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# The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

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## The *RUNNER*

### Newsletter of The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Editor **Bob Cooke**

January 2009

Our next meeting will be 08 January 2009



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Our speaker for the New Year (January) will be **Tom Belton**, who will guide us (via a slide presentation) through the vast Alfred May Collection. May, who enlisted from Pitt County, served with the 61st North Carolina and at war's end brought home all his accoutrements. Donated by descendants of May to the N.C. Museum of History, this collection "makes up the biggest collection of artifacts associated with a N.C. enlisted soldier (and perhaps from any southern state.)" Mr. Belton is the president of the North Carolina Military History Society.

Tom is a native of Mt. Airy, NC. and attended public schools in Raleigh. He has a BA and MA in American History from NCSU. He has worked at the NC Museum of History for the past 30 years as curator of military history. He has a special interest in the museum's Confederate flag collection, which is the second largest in the South.



### **Reminder!**

Committee member - Dan Geddie

An evening with Wade Hampton

Date: February 12, 2009

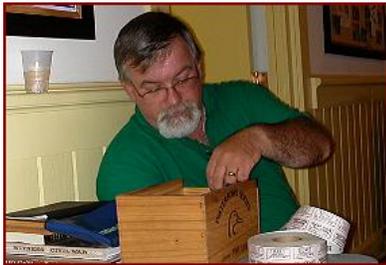
Place: **Cape Fear Club** 206 Chestnut St Wilmington, NC



Time: 6:30 pm

This meeting will take place in historic downtown Wilmington, and the cost for dinner will be **\$27.00**. Please send all payments to the Round Table PO box: **CFCWRT PO Box 15750 Wilmington, NC 28408**

If you have any questions, please contact **Dan Geddie** : Work: **(910) 962-3144** Home: **(910) 799-5338**

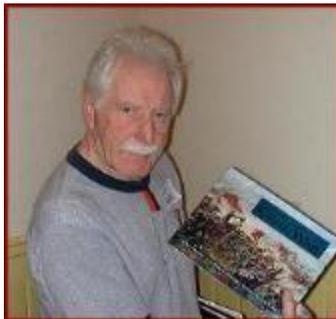


## Raffle Winners

Committee member - Ed Gibson

Civil War Print- **Jack McGarrie** *Scouts and Spies*- **Gary Maxwell**  
Civil War Map- **Bill Henderson** Civil War Jigsaw Puzzle- **Palmer**  
Royal CFCWRT Cap- **Ed Gibson** *Chattanooga*- **Sid Bowman**

*Witness to the Civil War*- **Gary Henderson**



**Grand Prize- Don Troiani's Civil War**  
**Gary Maxwell**





**Al Denn**



What an excellent choice for a "change of pace" meeting we had in December! Al Denn enlightened us to medicine, surgery and surgeons in America's "first civil war." It was quite apparent that not much had changed, at least in medical advances, between the Revolutionary War and the Civil War. General anesthesia (laudanum) had been found to be quite useful in operations during the Civil War, but before that, patients had to be restrained or plied with alcohol to ease their plight. As Al pointed out, many times during the Civil War, anesthesia was unavailable to surgeons and older methods had to be employed.

After a quick recap of medicinal advances throughout the ages, from the ancient healers who successfully performed "trepanning" (drilling a hole in the skull to relieve the pressure from head injuries) to the Greeks and Romans, Al brought us right into the world of 18th century medicine. By the 1700's practitioners used several forms of treatment including "scientific methods", folk lore, home remedies and Indian cures. One of the major problems at that time was a lack of shared knowledge between physicians, surgeons and even apothecaries. The physician, he explained, was usually of the gentlemanly class, who practiced among the gentry. The surgeon was the common folks' caregiver while the apothecary, who, of necessity had to be skilled in botany, gathered his herbs on his wanderings through the woods.

Al talked about hospitals- "Don't go there!" was the attitude of many patients. Indeed, with a 75% death rate, hospitals of the 18th century (quite basic) were to be avoided at all costs. Surgery was "very rudimentary and superficial", limited to the removal of tumors, amputations and the removal of bullets. One of the qualifications of a doctor was to be able to perform an amputation in three minutes or less. There were epidemics to fight, small pox, typhus, typhoid fever, yellow fever, diphtheria, dengue fever, malaria as well as the common cold and influenza, all plagued the colonist (as well as the Civil War soldier.)

Together with his slide presentation and his display of medical instruments, (which included very primitive dental tools) Mr. Denn's talk was most enjoyable and enlightening. Many attendees

were most thankful he did not ask for volunteers to show how some of those instruments (or leeches) were used!

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## For Sale

In conjunction with member **Lance Bevins**, Bruce Patterson can now offer Don Troiani's (Civil War) masterful book of Civil War prints for sale at our meetings. We have purchased several copies of the work which normally retails for \$50 and are offering the work at the special (post-Christmas) price of \$25

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## We Hardly Knew You, Ed.

It is with profound sadness we report the death of one of our long-time members, **Mr. Edward B. Russ, Jr.** Although in ill health recently, Ed attended a meeting not long ago and seemed to be on the road to full recovery. He passed away on December 19th at the age of sixty-two. A Vietnam veteran who served fourteen years in the Air Force, he had worked at Wal-Mart as a greeter (the perfect job for him, many would agree). Ed was an avid Civil War buff who went on nearly every spring trip and very rarely missed a meeting.

He will be sorely missed by our group. After a family service held at the home, at which several members of our RT were present, Ed's ashes were scattered at dawn over the grounds of Fort Fisher.

In memory of Ed Russ, an honorarium was made to the Round Table. Many thanks to the donor who wishes to remain anonymous.

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We would like to also make note of the passing of yet another member, **Tom Carr**, who died on October 28th. Tom, another Civil War enthusiast, was also a WWII veteran and will be interred in Arlington Cemetery.

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