



Friends of Fort Fremont

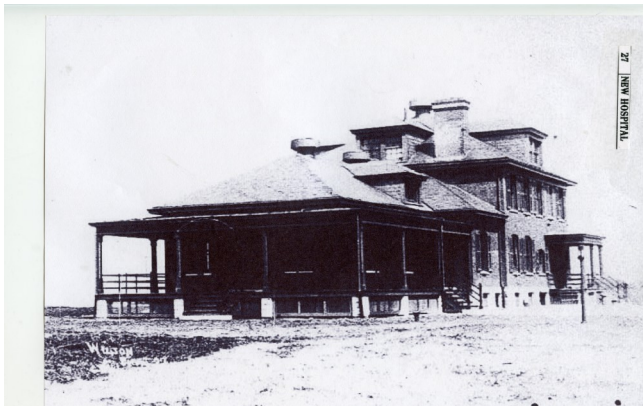
5th EDITION 2023 Newsletter

Editors: Marty & Ann Hupka

Possible publication submissions:
marty.hupka@gmail.com



Fort Fremont Hospital as It was THEN, and as it is NOW



Hospital, South Entrance, c 1904

The Hospital was turned over to the Fort on Oct. 10, 1904. The Hospital is composed of two sections: a square two-story section with a hipped roof and a one-story rectangular wing. The Hospital utilized a unique cooling system. Air intake boxes under the windows connect to a ductwork system and opens at floor level inside the rooms, under metal radiators. Large ducts extend throughout the house and vent out through the large metal ventilators that project from the roof. The hospital was heated by Hot Water radiators. The hospital and batteries are the only surviving buildings of the original Fort.



Hospital/Home, East Entrance c. 1989

After the Fort was deactivated in 1912, The Hospital/Home was used as a barracks by the Coast Artillery Corps. The Fort including the Hospital was purchased in 1931 by Frederick H Barnes of Long Island, N.Y. In 1948, it was purchased by Mr. & Mrs. Schumeier, and with additional land purchase in 1951, it was made into a hunting and fishing lodge. The current owners purchased the Home in 1967. Being history buffs, they have researched the history and detail building information and have maintained the key features inside and out. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

KEY EVENTS FOR THIS YEAR:

HARVEST FESTIVAL Sun. Nov. 5th 1pm—4 pm A 1910 Old Fashioned Celebration with games, food and entertainment of the Period. **FREE TO ALL.**

THE FORT FREMONT HOSPITAL TOUR Sat. Dec 2, 11am—4 pm

Limited tickets will be available at [HTTP://FORTFREMONT.ORG](http://FORTFREMONT.ORG)

Ticket sales begin October 1.

Meet a Volunteer

Theodore (Ted) Panayotoff

Ted was born in Sofia, Bulgaria but mostly grew up down south in New Orleans, LA and Mobile, AL. He attended university at Columbia College in New York City where he was in the NROTC. After graduation, he served on active duty in the Navy for 8 years followed by 20 years as a reserve officer.

After his Navy active service, he returned to school for another undergraduate engineering degree and then accepted a position with the U.S. Army as a research and development engineer. Ted was always interested in military history and applied that interest to his career in Army armament R & D.

Over his 24 years with the Army, he worked in many technical areas related to armament fire control systems. During that time Ted also “collected” four additional graduate degrees in engineering related subjects.

Ted was always fascinated by fortifications and their technology and history. After retirement, when he and his wife Jo moved to Maine, to own and operate a B & B, he joined the Coastal Defense Study Group (CDSG). This national organization works to educate the public about and works to preserve our national historic coastal fortifications.

Before they moved to Beaufort in 2016, and joined the Friends of Fort Fremont, Ted and Jo lived in Oswego, NY where they were members of the Friends of Fort Ontario. This fort, now a State Park, was a coastal fortification on Lake Ontario for nearly 200 years and an Army Coast Artillery installation for about 30 years.

In addition to forts, Ted’s other interest, lighthouses, drew him to manage the restoration of two National Historic Register Listed historic lighthouses, one in Maine the other in Oswego, NY. While structurally different, their National Register status, the same as Fort Fremont’s, means the same historic preservation guidelines apply at all three sites.

With the Friends of Fort Fremont, Ted heads up our Facilities Committee which supports Beaufort County with keeping the Fort preserved and safely welcoming to visitors. You can also see him in uniform leading tours and greeting visitors.



Ted in Character



Ted the Member



Clean-up Crew at work

Have you noticed how the Fort structure is clean of leaves and other items. For 2023 Ted and his volunteers have put in over 120 hours of Clean-up.

FORMER SOLDIER BUYS FORT FRÉMONT

PRIVATE JOHN DEMOSTHENES

Private First-Class John Demosthenes (sometimes spelled “Demosthener” and several other ways) served at Fort Frémont, SC, and later settled in Port Royal as a businessman. He rose to become one of the most respected and wealthy citizens in Beaufort County.

Demosthenes was born in Adramytte, Turkey on October 6, 1888 and emigrated to the United States in 1907. As a young adult he worked as a tailor. He joined the Army on May 20, 1909. In 1909 he was stationed at Fort Frémont as a gunner until it closed in 1911. He was discharged on May 19, 1912, at Fort Screven, Georgia and reenlisted on May 20, 1915, to serve in the US Army Mexican Border War.

In a 1963 interview for the Charleston News & Courier, Demosthenes recalled, [at Fort Fremont] “Two range-finder towers, three sets of wooden officer’s quarters, two wooden barracks, a brick hospital building in addition to the concrete fort.” He is quoted as saying, “Only the hospital building, and the fort are still there. They tore down the other buildings after we went on to Texas.” The article goes on to say that “He remembers Fremont as a terribly isolated spot, with baseball and fishing the only off-duty activities.”

After serving in WW1, Demosthenes returned to Beaufort to work at the Parris Island tailor shop. He soon formed the John Demosthenes Company, providing tailoring services to the Marine Corps.

In the 1940s, Demosthenes joined a group of Beaufort businessmen who purchased Fort Fremont for development as a summer resort. He later started the Fort Frémont Development Corporation which built many structures in town including a hotel at the corner of Bay and Charles Street and a building for the Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea Company in 1947 at the corner of Charles and Port Republic Streets.

In 1920, Demosthenes married Anna M. and had four children, Harry, Joseph, Mary, and Stratton. He was active in the community and a prominent member of the Rotary Club, having never missed a Rotary meeting in 26 years. Demosthenes served as post commander at the American Legion and owned the Dixie 5 and 10 store in Beaufort.

Demosthenes resided at 143 Ribaut Road, Port Royal, SC. The current John Demosthenes Company is located at 3003 Riverside Rd in Beaufort. Demosthenes died on November 15, 1966 after a short illness at the age of 78. His wife Anna outlived him by 27 years. Both are interred at the Beaufort National Cemetery. Their descendants live in the area to this day.

: John and Anna Demosthenes grave at the Beaufort National Cemetery. Plot 43,143



Adapted from an Article & Research by Jon Bebbington and Ted Payanotoff, May 1, 2023

Hospital Surgeon Staffing during the time the Fort was Active.

From Sept. 1899 until 1911, there was always a surgeon on Duty. If a Military Surgeon was not available, there was a Contract Surgeon on duty. The Military Surgeons were on Duty From Sept. 26, 1899 to August 10, 1900 and again From Sept. 28, 1908 until June, 1911. The last Surgeon was transferred in June 11 to Fort Screven, Ga. During this period one focus was on Diseases such as Typhoid Fever, Malarial Fever and other issues from sanitary conditions. In 1901 a proposal was made to purchase nearby land that had 2 ponds, that could be the source of Malarial Fever.

Repairs to the Home/ Hospital in the 1980's produced an unusual item.



A baseball shoe, with cleats. Fort Fremont had a Team. Visit the History Center for more interesting information.

Your Donation will support the 2023-2026 Mission and Goals of FFF.

Fort Fremont has been secured and a History Center has been opened. The FFF have begun the next phase of enhancing the Fort for the Public to enjoy.

Goals for 2023: (1) Focus on Marketing and Public Relations (2) Implement Lecture Series:

Projects for 2023 (1) PHASE 1 of Fort Display Enhancements; (2) Additional interpretive signs

With your donation, you will receive the NEWS LETTER for one year

By email or by US Mail (Circle one)

DONATION INFORMATION

Please print legibly:

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Please make check payable to

Friends of Fort Fremont and

Mail to: P.O Box 982

Saint Helena Island, SC 29920

For secure credit card donations use the QR CODE **THANK YOU**

We are a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization based in Saint Helena Island, South Carolina.

Your contributions maybe deductible under section 170 of the Internal Revenue Code

