



FRIENDS OF FORT FREMONT

PRESERVING THE PAST INSPIRING THE FUTURE

Eight Edition 2024 Newsletter

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A VISION OF THE FUTURE —THE CARL PROJECT



As is today



Vision of Tomorrow

Our mission is to enhance visitor experience and safety at Fort Fremont by preserving the area under Battery Jesup, gun pit #1, to recreate the rooms as they were when the fort was active. This effort, named the Carl Project in honor of the late Carl Dorr. The Carl project will be a multiyear project.

The first phase of the project is to determine the feasibility of safely using the magazine, shell room, battery room, shot room, guard room, power room, boiler room, and all interior passages safely for visitor access and displays. This phase of the project is estimated at \$20,000. Bennett Preservation Engineering is being engaged to complete this work. The aim of their final report is to provide a roadmap of what is feasible for further development at gun emplacement number one and what fund raising goals would be appropriate for each effort. It will also address what work can be done by volunteers and the work that is best done by historic preservation professionals. Funding for each phase will be through Donors, Sponsors and Grants. All are invited to be part of this endeavor. The National Trust for Historical Preservation and Coastal Community Foundation grants will support this phase of the project. Member donations will cover the balance of the cost. The news letters of the future will keep everyone up to date on the progress of this inspiring project.



Decorate a Hat



Beaufort HS and AF JROTC Volunteers



Beaufort Cty Passive Park nature program



Montessori School Plant Sale



Volunteers in period costume



THE FLIGHT OF PRIVATE JOHN DENNY

Near the end of its active years, Fort Fremont was recognized as having the second lowest desertion rate of all US Army forts (*Beaufort Gazette*, 1910). Despite this distinction, there had been a number of desertions from the fort. Perhaps the most colorful event happened in late February 1909, just two years before the fort closed. Private John Denny, a first gunner in the 127th Company CAC under the command of Captain William H. Wilson, stole a blank requisition slip from Fort Fremont's quartermaster's office and wrote out a transportation voucher for himself (*The Leavenworth Post*, 1909 et al). The voucher was for a first class ticket from Savannah to New York City on the steamer *SS Kansas City*. Denny forged the signature of the quartermaster officer and boarded the vessel on Tuesday, February 19. The forgery was discovered the next day and agents of the line were informed.

The ship was at sea for an hour when the following message was received on the ship's wireless:

"Hold passenger J. Denny with ticket No. 95. Turn over to authorities on arrival in New York."

When the vessel docked in New York City, Denny was turned over to a squad of police. The surprised Denny explained he had three months' pay in his pockets and had decided to "have a good time." He then made some derogatory comments about the wireless radio and declared he would return and "face the music" (*The Sun*, 1909 et al). Denny was charged with desertion and forgery and held for several months at Castle Williams military prison on Governor's Island. After his court-martial, Denny was sentenced to six years hard labor at the US Army Disciplinary Barracks at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. As of June 26, Denny was still at Castle Williams awaiting transportation to Kansas to serve out his term.

On June 28, Denny was working in the woodyard of the headquarters of the US Army Dept of the East on Governor's Island with eight other prisoners. Around 10 a.m., he jumped off the sea wall at the extreme southern tip of the island and began swimming towards Staten Island (a six mile swim). A short time later the crew on a tug named the *Henry Steers* observed Denny struggling in the water. The crew retrieved Denny, gave him dry clothes, and set him ashore at the foot of Barclay Street (*The Leavenworth Post*, 1909 et al). Some reports say Denny made it to freedom and was never seen again while others say he turned himself in to one of the recruiting offices.

Article & Research by Jon Bebbington, September 1, 2024

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Annual Membership Meeting

Friday, January 31, 2025 from 3:00 to 4:30 pm

St. Helena Branch Library

Dr. James Shinn, Assistant Professor of History, USCB, will speak on "'What's in a Name? The Onomastic Significance of Fort Fremont."

Fort Fremont Oyster Roast

Friday, March 14, 2025 from 5:30 to 8:00 pm

Live Oak Park, Port Royal

Thank you to our 2024 Harvest Festival Sponsors!

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Sue Stanny brought her creativity and life experiences to the Friends of Fort Fremont in 2022. She is the chairwoman of the Events Committee and also volunteers to greet visitors at Fort Fremont History Center. In 2023, Sue came up with the concept for a Harvest Festival at Fort Fremont set in 1910 with people in period costume,(which she designed) and children’s games of the era. This first ever event drew over 300 attendees. The next year she expanded the event inviting area non-profits to participate and adding vendors and activities. In addition to special events, Sue applies her talents in graphic design for our flyers and marketing materials and helps with our children’s

Sue Addis Stanny – Originally from Glenshaw, PA, Sue received a BA in Dance Education from Penn State University. She spent 6 years as a professional dancer with Ballet South, Charleston Ballet, and Oceola Dance Ensemble as well as teaching dance in Beaufort, SC. Sue then moved to New York under the auspices of the National Endowment for the Arts’ “Arts in General Education” program where she identified gifted dance students in the inter-city schools. When the program was cut, Sue returned to Pittsburgh where she established Addis Studios for the Creative and Performing Arts. She spent the next 30 years as a dance educator, choreographer, director and writer while working with various schools, universities, and theater groups.

In 2005, Sue became the Site Director of the Depreciation Lands Museum, a living history site devoted to telling the stories of the Soldiers, Settlers and Native Americans who inhabited Western Pennsylvania. As Site Director, she coordinated volunteers, developed exhibits, forged relationships with Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, tour guides, etc., and expanded local participation with events such as Tavern Night, Hydref, Halloween tours, Teas, and Colonial Dinners. The DLM was featured on TV’s “Scary Places” due to the resident ghost, “The Deacon!”

In 2011, Sue returned to Beaufort and continues her interest in history by contributing to The Friends of Fort Fremont.

Your Donation will support the 2024-2026 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 2024: (1) Enhance Visitor experience through Artifacts & Digital Display. (2) Develop a Plan to improve Public access & safety (Carl Project)

Projects for 2024 (1) PHASE 1 of the Carl Project; (2) Additional interpretive signs

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

By email or by US Mail (Circle one)

Please make check payable to

Friends of Fort Fremont and

Mail to: P.O Box 982

Saint Helena Island, SC 29920

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