



Fort Defiance

Chronicle



Fall Issue

October 2023

Fort Defiance

P.O. Box 686

Lenoir, NC 28645

828-758-1671

fortdefiancenc@gmail.com

historicfortdefiancenc.org

Board Of Directors

Sandra Watts

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Nell Fisher

Secretary

Ike Forester

Treasurer

Bill Karr

Bob Kogut

Stephen Rauchfuss

Doug Davis

Tina Triplett

Monty Minton

John Fletcher Church

Site Director

Open Position

Newsletter

Committee

John Hawkins

Sandra Watts

Kelly Coffey

Barbara Freiman

Annual Membership Meeting

The Board of Directors at Fort Defiance would like to notify the "Friends of Fort Defiance" of the annual membership meeting on **Saturday, October 14, 2023** beginning at **12:30** at Fort Defiance. Food and beverages will be served. Those planning to attend should RSVP by calling 828-758-1671 or email fortdefiancenc@gmail.com. **Please reply no later than October 11, 2023.**

Members will be given an update and overview of the year's activities, future projects, invited to ask questions, offer suggestions, and learn ways to become involved.

Memberships are on a calendar-year basis. Those wishing to renew for 2024 can do so at the annual meeting. See Page 6 for details on membership.

Come for a time of information and fellowship with others who are interested in and dedicated to the preservation of Fort Defiance".



FIRST ANNUAL CELTIC FESTIVAL & OPEN HOUSE

November 4 , 2023

2:00 PM - 6:00 PM



Liam Bailey & Two Bird Stone
Performing at 4:00 pm



Mary Greene Celtic Trio from Horn In the West
Performing at 3:00 pm



R. G. Absher and the Celtic Sessions
Band
Performing at 2:00 pm



Puddingstone
Performing at 5:00 pm

The Board of Directors at Fort Defiance invite the public to a Open House and the first Annual Celtic Festival held on **Saturday, November 4, 2023 from 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm.** The four groups playing are well known performers and very popular musicians from our area. The afternoon will be filled with music, food and history. Bring a chair and plan to spend the afternoon in the Yadkin Valley known to many as "The Happy Valley"

Admission is free. Donations are always appreciated.

1792 Fort Defiance Drive, Lenoir, NC 28645

Appalachian State University Scientists Search For Ruins



Dr. Ellen A. Cowan, with the Department of Geological and Environmental Sciences with ASU and Keith C. Seramur, Professional Geologist with Seramur & Associates, PC along with several students of ASU visited the Fort on September 30, 2023. With the use of ground penetrating radar supported by electrical resistivity tomography and gradiometer surveys are being used in an attempt to identify buildings and infrastructure on the property. It is the hope of all involved to possibly located where the actual Fort would have been, along with the slave quarters and the slave cemetery.

Sarah Joyce Lenoir "Aunt Sade"



Daughter of Thomas Lenoir & Selina Avery. She never married and lived at Fort Defiance her entire adult life. Born 3/15/1821, died 1/21/1899. She was omitted from the genealogy tables in Happy Valley as she had no children; however I doubt anyone was more responsible for the success and happiness of the Lenoir family during her life. She was an honor graduate of Salem College, the Moravian college "for females" in Winston-Salem, NC. She was the recipient of most of the letters from brothers, sisters, nieces and nephews which have been preserved in the Lenoir collections. She was a confidante of the whole family. It was Aunt Sade who knew which seeds from the garden to save for next year's crop and how to preserve them. She baby-sat when the other adults went visiting. She was with her sister Mary Ann Lenoir Gwyn in Elkin, NC when her babies were born and at the Fort when Rufus & Sally Lenoir's were born. She was nurse, gardener and peace maker, unassuming and efficient and generous. Nieces borrowed her jewelry for parties. She died from complications after a fall down the stairs at Fort Defiance at age 77 from which she never fully recovered. She was "Aunt" to all who knew her whether family or friend.

A book entitled Happy Valley by Thomas Felix Hickerson states "The Happy Valley, is particularly fertile and picturesque. Many poems have been written expressing admiration for this peaceful and beautiful natural land scape." He gives Sarah Gwyn Lenoir (wife of Rufus T. Lenoir, third generation to inherit Fort Defiance) for writing this poem entitled The Happy Valley



The Happy Valley
by
Sarah Gwyn Lenoir
1833-1914

Would'st hear of vale enchanted
 (O Muse enshrine in song!)
Where all that's pure and lovely
 Of Earth's fair things belong!
Around the faithful mountains
 Do guard this emerald gem,
As hills about kept vigil
 O'er fair Jerusalem

Those mountains stand like phantoms
 When mantled white with snows,
And sounds throughout the Valley
 Are hushed in deep repose,
And when the Spring comes calling
 Among the slopes and hills,
Awake with birds and blossoms
 The Vale with music thrills.

Tis there the harvest waring
 As balmy breeze sweeps on,
And spreads o'er all a glory
 Like that of setting sun.
Broad fields shimmer and rustle
 With tall and growing corn,
Dark blades nodding and dancing
 In light of early morn.

'Neath trembling boughs the river
 Ripples from side to side,
It hastes to meet a comrade
 And they united glide,
Mists rising from the waters,
 Like rare and softest lace
The meadow, hill and woodland
 Adorn with airy grace.

The subtle blush of autumn
 As moved by master hand,
And touching all with splendor
 Creates a fairyland.
There comes with the leaves soft whisper,
 The insects' drowsy drone,
And breath of Indian Summer
 A peace that's thine alone.

Thy dwellings, Happy Valley!
 Are types of the Home above;
Therein God's peace abide
 With purity and love,
Their gracious doors wide open
 To stranger or to friend.
A sure and gentle welcome
 Both hearts and hands extend.

Opprest with cares and sorrows
 (For even here they come)
With weariness and gloom,
 We turn to thee, blest Valley,
Thy tender peace so mild
 Soothes like Mother's lullaby
Her tired and sobbing child.

Such strains are in thy silence
 As none may utter here
Echoes of fragrant mem'ries
 So distant yet so near,
Tender kiss or mute caress,
 A sweep of angel wings,
Vanished hand that smoothed the brow
 All these thy twilight brings.

Can Eden's Vale so blessed
 So far from all alarms,
Surpass e'en in its radiance
 Thy all engaging charms?
Oh if by Jesus' pity
 We gain the heavenly rest
And find the loved and sainted
 Once folded in thy breast,

Shall we the crystal River
 See glorious in mead so fair?
Shall learn, Sweet Vale, thy beauty
 Helped to bring us there?
That all thy charms so goodly
 By a Gracious Father given
Were pledge of joys Eternal
 A perfect peace of Heaven?

LANGUAGE OF THE FAN

This information was taken from a book entitled Accessories of Dress by Katherine Morris Lester and Bess Viola Oerke. "In the 18th century fans reached their zenith. Folding fans, used almost exclusively, were among the most daintily beautiful accessories that have ever formed a part of costume." Joseph Addison, Editor for the newspaper called the Spectator showed the grave importance attached to the management of the fan. "Women are armed with fans as men with swords and sometimes do more execution with them. There is an infinite variety of motions to be made use of in the flutter of a fan. There is the angry flutter, the modern flutter, the modest flutter, the timorous flutter, the merry flutter and the amorous flutter. There is scarcely an emotion of the mind which does not produce a suitable agitation in the fan of a disciplined lady."



Instructions for the gentle Female in the proper Coquetry of the Fan

With Fan Closed:

With handle to lips – "Kiss me"
 Carry right hand in front of face – "Follow me"
 Carry left hand in front of face – "Desirous of acquaintance"
 Twirl in left hand – "I wish to get rid of you"
 Draw across forehead – "We are watched"
 Carry in right hand – "You are too willing"
 Draw across cheek – "I love you"
 Draw across hand – "I hate you"
 Twirl in right hand – "I love another"
 Draw across eyes – "I am sorry"
 Let rest on right cheek – "Yes"
 Let rest on left cheek – "No"

With Fan Open

Close fan slowly – "I wish to speak to you"
 Open and Shut very fast – "You are cruel"
 Drop hand – "We are friends"
 Fan slowly – "I am married"
 Fan fast – "I am engaged"
 Open wide – "Wait for me"
 Cover left ear – "Do not betray our secret"

Eagle Scout Court of Honor



Grayson Peel

Mark Balog

Kevin Karbo

On August 5, 2023, Grayson Peel and Kevin Karbo, shown here with Scoutmaster Mark Balog, received their Eagle Badge for projects they completed at Fort Defiance. Fort Defiance Chairperson, Sandra Watts, was the guest speaker. Grayson and Kevin will be attending college this fall.



Fort Defiance now has its own QR Code. Looking for a quick way to access the website? Through the website, individuals can pay their memberships, make donations, read past issues of the newsletter, book guided tours, reserve the picnic shelter, reserve the site as a wedding venue and look for special events. Subscribe to the page and be notified when new blog posts are uploaded.

Board Highlights

Board of Directors meeting was held September 6, 2023 at 5:30. Members in attendance were Sandra Watts, Tina Triplett, Bob Kogut, Bill Karr, Nell Fisher, Ike Forester and Steven Rauchfuss.

- ◆ Sandra Watts gave a review of activities for the past 2 months. Grants submitted to the Stevens Family Foundation was submitted and received. Grants pending to the Hogan Family Foundation and Blue Ridge Energy. All projects Sandra, Tina Triplett and Monty Minton met with two departments from ASU for potential projects in fall and Spring of 2024.
- ◆ Shutter hooks have been ordered for the second floor shutters and should arrive in the next few weeks.
- ◆ Bob Kogut discussed some final plans for the 1st Annual Celtic Festival & Open house on September 17, 2023.
- ◆ Nominating Committee gave names of potential board members.
- ◆ Date for the Annual Membership meeting was set.

FRIENDS OF FORT DEFIANCE

Your support is vitally important to the operation of Fort Defiance. **THANK YOU!** The following members have joined for **2023**:

Patriot/Individual

Oscar L. Doberiner
 R. Kelly Coffey
 Helen Nell Fisher
 Bill Karr
 Iredell County Extension Master Gardner Assoc. (in memory
 Of Michael W. Bernhardt)

Julie Mullis
 Matt O'Bryant
 Karen Barlow (in memory of Shirley Lenoir)

Militia/Family

Wanda Prince
 Liza Plaster (in honor of Steven Rauchfuss)
 Charles & Carol Bernhardt (in memory of Michael W. Bernhardt)
 Joanne M. Schwind (in memory of Michael W. Bernhardt)
 Kathryn H. Hamrick (in memory of Michael W. Bernhardt)
 Margaret M. Broyhill
 Jean Branch
 Betty Buss
 Lissa Holsclaw (in memory of revolutionary ancestor Colonel Isaac
 Lee)
 Nathan Hunt Gwyn
 Valerie Connor
 Caldwell County Historical Society
 Douglas L. Pegram

Lieutenant

Pam Helton

Captain/Patron

Dr. Myra A. Dickson
 Brenda Combs
 Monty Combs
 Carson Josey Hobson
 Rutzinski Family (in memory of Michael W. Bernhardt)
 Nathan & Julie Dixon (in memory of Michael W. Bernhardt)
 Joseph P. Logan (in memory of Michael W. Bernhardt)
 Alvin Johnston

Evelyn Hartshorn Beam
 Mary A. Kincaid
 Gemstone District Roundtable (in memory of Michael W. Bernhardt)
 Roger & Jan Clary (in memory of Michael W. Bernhardt)
 Jane J. Smith
 Tina Triplett
 Steve McCord
 John Hawkins
 Dr. John W. Thuss
 Joe & Francis Delk
 Jeff & Rita Jones
 Jerry Brooks
 Kathryn LeNoir
 Kim Browning
 William & Denise Howard
 Lee Taylor
 Eliza Bishop (in honor of Monty Minton & Sandra Watts)
 Jerry N. Brooks

Colonel/ Sponsor

Keith & Carrie Harrison (in memory of Michael W. Bernhardt)
 Scott & Karen Glover (in memory of Michael W. Bernhardt)
 Samuel L. &
 Sandra B. Ramsey
 James Pennell
 Anne & Alex Bernhardt Foundation
General/ Benefactor
 Barbara Freiman
 Yorke Lawson
 John Worsley
 Keith Haas Ent.
 Ike Forester
 Monty Minton
 Brenda Bernhardt

Specified Donations—Thank You
 Bernhardt Furniture Foundation (Capital Improvements)
 Broyhill Family Foundation (Capital Improvements)
 Lenoir Service League
 Hogan Family Foundation (Grounds)
 Stevens Family Foundation (Grounds)

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. Or you can make payment by credit card on our 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 past 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

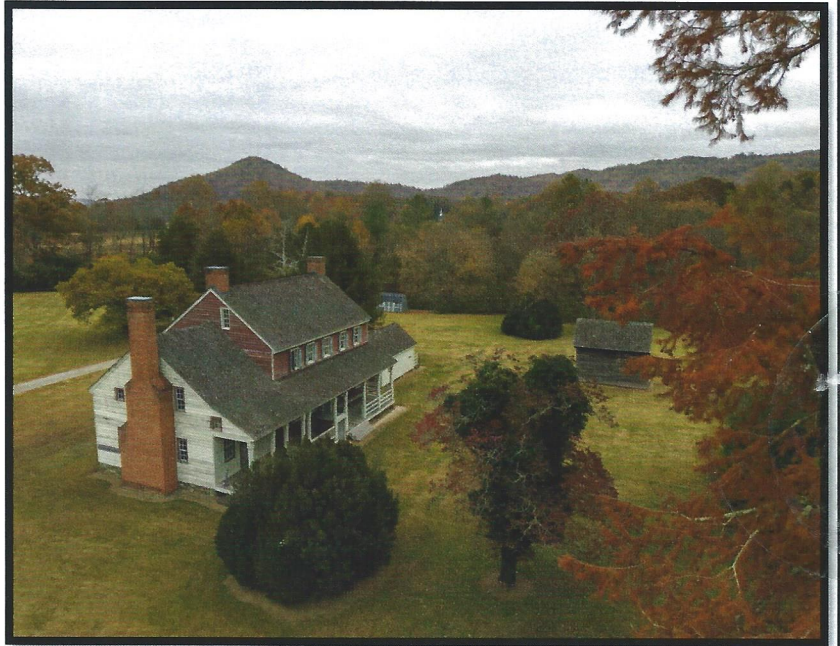
\$7 per Adult

\$5 for children (Ages 6 -15)

Children 5 and under free

Like us on Facebook and Follow us on Instagram.

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



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