

Friends of Fort Caswell Rifle Range host book-signing event

By NORMA ECKARD
OF THE FRIENDS OF FT. CASWELL RIFLE RANGE

The Friends of Fort Caswell Rifle Range were excited to hold their first book signing and purchase opportunity for their new book, “Brunswick County in the Great War: Preserving the 1918 Fort Caswell Rifle Range and the Legacies of the Men and Women Who Served,” on Saturday, Oct. 24, at the Caswell Beach Town Hall.

All the profiles, nurses, 718 veterans from Brunswick County and much more are in the book, authored by Amy Eckard, Norma Eckard and Ronald Eckard. It was rewarding to have former military Jack Gowling, Jim Conklin and Rich Romer be the first in line to purchase a book. Thank you for sharing your stories and photos and thank you to those of you who continue to serve our country.

Finally, I got to meet Trudy Young and daughter Marie. Trudy’s great uncle, John

Daniel Eriksen, was born in Norway and immigrated to Southport when he was 14 years old. He came from a family of 11 and left home to be a cabin boy on a ship. His parents told him he had to come home after two years to go to engineering school. He went back 30 years later to visit his mother. He served in the Great War as a Waggoner and eventually became mayor of Southport from 1935 to 1949.

Trudy shared a great deal of information about her great uncle and the Friends appreciate her interesting facts. She lives in the home where he and his wife spent most of their lives. His profile is on page 300 in the book.

I also met Kirk James, who was responsible for getting declassified information about the building of the rifle range that we shared in the book. We thank Kirk, who also paid for two hardback books for Harper and Barbee public libraries.

We are pursuing the possibility of hosting these

events at various locations across Brunswick County, and we will update the website (caswellriflerange.com) with details. You may also purchase a book now by using the link at the top right of the webpage.

Thank you to DAR members Jane Freach, Mary Sands and Phyllis Wilson,

for their assistance in providing the photos for this article.

Thank you to Caswell Beach Mayor Deborah Ahlers and Town Administrator and Finance Officer Jeff Griffin for allowing us to hold our event at the Caswell Beach town hall.



Trudy Young of Southport and daughter Marie of Oak Island purchased several books.



Caswell Beach Town Hall hosted a book-signing event Oct. 24.



Mary Sands, Norma Eckard, Kirk James and Jane Freach check out “Brunswick County in the Great War.”



Taking a break are authors Ronald and Norma Eckard. The third author, Amy, lives near Raleigh and was unable to attend.



Signing a book for Jim Conklin, resident of the Arboretum in Caswell Beach and a veteran.