



My Life
Robert E. Harrill
"The Fort Fisher Hermit"

The true story has never been told about Robert Harrill, who at age 62, when most others have lived out their lives, started over again. Mr. Harrill never considered himself a success in life until he decided to leave everything he knew behind and live alone with nature.

In his new life of absolute independence, through violent extremes of nature, continuous harassment from government officials, law enforcement officers, rednecks, and other hoodlums, he found an incredible inner-strength and spirituality. On a tiny strip of land between the Cape Fear River and Atlantic Ocean, he taught the thousands that walked down the long sandy road to his home about the crooked politicians, robber barons, greedy millionaires, corrupt law enforcement officers, prostitutes, tyrants, and the need for "Common Sense".

In the 17 years he lived alone, he survived by his wits and from donations from his friends. Twenty three years after his death, he is still fondly remembered by most who knew him...others still search for his hidden money and share a horrible secret.

This is his story, compiled from dozens of interviews and letters from friends and family, hundreds of personal letters and musings, and countless newspaper and magazine articles from East Carolina University's Department of History and Archives.

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