



Fort Defiance *Chronicle*



Fall

October 2026

Fort Defiance
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historicfortdefiancenc.org

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Fort Defiance: History, Harmony, & 250 Years

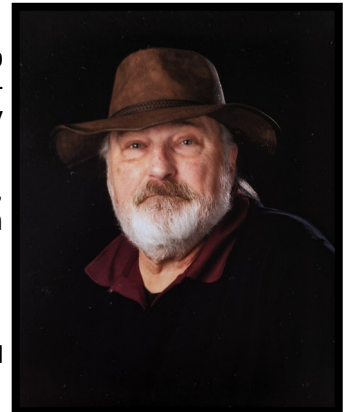
On October 17th, Fort Defiance will be hosting a concert for America 250 with local performers Terry Edwards and the Shelby Rae Moore Band playing music from 4 PM to 7 PM.

Folk singer and storyteller, Terry Edwards will open up the concert. Terry Edwards grew up in the North Carolina mountains with influences ranging from Cat Stevens and CSNY to Harry Chapin and Jerry Jeff Walker.

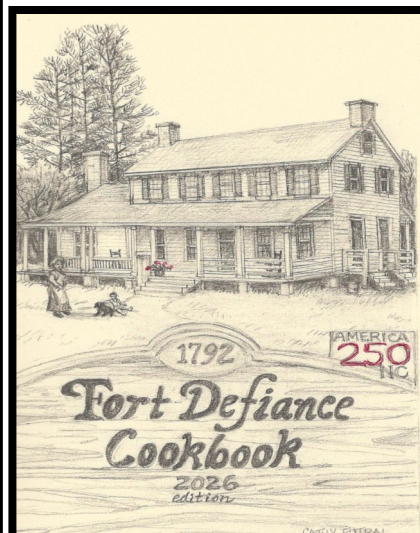
The Shelby Rae Moore Band features Shelby Rae Moore, with her uncles Brent and Chet Palmer on guitars, and Devon Burch on drums. The band blends blues, soul, and Americana.



- Tickets: \$20 for those 13 and older, \$5.00 12 and younger
- Food trucks will be on site.
- Bring a chair and spend the evening
- The winning ticket for the quilt raffle will be drawn during the concert.
- Tickets can be purchased on line at historicfortdefiancenc.org or on site the day of the event



Fort Defiance Cookbook: America 250 Edition



In 1976, people came together to share their family recipes and put together a cookbook to raise funds for the preservation of Fort Defiance. Barbara Freiman has republished the cookbook for America 250. The cookbook has the same recipes, but features a new cover which was drawn by Cathy Futral. The books are for sale at Fort Defiance in the visitor center for \$40 each, and offer a peek into the kitchens of Caldwell County.

The cover of the book was created by Cathy Futral a well-known artist in both the High Country of Blowing Rock and Boone, NC and in Sarasota, Florida. She is a native of North Carolina from Asheboro and an alumna of Appalachian State University. Her paintings and drawings have been shown at various venues in Blowing Rock, including Edgewood Cottage. She volunteers as a Docent in both the Blowing Rock Art and History Museum and the Ringling Museum of Art in Sarasota. She was a teacher of art for over 50 years in North Carolina and Florida.



Fort Defiance America250 Raffle!

Raffle tickets are still on sale for \$25 per ticket. The grand prize is this handmade quilt, designed and pieced by Tina Triplett and custom longarm done by Gina Boone.

About the quilt:

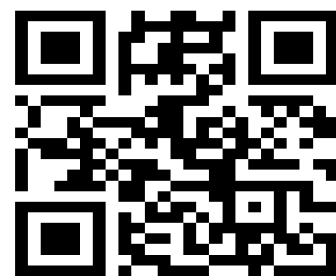
- The quilt is 100% cotton.
- 48"x65", throw size
- All proceeds by the raffle will go towards supporting operations at Fort Defiance.

The winning ticket will be drawn **October 17th, 2026!**

Tickets can be purchased in person at Fort Defiance, on our website (historicfortdefiancenc.org), or by scanning the QR code here:



**TIME TO RENEW
YOUR
MEMBERSHIP**



By becoming a member, or renewing an existing membership, you help keep the story of General William Lenoir and Fort Defiance alive. Memberships allow the site to provide visitors and school groups with a unique experience. The site can also continue its goal to preserve, research and enhance the land, buildings and artifacts of Fort Defiance. **Memberships are for a one-year period from January 1 through December 31.** For more information on becoming a member, see page 7 of this newsletter, then take a moment to fill out the portion at the bottom and send a check payable to **Fort Defiance** to Fort Defiance Inc, P.O. Box 686, Lenoir, NC 28645, or pay by using the QR Code or visiting the website at www.historicfortdefiancenc.org to show your support. Continued patronage is essential to the success of Fort Defiance!

Thank You
**FOR YOUR
SUPPORT**

Visitors to Fort Defiance



On July 18th, Fort Defiance welcomed 32 descendants of the enslaved Norwood family (left). Fort Defiance was one stop during a weekend-long family reunion for the Norwoods. Several visited the site to connect with where their ancestors were enslaved and learn more about the connections between the Lenoir and Norwood families and how their ancestors were moved between the different plantations in Happy Valley.

Following a rainy week, 12 people attended the Lunch & Learn about Rendezvous Mountain on July 25th (center). Superintendent Jeff Matheson led the discussion on Rendezvous Mountain's history and progress over the years. Attendees discussed the connections between Rendezvous Mountain, Benjamin Cleveland, William Lenoir, and the Overmountain Victory Trail.

On August 25th, 19 people traveled from Appalachian State University's Library and Special Collections (right) to Fort Defiance for a tour of the house. The group had lunch on site before departing. General Lenoir's papers are housed in Special Collections at ASU Library.

New Additions to Fort Defiance's Archive

In August, Gloria Lenoir, wife of Walter Lenoir now deceased from Ausin, Texas donated an impressive collection of Lenoir family tintypes, letters, and books to Fort Defiance. Gloria Lenoir's husband Walter descend from William Ballard Lenoir, eldest son of William and Ann Ballard Lenoir.

Included in the donations are daguerreotype portraits of Lenoir and Powell family members, the release of Walter Thomas Lenoir from service following the Confederate surrender, a letter from William Ballard Lenoir to his children, and the personal ledger of Walter Franklin Lenoir, Sr.

This addition will be catalogued and stored alongside Fort Defiance's original collection of books and ledgers, using the new artifact shelving in the visitor center.



Gloria and Walter Lenoir

William Lenoir's Account of the Battle of King's Mountain, N. CA. 7th Oct., 1780, written in 1835

Before the battle of King's Mountain, Col. Chas. McDowell, of Burke County, with a part of his regiment, had a skirmish in the Southern part of said County with Dunlap, whose grade I know not, in which skirmish a man or two was killed on each side without any decided victory.

After this Col. Chas. McDowell marched a part of his regiment over the Blue Ridge into what is now the State of Tennessee and there united with Col. Sevier and Col. Shelby, and Col. Campbell of Virginia, and returned with them to Burke where a connection was made with Col. Cleaveland of Wilkes County, and Col. Winston of Surry.

They marched with their small regiments all together some days, and encamped on the bank of the Green River in the Southern part of Rutherford Co., where orders were given for every man who had, or could provide a suitable horse to be ready to march at sun-rise next morning.

This was the proper method to select good soldiers, for if any man had a good horse, and was nay ways bashful, there were others ready to beg for the privilege of taking his place and going.

At sunrise on the 6th. Oct. 1780, we marched accordingly, leaving about 1500 foot soldiers under command of Major Joseph Herndon.

We marched that day by a place called the Cowpens in South Carolina, and were joined by Col. Williams of S.C. with a few men.

I was Captain of a company of foot soldiers, but as only my ensign and five others could procure horses, I went to the battle as a common soldier. I did not attach myself to any particular regiment, or assume any command of those that belonged to my own company, but marched in any part of the line that suited me, and this gave me the opportunity to advance to the front and count the troops as they marched by me. From the best calculations I could make, our aggregate was 700.

We continued our march all night, though it was dark and rainy. The next morning we crossed Broad River at a place called, I believe, The Old Trading Ford. We expected to be attacked as we crossed the river, and after marching a few miles we met two men from Col. Ferguson's camp who described the place where he was en-

camped. Then the Colonels held a short consultation and formed a plan of attack, well calculated to surround the enemy.

They divided the army into four columns, and two of these columns were to march on one side of the road, and two on the other, to keep as far apart as they could fo each of the two columns to govern their march by seeing or hearing the others in order to keep even.

The two center columns were to attack the enemy in front, and the right and left columns were to surround them.

We had none but militia, except the two continental officers who turned out in this expedition as militia Men.

The colonels had agreed to compliment Col. William Campbell with the chief command, as he had come from another State to our assistance, and as Col. McDowell was absent.

Col. Winston took command of the right hand column, Col. Shelby and Col. Sevier of the two center columns and Col. Cleaveland of the left hand column.

I marched with Col. Winston, and after marching in a regular position for some distance, Col. Winston was compelled by a very steep knob of the mountain, either to close in upon a center column, or to take too great a distance from them and he chose the latter, by which means he got entirely out of sight and hearing of any other part of the army; but an officer came in sight and directed Col. Winston to dismount and march up the hill, which we did in a proper line of battle.



When we had marched one or two hundred yards from our horses, the same officer came within hearing and called Winston by name, and as he was on another part of the line, I answered for him and the officer said: "Mount your horses and push on, the enemy is a mile ahead!" We accordingly ran to our horses, mounted them and rode as fast as fox hunters through a rough brushy woods, crossing hollows and ridges and a brook or two, without any guide or pilot, and without any knowledge of the position of any other part of the army, but we were certainly directed by a Supernatural Power, and arrived at a very advantageous station the very moment the firing began on the other parts of the line as well as on ours.

We could not have been placed in a better position, as to ground, by all the men in the world, and our troops proceeded to surround the enemy as soon as possible, sustaining and returning their fire.

But I and a few others dismounted and ran across to the head of a hollow, opposite to the left end of Col. Ferguson's line, which charged twice on our men that had attacked him in front, and our men, armed with rifles, not having a single bayonet, gave way a small distance.

At that time I ran diagonally to those men who had sustained the charge, and encouraged them to lead well, and make a bold push, which they did. The enemy fought bravely on their original line, but they were surrounded, though by a scattered line, and while they sheltered themselves behind trees from their opposers on one side, they stood fair to those on the other. Their left wing now gave way, and retreated along their own line near to their right, where they hoisted several handkerchiefs as flags for peace, and our firing was suppressed as soon as possible.

Our officers and men now began without distinction or formality to engage in receiving the arms of the enemy, and throwing them into a pile, and in guarding the prisoners.

The men appointed to number the dead reported 250 of the enemy, and 32 of the patriots, and about forty of our men died afterwards of the wounds they had received.

Col. Ferguson had placed his army on Kings Mountain, near the boundary line between North and South Carolina, on the east side of a gap where a public



road goes through, and this line pointed south, extending in an easterly course. He fell dead, with seven bullets shot through him, near the front end of his line, the west end. I do not know who succeeded him in command.

The battle was after the middle of the day, and its duration was about three quarters of an hour. Ferguson thought to take advantage by placing his army on an eminence, but it terminated in favor of our men, by preserving them from the danger of killing each other. I received a slight wound in my left arm, and another in my side, and a bullet passed through my hair above the tie, without touching the skin.

We encamped on the battle-ground that night, and had more prisoners than patriots to guard them.

I will now state my reasons for saying that "Haywood's History of Tennessee" is erroneous in stating that a number of the enemy engaged in this battle made their escape.

In a few minutes after the commencement of the battle, the enemy were so completely surrounded that not one of them could have made his escape without being seen by our men, and I was with them for several weeks after, frequently talking about the completeness of the victory and never heard a word said about any one making his escape until I saw in the above mentioned History that 400 had escaped. But as we took their whole army and all that belonged to it, we could ascertain by their regular returns, and other papers their precise number, which was in the aggregate 1187.

Editor's Note: We present articles in the form and punctuation used by the author.

As we had no other way to bring the guns we had taken, the strong healthy prisoners were directed to carry them, the officers and the weak and sickly soldiers being excused, as well as the wounded. I stood by the pile of guns as they marched by to take them up, and I counted 725 men that carried guns, and many of them carried two guns each. Those that carried guns, added to the number of the dead makes 975, and I have no doubt the wounded and the officers and the weak and sick would make out the aggregate of 1187, and I am convinced that not one who was in camp at the commencement of the battle made his escape. The next day after the battle, being the 8th. Of October, after burying some of our dead and leaving others for the neighbors to bury, we marched off with our prisoners, and about sunset met with the footmen whom we had left at Green River. They had provided plenty of rations for our men who had suffered from fatigue and hunger for three days, and were nearly famished. A few days after this we marched through Burke County and next on to the Moravian town.

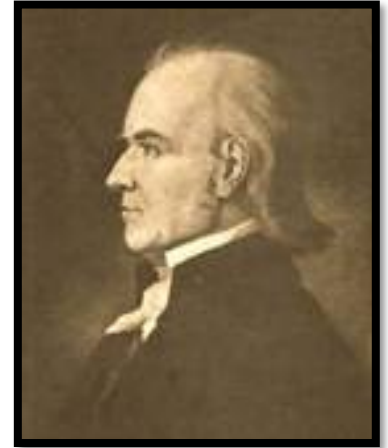
From my own observations, on the day of the battle, and from all the reports I have heard since, I believe the Chief Commander, and several officers that commanded columns, and almost every officer and soldier of the whole detachment fought bravely and de-

serve equal honor.

Many of them have gone to another world where I hope they will receive everlasting rewards for their patriotic heroism.

In the mean time their posterity and fellow citizens ought to remember their achievements under the blessing of Divine Providence, with unceasing gratitude, especially as the complete victory gained at this eventful crisis seemed to change the aspect of our warfare, and we went on from that time until we obtained the glorious object we had in view.

~ *Wm. Lenoir*



Portrait of William Lenoir

Board Highlights

The board of directors met at Fort Defiance on Thursday, September 10, 2026 at 5:30. Board members in attendance were Ike Forester, Doug Davis, Nell Fisher, Tina Triplett, Kayleigh Corey, Steve Rauchfuss, Beth Davison, Sandra Watts and site director Cassandra "Cass" Douglas.

- Cassandra Douglas gave a report on the number of visitors and events since the last meeting. On September 28th 80 Caldwell Early College students will visit. On October 1st, 148 4th grade students from Caldwell and Wilkes County who are studying NC History will attend the Living History program.
- Sandra Watts shared with the group grants that have been obtained or applied for.
- New board member Beth Davison discussed with the group a grant entitled Monuments Across Appalachia Project which if acquired will be used to create a memorial for the enslaved that are buried on the property.
- Details of the upcoming annual membership meeting were discussed and invitations will be mailed soon.
- October 17th concert preparations are on going and should be finalized within the next couple of weeks.
- Sandra Watts shared with the group that upgrades to the electrical system in the main house have begun. New lights will be installed along with new breaker boxes both in the house and the cellar will be replaced. If funding allows, the summer kitchen will be heated and air conditioning installed.

FRIENDS OF FORT DEFIANCE

Your support is vitally important to the operation of Fort Defiance. **THANK YOU!** The following members have joined for **2026**:

Please Renew now for 2027

Patriot/Individual

Mark Coltrain
Orrin Robbins
Karen Barlow
Wanda Prince
Richmond Bernhardt
Fran Hagaman
Jeanne Dairaghi
Nell Fisher
Liza Plaster

Militia/Family

Lissa Holsclaw
Kelly Coffey
Steve & Jean Branch
Sharon Underwood
Jill Privott
Pam Helton
Caldwell County Historical Society
Sonny Church
Nathan Hunt Gwyn III

Lieutenant

Britton King
Lucy F.
William H. LeNoir, Jr.

Captain/Patron

Jennie G. Deal
Al & Adrienne Johnston
Dr. Myra A. Dickson
Monty & Brenda Combs
Cindy Day
Jerry Brooks
Thomas Allen & Virginia Foxx
Douglas Pegram
Tina Triplett
Dana M. Brown
Jim & Judy Thompson
Charles Forester
Joe & Frances Delk
Lee Taylor
Lewis & Charlotte Travland
Frank McMillan
Laura Sheaffer
William F. & Denise F. Howard
Ellen Cowan & Keith Seramur
James William Lenoir
Margaret M. Broyhill
Sharon Bryant
Jane J. Smith
Jerry Moore
Katherine Bravo
Margaret Martine

Colonel/ Sponsor

Tom Tighe
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Specified Donations—Thank You

Broyhill Family Foundation
Bernhardt Furniture Foundation
Hogan Family Foundation
Lenoir Service League
Overmountain Victory State Trail-Friends

Please become a "Friend of Fort Defiance". Memberships are available for individuals, families, and corporations who are looking to support local history and tourism. Each level of membership comes with perks when visiting Fort Defiance. For example, free admission when visiting on regular days of operation, discounts for special event admission, discounts in the gift shop and discounts on ground rentals. Each member will receive a membership card and a copy of the bi-monthly newsletter via mail or email.

Fort Defiance, Inc. is a 501c3 non-profit organization. Anyone wanting to become a member of the "Friends of Fort Defiance" should send a check made payable to Fort Defiance, Inc. and mail it along with the membership form to Fort Defiance, Inc., P. O. Box 686, Lenoir, NC 28645. Payments can also be made by credit card on the Site's website, www.historicfortdefiancenc.org.

_____ Patriot/Individual \$20-39

_____ Militia/Family \$40-74
Family is defined as two parents and their dependent children.

_____ Lieutenant/Supporter \$75-99

_____ Captain/Patron \$100-499

_____ Colonel/Sponsor \$500-999

_____ General/Benefactor \$1000-up

Contact Fort Defiance at fortdefiancenc@gmail.com or call 828-758-1671.

Name: _____ Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Please Come Visit Soon!

Fort Defiance is located 1.8 miles East of the former Patterson School on Hwy 268.

Hours of Operation

April-October Thursday - Saturday 10 AM-4 PM

Sunday 1 PM - 4 PM

November-March Saturday & Sunday 10 AM - 4 PM

Admission

\$7 per Adult

\$5 for children (Ages 6 -15)

Children 5 and under free

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To schedule a group of 10 or more, please call for an appointment.



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