



The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

The *RUNNER*

Newsletter of The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Editor **Tim Winstead**

May 2011

Our next meeting will be Thursday, 12 May 2011 at St. Andrew's On-the-Sound (Airlie Road). Social Hour at 6:30 p.m., meeting at 7:30.



We invite and welcome all people with an interest in American history to attend a meeting of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table. The speakers for our programs are diverse in their views, interpretations, and presentations.

******* May Program *******

The May program represents the last meeting of the 2010 – 2011 Cape Fear Civil War Round Table program year. The 2011 – 2012 program year begins in September. Consider inviting people who you think may enjoy learning about a fascinating period in our nation's history.

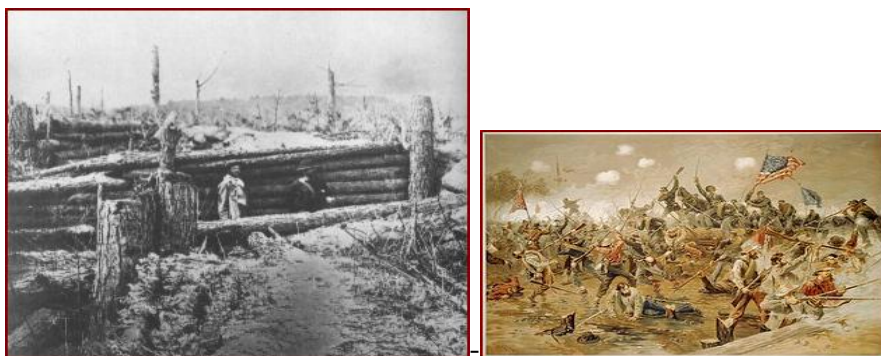
Major General Bryan Grimes – The Making of a Volunteer Officer



Dr. Michael Coffey will present a focused look at the sometimes painful transition from civilian to military officer of North Carolina native, Bryan Grimes.

A planter from Pitt County, Grimes was a patriotic, but hot-tempered man, who evolved from civilian status of privilege to become the last officer in the Army of Northern Virginia to become a Major General. Mike especially examined Grimes's career as colonel of the 4th North Carolina during the first years of the war. As the war continued, Grimes became an effective and dependable battlefield commander. His actions on the battlefield led to his receiving numerous wounds as he ignored personal safety to encourage his men to strike at the enemy. At the Bloody Angle at Spotsylvania on May 12, 1864, Grimes's brigade was credited with actions that saved the army from destruction.

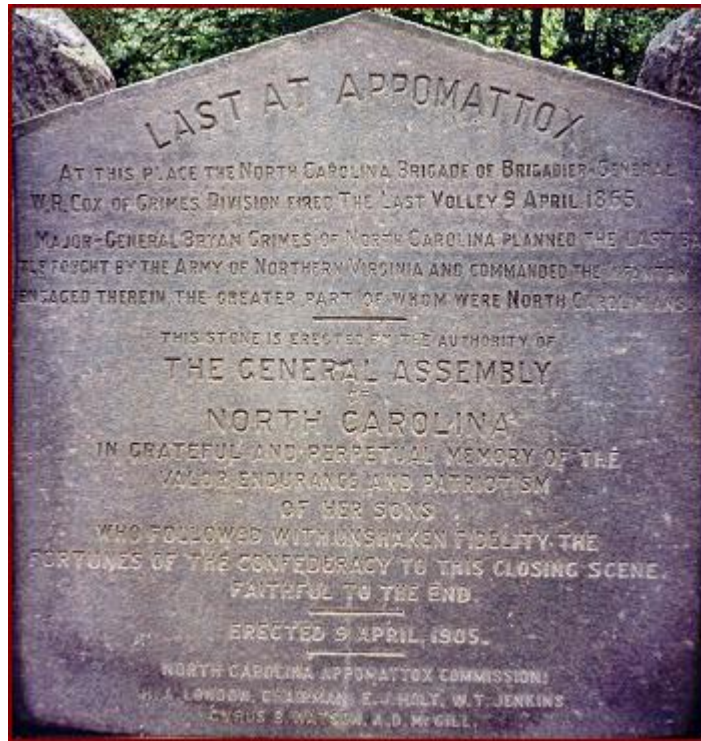
NOTE: At our February meeting, Waite Rawls, CEO of the Museum of the Confederacy, spoke of Grimes's scabbard & belt buckle that are included in the MOC collection. During a charge led by Grimes, a ball embedded in his sword belt and scabbard. Grimes had several horses shot from under him, received many wounds throughout the war; however, he survived the war with few permanent injuries from these wounds.



Bloody Angle, May 12, 1864

His attention to duty, as he saw it, often put Grimes at odds with officers of less strong convictions. Grimes's ambition and pride often led him to challenge the correctness of the promotion of men who he saw as less courageous and deserving than himself.

Join us on May 12 and learn more about a non-professional officer who led the last Confederate offensive action at Appomattox on April 9, 1865. Think of Grimes as a "polished" version of Nathan Bedford Forrest. If you enjoy hearing about real characters, be sure to attend Mike Coffey's presentation.



NORTH CAROLINA TROOPS PAROLED
AT
APPOMATTOX

BRIGADES			
COX'S	572	LANE'S	570
GRIMES	530	SCALES	719
JOHNSTON'S	463	RANSOM'S	435
LEWIS	447	BARRINGERS	23
COOKE'S	560	ROBERTS	93
MAGRAE'S	442		
MAJOR GENERAL GRIMES AND STAFF			8
CUMMINGS, MILLERS, WILLIAMS, FLANNERS AND RAMSAY'S BATTERIES			150
TOTAL NORTH CAROLINIANS PAROLED			5,012

Last at Appomattox

Dr. Michael Coffey, assistant-editor of *North Carolina Troops 1861 – 1865: A Roster*, graduated from NCSU with a Business Management degree. Mike returned to school to pursue the study of history. He received a BA from Lenoir-Rhyne, a MA from UNC-Greensboro, and a PhD from the University of Southern Mississippi. Mike joined the Historical Publications Section at the North Carolina Office of Archives and History in 2004.



Mike Coffey - - - North Carolina Troops

Mike has worked on Volume XVI – Thomas’s Legion, Volume XVII – Junior Reserves, and the just published Volume XVIII – Senior Reserves and Detailed Men. When complete, *The Roster* will consist of twenty-two volumes with information on approximately 125,000 military personnel.

Editor

******* CFCWRT Spring Tour *****
Cape Fear Civil War Round Table Spring 2011 Battlefield Tour
of the Guilford Courthouse National Park**



On a cold and gray day, **Josh Howard** led a stalwart group of history buffs on a tour of the Guilford Courthouse National Battlefield. The actions taken on this battlefield did much to determine the fate of the United States. The men of the Continental Line and Militia who fought here did so to create a harmonious union. Alexander Stuart, Joseph Eggleston, and Henry Lee fought to create a nation. The sons and grandsons of those men would be faced with their own decision about whether to remain in a disharmonious union or create a new nation. J.E.B. Stuart, Joseph Eggleston Johnston, and Robert E. Lee fought to create another new nation, but only after rejecting the dreams of their forefathers.



Josh gave the details of this battle from both the British and Patriot viewpoint. The myths that have surrounded some of the actions during the battle were dispelled by the careful study of diaries, letters, pension applications, and battle reports. The actions of the North Carolina Militia on the first line; the Cornwallis order to fire artillery into his own soldiers; the Light Horse Harry Lee battle report – all were retold after the benefit of careful examination of multiple sources that sought to overlay British and Patriot actions.

Lawrence Babits and Josh's book, *Long, Obstinate, and Bloody: The Battle of Guilford Courthouse*, came alive through Josh's battlefield presentation.

Special thanks are due to **Dale Lear** for his continuous efforts to organize the Spring Tour. The Tour Guy comes through again!

As we move forward into the Sesquicentennial, we will transition from studying the causes and early history of the growing regional conflicts into the military conflict that began on April 12, 1861. Hopefully, future tours will allow us to visit additional sites where our history was shaped.

Editor

******* Raffle Winners *******

The South Was Right – Warner Batson

The Sword of Lincoln – Dick Covell

A Great Civil War - Jim Worden

Cold Mountain – Bill Carshaw

Civil War Blunders – Tim Barton

Nashville 1864 – Ed Gibson

Ed Gibson

******* Trivia Questions May 2011 *******

1 – **Bryan Grimes** was elected as a delegate to the North Carolina Secession Convention. On May 20, 1861, Grimes was one of those who signed the Ordinance of Secession that led to North Carolina's departure from the Union. Grimes resigned his political position to volunteer his services in the

Confederate Army. Governor John W. Ellis offered Grimes two appointment at unit command rank. What course did Bryan Grimes follow in regards to his position?

2 – Grimes commanded and led the last attack of the Army of Northern Virginia on April 9, 1865. The attack to open a path through the closing Union ring was initially successful; however, Grimes pulled back to his original line. What action caused the cessation of Grimes' attack?

3 – Bryan Grimes survived the war and returned to his plantation, Grimesland, in Pitt County. He rebuilt his shattered finances and raised a large family. What was Major General Bryan Grimes's fate?

4 – In August 1863, John Taylor Wood led a raid that seized and then used the captured Union ships, *Satellite* and *Reliance* against their former owners. What Union cavalry commander devised a plan to capture the Confederate raiders between the Union Navy and Army? How did that work out? For what was this Union officer more widely known?

5 – The blockade running from Bermuda, Nassau, and **Halifax** had made many British merchants, as well as, captains and crews quiet wealthy. The British officials in these ports were willing to look the other way concerning Queen Victoria's proclamation of neutrality. What event in December 1863 could have contributed to the "cool" reception Wood and the *Tallahassee* received from the authorities in Halifax?

6 – After the war, Wood located to Halifax and ran a maritime business (initially with Confederate Navy Captain John Wilkinson). Wood lived there until his death in 1904 having seldom returned to the United States except to attend functions given by Confederate veteran groups.

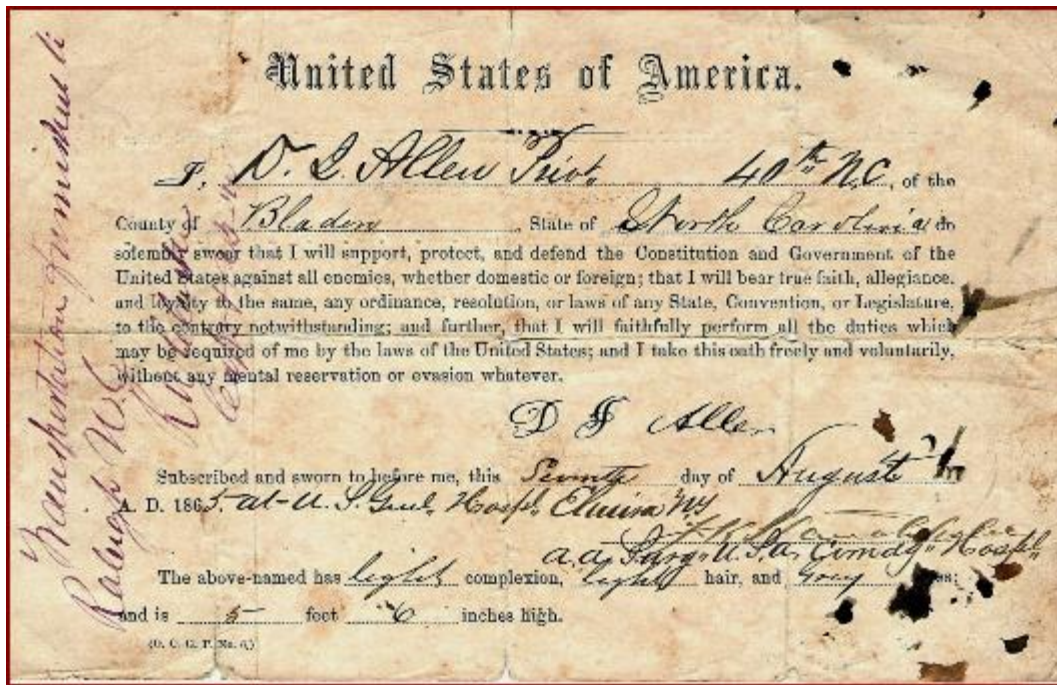
- Was Wood a Canadian citizen at the time of his death?
- Was Wood present at the reburial of Jefferson Davis in Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond on May 31, 1893? –
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***** **Member News** *****

If you have member news that you think would be of interest to CFCWRT membership, let me know about it.

1 – The **CFCWRT** would like to welcome new member **Wilfrid Florence**. Wilfrid had worked for GE and came south from Schenectady, NY.

2- Richard Triebe, author of *Fort Fisher to Elmira: The Fatal Journey of 518 Confederate Prisoners*, forwarded a copy of the Oath of Allegiance of Daniel J. Allen of the 40th North Carolina. Allen's great grandson, Daniel L. Grimsley, submitted the copy after seeing Rich's latest book.



3 – LAST CHANCE: See **Ed Gibson** to purchase your raffle ticket(s) for the framed Civil War print that was on display at the February dinner meeting. Ron Lesser's painting of Stonewall Jackson's "Final Assault" at Chancellorsville is ready for hanging on **your** wall. The lucky winner, whose name will be drawn at the May meeting, will receive a great addition to their Civil War prints for only \$5.

4 – See **Dale Lear** to order a denim shirt or tan hat with the CFCWRT logo. The shirts are available in short or long sleeves with button down collars and left pocket. The shirts are \$20 and the hats are \$10.

5 – While attending the CAA Basketball tournament in Richmond, **Joe George** visited the grave site of his great-great-grandfather who had died during the Civil War. Joe's research uncovered this site that had not previously been known by members of his family. **Jesse George**, Private in Company G, 9th Florida Infantry, enlisted on August 14, 1863 in Archer, Florida. Jesse died of disease in Howard's Grove Hospital, Richmond on or about August 15, 1864. Jesse and greater than 16,000 other Confederate soldiers lie buried in the Oakwood Cemetery.

6 – Rich Triebe will be the speaker at the UDC Cape Fear Chapter 3 and SCV George Davis Camp 5 Annual Memorial Day Service on May 1, 2011. The service will be at Oakdale Cemetery at 3:00P.

***** Great Civil War Quotes *****

Unable to Take Richmond:

Abraham Lincoln once asked General (Winfield) Scott this question: "Why is it that you were once able to take Mexico City in three months with five thousand men, and we have been unable to take Richmond with one hundred thousand men?"

"I will tell you," said General Scott. "The men who took us into Mexico City are the same men who are keeping us out of Richmond."

Confederate Veteran Magazine, September 1913, page 471.

Lance Bevins

***** Sesquicentennial Commemoration *****

During the year leading up to April 12, 1861, many men in the North and South acted upon their convictions. Congressmen **Charles H. Van Wyck** and **John A. Gilmer** stood out for their courage to speak out upon their convictions.



Charles Henry Wyck

Wyck, a New York representative, spoke out and defended his views about the evils of slavery. On March 7, 1860, Wyck addressed the House and delivered a blistering attack against slavery and what Wyck saw as treasonable actions of his Southern colleagues. Violent reaction by Reuben Davis of Mississippi almost led to a challenge of a duel. Physical violence on the floor of the House came to be expected.

On the night of February 22, 1861, Wyck was attacked by three armed men who intended to kill him. The mild mannered congressman responded to his attackers by fighting back and striking one of his knife-wielding assailants. Wyck's aggressive behavior gained him his life as his confused attackers retreated.

Wyck recovered from his wounds and true to his support for the Union volunteered for service in the army. Wyck served as colonel of the 56th New York Infantry until the end of the war.



John Adams Gilmer

Gilmer, a North Carolina representative from Guilford County, served in the 36th Congress during the crisis that led up to April 12, 1861. As a Unionist, Gilmer worked during this period to find a solution to what he saw as a coming conflict. He wrote a series of four letters to the new Secretary of State, William Seward. Gilmer suggested that the only way to give Unionists in the South time to counter the fire-eaters was to avoid conflict over Forts Sumter and Pickens. He reasoned that if Lincoln gave up the "indefensible" sites, the main cause of escalating tension would be relieved.

Seward leaked word that abandoning the forts was a position Lincoln considered. Seward gambled that Gilmer's suggestion would be agreeable to Lincoln's quest for peace. Pro-Unionists in the South were encouraged; however, Lincoln failed to support action that did not "hold, occupy, and possess" these forts.

Gilmer declined an offer to become a member of Lincoln's cabinet. He wrote to Seward on April 12, 1861 and bemoaned that Lincoln's actions would drive all Southern States into session. Gilmer resigned himself to his state's position for he became a member of the Confederate Congress.

Sources for this passage included *New York Times* "Opinionator" articles by Adam Goodheart (March 16, 2011) and Daniel W. Crofts (March 11, 2011) and other internet articles.

Editor

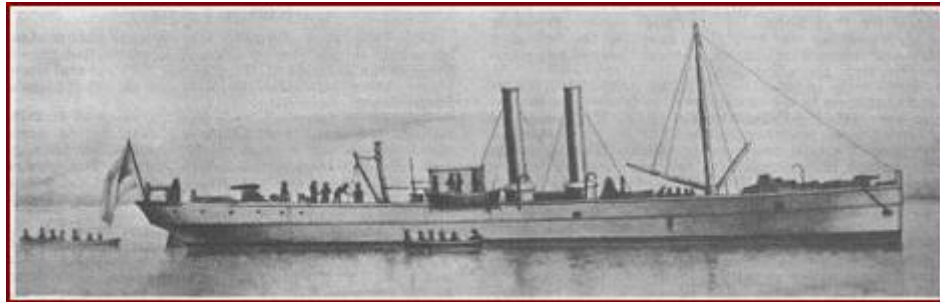
******* April Meeting *******

John Taylor Wood - Bold Raider

Tim Winstead presented a life story of Confederate Navy and Cavalry officer, John Taylor Wood. As grandson of U.S. President Zachary Taylor and nephew of C.S.A. President Jefferson Davis, Wood was uniquely positioned to witness events leading up to the beginning of the war and to take part in many pivotal events during the war.



Was John Taylor Wood the Forrest Gump of his day? Was it mere chance that Wood was at Hampton Roads on March 9, 1862, at Drewry's Bluff on May 15, 1862, aboard the USS *Satellite* in August 1863, aboard the USS *Underwriter* at New Berne in February 1864, aboard the CSS *Tallahassee* in August 1864, or with Jefferson Davis on the "unfortunate day" in Georgia on May 10, 1865? Tim answered these questions and more about this fascinating individual.



C.S.S. Virginia vs. U.S.S. Monitor

C.S.S. Tallahassee

At a meeting in Rose Hill, NC on November 16, 2009, Tim had opportunity to ask Edwin Bearss about John Taylor Wood. Bearss, preeminent Civil War authority, shared that he thought Wood was, "A good, honorable man; good 2nd tier officer didn't hurt to be Jefferson Davis's nephew....."

I think that Wood would have simply thought of himself as:

John Taylor Wood: Man of Action: Man of Honor

NOTE: If you are interested in reading more about Wood, go to the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table website and search in Archives/Articles. This article lists many sources for further reading.

Editor

******* Comments and Suggestions *******

Comments and suggestions to make the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table and "The Runner" more relevant to your Civil War experience are welcomed. Send them to me at tpwinstead@gmail.com. Please include "CFCWRT News" in your Subject line.

******* Trivia Question Answers May 2011 *******

1 - **Bryan Grimes was elected as a delegate to the North Carolina Secession Convention. On May 20, 1861, Grimes was one of those who signed the Ordinance of Secession that led to North Carolina's departure from the Union. Grimes resigned his political position to volunteer his services in the Confederate Army. Governor John W. Ellis offered Grimes two appointment at unit command rank. What course did Bryan Grimes follow in regards to his position? Although Grimes was a proud &**

ambitious man, he accepted the fact that he had little military training and needed to learn from an experienced officer. Grimes accepted the rank of major in the 4th Regiment of North Carolina Troops under Colonel George Burgwyn Anderson, United States Military Academy, Class of 1852.

Anderson was the experienced officer who would teach the skills Grimes needed for future advancement. Anderson became the Brigadier General of the 2nd, 4th, 14th, and 20th regiments during June 1862. NOTE: Anderson would die of wounds received at Antietam and Fort Anderson (Brunswick Town) would be named in his honor.

2 - **Grimes commanded the last attack of the Army of Northern Virginia on April 9, 1865. The attack to open a path through the closing Union ring was initially successful; however, Grimes pulled back to his original line. What action caused the cessation of Grimes' attack?** Commander of the 2nd Corps, John B. Gordon, informed Grimes that Lee had agreed to surrender the army. It was over.

Grimes recorded the events of that morning in letters written to his wife.

As my troops approached their position of the morning, I rode up to General Gordon and asked where I should form line of battle. He replied, "Anywhere you choose." Struck by the strangeness of the reply, I asked an explanation, whereupon he informed me that we would be surrendered. I expressed very forcibly my dissent to being surrendered, and indignantly upbraided him for not giving me notice of such intention, as I could have escaped with my Division and joined Gen. Joe Johnston, then in North Carolina. Furthermore, that I should then inform my men of the purpose to surrender, and that whomsoever desired to escape that calamity could go with me, and galloped off to carry this idea into effect. Before reaching my troops, however, General Gordon overtook me, and placing his hand on my shoulder, asked me if I were going to desert the army, and tarnish my own honor as a soldier; that it would be a reflection upon General Lee, and an indelible disgrace to me, that I, an officer of rank, should escape under a flag of truce, which was then pending. I was in a dilemma, and knew not what to do, but finally concluded to say nothing on the subject to my troops.

Upon reaching them, one of the soldiers inquired if General Lee had surrendered, and upon answering I feared it was a fact that we had been surrendered, he cast away his musket, and holding his hands aloft, cried in an agonized voice, "Blow, Gabriel, blow! My God, let him blow, I am ready to die!" We then went beyond the creek at Appomattox Court House, stacked arms amid the bitter tears of bronzed veterans regretting the necessity of capitulation.

Bryan Grimes, *Extract of Letters of Major-Gen'l Bryan Grimes to his Wife*. Ed. Pulaski Cowper (Raleigh, NC: Edwards, Broughton & Co, 1883), 121-122.

3 - **Bryan Grimes survived the war and returned to his plantation, Grimesland, in Pitt County. He rebuilt his shattered finances and raised a large family. What was Major General Bryan Grimes's fate?** Grimes lived at "Grimesland" with his second wife, Charlotte Emily Bryan, and his children until he was killed in August 1880. While returning for a political convention in neighboring Beaufort County, Grimes was murdered by a hired assassin near Bear Creek, only about five miles from Grimesland. The murder was planned to prevent him from testifying in a court case. At the time of his death, Bryan Grimes was a trustee for the University of North Carolina and was respected throughout the state. Source:

4 - **In August 1863, John Taylor Wood led a raid that seized and then used the captured Union ships, Satellite and Reliance against their former owners. What Union cavalry commander devised a plan to**

capture the Confederate raiders between the Union Navy and Army? How did that work out? For what was this Union officer more widely known?

Judson Kilpatrick's "Gunboat Expedition" had all the plans to catch Wood between a vise of army and navy units. The plan did not work out exactly as Kilpatrick had hoped. Unlike the crews of the Union ships that Wood captured, the Confederates were attentive to the security of their mission. Wood and his men were able to strip the captured ships and transport engines, guns, etc. to Richmond ahead of the Union raid.



Judson Kilpatrick

Kilpatrick was probably best remembered for his "Shirt-tailed Skedaddle" to escape Wade Hampton and Joe Wheeler's attack at Monroe's Crossroads, NC in March 1865. Kilpatrick, as was his custom, sought the comfort of a female companion rather than ensuring that pickets were placed to avoid surprise attacks. NOTE: To be fair, Kilpatrick did rally his men and drive off his attackers – all while wearing only his nightshirt.

5 - The blockade running from Bermuda, Nassau, and **Halifax** had made many British merchants, as well as, captains and crews quiet wealthy. The British officials in these ports were willing to look the other way concerning Queen Victoria's proclamation of neutrality. What event in December 1863 could have contributed to the "cool" reception Wood and the commerce raider *Tallahassee* received from the authorities in Halifax? In December 1863, "Colonel" John C. Braine and a group of Southern conspirators seized the steamer *Chesapeake* off Long Island. Braine and his men proceeded to destroy passenger and merchant ships along the New England coast. Braine and the *Chesapeake* made good their escape to Halifax, Nova Scotia. The United States put pressure on the British government to extradite the pirates back to the United States. Braine escaped but the crew was tried before a Maritime Court – they were found not guilty.

The United States Consul, Mortimer Jackson, and the United States Government kept pressure on the officials in Halifax to follow the Queen's neutrality proclamation. This continued pressure could have been the demise of the "Wink & Nod" that had been in effect before the *Tallahassee* arrived in August

1864. The blockade runners and their wealth creation abilities were one thing; the appearance of Confederate raiders and United States warships were something else again.

While blockade runner may have continued their economic game, Confederate raiders and United States war ships were going to follow the rules as laid down in the following order. Source: <http://ns1763.ca/hfxrm/woodtaylor.html>

Government House, 3rd October, 1864.
(amended order.)

Present:

His Excellency Sir Richard Graves MacDonnell, C.B., Lieut. Governor, &c., &c.

The Honorable Charles Tapper Provincial Secretary,

" John W. Ritchie, Solicitor General.

" James McNab, Receiver General.

" Isaac LeVeacote, financial Secretary

. " S. Leonard Shannon.

It is Ordered, That if any ship of war or privateer of the United States of America, or of the States calling themselves the Confederate States of America, shall come into the port of Halifax, or within the territorial jurisdiction of Her Majesty in the vicinity of the said port, every such vessel of war or privateer aforesaid, shall immediately come to anchor off the Naval Yard, unless prevented by stress of weather; and, in the latter event, shall be required to anchor as aforesaid, as soon as weather will permit. And further, it is ordered, that no such vessel, if desirous of communicating with the shore within the said port, shall be permitted to do so from the out side by boat—but shall come up to the anchor-age aforesaid for that purpose; and in that case, if she remain under weigh, will be permitted to leave the said port at her own convenience, any time before sunset, subject nevertheless to the restrictions of the Queen's orders of the 31st January, 1862.

Pilots and all other officers of the port are commanded (on boarding or hailing any such ship or privateer) to communicate the foregoing order to the Chief-officer on duty of every ship of war or privateer aforesaid.

[A true copy.]

(Signed) JAMES H. THORNE.

C. E. C.

6 - After the war, Wood located to Halifax and ran a maritime business (initially with Confederate Navy Captain John Wilkinson). Wood lived there until his death in 1904 having seldom returned to the United States except to attend functions given by Confederate veteran groups.



John Taylor Wood

Was Wood a Canadian citizen at the time of his death? No. Even though Wood was appointed to the Halifax Pilot Commission, he remained an American citizen and an unreconstructed Confederate. Source: <http://www.biographi.ca/009004-119.01-e.php?BioId=41274> **Was Wood present at the reburial of Jefferson Davis in Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond on May 31, 1893?** While unlikely, John Taylor Wood was probably not at Jefferson Davis's first burial in New Orleans in 1889. He was in Richmond, Virginia on May 31, 1893 when Davis was reburied with honors in Richmond. The *New York Times* reported on June 1, 1893, that Colonel Wood was among the honorary pall bearers in Richmond on May 31, 1893.

Ever conscious of duty and honor, Wood would have done what he considered correct to serve Jefferson Finis Davis.

