

# N.C. historian finds Union Civil War camp

WAVES, N.C.

A local historian has discovered what's believed to be a Civil War camp with ties to early Union victories on Hatteras Island that prompted President Abraham Lincoln to dance a jig in his nightshirt.

Brush- and tree-covered mounds 7 feet high and 40 feet wide along the waterfront are all that remain visible. Longtime Hatteras Island resident Mel Covey is convinced they're the remains of Camp Live Oak, erected by some 600 federal soldiers in October 1861 as a bulwark against Confederate attack.

"Who built this?" Covey said. "I know it's not natural."

The aged earthworks rise within sight of windsurfing resorts and upscale restaurants. Some old-timers say the mounds were a graveyard for soldiers after federal forces took Hatteras Island. Others thought they might be dunes built by the Depression-era Civilian Conservation Corps. The Civil War camp was thought to be farther north, in Rodanthe.

The evidence backs Covey, said Danny Couch, a Hatteras Island historian and chairman of the nonprofit Friends of the Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum.

"It is the highest ground," Couch said. "It was only natural the conquering force would take the high ground. Everything points to it."

Covey plans to raise \$10,000 to finance an archaeological search for artifacts in late June. His research of original maps and papers shows the embankment once enclosed about 3 acres along the Pamlico Sound. Now parts of the sand wall have been replaced by driveways or building lots.

A telephone company office, mobile homes and other structures sit close by. Ken Wenberg lives in an 1894 house within the camp's walls.

Wenberg found an 18-inch Civil War-era beer bottle while planting a fig tree in his front yard. Covey hopes to find other pieces.

"We know we're going to find a lot of artifacts out here," Covey said. "Those guys left in a hurry."

Civil War battles on Hatteras Island in August 1861 were brief and not very bloody, but the victories were among the Union's first. Lincoln did his joyful dance after hearing in the middle of the night about the Hatteras triumphs, according to the National Park Service. Federal forces were able to control the inlets and coastal shipping and later entered the sounds to take inland towns such as Plymouth and Elizabeth City.

Camp Live Oak went up quickly in October 1861 in what was then known as Chicamacomico. The fort was intended to prevent the Confederates on Roanoke Island from retaking Hatteras Island.

A Confederate attack backed by gunboats in the sound chased the federal troops from the camp and down the beach toward Hatteras. The soldiers ran about 20 miles barefoot and shirtless on the hot sand.

The battle turned when the fleeing troops met up with reinforcements from Hatteras. Outnumbered Confederate troops in turn retreated under bombardment from Union ships offshore. The back-and-forth skirmish was nicknamed "the Chicamacomico Races."

Covey and diving teams also plan to search for items left behind by the Union vessel Fanny as it unsuccessfully tried to escape Confederate gunboats days before the Chicamacomico Races. Covey believes the Fanny's anchor and other artifacts lie on the bottom.

"There's going to be a debris field," he said.

Covey has researched Civil War history and participated in archaeological digs for 20 years. He helped locate the Confederate Fort Clark at the south end of Hatteras Island. Artifacts he finds will go to the proper agencies, he said.

The overgrown mounds on the Pamlico Sound waterfront could become another Hatteras Island attraction.

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AYCOCK BROWN: THE MAN WHO PUT THE OUTER BANKS ON THE MAP

\$179

# The Virginian-Pilot

REVERBERATIONS | PART I

## A NEW BURDEN FOR VETERANS

A RECENT Virginia Beach SEAL is among dozens of vets to be diagnosed with a degenerative brain disease known for afflicting NFL players. The cases, along with new research, suggest that CTE may be linked to service.



Shea, 36, has been diagnosed with a degenerative brain disease known as chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE), which is linked to repeated blows to the head. He is shown here with his wife, Jennifer, in their home in Virginia Beach.



On the morning of March 12, 2014, Jennifer Cohen dialed her phone and dialed the number 703-722-1234. She had just received a call from a doctor in Virginia Beach. The doctor told her that her husband, Shea, had been diagnosed with a degenerative brain disease known as chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE). Cohen was shocked. She had never heard of the disease before. She had never heard of anyone else being diagnosed with it. She had never heard of anyone else being diagnosed with it. She had never heard of anyone else being diagnosed with it.

Shea, 36, has been diagnosed with a degenerative brain disease known as chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE), which is linked to repeated blows to the head. He is shown here with his wife, Jennifer, in their home in Virginia Beach.

### Virginia has two words for companies fleeing N.C. bathroom law: Head north

State sues employers after several N.C. firms are pulled over controversy



By [Author Name] in [Location]

The state's new bathroom law has caused a wave of controversy, with several companies fleeing the state. The law requires businesses to allow employees to use the restroom of their biological sex. This has led to a number of companies, including several in the technology sector, announcing their intention to move their operations out of North Carolina.



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