

SOUNDSIDE LEARNING

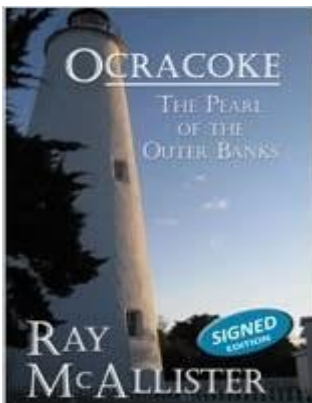
THIS WEEK ON CORE SOUND



COMING UP AT CORE SOUND...

- **June 2:** *Soundside Science & Story Time* for ages 3-5, 10 AM
- **Applications Now Being Accepted** for our Summer Camps! Check them out at www.coresound.com/camp

Sound Reading Material For You



Ocracoke: The Pearl of the Outer Banks

By Ray McAllister

Ocracoke is tucked away from the Atlantic Ocean on the Pamlico Sound like a pearl. It is often serene but has rarely been entirely safe. Storms, pirates, and submarines are part of its history. There is a gentle side to Ocracoke, though. The island is home to the iconic 1823 lighthouse that is only 75 feet tall and a photographer's favorite. This book is a delightful look at what has made Ocracoke special and always will.

Pages: 242

200 Years of Ocracoke's Light

Ocracoke Inlet used to be one of the busiest inlets on the East Coast. It was the only reasonably navigable waterway for ships accessing inland ports such as Elizabeth City, New Bern, and Edenton. Ocracoke Village, then known as Pilot Town, developed as a result of the inlet's use. Pilots who were hired to steer ships safely through the shifting channels to mainland ports settled the village in the 1730s.

The US Lighthouse Service recognized that a lighthouse was needed to assist mariners through Ocracoke Inlet. In 1798, a wooden, pyramid-shaped tower on nearby Shell Castle Island began helping mariners navigate the inlet. Unfortunately, the lighthouse was obsolete in less than twenty years due to the migration of the main channel. By 1818, the channel had shifted nearly a mile away! That same year, both the lighthouse and keeper's house were destroyed by lightning.

A need for a navigation beacon still existed, so the Ocracoke Lighthouse was built in 1822 and first lit in 1823. A fourth-order Fresnel lens was installed in 1854, replacing the old reflector system. Its hand-cut prisms and magnifying glass greatly intensified the light.

Now, 200 years later, the Ocracoke lighthouse is fully automated and no longer needs a resident lightkeeper to tend to its daily needs. The US Coast Guard now oversees the operation of the light, while the National Park Service preserves the lighthouse.

This weekend is a great time to visit the Ocracoke lighthouse for the Ocracoke Festival runs June 2-4, 2023. For more information, visit ocracokealive.org.



photo from www.nctripping.com/ocracoke-lighthouse/

Veteran Recounts Cost of Freedom

excerpt from the *Carteret County News-Times* (July 5, 2009)

by Cheryl Burke

From having his ship torpedoed to watching friends die as they went overboard, World War II Navy veteran Hugh Salter, 87, knows the high cost of freedom ...

After his boot camp training in Baltimore, the young Seaman 3rd Class Salter was assigned to the Coast Guard Cutter *USS Alexander Hamilton*, which was based in Norfolk, VA. . . .

The *Alexander Hamilton* was assigned to escort convoys in the North Atlantic, which was an especially dangerous assignment because German submarines had found convoys easy prey in that region. . . .

During his stint on the *USS Alexander Hamilton*, Mr. Salter also managed to find six others from Carteret County serving on his ship. He forged an especially close friendship with Livingston Brooks of Harkers Island and Nathan Robinson of Atlantic.

When the three friends and their fellow crewmembers got a call on Jan. 24, 1942, to go to the assistance of a disabled Navy refrigerator ship that had broken down about 450 miles from Iceland, they had no idea of the fate that awaited them five days later.

The *Alexander Hamilton* was equipped for towing, so the ship was assigned to tow the refrigerator ship *Yukon* toward Reykjavik, Iceland. Going at a snail's pace and under protection of a destroyer, the ships battled foul weather and rough seas for five days.

Just 10 miles from their destination, Mr. Salter's vessel turned over the tow of the *Yukon* to a British tug. Shortly after casting off its towlines and while enroute back to the main convoy, a German submarine fired a fateful torpedo into the ship.

At 1:12 p.m. on Jan. 29, 1942, Mr. Salter and his five-man crew, including Mr. Robinson, were manning a 3-inch deck gun when the torpedo hit on the starboard side just between the fire room and engine room.

The torpedo struck the fire room bulkhead and flooded the two largest compartments of the ship, as well as blew up two boilers and caused other major damage. The blast also destroyed three of the ship's seven lifeboats.

The *Alexander Hamilton* was dead in the icy waters of the North Atlantic and quickly taking on water. Twenty crewmen in or near the engine room were killed. One of those killed was Mr. Livingston, who was the first man from Carteret County killed during World War II.

Livingston Brooks

photo and personal information from
<https://coastguard.togetherweserved.com>

**Last Rank**

Petty Officer Second Class

Primary Unit

USCGC Alexander Hamilton

Service Years

1940 - 1942

Name of Award

Purple Heart

Year Awarded

1942