

<http://www.dailypress.com/news/hampton/dp-nws-jefferson-davis-artifacts-20140221,0,3374683.story>

Jefferson Davis artifacts no longer on display at Fort Monroe Army gave artifacts back to family

By Robert Brauchle, rbrauchle@dailypress.com

6:29 p.m. EST, February 20, 2014

HAMPTON — Artifacts used to depict Jefferson Davis' imprisonment at [Fort Monroe](#) will no longer be displayed at the Casemate Museum because the items were returned to the Davis family.

The items, including a pipe used by the president of the Confederate States, were removed from display Wednesday. The family will ultimately decide what happens to the items, Casemate Museum director Robin Reed said.

"Some artifacts are leaving because they belong to the Army," Fort Monroe Authority Executive Director [Glenn Oder](#) said. "Some of them are simply not ours."

The Army transferred ownership of the Casemate Museum to the Fort Monroe Authority in September. The groups have since discussed which artifacts the Army will keep, which will be permanently kept at the museum and which will be leased.

An inventory of the Army-owned items was completed Thursday.

The Jefferson Davis items, though, are still owned by the Davis family, which had lent them to the Army for the museum's use in the 1960s.

The Army used those artifacts to create a mock prison cell in one of Fort Monroe's casemates.

The museum opened in 1951 almost exclusively to showcase the cell that held Davis after the Civil War.

For years, the room — with only a thin cot, small wooden desk and chair — remained one of the biggest draws for the museum. One of the items on display is a door-sized American flag that hung in the room where Davis spent four and a half months in 1865.

The items owned by the family include a pipe Davis smoked and a religious medallion he wore during his confinement as well as the padlock and key that kept him there.

Reed said it is normal for families or institutions that loan items to a museum take them back to evaluate how and where artifacts should be displayed. It is unusual, in fact, for artifacts to be lent to a museum for as long as the Davis items have been without such a review, he said.

Reed said the family has not decided whether the items will return to the Casemate or not.

The Army is also removing any guns that are fireable because of military policy, Reed said.

Oder said museum employees continue to develop exhibits.

The museum's first exhibit as a civilian-operated facility opened in November when it placed the uniform worn by Col. Anthony Reyes during Fort Monroe's decommissioning ceremony on display.

The museum plans to focus a portion of the space to the contraband of war decision made in May 1861 concerning three runaway slaves who sought freedom at Fort Monroe – which earned the nickname Freedom's Fortress.

"We're creating a fresh approach to this, and this is a way for these stories to come back to life," Oder said.

Brauchle can be reached by phone at 757-247-2827.

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<http://www.suffolknewsherald.com/2014/03/06/a-technical-opportunity-for-kids/>

A technical opportunity for kids

Published 10:36pm Thursday, March 6, 2014

It is, if you'll pardon the pun, full steam ahead for the Virginia STEAM Academy, a magnet school developed by two Suffolk women at Fort Monroe, where, if all goes according to plan, the first cohort of talented ninth- through 12th-graders could begin classes this fall.

STEAM stands for science, technology, engineering and applied mathematics, and the idea is to give students who exhibit talent in those academic disciplines a place where they can hone their abilities in those subjects and prepare themselves for advanced studies — and, eventually, careers — in technology fields.

The academy is the brainchild of former Suffolk First Citizen M. Caroline Martin and Judy Stewart, president of Taylor Education Consulting Inc. Both women have strong expertise in education, operations and non-profit board leadership, and they have worked tirelessly since 2010 to advance the cause of the academy.

They have big plans for the residential school. In addition to opening it to high school students with a high level of interest and ability in advanced technical fields, they hope to offer professional development opportunities there and to develop an online component that would allow any student in the commonwealth to receive supplementary learning in the subjects offered.

They also recognize the importance of developing the interests of younger students and held their first free residential week-long STEAM camps at the facility last year for middle school

students. Two more camps are planned this summer, and applications are being accepted through March 28.

Parents with children in the sixth through eighth grades who exhibit aptitude and interest in these subjects, which are vital to the nation's future, would do well to consider the STEAM camp as an alternative to the typical summer activities that, though potentially memorable, might not have nearly the potential impact on their children's future.

For more information about the STEAM Academy or the summer camps, visit www.vasteam.org.

<http://www.dailypress.com/news/hampton/dp-nws-hampton-candidate-forum-20140320,0,7972532.story>

Hampton City Council candidates discuss flooding

By Robert Brauchle, Daily Press

March 20--HAMPTON -- Fort Monroe, flooding and stopping development on wetlands were high priorities among the discussions Wednesday evening during the first public forum held for mayoral and City Council candidates.

As uncertainly about the effects of rising sea level on Hampton and Fort Monroe loom in the upcoming years, a cool-tempered slate of candidates said they support the Sierra Club's pro-environment issues.

The Sierra Club's York River Group hosted the event Wednesday at Sandy Bottom Nature Park.

This spring, seven candidates are campaigning for three City Council seats carrying four-year terms, two candidates for a two-year City Council term and two candidates are vying for mayor. Elections will be held May 6, and council and mayoral terms begin July 1.

Hampton borders include an estimated 160 miles of shoreline, meaning there are plenty of places for beachgoers to visit and even more chances for tidal flooding to encroach on property owners.

"The water is one of Hampton's biggest selling points, but it can also be a reason people move away from here," said Teresa Vanasse Schmidt, a four-year City Council candidate.

The city needs to better work with property owners who are experiencing flood insurance increases because of recent federal legislation, Schmidt said.

Hampton has scant opportunities to continue building because nearly all of its developable land is already occupied. That will force the city to either redevelop the properties it already owns or to build on wetlands.

"Flooding isn't an issue I know a lot about, but it's something we need to be very aggressive addressing," said four-year City Council candidate Gaynette "Gay" LaRue.

LaRue also chairs the Hampton Planning Commission.

"We need to stop building on wetlands," said mayoral candidate Frank Ottofarro Jr. "I have a house in Riverdale ... I have an interest in making sure we address flooding."

Edwin Boone, a two-year City Council candidate, said flooding has become more prevalent in his Buckroe neighborhood.

"God made wetlands to soak up water like a sponge," he said. "All those areas that feel secure, when they start building ... all of your houses will be flooded out."

Numerous candidates were also asked about Fort Monroe's future. While many candidates said they support green space rather than development on Fort Monroe, many also conceded that they have little first-hand influence on the property.

"A lot of it is owned by the state," said four-year City Council candidate Tom Rokicak. "Personally, I think it's in the wrong group's hands."

Learn about the candidates

For a complete list of candidates and their positions, visit the Hampton Matters blog: dailypress.com/news/hampton/hampton-matters-blog/

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<http://www.dailypress.com/news/hampton/dp-nws-fort-monroe-artifacts-transferred-20140324,0,6812343.story>

Army signs over artifacts to Fort Monroe More than 800 items to remain at Casemate Museum

By Robert Brauchle, rbrauchle@dailypress.com

6:00 p.m. EDT, March 24, 2014

HAMPTON — The **U.S. Army** has officially handed over more than 800 artifacts relevant to **Fort Monroe** that will be kept and displayed at the stone citadel's Casemate Museum.

The Fort Monroe Authority is also receiving another 171 items — including textiles, side arms, inert projectiles and at least one cannon — on a two-year loan.

The Army signed over those items Monday after close to six months of talks between officials from the state-operated authority and the military branch that owned and occupied the property until September 2011.

The 821 items now in the authority's permanent possession are the bulk of the items kept at the Casemate Museum when it was under the Army's control, Casemate Museum director Robin Reed said

"There's no doubt, this is one of the most historic places in U.S. Army history," Army Chief of Military History Robert Dalessandro said. "It's been very important for both teams to work hand-in-glove through this process, and this is the culmination of a lot of hard work."

Not all of the museum's artifacts from Army ownership will remain. The family of Jefferson Davis had loaned numerous items to the Army so they could be displayed at the museum. Those items — such as a pipe Davis smoked and a religious medallion he wore during his confinement as well as the padlock and key that kept him there — were returned to the family, who will ultimately decide whether they are redistributed.

The museum will continue to display the U.S. flag hung in Davis' cell during his imprisonment, Union Maj. Gen. Benjamin Butler's mess chest made by **Tiffany & Co.**, and the 49,000-pound Lincoln Gun.

"This is a collaboration between the Army and the Fort Monroe Authority that allows the Army artifacts to stay and to tell a story about Fort Monroe," authority Executive Director **Glenn Oder** said. "This also confirms the Army's confidence that the FMA could provide the proper care and management for these items."

The museum's first exhibit while under authority control opened in November when the uniform worn by Col. Anthony Reyes during Fort Monroe's decommissioning ceremony was placed on display.

Brauchle can be reached by phone at 757-247-2827.

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<http://www.dailypress.com/news/hampton/dp-nws-fort-monroe-bike-tour-20140402,0,1148711.story>

Candidates for Fort Monroe landscape architect firm take bicycle tour Prospects given bike tour of property

By Robert Brauchle, rbrauchle@dailypress.com

6:38 p.m. EDT, April 2, 2014

HAMPTON — With a master plan in place, Fort Monroe officials are looking for a landscape architect firm with experience creating public trails, who can create programs for green areas and who have worked on other National Park Service sites.

Experience riding a bicycle isn't required, but it's recommended.

Fort Monroe officials gave prospective bidders a 90-minute bike tour of the 565-acre property Wednesday afternoon. The Fort Monroe Authority is seeking landscape architects to take the property's master plan and create programs and activities within existing spaces on under-utilized sites.

Keith Oliver, a principal at Norfolk-based InSites Landscape Architecture, said he visited Fort Monroe as a child, but never had the opportunity to ride around the property on a bicycle. He was among the 31 prospective bidders for the project to sign in at the gathering.

"It really is a ground-breaking project to work on," Oliver said. "I don't know of anything like it around here."

Fort Monroe Authority Executive Director **Glenn Oder** said the winning firm must be within a day's drive of the property, which excluded Sasaki Associates, the Boston-based company that created the fort's master plan.

"This is going to be an interactive relationship with the Fort Monroe staff," Oder said. "The further away you are, the more challenging it becomes."

The entrance is one of the sites authority officials believe is vital to create an impression on residents and visitors.

"The entrance is a big deal to us," Oder said. "We want to create a real sense of arrival at this historic property."

The authority is also asking bidders to generate ideas involving the proposed 7-mile trail, living shoreline along Mill Creek and the boardwalk along the beach.

The winning firm will negotiate a contract with the authority.

"Hopefully we were able to express what's important to us today," Oder told attendees. "We're looking for you to give us qualifications that shows you can do this with us."

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