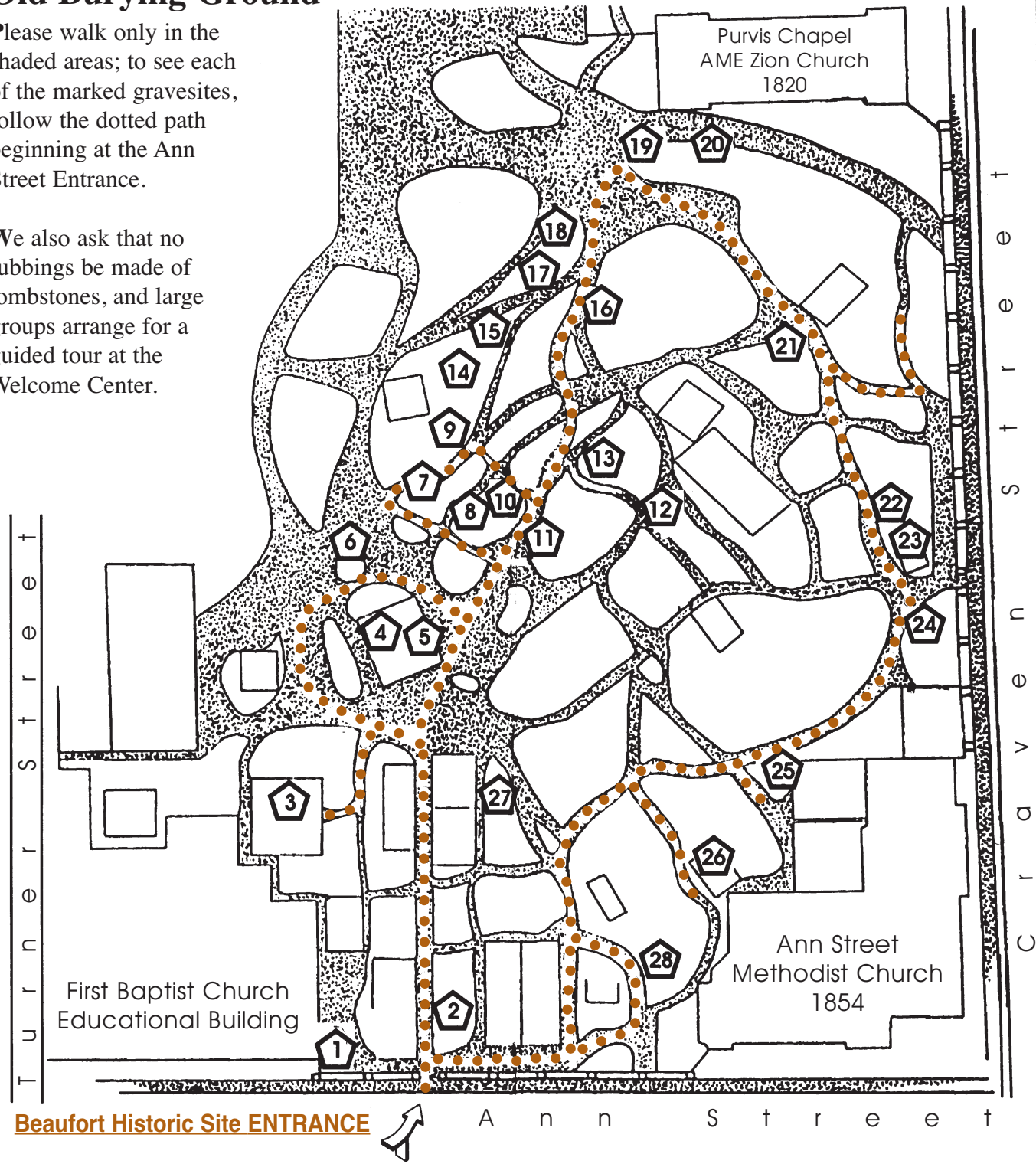


Old Burying Ground

Please walk only in the shaded areas; to see each of the marked gravesites, follow the dotted path beginning at the Ann Street Entrance.

We also ask that no rubbings be made of tombstones, and large groups arrange for a guided tour at the Welcome Center.



Beaufort Historic Site

Tours

- * Old Burying Ground
 - * Historic Public Buildings
 - * Historic Homes
 - * English Double-Decker Bus
- Combination Tours Available *Group Rates Offered

The Old Beaufort Gift Shop

Books, maps, rugs (hand woven on site), decoys, herbs (grown on the site), pottery and much more

Robert W. and Elva Faison

Safrit Historical Center

Collections of history and preservation on display.

Mattie King Davis Art Gallery

Specially selected works of local and regional artists

Site is Open All Year

Call for specific hours and availability of tours

Beaufort Historical Association

P.O. Box 363 ~ 100 Block Turner Street
 Beaufort, North Carolina 28516-0363
 800-575-7483 * 252-728-5225
www.beauforthistoricsite.org

The Old Burying Ground grew up around the building used for sessions of the Court and for reading the service of the Anglican Church in St. John's Parish. The cemetery was deeded to the town of Beaufort in 1731 by Nathaniel Taylor, following the first survey of the town.

The northwest corner is the oldest part of the cemetery. The corner looks empty, however a 1992 archeological survey confirmed that there are many graves in this area. It is probable that some of the unmarked graves contain victims of the Indian wars whose skulls were cleft with tomahawks of hostile Coree and Neusiok Indians. It is recorded that in September, 1711 the area had "been depopulated by the late Indian War and Massacre."

The earliest graves were marked with shell, brick, or wooden slabs, because stone markers had to be brought from afar by wooden sailing vessels. Characteristic of this period are vaulted graves bricked over in an attempt to protect them from high water and wild animals.

Most of the graves are facing east. The reason is simple. Those buried had wanted to be facing the sun when they arose on "Judgement Morn".

The Old Burying Ground is owned by the Town of Beaufort, and is maintained and managed by the Beaufort Historical Association.

Old Burying Ground

Beaufort, North Carolina

Listed on the National Register
 of Historic Places

ESTABLISHED 1709



Wisteria vines in the Old Burying Ground

Photo by: Diane Hardy

Tours Available

Conducted by
 the Beaufort Historical Association

Tickets Available at
 the Safrit Historical Center

Beaufort Historic Site

100 Block Turner Street
 Beaufort, North Carolina
www.beauforthistoricsite.org

Grave Sites of Interest

(Follow the Map)

(1) *Captain Josiah Pender (1819-1864)* — Led a group of fifty men who seized Fort Macon a month before North Carolina seceded from the Union in 1861. An improvised Confederate flag was raised in place of the national colors. Confederate forces held the fort for a year and eleven days until it was retaken by Union General Ambrose E. Burnside in April, 1862.

(2) *Susanna Thomas (1771-1808)* — Note the stone’s design. The face and back are flat, the edges straight. The shape of the stone represents a gate -- the gateway to heaven. The style was very popular and is quite old. The inscription demonstrated the old use of the letter ‘f’ for ‘s’ in describing Susanna as “consort” (spouse) to a Captain Thomas.

(3) *Josiah B. Davis, M.D. (1831-1901) and son George Davis, M.D. (1874-1937)* — Practiced medicine in the Apothecary Shop now on the Beaufort Historic Site. Both doctors lived across the street from the Old Burying Ground.

(4) *Vienna Dill (1863-1865)* — This child died of yellow fever and was buried in a glass-top casket. Legend tells us the grave was dug up by vandals and the body was seen to be intact. But when they opened the casket, the body disintegrated.

(5) *Samuel Leffers (1736-1822)* — Early schoolmaster who, with his wife, Sarah, owned the Leffers Cottage, now on the Historic Site. They also lived in the Hammock House, Beaufort’s oldest house. Samuel wrote his own epitaph:

*“Praises on tombstones are but idly spent,
A man’s good name is his best monument.”*

(6) *Pierre Henry (1812-1877) — and Annie Henry (1816-1904)* African Americans who were leaders in the education of emancipated slaves and their children at the Washburn Seminary. He was born free during the period of slavery. The school was one of many established in the South by the Congregational Churches of the North following the Civil War. It was adjacent to St. Stephen’s Congregational Church.

(7) *Reverend Bridges Arendell (1782-1850)* — One of six Ann Street Methodist ministers buried here. At the time of his death he lived in Morehead City. Because there was no cemetery there, he was brought to the Old Burying Ground for burial.

(8) *Josiah Bell (1767-1843)* — With his wife, Mary Fisher, Bell lived on Turner Street in the yellow house on the Historic Site. Like his grandfather, Joseph Bell, he was a leader in church and civic affairs.

(9) *Nathan Fouller (1750-1800)* — His ancestors are believed to have come to America on the Mayflower. He was honored in 1987 by the Daughters of the American Revolution.

(10) *Captain John Sabiston (1800’s)* — Died near Charleston, S.C. and was brought home by his crew. People gathered by the wharf at the foot of Turner Street as his body was taken off his ship. They followed as it was taken on a bier through the dark streets of town to the graveyard and lowered into the readied grave by torch light. Because embalming was unknown in Beaufort until the 20th century, it was necessary to perform burials quickly.

(11) *Captain John Hill (1817-1879)* — Sailed the seas. His son had an inscription cut on his stone that could well apply to others in this sea-side graveyard:

*“The form that fills this silent grave
Once tossed on ocean’s rolling wave,
But in a port securely fast,
He’s dropped his anchor here at last.”*

(12) *Jechonias Willis (1838-1862)* — A Beaufort man killed when Fort Macon was taken by the Federals. Beaufort members of the garrison were brought home on a flat and released on parole. The body of Willis was brought at the same time. General Burnside himself stood at the wharf witnessing the joyful reunion between soldiers and families. Then, as the pine box containing the body of Willis was claimed by sorrowing loved ones, sympathetic tears rolled down the general’s cheeks.

(13) *Captain Matthew Gooding (1830-1863)* — As the pilot of the blockade runner *Nashville*, he ably ran the Union blockade of Beaufort Harbor during the first year of the Civil War.

(14) *Sergeant George Johnson (1800’s)* — A member of the 35th United States Colored Infantry (U.S.C.I.) Johnson was one of almost 200,000 black soldiers who fought for the Union during the Civil War. He was seriously wounded, but survived the war. Many former slaves were anxious to prove that they deserved freedom and equality by fighting alongside the white soldiers. By the end of the war, almost a quarter of the Union Army was made up of black soldiers.

(15) *Sarah Gibbs (d.1792) & Jacob Shepard (d.1773)* — Sarah was married to Jacob Shepard, a seaman. Jacob’s ship went to sea, but never returned. He was presumed to be dead. Later, Sarah married Nathaniel Gibbs and had a child with him. After an absence of several years, the shipwrecked Jacob Shepard unexpectedly returned to Beaufort to find his wife married to another man. The two men agreed that Sarah would remain with Gibbs as long as she lived, but must spend eternity at the side of Jacob Shepard.

(16) *A.P. (1756)* — While 1756 may be the oldest legible date, if not the oldest marker, it is certainly not the oldest grave. Chances are good that it will never be known just which grave is oldest. The earliest records of the cemetery were kept by the established church, the Church of England. During the Revolution, some Anglicans loyal to King George III fled, taking Burying Ground records with them. A.P. is possibly Abigail Parker, child of Reuben and Jane Parker.

(17) *Robt. B. Woolard (1800’s)* — A member of the 1st North Carolina Infantry Regiment (Union). Two Regiments of volunteers from eastern North Carolina joined the Union Army. After many of these North Carolinians were captured by Confederate forces, it was discovered that 22 of them had previously served in the Confederate Army. The 22 were hanged by the Confederates as deserters. This had a profound impact on the morale of other members of the two union regiments. Most of them spent the rest of the War in the relative security of Beaufort and Fort Macon.

(18) *Col. William Thomson (1732-1802)* — The highest ranking officer from Beaufort to serve in the American Revolution lies in a grave marked by a simple stone. Declared “the most influential merchant of his day,” he served the town, county and province in many offices, and was a delegate to the Provincial Congress at Halifax (1776) and to the Constitutional Convention at Hillsborough (1788).

(19) *British Officer (1700’s)* — The grave of an officer in His Majesty’s Navy who died on board ship in the port of Beaufort. Not wanting to be buried “with his boots off” he was buried standing up in full uniform:

*“Resting ‘neath a foreign ground,
Here stands a sailor of Mad George’s crown
Name unknown, and all alone,
Standing the Rebel’s Ground.”*
Brantley

(20) *“Crissie Wright” Common Grave* — “Cold as the night the ‘Crissie Wright’ went ashore” is still heard around Beaufort. The sailors who froze to death after the wreck of that ship in January, 1886 are buried together in this grave. It is said this tragedy led to the establishment of the Cape Lookout Lifesaving Station in 1887.

(21) *James W. Hunt (1794-1848)* — Came from Franklin County in the War of 1812 as Surgeon, U.S. Army. He remained, was active in public affairs, and had the unusual distinction of marrying (a second time), making his will and dying on the same day.

(22) *Captain Otway Burns (1775-1850)* — Historians say he was one of North Carolina’s greatest naval heroes in the War of 1812. He received Letters of Marque and Reprisal from the United States, which had only a small navy. He sailed from Nova Scotia to South America plundering British ships. It is said he captured cargo worth more than \$2,000,000 on one trip alone. His tomb is surmounted by a cannon taken from his privateer, *Snapdragon*. After the war, Captain Burns was a member of the North Carolina Legislature. Later, a grateful state made him light-ship keeper near Portsmouth. He died there and was brought by sharpie to Beaufort for burial. The town of Burnsville, in the mountains of North Carolina, was named for Otway Burns and a statue of him stands in the center of that town’s square.

(23) *Gabriel Plot (1800’s)* — The tragic story of the Gabriel family is told in the inscription on the grave of the young mother who died

following childbirth:

*“Leaves have their time to fall
And flowers to wither at the
North wind’s breath
And stars to set ... but all,
Thou has all seasons, for thine own,
O Death.”*

Her baby soon followed her in death.

(24) *Girl in Barrel of Rum* — Here is the grave of a girl buried in a barrel of rum. In the 1700s an English family, including an infant daughter, came to Beaufort. The girl grew up with a desire to see her homeland, and finally persuaded her mother to allow her to make the voyage. Her father promised his wife he would return the girl safely. The girl enjoyed her visit to London, but died on the voyage home. She would have been buried at sea, but her father could not bear to break his promise. He purchased a barrel of rum from the captain, placed her body in it, and brought it to Beaufort for burial.

(25) *Captain Christian Wulff (1810-1856)* — An unusual looking stone was sent over from Denmark by a devoted sister to mark the grave of Captain Wulff of the Royal Danish Navy, who had sickened and died of yellow fever in Beaufort in 1856. Ladies of the town had nursed Capt. Wulff to no avail and had corresponded with his sister. She herself was lost when the *Austria* bringing her from Copenhagen to visit the grave was burned at sea.

(26) *Nancy Manney French (1821-1886)* — Her story has become legendary. Nancy loved Charles French, her tutor. Her father opposed the romance. Charles went away to seek his fortune and vowed to return for Nancy. He went to the territory of Arizona and became a chief justice. The postmaster in Beaufort, a friend of Nancy’s father, intercepted the correspondence between the two. His conscience drove him, before his death, to confess to Nancy what he had done. As an old man, Charles, still not able to forget Nancy, returned to Beaufort and found her, whose love had never faltered, dying of “consumption”. The couple married and a few weeks later Nancy died.

(27) *Captain James Lente Manney (1827-1889)* — He graduated from Columbia Medical College in 1848, but went to California as part of the Gold Rush of 1849. He returned to Beaufort, poorer but wiser, to practice medicine. He joined the secessionist militia takeover of Fort Macon in 1861. Later he became an artillery Company Commander in the Confederate Army. Following the Union capture of Fort Macon a year later, he was exchanged and returned to the Confederate Army. He participated in the attack on New Bern in 1864, and served with Lee’s army at Petersburg in 1865. After the war he resumed his medical practice in Beaufort.

(28) *Lafayette Leecraft, M.D. (1837-1864)* — The family of this young doctor had the monument made to appear broken to symbolize that his life was cut short.

Enjoy your walk through history.....