



PRESERVING THE PAST INSPIRING THE FUTURE Ninth Edition 2025 Newsletter

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New Hours: History Center is Now open Thurs. 1-4 pm

AN EXPLANATION OF A NEW EXHIBIT AT THE FORT

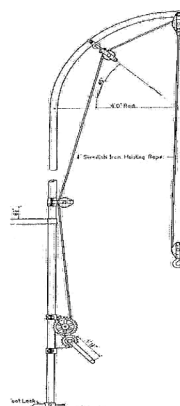
FORT FREMONT AMMUNITION DAVIT

The ammunition davit on display on the porch of the History Center was originally mounted at the rear of the #3-gun position. Although cut down, probably during WW1 for scrap, it was left on the ground where it was eventually almost completely buried. The Friends of Fort Fremont unearthed it, had it cleaned and painted, and it is now on display at the rear of the History Center.

Battery Jesup at Fort Fremont was equipped with six ammunition davits at the back of the battery. There were two davits at each gun position on either side of the two doors to the shot magazine. As you look at the rear of the three-gun positions, the shot magazine is the two doors on the left. If you look closely at the concrete wall near the top you can just make out the remains of the two brackets that supported each davit. On the ground, in a few places where they have been uncovered, are the sockets on which the bases of the davits sat.

What was the purpose of these davits? There were two main purposes. The first was to unload the heavy projectiles, (the heaviest, weighed 604 lbs.), from an ammunition trolley cart that brought the projectiles from a vessel moored at the pier in the Beaufort River. The projectile was picked up and transferred to a clamp hanging from a trolley that ran on tracks in the ceiling of the magazines. This was how the heavy projectiles were moved from one place to another in the magazines.

The second purpose was to take the place of the ammunition hoist to move projectiles from the magazine level up to the loading platform level if the ammunition hoist was out of commission.



2025 Oyster Roast—Another great Event!!!

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Dick & Celeste Nalwesky waiting for oysters



Music by the Sweet Ferns



Janelle Proctor and friends Lynn & Joe Patykula



A record attendance



FFF Volunteers

Thank you to our Silent Auction Sponsors

Beaufort Boat and Dock: Jon Bebbington; Robin Beevers - Bill's Liquor's: Camelot Farms: The Chocolate Tree: Joyce Glover- Shelf Genie Storage Solutions; Harmony Bodyworks; Elayne Scott - Porch Productions; Southern Rose Carriage Tours; Tailwinds Charters; USCB Center for the Arts.

NEXT MAJOR EVENT:

HARVEST FESTIVAL—SUNDAY NOV. 2, 2025

SOLDIERS OF FORT FREMONT: CAPT. FRANCIS A. HALLIDAY, SURGEON

Capt. Francis A. Halliday served at Fort Fremont (FF) from September 1, 1905 through 1908. Born in St. Charles, Missouri on October 10, 1842, Halliday was fifteen when he decided on a career in medicine with the 9th Cavalry, Company D. Organized at Camp Douglas, Chicago the regiment was actively involved in the Civil War. Recorded as "Francis Holliday" on his company's roster, Halliday began as a private and became the dispensing druggist in the Hospital Department. He was promoted to a hospital steward on August 20, 1862, and held that position until September 23, 1864. He was then commissioned first assistant surgeon of the regiment in 1865. Halliday served until October 31, 1865, when at Selma, Alabama he was mustered out. After the war, Halliday studied at Washington University in St. Louis and became a commissioned surgeon in the Regular Army.

During the westward expansion, the 9th Cavalry provided escort for the early western settlers and maintained peace on the American frontier. Halliday was married twice, first to a Miss Corenie Dodd in Pulaski, Illinois. In 1873, they had a daughter, Frances Adele, in Illinois, and another daughter in 1879, Mary, and a son, Manning. Halliday's first wife died of tuberculosis in 1880. By 1888, Dr. Halliday had become a highly respected physician. While living in Metropolis he married a Miss Laura Belle Shaw, described as being a "most charming and highly accomplished lady of Maryland". They had one child together, Mabel Delores Shaw. At this time, Halliday was the chief medical officer of the Indian Bureau. In 1898, Halliday served through his third major conflict, the Spanish-American War. From 1898 to 1904, Lt. Halliday travelled constantly including to Pawhuska, Oklahoma, home of the Osage tribal government. In June 1901, Lt. Halliday was summoned to FF after a young hospital steward named Emmett Easterling experienced symptoms of a poisoning. Halliday is quoted as saying: *"In all my experience I have never witnessed such agony as Easterling suffered for an hour preceding his death."* A Private W. Wright, quartermaster clerk, died the previous day from the same ailment. The matter was attributed to harm FF soldiers had inflicted on the Gullah. One additional soldier perished the same way. Over a dozen individuals died at or near FF. Causes included a construction accident, appendicitis, brain fever, gunshot, poisonings, a stabbing, drownings, and childbirth.

After serving three years at Fort Moultrie on Sullivan's Island, Lt. Halliday was transferred to Fort McPherson, Atlanta, GA, then to Fort Caswell and finally to FF. Lt. Halliday was the second surgeon to work at the three-story hospital (29 Fort Fremont Road). Lt. Halliday's daughter Mabel married Lt. Laurin L. Lawson, the 7th commander of FF, in 1906. Halliday ended his medical career at FF in 1908 with the rank of captain. His son Charles became a doctor c1900 and served at FF through its closure. Captain Halliday died at the Fort Sam Houston hospital on June 8, 1923 at the age of 81 and was buried at Arlington with his wife. Captain Francis A. Halliday's life was described as a *"unique and picturesque military career, having served in the Civil War, the Indian Wars, and the Spanish-American War"*. **Article by Jon Bebbington**

EXHIBITS AND ACTIVITIES News:

Volunteers are working on two new exhibits to encourage return visits: A second Projectile and a replica truck that was used to transport the 550 lb projectiles.

With the help of a growing number of volunteers, Thursday, from 1 to 4 pm, was added to the Schedule for the History Center. The new schedule will continue through July.

Cadets from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point will be at Fort Fremont from July 31 to August 5. On **Sunday August 3**, the Cadets will present a panel discussion on their plans to create a digital simulation of the construction and operation at the Fort. Dr James Shinn Assistant Professor of History USCB will be the moderator.

The Panel discussion will be held at St. Marks Episcopal Church, Port Royal, S.C. and is open to the public with no admission fee.

New on Display: A First Class Gunner Badge. It was awarded to a member of the 127th Coast Artillery Company which was garrisoned at Fort Fremont from June 1, 1907 to March 8, 1911. The soldier had to pass a very rigorous examination for 1st Class Gunner. Check out the Shadow Box for it and other insignias.



Your Donation will support the 2025-2027 Mission and Goals of FFF.

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

Goals for 2025: Develop a strategic plan for the preservation of Gun Pit #1 including the replication of the plotting room in gun pit #1, based on the Bennett Feasibility Study. (Funding through Donations & Grants)

With your donation, you will receive the NEWS LETTER for one year By email or by US Mail (Circle one)

DONATION INFORMATION

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Friends of Fort Fremont

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Saint Helena Island, SC 29920

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

