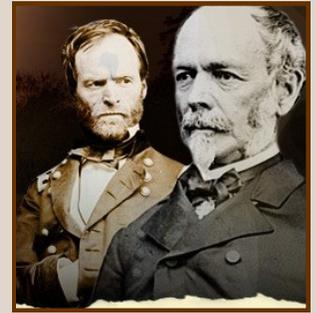


**BENTONVILLE
BATTLEFIELD
STATE
HISTORIC SITE**

FROM THE TRENCHES



News from N.C.'s Premier Civil War Battlefield Site and the Friends of Bentonville Battlefield

"One Continuous Fire of Destruction" Bentonville's 148th Anniversary

BY AMANDA BRANTLEY

Volume III, Issue II

Spring 2013

Amanda Brantley, Editor

Inside this Issue

**Manager's
Message**
Page 2

**Views from the
148th Anniversary**
Page 3

**Friends of
Bentonville
Update**
Page 4 & 5

Artifact Spotlight
Page 7

**Upcoming Special
Events**
Page 9



Photo Courtesy of Cape Fear Film & Video

A combination of warm weather, clear skies, and artillery led to Bentonville hosting one of its largest non-reenactment crowds ever for the battle's 148th Anniversary program, "One Continuous Fire of Destruction." The program brought nearly 6,000 visitors from across North Carolina. Visitors viewed artillery and infantry demonstrations, civilian activities, toured soldiers' camps, and witnessed a monument dedication.

Eight artillery crews lined up to exhibit how field artillery pieces would have performed during battle, giving off their smoke-filled roar as the crowd looked on during demonstrations. Reenactors from the 1st NC/11th NC, 18th NC/9th NJ, and 27th NC Co. D, demonstrated infantry tactics and firing techniques in the front yard of the Harper House.

Visitors were also welcomed to take a tour of the Harper House, which was used as a field hospital for the Union army during the battle. The kitchen adjacent to the house was open with period cooking demonstrations. Members of the Tarheel Civilians demonstrated period domestic skills, such as spinning and sewing, near the Harper House. The Olde South Blacksmith's were also on site providing visitors with an introspective look into the trade of blacksmithing during the Civil War.

The weekend program also featured a dedication ceremony for a Union monument. The Maj. Gen. Thomas H. Ruger Camp of the Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War hosted the dedication ceremony. The monument honors the soldiers of the XIV, XV, XVII, and XX Corps that fought during the Battle of Bentonville in March 1865. The monument sits adjacent to existing Confederate markers that have been previously dedicated in the monument area near the visitors center. This is the first Union monument to be erected at Bentonville Battlefield.

Bentonville would like to thank all of the volunteers, participants, and Historic Site's staff members for their hard work in making this program a success.

New Department of Cultural Resources Secretary Susan W. Kluttz



Susan W. Kluttz, on January 5, 2013, took the oath of office, becoming the eighth Secretary of the Department of Cultural Resources. She brought to the position keen interests in historic preservation and the arts, along with commitments to bolster economic development and education.

Secretary Kluttz brings a wealth of leadership experience to the Department. From 1997 until 2011, she was Mayor of Salisbury, after years of volunteer work in many areas, including serving as president of the Rowan Arts Council and board member of the Waterworks Visual Arts Center. She had also been personally involved in Salisbury's historic preservation and downtown revitalization for over 30 years. As Mayor, she oversaw initiatives that developed the city's cultural arts plan, reorganized the Arts Council, and created a master tourism plan.

A graduate of University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Secretary Kluttz has served on her alma mater's board of visitors. She was a trustee of Rowan-Cabarrus Community College, was honored with an endowed scholarship in her name at Catawba College, and was awarded an honorary doctorate from Livingstone College.

Secretary Kluttz is married to District Court Judge William C. Kluttz, Jr. Their family includes son Lieutenant Commander William C. Kluttz III and wife MacLean Clinard Kluttz of Norfolk, Virginia; daughter Susan Kluttz Smith and husband William H. Smith of Burlington, and grandson William C. Kluttz, IV.

During her visit Secretary Kluttz met with staff and toured the grounds. In her remarks about the visit the Secretary said "when you think of the sacrifice and courage that this special place represents, you can't help but feel moved. This site does the important work of reminding all of us of the difficult, final days of our nation's greatest struggle." Secretary Kluttz was greatly impressed with the size and scope of Bentonville Battlefield and the land that has been acquired to preserve the history of such an important battle in North Carolina.

Manager's Message

BY DONNY TAYLOR

Spring has arrived at Bentonville, and if March is an indicator of things to come, this will be a busy year at the battlefield. Visitation figures for March were strongest on record for a non-reenactment year. We had a total of 10,909 visitors for the month with 5,722 visitors and 130 volunteers for the 148th Anniversary Program alone. We were also hosted multiple school groups, military staff rides, outreach programs, and even a bus tour consisting of Gettysburg tour guides. All in all a great month for the site.

One of the high points for the month was the long awaited dedication of the site's first Union monument. This project was sponsored by the Maj. Gen. Thomas Ruger Camp, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, who raised the funds to purchase and place the monument at Bentonville. This project started in the mid 1990's but failed to reach fruition. Funds donated for the first monument attempt were held in trust by the Bentonville Battlefield Association, Inc. and transferred for the completion of the present monument. It has taken a lot of years, but we now have balanced interpretation in our Monument Area.

New items have also been added in the exhibit area. They include a M1842 .54 Caliber pistol belonging to Bentonville Veteran Lt. Col John D. Taylor. This has been placed on loan to the site by his Great-Great Grandson Graham Hobbs. Another item is a circa 1864 medical pannier that was donated to the site by Dr. T. Adrian Wheat. The pannier was found in a barn at Bentonville around 1980 and donated to Bentonville in the early 1990's and had remained under conservation until recently.

The Friends of Bentonville Battlefield, Inc. (FoBB) received their signed copy of the Memorandum of Agreement with the Department of Cultural Resources, making it the official support group for the site. On March 23rd FoBB President Dean Harry started conducting public battlefield tours for visitors. The tours were very successful, both being booked up in advance, with positive comments from the visitors. The FoBB and site staff will work together to offer these tours on a monthly basis through the summer. We have several individuals interested in training to become volunteer battlefield guides and plans are in the works to begin their training.

Walking trails on the battlefield have progressed very well and we hope to have the completed trail in place by this time next year. A new extension was added on April 6th with the help of volunteers through the Civil War Trust's Park Day. With the help of eight volunteers and four staff members we were able to clear a one-half mile portion of the trail along Federal General Carlin's March 19, 1865 trench line. This took a lot of effort and I congratulate all of our volunteers and staff for a job well done. Thanks also to the Civil War Trust for sponsoring the massive effort for battlefields across the nation and for providing the volunteers with Park Day T-Shirts and patches.

Bentonville was the recipient of an almost new Bad Boy lawn mower and trailer. Thanks to the efforts of Mr. Ken Howard, Director of the Museum of History, and Mr. David Reid, Administrator Museum of the Cape Fear Historical (Continued on Page 6)

Views from the 148th Anniversary



This photo courtesy of NCDRC



Thank you!

Photos on this page are courtesy of Cape Fear Film & Video. Please "like" them on Facebook for more images!

Tickets on Sale Now! Reserve yours before it's too late!

NC 1865: Civil War Symposium September 14-15



Journey to Bentonville Battlefield for a two day symposium featuring lectures by Civil War historians and guided bus tours of the battlefield.



**For tickets visit www.fobb.net
or call 910-594-0789**

5466 Harper House Rd., Four Oaks, NC 27524

NC 1865: Civil War Symposium Agenda

Saturday: September 14, 2013

8:00 am Welcome and Refreshments.
Paul A. Johnston Auditorium at JCC, Smithfield.

8:45 am Robert M. "Bert" Dunkerly.
The Confederate surrender in North Carolina.

10:00 am Colonel (Ret.) Wade Sokolosky.
The Battles of Wyse Fork and Averasboro

11:15 am Dr. Chris E. Fonvielle.
The Wilmington Campaign.

12:15 pm Lunch

1:00 pm Eric Wittenberg
Cavalry during the Carolinas Campaign.

2:15 pm Dr. Mark L. Bradley
The Battle of Bentonville.

3:30 pm Keynote speaker: Edwin C. "Ed" Bearss.



The Battle of Bentonville, March 19-21, 1865.

Sunday: September 15, 2013

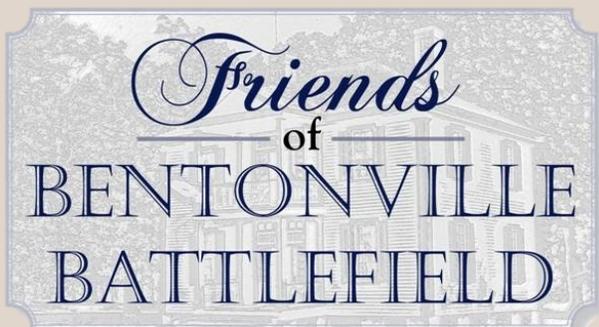
9:00 am Welcome, refreshments, meet and greet for the bus tour.
Bentonville Visitors Center

10:00 am Bus tour of Bentonville Battlefield. Ed Bearss & Mark Bradley

Tickets prices are as follows:

Saturday only: \$25.00 / with lunch included: \$35.00
Saturday only (student): \$15.00 / with lunch included: \$25.00
Sunday bus tour & Saturday Admissions: \$100.00
Sunday bus tour & Saturday Admissions with lunch: \$110.00

Join the Friends of Bentonville, Inc.



Membership Information

The Friends of Bentonville Battlefield, Inc. is dedicated to supporting the preservation, interpretation, maintenance, and operations of the battlefield.

Memberships start at \$15.00!

Apply online at www.fobb.net

Friends of Bentonville Battlefield

BY DEAN HARRY

It has been a busy start to the year for the Friends of Bentonville Battlefield, Inc. The Board voted in January to sponsor not only the 2013 "North Carolina, 1865: Civil War Symposium" being held September 14 and 15, but also the March 2015 sesquicentennial anniversary battle reenactment. With our help, the battlefield guide certification program has begun and on March 23rd the Friends hosted its first free battlefield tour for the public. Both the morning and afternoon tours were very well attended and seemed to be enjoyed by everyone. Keep an eye on the Bentonville State Historic Site or the Friends web pages for dates of future battlefield walks and tours. Anyone interested in becoming a Battlefield Guide at Bentonville should contact the staff at the site.

An exciting fund raising opportunity was announced at the January meeting. Through the efforts of the Friends, we have secured the promise of an anonymous donor for a fifty-cent to the dollar match for funds raised by the Friends in 2013. This match is in effect up to maximum amount of \$10,000. It will apply to funds raised



Dean Harry leads battlefield tour

through donations, membership renewals, and fund raising activities like our Gettysburg trip raffle. This generous offer represents a chance to almost double the effect of your donation and I hope that many of you will take advantage of this exciting opportunity. As you know, the purpose of the Friends is to assist the site in the interpretation, preservation, and operation of the State Historic Site. We all know how tight state budgets are these days and the funds allocated to historic sites like Bentonville are barely enough to keep the doors open and the lights turned on. Bentonville, and other historic sites, depend on groups like the Friends of Bentonville Battlefield, Inc. for additional funds to insure that these sites remain open and available for everyone to enjoy.

everyone to enjoy.

I would like to personally thank our membership for its support in 2012, our first full year of operation. I'm happy to say that most of our initial members have renewed their memberships for 2013. I hope to see each and every one of you at an event at Bentonville sometime in 2013.

The Friends of Bentonville Battlefield Raffle!

Buy a ticket for a chance to win:

1. Accommodations for two nights at the Gettysburg Travelodge. Dates subject to availability.
2. \$100.00 gift certificate at the Blue Parrot Bistro, Gettysburg.
3. Four hour tour of Gettysburg National Military Park in your car with a Licensed Battlefield Guide. This can include more than 2 people, subject to room in the car.
4. \$100 gas card.

Ticket prices are one for \$5 or three for \$10.

The drawing will be held at the Civil War Symposium September 14, 2013! You do not have to present to win.

Prize may be redeemed any time from April 1st to October 31st with the exception of the first week in July.



All proceeds go to The Friends of Bentonville Battlefield, Inc.

Manager's Message Cont'd

Complex, the mower and trailer that was to be sent to state surplus was transferred to Bentonville. The timing was perfect as our mower was almost worn out after eleven years of cutting many acres. We would like to thank each of you for your efforts to help us in this transfer of equipment.

Come and spend some time with us this summer, visit our Monument Area, take a guided tour of the battlefield, see our new exhibits, and check out the kitchen garden. When you visit remember our new hours of operation are Tuesday-Saturday 9am to 5pm, closed Sunday and Monday. Although we will be closed on Sunday and Monday you can still visit the site for a battlefield driving tour and use the On-Cell signs to get a narrated battlefield tour.



Summer Events at Bentonville



Join all the fun this summer! Bentonville will once again host an array of summer programs for 2nd Saturdays!

June 8

A Day in the Life of a Civil War Soldier

Watch soldiers demonstrate the loading & firing procedures for common weaponry during the Civil War.

July 13

Made in the Shade: Summertime Fun at Bentonville

Enjoy a day of crafting! Hands-on activities for kids and vendors on site will make for a great summer day!

August 10

Civil War Camp Life

Experience the day with reenactors to see how soldiers lived day to day and spent their downtime on the field.

Seasonal Musket Demonstrations

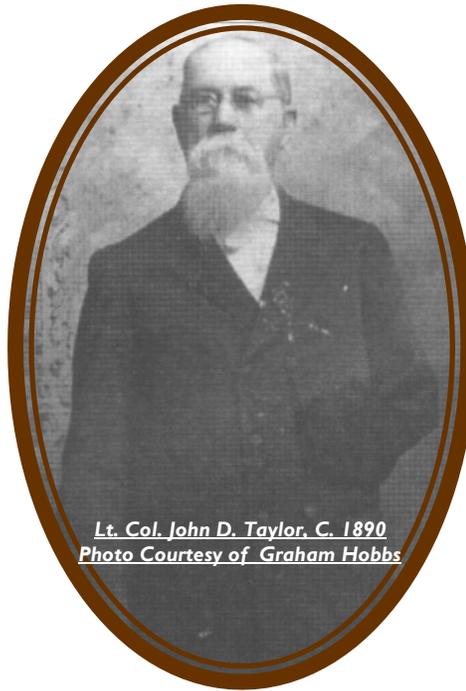
This summer experience the sounds of battle at Bentonville! Each Friday & Saturday from Memorial Day to Labor Day a costumed interpreter will explain the uniform and equipment used by Civil War soldier's, along with the nine-step process to load and fire a musket. Demonstrations will take place beside the Visitor's Center, times are set for 11:30, 1:30 and 3:30 starting May 31!



Artifact Spotlight: Lt. Col. John D. Taylor Pistol

BY: DERRICK BROWN

Editor's note: *Bentonville Battlefield State Historic Site is pleased to announce its new featured artifact, the Model 1842 Percussion Pistol of Lt. Colonel John D. Taylor. The pistol has kindly been placed on a two year loan by Mr. Graham Hobbs, Taylor's Great-Great Grandson. Please see the article below for more information about Taylor, his command, and his pistol:*



*Lt. Col. John D. Taylor, C. 1890
Photo Courtesy of Graham Hobbs*

The order for the 267 officers and men of the Lt. Colonel John D. Taylor's "Red Infantry" detachment to advance on the Union lines south of the Goldsboro Road must have been met with some trepidation when it was received late in the afternoon on March 19th, 1865. After all, none of these former artillerymen had ever been in a major battle. Their eagerness to prove themselves had to be weighed against the fact that the Federals below the road had been given over an hour to entrench while fighting was raging just several hundred yards to the north. Taylor's unit was comprised of those soldiers lucky enough to have been on detached service when Fort Fisher fell on January 15th, allowing them to avoid capture unlike the bulk of their former regiments and battalions. In the weeks after Fisher's fall, Taylor organized the orphaned batteries into what amounted to a small infantry regiment in Brigadier General Johnson Hagood's Brigade at Fort Anderson. They participated in skirmishes on the west side of the Cape Fear River and witnessed the Confederate advance, and subsequent retreat at Wyse Fork, yet nothing had prepared them for Bentonville, their first (and only) major battle. Perhaps to steady his new infantrymen, it was Lt. Colonel Taylor who led the charge when his command stepped out of their trenches at 4:00 p.m. heading for the fixed Federal positions.

John D. Taylor was born in Wilmington in 1831 to a patrician family with an abundance of business and agricultural holdings. Taylor attended the University of North Carolina and by 1860 had been elected to the North Carolina Senate. An advocate of secession, Taylor proverbially put his money where his mouth was by forming an artillery unit which would become Company K of the 36th NC, the 2nd Regiment of North Carolina artillery. Captain Taylor served at multiple forts on the lower Cape Fear area until earning promotion to Lt. Colonel in early 1864, and being placed in command of Fort Campbell near Fort Caswell. The fall of Fort Fisher in January 1865 made both of these forts untenable and irrelevant. It was at this point that Taylor began to collect the remnants of the artillery units stationed in the area with an initial

posting at Fort Anderson. Taylor's new command skirmished with the Federals at Town Creek after Fort Anderson was evacuated, but slowly retreated northward through Wilmington all the way to Kinston where they served as rear guard during the battle of Wyse Fork.

It is at Wyse Fork that the curious case of Lt. Colonel Taylor's pistol comes into play. Taylor family history has that Lt. Colonel Taylor carved his name on his pistol just before what he thought was going to be a heavy fight for his unit. If this is the case, he had waited a while to do so. The Model 1842 Percussion Pistol had been Taylor's well before the war. Many of this type of pistol had been sold as surplus to civilians after the Mexican War, and it is probable that Taylor acquired his in just such a way at some point during the early 1850s. Part of the reason the Model 1842 was offered as surplus was that the pistols were considered obsolete even before the beginning of the Civil War. The .54 caliber pistol packed a punch, but had lost favor in the military because of the various Colt revolvers that allowed for six shots in the time the Model 1842 could shoot one. Why Taylor never chose to upgrade his pistol to one of these newer models is unknown.

The luck of Taylor and his men in avoiding major battles would come to an end on March 19th at Bentonville. From their position south of the Goldsboro Road, they witnessed their Confederate counterparts sweep Brigadier General William Carlin's Union division off the battlefield during the "Last Grand Charge of the Army of Tennessee." Although this advance was a major coup for the Southerners the attack was not as successful as it might have been if supported by Major General Robert F. Hoke's Confederate division south of the road. Taylor's contingent and the other regiments in Hoke's Division were held back by General Braxton Bragg who commanded the area. It was over an hour before they were ordered to advance, giving Union Brigadier General James Morgan (continued on page 8)



M1842 .54 Caliber Pistol
Manufactured by H. Aston Arms of Middletown, Conn.

This was Confederate Lt. Col. John D. Taylor's personal, prewar sidearm. He used it throughout the war and carved his name on it at the Battle of Wyse Fork. According to family tradition, he damaged it a week later while using it as a club at Bentonville, before being wounded here.

On loan from Graham K. Hobbs.

Taylor Pistol Cont'd

time to get his division dug in south of the road.

It was just after 4:00 p.m. when Taylor's command reached Morgan's trenches and clashed with the 98th and 108th Ohio Regiments. They were able to overrun the initial breastworks, but the attack soon began to lose steam. Family legend claims that in taking these initial positions Taylor damaged his pistol by clubbing a Union soldier over the head with gun's walnut stock. It is not known how true this story is, but the pistol did have a damaged stock that was later repaired. As if to rally his men to push on, Taylor climbed atop the captured breastwork and was shot down by a Federal soldier. Taylor's wounding ended any hope of his command advancing, but they were not the only ones. Hoke's assault eventually failed because it was not well coordinated with the other Confederate commands on the battlefield, and was not well coordinated amongst the units in the division. Upon capturing the first Federal positions Taylor looked and was not able to see any other Confederate units to support his on his left or right, allowing the Federals to concentrate their fire on him. This same deadly scenario played out for many regiments in the Division.

Of the 267 men in Taylor's outfit only 115 would make it back to Confederate lines unharmed. All the officers in the command except for two had become casualties. Taylor survived his wounds, but had his left arm amputated on the evening of March 19th. Remarkably, Taylor was back in the saddle the next day opting to ride his horse to Smithfield instead of having his wounds jarred in the back of an ambulance wagon on poor roads. Taylor returned to his native Wilmington after the war, living until 1912 with his damaged pistol as one of his prized possessions. This pistol fortunately remained in the family, and has been repaired in recent years. We are pleased to now have it on display at Bentonville Battlefield.



Confederate Memorial Day Service

The Harper House Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy will host a Confederate Memorial Day Service May 25, 2013 at 10:00 am. The service will include special guest speaker Joel Rose, President of the Sampson County Historical Society in Clinton, NC. The ceremony will take place in the monument area near the Goldsboro Rifles monument. All are welcome to attend.

Follow the Fight: First Saturdays in the Field

This summer will offer the first season of public battlefield tours! Join battlefield guides to learn about the largest battle fought in North Carolina. There will be two tours each 1st Saturday of the summer season. Tours leave the visitors center at 11:00 and at 2:00. Guided battlefield tours last about 2 hours.

Space for these is limited, reserve your space in advance by calling (910) 594-0789.

June 1
July 6
August 3

Tours may not be suitable for young children due to length and subject matter.

All tours are weather permitting





BENTONVILLE BATTLEFIELD STATE HISTORIC SITE

5466 Harper House Rd
Four Oaks, NC 27524

Phone: 910-594-0789
Fax: 910-594-0070

E-mail:
bentonville@ncdcr.gov

Site Hours

Tuesday through
Saturday
9 am–5 pm

Closed Sundays and
Mondays

Call for Holiday
Schedule

Admission is FREE

Site Staff

Donny Taylor, Site Manager
Derrick Brown, Assistant Site
Manager

Amanda Brantley, Programs
Coordinator

Jeff Fritzingler, Interpreter
Johnny Carter, Maintenance
Mechanic

Website

[http://](http://www.nchistoricsites.org/bentonvi/bentonvi.htm)

[www.nchistoricsites.org
/bentonvi/bentonvi.htm](http://www.nchistoricsites.org/bentonvi/bentonvi.htm)

Become a fan of Benton-
ville Battlefield on
Facebook!

Like the Friends of Ben-
tonville on Facebook!

Scene of the last major Confederate offensive of the Civil War

The Battle of Bentonville, fought March 19-21, 1865, was the last full-scale action of the Civil War in which a Confederate army was able to mount a tactical offensive. This major battle, the largest ever fought in North Carolina, was the only significant attempt to defeat the large Union army of Gen. William T. Sherman during its march through the Carolinas in the spring of 1865.

Today, visitors can take a self-guided driving tour of the preserved battlefield and view four wayside exhibit areas, follow a short walking trail to view original trenches from the battle, and visit the Harper family cemetery and monument area. The Visitor Center contains exhibits and a brief orientation film. Guided tours of the c. 1855 Harper House, a Union field hospital, are available on the hour beginning at 10:00 a.m. with the last tour at 4:00 p.m.

Upcoming Special Events

June 8, 2013

“A Day in the Life of a Civil War Soldier”

The sounds of artillery and musket fire will once again ring out at Bentonville Battlefield during our Summer Seasonal Living History Event. Re-enactors from the 18th NC/9th NJ and 1st NC/11th NC will be on hand to discuss the typical soldier’s life, uniform and equipment. Artillery and musket demonstrations will be held throughout the day.
10:00 am- 4:00 pm

July 13, 2013

“Made in the Shade: Summertime Fun at Bentonville”

Enjoy a day of fun & crafts at Bentonville Battlefield. Kids of all ages will enjoy making corn husk dolls, planting seeds, playing with toys of the period, and more. Games of townball, a form of midcentury baseball, will also be played throughout the day. Craft vendors will be on site exhibiting and selling their handmade goods.
10:00am- 4:00pm.

August 10, 2013

“Civil War Camp Life”

Discover how Civil War soldiers lived in camp and what role the enlisted man played in battle during Bentonville Battlefield State Historic Site’s Summer Living History Series. Period-costumed living historians from the 27th NC Co. D will demonstrate how soldiers made meals, maintained their weapons and uniforms, trained for battle, and much more. Also features musket and artillery demonstrations.
10:00 am- 4:00 pm

September 14-15, 2013

“North Carolina: 1865, Civil War Symposium”

Bentonville will host a two day Civil War Symposium. Saturday’s lectures will feature a selection of Civil War historians who will present at Johnston Community College’s Paul A. Johnston Auditorium. Saturday’s speakers include Ed Bearss, Mark Bradley, Eric Wittenberg, Chris Fonvielle, Wade Sokolosky and Bert Dunkerly. Sunday will feature guided bus tours of the battlefield, one each led by Ed Bearss and Mark Bradley. Please visit www.fobb.net for information and tickets.



NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF
CULTURAL
RESOURCES