolnnton, moved to the western Carolina mountains where he panned for gold.

Following an unsuccessful search for gold, he became involved in an iron-mining venture at Chapel Hill, NC. A directorship of the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad followed. His final career was that of President of the Home Life Insurance Company in Raleigh, NC.

One year prior to his death, Hoke was honored when North Carolina's 99<sup>th</sup> county was named Hoke County. His diabetes became a major problem during his later years. Before he died on July 3, 1912, Hoke lapsed into what was most likely a diabetic coma.

Robert Frederick Hoke was laid to rest in Oakwood Cemetery in Raleigh, NC.



# Fort Fisher

Volunteer Spotlight

## Jim Miller

### 1. Where are you originally from?

I was born in Brooklyn, NY but raised in northern NJ (Rutherford). Lived there until I matriculated to Westminster College (New Wilmington, PA; do you see a theme developing?)

### 2. How long have you lived in southeast NC?

Carol and I moved here, officially, in November, 2004. We built what we wanted to be our retirement home in St. James in 2000, but I was still working for Wells Fargo in SF. So, Carol came and spent summers here for three years and I visited as opportunities allowed.

### 3. Tell us about your immediate family/household, including pets.

I have been married to my wife, the former Carol Figore from Pittsburgh, PA, for 44 years (this coming August). We have two sons: Greg is an animator in LA, and currently has a show in development with Nickelodeon. He is married (Dani) and has a stepson (Caleb) and lives in Studio City, CA; and Brad, who lives in The Woodlands, TX (near Houston) with his wife (Becky) and three children (Griffin, Declan and Taryn). Brad is a key account representative for Broyhill Furniture.

I have two older sisters and two older and two younger brothers spread across the country. No pets.

### 4. Tell us about your formal education.

After finishing Rutherford (NJ) High School, I attended Westminster College, graduating with a BA in History/Political Science. I attended Duquesne Law School (Pittsburgh) until Carol and I moved (for job related reasons) to Milwaukee where I was not able to find a night law school. So, I am about 1/2 a lawyer, making me very dangerous!!

### 5. When did you start volunteering at FF and what were you doing prior to that?

I have been a volunteer at FF since the spring of 2010. Between Nov., 2004 (when we moved here from San Francisco) until early 2010, I was working for Wells Fargo, covering the eastern US for the Institutional Trust and Custody area, and working with the newly acquired Wachovia personnel to integrate them into the Wells Fargo system.

### 6. With state budget constraints, there's been a lot of discussion about admission fees. Do you think people would be willing to pay to visit FF? Why?

The short answer is yes, I do believe people would pay to visit FF. This answer is based on observations over the past nearly 4 years of volunteering during which approximately 10% of the visitors come to the info. desk and ask how much admission is. I also note that many other people sort of sidle in the front door and scoot off to the left, almost as if they expect to be asked for an admission fee. So, my comments are not scientifically based, but my intuition and observations lead me to believe people would pay a small fee (\$1.00 per adult?? \$5 for a large family??) to visit the fort. Not to mention that I fully believe the attraction is definitely worth a small fee.

### 7. Who are a couple of your favorite authors and what have you read recently?

My favorite historical writer is Shelby Foote (but Bruce Catton is a VERY close second). My favorite fiction writer is Stephen King by quite a margin over Tom Clancy. I just finished re-reading "The Red Badge Of Courage" and am currently reading "Under the Dome" by Stephen King.

### 8. Hobbies or interest in your spare time?

It is great having grandchildren, even if they are quite far



Jim Miller



## Fort Fisher volunteer spotlight: Jim Miller (continued from page 6)

away. Carol and I thoroughly enjoy visiting with them and hearing, long distance, how they are doing in school, etc. Closer to home, I play golf, usually twice or three times a week, with no visible improvement in my handicap, unfortunately. I very much like to fish and have a kayak that is rigged for fishing in the backwaters behind Oak Island and St. James. Sitting on the beach and reading also ranks high on my list of things to do. I have also sung with church choirs and other choral groups for the last 30 years (give or take). Finally, I absolutely enjoy growing veggies and fruits in the garden. With significant assistance from Carol, I grow blueberries, blackberries and a range of veggies including tomatoes, onions, broccoli, peppers, lettuce, etc.

**9. If you could start over, what else would you have done professionally or personally?** Professionally, I might

have followed my father's footsteps and become a family doctor (but for calculus and genetics, see #10). Alternatively, I might have stayed in education and coached high school basketball and football. Personally, I would have spent more time learning how to hit a golf ball....

**10. What else would you like for the people to know about Jim Miller?** Hmmmm... Perhaps it would be to let folks know that I discovered my interest in history after my freshman year in college. I took a mandatory freshman level history class and really liked the professor. That "like", and a disastrous run in with calculus and genetics, moved me to switch majors from pre-med to history/poly-sci. I found history really played to my strength in remembering trivia! My interest in the Civil War really began to grow after college when, during family vacations while living in Pittsburgh, we would stop in Gettysburg on the way to the Jersey Shore.

## Makeover Magic



Thanks to a generous grant from the Cape Fear Garden Club and volunteer muscle provided by US Navy Riverines from the Center for Security Forces Learning Site Camp Lejeune, Fort Fisher acquired a major landscaping makeover at the Walk of Honor just outside the visitor's center. After the first phase was completed, the garden club presented the staff with a recognition plaque. Pictured from left are: Maintenance Asst. David Sheaffer, Mary Ellen Black, Maintenance Manager Jack Crowe, Interpreter III Becky Sawyer, Interpreter Ray Flowers and Asst. Manager John Moseley.



# Welcome New Friends of Fort Fisher

**Becky Brittain**  
Catawba, NC

**Jeffrey & Deborah Brown**  
Wilmington, NC

**Charlie R. & Margie Cheatham**  
Wilmington, NC

**Richard B. Cobb**  
Clemmons, NC

**Tom & Mimi Cunningham**  
Wilmington, NC

**Ron and Patty Dombrowski**  
Palenville, NY

**Russell & Christiane Dybvik**  
Wilmington, NC

**Carl Fisher**  
Virginia Beach, VA

**Deborah Gants**  
Loris, SC

**Herbert Gant**  
Wilmington, NC

**Dr. John Haley**  
Wilmington, NC

**Glenn & Kay Kye**  
Winnabow, NC

**Ronna & Herbert Zimmer**  
Wilmington, NC

**Tim Marvin**  
Kure Beach, NC

**Herb & Gina McKim**  
Wilmington, NC

**Mark McLamb**  
EdwardJones Investments  
Wilmington, NC

**John Mitchell**  
Raleigh, NC

**David P. Page**  
Inver Grove Heights, MN

**Harry & Susan Parham**  
Wilmington, NC

**Capt. (Ret) Robert Philpott, USCG**  
Wilmington, NC

**Susan E. Powley**  
Surfside Beach, SC

**Sherman Reece**  
Chesapeake, VA

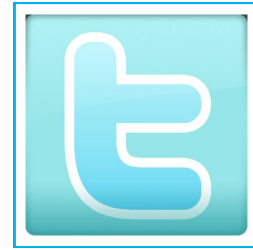
**Paul & Susan Ritchie**  
Wilmington, NC

**Lori Sanderlin**  
Southport, NC

**Jan Stocklinski**  
Calabash, NC



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	_____
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Military/Student	\$20	_____
Sustaining	\$500+	_____
Business	\$100+	_____
Armstrong Society	\$500+	_____

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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](mailto:fisher@ncdcr.gov)

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



**April 6, 2013**

Civil War Trust Park Day  
Volunteer to Help Beautify the Site

**May 11, 2013**

Confederate Memorial Day Service  
Ceremony begins at 4 PM,  
Battle Acre Monument

**June 8, 2013**

2nd Saturday  
Model Military: Visualizing History in  
Scale

For more information on these events,  
call 910-458-5538 or visit  
[www.nchistoricsites.org/fisher](http://www.nchistoricsites.org/fisher)

Please note: events subject to change



**This newsletter was  
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of Fort Fisher**

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