



HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF TOPSAIL ISLAND

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.

Preserving the Past, Enjoying the Present, Building the Future

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information contact: 910-259-1278

Missiles and More Museum will host a book signing with author Curtis Hardison

TOPSAIL BEACH, NC. The Historical Society of Topsail Island is pleased to welcome author Curtis Hardison to the Missiles and More Museum, located at 720 Channel Blvd., on Aug. 24, from 11 a.m.– 3 p.m. for a book signing. Admission is free.

Hardison is the author of *Griot The Evolution of Edgecombe*, the true story that chronicles the journey of three African captives from their homelands of Cameroon, the Central African Republic, and Angola to a farm in Topsail Township, North Carolina.

Hardison writes of his journey of four decades of research into his family tree going back to the early 1800s. Emancipated from slavery after the Civil War, his ancestors worked to create the farming community that evolved into the thriving independent community of Edgecombe in eastern Pender County. The book also includes stories of notable members of the Edgecombe community, including Mattie Sharpless, who served as US Ambassador to the Central African Republic from 2001 through 2003.

In “Griot,” Hardison also writes about two Rosenwald schools in Pender County that he attended: Sloop Point Elementary School, which was built using funds raised by the Edgecombe community plus matching Rosenwald funds, and the Pender County Training School in Rocky Point.

“We are pleased to host Mr. Hardison whose research is important to our mission of preserving history today,” said Laurette Gordon, Missiles and More Museum director. “We encourage everyone who is interested in the history of this area to visit with Mr. Hardison.”

Hardison, who retired from the US Secret Service, is a native of Edgecombe who currently resides in Washington DC.

For more information about the Historical Society of Topsail Island or the Missiles & More Museum visit <https://topsailhistoricalsociety.org/> _ <https://missilesandmoremuseum.org/> or follow them on Facebook and Instagram.

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720 Channel Boulevard, Topsail Beach NC 28445 | PO Box 3653, Topsail Beach NC 28445 | 910.328.8663

The Historical Society of Topsail Island is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.
Donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. Tax ID #: 56-1501496

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