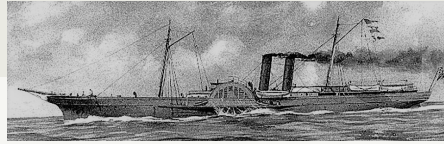




APRIL 2019

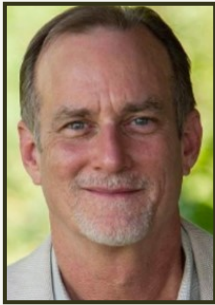
THE RUNNER



VOLUME 1 ISSUE 3

The Wilmington Campaign

Chris E. Fonvielle, Jr., Ph.D. Chris is professor emeritus of history at UNCW, a founding member and former president of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table. He is a Wilmington native and the premier historian of the Lower Cape Fear. He'll be speaking about "The Wilmington Campaign."



Ft. Fisher fell on January 15, 1865 but Union troops didn't enter the City of Wilmington until February 22, 1865. The Wilmington Campaign didn't end with the fall of the fort; it took five more weeks of fighting and maneuvering. This presentation will take place at the Cape Fear Museum at 814 Market St. See the map on page 2.

(Continued on page 2)

Second Guessing Ewell

With great energy and interactive audience participation, Chris Mackowski entertained and enlightened the Round Table about Lt. Gen. Richard Ewell, CSA, and his dilemma at the end of the first day of the Battle of Gettysburg.

"Back row stand up! You're Ewell and the II Corps coming in from the north, from Oak Hill. Front row stand up, you're the Union XI Corps north of Gettysburg on Barlow's Knob," Mackowski used the audience as props to explain the terrain and simulate the flanking movement aimed at the XI Corps. Standing at the end of the line, Gary Henderson recognized the flanking movement right away and noted "I don't like it!"



As two divisions of Ewell's veterans swept through the town and toward the hills to the south, it gave rise to one of the great "controversial 'ifs' of Gettysburg that have echoed down the years," in the words of James M. McPherson. Professor Mackowski opined that Ewell made a sound military judgment at the end of the day, July 1, 1863, and that "if" Stonewall Jackson had been there, he might very well have made the same decision.

Called "the most eccentric genius" in the Confederate Army, Ewell has been, however, second-guessed almost every day since that fateful summer evening. As Mackowski explained, the second-guessing took off during the "Battle of the Books" of the last half of the

(Continued on page 2)

NEXT PRESENTATION

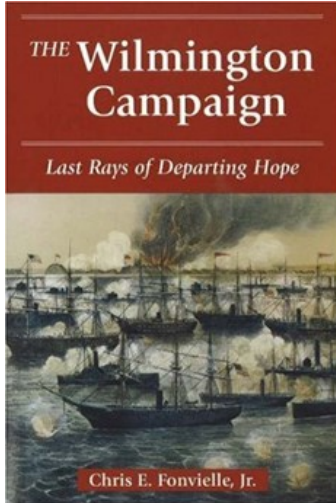
- ◆ Thursday, 04-11-19
- ◆ Speaker: Chris Fonvielle, Jr. Ph.D.
- ◆ 6:30 Social 7:00 Meeting
- ◆ Cape Fear Museum
814 Market St.
Williston Auditorium—
2nd Floor



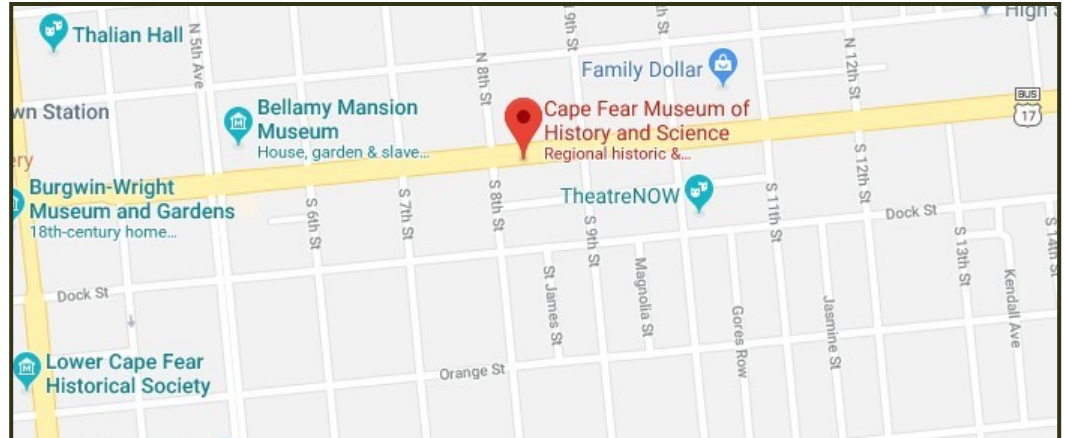
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The Wilmington Campaign - cont.



NOTE: This presentation will take place at the **Cape Fear Museum** at 814 Market St. Williston auditorium is on the second floor. Free parking is available in back of the museum and on the street in the surrounding area.



Second Guessing Ewell - cont.



CHRIS MACKOWSKI

19th Century as long-lived participants such as Lt. Gen. Jubal Early criticized Ewell for failing to push his disorganized corps up on to Cemetery Hill to withhold that commanding ground from the fast arriving Union army.

Recent commentary in the form of *The Killer Angels*, the 1974 Gettysburg novel by Michael Shaara, and “Gettysburg,” the 1993 movie, have reinforced the idea that Ewell lacked aggressiveness and missed a golden opportunity to win a great victory at Gettysburg, as his predecessor Lt. Gen. Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson had done at Chancellorsville two months earlier.

Professor Mackowski’s presentation helped us recall Ewell’s dilemma and its effect on the momentous battle.

Trivia Questions

1. Who said Lt. General Richard S. Ewell was “the oddest, most eccentric genius in the Confederate Army?”
2. Who Was Mrs. Brown?
3. Who played Major General Isaac Trimble in the Gettysburg movie?

Answers on Page 5

Cape Fear Civil War Round Table Spring Trip by Bruce Patterson

A van full of history buffs from the Wilmington Chapter, N C Military Historical Society and the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table departed Wilmington on a cold, wet, March Saturday morning headed west to the Alamance Battleground, the site of the **Battle of Alamance**, the battle that ended the *War of the Regulation* on 16 May 1771, some five years prior to the beginning of the *Revolutionary War*.



This was a pitched battle between British subjects: the Regulators who were farmers and tradesmen from Alamance Country who were protesting excessive taxes and corruption and the Militia of Governor Tryon also composed of North Carolinians from the eastern reaches of North Carolina. Rather than a revolution, this was something of an armed civil disturbance.

The battle over, the Regulators were beaten on the field and leaders were taken to Hillsborough to meet the hangman's noose.

For the majority of our group, this was a new and a most interesting aspect of North Carolina history but the day was far from over as we backtracked from Alamance to Durham Station, where we visited the **Bennett Place** State Historic Site.



BENNETT PLACE

The Bennett Farm just west of Durham, happens to be midway between the respective lines of Generals William Sherman and Joseph Johnston. They chose to meet there to “hammer out” the surrender terms that effectively ended the Civil War on 26 April, 1865. The site has been preserved as a monument to the formal ending of that great conflict.

The Visitors Center at Bennett Place also houses a very impressive gun collection, including a private collection of Spencer carbines that are worth the historian's attention.

The enthusiastic group returned to Wilmington where sunny skies and warmer temperatures prevailed, satisfied that we had spent a very interesting and delightful

day of historical significance in our Great North State.

Photo Credits: Joseph Hack



Member News

An Opinion by Dr. Chris Fonvielle on the "Silent Sam" Controversy

In the wake of the mid-2018 toppling of the "Silent Sam" statue at UNC-Chapel Hill, Dr. Chris Fonvielle, Jr., History Professor *emeritus*, UNC, Wilmington, has written an opinion in StarNews Online that can be accessed by clicking on the following link: [Historic Context Vital for Confederate Monuments](#).

CFCWRT Upcoming events

May Meeting: Brian Kraus - The Similarities in the Confederate Order of Battle at New Bern and Antietam. Brian is a noted historian and Civil War artist.

SUMMER SERIES

June Round Table Discussion: Discussion to be led by Bill Jayne on closing Charleston Harbor, including the Confederate defenses, the failures of Union joint operations and the defeats of the monitor attack on April 7, 1863 and the repulses of the Union army at Battery Wagner in July of 1863.

July tour: A weekend tour is being planned of Oakdale Cemetery. Details upcoming.

August Member Forum: Our August meeting will be an opportunity for 3 to 4 of our own Round Table members to share a short (5 to 15 minute) presentation on some aspect of the Civil War that they personally find interesting and that they feel would be of interest to the Round Table. This could be the story of an ancestor, something about a particular soldier or sailor, an event, an incident or anecdote, a little-known fact, or something about uniforms, equipment or technology. It could also be something involving local civil war sites or people.

The presentations should be factual, accurate, and, of general interest. If you elect to use a visual presentation, the usual computer and A/V equipment will be available.

Please contact [Jim Gannon](#) at 910-270 5534 if you would like to make a presentation.

NOTEWORTHY

EMERGING CIVIL WAR PODCASTS

Co-hosted by **Chris Mackowski** and a revolving cadre of ECW's contributors. The ECW

Podcast taps into an award-winning line-up of historians from a wide variety of backgrounds, with a wide variety of interests.

Two podcasts are released each month, exclusively on [Patreon](#). Each podcast is approximately a half-hour and available through different subscription levels.



Trivia Answers

1. Then Brigadier General John B. Gordon who served as commander of a brigade of Georgia troops in Early's Division, said that Ewell "had in many respects the most unique personality I have ever known. He was comprised of anomalies, the oddest, most eccentric genius in the Confederate Army." As an example of Ewell's eccentricities, his aide and stepson, Campbell Brown, told a story about Ewell stopping at a farmhouse for some buttermilk, when the lady of the house went to get the buttermilk, he picked up her scissors and began to cut his own hair. Only half-done when she returned, Ewell laid down the scissors, drank the milk, then rode off with the hair short on one side of his very bald head and untouched on the other.
2. Ewell was wounded at *Second Manassas* on August 28, 1862, a wound that resulted in the amputation of his right leg. He was nursed back to health by his cousin, Lizinka Campbell Brown, a widow. The two married on May 25, 1863, and Ewell often introduced her as "my wife Mrs. Brown." She was the daughter of a prominent Tennessean who served as a minister to Russia in the administration of President John Monroe. She was born in St. Petersburg, Russia.
3. English actor W. Morgan Sheppard (who died January 6, 2019) played General Trimble. Trimble, like Ewell, suffered a severe leg wound at Second Manassas in August 1862. Although he avoided amputation, his wound continued to limit him and on July 1, 1863, he was in a supernumerary role, meaning he had no command. In the *Southern Historical Society Papers* years after the battle, Trimble wrote about the end of the first day of battle at *Gettysburg*:

The battle was over and we had won it handsomely. General Ewell moved about uneasily, a good deal excited, and seemed to me to be undecided what to do next. I approached him and said: "Well, General, we have had a grand success; are you not going to follow it up and push our advantage?"

He replied that General Lee had instructed him not to bring on a general engagement without orders, and that he would wait for them.

I said, "That hardly applies to the present state of things, as we have fought a hard battle already, and should secure the advantage gained". He made no rejoinder, but was far from composure. I was deeply impressed with the conviction that it was a critical moment for us and made a remark to that effect.

As no movement seemed immediate, I rode off to our left, north of the town, to reconnoiter, and noticed conspicuously the wooded hill northeast of Gettysburg (Culp's), and a half mile distant, and of an elevation to command the country for miles each way, and overlooking Cemetery Hill above the town. Returning to see General Ewell, who was still under much embarrassment, I said, "General, There," pointing to Culp's Hill is an eminence of commanding position, and not now occu-

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(Continued on page 6)

**OBSERVERS HAVE
REPORTED THAT
THE “IMPATIENT RE-
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FOR IT.”**

Trivia Answers - cont.

pied, as it ought to be by us or the enemy soon. I advise you to send a brigade and hold it if we are to remain here.” He said: “Are you sure it commands the town?” [I replied,] “Certainly it does, as you can see, and it ought to be held by us at once.” General Ewell made some impatient reply, and the conversation dropped.

Observers have reported that the “impatient reply” was, “When I need advice from a junior officer I generally ask for it.” They also stated that Trimble threw down his sword in disgust and stormed off. A more colorful version of this account has been immortalized in Michael Shaara’s novel, *The Killer Angels*. The version in the movie *Gettysburg* was perhaps even more colorful, as the fictional General Trimble beat his chest vociferously.

The actor who portrayed General Trimble was also known for playing Dr. Ira Graves in the “Schizoid Man” episode of the TV series *Star Trek: The Next Generation*.

Raffle Winners

March Winners:



Major Problems in the Civil War & Reconstruction—John Munn (visitor)

Civil War Dictionary—Al Anderson

Battle Cry of Freedom—David Jordan

Ship versus Shore—Bob Cooke

Civil War Battlefields—David Munnikhuysen

Jubal Early—Dale Lear

If you have books, prints, or other items that you would like to donate to the raffle, contact Raffle Master [Ed Gibson](#) before our next meeting. The raffle is one of the components which the CFCWRT uses to fund our activities and our speakers. Please take part in our raffle by contributing items and/or purchasing tickets.



Upcoming Events

Leesylvania State Park, VA

- ♦ **April 20, [Potomac Blockade Boat Tour](#)** Cruise along the Potomac River shoreline and view sites critical to the Confederate forces' successful blockade of Washington D.C. from September 1861 through March 1862. The cruise will include: the preserved batteries at Freestone Point and Possum Nose, Evansport and Shipping Point.

Bennett Place - State Historic Site

- ♦ **April 27, 154th Anniversary Surrender Commemoration Event** [Bennett Place Historic Site](#)

National Ed Bearss Symposium and Tours

- ♦ **May 1-5, Military Leadership and Combat** [Civil War Seminars](#) Tours will include Monterey Pass, Hagerstown Aviation Museum, military history sites in Washington County, Md., the Forbes Campaign of 1758, Fort Ligonier, Flight 93 Memorial and more.

Smithsonian Associates

- ♦ **May 4, Lincoln in Virginia: A Wartime Journey** *Noah Andre Trudeau*, Author of *Lincoln's Greatest Journey*, will lead a visit to sites in eastern Virginia visited by Lincoln during March and April 1865. [Lincoln in Virginia: A Wartime Journey](#).

North Carolina Museum of History in Raleigh

- ♦ **New Exhibit open through July—"Freedom: a Promise Disrupted"** [NC Museum of History](#)

Sixth Annual Emerging Civil War Symposium

- ♦ **August 2-4, ECW Symposium, "Forgotten Battles of the Civil War" Keynote speaker: A. Wilson Greene**

Chris Mackowski will be speaking about The Mine Run Campaign.

This symposium will be held at [Stevenson Ridge](#) in Spotsylvania County, VA.

Bentonville Battlefield - State Historic Site

- ♦ **August 24, Life on Campaign: Summer Living History at Bentonville Battlefield** Infantry displays by the 27th NC Co. D [Bentonville Battlefield](#)

Item of interest

April 6th

Saturday

8:30am-12:00pm

**Fort Fisher American
Battlefield Trust Park
Day**

Volunteer work day

This year's activities will include painting the numerous artillery guns and carriages around the site along with the usual clean up of brush, leaves and debris. Tools & gloves will be provided.

Volunteers are asked to register in advance by calling **(910) 251-7340**.

Volunteers receive a free Park Day t-shirt and lunch!

CAPE FEAR CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

YOU CAN FIND US ON THE WEB! CFCWRT.ORG

VISIT US ON FACEBOOK: [CFCWRT](https://www.facebook.com/CFCWRT)

Links

[Civil War Preservation Trust](#)

This is a tremendous source for maps and articles by noted historians on many battles

[The Civil War Archive](#)

You will find information related to the U.S. Civil War including Union and Confederate Regimental Histories, Union Corps Histories, Soldier's Letters, Diaries, and a variety of other information.

[Civil War Events 2019](#)

The most up-to-date and comprehensive listing of Civil War events — reenactments, lectures, book talks, hikes, living history programs and more — brought to you by CivilWarTraveler.com and CivilWar.travel.

Sponsor



THE RUNNER is the official newsletter of the CFCWRT and is published monthly.

If you have member news or news about Civil War events that you think would be of interest to the CFCWRT membership, send an email with the details to the editor, [Sherry Hewitt](#). Thank you.

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Refreshments:

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CAPE FEAR CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

PO Box 15750

Wilmington, NC 28408

The **Cape Fear Civil War Round Table** is a non-profit organization made up of men and women who have a common interest in the history of the Civil War. The meetings include a speaker each month covering some aspect of the Civil War. This serves our purpose of encouraging education and research into that historical conflict.

Click here for membership information: [Membership Application](#)