

FORT MACON RAMPARTS

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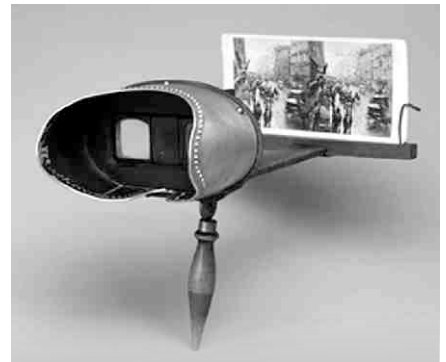
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Fort Macon President
Cindi Davia

Monthly Lunch Meetings

The date on your mailing label
indicates the month and year
that your membership
expired or will expire

Fort Macon in Photographs 150 Years Ago

Paul Branch



A 19th century stereoscope with card.

At some point between the fall of 1867 and fall of 1868, an unknown commercial photographer took a series of photographic images of Fort Macon. At the time the images were taken, the War Between the States had ended at least two years previously and Fort Macon was now occupied by elements of the 40th U. S. Infantry, a regiment of black enlisted men led by white officers. The smoothbore 24- and 32-pounder cannons that had comprised the bulk of the fort's armament during the war years had been removed by October, 1867, leaving a reduced armament of mostly rifled cannons and large columbiad cannons. The fort was also a federal penitentiary at this time for the states of North and South Carolina, housing between 74 and 120 civilian prisoners and military convicts. The images taken by the photographer represent unique moments frozen in time when the fort was a typical 19th century army garrison post and a federal penitentiary in the midst of the Reconstruction Era.

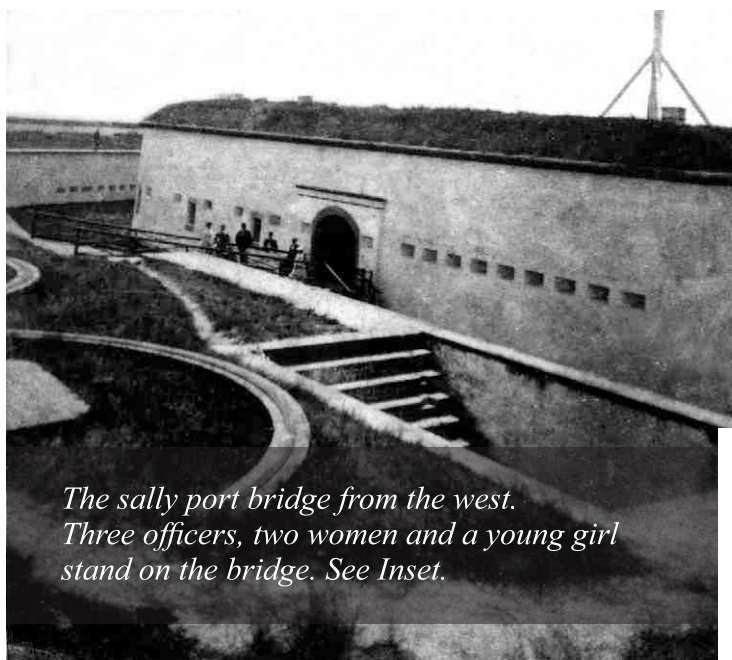
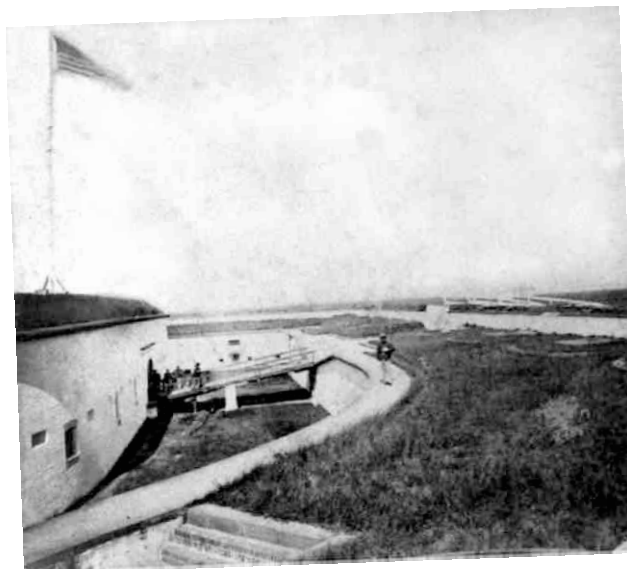
The photographs themselves were originally taken with a stereoscopic camera that recorded dual images of the same scene. The dual images were then produced for the public market on a paper card for use with a stereoscope. The stereoscope was a hand-held viewing device with two lenses onto which the stereo card was inserted. A person looking through the lenses would see the two images on the card merged as one three-dimensional view of the scene. In the days before the modern advent of personal cameras, motion pictures and television, this seemingly magical innovation of early photography was understandably quite popular in Victorian-era America and Europe from the 1850s to the early 20th century. Commercial

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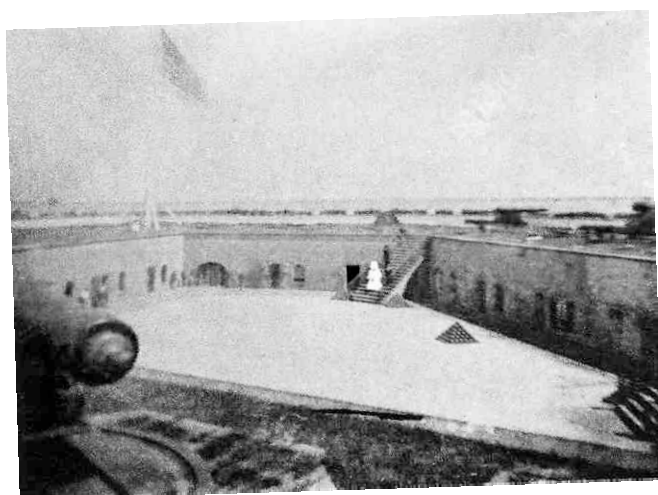
photographers responded to the public's appetite for stereo imaging by recording hundreds of thousands of photographs of famous landmarks, buildings, natural features, city streets and panoramas across the world. The images were then mass produced on stereo cards and sold to the public. Whereas before only drawings and paintings of such distant and memorable places had been available, a person could now sit in his own parlor with his stereoscope and view actual three-dimensional photographic images of the Egyptian pyramids, the Holy Land, beautiful cathedrals and buildings, streets of famous cities, breathtaking landscapes, and historic places. Thus it was that in the late 1860s following the end of the War Between the States, some enterprising commercial photographer recorded a series of stereo images of Fort Macon.

The images below are modern copies made in the 1930s from the original stereo cards. It is not even certain now where the original stereo cards are or how many of them even still exist. Due to the condition of these original stereo cards when they were copied, some of the modern images appear grainy and somewhat indistinct. As presented here, most have been retouched to enhance their clarity.

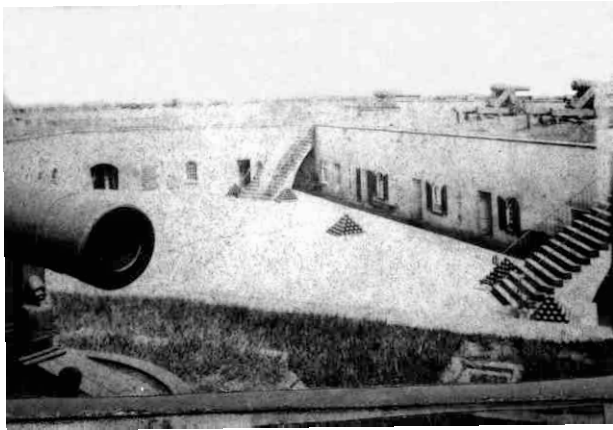
The sally port bridge from the east. Officers are lounging on the bridge while a sentry stands guard at "support arms" on the outer wall. Note the flag.



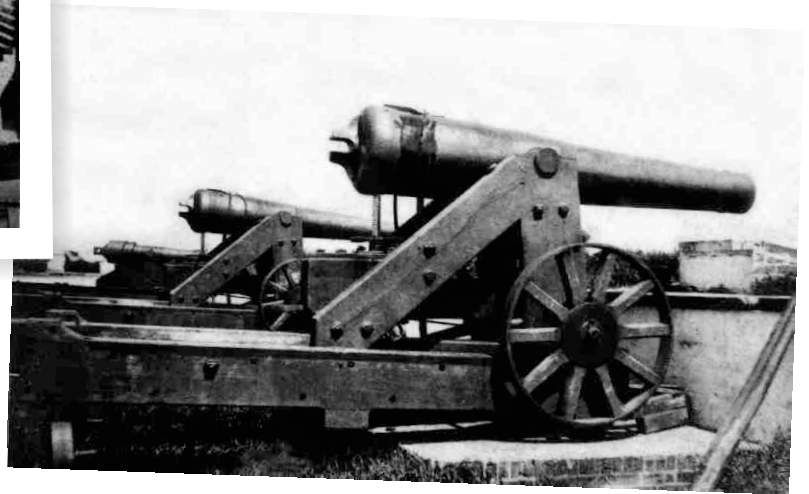
The sally port bridge from the west. Three officers, two women and a young girl stand on the bridge. See Inset.



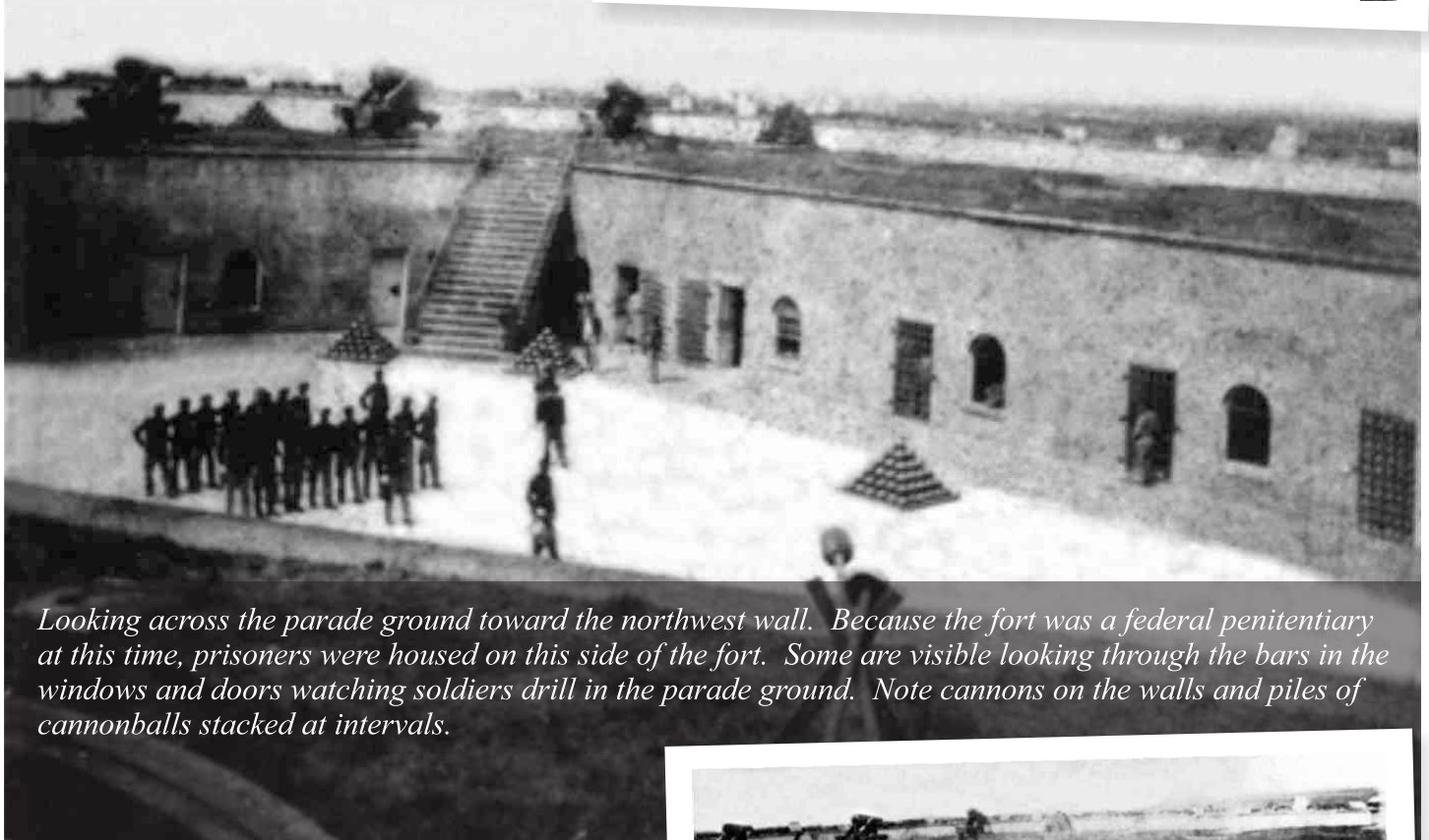
Looking north across the parade ground. The sally port is at the left. The same girl in the white dress in the preceding photo is visible on the steps.



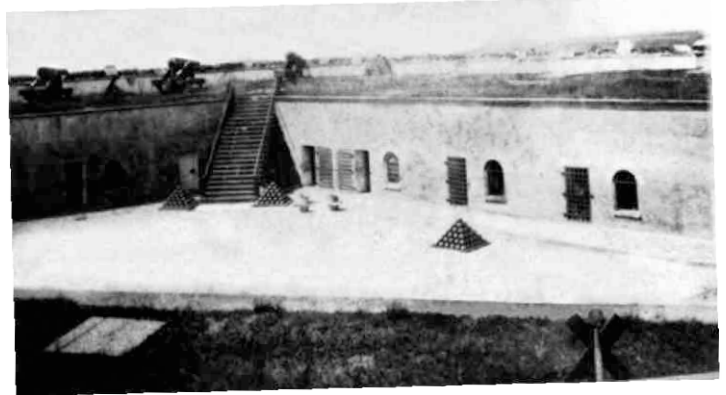
A similar view to the preceding photo shows the east wall of the parade ground in better detail. Officers lived in the rooms between the two stairways.



Close view of two Rifled 32-pounder cannons visible in the preceding photograph on the east wall. The third cannon in the background is a 100-pounder Parrott Rifle.



Looking across the parade ground toward the northwest wall. Because the fort was a federal penitentiary at this time, prisoners were housed on this side of the fort. Some are visible looking through the bars in the windows and doors watching soldiers drill in the parade ground. Note cannons on the walls and piles of cannonballs stacked at intervals.



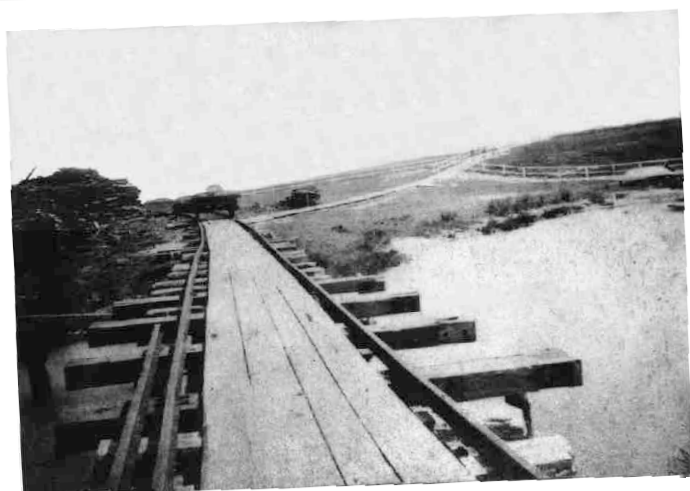
This view is similar to the previous, but with the soldiers now gone. Some buckets set out near the stairs might be for a cleaning detail or for emptying the "slops."



Looking along the southwest front of the outer wall. Note the piles of cannonballs along the wall. Three adults and a child are standing on the wall in the center. An animal (probably a sheep) is grazing in the ditch.



Looking toward the postern bridge and the south angle of the outer wall. The three large columbiad cannons (one 10-inch and two 8-inch columbiads) at the angle are the same ones in the preceding photograph. The roof of an officer's cottage is at the left.



Looking along the supply railroad toward the roadway leading into the fort. The railroad ran between the fort and a wharf on the sound side of Beaufort Inlet. Planks between the rails allowed horses to pull flatcars loaded with supplies from the wharf to the fort. Note the large pile of firewood at the left.

One of several small ramshackle cottages around the fort used for officer quarters. Living in this cottage is civilian assistant surgeon H. G. Bates and his wife, who sit on the porch with two other officers.



There are many more views of the fort we wish the photographer would have taken while he was recording these, but so far as is known these are the only images made of the fort at that time. Nevertheless, they are important because, so far as is known, they are the only photographic images of the fort taken during the 19th century. It was not until the early 20th century that other photographs of the fort began to finally appear, but by that time the fort was abandoned and nearly forgotten.

Schedule of Events

Every Wednesday

Musket firing Demonstration – Learn about a Civil War era musket's history, loading procedures and firing. Meet in the fort.

December

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|----|-----------|----------|---|
| 4 | Monday | 10:00 am | Flags of Fort Macon & the Confederacy - Meet at the Fort Visitor Center to learn about the wide range of flags used by the confederacy during the War Between the States. |
| 6 | Wednesday | Noon | Friends of Fort Macon Monthly Meeting – Meet at the Golden Corral (Dutch Treat) in Morehead City for the Friends of Fort Macon's monthly meeting. News and upcoming events and projects will be discussed, and a guest speaker will have a 30-45 min presentation. |
| 11 | Monday | 9:00 am | Bird Hike – Meet at the Visitor Center and take a leisurely hike to identify birds native to the area. |
| 21 | Thursday | 10:00 am | Natural Side of Fort Macon – Meet in the Visitor Center lobby for a leisurely hike exploring the natural side of Fort Macon. Hike will cover both trail and beach. |
| 25 | Monday | All Day | *N.C. State Parks Closed to the Public* |
| 31 | Sunday | 6:00 pm | New Year's Eve Cannon Blast – Celebrate the end of 2017 and the beginning of 2018 with a blast. Fort Macon will once again be firing off its big guns in celebration of the new year. This year there will be live entertainment starting at 6 pm, and the cannons will go off at 7 to correspond with 12:00 UTC. Feel free to bring a folding chair and picnic meal similar to the summer concerts. |

January

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|---|--------|---------|--|
| 1 | Monday | 2:00 PM | First Day Hike – Start the new year off with a hike in your favorite state park. Fort Macon will be offering two ranger led hikes this year, both starting from the Visitor Center at 2 pm. One will be a short nature hike on the Yarrow's Loop trail and inlet beach covering about ¾ of a mile. The second hike will be along the 3.2 mile Elliott Causes Trail. |
|---|--------|---------|--|

Visit our website and like us on
Facebook for more information!

www.friendsoffortmacon.org
Like us on Facebook: Friends of Fort Macon

Save
the
Date

New Years Eve
Cannon Blast!
Dec. 31st @ 6:00 pm

Join us at Fort Macon for some
great music by Gumbo Lili,
and at 7:00 pm the cannons will blast
to correspond with 12:00 UTC.

Bring a chair and a picnic.



*Our First Fort Macon
Float appeared in the
Morehead City
Veteran's Day Parade.
We look forward to
participating in many
more.*



Randy Newman **Superintendent's Update**

Fort Macon State Park – Town of Atlantic Beach Trail Connector Addition Coming Soon

Fort Macon State Park has received a \$99,974 grant through the 2018 Recreational Trails Program to build a connector trail from the Elliott Coues Trail to the town of Atlantic Beach side walk system. The trail will be nearly .25 miles from the bathhouse entrance road (Highway 58 /1191 intersection) to the town limits. The trail will hopefully eliminate park visitors that are walking along the road shoulder from Atlantic Beach to gain access to the park. Visitor safety is always a high priority, and park staff are always looking for ways to improve the safety of our guests.

Friends of Fort Macon Provide a Blast to West Carteret High School Cross Country Meets

The Friends of Fort Macon partnered with Fort Macon State Park in being the host site for the West Carteret High School Cross Country team's four home meets. The runners are running a 5k (3.1 miles) on the Elliott Coues Nature Trail which was recently constructed and funded by the friends group. It has been a goal of park staff and the friends to get more young adults out in the park to experience nature. By partnering with West Carteret High School, we give the school not only a unique course, but one of the most scenic and challenging courses in the state. To make the site even more special, the friends provided cannon powder to start each race with a cannon blast. With kids from all over eastern North Carolina coming to run, it is nice to show off both the natural and cultural history of Fort Macon State Park.

Ranger Emily Abernethy Transfers to Fort Fisher Recreational Area

Ranger Emily Abernethy has transferred to Fort Fisher Recreational Area. Emily has always had a love for sea turtles, and with the opportunity to go to Fort Fisher Recreational Area which has nearly 100 sea turtle nest annually, it was an opportunity she could not pass up. We wish her the best, and she will be missed.

Sometimes being a tour guide is not all about giving tours. Sometimes it's about just being there to help visitors make a connection.

One Sunday, this past summer, I was out at the fort giving the afternoon tours. As I was coming to the end of my tour a woman approached me. She was from Ohio and specifically had come to Fort Macon to get a pictures of our cannons.

At first she seemed anxious, then as we spoke she relaxed a bit and shared with me this story. She told me about her son Kurtis, and as a younger man he had struggled through life in Ohio. The friends he had and the choices he made were not always the best. Trouble seemed to follow him and complicate his life. He was at the end of the rope and just holding onto the knot. His sister from Beaufort, offered him a home away from his past in Ohio and a new life. He jumped at the prospect.

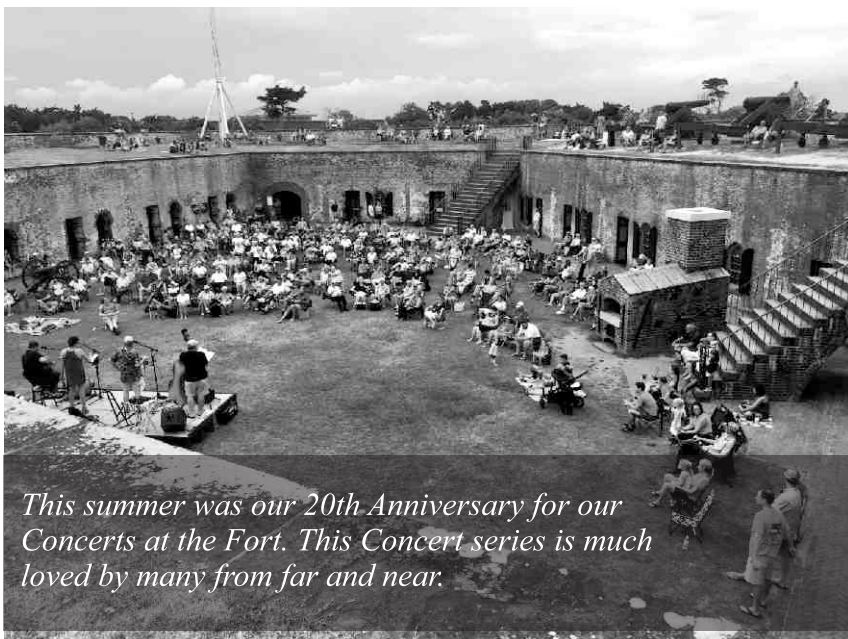
Good jobs are not plentiful in the east, so Kurtis enrolled in college. He decided to learn welding at Wayne Community College and start his life on the right path. Welding a cannon carriage for Ft. Macon was the turning point of his life. Kurtis realized that this was a way to give back to the community and participate in a project of importance. It made a great impact on his life.

Whenever he called his mom in Ohio the topic of conversation was always about the cannon carriage. He enjoyed this work so much that as a gift Kurtis made his mother a small replica of the cannon carriage and sent it to her. He was turning over a new leaf. His family was so proud.

A few weeks before graduation Kurtis was killed in a car accident. He never got the chance to see the finished cannon carriage set up in the fort. His mother wanted to take a picture of it to remember the project that changed her son's life.

Sometimes a carriage is needed to raise up a cannon to the right place, and it can do the same for a person too.

Judi Ezminski



This summer was our 20th Anniversary for our Concerts at the Fort. This Concert series is much loved by many from far and near.

The Fort Macon staff, and Friend's of Fort Macon volunteers have had an amazing 2017! Many new challenges were met, and the overall success of our programs and events were rewarding to all.

We endeavor to bring the rewards of 2017 forward to our hopes for 2018.

Happiest of holidays to you, and a Happy New Year.

Your volunteer with cheer,

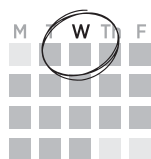
Cindi Davia

Cindi Davia
President, Friends of Fort Macon

2nd Annual Howling Hayride & Night Hike. Another excellent tradition has started at Fort Macon.



Our Reenactments at Fort Macon are always a fun time. Join us for a reenactment Spring, Summer and Fall.



Come to Our **MONTHLY LUNCH MEETINGS** *By Shirley Pleace*

You may be missing a great opportunity if you haven't attended the **first Wednesday (of the month) lunch meetings at Golden Corral Restaurant**. Not only is there a short update on the "State of Fort Macon" by Superintendent Randy, there's always a fascinating talk by an expert that you may not want to miss. If you have attended some or all of these very interesting talks, you know how informative and amusing the speakers are. Added to that, the lunch cost is very reasonable (for Seniors), and the other diners are most convivial – a guarantee that you will truly enjoy your lunch meeting program.

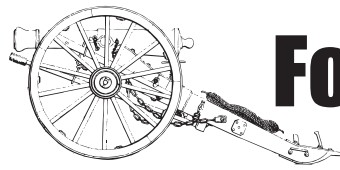
What's Happening?

Stay turned to the Friends of Fort Macon website: friendsoffortmacon.org and our Facebook page for updates and what's new.

**Welcome
back!**

Welcome Back
**Ranger
Ben Fleming!**

We look forward to
all you have to
teach us.



Friends of
Fort Macon

Friends of Fort Macon
2303 East Fort Macon Rd
Atlantic Beach, NC 28512

OUR BUSINESS/PROFESSIONAL MEMBERS

Atlantic Veneer
Beaufort, NC

**Munden Funeral Home
and Crematory**
Morehead City, NC

Coastal Press & Signs
Morehead City, NC

Al Williams Properties
Atlantic Beach, NC

Stampers Jewelers
Beaufort, NC

David P Robertson, DDS
Morehead City, NC

Chalk and Gibbs
Morehead City, NC

**Charlotte Metrolina
Civil War Roundtable**
Charlotte, NC

Casper Marine Service
Swansboro, NC

Randall Parker
Morehead City, NC

Amos Mosquitos
Atlantic Beach, NC

Brad Piner, CPA
Beaufort, NC

Carteret County
Carteret County, NC

Historical Society
Carteret County, NC

Clinton Toms III,
Durham, NC

New Bern Historical Society
New Bern, NC

New Life Photos | JJ Davidson, Inc
Greenville, NC

North State Haberdashery
Mint Hill, NC

Outer Banks History Center
Manteo, NC

Outer Banks Lighthouse Society
Morehead City, NC

1st NC Volunteers

Realty World First Coast Realty
Atlantic Beach, NC

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www.friendsoffortmacon.org

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