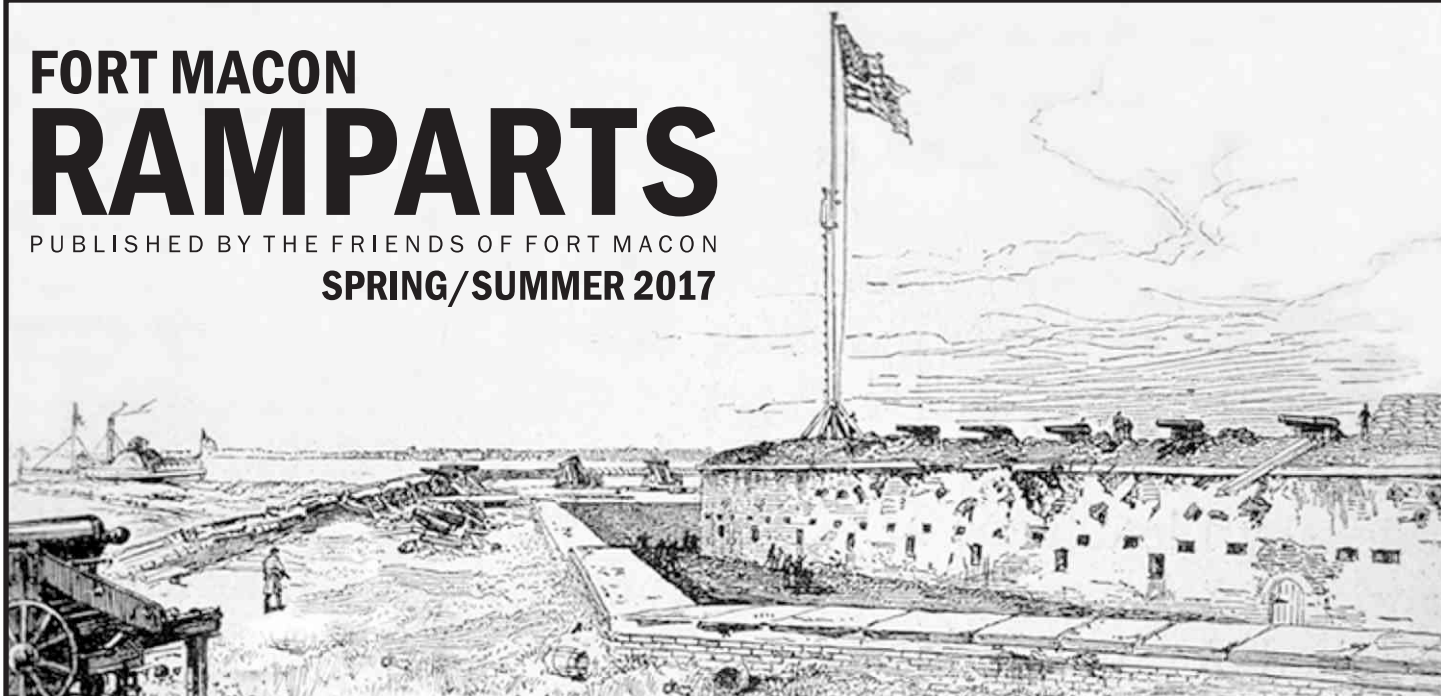


# FORT MACON RAMPARTS

PUBLISHED BY THE FRIENDS OF FORT MACON

SPRING/SUMMER 2017



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that your membership  
expired or will expire

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## Fort Macon State Park Gets an Original 10-inch Columbiad Cannon

*Paul Branch*

On February 24, 2017, Fort Macon State Park received an original Model 1861 “Confederate Rodman pattern” 10-inch columbiad cannon, which will eventually be placed on exhibit on the fort's outer wall. The acquisition of this cannon marks a significant accomplishment in the recent history of the fort. Of more than fifty cannons that once comprised Fort Macon's original armament in the 19th century, all were apparently scrapped by the army late in the 19th century except for two 10-inch siege mortars that still reside in the fort. With the help of the Friends of Fort Macon, the park staff in recent years has been able to acquire modern-made replicas of some of the other types of cannons that once comprised the fort's original armament as a part of its continuing efforts to restore parts of the fort to its 1860s appearance. This includes the completion in 2016 of the restoration of one whole battery of replica cannons of the exact type and model that once defended the eastern side of the fort's inner citadel during the War Between the States. On the park staff's wish list, however, was to one day acquire an example of the largest type of cannon the fort possessed in its original armament, a 10-inch columbiad. Columbiads were the largest class of seacoast cannons made during the mid-19th century. During the War Between the States Fort Macon possessed five 8-inch and two 10-inch columbiads. Of the latter, one was a prewar Model 1858 10-inch columbiad mounted on the fort's inner citadel and the other was a wartime Model 1861 Confederate Rodman pattern 10-inch columbiad mounted in the south angle of its outer wall. Although it might have been possible to acquire a replica of one of these guns at some point in the distant future, the prospect of somehow acquiring an original 10-inch columbiad someday of either model was a dream that no one ever thought would come true. But come true it did. For the circumstances of how this came to be, we must backtrack to the year 1877.

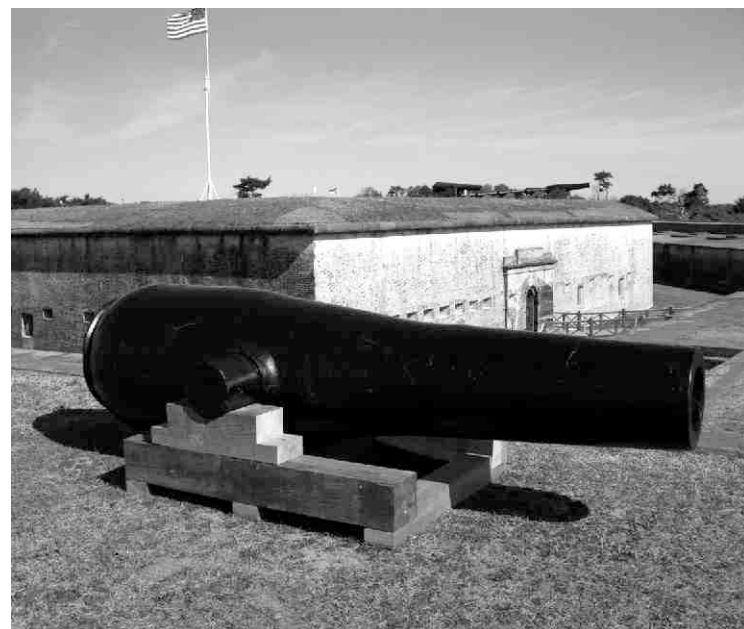
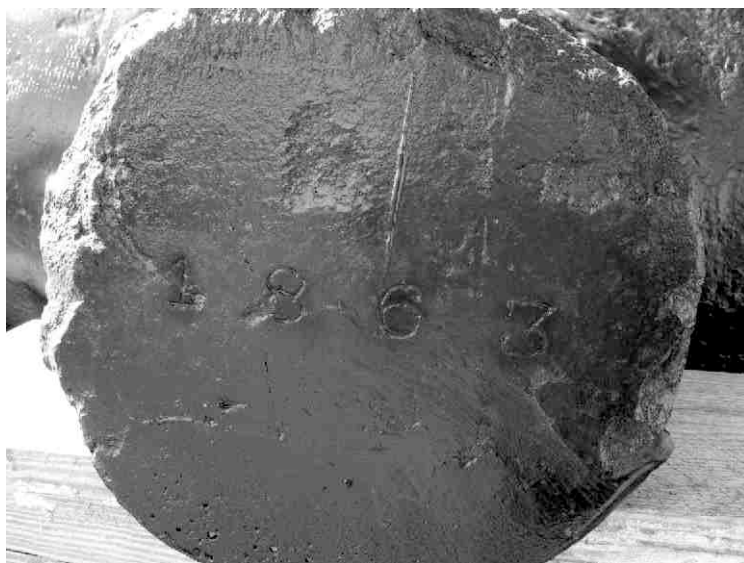
*continued...*

On February 28, 1877, the 254-ton three-masted schooner Philadelphia left Charleston, South Carolina, loaded with a cargo of railroad iron and at least 26 columbiads and seacoast guns from the former Confederate defenses of Charleston, all of which was destined to be melted down for scrap at Philadelphia. The schooner sank in bad weather twenty miles off Cape Romain, South Carolina, in the early morning of March 2 and its cargo lay forgotten on the bottom for more than a century. Fortunately, Long Bay Salvage Company, LLC, of Murrell's Inlet, S. C., acquired the salvage rights to the wreck after it was discovered and began recovering the priceless cannons to restore and sell. For company owners Rufus Perdue and Glenn Dutton, it is a long, laborious process to extract a cannon weighing almost seven tons from the concreted mass of the wreck, lift it to the surface and haul it to their conservation laboratory to go through a long process of preservation and desalination. So far they have been able to raise seven of the cannons.

The Fort Macon State Park staff had been aware for several years of Long Bay's salvage efforts through the company's agent and longtime friend of Fort Macon State Park, Mr. William Gorges, owner of Battleground Antiques/Civil War Shop of New Bern, NC. Last year, through the efforts of Mr. Gorges and special funding from the N. C. Division of Parks and Recreation, the park was able to arrange for the purchase of the sixth cannon salvaged by Long Bay, which had just completed its preservation process. On February 24, 2017, Long Bay delivered the cannon to Fort Macon State Park.

This cannon is a 10-inch Confederate Rodman pattern columbiad, Number 1885, weighing 13,388 pounds. It was manufactured on August 8, 1863, by the Tredegar Iron Works in Richmond, VA, the Confederacy's largest manufacturer of cannons and ordnance, and sent to Charleston, where it served in one of the Confederate forts around the harbor. After the war, the cannons of the various forts and batteries around Charleston Harbor were dismantled, stockpiled and sold by the US Government for scrap metal. In this way the cannon ended up in the cargo of the schooner Philadelphia headed for an ignominious end in the melting furnace until Mother Nature ended the schooner's voyage.

Fort Macon State Park plans to mount the cannon on a replica columbiad carriage at the south angle of its outer wall at the same location where the fort's first Confederate Rodman pattern 10-inch columbiad once stood. This first columbiad, Number 1316, was also made at the Tredegar Iron Works in Richmond and was sent to Fort Macon in January, 1862. It was one of the cannons mentioned in the article "The Lucky Shot," which appeared in the previous edition of the Ramparts (Fall/Winter, 2016). Although it was apparently sold for scrap by the army in the 1880s and no longer exists, the park will soon be able to display its nearly identical brother at the same spot where it once stood. For the park, it is a dream come true to have an original 10-inch columbiad, of the exact same model and from the same foundry as one the fort possessed in the 19th century.





# — FORT MACON 101 —

*Paul Branch and Cindi Davia*

## *Cannons of Fort Macon Today*



### **32-pounder**

Medium caliber seacoast cannon firing a 32-pound ball one mile. Of 54 cannons in the fort during the siege, 22 were 32-pounders (eighteen smoothbore and four rifled).



### **8-inch columbiad**

Columbiads were the largest seacoast cannons made in the mid-19th century. Fort Macon had five 8-inch columbiads, which fired a 65-pounder ball 2.7 miles.



### **10-inch columbiad**

Fort Macon's largest cannons were two 10-inch columbiads, which could fire a 128-pound ball over three miles. This one was just purchased by the park and is an original cannon made in 1863 that was used to defend Charleston during the war.



### **32-pounder carronade**

Carronades were naval broadside guns that were frequently used for flanking defense in forts. Six of these were used in Fort Macon in the counterfire rooms under the outer wall to defend against attackers in the ditch. They were later used as mortars during the battle in a desperate attempt to lob exploding shells into Union Army trenches during the siege. This is an original carronade made in 1820 that is on indefinite loan from the Navy History and Heritage Command for display at Fort Macon.



### **10-inch siege mortars**

These mortars are two of only three of cannons of Fort Macon's original armament left in existence today. They were brought to the fort in June 1862 by the Union Army after the battle. They fire an 88-pound exploding shell 1.2 miles.



### **6-pounder field cannon**

Fort Macon had a few 6-pounder cannons on hand at the beginning of the War Between the States. These light field guns are the smallest regulation caliber used in the war and fired a 6-pound ball just under a mile. This is an original cannon made in 1864 and was purchased for the fort in 1952. It is not known where it actually fought.



### **30-pounder parrott rifle**

The bombardment of Fort Macon was the second time in history rifled siege artillery was used against a fort in combat. The Union Army had three 30-pounder Parrott Rifles in action against the fort that did great damage and caused its surrender. Its 30-pound rifled projectile could be fired about 3.8 miles.



# On Your Mark, Get Set, Mosquito Run 2018 is a GO!

Mosquito Run 2017 was held on May 6th, and it was a tremendous success! The skies were blue, the sea breeze was motivating and runners and hikers alike had great experience. This was our second Mosquito Run along the Elliott Coues Trail and it is now a firm tradition. Many raving reviews have been made about the trail, and also the event. If you haven't seen our trail, come witness a true treasure.

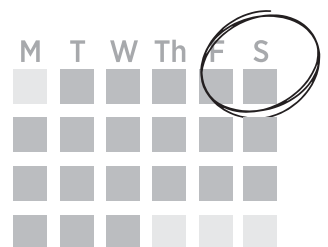
**Thank you! To our Mosquito Run Sponsor**



**Amos Mosquito's**  
RESTAURANT & BAR

And much appreciation for the water and fruit provided by  
Garrison Grading & Construction and Harris Teeter, Morehead City.

*Cindi Davia, President*



**SAVE THE DATE**  
**MAY 5**  
**2018**

**is our next  
Mosquito Run!**





## *Spy Sensibilities*

The new lady spy program was presented this spring with great reviews.

Emeline Pigott of North Carolina and Belle Boyd of Virginia were very crafty spies during the War Between the States. Be sure to check back this fall for more Spy Sensibilities.



*Emeline Pigott*



*Belle Boyd*



# Summer CONCERTS

## FRIDAY EVENINGS

### AT FORT MACON STATE PARK

## FREE CONCERTS

*donations gladly accepted*

**SHOWS ARE FROM 6:30-8 PM\***

BRING LAWN CHAIR OR BLANKET  
PICNIC BASKETS (NO ALCOHOL) ARE WELCOME

*Sponsored by Parker Buick-GMC and  
Parker Honda of Morehead City*

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL  
FORT MACON PARK AT 726-3775

[www.friendsoffortmacon.org](http://www.friendsoffortmacon.org)  
Like us on Facebook: Friends of Fort Macon

- |      |     |   |
|------|-----|---|
| JUNE | 02  | Carteret Sunshine Band<br>Orchestra           |
| JUNE | 16  | Unknown Tongues<br>Cajun/Zydeco               |
| JUNE | 17* | Morehead City Brass<br>1PM Pop/Classics       |
| JUNE | 30  | Scearce & Ketner<br>Carolina Beach "Seagrass" |
| JULY | 07  | Wild Honey<br>Country/Folk                    |
| JULY | 28  | 4EverAll<br>Contemporary Mix                  |

# Membership Renewal Dues 2016/2017

Follow these instructions to renew your membership!

**The address label on the newsletter references your Membership Type:**

I = Individual (\$15)   F= Family (\$15)   C = Contributor (\$30)   D= Donor (\$50)   S=Sponsor (\$75)  
Individual Lifetime (\$200) or Business Lifetime (\$500)

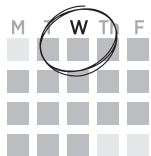
**Then the amount of your last membership dues is listed.**

**The last item is the date of your most recent dues payment.** If this date is prior to 2016, this will be your last Rampart until you update your membership. Unless you are a Lifetime Member, this is an annual membership.

**To renew your membership, you can tear off the portion of the RAMPART with your address label on it.** Circle the Membership Type that you are choosing. Add your email address to the right of the Membership Type section. Then mail this along with your check to the address on the RAMPART. You may also renew memberships and make donations on our updated website.

We would like to add your email address to our information as this will help reduce mailing costs and enable us to notify you of events in a more efficient and timely manner. We promise that we will NOT share this information with anyone and will only use it to notify you of Fort Macon/Friends of Fort Macon events.

*Thank you, Sheila Leppert*



## 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.

## SAVE THE DATE



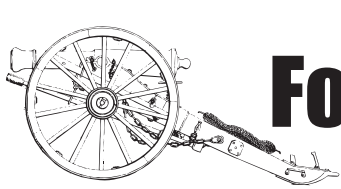
Howling Hayride  
and Night Hike

**Saturday, October 14**

Hay Rides Starting at 6:30pm—Bathhouse parking lot

## What's Happening?

Stay turned to the  
Friends of Fort Macon  
website: [friendsoffortmacon.org](http://friendsoffortmacon.org)  
and our Facebook page  
for updates and what's new.



# *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**

**Membership Renewals on Page 7**