



THE OLD BALDY FOUNDATION, INC. And Smith Island Museum of History

March 28th 2018

The Old Baldy Foundation is pleased to announce and welcome Travis Gilbert to our staff as the new Programs and Operations Coordinator. In this role Travis will be leading our historic tour program, developing and curating The Smith Island Museum of History, managing large group visits and school field trips. After a momentous year celebrating 200 years of The Old Baldy Lighthouse along with the growing work and projects of the Old Baldy Foundation, it was time to develop a full time position dedicated to preserving and educating the important maritime history of The Old Baldy Lighthouse and Bald Head Island.

Travis Gilbert comes to The Old Baldy Foundation after serving as the manager of the historic Latimer House Museum for The Lower Cape Fear Historical Society. Travis was an integral part of curating rotating museum exhibits and tour programs for the Latimer House Museum. After receiving his Bachelor of Arts in History from Hood College in Fredrick Maryland, Travis is currently working towards his Master of Arts in Museum Studies from Johns Hopkins University. During his studies Travis was particularly drawn to history from the 19th century in the American South which led him to settle in Wilmington, North Carolina.

"This island is an integral part of our state's cultural heritage. It will be my honor to interpret Bald Head Island's rich history by sharing the story of North Carolina's oldest lighthouse and helping preserve her beauty for generations to come," Travis shares about his new role.

The Old Baldy Foundation is eager for the knowledge, expertise and passion that Travis will bring to this position. Not only does Travis possess the professional traits this role required, he is actively involved in the history community of the area serving in various leadership positions. He serves on the Board of Directors for the North Carolina Museums Council and Thalian Hall Center for Performing Arts along with has volunteered for the Historic Wilmington Foundation, Residents of Old Wilmington and the USS Battleship North Carolina.

Travis joins the Old Baldy Foundation at an opportune time as the second new full time staff member in the past year, as the Foundation is seeing higher numbers of visitors and the tourism draw of the area continues to grow. The Old Baldy Foundation is beginning an important time in the organization's history as many opportunities to develop further contributions to the community, including new programs, exhibits and eventually a larger museum building are in the near future. The addition of Travis to our team will allow the Foundation to grow to fit the needs of the thriving community.