

Time Line

The Friends of the Outer Banks History Center

A Grand Reopening: Celebrating the Renewal of a Cultural Treasure



A Place Rekindled: Voices rose, hearts gathered, and memory found its home anew. The Outer Banks History Center reopened not just with walls restored — but with purpose reignited.

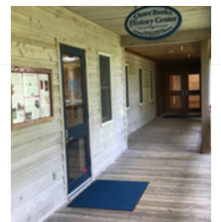
On Tuesday, September 30, 2025, the Outer Banks History Center turned a new page — reopening its doors after an extensive renovation with a celebration as meaningful as the place itself. Gathered in the newly refreshed Reading Room, community members, historians, and state leaders honored the legacy of the OBHC and the enduring vision of its founder, David Stick.

The event featured a moving short video of Stick's 1989 dedication remarks and speeches from representatives of partner organizations and the NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.

As Chairman of the Friends of the OBHC, Adonis A. Osekre closed the program with reflections on the spirit of the Center, sharing:

"The History Center stands in the lineage of visionaries like David Stick and the Wright brothers — a place born of belief, experiment, and trust that what we build here matters far beyond these shores."

"This isn't just the History Center's reopening — it's your reopening."



The Outer Banks History Center (OBHC) is a regional archival facility administered by the State Archives of North Carolina. The OBHC's mission is to collect, preserve, and provide access to historical materials relating to coastal North Carolina, and to serve as a center for historical research and inquiry. The Friends of the OBHC supports the mission of the OBHC by funding the purchase and conservation of research materials, and by supporting educational activities.

— In this Issue —

A Grand Reopening	pg. 1
A Word from the Chair	pg. 2
David Stick Intern	pg. 2
Director's Corner	pg. 3
Keep the Story Going...	pg. 3
Speaker Series	pg. 4
Collection Highlight	pg. 4

The Friends of the
OBHC
Outer Banks History Center

Time Line is published
semi-annually by the Friends of the
Outer Banks History Center
P.O. Box 250 Manteo, NC 27954
252-423-5240
obhc@dnccr.nc.gov
<https://archives.ncdcr.gov>

A Word from the Chair



Greetings Friends!

In a quiet schoolhouse on Hatteras Island in 1937, a young student named Fannie Scarborough stood to give her valedictory speech. She called it **“Sailing—Not Drifting.”** Her message was clear: even in remote places, a purposeful life matters.

That speech, and the woman who delivered it, are now preserved in the Fannie Scarborough Miller Papers—one of many treasures rediscovered through the Outer Banks History Center.

“History—like sailing—is active, deliberate, and resilient.”
— Adonis A. Osekre

As Chairman of the Friends, I often return to Fannie’s words. They remind me that history isn’t passive. It charts a course forward through memory and meaning. This month, as the doors of the OBHC open once more, we do so not just to welcome visitors, but to **renew our shared commitment**: to preserve what matters and to invite others into the work of remembrance.

In recent months, we’ve supported renovations, welcomed summer interns, deepened community outreach, and will soon unveil the **John Havel Reading Nook**—a space designed for future learning and honoring past leadership. These are not just improvements. They’re investments in discovery.

“This is not a moment to drift. It’s time to sail.”
— from the Chairman’s Address

Whether you are a longtime Friend or considering joining us, I invite you to step aboard. Together, let’s navigate the work of memory with purpose and pride.

Thank you for being part of this voyage.

With gratitude and purpose,

Adonis A. Osekre

Chairman, Friends of the Outer Banks History Center

P.S. Just days ago, we gathered to mark a milestone—the Grand Reopening of the History Center. As I stood before the crowd, I couldn’t help but feel that Fannie’s words—“Sailing, not drifting”—had found their harbor. It was a day not only of celebration, but of recommitment. Thank you to everyone who made it possible.

2025 David Stick Intern

Each summer, the Friends of the OBHC sponsor the David Stick Internship, investing not only in archival work but in emerging public historians. This summer, that investment arrived in the form of Brandon Lojek, a graduate student who made the journey from New Jersey to Manteo—and left his mark not just in the stacks, but in the hearts of the community.

Over the course of his internship, Brandon processed six significant collections, including the nine-box Gibbs/Gilbert genealogy of Hyde County, the Dr. James Hardy Overton Jr. Papers, and the Delta Kappa Gamma Records. His work made a measurable dent in the Center’s processing backlog, helping preserve essential local stories and lineages for future generations.

Brandon didn’t just work quietly behind the scenes—he also joined staff for community events like the Juneteenth celebration at the Pea Island Cookhouse Museum, where he experienced first-hand the living legacy of the archives he served.

In a handwritten note shared with the Friends, Brandon wrote:

“I have enjoyed getting to know the community and history here at the Outer Banks, both through the six collections that I have processed during my time here, and by conversing with the locals... I am impressed by the commitment and passion that so many volunteers and locals have towards preserving the iconic history of Roanoke Island and the Outer Banks as a whole.”

As Chair of the Friends, I had the pleasure of thanking Brandon in person at a farewell luncheon held on August 15. He left with a handwritten letter of appreciation—and with our encouragement to carry this legacy forward.

His contributions are now part of the story we continue to tell at OBHC. We thank him for adding his chapter.



Brandon and Tammy helped rescue this lost poodle on HWY 64 — just one example of how the History Center stays at the heart of the community.

Director's Corner



Happy Fall Friends!

As we celebrate our grand reopening of the newly remodeled Outer Banks History Center, I wanted to thank each of you for your patience and understanding throughout the process and your continued love and support.

Throughout the renovation, the OBHC staff diligently monitored the environmental controls of the archive to ensure that collections were safe and secure while the workers were present. The overall work involved new paint, carpeting, ceiling, lighting, picture railing, insulation, and a brand-new clean agent fire suppression system - all funded through a state capital project. In addition, the Friends of OBHC contributed funds to have the 21 reading room chairs and two benches reupholstered to match the beautiful new blue and taupe color scheme. A flat-screen television was installed in the reading room to facilitate presentations and host digital exhibits. Patrons are already enjoying the historic photographs that we uploaded to scroll on screen throughout the day. We are so excited to share our new space with you!

Our staff have been super busy unpacking and redecorating the facility, working with donors who braved the renovation to bring us their treasures, assisting patrons both in-person and remotely with their research needs, and processing backlogged collections. We also created a fun new lobby exhibit on the history of the History Center to celebrate its 36 years of service. Our amazing 2025 David Stick summer intern, **Brandon Lojek**, helped us along the way!

Despite our nine-month closure for renovations, we kept up the pace of outreach by presenting to the Bias Speaker Series in Duck, the **U.S. Marine Corps Expeditionary Warfare School**, the Roanoke Island Garden Club, members of Duck Methodist Church, the Dare County League of Women Voters, local chapter of the Delta Kappa Gamma Teacher's Association, and the **Belhaven Historical Society**. We also hosted outdoor vendor booths for the **Pea Island Preservation Society's Juneteenth Concert** and **OBX PrideFest**, hosted the icebreaker for the 2nd annual **Secotan Alliance's Native American Conference**, and co-hosted a book talk for the re-release of Angel Khoury's *Manteo: A Roanoke Island Town*.

Director Continued...

For our local students, we hosted two Archives 101 research workshops for the College of the Albemarle's History students, a booth highlighting primary resources at the Museum of the Albemarle's Summer Fun Day, and presented to the Outer Banks YMCA Summer Camp children about the history of shipwrecks. Lastly, we partnered with the Town of Nags Head for a documentary highlighting the history of ocean rescue and lifeguarding. Our collections performed their own outreach through the loan of **Frank Stick** artwork to the Dare Arts Council for their Frank Stick Art Show, and through an offsite exhibit hosted by our staff at Jockey's Ridge State Park's 50th anniversary celebration featuring materials on the history of Jockey's Ridge. Our staff and collections have certainly been busy!

In terms of new collections, we've accepted **41**

donations so far in 2025. A few notable acquisitions include:

-A **Coinjock Home Demonstration Club Scrapbook (1925-1954)**;

-A collection of shipwreck reports and correspondence of Keeper James W. Howard from the **United States Lifesaving Service's Ocracoke Station (1883-1903)**;

-The papers of northeast North Carolina's first Ophthalmologist, **Dr. Marshall S. Redding (1953-2023)**; and a scrapbook of the Junior Rangers of Jockey's Ridge State Park (1987-1991).

-Our biggest donation this year comprised 33 bankers' boxes of archaeological records from the **First Colony Foundation**. And many more!

We hope you have a wonderful holiday season!

Tammy Woodward, Director

Keep the Story Going...

Keep the Story Going...

If you joined us for the Grand Reopening, you've already seen what community support can build.

Let's keep that energy alive.

- Become a Member – Help preserve and promote our coastal history.
- Join Us – Attend our new Speaker Series this fall.
- Volunteer – Be part of our next chapter.

Visit <https://archives.ncdcr.gov/researchers/outer-banks-history-center/support-outer-banks-history-center> to get involved.

Collection Highlight: Through the Lens of Drew Wilson

Tucked within the Outer Banks History Center's growing photographic archives lies the Drew Wilson Photographic Collection—a vivid visual chronicle of coastal life, public service, and community culture across the Outer Banks. Wilson, a longtime local photojournalist, captured everything from local elections and lifeguard competitions to ferry operations and dramatic weather events. His images pulse with immediacy—each frame a window into the soul of Eastern North Carolina.

This summer, the History Center launched “Tuesday Drew’s Day,” a weekly social media series highlighting gems from this collection. From candid portraits to sweeping coastal landscapes, each post invites viewers to step into a specific moment in local memory.

“Wilson’s eye for humanity turns the ordinary into art,” one visitor remarked after seeing his photos at a recent pop-up exhibit. And indeed, what sets this collection apart is its intimacy—its commitment to capturing life as it unfolds, unposed and unvarnished.

The Friends of the OBHC are proud to support the preservation and digitization of the Drew Wilson collection. In a place so often romanticized in postcards, these photos offer something more precious: reality, relationship, and reflection.

Selections from the Drew Wilson Photographic Collection are available for viewing by appointment at the History Center.

A Season of Speaking — and Listening

This fall, the Friends of the Outer Banks History Center is proud to co-host a brand-new Speaker Series in collaboration with the COA Social Science Department, COA – Dare, and Downtown Books of Manteo.

We begin this exciting partnership with award-winning author and historian Kevin P. Duffus, who will present his latest book:

“The Inventor Reginald Fessenden and the Origins of American Radio on North Carolina’s Outer Banks”

Monday, October 27

Doors Open: 6:00 PM

Veterans’ Hall (DARA 110),

COA - Dare

This series is about more than lectures—it’s about creating a space where stories spark dialogue, and shared memory becomes shared mission.

Adonis Says

“Every document we preserve is a promise kept.

Every story we share is a bridge repaired.

History is not just what happened—it’s what we choose to remember.”

Let us keep choosing well.

SPEAKER SERIES 2025-2026

in collaboration with
THE FRIENDS OF THE OUTER BANKS HISTORY CENTER
COA SOCIAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT
COA - DARE

Join us at COA - Dare as we kick off our joint speaker series for the 2025-2026 academic year with author Kevin P. Duffus. Kevin is an award-winning research historian, filmmaker, and author of two books on the maritime history of the Carolinas. He will discuss his recently published book, *“The Inventor Reginald Fessenden and the Origins of American Radio on North Carolina’s Outer Banks”*.

We hope to see you there!
MONDAY, OCTOBER 27
DOORS OPEN AT 6 P.M.
COA - DARE
VETERANS’ HALL (DARA 110)

For more information about this event please contact:
Brian Edwards
brian.edwards@obhc.org
252-473-2284 ext. 7916



The Friends of the OBHC
Outer Banks History Center

COLLEGE of ALBEMARLE



Curated with care by Adonis A. Osekre — Chair, Friends of the OBHC

Join the

Friends of the Outer Banks History Center

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED _____

☐ NEW MEMBER

☐ RENEWAL

☐ SPECIAL* ... \$15

☐ ORGANIZATION ... \$50

☐ INDIVIDUAL ... \$25

☐ LIFE ... \$250

☐ FAMILY ... \$40

* Special = (Military, Educator, Student)

To receive future issues of Time Line, please send a request with your e-mail address to TFOBHC@gmail.com

BOARD of DIRECTORS

Adonis A. Osekre, Chair

Kelley Shinn, Vice Chair

Leroy Trimbath,
Treasurer

Cathy Steever Gray Michael Parsons

Karen Johnson Chip Walton

Linda Mayo Tom White

Outer Banks History Center Staff

Tammy Woodward, Director

Katie Daugherty, Public Services Archivist

Emily Dangler, Audiovisual Materials Archivist