

The Brunswick Belle

The Official Newsletter for Brunswick Town/Ft. Anderson State Historic Site

18TH CENTURY PROGRAMS WRAP UP AN EXCITING YEAR AT BT/FA

As summer comes to a close, the staff at Brunswick Town have but one thing looming on our minds, our biggest and longest running program: Heritage Days. This October we celebrated the 29th year that this program has been presented to Brunswick County fourth grade students. This hectic, yet fun filled week was wrapped up with a relatively new program, Colonial Day at Brunswick, a Saturday in which visitors can experience the same exciting activities that the school children get to do during the week.



Our colonial programming continued into December as well. On December 6, An 18th Century Christmas was held at the site, complete with colonial refreshments and a period church service in the ruins of St. Philips.



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Civil War Medicine:
William Dorsey Pender

...And More!



None of these programs would be possible without the help of our most awesome volunteers! Many thanks go out to Hannah Smith, Sandy Kennedy, Linda Niemczyk, Karen Nelson, Kelly Goldenbaum, Tom MacDonald, Bob Keys, Bob Erickson, Peggy Price, Jason Howell, Tim Boyd, Jack Fryar, Jesse Bricker, Barbara Johansen, Tom Hudgins, Ellen and David Dorsett, Anne and Jonathan Richmond, Carolee Morris, May Moore, Jane and Linda Koontz, Joyce Mahoney, Katrina Fairbank, Beth, Andrew, Aubrey, and Jacob Sherrod, Sydney, Harrison, and Elena Nobles, Jesse Harvey, Pat Moore, Bonnie Thomas, Dr. Jack Hisley, Connie Hendrix, Tom Beaman, Jennifer Gabriel, and Ryan Walker.

If you are interested in assisting with future programming at BT/FA, please contact volunteer coordinator Shannon Walker at shannon.walker@ncdcr.gov or (910) 371-6613.

FROM THE MANGERS DESK

Falling leaves of red and orange adorn the town of Brunswick. What a beautiful site on the Cape Fear River. No wonder the natives didn't want to leave and the colonists wanted to stay. So abounding with nature and beauty, I fall into the not wanting to leave category. After being here just shy of 28 years, what a magnificent place to work!

The past couple of months have been so busy with the Colonial Day/Heritage Days events, securing an eight grade Civil War Heritage Days for next Spring, and the Christmas Open House Program. The site received a \$5000 grant from the local ADM Company. This money will go towards our new 8th grade program and the proposed gun emplacement.

Hope that you are having a great Holiday Season! See you in the New Year!

Bunda Bryant



*Season's Greetings and Happy New Year from the
staff at Brunswick Town/Fort Anderson*

ENGINEERING A GIANT:
THE CONSTRUCTION OF FORT ANDERSON

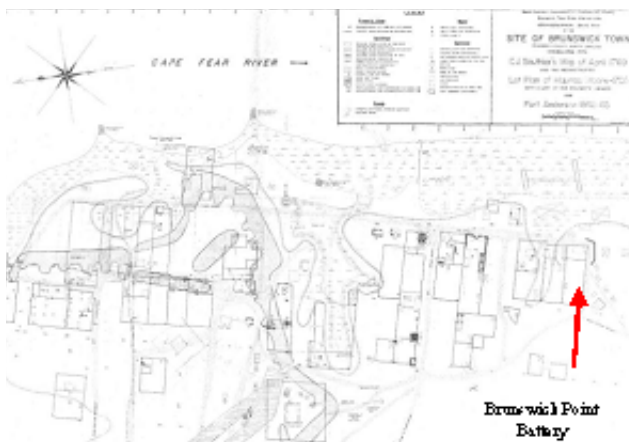
BY JIM MCKEE

Although the earthen walls of Fort Anderson dominate the cultural landscape of Brunswick Town/Fort Anderson State Historic Site it was not the first earthen fort established at Brunswick. During the summer of 1861 an elliptical shaped, approximate two gun battery was erected about 300 yards south of Fort Anderson. Known as the Brunswick Point Battery it measured some 8-10 feet high on the exterior and approximately 164 feet in length; the interior height was estimated at five to six feet. The discrepancy in exterior vs. interior height can be explained by noting the soil used to form the earthen fort was obtained from immediately in front of the fort. The battery measures 32 feet thick between the middle of the interior and exterior ditches. This practice served two purposes, one it allowed a “reasonable” height shooting platform for the defenders and two it increased the height of the vertical barrier that the attacking force would have to overcome. Unfortunately there is no inventory of the armament that would have been present but we do know that from August 1861 until March 1862 Company B, 1st Maryland Infantry was stationed at Brunswick Point Battery undergoing instruction in how to operate heavy artillery.

What we refer to as Fort Anderson was originally named Ft. St. Philip, in honor of the colonial era Anglican Church located within the earthworks. On July 1, 1863, the name was changed to Ft. Anderson in honor of Gen. George Burgwyn Anderson, who was mortally wounded at Antietam. Construction of the fort began on March 24, 1862, under the supervision of twenty year old Lt. Thomas Rowland, a former cadet at the United States Military Academy at West Point and current Cadet of Engineers in the Confederate States Army.

Rowland assisted by “master-carpenter” George W. Rose and a “master-workman”, either Robert B. Wood or his brother John C. Wood supervised a group of conscripted slaves, free blacks, and North Carolina soldiers as they began construction of an artillery battery and an approximate one mile long series of earthworks that extended from the Cape Fear River to the headwaters of Orton Pond (Fonville 1999:8-9). Rowland’s work contained a magazine and emplacements for two heavy guns, one close to the river and another behind St. Philip’s Church.

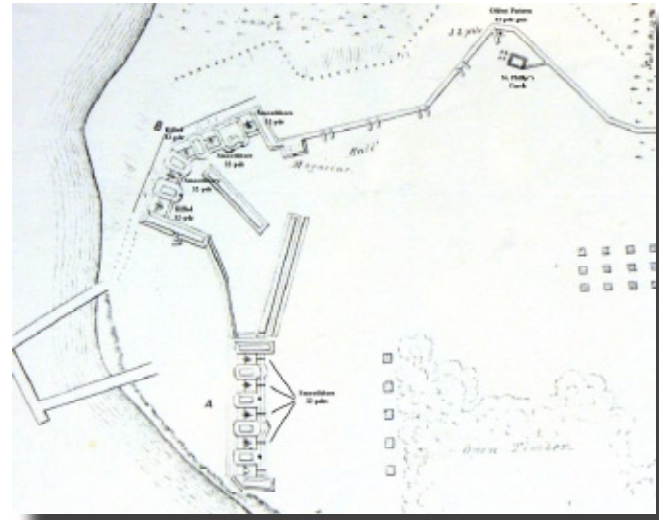
On May 4, 1862, Maj. William Lamb was ordered to the new earthen fort. Lamb began to reconstruct the works closest to the river and began construction of a new battery about 75 yards up-river from the main works and that paralleled the river channel. These new additions would grow to 26 feet high and would be pierced to mount ten heavy seacoast guns. The fort was improved and enlarged during the next three years under the subsequent commands of Majors William Lamb and John J. Hedrick. By the time that Fort Anderson was completed it was the Cape Fear’s most powerful interior defensive fortification, second in size only to Fort Fisher, situated on the east bank of the Cape Fear River.



ENGINEERING A GIANT CONTINUED....

From the riverside, Fort Anderson was shaped like a large crooked letter L, with the short end parallel to the Cape Fear River and the long shank situated perpendicular to the river. Rowland's original redoubt was transformed into a twenty-four-foot-high crescent-shaped bastion designated Battery B on Union maps. Situated at the intersection of the L's two shanks, the bastion was fitted with five gun chambers, each mounting one 32-pounder (pdr) cannon. The guns were mounted on large wooden carriages en barbette, thereby allowing them to fire over the top of the parapet (i.e., fort) and were separated by a traverse (i.e., a large mound of soil slightly higher than the rest of parapet). Traverses were designed to protect cannon and crew from enfilading fire, so that if a shell exploded in one gun chamber soldiers and artillery in an adjacent chamber would be protected from shrapnel and debris. Constructed underneath some of the traverses were magazines used for storing gunpowder and artillery projectiles.

The short end of the L was a 150-yard long artillery emplacement called Battery A; it extended parallel to the Cape Fear River. Like Battery B, the walls of Battery A averaged approximately twenty-six high and were interspersed with five gun chambers separated by traverses. Battery A also mounted 32-pdr guns. It is important to note that while the U.S. Army's Official Military Atlas designates these earthworks Battery A and Battery B that probably reflects Union nomenclature and not the original Confederate names of the batteries. Both batteries were linked in a somewhat disjointed fashion by three sand walls. Abutting Battery B's west flank was Lt. Rowland's original six-foot high earthen wall with a series of small emplacements for light artillery. One 32-pdr cannon was mounted behind St. Philip's Church at the salient point of the river and land faces.



Technically Fort Anderson was classified as a "Sea-coast Battery" that could best be described as an "Open Gorge Earthen Fort". This implies that the fort proper was constructed of earth with the rear of the fort open or unprotected. Sea-coast batteries were generally established near the entrance of ports or along the coast to protect ports, and anchorages. Engineering specifications suggested that the parapet of these batteries should be at minimum seven feet in overall height with the uppermost two feet consisting of soil and approximately eighteen feet thick. Sea coast Cannon such as those employed at Fort Anderson were fired through embrasures in either direct fire or oblique. Direct fire is when the line of fire is perpendicular to the parapet or oblique is the line of fire is oblique to the parapet. It was further suggested that the distance between guns should be between 18-21 feet to prevent multiple guns from being destroyed by one well placed shot. Not surprisingly the gun emplacements and platforms were to be "swept clean" in an effort to keep sand, trash, and debris from interfering with the operation of the cannon.

ENGINEERING A GIANT
CONTINUED....

By the time the fort was taken by combined Union Army and Naval forces on February 19, 1865, the two main batteries (A & B) formed a crescent-shaped bastion that stood twenty-six feet high and approximately 40-45 feet thick at the base. Battery A faced the river and could direct point-blank, plunging fire on any ships that may have tried to pass the fort with its four smooth-bore 32-pdr guns. Battery B was able to direct fire at ships as they approached from down river with its two rifled 32-pdrs and three smoothbore 32-pdrs. The land faces of the fort were protected with a 32-pdr “of the oldest pattern” and a number of field pieces, including a 2.75-inch (12-pdr) breechloading Whitworth rifle.

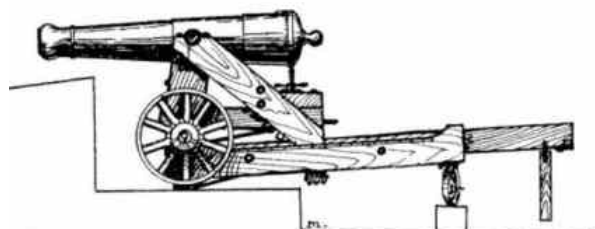
Prior to the January 15, 1865 fall of Ft. Fisher, the garrison of Ft. Anderson, at any given time, would have consisted of approximately 200 men, mostly drawn from artillery units. Because the fort was also used as a quarantine station, there would have probably been any number of naval and medical personnel present. By late January 1865, the number of troops at the fort swelled to include the garrisons of the forts (Caswell, Campbell, Holmes, Johnston, Deep Water Point, and Lamb) that had been evacuated after the fall of Ft. Fisher. In addition, Gen. Johnson Hagood’s Brigade of South Carolina infantry was sent to reinforce Ft. Anderson. By the time the Union military effort was directed at Ft. Anderson, the garrison had swelled to nearly 2300 men.

The Union attack on Ft. Anderson began on February 11, 1865 with a bombardment by a Union naval flotilla in the river. The flotilla included the ironclad monitor USS Montauk which was armed with one XI-inch Dahlgren and a monstrous XV-inch Dahlgren gun that fired 350 pound shells into the fort.

By February 17 Union forces under Gen. Jacob D. Cox had advanced on the fort and began a flanking maneuver to try and attack the fort from the rear. On the 18th the band of the 104th Ohio Infantry serenaded Union troops during some of the heaviest fighting. Not to be outdone the brass band of the 25th South Carolina inside the fort began to play, and an impromptu “battle of the bands” began in earnest. Finally on the morning of February 19 the Confederates abandoned the fort and it was occupied by Union forces later that morning. Just as Union troops entered the fort, the Union naval squadron resumed their bombardment of the fort. The panicked Union soldiers desperately signaled the ships to stop their bombardment by waving a white canvas tent. It was with great pleasure that the Union Navy accepted the “surrender” of the Union Army.

The Friends of Brunswick Town/Fort Anderson are currently in the midst of a fundraising campaign to construct and install a working reproduction model 1846 navy 32 pdr. 57 cwt. rifled, unbanded cannon and gun emplacement on Battery B. If you are interested in contributing to the cause, please contact the site at (910) 371-6613 or email brunswick@ncdcr.gov.

All donations are tax deductible.



BRUNSWICK TOWN/FORT ANDERSON STATE HISTORIC SITE
2012 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 17 War Between the States Quiz Bowl
Trinity Methodist Church
Southport, NC 7:00 pm-9:00 pm



February 6 Look Toward the Earth: An Archaeological Forum
Trinity Methodist Church
Southport, NC 7:00 pm-9:00 pm

February 18 246th Commemoration of the Stamp Act Crisis
6:00 pm-8:00pm

February 18-19 147th Fall of Fort Anderson

June 9, July 16, August 11 Second Saturdays
10:00am-4:00pm



June 16 Fortress Louisburg Day

September 1 264th Anniversary of the Spanish Alarm at Brunswick
10:00am-4:00pm



October Colonial Day at Brunswick
Date TBD (last half of October)
10:00am-4:00pm

December 8 An 18th Century Christmas
1:00pm-6:00pm

Join Our Friends!!

Friends of Brunswick Town/Ft. Anderson, Inc. Membership Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Preferred Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Membership Levels

- Student \$10
- Individual \$25
- Family \$40

- Benefactor \$50 to \$99
- Patriot \$100 to \$499

- Citizen \$500 and above

All members receive the Brunswick Belle newsletter and a 10 % discount in the Gift Shop. First time membership levels of \$40.00 or more will receive a free copy of Stanley South's *Archaeology at Colonial Brunswick* or Dr. Chris Fonvielle's *Fort Anderson: Battle For Wilmington*. Memberships are good for one year. Please make your tax deductible donation to:

The Friends of Brunswick Town
8884 St. Philips Rd. SE
Winnabow, NC 28479

Current Board Officers

Gwen Causey, President
Bonnie Thomas, Vice President
Sandy Kennedy, Treasurer
Linda Niemczyk, Secretary
Pam Baker, Vice Secretary

You do not have to be a board member or even donate monetarily (though we certainly could always use your contributions) to support the Friends of Brunswick Town/Ft. Anderson. We are always in need of volunteers to assist with fundraising, special events, and promotion. Anyone can help! If you are interested in assisting the FoB/A, please contact the site at (910) 371-6613 or brunswick@ncdcr.gov, and the site will direct you to the appropriate board member.

CIVIL WAR MEDICINE – MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM DORSEY PENDER, CSA (1834-1863)

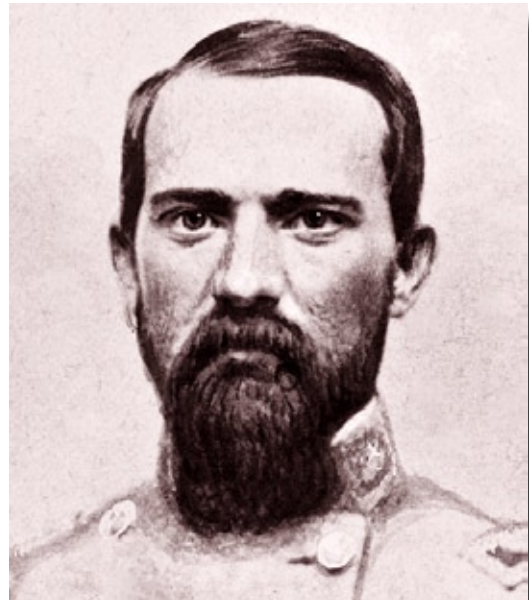
By Dr. Jack Hisley

(NOTE: Major General Pender was the namesake for our neighboring fort, Fort Pender, which is now known as Fort Johnson)

William Dorsey Pender was born in Edgecomb County, North Carolina on 6 February 1834. Jeb Stuart and John B. Gordon, who were generals in the Army of Northern Virginia, also shared the same birth date. Pender entered Westpoint at age 16 and graduated with the famous class of 1854, which produced 11 general officers, including 5 of whom died in battle. Soon after graduating from Westpoint, “Dorsey” (as he was affectionately known to his friends) was promoted to First Lieutenant in the US Army and served in the First Regiment at Dragoons fighting Indians on the western frontier.

In March of 1861, Dorsey resigned his commission in the US Army and joined the Confederacy as Colonel of the 3rd North Carolina Volunteers. He was transferred to the 6th NC Regiment where he fought under William Henry Chase Whiting during the Peninsula Campaign. Jefferson Davis was so impressed with young Colonel Pender’s leadership and bravery at the Battle of Seven Pines that he awarded him a battlefield promotion to Brigadier General and command of a NC Brigade in A.P. Hill’s division. After the Seven Days Battles, Pender’s North Carolinians fought under Stonewall Jackson at Cedar Mountain, Second Bull Run, Antietam, Fredericksburg, and Chancellorsville. At age 29, Dorsey was promoted to Major General and Commander of a division in the 3rd Corps under A.P. Hill at Gettysburg, PA, where his impressive military career came to an abrupt end.

Dorsey Pender was a favorite of Powell Hill, who once proclaimed: “General Pender has fought with the Division in every battle, has been four times wounded and never left the field, has risen by death and wounds from fifth brigadier to be its senior, has the best drilled and disciplined Brigade in the Division and more than all, possesses the unbound confidence of the Division”. On 7 December 1861, Colonel Pender became quite ill with recurrent dysentery manifested by fatigue, dehydration, and troublesome diarrhea. Dysentery will continue to plague him as it did many others throughout the war. Of the 848,555 cases of disease reported in Confederate field records, 226,868 were attributed to various intestinal disorders. More soldiers suffered from dysentery than from gunshot wounds.



CIVIL WAR MEDICINE CONTINUED...

Dysentery, an intestinal disorder manifested by diarrhea, cramps, and fever, becomes a problem whenever there are large groups of people in a small area who are unable to dispose of bodily waste by sanitary methods. The illness brutally ravaged both armies throughout the course of the Civil War. According to medical records from the Union Army, there were 1,739,135 documented cases of dysentery or diarrhea, and of these, 57,263 died from their intestinal illness. Many doctors treated dysentery with opium and the diarrhea with “blue mass”, which is a mixture of chalk and mercury. Other treatments, which included strychnine, calomel, turpentine, lead acetate, silver nitrate, quinine whiskey, and even cauterization of the anal opening, were met with minimal success. According to a southern minister, “those afflicted not only lost their desire to live, but also lost all manliness and respect”. Pender was placed on medical leave in March 1862 because of acute bronchitis. Respiratory illnesses were worrisome because a simple cold often progressed to pneumonia, which was the third leading cause of death after typhoid fever and dysentery. Soldiers were overworked, underfed, ill housed, and often exposed to the elements, which made them susceptible to pneumonia. Over a 19-month period from 1862 to 1863, seventeen percent of the Confederate army had pneumonia and 16% died of the disease. Recognizing that pneumonia was an infection, doctors treated the condition with whiskey, opium, and quinine – with only limited success. Fortunately, Pender’s bronchitis was self-limiting and he fully recovered.

At Glendale during the Seven Days Battle, Dorsey was wounded by a minie ball that landed in the muscular portion of the upper arm. Fortunately, there was no damage to the bone or major blood vessels. He recovered quickly and rejoined his brigade in the fight at Cedar Mountain. During the second battle of Bull Run, an exploding shell caused a minor head wound as a fragment grazed his head. Jokingly, Dorsey told his wife that he was “well but his head was a little more bald of yore”. Following the injury, he didn’t leave the field and explained the he was “spared by his heavy felt hat”. A bout of rheumatism incapacitated Dorsey in October 1862. Joint inflammation affected many soldiers. During the war’s first two years, 59,772 cases of rheumatism were reported in field and hospital registers of southern forces operating east of the Mississippi River. Of those afflicted, 1842 were discharged because they were deemed unfit to serve. Treatment seldom brought much relief as like many medical illnesses at the time, rheumatism was poorly understood. Many afflicted individuals were referred to Bell Hospital in Eufaula, Alabama where surgeon H.V. Miller treated rheumatism “with a good Galvanic Battery”. Pender did not avail himself to surgeon Miller.

At the Battle of Fredricksburg, a minie ball passed through Dorsey’s left arm, again missing bone. He continued to ride the line with the injured limb hanging down and blood dripping freely from his fingers. Eventually he retired to the rear, had his wound dressed, and immediately returned to the field to fight.

At Chancellorsville, a spent ball struck Pender’s right shoulder after passing through and killing the officer standing in front of him. The wound was superficial but the minie ball’s impact left him with a painful, stiff arm for several weeks. Following Jackson’s death at Chancellorsville, Robert E. Lee reorganized his army and named A.P. Hill Commander of the Third Corps and promoted William Dorsey Pender to Major General and Division Commander under A.P. Hill.

CIVIL WAR MEDICINE CONTINUED...

On the first day at Gettysburg, Pender's and Henry Heth's Divisions were able to force Abner Doubleday's corps off of McPherson's Ridge. During the afternoon of the second day, A.P. Hill sent Pender into a follow-up attack on Seminary Hill. Major General William Dorsey Pender was struck in the thigh by a 2-inch shell fragment as his Division swept the defenders off the hill. The wound bled profusely forcing Pender to reluctantly leave the field. Hemorrhage was controlled and the surgeon didn't believe the wound to be very serious. The following day Pender tried to mount his horse but found the maneuver to be impossible. On 5 July 1863, he shared an ambulance with Brigadier General Alford Moore Scales on a rough, slow ride back to Virginia. Scales was from Reidsville, North Carolina, so the two wounded general officers had much in common. Scales departed in Winchester, Virginia, where he recovered from his wound. After the war, Alford Moore Scales returned to public office and served as Governor of North Carolina from 1884-1888. Major General Pender continued on via ambulance to a hospital in Staunton, Virginia. During the long ambulance ride from Gettysburg to Staunton, the wound became infected, resulting in tissue breakdown and the recurrence of profuse bleeding. Using a hairbrush and towel, Pender was able to fashion a makeshift tourniquet to stop the bleeding. Immediately upon arrival at the hospital, a surgeon attempted to repair the damaged vessels but to no avail. As a life saving measure to control the hemorrhage, Pender's leg was amputated above the knee. Following the surgery, he survived for only a few hours. Major General William Dorsey Pender was pronounced dead on 18 July 1863, sixteen days after he was wounded. His body was transported to North Carolina where he was buried at the Calvary Church Yard in Tarboro.

During the Civil War, mortality associated with amputations was approximately 25%. Survival rates were best when the amputation was performed within 24 hours of injury and the surgical site was not infected. Also, the more distant the amputation site was from the body, the better the outcome. Pender's misfortune was related to the fact that: (1) his wound was infected; and (2) the above-the-knee amputation was not performed until 16 days after his injury.

On 1 July 1863, Major General William Henry Chase Whiting, Commander of the Cape Fear District, North Carolina, issued General Order Number 33. He renamed Fort Johnston at Smithville, NC on the west bank of the Cape Fear River, "Fort Branch" in honor of Brigadier General Lawrence O'Brian Branch of North Carolina. Branch was killed at Antietam on 17 September 1862. By the fall of 1863, Fort Branch was renamed Fort Pender in honor of Major General William Dorsey Pender who died of a wound he suffered on the Gettysburg Battlefield. After the war, the name of Fort Pender was once again changed to Fort Johnston. In 1875, William Dorsey Pender received another honor that persists to this day. Dr. Elisha Porter of Rocky Creek, North Carolina, who served under Major General Pender was able to convince the NC legislature to name a newly formed legislative district Pender County.



WANT TO SEE MORE? BT/FA IS ON FACEBOOK!

BECOME OUR FAN ~

[HTTP://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/BRUNSWICKTOWNFORTANDERSON](http://www.facebook.com/BrunswickTownFortAnderson)



Brunswick Town/Ft. Anderson is a State Historic Site under the NC Department of Cultural Resources, Division of Archives and History. Admission to the site is free. The site covers two distinct periods of history, colonial and Civil War. The ruins of colonial Brunswick, founded in 1726, are all that remains of what was once the Official Port of Entry of the Cape Fear and county seat of New Hanover, and later Brunswick County. The impressive earthworks of Fort Anderson, built in 1862 as part of the Cape Fear River Defense System, are testament to the presence of the Civil War in the Cape Fear Region. Visitors can take a self-guided tour of the grounds, watch a brief film about the site's history, explore the diverse artifacts recovered on site in our museum, and browse our gift shop. Group tours and programs are available by reservation.



NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF
CULTURAL
RESOURCES
WWW.NCCULTURE.COM

Brunswick Town/Ft. Anderson
State Historic Site
8884 St. Philips Rd. SE
Winnabow, NC 28479
(910) 371-6613

9:00am-5:00pm Tuesday - Saturday

Site Staff

Brenda Bryant, Site Manager
Jim McKee, Historic Interpreter
Shannon Walker, Historic Interpreter
Kent Snyder, Maintenance
Chris Jackson, Site Assistant
Marvin Johnson, Part-Time Staff

UPCOMING EVENTS

War Between the States Quiz Bowl

January 17, 2012

Trinity Methodist Church, Southport

7pm - 9pm

Look Toward the Earth: An Archaeological Forum

February 6, 2012

Trinity Methodist Church, Southport

7pm - 9pm

The 246th Commemoration of the The Stamp Crisis

February 18, 2012

The 147th Anniversary of the Fall of Fort Anderson

February 18 & 19, 2012

For there are deeds that should not pass away, and names that must not wither.