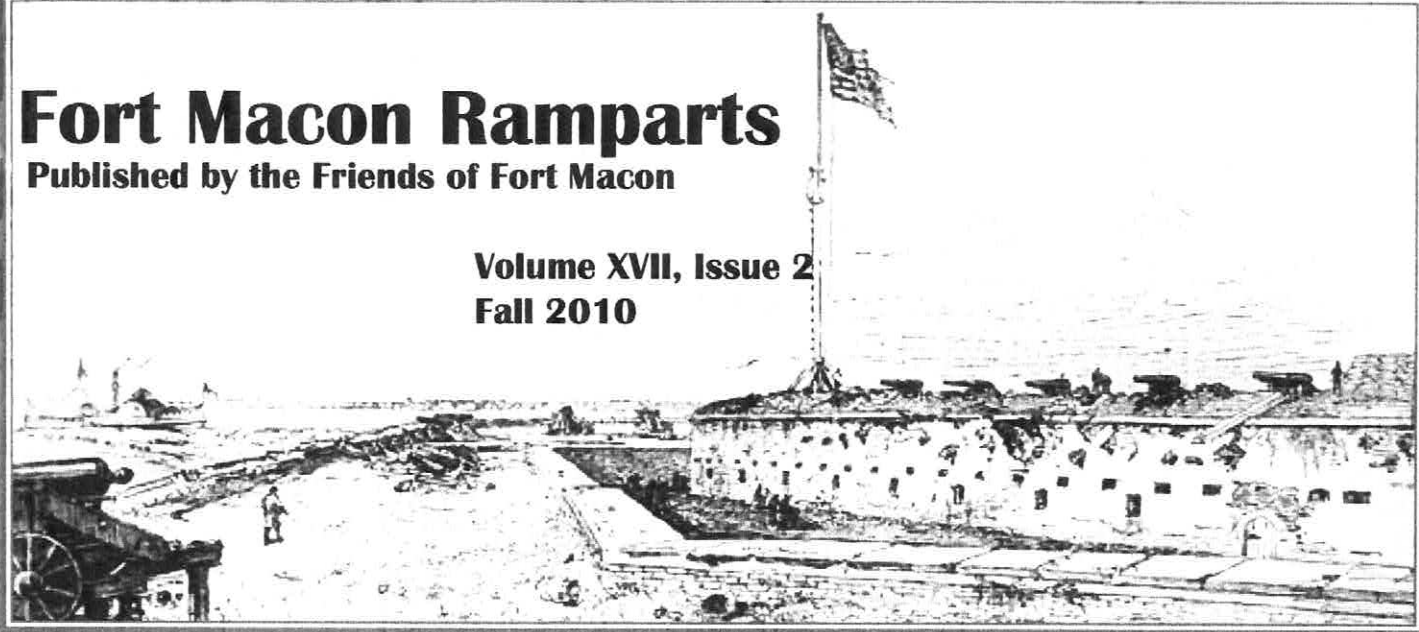


Fort Macon Ramparts

Published by the Friends of Fort Macon

Volume XVII, Issue 2
Fall 2010

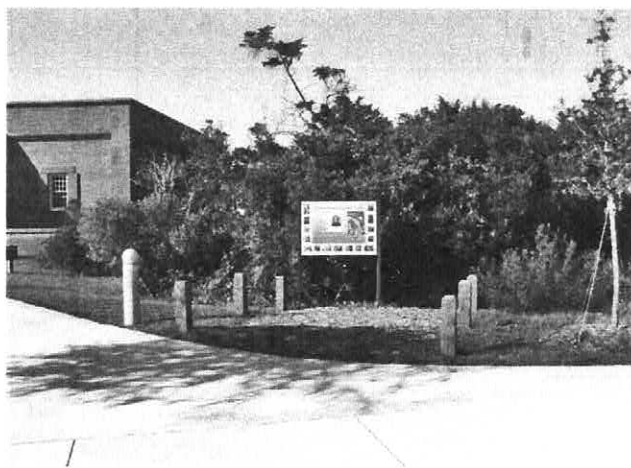


Reopening of the Elliot Coues Nature Trail

In the fall of 1976 the Fort Macon State Park staff constructed a small nature trail north of Fort Macon and named it in honor of Assistant Surgeon Elliott Coues, US Army. Coues, who was one of the most famous naturalists and ornithologists of the 19th century, was stationed at Fort Macon during 1869-70. The little nature trail bearing his name began at the head of the walkway outside the fort and wound its way for a quarter mile through cedar thickets north of the fort to end on the inlet beach near the fort parking lot. The trail was enjoyed by park visitors for years until April, 2004. At that time a new sewage system had to be installed for the fort restrooms. The new system and its drain lines had to be routed through the area of the nature trail, leaving no choice but to discontinue the trail.

With the completion of the Coastal Education

and Visitor Center last year, the park staff decided to reestablish the nature trail. Work on the trail began this summer and was completed on July 11. The new trail begins off the sidewalk at the north entrance to the Coastal Education and Visitor Center and winds through several habitats, around a pond area and returns to the north end of the fort parking lot. The Friends of Fort Macon have provided almost \$2200 in funding for the trail head exhibit and seven interpretive plaques that identify and describe various plants along the trail.



Some work remains to be done on the trail such as installing benches, bird blinds and other interpretive plaques, but for now the Elliott Coues Nature Trail is open again.

THE DATE ON YOUR MAILING LABEL INDICATES THE MONTH AND YEAR

THAT YOUR MEMBERSHIP EXPIRED OR WILL EXPIRE

Superintendent's Update



Superintendent Randy Newman

Fort Macon State Park had another successful summer with 582,890 visitors. June kicked off the concert series at the fort. As always, visitors welcomed the beginning of the series and large crowds attended each concert. The War of 1812 Reenactment, remembering the soldiers that served at Fort Hampton, was also a successful addition to the summer program. The Civil War Reenactments drew large crowds for the tour guides. As always, I cannot emphasize enough how important the tour guides are to the park staff and the thousands of visitors that participate in the tours.

The film "Fort Macon: Standing Through the Tides of History," shown several times daily in the new visitor center, was recently awarded the bronze medal for educational video by the International Telly Awards. This year's competition included nearly 11,000 entries from all 50 states and numerous countries. Thanks again for all those who helped with the film.

The Elliott Coues Nature Trail reopened this summer with funding from the Friends. This trail was loved by many, and was closed during construction of the Coastal Education Center. In addition to providing funds to reopen the trail, The Friends also provided funding for an insect-free cabinet to house an herbarium that is on permanent loan to the Park.

We are all looking forward to a new and exciting fall. The exhibits for the Coastal Education Center will be opening later this fall. The Friends will be presenting our first night program, "A Stroll Through Time," on November 13 beginning at 6:00 p.m. Volunteers will guide visitors through the fort to meet some of the more interesting soldiers that have served or visited Fort Macon. The event will be free – with hopes of visitors giving donations to help arm Fort Macon.

The Friends have recently been working with U.S. Representative Walter B. Jones, Jr. to secure the loan of a 32-pound carronade from the Norfolk Navy Yard. This has been a dream of mine for years, to be able to display the type of cannons that were in the counterfire rooms during the Civil War. To those who worked so hard on securing the carronade, I cannot thank you enough. We are hoping to take donations at the "A Stroll Through Time" event to raise money to build a gun carriage for this historic weapon. The carronade should be delivered to the park by the end of November. In addition to the carronade, a 32-pound cannon replica is being completed and should be arriving in the next couple of months. With this addition, the fort will once again be able to fire from its ramparts.

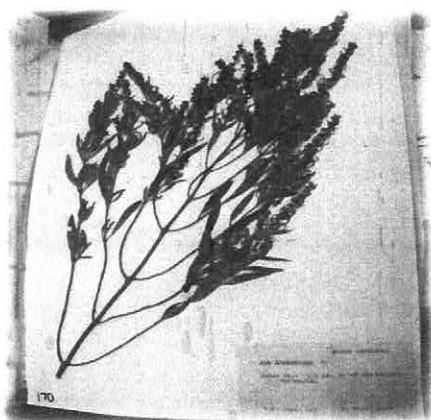
In November the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will begin pumping sand on the Park's beaches. We desperately need the sand, especially at the bathhouse area. With the added sand, park visitors will enjoy a wider, less crowded beach.

I have been serving as Park Superintendent for one year now and I would like to thank all of the Friends for working with me to make this a very rewarding time in my life. I look forward to working with the Friends in 2011.

This is a great time to join the Tour Guides or volunteer to man the information desk at the Coastal Education and Visitor Center. Contact John Rhodes at 393-7313 if you are interested in becoming a Tour Guide. Training will take place in February 2011. If you are interested in volunteering at the Information Desk, contact Paul Branch at paul.branch@ncdenr.

Recent Acquisitions

The Friends have purchased an herbarium cabinet (a steel, sealed, compartmentalized cabinet for permanent preservation of plant samples) for the beginning of an herbarium to be maintained at the CEVC. We have obtained on loan several hundred plant samples from an herbarium in New Jersey. This collection, begun in the 1960's, contains botanicals preserved from all over North Carolina, especially in the east and from Bogue Banks. It will be kept in the collection area of the CEVC and will be viewable by appointment. It is hoped that this collection can be expanded upon by individuals who may have an interest in botany and the natural treasures of our area.



A relative of Josiah H. Pender recently visited the fort. Pender led the militia company that seized the fort at the beginning of the Civil War. The relative, Mr. John H. Pender of Mathews, NC, brought with him a wonderful "new" photo of Pender as a younger man. Previously, the only photo of Josiah Pender on file at the fort was a poor quality half-tone photo from the NC State Archives showing him as an older man. Josiah Pender is buried in the Old Burying Ground in Beaufort.



The Cannons are Coming

Acquisition of Antique Carronade.

With the help of Congressman Walter B. Jones and the efforts of his Congressional Aide in Washington, William L. Moore, Fort Macon has been granted a permanent loan of a carronade (small cannon) of some rarity and of the precise type used at Ft. Macon in the Civil War era. The Navy Curator's Office has notified Supt. Randy Newman that this cannon can be released to us on an expedited basis. Arrangements are being made to finalize the paperwork and arrange for transportation of the carronade to Ft. Macon from the Norfolk Navy Yard. Ft. Macon will be responsible for its custody and restoration. It will make a great addition to our collection in the Fort and serve as a centerpiece for a new exhibit, perhaps in a counterfire gallery, where the carronades were initially deployed.

Carronades are short, stubby, large caliber naval broadside guns used up until the mid-19th century. They get their name from being first cast in a foundry in Carron, Scotland. Their main use was to throw a large caliber cannonball at close range into the hull of an enemy ship. Due to this, they were sometimes referred to as "hull-smashers." During the 1840-50s the theory of naval gunnery changed from close-quarters ship to ship duels to longer ranged fire offered by regular long guns. The carronade thus fell from favor for naval use and dozens of them were stockpiled ashore as surplus ordnance.

However, the Army found carronades extremely useful for, among other things, flanking defense in fortifications. Placed in forts to guard interior areas, ditches, entrances and other vulnerable areas against storming parties and ground assault, they were particularly effective. The large caliber bores were excellent for firing anti-personnel ammunition (grapeshot, canister, chains, nails, glass, rocks, bricks, loose bullets, etc.) into enemy assault columns and storming parties bursting into a fort. Accordingly, the Army gladly took large numbers of carronades off the Navy's hands for its own use.

Carronades at Fort Macon. When the War Between the States broke out in 1861, Fort Macon was seized

by Confederate forces. To arm the fort for war, cannons were acquired from Charleston, Richmond and Norfolk. To provide for flanking defense for the fort's ditch in the counterfire galleries under the outer wall, 32-pounder carronades were ordered on April 29, 1861, from the large stocks of Navy guns captured by Confederate forces at the Norfolk Navy Yard when Virginia joined the Confederacy. The carronades arrived at Fort Macon on May 18, 1861, and were installed on emplacements in three of the fort's counterfire galleries.

When Union forces besieged Fort Macon in March and April, 1862, the Confederate garrison of the fort had no mortars to defend the fort's landward side. With Union soldiers concealed in trenches and battery positions out in the sand dunes, regular cannons could not reach them. In desperation, the Confederates hauled the fort's six 32-pounder carronades out of the counterfire galleries and placed them on the northwest front of the fort's outer wall. Here they were jacked up at a 40° angle and fired at Union forces at this high angle to simulate the lobbing fire of a mortar. Manned by Capt. S. D. Pool's Company H, 10th N.C., the carronade "mortar battery" first opened fire on April 16, 1862, and was used throughout the remainder of the siege of Fort Macon. They were in heavy use for most of the day during the bombardment of Fort Macon on April 25, 1862. As might be expected, the carronades were not effective in their use as mortars, but the Confederates were desperate for anything that would aid them during the siege. Union forces captured the fort the next day.

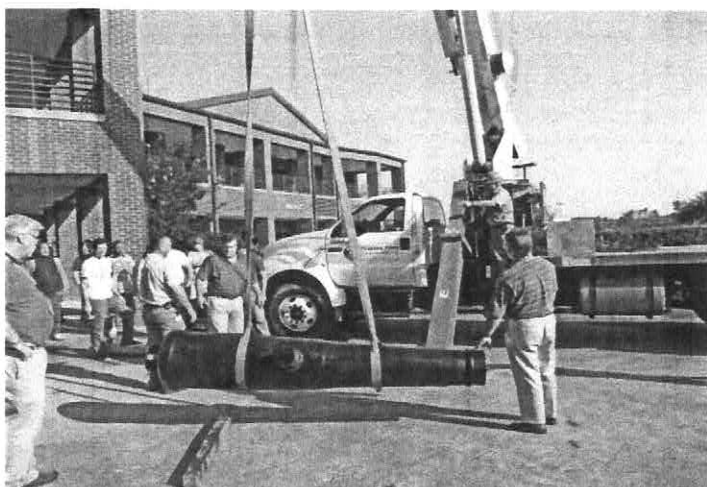
After Union forces took control of the fort, the carronades remained on hand in the fort's ordnance inventory for a time, but were later turned in and disposed of as obsolete and unneeded.

In the siege and bombardment of Fort Macon, the use of the carronades is significant in the annals of 19th century ordnance. It was known that carronades were present at other battles, such as 42-pounder carronades at Fort Mifflin at the Battle of Williamsburg, VA, and at Fort Wagner in Charleston

Harbor. However, it appears that the siege and bombardment of Fort Macon is *the only documented instance where 32-pounder carronades were actually used in combat on land during the War Between the States.*

The Carronades at Trophy Park. In the Norfolk Navy Yard today, in what is known as Trophy Park, where the Navy has on display many pieces of captured antique ordnance, four original 32-pounder carronades have recently come to light. They had been buried upside down in concrete in the corners of the flag pole plot in the park and used as bollards to secure the ends of the flag pole guy wires. In November, 2005, when the flagpole was being replaced, the four carronades were dug up and removed from the concrete. Mr. David Pierce, the curator of Trophy Park, recognized the historic value of the carronades and determined that they would not be reused for the new flag pole, but instead would undergo preservation.

Carronades of this precise construction are a significant part of a critical chapter in our Fort's history, and will enable us to create a new exhibit area depicting the Fort's defenses as well as illustrate their use during the historic Siege of Fort Macon in 1862.

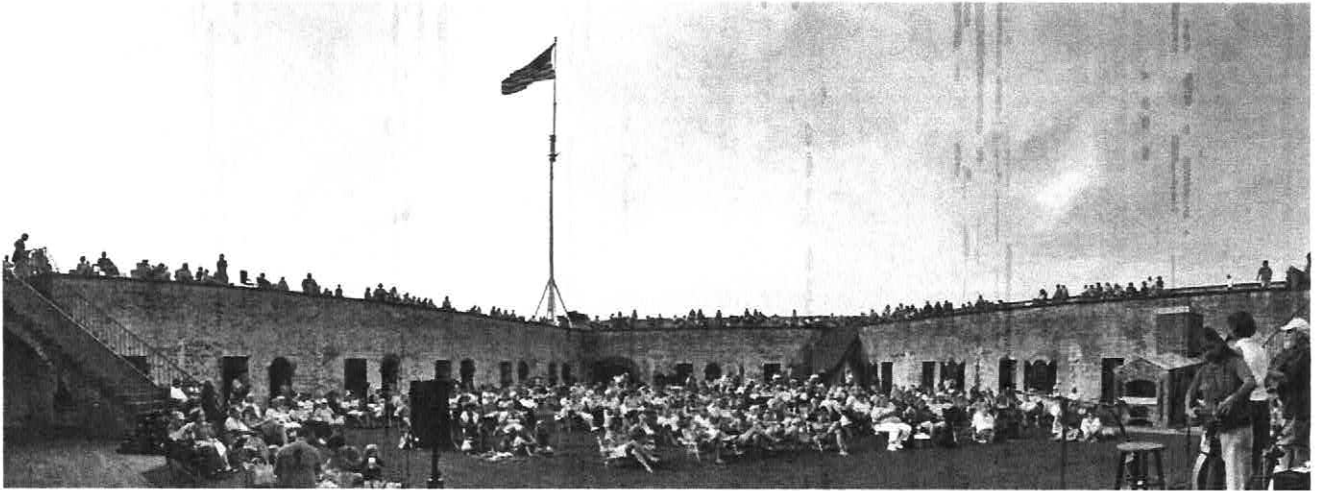


Replica 32-Pounder Cannon Arrives

The spring issue of *The Ramparts* reported that the mechanical engineering, metal fabrication and welding technologies program of Wayne Community College was building an aluminum replica of a 32-pounder barbette gun carriage for Fort Macon State Park to replace one of the decayed wooden gun carriages currently in place on the fort's ramparts. Money had been appropriated by the Division of State Parks to eventually replace both the rotten gun carriages, which have become a safety hazard to park visitors. However, the savings realized by having Wayne Community College build the carriages has provided enough funds left over to have a full-scale metal replica made of a 32-pounder cannon barrel to go along with the new gun carriage. The 32-pounder cannon is a modern-made representation of an actual 32-pounder cannon and is capable of actually being fired. The contract to build the cannon was awarded to Cannons Online, of New Windsor, Maryland. The cannon barrel was cast, proof-fired and delivered to Wayne Community College at the end of August. The college will use the cannon barrel to make any final fitting or alterations necessary to the gun carriage, which is nearing completion. Once completed, the cannon and gun carriage will be delivered to Fort Macon State Park and mounted on the fort ramparts. The park staff will then be able to conduct artillery firing demonstrations with the new cannon.



Another Successful Summer Concert Season



Fair weather contributed to record crowds for our 13th season of Friends' summer shows. Close to 800 people were there for the Unknown Tongues, and the Fort parking lot was full for every show. On June 25, a good crowd stayed through a misty rain (it

Randall Parker (Parker Honda and Parker Buick—GMC of Morehead) partnered with us once again, sponsoring the honoraria we pay the performers. Thanks to his sponsorship, we can run these shows at a modest profit from donations instead of dipping into our funds to provide this great entertainment to locals and visitors.



The Sunshine Band began the series

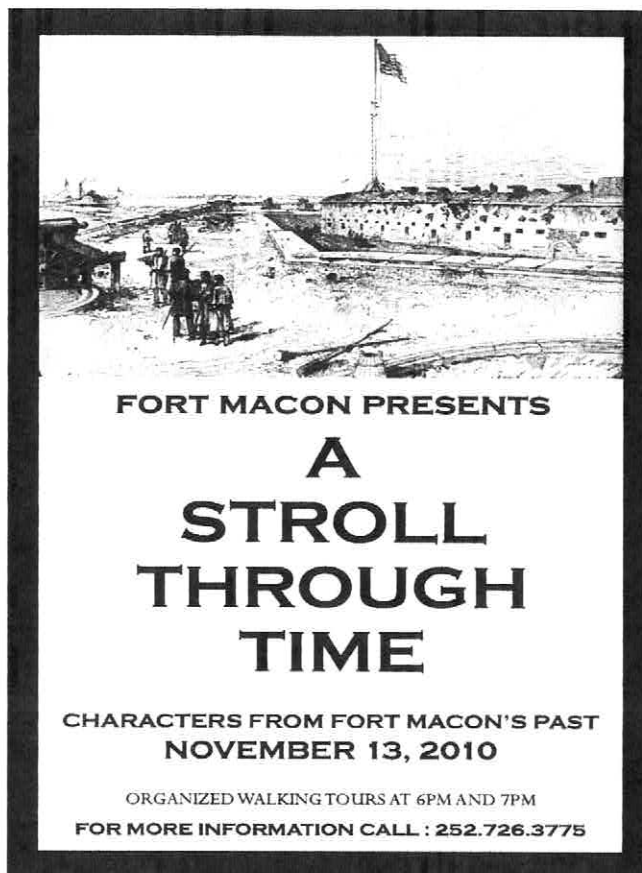
cooled off a hot day) to listen to The Mac and Tammy McRoy Band play bluegrass. That was the worst of the weather—a far cry from last year when every night we were either dodging storms or just plain rained out.

This year's line-up also included the Carteret Sunshine Band, the Carteret Grays, the Morehead Brass and Conch Stew.

We're looking forward to next year—the feedback and appreciation expressed to the Friends from people coming to these concerts is really gratifying. Some don't miss a show...we're an institution!!



The Carteret Grays entertained on July 9th.



We're hoping many of you can make it to Ft. Macon on the evening of Saturday, November 13 for "A Stroll Through Time with Characters from Ft. Macon's Past". This will be an educational and entertaining "ghost walk" of sorts, taking people in groups through the Fort and stopping in eight different locations to see and hear actors portraying people etched in our history. Some of the characters include Lt. Eliason, who supervised construction, Robert E. Lee as a Captain of Engineers, Col. Moses White, a WWII lookout, a prisoner and guard, a fort laundress, Jeannie Coues (wife of the Fort Surgeon and famed naturalist) and others.

Volunteers will usher people through a luminary lighted path that will be set up by some great Boy Scout volunteers, winding their way through the sally port, through the parade ground, out the postern way and onto the beach-facing outer covertway, stopping for a few minutes at each location to learn and hear the story of our past. The fort is a fascinating structure, but it is the people who lived there who can tell the real story. Come by--as usual it's free with donations appreciated. Don't worry about waiting to take a tour--we'll be entertaining you all the way.

Anyone who would like to help--please call Tom Shuping (Tour Guide and Friend member) at 252-393-8010 or the Fort at 252-726-3775. We need volunteers to usher people through and generally keep the evening organized--should be great fun for all!!

Business and Organization Memberships

Al Williams Properties Atlantic Beach, NC	Coastal Press, Inc. Morehead City, NC	Outer Banks Lighthouse Society Morehead City, NC
Alan Woodard – Builder Pleasant Garden, NC	David P. Robertson, DDS Morehead City, NC	Piedmont Civil War Roundtable Charlotte, NC
Atlantis Lodge, Inc. Pine Knoll Shores, NC	Donald Williams – Williams Investment Corp. Charlotte, NC	Poor Richards Morehead City, NC
Baugus Builders Newport, NC	Estate Planning Center Morehead City, NC	Randall Parker Morehead City, NC
Bert and Gwen Pitt Macclesfield, NC	Gary Partin Goldsboro, NC	Safrit Building Supply Beaufort, NC
Billy Humphrey-SCV Lewis Armisted Camp #130 Jacksonville, NC	Karl Weiss Woburn, MA	Sons of Confederate Veterans Camp 1597 Morehead City, NC
Bradford H. Piner, CPA Beaufort, NC	Mike Krazeski –Atlantic Veneer Beaufort, NC	Stampers Jewelers Beaufort, NC
Calvin Wellons-Wellons Enterprises Morehead City, NC	Munden Funeral Home & Crematory Morehead City, NC	Total Real Estate Solutions High Point, NC
Casper Marine Service Swansboro, NC	Oceanana Resort Motel & Pier Atlantic Beach, NC	Woodmen of the World Lodge 188 Newport, NC
Chalk&Gibbs Morehead City, NC	Outer Banks History Center Manteo, NC	

**Please support these businesses and organizations who are
generous contributors to the Friends of Fort Macon.**

2010/2011 Membership Renewal Dues

Individual/Family \$15.00
Contributor \$30.00
Donor \$50.00
Sponsor \$75.00
Lifetime \$200.00
Business/Organization \$35.00
Business Lifetime \$500.00

Upcoming Meetings & Speakers

The Friends meet at the Golden Coral in Morehead City on the first Wednesday of each month. Brief business meetings are followed by wonderful speakers. Be sure to put these meetings on your calendars!

October 6 - Paula Gillikin, Site Manager of the Rachel Carson Reserve
November 3 - Bill Meserve
December 1 - Annual business luncheon meeting
January 5 - Alan Ballard