



Historic Port of Washington Project



Table of Contents

Detectorist Team	1
Tulip Festival Film	1-2
HPOW's Annual Report Card	3
Patriots of Beaufort County	3
Advertisers	4
<i>Billie-Jean E. Mallison, Editor</i>	
<i>Barbara Van Vliet, Layout</i>	

Historic Pamlico Detectorist Team, A Mission to Save Our History

Curt Casey Team leader, "how it works"

Hello History Enthusiast

I'm Curtis Casey with the Historic Port of Washington. Today, I would like to announce our exciting new endeavor, the Historic Pamlico Detectorist Team. The team is the brainchild of Stephen Farrell, Greg Tinsley, Ray Midgett and Curtis Casey. Our mission objective is one of a kind, to promote the importance of using a metal detector in saving our history for you, the property owner. By using a metal detector on your property, our objective in recovering artifacts is not to possess or sell, but to preserve and educate the public about their historical significance.

Our mission goal, with your gracious help, is to save our history for future generations.

After we find an artifact on your property, you keep it - it is yours, or should you choose to do so, you can donate it to HPOW. The recovered artifacts will go on display in the City's Brown Library History Room, including info on the artifact's history and significance. This will be your contribution in preserving our history, local history meant to be shared with residents and visitors.

For further information on the Historic Pamlico Detectorist Team, please email: hpowdetectorist@hpow.org.



Curt Casey explains artifact display at Brown Library, HPOW vol Lynda Lane looks on.

HPOW's Annual Report Card, A Letter to Our Supporters, Page 2

Patriots of Beaufort County, Blango Family, Freeborn Page 3

Historic Tulip Fest Film Coming to Turnage June 9th



The Historic Port of Washington in partnership with Arts of the Pamlico is proud to present the restored 1939 vintage Tulip Festival film. The event will be held Sunday, June 9th at 1:00 pm, at the Turnage Theater.

Did you know that the annual celebration honoring the Dutch community was held annually in Washington over a four-year period and attracted thousands?

The \$15 tickets are available to purchase on-line or in person at the Turnage Theatre. To purchase on-line tickets go to links on next page.

Continued on page 2

HPOW's Annual Report Card...

A Letter to Our Supporters

Reflecting on 2023's accomplishments, we are filled with immense gratitude for your unwavering support of our mission to preserve and celebrate Washington's rich history. We sincerely share the highlights of our achievements over the past year. One of our proudest accomplishments was remastering the 1939 film documenting the Washington Tulip Festival. We presented it to the Beaufort County community at the Washington Harbor District Market alongside captivating stories shared by descendants of the Dutch farmers of Terra Ceia, enriching our understanding of our cultural heritage.

Furthermore, with your generous support last year, we were honored to be able to provide the following services to our community:

- Assisted in researching and designing historical signage for Bug House Park, helping to revitalize this important historical site in partnership with the City of Washington and Washington Rotary Club;
- Our history lectures at the NC Estuarium covered various fascinating topics, from the Civil War "Raid on Washington" to the remarkable life of Susan Dimock, M.D., providing valuable insights into our shared past;
- We took notable strides in enhancing public spaces of historical significance;
- Our efforts facilitated the restoration of two "ghost" signs on downtown Washington buildings to preserve the visual charm of our city and keep the stories embedded within these architectural relics alive;
- Upgraded the history exhibit at the Washington Harbor District Market, including an expanded video display, which offers visitors a deeper dive into our local history.

We are thrilled to announce that our dedication to historic preservation was recognized through prestigious awards:

- The Historic Port of Washington was honored with the 2024 Newsome Award, acknowledging our outstanding achievements in preserving local history.

- Additionally, HPOW received a historic preservation award from the state and local Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), which will be formally presented in May by the Beaufort County Major Reading Blount Chapter.

None of these accomplishments would have been possible without your steadfast support and commitment to our cause. As we look ahead, we are excited to continue our journey of preserving and sharing the history of Washington with the world. We are looking forward to 2024 being an even greater year than ever before and look forward to sharing some new and more exciting possibilities together with continuing our work to date.

Please consider continuing to support the Historic Port of Washington by making your donation during this, our annual Fund Drive. Together, we will ensure that the legacy of our community endures for generations to come.

With deepest gratitude,

The Historic Port of Washington Project Trustees Officers, Ray Midgett, *President*; Stephen Farrell, *Vice President*; Gail Baird, *Secretary*; Dave Robinson, *Treasurer*, **Board Members:** Joan Cottle, Keith Hackney, Jim Mezzanotte, Blount Rumley, Scott Sachs, Greg Tinsley, Billie-Jean E. Mallison, *Chair*.

Tulip Fest Film *Continued from page 1*

artsofthepamlico.ticketleap.com/hpows-tulip-festival-screening-event/

Or access the AOP website:

<https://artsofthepamlico.org/event/hpows-tulip-festival-screening-event/>

The doors open at 1:00 pm with a vintage exhibition in the gallery. Cash bar and concessions are available in the lobby. The film begins at 2pm in the Palace Theatre. Eligible discounts for senior citizens and children are available if tickets are purchased in person at The Turnage.

Donations will also be accepted that evening in support of the Historic Port of Washington's mission which is to educate and share Beaufort County's rich history with the community. Donations can be made in the form of cash or check to HPOW, PO Box 171, Washington, NC 27889. HPOW is a qualified 501(c)(3) non-profit with the IRS.

Patriots of Beaufort County . . .

The Free-born Blango Family

Free African American Patriots who fought in the Revolutionary War, although a small group in North Carolina, played an important role in our nation's founding. The Blango family of Beaufort County were one such family. The Blango family may have been the only free-born African American family in Beaufort County identified as having fought on the "patriot side". The term "patriot" refers to a person who served in the military or aided the cause in another way in the Colonies' War of Independence.

The names of Tom Blango and Solamon Blango appear on the extensive "List of the Several Divisions of Affective Men in the Beaufort [County] Regiment of Militia," dated April 20th 1781 and preserved in the NC Archives. Similarly, Benjamin, Moses, and Thomas Blango of Beaufort County appear in the "Roster of Soldiers from North Carolina in the American Revolution," first published by the NC Daughters of the American Revolution in 1932.

Thomas Blango's militia service is identified with Continental and Militia soldiers whose compensation approval wound its way through state government between 1782 and 1785, New Bern District. Benjamin and Moses Blango were approved for arrears payment for nine months' service in the Continental Line, both enlisted as privates 20 July 1778, in Major Hogg's Co., Hillsborough District. Moses and Benjamin may have been Thomas's sons according to a 1983 article in the Pamlico News about the Blango family's genealogy. . . . Moreover Thomas Blango emigrated here first: "In the United States, Beaufort County was the only place the Blango name existed until after the Civil War, when the Blangos began to move into what is now Pamlico County" . . . and then beyond. . . (Stanton Allen, Pamlico News, Aug 24, 1983)

According to historian, Paul Heinegg (freeafricanamericans.com), nearly all African Americans who were termed "free" during the Colonial period, were born free, and the Blangos were among only 390 free-born African Americans in the state of North Carolina who served in the Revolution. That made the Blangos part of an extraordinary group of patriots. According to a library reference librarian at the National Library of the DAR, the Blangos are the only African American patriots identified as being connected to Beaufort County, per their sources. The Beaufort County MRB Chapter of the DAR is seeking to identify any additional patriots of underrepresented groups from Beaufort County.

Mr. Heinegg stated, "A Tom Blanco [Blango] sued for his freedom in [what is now Kent County] Maryland in 1694, and. . . "A Thomas Blango was in Beaufort County, NC in 1701, and Thomas Blango was listed in 1755 tax records as a "free Negro", as were other Blango families afterward in the County prior to the Civil War." Blango's name also appears in the 1962 book by local historian, C.W. Reed: "A young Thomas Blango may have contracted as an indentured servant in order to pay the ship's passage into Beaufort County; after a few years' service, he would have been able to go where he wished." According to Mr. Heinegg, "Blango" is a common West African name.

On the National DAR website as part of their "Forgotten Patriots" initiative, two excellent history books about the Revolutionary War period can be read online, free to the public: "African American and American Indian Patriots in the Revolutionary War", 2008, and "Free African Americans of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Maryland, and Delaware" by Paul Heinegg, 2020. Oral history is important in the research. There is a link to Mr. Heinegg's website www.freeafricanamericans.com which includes Heinegg's email address he provides for those seeking help to identify their ancestors.



Crispus Attucks, considered first black patriot, was killed in the Boston Massacre and commemorated by his fellow citizens. He was a whaler, believed to be of mixed Native American and African ancestry.



Large button is from the late Colonial period, termed a "dandy button", i.e. a fashion statement. A Revolutionary War soldier who wore personal clothing, as was common in addition to military issue, could have worn a dandy button.

Washington Tulip Festivals and Newly Remastered Film

On June 9th, Sunday 1pm, the public will have an opportunity to enter the colorful and joyous world of Washington's famous Tulip Festival Parades. We hope you will be present at the Turnage Theater to see the unique, remastered film. The Tulip festivals and parades down Main Street attracted thousands of dignitaries and participants from the entire region, yearly between 1937-1941.

Discovered on a Brown Library shelf a few years ago this historic film was then digitized by the UNC library services. Ray Midgett, President of the Historic Port of Washington (HPOW) and Stephen Farrell (Reference Librarian/ Genealogist, Brown Library) then researched and documented the film with band names, residents, and other relevant information, and color corrected the film as well.

During this presentation, you will hear from descendants of the Dutch farmers of Terra Ceia. Terra Ceia is a Dutch farming community 18 miles north east of Washington. These Dutch families started arriving in Terra Ceia from Holland in the 1920s. Patriarch Bill Van Staaldouin, founder of Petals and Produce, left Holland as a child with his mother on the last boat out before the Nazis declared war. The Tulip Festival was organized by Washington and Beaufort County citizens to honor and celebrate those hard-working families, and continued until America's involvement in World War II.

The fields of tulips depicted on page one, was taken from an old postcard of Terra Ceia. HPOW is planning a future mural painting of this tulip field on a building in Washington and your donations of support will be greatly appreciated in making this goal a reality.



Please consider supporting the Historic Port of Washington. Make your tax-deductible donaton today.

Categories of Annual Renewal

_____ Friend \$25

_____ Patron \$100

_____ Other donation in amount of:

- By credit card or pay pal. Go to: <https://hpow.org/donate>.
- Or scan the QR code to the right with your phone's camera.
- By check. Please complete the part below and mail with your check to: HPOW, PO Box 171, Washington, NC 27889.



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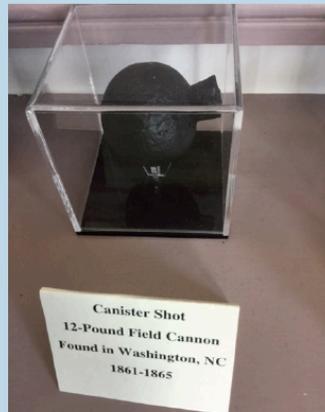
Email: _____

Our email address is: contact@hpow.org. HPOW is a qualified 501(c)(3) non-profit. Thank you very much for your support.

Artifacts Found Locally



Artifact was found near West 12th Street in Washington, identified as a vintage Columbia bicycle emblem 1929-1931, found by Detectorist team.



Canister Shot
12-Pound Field Cannon
Found in Washington, NC
1861-1865



1850 Liberty Head Large Cent Coin
Found by Ray Midgett
Friday, May 20th, 2022
520 W Main St, Washington, NC 27889



Civil War artillery shell fragment, found on the south side of the Pamlico River, Beaufort County.

At left, Detectorist in the field discovers artifact.

HPOW Wants You!! Volunteer!

Web and email communications, fundraising, HPOW booth greeter at WHDA Market, history sleuth-uncover local history, displays creator, office organizer, newsletter-all aspects, boat model repair, volunteer coordinator, graphics, help with ongoing projects, or YOUR unique interests....thank you! Come to a monthly meeting to learn more. Contact billiejean.e.mallison@gmail.com.



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