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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**

February 2010

Our next meeting will be Thursday 11 March 2010 at St. Andrew's On-the-Sound (Airlie Rd.) Social Hour at 6:30 p.m., meeting at 7:30 p.m.



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Please join us on 11 March at St. Andrew's On-the-Sound to hear Jack M. Travis discuss "**Artillery at Gettysburg**"

. Colonel "Black Jack" Travis, a member of our RT, specializes in muzzle-loading artillery. "A Confederate reenactor since 1990, Jack was appointed Chief of Artillery for Longstreet's Corp in 1997. Jack, who was raised in South Florida (from which state he returned in 2005), graduated from Miami Jackson High School, attended Colorado State University and graduated from Lakeland College with a BS in Business Administration and a minor in history. He worked in pharmaceutical sales and later owned and operated Action Orthopedics in Raleigh.

Jack has authored the definitive work on Major James E. Reilly and the Rowan Artillery (later commanded by Captain John A. Ramsey) in *Men of God, Angels of Death*. Jack has also organized many memorials and remembrances including: Major James Reilly at Oakdale Cemetery; Captain John Ramsey at Salisbury; Colonel Edward Willis at Hollywood Cemetery (Richmond, Va.) and General E. Porter Alexander at Magnolia Cemetery (Augusta, Ga.). Likewise, too numerous to mention are the many services Black Jack has provided to the UDC and SCV on Confederate Memorial Day, Flag Day and Lee-Jackson Birthday services. Colonel Travis is also a member of the Raleigh Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution and is past president of the Wake Forest Rotary Club.

**Raffle Winners**

*Battles and Leaders*- Dale Lear  
*The Blockade Runner Modern Greece and Her Cargo*- Bob Cooke  
*Lee Vs. McClellan*- John Winecoff  
*Southern Lady, Yankee Spy*- John Noll  
*Appomattox Court House*- Bruce Patterson  
CWPT Calendar- John Moore  
*Cloudsplitter*- Jim Worden  
Print of the Battle of Five Forks, Va. (Grand Prize)- John Winecoff

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### "Seek Out Fort Fisher's Distant Answering Gleams"

(From James Sprunt's [\*Chronicles of the Cape Fear River\*](#))

At our February dinner meeting held at UNCW's Madeline Suite, author **James "Larry" Walker** entertained us with stories not only of his family, but of what life was like at Fort Fisher during the war. He noted early on that his book, ***Rebel Gibraltar: Fort Fisher and Wilmington, C.S.A.*** was meant to complement other studies done on Fort Fisher and Wilmington and he emphasized the importance of Wilmington (and hence the fort) to the war effort. He peppered his talk with stories of Joe King, Daisy Lamb and "Uncle John" Beasley. Larry's ancestor, (Joe King) a teenager during the war wrote his reminiscences in 1926 and remembered passing through town during the deadly yellow fever epidemic of 1862. He vividly recalled seeing the death carts as they hauled the victims to Oakdale Cemetery for interment.

Larry spoke to us about the importance of blockade running, with a description of several of the runners: the *Modern Greece*, the battle over the *Kate* and the saga of the *Fannie and Jennie*- perhaps that gold sword meant for General R.E. Lee and carried by the ship is still buried in the sands along the beach!

Larry noted that he made a very fortunate purchase of a book (**Thomas Taylor's *Running the Blockade***) because it had belonged to **Colonel William Lamb**. He discovered that officer's handwriting in the flyleaf as well as a picture of Daisy Lamb. That book, donated by Mr. Walker, now graces the display cabinet at **Fort Fisher**. Kudos to Larry Walker for that generous gift!

