



Fort Defiance

Chronicle



Spring Issue

June 2023

Fort Defiance
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historicfortdefiancenc.org

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Doug Davis

Tina Triplett

Monty Minton

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Open Position

Newsletter

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Sandra Watts

Kelly Coffey

Barbara Freiman

Lunch & Learn Program

June 10, 2023 at 12:00 pm



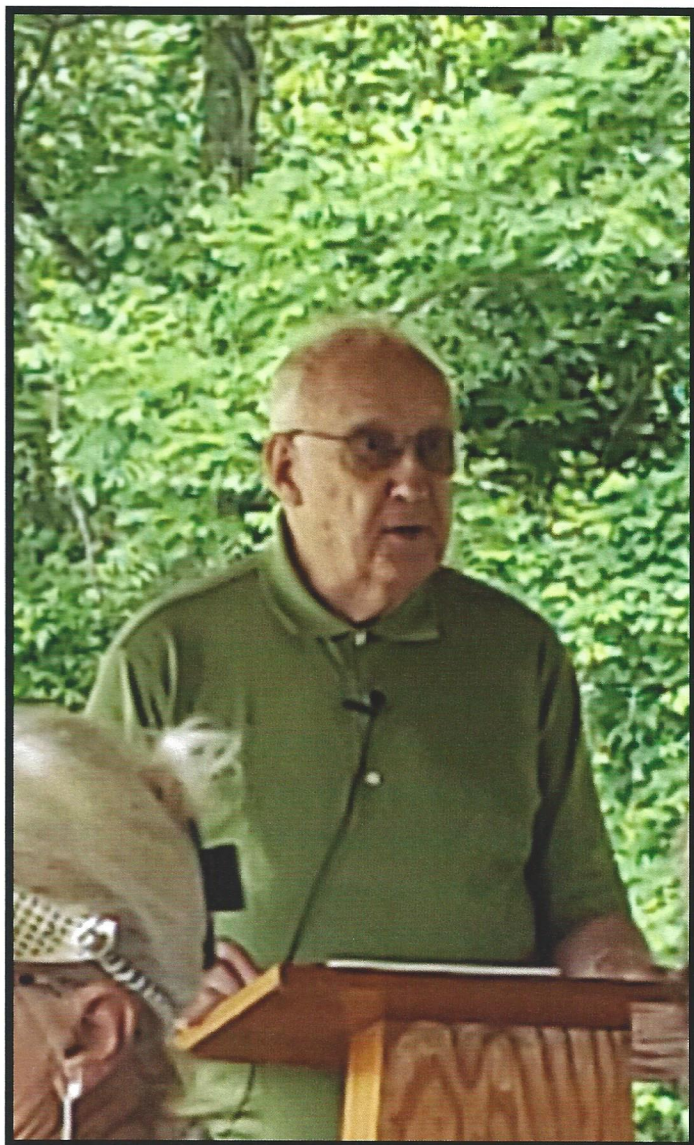
William Caldwell, Park Ranger
Overmountain Victory
National Historic Trail
National Park Service



"Native Revolutionaries: The American Indians of the Southeast in the American Revolution."

William Caldwell, Park Ranger, with the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail of the National Park Service will be presenting a look at ways that a few of the more local American Indian nations were involved in the American Revolution and the impact their efforts had on the greater policy of the war and the local impact to the backcountry Patriots like William Lenoir.

This event is **free** to the public. **Donations are always appreciated.** Bring a chair and bring lunch and plan to spend the day. Picnic tables are available but limited.



**Lunch & Learn with John Hawkins
Stoneman's Raid Through
Caldwell County
July 15, 2023 at 12:00 pm**

John Hawkins is no stranger to Fort Defiance due to his occasional volunteering and having spoken for two Lunch and Learn programs during 2022. He wrote the local history column for the News-Topic for 25 years, and he served as director of the Caldwell Heritage Museum for 14 years. He has spoken for various civic clubs and historic groups in Caldwell County and the surrounding area. He is a past winner of the North Carolina Society of Historians award.

On July 15, he will lead a discussion for **"Stoneman's Raid Through Caldwell County"**. **Bring lunch, a folding chair, and questions and comments.**

This is a **free event** to the public with donations always appreciated.



Maj. General George Stoneman

Pictures from March 25th and 26th Event

Living history reenactors from Fort Davidson demonstrated 18th century life during the weekend of March 25th and 26th. Board members who attended were Tina Triplett, Doug Davis, Nell Fisher, Bill Karr, Steven Rauchfuss and Sandra Watts. Site Director Bob Myers and daughter Rebecca gave tours of the home. Volunteers for the weekend were Cindy Day of the Caldwell County Heritage Museum and the Tuckers Barn chapter of the DAR, and Kelly Coffey a member of the Fort Defiance Chronical Newsletter committee.

Women on the Frontier Event



April 15th, Fort Defiance hosted an event entitled Women on the Frontier. This event was a collaboration of Fort Defiance and the Wilkes Surry Chapter of Overmountain Victory Trail Association. Living history interpreters demonstrated spinning, dyeing, cooking, candle dipping, corn grinding, sewing and writing with quill and ink. Thank you to everyone who came out to visit. Board members on hand for the event were Tina Triplett, Sandra Watts and Steve Rauchfuss

July 4, 1831

The following three documents are taken from the papers of General William Lenoir. They deal with the celebration of American Independence in the town of Wilkesborough, NC July 4th, 1831.

From a letter to Gen. Wm. Lenoir from J.H. Norwood and S.F. Patterson dated June 21, 1831:

“At a meeting of the committee of arrangements for the celebration of the anniversary of American Independence, it was resolved, that General William Lenoir be respectfully solicited to be present at the proposed celebration, and preside at a dinner to be given upon that occasion. Venerable Sir! We hope it is not too much to expect your presence to dignify and direct our feeble efforts, to do justice to this great occasion.”

Entry in Gen. Wm. Lenoir’s diary dated July 4, 1831:

“By a polite invitation from S.F. Patterson, W.P. Waugh, and J. Vannoy a committee - I presided at the celebration of the Anniversary of American Independence. James H. Norwood read the Declaration of Independence and Col. Patterson delivered a very appropriate oration, Gen. E. Jones, Col. J. Martin, Col. H. Brown, and Maj. J. Finley were vice Presidents, Maj. Emmett, Col. John Bryan and Benj. Martin were Marshalls of the Day. There were 13 regular toasts, and a great many volunteer toasts, and the usual number of guns and cheers at each. Perfect order prevailed throughout the whole festivities, with uncommon respect and attention to the President of the day who being toasted by three different gentlemen, gave the following toast: The Citizens of Wilkesborough and its Vicinity, may they live long to celebrate the anniversary of the most important day, and always preserve as much harmony, good order, and prosperity as they have exhibited this day.”

Document on American Independence written by General William Lenoir, 26 March, 1831 possibly in preparation for his speech to be given in the town of Wilkesboro, being chosen “President of the Day” to celebrate the 4th of July.

That the best way for a great empire to tax her colonies is to confer benefits upon them and that no rulers have a right to contributions upon the property, or exact the services of their subjects, without their own, or the consent of their own representatives, were principles never recognized by the minority and parliament of Great Briton. Fatally enamored of their selfish system of policy, and defiantly determined to subject the execution of their nefarious purposes, they were deaf to the suggestion of reason and the demands of free men. The frantic though transient energy of intoxicated man was exhibited in their every act and blackened and distressed features of their national character, on the contrary, Americans had but one object in view, for in Independence are concentrated and condensed every blessing that makes life desirable, every right and every privilege which can tend to the happiness or sacred dignity of man. In the adornment of indifference were all their passions, their desires and their powers engaged. The intrepidity the magnanimity of their armies; the wisdom and inflexible firmness of their congress; the ardency of their patriotism; their unnerving patience when assailed by dangers and perplexed with aggravated misfortunes have long and deservedly employed the pen of penegyric and the tongue of eulogy -- through the whole revolutionary conflict a consistency and systematic regularity were preserved equally honorable as extraordinary. The unity of design and classically correct arrangement of the series of incidents which completed the epic story of American Independence, were so wonderful so well wrought that political hypercriticism was abashed at the mighty production and forced to join her sir envy (sic) in applauding the glorious composition.

It is my pleasing duty my fellow citizens to felicitate you on the establishment of our national sovereignty and among the various subjects for congratulation and rejoicing that is not the most unimportant that heaven has spared so many veterans in the art of war; so many sages who are versed in the best politics of peace; men who are able to instruct and to govern and whose faithful services whose unremitted executions to promote the public prosperity entitle them to our firmest confidence and warmest gratitude. Uniting in the celebration of this anniversary I am happy to behold many of the illustrious servants of that band of patriots who despising danger and death determined to be free or gloriously perish in the cause. Their countenance beam (sic) inexpressible delight or joys are increased by their presence our raplumes are heightened by their participation. The feeling which inspired them in the “times which tried men’s souls” are communicated to our bosoms. We catch the divine spirit which impelled them to bid defiance to the congregated host of despots. We swear to preserve the blessings they toiled to gain which they obtained by the incessant and labors of eight distressful years; to transmit to our posterity, our rights undiminished our honor untarnished and our freedom unimpaired. On the last page of fates eventful volume with the raptured ken of prophecy I behold Columbias name recorded; her future honors and happiness inscribed. In the same important book the approaching end of tyranny and the triumph of right and justice are written in indelible characters. The struggle will soon be over, the tottering thrones of despots will quickly fall and bury their proud incumbents in their mossy .. ruins.

Visitor Center Upgrade



Improvements to the Visitor Center are complete. With the help of the Bernhardt Furniture Foundation, Hogan Family Foundation and Blue Ridge Energy, the public area of the Visitor Center has been painted, new window treatments, museum items were moved to the main house. Inventory for sale has been upgraded, efficient LED lights have replaced florescent ones and a new central heating and air system has been installed.



Grayson Peel with Boy Scout Troop 377 of Mooresville is putting the finishing touches on his Eagle Project of more storage space added to the Visitor Center. Pictured left to right, Gray Peel, Grayson's grandfather, Grayson Peel and Aaron Peel, Grayson father, three generations of Eagle Scouts.

Board Highlights

The board of directors met on May 3, 2023 at Fort Defiance. Board members in attendance was Ike Forester, Stephen Rauchfuss, Tina Triplett, Sandra Watts, Monty Minton, Nell Fisher and Bill Karr.

- ◆ Site report was given by Sandra Watts. She discussed the two events that were held in March & April. There are 39 members of Friends of Fort Defiance. Twenty eight family members from Lenoir City, TN will be visiting May 5th and a tour group of about 20 will be visiting on June 8th.
- ◆ Tina Triplett gave an update on changes to the website and gave a report on new items in the gift shop
- ◆ Sandra Watts reported that a grant from the Cannon Foundation for windows and shutters was awarded and money received. A grant has been submitted for the replacement of the steps into the main house and public restroom area. Eagle Scout projects are now complete and LED lights and the rewiring of the picnic shelter should be finished by the end of the week.
- ◆ Monty Minton reported that work on the main house is going well. Roofing of the main house is almost complete, the roof of the summer kitchen has been replaced and the roof on the smokehouse will begin soon. New window casings and shutters for the second floor is forthcoming. Bids for painting of the main house has been given.

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
 Valerie Connor
 Caldwell County Historical Society
 Douglas L. Pegram

Lieutenant

Pam Helton

Captain/Patron

Dr. Myra A. Dickson
 Brenda Combs
 Monty Combs
 Caron 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 LeNoie
 Kim Browning
 William & Denise Howard

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

Specified Donations—Thank You

Stevens Family Foundation (Cemetery Restora-
 tion)
 Bernhardt Furniture Foundation (Upgrade Visi-
 tor Center)
 Hogan Family Foundation (Visitor Center)
 Blue Ridge Energy (upgrade heating & air)
 Broyhill Family Foundation (Capital Improve-
 ments)

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.

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

<input type="checkbox"/> Patriot/Individual	\$20-39	<input type="checkbox"/> Captain/Patron	\$100-499
<input type="checkbox"/> Militia/Family <small>Family is defined as two parents and their dependent children.</small>	\$40-74	<input type="checkbox"/> Colonel/Sponsor	\$500-999
<input type="checkbox"/> Lieutenant/Supporter	\$75-99	<input type="checkbox"/> General/Benefactor	\$1000-up

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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Fort Defiance
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Lenoir, NC 28645