



# FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM NEWS

Edgecombe County Veterans' Military Museum

April 2015

## Thomas Blount – A Revolutionary Soldier

Most people may know of Thomas Blount as the builder of the famous Blount-Bridgers house that was constructed in 1795 and still stands on 130 Bridgers Street in Tarboro, NC. However, among many other titles, he was a Revolutionary War soldier. Thomas Blount served as a lieutenant in the 5<sup>th</sup> regiment of the North Carolina Continental Line. For part of the war, he was taken to England as a prisoner of war. Afterwards, he became a major general in the North Carolina militia. When the war ended, he returned to Tarboro and built “the Grove” now known as the Blount-Bridgers house. He served as a member of the North Carolina Legislature and in Congress until his death in 1812. So when you visit the Blount-Bridgers house, think not only of the beautiful artwork you see and the historic 18<sup>th</sup> century architecture, but also of the great soldier that once stood where you are standing now.

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The Edgecombe Vet Museum represents not only the soldiers who served in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, but all the soldiers from this county who heeded the call back to the Revolution and beyond. We should honor their memory and one way to do that is by supporting the museum. Please share your stories with us and honor your Vets memory with a picture or an artifact. You might even buy a memorial brick....

## Louis D. Wilson

You may have heard of Louis D. Wilson as a result of Wilson County and the town of Wilson and his advocacy for the poor and public education, but he was also a soldier. In 1847, at the age of 58, Louis D. Wilson enlisted in the United States Army as a private in the Mexican-American War. He was soon promoted to captain of company A, the first Edgecombe Volunteer Regiment and the first volunteer regiment to offer their services to Governor William A. Graham. On March 3rd, 1847, President James K. Polk promoted Wilson to Colonel of the Twelfth Regiment of the U.S. Infantry. Wilson had 850 troops under his command. Wilson and his troops were to proceed from Vera Cruz to Mexico City with supplies for General Winfield Scott's army, but he fell sick with yellow fever and died that same year. Wilson is buried in the Tarboro Town Common. The Common is one of the only two original town commons that exist in the United States today.

## GIFT SHOP!!!

Travel Mugs with museum logo and military logo, \$15 each  
Tee shirts, caps, coffee mugs, note cards, signed prints by Motsie Brooks, and books are available.

**Gift shop items make great gifts for your Veteran!**



The Museum is open Thurs, Fri and Sat from 10 to 4

Email [museum@edgecombevet.com](mailto:museum@edgecombevet.com)

website is [www.edgecombevet.com](http://www.edgecombevet.com)

Facebook group is Edgecombe Vet Museum

### Mardi Gras

Mardi Gras came to Edgecombe County and the Edgecombe Vets celebrated in Grand Style. Special thanks must be given to Nancy Hill, Gerrelene Walker and the team that put together the beautiful decorations. Our Cajun dinner from Myrtle Grove was exceptional and we all enjoyed the taste of New Orleans.

Our partiers showed up in fancy garb with traditional masks and beads. They were quite colorful and did very well on the dance floor. Of course, nothing could surpass the authentic sound of our Dixieland Jazz Band, Decatur Street Beat. We wish to thank all the volunteers, but especially Edgecombe Community College for providing the Atrium for our celebration. We enjoyed ourselves immensely and hope to continue with more events. Please call or write to offer your support to the Museum and bring ideas of how we might continue with more events.



### Student Group Makes Donation to Military Museum

The ECC Veteran Student Association presented Chris Larsen, president of the Edgecombe County Veterans' Military Museum, with a \$250 donation during the group's March 20 meeting. Pictured from left are Francine Long, VSA co-advisor; Theresa Telfor, VSA president; Chris Larsen, president of the museum; Kristie Jefferies, VSA treasurer; and Teresa Bottoms, veterans affairs coordinator at the college.

