

Program

Welcome

Mayor Joan E. Lamson

Recognition of Guests

*Michael Hill, Research Supervisor,
North Carolina Office of Archives and History*

Shelby Freeman, Original Owner of Iron Steamer Pier

Jean Preston, North Carolina State Representative

*Doug Harris, Chairman, Carteret County Board of
Commissioners*

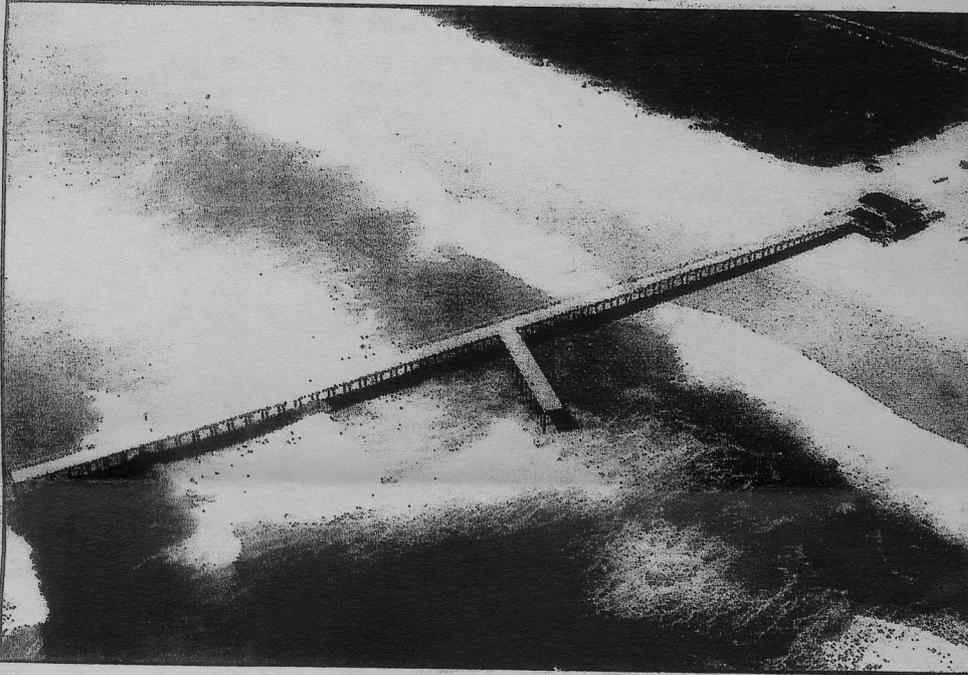
Janet Eshleman, President, The History Place

Gerald Barfield, Developer, Ocean Shore Property

Unveiling of Historical Marker

Kite Fly

Courtesy of Don Dixon, Kites Unlimited



The Iron Steamer Pier pretty much stood alone on the Pine Knoll Shores beach in the early '60's. The wing jutting off the eastern side gave visitors a view of the iron steamer wreck lying below.

*The Town of Pine Knoll Shores
S. S. Pevensey Historical Marker Dedication*

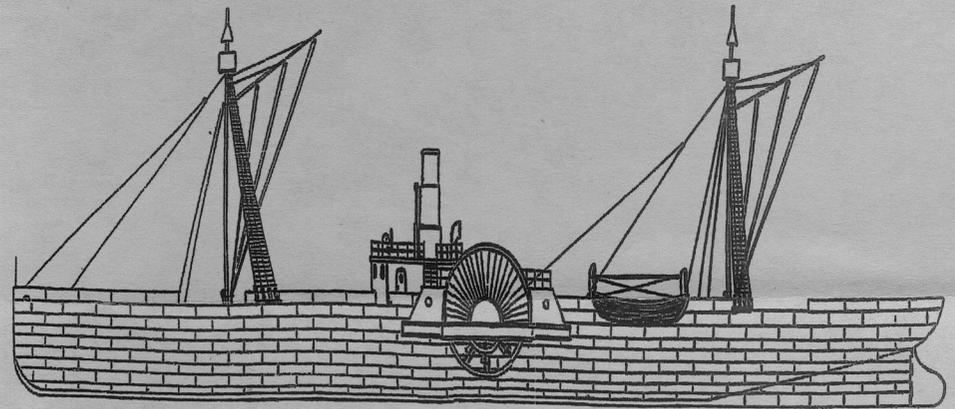
June 9, 1864 – June 9, 2006

The *Pevensey*, an iron-hulled sidewheel steamer, was typical of the type of vessel used to run the Federal blockade during the Civil War. The *Pevensey* had one deck, two masts, and was schooner rigged. She was built by Charles Lungley (of London) circa 1863 or 1864. Her machinery was manufactured by Northam Iron Works of Southampton, England.

The wreck currently lies about one hundred yards off the beach. The remains of the hub of the portside paddlewheel are visible above the water at low tide. Consequently, the wreck has captivated beachgoers for years. Known locally as the "Iron Steamer", the wreck gave name to the nearby Iron Steamer Pier and Motel.

The NC Underwater Archaeology Branch (UAB) examined the wreck site in November 2000. The UAB noted that much of the ship's machinery is visible underwater, but that more of the vessel could be buried beneath the sand bottom. It was also noted that *Pevensey* is less well preserved than other blockade runner wrecks at Cape Fear due to its closer proximity to shore and exposure to stronger currents.

It was determined that there was interest in preserving the pier (which had been damaged by recent hurricanes) as a platform for public observation of the wreck. The pier, however, has since been removed.



*Artists conception of blockade runner
S. S. Pevensey
Drawing by Wayne Bobby Willis*

The *SS Pevensey*, blockade-runner serving the Confederacy, was lost on June 9, 1864, run aground by the Union supply ship *New Berne*. The *Pevensey*'s crew caused the ship's boilers to explode and then escaped to shore, where they were captured and taken to Fort Macon. One crewmember was apprehended aboard the doomed vessel. The *Pevensey* had successfully run the blockade at Cape Fear four times before she was lost. On the day she ran aground, the ship's crew was disoriented, thinking they were much closer to Cape Fear than they actually were. The ship grounded about nine miles west of Federal-held Beaufort, at present Pine Knoll Shores.