

Bethel Writer

Kevin Duffus

## BOOKS

- *Into the Burning Sea – The 1918 Mirlo Rescue* (2018) (6)
- *The Last Days of Black Beard the Pirate – revealed dozens of previously unknown facts about the pirate, his identify, and his possible origins* (2008) (2014 – Fourth Edition) (3)
- *The Lost Light – A Civil War Mystery* (2002) (Second edition – 2010) (Third edition – 2014) (1)
- *Shipwrecks of the Outer Banks: An Illustrated Guide* (2006) (2)
- *The Story of Cape Fear and Bald Head Island* (2017) (5)
- *War Zone: World War II Off the North Carolina Coast* (2012) (4)

## ARTICLES FOR COASTAL REVIEW AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- “Blackbeard, Crew Were Pawns in Failed Coup” (*Coastal Review*)
- “Blackbeard’s Final Battle: Sorting Facts, Fiction” (*Coastal Review*)
- “Burnside Armada Battles Sea at Hatteras Inlet” (*Coastal Review*)
- “Burnside Faces Maelstrom of Hatteras Inlet” (*Coastal Review*)
- “Burnside’s Miracle Happens in Hatteras Inlet” (*Coastal Review*)
- “Cape Fear Lifesavers Daring Rescue” (*Coastal Review*)
- “The Charles C. Dame Rescue of October 1893, the Year of Storms” (*Coastal Review*)
- “The 1585 Circumnavigation of Pamlico Sound” (*Coastal Review*)
- “Historic Lighthouse Lens’ Odyssey Continues” (*Coastal Review*)
- “History Illuminated: Hatteras Light’s 150 Years” (*Coastal Review*)
- “History Rediscovered: NC’s First Lighthouse” (*Coastal Review*)
- “Lost History: Search for Village Abandoned” (*Coastal Review*)
- “Mapping Pamlico Sound: The Secotan Site” (*Coastal Review*)
- “Mother Gives Birth during U-Boat Attack” (*Coastal Review*)
- “NC’s First Lighthouse Keeper and his Wife” (*Coastal Review*)
- “Navy’s Ocracoke ‘Loop Shack’ was Ineffective” (*Coastal Review*)
- “Saving the Crew of the Charles C. Dame” (*Coastal Review*)
- “A Tale of Two Lighthouses” proving facts about the 1767 Charleston Lighthouse (*Charleston’s Post and Courier* and *The Keeper’s Log*) (2020)
- “The Tragic Story of North Carolina’s First Lighthouse Keeper, Henry Long”
- “Water, Water Everywhere, Nor Any Drop to Drink” (*Coastal Review*)

\*The *Coastal Review* articles span historical data of 450 years (published in 2020-2021)

## FILM DOCUMENTARIES – INTERVIEWS - APPEARANCES IN FILMS - VIDEO PRODUCTIONS

- Broadcast of live-satellite coverage from Plymouth, Portsmouth, and London, England, to commemorate the departure of Walter Raleigh's three expeditions to establish a colony in the New World (1984-1987)
- Broadcast (live) on television stations across NC and in southwest England highlighting HRH Princess Anne's visit to Roanoke Island and the dedication of the Elizabethan replica vessel, Elizabeth II - produced 5 live broadcasts across NC and England (1984-1987)
- "Cape Hatteras Light – America's Greatest Sentinel" – a ninety-minute film featuring the 200-year history of lighthouses at Cape Hatteras – broadcast on statewide public television (1998)
- Charlotte Talks Radio: Charlotte Talks WFAE-FM
- C-SPAN: <https://www.c-span.org/video/?449671-6/1918-us-coast-guard-rescue-mission>
- "Expedition Unknown" – Appeared with archaeologist Josh Gates – National Geographic (2015)
- "Graveyard of the Atlantic – 400 Years of Shipwrecks, Mysteries, and Heroic Rescues" – documentary featuring historian David Stick and numerous Outer Bankers who recalled the golden years of shipwrecks and salvage. The film was broadcast on statewide public television (1997)
- "Homeward Bound" – Documentary in Costa Rica, Tanzania, and the Philippines for Habitat for Humanity (circled the globe in 28 days) (1989)
- Interviewed Vernon Gaskill, last living keeper of a first-order seacoast lighthouse at Bodie Island, NC (1983)
- "Life in the Carolinas": <http://youtu.be/D7oga96RgjE>
- "Move of the Century" – Sixty-minute documentary about the remarkable relocation of Cape Hatteras Lighthouse – broadcast on statewide public television (1999)
- "North Carolina Lighthouses – Romance and Reality" – Filmed at all eight of the state's lighthouses and interviewed the people who lived at them and used them for navigation (1979-1981)
- "North Carolina – Where the Wonders Never Cease" – Travel documentary featuring the best destinations across the state (1994)
- "Sentinel Under Siege" – about the contentious debate over whether or not to move Cape Hatteras Lighthouse away from the sea (1998)
- "War Zone- World War II off North Carolina's Outer Banks" – the three-hour film was broadcast on state public television (2001)
- Appearing on National Geographic Channel's "Torpedo Alley" (2021)
- Featured at Virginia Historical Society: <https://vimeo.com/123774166>
- Featured at WRAL-TV – Duffus Solves Historical Mysteries: <http://www.wral.com/news/local/video/141605621>

## SPEECHES

Duffus has addressed hundreds of organizations along the mid-Atlantic coast. His multi-media programs have been described as “watching a live documentary.” His topics include shipwrecks, heroic rescues, lighthouses, the Civil War, pirates and Blackbeard, World War I and World War II off the NC coast, the history of Cape Fear, and the Walter Raleigh-sponsored 1585 expedition and circumnavigation of Pamlico Sound. Below are a few of his speaking venues:

- American Lighthouse Foundation
- Best of *Our State Magazine* Conventions
- Bethel Rural Community Organization (2017)
- Daughters of the American Revolution
- English Speaking Union
- Great Lakes Lighthouse Festival
- Jamestown Society – First NC Company
- John Locke Foundation - Shaftsbury Lecture Series
- National Maritime Heritage Conference – 7<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> conferences
- National Maritime Society
- National Society of the Dames of the Court of Honor
- North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching
- On the Same Page Literary Festival, West Jefferson, NC
- Order of Descendants of Ancient Planters
- Society of NC Archivists
- South Carolina Historical Society
- Spotswood Society
- Transylvania County Library
- United Daughters of the Confederacy, NC Division, 113<sup>th</sup> Convention
- Virginia Historical Society
- Weymouth Center for the Arts and Humanities

## DISCOVERIES AND MYSTERIES SOLVED

- Corrected longstanding errors about the origins of the 1767 Charleston Lighthouse (2020)
- Discovered groundbreaking information about the identities and origins of the black members of Blackbeard’s crew (2014)
- Discovered that the first-order Fresnel lens from the 1903 Cape Fear Lighthouse had served as a featured exhibit at the U.S. Centennial Exhibition at Philadelphia in 1876, at the 1899 Trans-Mississippi and International Exposition at Omaha, and at the 1901 Pan-American Exposition at Buffalo, New York (2017)
- Discovered, after conducting primary source research at the British Archives near London, dozens of new facts about the notorious pirate Blackbeard and his connections to North Carolina (2008)

- Discovered the origins of 1870 Cape Hatteras Lighthouse builder, Dexter Stetson (1998)
- Discovered the previously unknown architectural lineage of North Carolina's first lighthouse at Cape Fear (completed in 1794) that was based on Charleston's first lighthouse (built in 1767) (2017)
- Discovered that the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse Henry-Lepaute Fresnel lens had been displayed at the Exhibition of Industry of All Nations at New York City's Crystal Palace in 1853 and was first assembled by George G. Meade, future Union general who defeated General Lee at Gettysburg. (2010)
- Found and Identified a sunken Civil War era 140'- long Confederate gunboat (1971)
- Participated in the recovery and reassembly of the 1853 Cape Hatteras Lighthouse Fresnel lens for display (2005)
- Proved that the pedestal of the 1853 Cape Hatteras Lighthouse lens displayed at the Crystal Palace, which is the oldest surviving American pedestal known to exist, is currently at the top of the Pigeon Point Lighthouse in California (2014)
- Solved a Civil War mystery that eluded others for over 140 years involving the missing 1854 Cape Hatteras Lighthouse Fresnel lens, once described by "Lighthouse Digest" as one of the great unsolved mysteries of American lighthouse history. Located the lens that had been lost since the Civil War. (2002)
- Successfully petitioned the Cape Hatteras National Seashore to allow the removal from the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse of the 1870 cast-iron pedestal so that it could be reunited with its lens for the premier exhibit at the Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum (2006)
- Won a Superior Court lawsuit, on behalf of the next of kin, to establish the rightful ownership and reburial of the mortal remains of a pirate who had once served alongside Black Beard. The former pirate found redemption and helped to build the oldest standing church, circa 1735, in NC (still in use). (2010)

#### VOCATIONS AND AVOCATIONS

- Certified scuba diver and sailor
- Broadcast TV Director/Executive Producer
- Executive Producer of statewide television coverage of NC's Quadricentennial (1984-1987)
- Independent Writer, Photograph, Publisher
- Maritime Research Historian
- Owner of Looking Glass Productions, Inc. (1989 – present)

#### AWARDS AND HONORS RECEIVED

- Best Documentary Award from the Radio and TV News Directors of the Carolinas for footage of NC's lighthouses – credited with the formation of the "Save Cape Hatteras Lighthouse Committee," led by Governor Jim Hunt and Senator Jesse Helms and endorsed by President Reagan (1979-1981)

- Board chair of the Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum at Hatteras, NC – participated in the recovery and reassembly of the 1853 Cape Hatteras Lighthouse Fresnel lens for display (2005-2006)
- Edward R. Murrow Award - Executive Producer for “Save Our Sounds”
- George Foster Peabody Award – Co-Producer of “Fed Up with Fear” documentary
- Harlan Joel Gradin Award for Excellence in the Public Humanities (2013)
- NC Society of Historians – Book Award for *War Zone – WWII off the North Carolina Coast* (2013)
- NC Society of Historians – Book Award for *The Lost Light – a Civil War Mystery* - 2014
- NC Society of Historians– Historian of the Year Award (2014)
- NC’s Quadricentennial – Executive producer of statewide television coverage (1984-1987)
- National Education Association Award
- National Lighthouse Research Award from the National Lighthouse Museum at Staten Island, New York (1920)
- Ocracoke’s Annual Blackbeard Memorial Service - Founding organizer (2008 - present)
- World Hunger Media Award presented at the United Nations for documentary about drought, hunger, and poverty in Tanzania, East Africa (1985)