

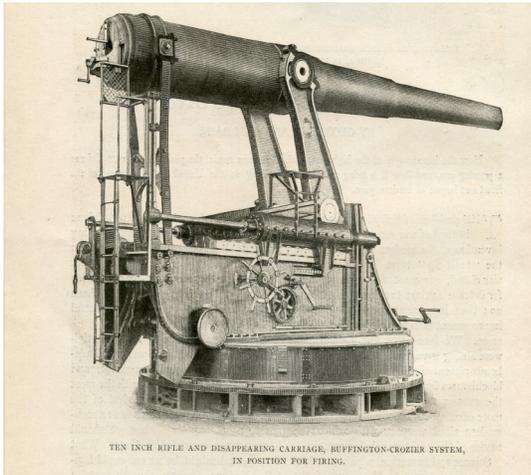
FRIENDS OF FORT FREMONT



PRESERVING THE PAST
INSPIRING THE FUTURE

Third Edition 2022 Newsletter

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When you visit the History Center, you can view a model of the 10 " guns that were the main defense at the Fort. They were called disappearing guns or pop-up guns. For this period in history they were advanced technology in that in order to fire on a target, they would be raised up above the emplacement rim and fire and then drop down out of sight from enemy ships. The 10" guns were manufactured in Bethlehem, Pa, and shipped in sections to the Armory at Maryvilt , N.Y on the Hudson river. At Marvilt, they were further tempered and assembled into one tube. The tubes weighed 33 tons and the process from start to finish was 9 months. There were three types of projectiles: one was an armor piercing (weight 650 Lbs) the second was explosive (weight 550 Lbs) and the third was a test lead projectile (weight 600 lbs).

This 10 in. inert practice projectile was recovered from the bottom of Port Royal Sound. It was fired from one of the three 10 -in. disappearing carriage guns of Battery Jesup. It was likely fired in 1900 when the guns were proof fired upon completion of their installation. It was donated by the Beaufort History Museum.

On July 23, 1903, the Beaufort Gazette described firing of the guns. "...blue grey muzzles appeared ominously above the grass covered embankment. Then a deafening boom shook heaven and earth....when it splashed down, it sent a geyser hundreds of feet in the air."

Ted Panayotoff with 10-in projectile.



DENNIS and MARY BETH CANNADY

Dennis and Mary Beth Cannady attended Park Hill High School in Kansas City, Missouri. They have been interested in history since attending a class taught by John Gioia. Their fathers were employed by Trans World Airlines, so through family travel fringe benefits, they were both world travelers by the time they entered college. Mary Beth received her Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education and French from Drury University in Springfield, Missouri, 1969, and then later went on to Oakland University in Auburn Hills, Michigan where she received her Master's degree in elementary education through the University of Michigan, 1995. Dennis was the recipient of a Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering from General Motors Institute, Flint, Michigan, 1969.

Mary Beth taught 4th grade in public and private schools and she volunteered at a domestic violence shelter (HAVEN) in Pontiac, Michigan. She also was employed as a teacher at a private school for children with mental issues. After moving to Beaufort, her work at domestic violence shelters was continued at CODA. She had the opportunity to meet with Desmond Tutu and Nelson Mandela.

Dennis had a 41-year career with General Motors in manufacturing engineering, including automotive body tooling and measurement systems, quality control and engineering group management.

Dennis has been involved with scale modeling since the age of 5. He has crafted models of cars, buildings, doll houses, miniature furniture, ships, and airplanes. Many of his recent models have been historic tall ships and dioramas of historic sites. In the case of the dioramas, they have led to volunteering as docents with the Historic Beaufort Foundation and the Friends of Fort Fremont. A request for a model of Robert Smalls CSS Planter lead to development of a close friendship with descendants of Robert Smalls and many Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) classes about the Congressman and the ship.

After moving to Habersham in 2006, Dennis and Mary Beth dedicated approximately two full years to the research, design, and construction of the Fort Fremont Diorama project, from April, 2014 to May, 2016. Thanks to Ray and Marian Rollings for their research contributions to the project, and thanks to Cecile Dorr for making it all happen. We enjoy the friendships that resulted.



THE SOLDIERS OF FORT FRÉMONT

CAPT. CHARLES D. WINN, Commander 127th Company, CAC Fort Fremont

1910

Charles Davis "Chas" Winn was 38 years old when he arrived at Fort Frémont in December 1909. Winn was born in Winchester, Clark County, Kentucky on April 7, 1871 to William and Pattie Winn and had two younger sisters, Emma and Lizzie. His father was a saddler. Winn graduated from the Virginia Military Institute (VMI) in 1893 at the age of 22. After working in Washington, DC through April 1898, he returned to his home state and served temporarily as a captain in the 2nd Kentucky Volunteer Infantry (2KVI).

The 2KVI was mustered into service at Lexington between May 14 and 25, 1898 in preparation for deployment overseas in the Spanish-American War. On May 23, 1898, the regiment was ordered south to the infamous Camp Thomas, a training field located on the grounds of the former Civil War battlefield of Chickamauga, Georgia. By June 1898 Camp Thomas numbers swelled to over 30,000 men. Lacking adequate sanitary facilities, disease quickly spread. Camp Thomas was ultimately abandoned in October. Winn's experience there was a hardship and taught him a valuable lesson on post sanitation. On September 13, Winn and the 2KVI regiment returned to Lexington and honorarily mustered out of service. On February 22, 1900 Winn married a Miss Elizabeth Keene at the age of 28 in Covington, Kentucky.

Winn received his commission as a 2nd lieutenant in the army in 1901, eight years after graduating from VMI. On September 23, he applied to the Field Artillery School at Fort Monroe and graduated in October 7, 1904 as a 1st lieutenant. In 1907, the Coastal Artillery Corps (CAC) was established and a year later Winn made captain. In December 1909 he was assigned to the 127th Company, CAC, Fort Frémont as commanding officer.

Four months after taking command, violence broke out between a group of soldiers and members of a local family living near the fort. Two separate courts martial were held at Fort Screven, GA. Of those tried, two were found guilty of violating Article 62d of the Articles of War and sentenced to one year of hard labor at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. The trial extended through August and was mentioned in newspapers for months. Although four soldiers were acquitted, the acquittals were disapproved weeks later by the commander of the US Army Department of the Gulf in Atlanta. As of this writing, it is unknown how the disapproval impacted the four soldiers. Concurrent with the shooting investigation and courts martials, there was a 12-inch gun explosion at DeRussy Battery, Fort Monroe, Virginia on July 21, killing eleven and wounding six artillerymen of the 69th Company CAC. Given that Fort Monroe was Captain Winn's previous assignment, he likely knew many of the soldiers there.

In January 1911, Winn left Fort Frémont and the fort was ordered closed. Though Winn was listed as a captain in the CAC, his whereabouts between 1911 and 1916 are unknown at this time. In January 1918, he was commander of the 143rd Company CAC at Fort Kamehameha, Oahu and charged with guarding the entrance to Pearl Harbor. Later that year, Winn joined the American Expeditionary Forces and served in the 306th Infantry, 153rd Infantry Brigade of the 77th Division. The regiment participated in the Oise-Aisne, Meuse-Argonne, Champagne, and Lorraine campaigns. Winn rose to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel at the age of 46. Awarded the DSM, Winn was briefly hospitalized after the War.

LAST COMMANDER CAPT. CHARLES D. WINN continue

Now a colonel, Winn returned to the Pacific and was given command of the 148th Company CAC, Fort Baker, Sausalito, California (US Census, 1920). Fort Baker consisted of Batteries Spencer, Kirby, Duncan, and Orlando-Wagner constructed along the inner bay area just east of the golden gate bridge (Marin County side) (Wikipedia, 2022). He resided on post with his wife and had a maid/cook named Delevina Constantina (US Census, 1920). Following training in 1921, Winn transferred to the US Army Quartermaster Corps.

In 1930, Winn retired from the army and resided at 220 Hillside Avenue in Piedmont, California (Oakland) (US Census, 1930). His wife Elizabeth died on July 13, 1937 and was buried in Arlington National Cemetery (Find-a-Grave, 2022). Now a widower, Colonel Winn began to travel again. He returned to California from Arlington in October 1937 via the Panama Canal on the SS *Virginia* (Ship Manifest, 1937). In July 1938 he travelled to Southampton, England and returned on the RMS *Mauretania* (Ship Manifest, 1938). In 1940, he moved back to his native Kentucky and lived at 290 S. Main St., Winchester for eighteen months (US Census, 1940). He was presumably ill at this time because he was cared for by a live-in African American man named Johnson Tolbert (US Census, 1940). On July 31, 1942 he died at Walter Reed Army Hospital at the age of 71 and was buried next to his wife (Section: South, Plot 2281). His wife Elizabeth preceded him in death by five years. They had no children.

Article & Research by Jon Bebbington, November 1, 2022

*Charles D. Winn & Elizabeth Keene grave,
Arlington National Cemetery*



Charles D. Winn, VMI, class of 1893



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