

THE WILDFOWLER

NOVEMBER 2019

A PUBLICATION OF THE ATLANTIC WILDFOWL HERITAGE MUSEUM AND THE BACK BAY WILDFOWL GUILD

Top 7 Most Haunted Places in Virginia Beach, VA

Reprinted from Haunted Rooms America Website

Virginia Beach is a popular spot for weekend breaks given its desirable location at the mouth of Chesapeake Bay. It is very much a resort city thanks to the miles of beaches and an abundance of hotels and other accommodation. However, it is also home to its fair share of ghost stories as well! Let's take a closer look at some of the haunted places in Virginia Beach, VA:

#7 – Old Coast Guard Station Tower at The Surf and Rescue Museum

One of the most historic monuments in Virginia Beach is the light tower and this also happens to be one of the most haunted places in Virginia Beach. It has several spooky tales associated with it including the story of the Witch of Pungo. Grace White was born in 1660 and she was known to be a bit eccentric even from an early age. Grace was an only child and had to work the family farm. Since she was good at it people began accusing her of witchcraft until she eventually was subjected to a trial by ducking. She escaped her bindings twice and was confirmed as a witch. It is said that she can still be heard cackling close to the light tower on still evenings! There are also reports of staff members hearing footsteps up in the attic of the guard tower when nobody is up there. It is believed that the attic could be haunted by the spirits of shipwreck victims who were often laid in the attic until the bodies were claimed or until missing parts could be found since many bodies did not wash up complete.

#6 - Elbow Road

Driving at night can be a little bit disconcerting. Everything seems to look so much different in the dark, doesn't it? Then when you throw in a ghost story linked to a particular road the tension ramps up even more! This is certainly the case with Virginia Beach's Elbow Road. Locals will warn you that you should never stop your vehicle on this road, otherwise you risk an encounter with not one, but two restless spirits! The first is known as Mrs Woble and is apparently the ghost of an old lady who was murdered here and the other is a little girl who is said to have drowned in a nearby lake. The local legend is that if you do happen to stop your car on Elbow Road at night and take a seat on the hood of your car, you will see the wet child sized footprints moving towards you! This may just be an urban legend, but are you brave enough to test the theory out? Drivers travelling on Elbow Road at night have also reported seeing the apparition of Mrs Woble.

#5 - Coast Artillery Road

Another creepy road that can be found in Virginia Beach is the Coast Artillery Road just as it passes Fort Story. The base was originally commissioned during World War I and it is still an active military base today, primarily used to train troops in the use of amphibious equipment. As it is an active base, soldiers are required to take up posts day and night to guard the location. It is these guards who have reported the apparition on Coast Artillery Road. On a number of occasions, guards have described seeing a figure with no identification visible appearing on the road and then vanishing into the wetlands. Over the years there has been some speculation that this is actually the ghost of a soldier who committed suicide here while stationed at Fort Story.

#4 - Princess Anne Country Club

Princess Anne Country Club is well known in Virginia Beach as one of the area's most notorious haunted buildings. There are a number of spirits here and the most disconcerting thing is that they are mostly malevolent making the haunting here a little bit more terrifying. Among the entities that have been reported here are phantom men who chase people away from the building, and a particularly mean male spirit who wears a cape. However, not all of the spirits here are nasty, there is also a female spirit who is described as a bride and is usually accompanied by the sound of eerie old fashioned music drifting from the bar area of the Country Club. When the property was being renovated, construction workers also claimed that they could hear what sounded like the dining room being set up for dinner service, complete



with jangling silverware and clinking glasses! This suggests that there are also spirits here who are former employees.

3 - Ferry Plantation House

The current Ferry Plantation House was built here in 1830, but the land itself has been inhabited since at least 1642. The house took its name from the ferry boat that used to run the Lynnhaven waterway at that time. Today, the Ferry Plantation House is said to be one of the most haunted houses in Virginia Beach with as many as eleven spirits in residence. The spirits that have been identified here include a former slave named Henry, a female ghost named Sally Rebecca Walke who is mourning her lost love and one time resident and painter Thomas Williamson. There is also a Lady in White who is thought to have died after falling down the stairs in 1826 and several victims of an 1810 shipwreck at the Ferry landing for which the house is named! With so many spirits calling this place home it is no wonder the property is deemed to be haunted. There is also supposed to be a ghost cat there, and there are a few rumours that there could be Native American spirits too considering the fact that construction workers apparently disturbed a burial ground when the house was built.

2 - Adam Thoroughgood House

The Adam Thoroughgood House was built some time around 1719 and now serves as a museum. It may look like a fairly small cottage, but that does not mean that it is not busting at the seams with paranormal activity! Employees have reported seeing the apparition of a red haired woman dressed in Colonial style dresses. She is spotted in various different spots around the property and has been seen wearing a variety of different dresses. There is also a male spirit who has been seen walking around the house dressed in a brown suit. Visitors have described feeling as though they are being watched while visiting and also say that they have felt unexplained cold drafts inside the house. Staff say that the ghosts inside the Adam Thoroughgood house also love moving things around, especially the candlesticks! On one occasion, staff witnessed 4 glass domes that were protecting Christmas candles lift up and then crash to the floor. There have also been a handful of occasions when heavy furniture has been moved when nobody was in the room!

1 - The Cavalier Hotel

The Cavalier Hotel was built in the 1920s and over the years it was popular with some famous guests including the likes of Bette Davis, Al Capone, Adolph Coors, Woodrow Wilson and Judy Garland. In fact, Adolph Coors, founder of Coors Beer, is said to be one of the many spirits that are said to be haunting the property. Apparently, Mr Coors either jumped or fell from one of the hotel's windows in 1929. There are even rumors that he may have been pushed. Whatever the true cause of his death, one thing is sure – guests and employees at The Cavalier Hotel have reported feeling his presence on the sixth floor and there have even been reports of guests hearing a loud thud as they walk past the spot outside where his body hit the ground! There are also reports of staff encountering a spirit in an Army Uniform on the employee staircase who warns them not to go upstairs as there are bodies there! This is unsettling to hear, especially when you learn that the ghost was correct at one time! A ship had been blown up offshore during World War I and the bodies that washed ashore were brought into the hotel which had been commandeered by the US Navy at the time!

Some guests have also complained about a cat in their room which could be related to a tale of a little girl who drowned in the hotel pool when she attempted to rescue her pet cat who had escaped and fallen into the water. There is certainly a lot going on here and it is no wonder The Cavalier Hotel is considered to be one of the most haunted hotels in Virginia!

There is actually an 8th location being considered

People walking on the Virginia Beach Boardwalk near 12th Street claim they have seen spirit images in the attic window dormers of the historic deWitt Cottage. The images are faint and hard to make out from the boardwalk. Witnesses claim to have seen the image of a man and a woman. Could they be the spirits of Cornelius deWitt and his young wife Cecile? Both of them died in the cottage at relatively young ages; He was 53 years old and she was 49 when they died. This left Julia age 22 and Elizabeth age 21 to raise the seven younger children. Perhaps the spirits of Cornelius and Cecile felt they needed to stay in the house to protect the children. Your Director has been in the cottage at night and heard what sounds like someone rearranging furniture in the attic! **Spooky! Happy Halloween!**





Upcoming Guild Events:

11/04, 11, 18, 25/2019: de Witt Garden Club
10:00 am, at the museum
Meets every Monday
Bring your work gloves and tools

11/09/2019 2:00pm until 7:00pm
“Party on Atlantic” Sponsored by Atlantic Avenue Association
deWitt Cottage 1113 Atlantic Avenue

11/14/2019 Sip & Paint 5:00pm-8:00pm
Hosted by Artist Bob Langston
deWitt Cottage 1113 Atlantic Avenue
Email: shoregallery1@gmail.com
To make a reservation

11/19/2019: Board Meeting
6:00 pm

12/02, 09, 16, 23, 30, 2019: de Witt Garden Club
10:00 am, at the museum
Meets every Monday
Bring your work gloves and tools

12/03/2019 Christmas Party 6:00pm – 9:00pm
FOP #8 961 S. Birdneck Road – Potluck Supper
Please RSVP to (757) 437-8432 or email director@atwildfowl.org

12/07/2019 Pictures with Santa and the big red truck
Holiday Open House 11:00am – 2:00pm
deWitt Cottage 1113 Atlantic Avenue

12/17/2019: Board Meeting
6:00 pm

Save these Dates

Dine Out for The de Witt

Monday 01/13/2020 IL’ giardino 910 Atlantic Avenue 5:30pm-8:00pm

Tuesday 02/11/2020 Surf Rider 1375 Oceana Blvd 5:30pm-8:00pm

Monday 03/??/2019 Waterman’s Surfside Grill 415 Atlantic Avenue 5:30pm-8:00pm

Tuesday 04/07/2020 The Pub 1001 Laskin Road 5:30pm-8:00pm

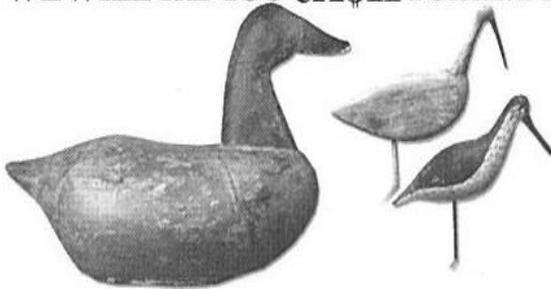
Lucky Oyster May 5, 2020



DECOYS WANTED

WE BUY WOODEN OR CANVAS DUCKS, GEESE, SWANS & SHOREBIRDS...
WHAT IS YOUR DECOY WORTH? IT COULD BE WORTH THOUSANDS!

WE WILL PAY YOU **CASH** FOR ANY OLD DECOYS AND HUNTING ITEMS



FREE DECOY IDENTIFICATION
AND EVALUATIONS
of Single Decoys or Entire Collections

BY MARK CROMWELL

(757) 721-2746

Member North Carolina Decoy Collectors Assoc.

COLLECTOR'S SHELF

Charles Waterfield Ruddy Duck Decoy

By Ben Swenson



If ever you wanted a taste of our forefathers' hardiness, you'd find it at **Wash Woods**. There, in thickets of low-slung evergreens, far from any human population, are the hidden ruins of a community that had no roads in or out. That remoteness was responsible both for the village's existence and for its undoing. Even today, part of the mystique of Wash Woods is the formidable task of getting there. The abandoned hamlet is not quite at the ends of the earth, but it might as well be. Wash Woods now lies within [False Cape State Park](#), as far southeast in Virginia as it's possible to be.

Unless you travel by boat, there are only two approaches to the park, from the north through [Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge](#), or from the south, via the roadless beaches of North Carolina's northern Outer Banks.

Whichever way you choose, there is no driving inside the park itself.

[False Cape State Park](#) is primitive and offers little in the way of modern amenities—a fact that attracts those trying to escape civilization. The park is long and narrow, and separates the Atlantic Ocean from the broad expanse of Back Bay.

Technically False Cape lies on a peninsula, but the skinny neck of land, just a half-mile wide in one spot, effectively acts as a barrier island. Dunes along the ocean give way to dense groves, which, in turn, give way to marshes. Wildlife abounds, and you'll find ample evidence of opportunistic species that can make a living despite the sand and storms that would drive so many others off—sea grasses, evergreen shrubs and trees, mushrooms, sea birds, mice, foxes, deer. In spots, freshly-dug depressions in the ground are clues that feral hogs have been rooting for food. This was Charles Waterfield's home. He was a waterman, hunting guide, hunt club caretaker and decoy carver. Born at Wash Woods, December 5, 1882, he lived his entire life on this fore barren peninsula where he and his wife Etta raised six children. His decoys are very rare.





From the Events Desk

Excitement is in the air at the Museum and in the Cottage gardens. The museum has completed flooring updates. The Cottage gardens will be receiving extra TLC in the Spring courtesy of the City of Virginia Beach Landscaping Department, in partnership with the Princess Anne Garden Club. We thank them for their support. In addition, the gardens and porch areas are decorated for fall with colorful pumpkins and gourds. We truly appreciate the donations from Board Members. Finally, monthly activities are being planned for the 2019-2020 season to celebrate our two big anniversaries, thus increasing our visibility to the citizens and visitors of Virginia Beach and beyond, generating revenue for the Museum and the Gift Shop, and increasing daily attendance at the Museum.

Going forward, we will use this section of the newsletter to highlight specific Museum and Cottage events. Please also see the upcoming Guild dates enclosed in this newsletter. Interested in one? Please attend and support our efforts by sharing with neighbors, friends, visitors and on social media.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark your calendars with these upcoming events. Events are located at the Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum/Historic de Witt Cottage, unless otherwise noted.

November 9, 2019

2nd Annual Party! On Atlantic

3:00-7:00 PM Free admission

Local bands will play in our Cottage gardens.

Beer, wine & soft drinks available for purchase.

November 14, 2019

Sip-N-Paint with local artist Bob Langston

5:00-8:00 PM \$50.00 – includes easel, paint supplies, canvas, hors d'oeuvres, drinks, and a

GREAT TIME! No experience needed. Email:

ShoreGallery1@gmail.com to reserve your space.

December 7, 2019

Photos with Santa and the Red Truck

11:00-2:00 PM \$10.00 donation

Gift Shop Holiday Open House

10:00-5:00 PM

Specializing in holiday seashore gifts

January 13, 2020

Home Gardener Day at Norfolk Botanical Gardens

Organized by the Virginia Horticultural Foundation, this day is focused on horticultural education, workshops and garden vendors. Perfect for the home gardener. Stop by and visit our table.

Register at www.homegardenerday.org

RENT THE COTTAGE

Did you know that the de Witt Cottage is available for rental? We would love to host your upcoming special occasion, community meeting, or social club. Contact Martha Davenport, thedewittcottage@awhm.org for more information.

SEEKING HOLIDAY DECORATIONS

The holidays are around the corner. According to HGTV, it's all about curb appeal. To attract visitors, you need to create an inviting atmosphere, inside and outside. The merry elves will be decorating the Cottage for the holidays after Thanksgiving. We are seeking the following donations:

Wreaths (Fresh or artificial)

Roping (Fresh or artificial)

Holiday greens – If you have out of control magnolia, berries, pine and cedar in your yard, we would be happy to give it a haircut with your direction. String white lights and net lights – indoor and outdoor. Holiday Décor

If you are purging your décor and looking to rehome it, please consider the Cottage. We will be happy to come pick up the items. Those that we cannot use, we will donate to a worthy cause. Please contact Martha Davenport – 757-617-3199 (cell) if interested.

ONE LAST THOUGHT.....

Don't forget to like and follow The Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum and the Historic de Witt Cottage on Facebook and Instagram.

Stay tuned for more events and updates in the December newsletter. Until then, have a wonderful Thanksgiving and remember...

"Good mashed potato is one of the great luxuries in life." Lindsey Bareham

Martha





**Free Decoy
Identification and
Evaluation**

By Jeff Tinkham
Past President of The Atlantic
Wildfowl Heritage Museum
Call (757) 721-7131 or
jeff@tinkhamlaw.com



SATURDAY • 7 DECEMBER 2019 • 11AM TO 2PM

PHOTOS
• WITH •
SANTA & THE
RED TRUCK

ATLANTIC WILDFOWL HERITAGE MUSEUM



**\$10.00
DONATION**

**ACTIVITIES
FOR KIDS**

**GIFT SHOP
OPEN HOUSE**

FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE HISTORIC DE WITT COTTAGE



FROM THE MUSEUM DIRECTOR

Tuesday, December 3, 2019 will be the date for our annual Christmas Party. We will gather in the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #8, 961 S. Birdneck Road at 6:00pm for dinner and the menu is potluck. So all you ladies need to bring out your best recipes. The museum will provide the meat (Ham and Turkey) along with Coffee and Tea. Setups will be available at the FOP bar (BYOB). We will have live music and perhaps some surprise entertainment. Members and their guests are welcome free of charge. If you are not a member and you would like to attend please contact the director. Please make you plans now to attend and reserve your place by calling the director at (757) 437-8432 or email him at director@atwildfowl.org. *Everyone must RSVP.*

I would like to issue a special thank you to our garden club president Jacky Richards for her dedication to the garden throughout the Spring and Summer. Jacky has been an almost daily presence in the garden for the past three years. She has also managed to negotiate a wonderful plan with the City of Virginia Beach Land Scape Services for our garden in the very near future. The City will provide more plants of color and provide mulch for our beds. They will also help relocate some of the current plants. We are very excited about the continued improvements to our beautiful seaside gardens. Please contact the Director at Email director@atwildfowl.org or call (757) 437-8432 if you are interested in joining the deWitt Cottage Garden Club. You could help them have another award winning garden this year!

Dine out for the deWitt starts on Monday January 13, 2018 at IL'Giardino's Restorante 910 Atlantic Avenue (one block south of the deWitt Cottage). This is the program where you take your spouse out to dinner and the restaurant donates a percentage of what your meal cost to the museum. Easy peasy; you go out to dinner with your friends, family, or potential new guild member and the museum receives a nice donation. So let's see how many people we can pack into IL'Giardino's Restorante.



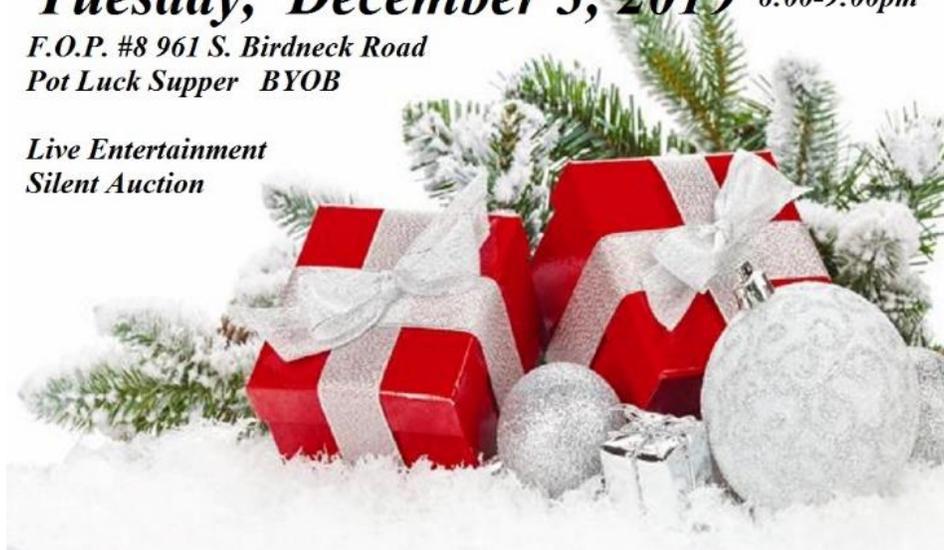
Wonder Woman Jacky Richards

2019 Christmas Party

Tuesday, December 3, 2019 6:00-9:00pm

**F.O.P. #8 961 S. Birdneck Road
Pot Luck Supper BYOB**

**Live Entertainment
Silent Auction**



WE ARE THANKFUL FOR YOU; OUR MEMBERS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I trust everyone had a wonderful and warm Halloween. This morning's weather is quite a ways away from the 80 degrees we experienced yesterday. For me, November is the start to one of my favorite times of the year. It is a time for us to reflect and celebrate all we have in our lives to be thankful for.

I am thankful for another successful Barbeque and Oyster Roast on the cottage grounds. Once all numbers have been finalized, we anticipate that event raising north of \$6,000 for our organization. This was made possible in large part through the generosity of our wonderful sponsors. The museum was bustling with activity throughout the day as old friends and new were able to experience our beloved cottage. Thanks to Lynn, our board volunteers, vendors, guild members, sponsors, guests, Shore Gallery at the de Witt Cottage, and all others that made the event a success. Mark your calendars; October 11, 2020 for our 5th annual Oyster Roast and 125th Anniversary Celebration of de Witt Cottage!

I am thankful for Lynn's leadership, moving our organization into a new era. Lynn's passion and love for carving, hunting, the de Witt family and their cottage, history in general, and his community are evident in every interaction. Martha Davenport has quickly established the cottage as a premier destination for weddings and special events in Virginia Beach. Her creative vision and attention to detail has enhanced our presence in the community. In addition to this presence, our "curb appeal" has elevated to premiere status through the hard work and dedication of Jacky Richards and other members of our garden club. The beautiful grounds surrounding the museum reflect the love and hard work that their caring hands have provided. Simply put, we are the most beautiful venue at the Virginia Beach oceanfront.

I am thankful for our cravers who share their incredible talents with our guests who visit the museum and the many events which we showcase the museum. Thank you to Susan Moritz, Ed Morrison, Roy Carlson, Hank Grigolite, Pete Dipietro, Jamie Champe, Pete Taylor, John Mazach, and Al Brandtner.

I am thankful for our relationship with Shore Gallery at de Witt Cottage; Seaside Gifts and the enhancements made to the gift shop operations of the museum. Their proven record of success in Hampton Roads is evident through not only the design of their space but also the coastal themed items they offer, and the clientele they serve. I look forward to their Christmas open house, as well as pictures with Santa and his red pick-up on December 7th.

My cup runneth over; we all as friends of the de Witt Cottage, Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum, and Back Bay Wildfowl Guild have much to be thankful for. Each of you plays a vital role in our success and I thank you. I'm looking forward to celebrating more with everyone on December 3rd at our annual Christmas Party. As always, I welcome your questions, comments, and feedback.

Cheers.

Jason W. Seward



Another Very Successful Oyster Roast!



BACK BAY WILDFOWL GUILD

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jason Seward, President Wayne Jarman, Vice President
Jim Mehne, Secretary Larry Davenport, Treasurer
Parke Atkinson Jim Briggs
Mark Cromwell Phil Davenport
Tom Richards Jeff Tinkham
William Walsh, Jr., Curator
Fletcher Bryant, President Emeritus

MUSEUM CARVERS

Monday Closed
Tuesday: Closed
Wednesday: Roy Carlson & Ed Morrison
Thursday: Hank Grigolite
"The Boathouse Boys" Carving Club: Al, Jamie, John, Pete
Friday: Susan Moritz
Saturday: Lynn Hightower
Sunday: Lynn Hightower

MUSEUM VOLUNTEERS

Wednesday: OPEN
Thursday Joe Leo 10:00am-2:00pm
Friday: OPEN
Saturday: OPEN
Sunday: OPEN
Museum Grounds: Jacky Richards, Martha Davenport,
Nancy Lekberg Cheryl Garvey, Jan McGuire, Evie Fetterolf,
Mary Ann Biagetti, Tom Richards

MUSEUM STAFF

Lynn Hightower, Director
Martha Davenport, Events Coordinator

MUSEUM CONTACT INFORMATION

ATLANTIC WILDFOWL HERITAGE MUSEUM
1113 Atlantic Avenue
Virginia Beach, VA 23451

Telephone: 757.437.8432
Facsimile: 757.437.9055
Website: www.awhm.org
Email: director@atwildfowl.org

You can now pay your dues online at awhm.org !

Please understand that we depend on every dollar to operate the museum. If you have not paid your 2019 dues, please give serious consideration to sending them into the museum right away. Beginning March 1, 2019, any listed member who has not paid their dues will receive an invoice from the museum director requesting payment of their annual dues

2019 DUES

\$35/YR INDIVIDUAL
\$100/YR BRONZE
\$500/YR GOLD

\$50/YR FAMILY
\$200/YR SILVER
\$1,000/YR PRESIDENTS CIRCLE



**BACK BAY WILDFOWL GUILD
2019 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM**

NAME: _____ AMOUNT PAID _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____ [CELL] _____

January 1, 2019 kicked off our Annual Membership Campaign. Each member is encouraged to find one new member to join the Back Bay Wildfowl Guild. Our very existence depends on growing the membership of the Guild. Please encourage everyone you know to become a member!

Please pass this newsletter on to any potential new member!

