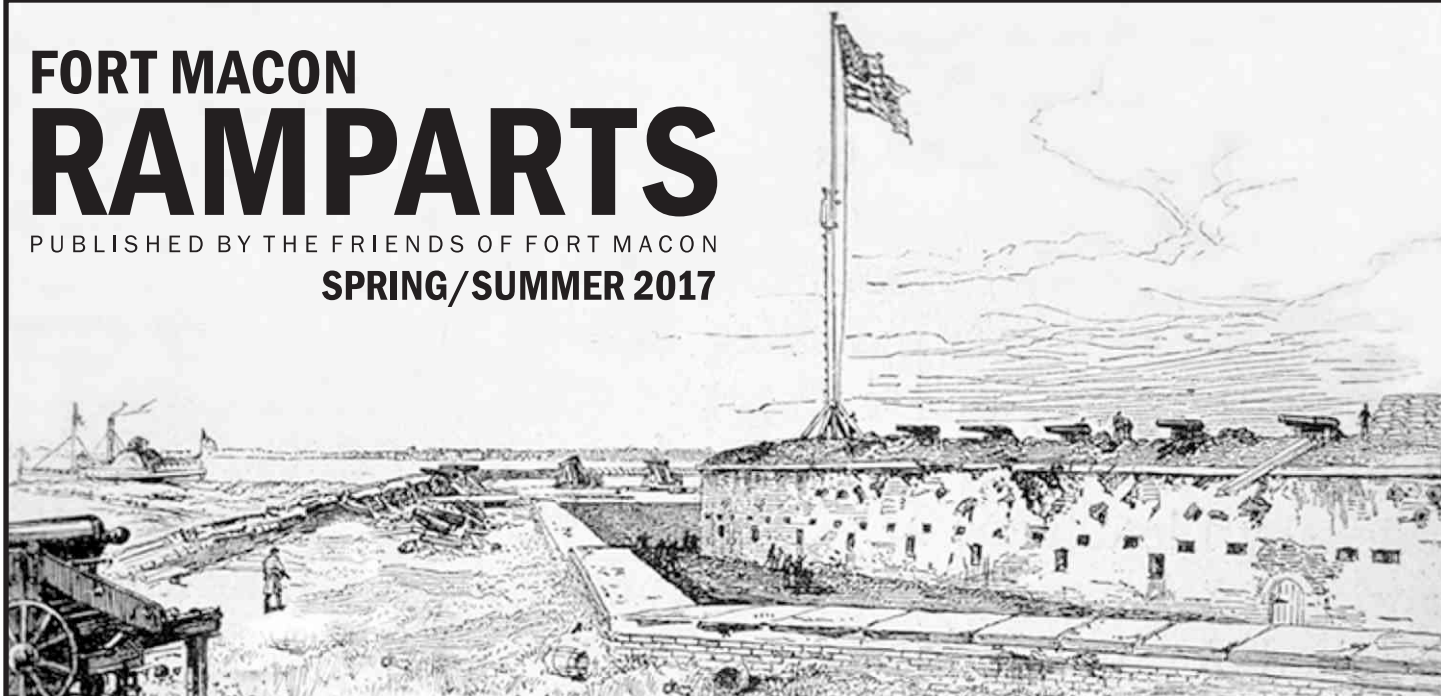


# FORT MACON RAMPARTS

PUBLISHED BY THE FRIENDS OF FORT MACON

SPRING/SUMMER 2017



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

\*\*\*\*\*

## The Lucky Shot

*Paul Branch*

On April 25, 1862, Fort Macon was bombarded for eleven hours by siege artillery of Union forces commanded by Major General Ambrose E. Burnside. At the end of the day, the fort had suffered considerable damage in the bombardment and had many of its guns knocked out. The Confederate forces of Colonel Moses J. White defending the fort were forced to surrender at about 4:30 p.m. when one of the fort's gunpowder magazines became in danger of being exploded by the accurate Union artillery fire. The surrender was formally concluded the following morning and Union soldiers occupied the fort.

With the battle now won, some of the Union officers, along with correspondents from a number of Northern newspapers embedded with Burnside's forces, had the opportunity to examine the effectiveness of their artillery fire against the fort. Of 1150 shots fired at the fort by Union guns, 560 hit in some manner, not to mention many others that had exploded over the fort. The fort's walls were pocked, scarred and cracked in places. Shell craters were everywhere and thousands of fragments of exploded shells carpeted the ground. A number of the fort's guns had been dismantled and many of the wooden gun carriages were splintered and damaged. It was in regard to some of the fort's knocked out guns that the attention of the Union officers and correspondents came to be focused in what one of them termed as "a most remarkable effect of one of [the] shots." At the south angle of the fort's outer wall, a single lucky shot from a Union cannon had knocked out three of the fort's biggest cannons, killed three men and wounded four others, all in one fell swoop! The story of this lucky shot was one of the highlights of the bombardment as far as the victors were concerned. Everyone who saw its effects was amazed at the destructive power of this single cannon shot and it is mentioned both in official battle reports and newspaper accounts of the bombardment. To illuminate exactly what happened, we go back first to what was happening in the fort.

During the siege of Fort Macon, the Confederate garrison of the fort had 54



30-pounder Parrott Bolt

*continued...*



*South Angle of Fort Macon and, left to right, 8-inch, 10-inch (dark cannon) and 8-inch columbiads still in place in 1867. They were facing to the right during the battle. The 8-inch gun on the right was struck first, then the 10-inch gun and finally the 8-inch gun nearest the camera.*

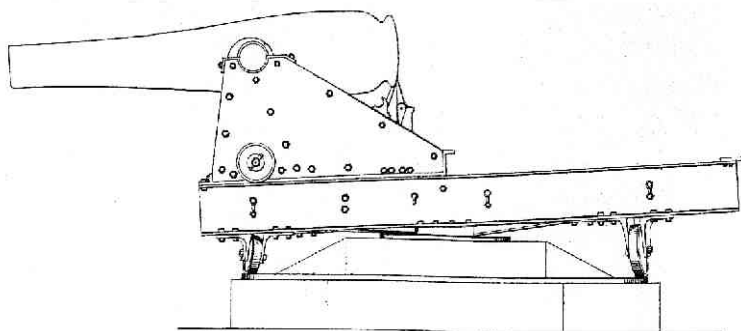
cannons available for its defense. The largest and most powerful of these were two 10-inch and five 8-inch columbiads. One of the 10-inch and two of the 8-inch columbiads were mounted on the fort's outer wall, called the covertway, at the south angle. The massive 10-inch columbiad, weighing 13,320 pounds, was mounted on an iron center pintle gun carriage situated on a wooden firing platform. The two 8-inch columbiads, each weighing over 9000 pounds, were on wooden center pintle gun carriages and firing platforms. All three were manned by Captain Stephen D. Pool's Company H, 10th North Carolina Regiment (1st N. C. Artillery). During the April 25 bombardment, all three were in action, their center pintle gun carriages allowing them to turn to face either four Union Navy gunboats attacking from the ocean offshore or the Union land batteries firing at the fort from about  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile

away up the beach on Bogue Banks.

On the other side, the Union land batteries firing at the fort consisted of a battery of 8-inch siege mortars, a battery of 10-inch siege mortars, and a battery of rifled siege cannons. The latter battery consisted of three 30-pounder Parrott Rifle cannons commanded by Captain Lewis O. Morris, Company C, 1st US Artillery. It proved to be the star of the bombardment. Rifled artillery was in its infancy in 1862 and the bombardment of Fort Macon was only the second time in history that rifled siege guns had been used against a fort in combat. The incredible accuracy of fire and tremendous hitting power of these three rifled cannons caused great problems for Confederate artillerymen defending the fort. The rifled cannons were responsible for knocking out many of the fort's cannons and cracking the fort's walls adjacent to one of the gunpowder magazines, which ultimately caused the fort's surrender. It was also one of these three cannons that fired the lucky shot, a 30-pound cylindrical iron solid shot, or "bolt", about 9  $\frac{1}{2}$  inches long and just over four inches in diameter, that disabled all three of Captain Pool's columbiads at about 2 p.m. on the afternoon of the bombardment.

There are several good descriptions of the damage wrought by this one projectile. Of these the best is from the correspondent of the New York Daily Tribune in his account of the battle that appeared on May 5, 1862:

"The bolt had perforated the crossbar of the heavy



*10-inch columbiad on Iron Carriage*

*continued...*



barbette carriage of the eight-inch columbiad [on the right side of the south angle], broken the elevating screw, killed the gunner, and disabled the piece; then passing to the ten-inch gun [on the opposite side of the angle], it dismounted it, killed two men and wounded three more; then striking the brick revetment [of the glacis wall], it glanced to the next gun, which it disabled, and wounded Capt. Pool's son, who was acting as captain of the gun, after which it fell into the ditch. The concussion prostrated every man at the three guns. These facts I learned from Capt. Pool himself, whose veracity cannot be questioned."

The account of the correspondent of the New York Herald of May 4, 1862, mentioned the "Parrott shot perforated the woodwork of one of the [8-inch] gun carriages, passed along parallel to the edge, and snapping in two the elevating screw, killed the gunner while in the act of sighting, then crossed over to the opposite side and killed two more, besides wounding several others."

Lieutenant Daniel W. Flagler, commander of one of the Union mortar batteries, further noted that the "shot passed diagonally through the wooden top carriage of an [8-inch columbiad] and then through the iron top carriage of a [10-inch columbiad] going through one cheek in each, and knocking away the elevating screws from both. Both top carriages were injured beyond repair." It should be noted that each wooden upright, or cheek, for an 8-inch columbiad top carriage was a 6 ½ inch-thick wood timber, while each cheek for an iron 10-inch columbiad top carriage was a large iron plate 1 ¼ inches thick. The Parrott shot went completely through these!

The three unfortunate Confederate artillerymen killed by this shot were: Sergeant Jechonias P. Willis, 22, Private Joseph D. Stanton, 22, and Private Elijah H. Elliott, 21, of Pool's company. Stanton was a Quaker and, according to family legend, had been written out of the Quaker church when he went off to war. He is also supposed to be a distant cousin of Edwin M. Stanton, the Union Secretary of War. All three men were Carteret County natives. It is remarkable that of the seven Confederate soldiers who were killed in action in Fort Macon during the bombardment, almost half of them (three of the seven) were killed by this one lucky shot.

Following the battle, the Union Army occupied Fort Macon for the remainder of the War Between the States. The three columbiads remained at the fort until the 1880s and then were apparently sold off by the army for scrap. Although they are long gone today, the staff of Fort Macon State Park is currently in the process of trying to acquire an original 10-inch columbiad cannon of the same type and from the same manufacturer as the one that once stood at the south angle of the covertway. If these efforts are successful, the cannon will be installed on a replica emplacement at the same spot where the 1862 10-inch columbiad originally stood. Here it will serve as a reminder of a remarkable yet deadly incident that took place in this lonely corner of Fort Macon on an April afternoon long ago.

# SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

*Randy Newman*

What a year of celebration for Fort Macon State Park; With North Carolina State Park system serving the citizens of North Carolina for 100 years (beginning with Mount Mitchell State Park being purchased in 1916), and the North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation officially naming Fort Macon State Park its "Park of the Year". Fort Macon State Park celebrated the State Parks centennial event on April 22nd thru 24th, with over 24,000 visitors enjoying the U.S. Marine Corp. band, fireworks, and two days of battle reenactments.

A couple of my personal highlights of 2016 were opening the entire 3.2 miles, Elliott Coues Nature Trail. This nature trail was opened on time for the centennial celebration and again I want to thank the Friends of Fort Macon for funding the materials for the trail construction and all the volunteers who gave their time to build the trail. The trail has been a major addition to the park being enjoyed by thousands of visitors and also being used by West Carteret High School to host their home cross country events. The other highlight that sticks out for me is the friend's group continued support to "help arm the fort". The friends' group had committed to complete the cannon battery on top of the fort facing the inlet. The entire battery which included five 32 pounders and one eight inch Columbiad was totally completed and in place for the centennial celebration. I would like to personally thank the Friends of Fort Macon and Wayne Community college for their hard work in making this project a reality.

This past year will always be a special year for Fort Macon State Park. However, I am very excited about what the future has in store for the park. The park is currently working with the parks Division in applying for a grant to build a connector trail from the town of Atlantic Beach side walk system to the nature trail system in the park. Park staff is also working with the Division in the acquisition of an original 10 inch Columbiad which was the largest type of cannon used on the fort during the War Between the States.

The park still needs volunteers to assist in staffing the visitor center information desk, and giving guided tours of Fort Macon. If interested, please contact the park office at 252-726-3775.

*We look forward to seeing you in the park,  
Randy Newman*



## Sea Turtle Nesting Season 2016 Summary

Total Number of Nests: 2  
False Crawls: 1

*Emily Abernethy*



### NEST ONE

6.30.2016

Relocated 112 eggs  
Hatched 8.19.2016  
Nest Excavation: 99 hatched eggs,  
8 unhatched eggs, 4 dead, 6 live



### NEST TWO

7.22.2016

In Situ  
Hatched 9.9.2016  
Nest Excavation: 120 hatched eggs,  
14 unhatched eggs, 1 dead, 13 live  
\* 2 hatchlings taken to Pine Knoll Shores  
Aquarium for rehabilitation

## Centennial Spring and Summer ... a letter to my Friends

100 years! Not many people will experience that in their lifetime. So, to be part of a celebration of this magnitude is mighty special. The preparation and care for the NC Parks Centennial anniversary at Fort Macon was a huge success. The Fort Macon staff, and other NC Parks employees from across the state, worked very hard. The teamwork between staff and volunteers had a fantastic energy, and that's why the Friends of Fort Macon love what we do!

Thank you to the Fort Macon staff, and all volunteer workers, for sharing your time and talents. I witnessed many smiling faces, and heard many good reviews about Fort Macon's part in the 100th Anniversary. You certainly made a nice bit of "NC History" at the Fort this year.

I would like to give a hearty, and heartfelt "Thank you!" to Tom Kelly and Paul Molnar for your many years of volunteering; your combined years as FOFM President, Treasurer, and SO much more. You have made many great things happen, and certainly set-up the FOFM for continued success. It was a proud moment when all the cannons fired during the Centennial event; Tom and Paul you were certainly a part of that "Big Bang"!

Fort Friends, it is almost time to launch our new FOFM website. We are very excited to share it with you. Please, be sure we have your current information (also correct email addresses), so that we can let you know of our official launch... It's coming very soon!

After the launch, please, share your thoughts. Look for your next Rampart's Spring 2017!

*Your volunteer with cheer!*

*Cindi Davia, Co- President/Secretary FOFM*





# Schedule of Events

## OCTOBER

**Fort Tours: Oct 1-15 at 11am, 12pm, 2pm and 3pm  
Oct 15-31 Mon-Fri at 11am**

Wednesdays	10 AM	<b>Musket firing Demonstration</b> – Learn about a Civil War era musket's history, loading procedures and firing. Meet in the fort.
3 Mon	10 AM	<b>Flags of Fort Macon &amp; the Confederacy</b> — Meet at the Fort Visitor Center to learn about the wide range of flags used by the confederacy during the War Between the States.
5 Wed	12 PM	<b>Friends of Fort Macon Monthly Meeting</b> – 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.
10 Mon	9 AM	<b>Bird Hike</b> – Meet at the Visitor Center and take a leisurely hike to identify birds native to the area.
20 Thur	10 PM	<b>Natural Side of Fort Macon</b> – Meet in the Visitor Center lobby for a leisurely hike exploring the natural side of Fort Macon. Hike will cover both trail and beach.
21 Fri	6:30 PM	<b>Astronomy</b> – Meet at the bathhouse to view space through a telescope and learn more about our Universe.
22 Sat	6:30 PM	<b>Howling Hayride</b> – Join us for a special hayride and night hike at Fort Macon State Park. Enjoy a hayride from the visitor center to the bathhouse then hike 1 mile back along the Elliott Coues Nature Trail.

## NOVEMBER

**Fort Tours: Mon-Fri at 11 am**

Wednesdays	10 AM	<b>Musket firing Demonstration</b> – Learn about a Civil War era musket's history, loading procedures and firing. Meet in the fort.
2 Wed	12 PM	<b>Friends of Fort Macon Monthly Meeting</b> – 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.
7 Mon	10 AM	<b>Flags of Fort Macon &amp; the Confederacy</b> - Meet at the Fort Visitor Center to learn about the wide range of flags used by the confederacy during the War Between the States.
12 Sat	2:00-4:30PM	<b>Hands On Fort Macon</b> – Join us for a special Veteran's Day event and get a better idea of what life might have been like as a soldier or civilian stationed at Fort Macon during different periods of history. Activities to include: <b>Public cannon drills</b> – try your hand at operating a 19 <sup>th</sup> century cannon; <b>Musket cartridge construction</b> – Learn how ammunition for muskets of the 18 <sup>th</sup> and 19 <sup>th</sup> centuries was made by making your own using candy and sugar instead of bullets and gun powder; <b>19<sup>th</sup> Century Women's Dress</b> – Try on a Victorian style dress, and learn about women's fashion of the time; <b>Uniform and small arms demo</b> – Learn about soldiers from the War of 1812 through WWI, the uniforms they wore and the weapons they used. Starts at 3:00; <b>Children's Musket Drill</b> – The young and young at heart are invited to join a regiment and learn 19 <sup>th</sup> century drill with the help of reenactors. Starts about 3:30; <b>Cannon Demonstration</b> – We will end the event with a cannon firing demonstration at 4:00
14 Mon	9 AM	<b>Bird Hike</b> – Meet at the Visitor Center and take a leisurely hike to identify birds native to the area.
17 Thurs	10 AM	<b>Natural Side of Fort Macon</b> – Meet in the Visitor Center lobby for a leisurely hike exploring the natural side of Fort Macon. Hike will cover both trail and beach.
18 Fri	5:30 PM	<b>Astronomy</b> – Meet at the bathhouse to view space through a telescope and learn more about our Universe.

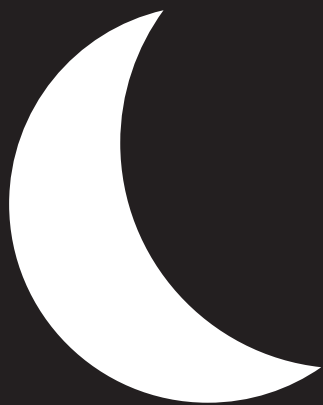
## DECEMBER

**Fort Tours: Mon-Fri at 11 am**

Wednesdays	10 AM	<b>Musket firing Demonstration</b> – Learn about a Civil War era musket's history, loading procedures and firing. Meet in the fort.
5 Mon	10 AM	<b>Flags of Fort Macon &amp; the Confederacy</b> - Meet at the Fort Visitor Center to learn about the wide range of flags used by the confederacy during the War Between the States.
7 Wed	12 PM	<b>Friends of Fort Macon Monthly Meeting</b> – 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.
12 Mon	9 AM	<b>Bird Hike</b> – Meet at the Visitor Center and take a leisurely hike to identify birds native to the area.
16 Fri	5:30 PM	<b>Astronomy</b> – Meet at the bathhouse to view space through a telescope and learn more about our Universe.

**\* SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25TH N.C. State Parks Closed to the Public \***

31 Sat	6 PM	<b>New Year's Eve Cannon Blast</b> – Celebrate the end of 2016 and the beginning of 2017 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.
Jan 1 Sun	2 PM	<b>First Day Hike</b> – 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 Caues Trail.



## Fort Macon State Park

LEARN ABOUT CREATURES OF THE NIGHT

# Howling Hayride and Night Hike

## Saturday, October 22

**Suggested  
\$5 Donation**

**Bring a flashlight,  
pencil and bug spray**

**1.5 Mile Hike**

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

Call the park office at (252) 726-3775 to sign up

For more information about this event go to <http://www.ncparks.gov/fort-macon-state-park>

**HANDS ON FORT MACON**

# VETERAN'S DAY

## Saturday, November 12

**2:00 - 4:30 PM | Cannon Firing Demonstration 4:00 PM**

**Children's  
Musket Drill**

**Public  
Cannon Drills**

**Uniform and  
Small Arms Demo**

**Musket Cartridge  
Construction**

**19th Century  
Women's Dress**

For more information go to <http://www.ncparks.gov/fort-macon-state-park>  
or call the park office at (252) 726-3775



# 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)

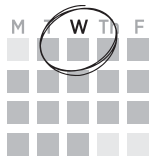
**Then the amount of your last membership dues is listed.**

**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. In November, Ranger Emily Abernethy will be discussing the Women of the Civil War. 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.

We will be having our  
**ANNUAL FRIENDS  
APPRECIATION DINNER**  
at the Fort  
**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1**  
at 6:00 PM

Please, be sure to RSVP to Cindi Davia by Oct. 28th  
Phone: 252-342-3484 or Email at [cindidavia@aol.com](mailto:cindidavia@aol.com)

**FORT MACON STATE PARK**

## MOSQUITO RUN 5K

It's confirmed! We will have our  
2nd Mosquito Run Event

**MAY 6, 2017**

Stay tuned for details on our website!



Thank you! Amos Mosquito Restaurant, Atlantic Beach and the Friends of Fort Macon for your support of our new tradition!





The Friends of Fort Macon  
**FREE CONCERTS**  
 At Fort Macon State Park  
**FRIDAY EVENINGS**

We had another great summer of music at the Fort. Many Thanks! To all the fine musicians, Parker Buick-GMC, Fort Friends, and park staff. This summer tradition is a part of many lives locally, and afar. No doubt, it will continue for many years to come.

Until next summer... Take care

Cindi Davia  
 Co-President

**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**