



## Bumblebee Buzz March 2023

*Preserving the Past, Enjoying the Present, Building the Future.*

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### **A Note From The President:**

Laissez les bons temps rouler!

HSTI kicked off 2023 with a volunteer appreciation party and recognized four volunteers with Distinguished Service Awards.

The Missiles and More Museum officially opened a new exhibit: *Raiders and Runners—Topsail Island and Vicinity During the Civil War* with a small reception. Special guests included Michael Hamilton, the project's historical researcher and longtime Topsail Island vacationer, Glen Pierce, our web designer and the tech wizard of this project. Special thanks to Janine Stidley, our Museum Director for making this happen, to Brian Eli, Collections Manager at the National Civil War Naval Museum for the relics on display inside, to David Pell who narrated the exhibit, to Jim McKee, Site Manager, Brunswick Town & Fort Anderson State Historic Site for the Civil War cannon on display outside the Assembly Building and to Michael Nelson, HSTI Trustee, for constructing the carriage upon which the 18th century cannon sits.

I would like to conclude with a deeply felt Thank you to all the volunteers that help make our Historical Society and the Missiles & More Museum so great! For those of you who have not yet stepped up to share your time and talents: we have a place for you!



# CAMP DAVIS

## 82nd Anniversary

America's Premier WWII Anti-Aircraft  
Training Facility

Living History  
Displays & Exhibits  
Camp Davis Memorabilia  
WWII Vehicles  
Tours & Demonstrations

**Saturday April 8, 2023**  
**10:00 am - 4:00 pm**  
**Holly Ridge, NC**

[www.greetingsfromcampdavis.com](http://www.greetingsfromcampdavis.com)

Click here: [FOR MORE INFO ABOUT THIS EVENT!](#)

Distinguished Service Awards



At the Volunteer Appreciation Celebration held February 21, 2023, the HSTI Board of Directors presented (l-r) Cecile Broadhurst, Dave Stipe and Gwen Ward the Distinguished Service Award.



The HSTI Board of Directors, represented here by Steve Smith, Trustee, presented Larry Combs the Distinguished Service award at the Luncheon and Lecture held March 9, 2023

The Distinguished Service Award is the most important honor HSTI can bestow on our members. It is reserved for outstanding leadership, selfless, long term service and dedication to the Historical Society of Topsail Island.

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## Thank you to everyone who renewed their membership or became a new HSTI member for 2022-2023.

We appreciate your support and participation!

**COMING SOON to Your Mailbox or E-mail Inbox:**

*Your 2023-2024 Historical Society of Topsail Island*

*Membership Renewal/Donation Form.*

**Every Membership and Donation helps us fulfill our Mission!**

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### Luncheon and Lecture News

SAVE THE DATES

**13 April:** Scholarship Presentation and Awards

**11 May:** "Sub Tribes of NC Coast " presented by Nancy Strickland Fields, Director and Curator of The Museum of the Southeast American Indian in Pembroke, North Carolina.

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***We need you and your friends!*** The museum is open!

**March, April & May:** Wednesdays, Thursdays, & Fridays 1-3 Summer hours TBD

We are looking for a few good men and women who are passionate about history and enjoy interacting with the public. Volunteer to *host* at the M&MM. No need to memorize Museum information. Our Museum tours are self-guided.

Will train on site!

**Shifts available** [Click Here to sign up today!](#)

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***Volunteer Appreciation Celebration!***

**February 21, 2023**

**A good time was had by all!!**



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**Volunteer Opportunities:  
Active Volunteers Build the Future!**

*How would you like to be involved?*

~Luncheons~Education~Bingo!~Autumn with Topsail

~Fundraising~Engaging Speakers~Jingle Bell Ball~Museum Greeter

Do you have computer/online/virtual platform skills?

***WE NEED YOU!!***

Contact Ann Tumblin at 919.306.1957 or click here: [I want to Volunteer!](#)

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## CIVIL WAR CANNON ON DISPLAY at the HISTORIC ASSEMBLY BUILDING



WHY IS IT PAINTED RED?

By Michael Nelson, Trustee, HSTI

As you are approaching the steps up to the front door of the Missiles & More Museum, your eyes will be drawn to an exciting new display relating to action on Topsail Island that occurred during the Civil War. What you are looking at is an authentic Civil War era "6 pounder" cannon. The gun is graciously on loan to our Museum from the Brunswick Town/ Fort Anderson State Historic Site down in Brunswick County. The foundry stamp on the starboard trunnion dated 1851 and the stamp on the top of the barrel shows that it was made for the Arkansas Military Institute (AKI). Arkansas was a slave holding state and a bona fide member of the Confederacy. The AKI was modeled after West Point Academy and many of its instructors and leadership had West Point backgrounds. Most of the AKI cadets served as officers in the Confederate army, mostly under Hood's Division, Longstreet's Corps, of Lee's Army of Northern

Virginia. Very few of them ever returned to Arkansas.

The Barrel alone is 50" long, made of solid brass and weights an incredible 680 pounds. Brunswick Town did not have a carriage for the barrel but did supply me with a very detailed set of plans for building a 18th Century Naval Artillery Carriage for the gun. I rescaled the carriage from the plans to fit the specific dimensions of this barrel and built it out of many layers of pressure treated 1'x 8 lumber that was laminated together under a lot of pressure from clamps. The naval carriage weighs close to 200 pounds itself.

So why did we paint it RED. Most of the cannons you see in movies and on display in museums were signal guns or ceremonial guns. Their carriages were stained in deep wood tones and finished with many coats of varnish. Since we were going to display this cannon out front in our harsh coastal environment and in direct sun light, I knew it would have to be painted with the best exterior enamel I could find. My original plan was to paint it in a blue gray color to complement the building. However, I discovered that while guns on the Admiral's ships were fancy and polished; the guns on the true "Ships of the Line" that were engaged in mortal combat were almost universally painted in a deep dark red. Not only did they paint the guns carriages red but also the decks, ceiling, and walls of the gun decks. This was done to mitigate the trauma the sailors operating the guns were facing with all the blood, guts and carnage occurring around them during battle. So, as you look at this exciting new display please keep in mind not only the glory days of sail in our Naval history, but the tremendous courage, dedication and sacrifice of our ancestors who served our great county.

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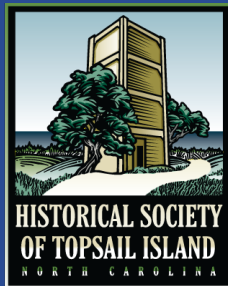
**Historical Walking Tour of  
Topsail Beach**



Bundle up and take a brisk walk through history!  
Did you know.... Jet engine propulsion was tested on Topsail Island in 1946-48? This easy, free, one-mile walking tour will take you on a fun, historical adventure through the downtown area of the Town of Topsail Beach.

[More Info!](#)

MissileTower #1



### Mission Statement

The Historical Society of Topsail Island is dedicated to the collection, preservation and promotion of the history of the Greater Topsail Island Area.

[Visit our website](#)

