



Photo contributed

Norma Eckard of the Friends of Fort Caswell Rifle Range addresses a recent meeting of the Brunswick County Historical Society.



File photo

The rifle range pit in Caswell Beach is a tangible reminder of the Great War.

## Friends of Fort Caswell Rifle Range Great War vets honored

By Lee Hinnant  
Staff Writer

As part of ongoing efforts to mark the centennial of the Great War, a local history group is seeking the public's help to honor the men and women from Brunswick County who served.

Many of the men who trained before heading off to Europe likely learned marksmanship at the Fort Caswell Rifle Range, which was once part of the larger Fort Caswell. Remains of the range are just off the Oak Island Golf Course in the Caswell Dunes subdivision.

The Friends of Fort Caswell Rifle Range are continuing to raise funds for and awareness about the site, constructed in 1918 and added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2013.

Supporters plan to add a memorial at the site to honor the men and women who served in the World War I effort. They will dedicate the memorial on the centennial of Armistice Day on November 11, 1918.

The rifle range is the only openly accessible structure in Brunswick County that remains from the Great War. Backers of the structure are working to have the planned memorial named as the official war monument for Brunswick County.

The public is invited to join the effort by sponsoring one or more of the veterans who served. The

Friends group will be putting the names of all who served on its website. The list will include veterans who were born or raised here or lived or served in Brunswick County. Researchers are using official Service Cards, along with other archives, and have already identified more than 730 names.

The names will be listed in alphabetical order and by the branch of service. Supporters may select one or more names and send a donation. The donors will also be listed on the website, and contributors will receive a certificate suitable for framing as well as a copy of the honoree's Service Card.

Norma Eckard of the Friends group said the effort would be a good way to honor family members and friends. "We hope to have all veterans honored by your donations," she said. "Subscribe or visit the website often to follow progress throughout the year."

All funds contributed will help pay for stabilization and restoration of the rifle range.

The group also plans to publish a small booklet of the names and charge a small fee. Also, supporters plan a commemorative ceremony at the rifle pit in April 2018, which will include the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

The physical address and e-mail for the Friends group is: 5 Foxfire Trace, Caswell Beach, NC 28465, [ftcaswellriflerange@gmail.com](mailto:ftcaswellriflerange@gmail.com). To learn more, visit <http://www.caswellriflerange.com/>.