

The State Port Pilot

*A Good Newspaper
in a Good Community*

**114 East Moore Street
Southport, NC 28461**

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Contact us

The State Port Pilot welcomes comments and suggestions on all aspects of its news and business operation.

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Photo by Lee Hinnant

Norma Eckard and Jane Freach promoted and sold books about Brunswick County's role in the Great War last Saturday at Caswell Beach Town Hall. A project of the Friends of Fort Caswell Rifle Range, the book will be available in person – weather permitting – Saturday, November 7 from noon-3 p.m. (cash and check only).

Caswell Beach

Great War book out, focuses on county

By Lee Hinnant
Staff Writer

Supporters of Caswell Beach's monument to the Great War have published a 584-page book that chronicles the role that Brunswick County and its residents played in the conflict 106 years ago. "Brunswick County in the Great War," by Amy, Norma and Ron Eckard, is a seven-part book in both soft and hard covers that digs into the details of the people and places in what was then considered the "war to end all wars."

"It's been nine years we've been putting this all together," said Norma Eckard. The first edition is 200 copies that are available in person at Caswell Beach Town Hall for the next two Saturdays from noon to 3 p.m. (outdoors, weather permitting).

The rifle pit at Caswell Dunes is among the few remaining dedicated training places from the Great War. Before preservationists got involved, it was an often-overlooked part of history.

The book speaks to the ongoing preservation of the rifle pit, offers profiles and snapshots of the soldiers and a complete list of veterans and their assignments, information on the student

Army Training Corps, details of nurses at Fort Caswell, and a discussion about the Wall of Honor displayed at commemorative events.

There are letters from soldiers, pictures from training and battle schematics, current shots of descendants of veterans, military forms and insignias as well as maps, line art and photographs.

The Friends of Fort Caswell Rifle Range is a 501(c)(3) non-profit founded to stabilize and preserve the Fort Caswell Rifle Range. All members are volunteers and receive no compensation. One of the few of its kind remaining in the United States, the Fort Caswell Rifle Range was part of Fort Caswell during World War I. After World War II, the rifle range was declared surplus and sold.

The 1918 Fort Caswell Rifle Range has been designated as one of the 100 national WWI Centennial Memorials by the U.S. World War I Centennial Commission and the Pritzker Military Museum and Library. It is also on the National Register of Historic Places.