



COMMITTEE FOR THE

FORT MONROE

Casemate MUSEUM

A CASEMATE IS A CHAMBER IN THE WALL OF A FORT

JEFFERSON DAVIS
CASEMATE

MONITOR & MERRIMACK CASEMATE
OLD FORT MONROE CASEMATE



FORT MONROE CASEMATE MUSEUM
Box 341
Fort Monroe, Virginia 23351

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Fort Monroe, Virginia

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New Orleans, Louisiana

THE MUNICIPALITY OF DOLE
Birthplace of General Simon Bernard
Dole (Jura), France

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Conservateur, Bibliothèque Marmottan
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MRS. CHESTER D. BRADLEY

ANNUAL REPORT 1967

JOHN ERICSSON SOCIETY HONORS MEN OF THE MONITOR

A handsome bronze plaque was presented to the Casemate Museum on March 11, 1967, by the JOHN ERICSSON SOCIETY of New York City. Dedicated "to the glory and memory of the officers and crew of the U.S.S. MONITOR who sailed her and fought her March 9, 1862," it bears 62 names. Because MR. EWALD I. WINQUIST of the John Ericsson Society was obliged to arrive on short notice, an informal presentation took place with Colonel Gardner, Colonel Dick and Dr. Bradley accepting the plaque from Mr. Winquist. Founded in 1907, this distinguished society preserves the memory of JOHN ERICSSON, the Swedish-American engineer, who designed and built the MONITOR.

COLONEL GORDNER

Our new Commanding Officer, COLONEL HENRY L. GORDNER, has interesting plans for the Casemate Museum. Now occupying Casemates Nos. 1, 2 and 3, the Museum will expand into Nos. 4, 5 and 6, thereby doubling its size. Plaster and wainscoting will be removed to expose the beauty of the arched brick ceilings and the rugged glory of the granite walls. In other words, a return to the appearance of 130 years ago. Also contemplated are heating and air-conditioning for the comfort of visitors and the protection of books and microfilms in the Museum library.

The Committee sponsors the historical museum* in the wall of Fort Monroe, Virginia: Jefferson Davis and Dr. Craven . . . Monitor and Merrimack . . . Abraham Lincoln . . . the Peninsular Campaign . . . U.S. Grant . . . Civil War Historama . . . Robert E. Lee . . . Edgar Allan Poe . . . Old Point Comfort . . . and many other exhibits.

* Installation museum. Founded in 1951 by Colonel Paul R. Goode, U.S.A. (1894-1959), with the collaboration of Dr. Chester D. Bradley.

THE HUNT FOR THE BERNARD PAPERS

Most of the papers of GENERAL SIMON BERNARD were destroyed when the Paris Arsenal was burned in 1871. However, it was hoped that some fraction might have been saved. In 1959 Dr. Bradley, our Curator, found an old letter in the Municipal Library of DOLE, FRANCE, which eventually put him in touch with MONSIEUR CHARLES MALLIE of Besançon, a direct descendant of General Bernard. Several letters were exchanged, but, unfortunately, Monsieur Mallié died and the search languished. Luckily, his son, MONSIEUR JEAN MALLIE, who lives near Paris, found Dr. Bradley's letters and turned them over to his cousin, MONSIEUR BERNARD d'OPELN BRONIKOWSKI. So, in the fall of 1965, six years after our Curator began his search, he received a cordial letter from Monsieur d'Opeln Bronikowski, inviting him to inspect the papers. Still another year was to pass before Dr. Bradley could go to Paris. But in October 1966 he had the rare privilege of looking through that portion of the Bernard Papers that had survived the burning of the Arsenal. Dr. Bradley spent several delightful evenings with Monsieur and Madame d'Opeln Bronikowski and another descendant and his wife, MONSIEUR and MADAME PHILIPPE BLEHAUT. Our Curator was permitted to borrow the Bernard Papers, which were so bulky that he had to have them packed and shipped by the concierge of his hotel. These have now been studied, micro-filmed and returned with the profound thanks of the Casemate Museum.

NEW HONORARY MEMBERS OF THE MUSEUM COMMITTEE

GENERAL JAMES K. WOOLNOUGH became Commanding General, U. S. Continental Army Command, Fort Monroe, in July 1967. The General is a graduate of the U. S. Military Academy, as was his father. His has been a distinguished and well-rounded military career: regimental commander, instructor at West Point, General Staff, Joint Task Force at Eniwetok, NATO, to mention only a few of his many assignments. General Woolnough is a veteran of World War II (European Theater) and the Korean War and the holder of numerous decorations.

DR. ROY F. NICHOLS, Vice-Provost Emeritus, University of Pennsylvania, is a distinguished historian. He won the Pulitzer Prize for History in 1949. Professor of History at the University of Pennsylvania for many years, he is the author of important works on American history too numerous to list in this limited space. Dr. Nichols is an authority on the Civil War. A paper he wrote many years ago on the legal proceedings against Jefferson Davis has been of great value to us of the Casemate Museum. At present he is writing the history of the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Nichols is a Past President of the American Historical Association.

MONSIEUR PAUL FLEURIOT DE LANGLE, Curator, Bibliothèque Marmottan, Boulogne-sur-Seine, and Vice President, Institut Napoléon, Paris, is an authority on the history of the First Empire. He has written numerous books and articles and lectured in France, Sweden, Holland, Portugal and the United States. One of Fleuriot de Langle's proudest achievements was to decipher and annotate the secret diary of General Count Henri Bertrand, one of Napoleon's companions in exile. This has been published under the title of CAHIERS DE SAINTE-HELENE. Fleuriot de Langle wrote a splendid article on General Bernard and Fort Monroe for the December 1964 issue of LE RUBAN ROUGE (Legion of Honor magazine). He is a member of the French Section of the Society of the Cincinnati. One of his sons, Capitaine de Corvette Ivan Fleuriot de Langle, is teaching at the U.S. Naval Academy.

MR. HUTTON GOES TO WASHINGTON!

The cause of local history sustained a heavy blow when MR. TINY HUTTON, radio newsman, writer and historian went to Washington to be the administrative assistant of CONGRESSMAN THOMAS N. DOWNING. To put it poetically, our good friend exchanged the Peninsula for the nation. Perhaps it was inevitable, for only a place like Washington can give full scope to Tiny's protean talents. We console ourselves with the thought that we were lucky to have him here on the Peninsula as long as we did.

CONFEDERATE EXILES IN BRAZIL

Conversing in his cell with Dr. Craven at Fort Monroe in the summer of 1865, JEFFERSON DAVIS expressed opposition to migration of disappointed Southerners to Latin American countries. Although some thousands of Southerners made settlements in Mexico and other countries, only one had lasting success. This was VILA AMERICANA (American City) in Brazil. Located about 60 miles north of Sao Paulo, it was founded in 1866 by Colonel William H. Norris and his son Dr. Robert Norris. The colony is said to have introduced the watermelon into Brazil and for many years this fruit was its main cash crop. Over the years the descendants of the original colonists have scattered over Brazil until only a small number of the old families are left in Vila Americana, which meanwhile has grown to a city of some 30,000. However, each year about 150 descendants come back to celebrate the Fourth of July. DR. JIM JONES, a dentist, is curator of the settlers' museum, church and graveyard, in which are buried over 200 Confederate exiles and their descendants. His wife, JUDITH JONES, from whom we had a letter in 1966, is the historian of the Fraternity of the Descendants of Americans. COLONEL DAVID W. DICK of our Museum Committee planned to visit Vila Americana this summer, but an acute illness during his South American cruise prevented him from going ashore at Sao Paulo.

DEATH OF MONSIEUR VENTARD

Our esteemed Honorary Member, MONSIEUR AUGUSTE VENTARD, died on May 9, 1967, at Dole, France, aged 83. When our Curator, Dr. Bradley, first visited Dole in 1959 to seek additional information about GENERAL SIMON BERNARD, designer of Fort Monroe, Monsieur Ventard assisted him in every way. It was largely through the efforts of Monsieur Ventard that the city of Dole donated the bust of General Bernard, one of our finest exhibits. Much interested in the Casemate Museum, Monsieur Ventard kept in constant touch with Dr. Bradley. This distinguished citizen of Dole devoted forty years of his life to the Birth House of Pasteur (Louis Pasteur was born in Dole). DR. JEAN PITON of Dole has taken the place of Monsieur Ventard as President of the Association of Friends of the Birth House of Pasteur.

TEMPORARY DISRUPTION CAUSED BY NECESSARY REPAIRS

During June and July 1967 Fort Monroe was the scene of feverish activity as extensive repairs were made to sidewalks and roads. Inevitably this necessitated the closing of the Main Sallyport for a while. Long and complicated detours became the order of the day. As a result, the number of visitors to the Museum dropped sharply during the summer. However, increases in other months of the year offset the loss so that we came out practically even with the preceding year: 1966, 66,750; 1967, 66,706. Even though EXPO 67 at Montreal diverted tourists from Virginia!

FORT MONROE PRINTED AND SPOKEN

SOUVENIR NAPOLEONIEN, December 1967, carried an article and photograph of the visit of DEPUTY JACQUES DUHAMEL and MADAME DUHAMEL to the Casemate Museum in 1966. Returning to France, Deputy Duhamel wrote an article, "Les trois vies du Général Bernard," for LE JURA FRANCAIS, January-March 1967. In Paris, our Honorary Member, MONSIEUR PAUL FLEURIOT DE LANGLE, spoke to the CLUB DU FAUBOURG on General Bernard, Fort Monroe and the Casemate Museum. And in Newport News, our Curator, Dr. Bradley spoke in French to the CLUB FRANCAIS DE LA PENINSULE. His subject was (three guesses!) GENERAL SIMON BERNARD. The Club Français de la Péninsule was founded by MR. ROBERT CAMINADE of Newport News.

THEIR FOREBEARS SERVED AT FORT MONROE

MR. WALTER CRAVEN GOSSLING, great grandson of Dr. Craven of Fort Monroe fame, lives in France. From time to time he sends us historical treasures gleaned from the book shops of Paris. MRS. ANNA LEONARD TAYLOR, Granville Center, Pennsylvania, celebrated her 97th birthday in May 1967 by visiting Fort Monroe where her father LORON H. LEONARD served during the Civil War in Company D, 3rd Pennsylvania Heavy Artillery. She was accompanied by her niece, MISS RUTH V. LEONARD, and MRS. LEOTA VAN HORN, the latter being related by marriage to HENRY ARNOLD, one of the two blacksmiths ordered to put ankle irons on Jefferson Davis at Fort Monroe. (Dr. Craven succeeded in having the irons removed after five days.) Word also came from DR. LEONIDAS H. BERRY, Chicago, Illinois, grandson of JOHN BERRY, Battery B, 2nd U. S. COLORED LIGHT ARTILLERY, organized at Fort Monroe in 1864. Dr. Berry, widely known stomach specialist, is a recent Past President of the National Medical Association. From Mr. DRAKE DE KAY, editor-in-chief of a well-known encyclopedia, we received a photocopy of a portrait of the dashing DRAKE DE KAY, a Union officer stationed at Newport News in 1862. According to LESLIE'S ILLUSTRATED NEWSPAPER, Captain De Kay with only eight privates captured the town of Smithfield by making the inhabitants believe that a Union gunboat was in the offing!

LETTER FROM A GRAND OLD ARMY BANDMASTER

Fort Monroe has had a reputation for fine bands from the days of the 3rd PENNSYLVANIA HEAVY ARTILLERY during the Civil War, the 1880's when MR. GIACOMETTI reigned supreme not only on the parade ground but in the ballroom of the Hygeia Hotel, the days before World War I when MR. YASSEL was bandmaster, to the present day of MR. JOHANNSEN and his 50th Army Band. What a pleasure it was to get a letter from none other than MR. LOUIS S. YASSEL now living in Washington, D. C. After recalling his Fort Monroe days, he related that when he retired in 1942 he was the leader of the 3rd Cavalry Mounted Band at Fort Myers, Virginia. He has recently crowned his years devoted to military music by attaining to one of the highest offices in Masonry. This grand old army bandmaster further states that he is a veteran of the Spanish-American War, World War I and World War II!

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