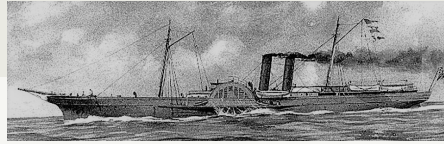




MARCH 2019

THE RUNNER



VOLUME 1 ISSUE 2

Second Guessing Richard Ewell

Wilmington's Cape Fear Civil War Round Table invites you to hear Professor Chris Mackowski speak on the topic of "Second-Guessing Richard Ewell."

One of the main reasons the Civil War is so fascinating is that there were dozens of episodes that could have changed the course of history. One such event was the end of the first day of the Battle of Gettysburg on July 1, 1863.



General Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia had won a demoralizing victory over the Union Army at Chancellorsville, Virginia, in early May and promptly went on the offensive. It was a desperate gamble made even more perilous because Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson had been killed at Chancellorsville.

(Continued on page 2)

Blockade Runner Hansa—by Bill Jayne

The *Hansa* was a sidewheel steamer built in Glasgow, Scotland, in 1858 for the London firm of Alexander Collie and Company. The ship was 177 feet long and a little over 22 feet wide, according to *Lifeline of the Confederacy* by Stephen R. Wise. Not a great deal is known about her but she was featured in a wartime action drawing by Italo-English newspaper artist Frank Vizitely, and was at the center of a dispute between Confederate officers that illustrates a common problem with blockade running.

Collie was very active in the blockade running trade and devoted most of its capital to the enterprise, including building new ships during the war that were specifically designed to run into Confederate ports past the gauntlet of Union Navy war ships. *The Hansa was quite successful, making about 20 trips before she was retired, likely because her boilers had become fouled.* The business of blockade running was complicated and in 1864 the State of North Carolina invested in the *Hansa* so the government owned a portion of the ship. After the war, Collie and Company went into bankruptcy.

The port of Wilmington was controlled by Gen. William H. Chase Whiting of the Confederate army. He was in command of the forts and other defenses and in 1864, as the Confederacy sought to exercise greater control over exporting and importing vitally needed military supplies, Whiting instituted regulations that required all vessels heading out of the Cape Fear River to report to either Fort Fisher or Fort Caswell for permission to sail. Whiting was "the main authority in Wilmington," according to Stephen Wise, but he had to share some responsibility with the Confederate States

(Continued on page 3)

NEXT PRESENTATION

◆ Thursday, 03-14-19

◆ Speaker:

Chris Mackowski:

Second Guessing Richard Ewell

◆ 6:30 Social 7:15 Meeting

◆ Harbor UMC

4853 Masonboro Loop
Rd. Wilmington

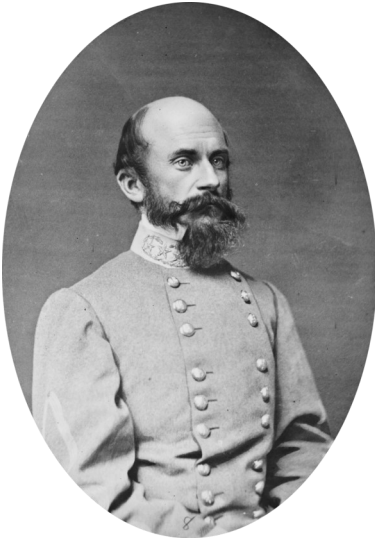


INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Richard Ewell—cont.</i>	2
<i>Mary Edwards Walker continued</i>	8
<i>Hansa continued</i>	3
	6
<i>Member News</i>	4
	5
<i>Upcoming Events</i>	7
<i>Back Page</i>	9

Second Guessing Richard Ewell—cont.

(Continued from page 1)



GENERAL RICHARD S. EWELL

Taking Jackson's place was Richard S. Ewell, a successful commander under Jackson until he was wounded in August 1862. His wound resulted in the loss of a leg but less than a year later he was back and in command of one-third of Lee's army.

As Lee entered Pennsylvania, the Union army stayed between him and Washington, D.C. The armies clashed at Gettysburg on July 1 in a piecemeal engagement and as the day ended, Ewell's Confederates faced a line of low hills and it seemed that if they seized the commanding terrain it would result in another great victory for the south.

Yet, General Ewell's forces remained at the foot of the hills. The next two days would see fighting on a monumental scale, ending in the Confederate failure and retreat back into Virginia.

General Ewell died in 1872 and his commander, Robert E. Lee, died in 1870. After that, the "Battle of the Books" featured generals on both sides providing their versions of history. Writers often sought to scapegoat others while enhancing their own reputations.

Chris Mackowski will guide us through this turning point, looking at what happened in 1863, what happened during the "Battle of the Books" and in contemporary times.

He is the editor of the "Emerging Civil War Series" of publications from Savas Beattie and a professor at St. Bonaventure University in Allegany, NY. His Ph.D. is from Binghamton University in NY.

Mary Edwards Walker—by Sherry Hewitt

The Medal of Honor was created during the Civil War, and of the over 3,500 that have been awarded for gallantry to members of the American armed forces, only one has been a woman.

Mary Edwards Walker was born on November 26, 1832. Her father was a doctor and her inspiration for going into medicine. She was the only woman graduating from Syracuse Medical College in 1855.

She volunteered to serve in the Union army as a surgeon but was refused because of her gender. Instead, she volunteered as a civilian army doctor, treating wounds at battles including First Manassas, Fredericksburg, Chickamauga, Atlanta, and others. She was captured and accused of spying in April 1864 while performing her duties. She was sent to the Confederate prison camp in Castle Thunder in Richmond, where she remained until being exchanged after four months of captivity.

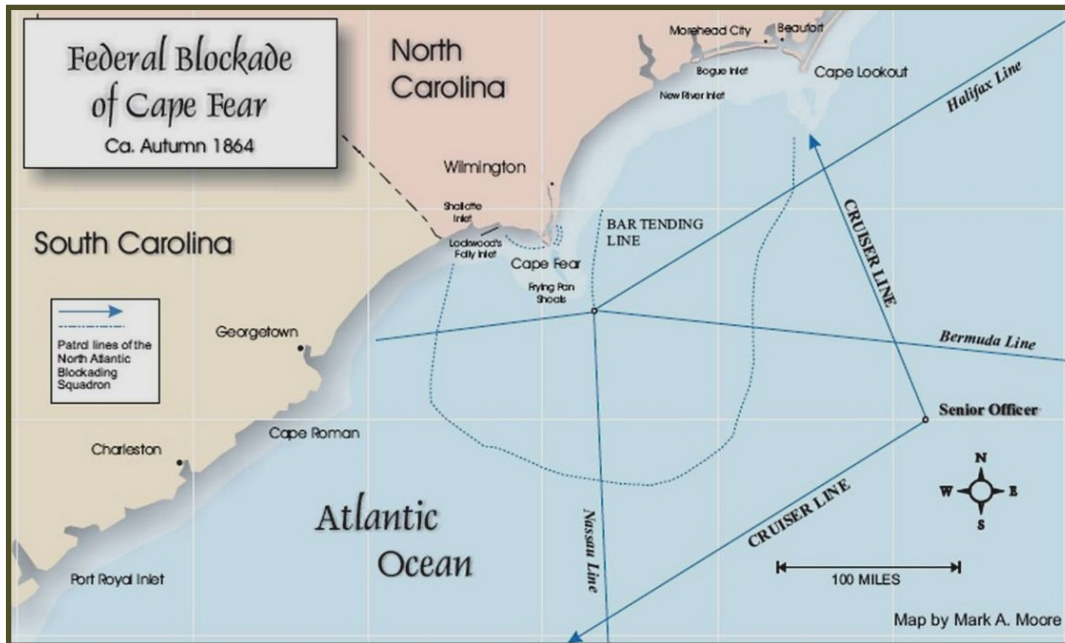
After the war, she badgered Generals Thomas and Sherman to recognize her work with an Officer's commission—probably for her work as a spy. She did do low grade spying as she bravely went between the lines in an ambulance while looking for casualties. She was captured while performing her duties. She was very proud of being exchanged 'man for man' with a Confederate officer. But the Army could not commission her that, so Thomas and Sherman recommended her for the Medal instead. The citation did not directly say



MARY EDWARDS WALKER

(Continued on page 8)

Hansa—cont.

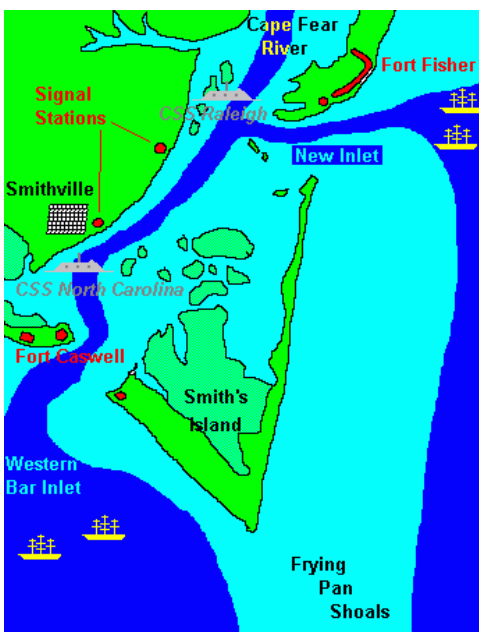


MAP BY MARK A.
MOORE

FEDERAL BLOCK-
ADE OF CAPE FEAR
1864

Navy. The Navy's commander in Wilmington was Flag Officer William F. Lynch. While the Army's forts provided the primary defense of the Cape Fear lifeline, the Navy's ironclads, such as the *North Carolina*, were intended to help defend the region, too.

Professor Wise writes: "*When the War Department could not make up their allotted space on a blockade runner, the navy could place their cotton on board the vessel.*" The cotton, of course, was virtually the currency the Confederacy used to acquire war materiel in Europe.



In February 1864 the War Department didn't have enough cotton to supply the *Hansa* and another runner, the *Alice*. When naval officers attempted to place their cotton on the vessels, the captains balked and Flag Officer Lynch released the ships on the condition that they would ensure the navy cotton would make up half of their next cargo out of Wilmington. When the two ships returned to Wilmington later that month, they tried to leave without the Navy cotton, Lynch asked Whiting to detain the ships. "The *Alice* was stopped, but not the *Hansa*, so Lynch...took charge of the vessel and had the *Hansa* anchored next to the ironclad *North Carolina*," Wise writes.

Whiting considered the seizure to be an attack on his authority and sent soldiers to take over the *Hansa*. *This went back and forth and ultimately*

THE COTTON, OF
COURSE, WAS
VIRTUALLY THE
CURRENCY THE
CONFEDERACY
USED TO
ACQUIRE WAR
MATERIEL IN
EUROPE.

(Continued on page 6)

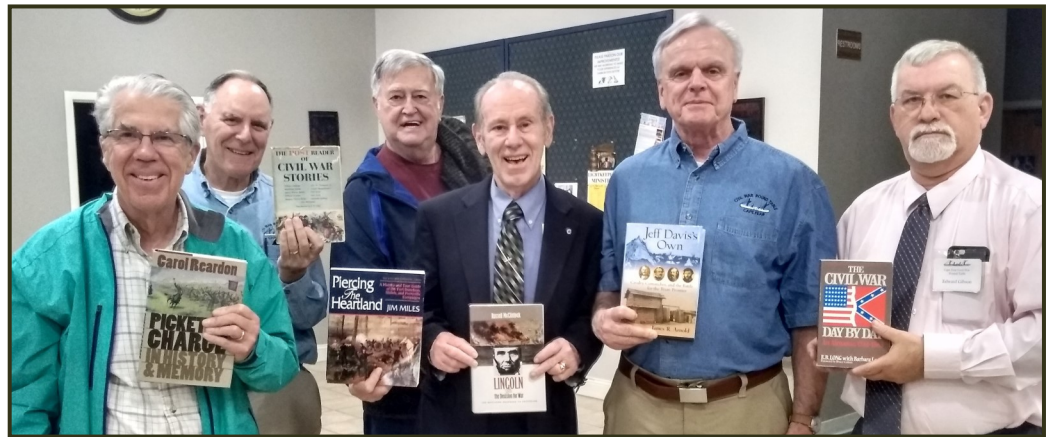
Member News

Shirts with the CFCWRT Logo are available. Contact *Dale Lear* to order your CFCWRT Logo shirt or hat.



John Winecoff, Bruce Patterson, Greg Willett, Bill Jayne, Joe Steyer, Dale Lear, Linda Lashley and Joe Hack sporting CFCWRT shirts.

Raffle



WELCOME
NEW MEMBER:
BOB SHELLEY

February Winners:

Pickett's Charge in History & Memory—Tom Taylor

The Post Reader of Civil War Stories—Bill Jayne

Piercing the Heartland—Bill Hewitt

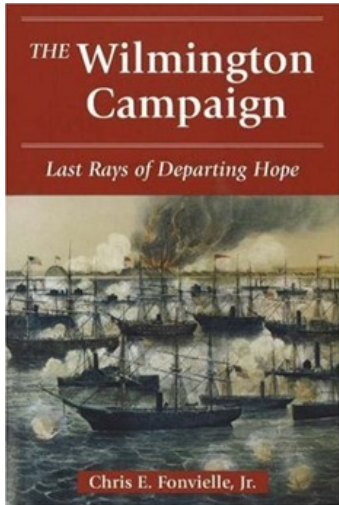
Lincoln & The Decision for War—John Bolger

Jeff Davis's Own—Joe Steyer

The Civil War Day by Day—Ed Gibson

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.

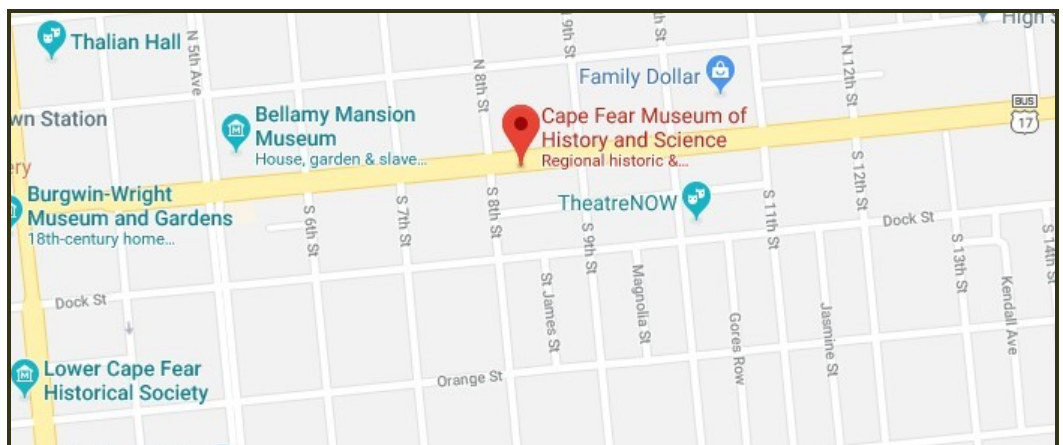
Member News



THE ARMY FIRST
DIFFERENTIATED
BETWEEN TYPES OF
ARTILLERY IN 1829
WHEN THE NEW FIELD
ARTILLERY MANUAL, A
SYSTEM OF EXERCISE
AND INSTRUCTION OF
FIELD ARTILLERY USED
THE TERMS "FIELD",
"LIGHT" "HEAVY" AND
"HORSE".

April Meeting: 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.

NOTE: This presentation will take place at the **Cape Fear Museum** at 814 Market St. The auditorium is on the second floor. Parking is available in back of the museum.



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.

Hansa—cont.

(Continued from page 2)

Confederate cabinet officers had to involve themselves to solve the embarrassing dispute. Stephen R. Mallory, Secretary of the Navy, took responsibility for Lynch's actions, and Secretary of War James Seddon ordered the Hansa to be turned over to the Navy for that voyage.

This contretemps took place at a time when outnumbered and under supplied Confederate armies were trying to prepare to face Sherman's drive toward Atlanta and what would become Grant's Overland Campaign in Virginia. Timely delivery of military materiel was vital. For example, Wilmington blockade running enjoyed great success in September and October of 1863 as several vessels including the *Hansa* arrived with supplies desperately needed by the Army of Northern Virginia after the Gettysburg campaign.

Hansa figures in another piece of documented history that illustrates the hazards of the trade. The New York Times of January 23, 1864 published a report from the Hansa, then anchored at Nassau, the Bahamas.

At 3 A. M., on the 6th inst., while off Abacco, we sighted a large paddlewheel steamship about a mile ahead. We kept east for half an hour. and were then first noticed by the stranger, who steered direct for us with the intention of cutting us off, which assured us she was a cruiser. We, however, forged ahead of her and shaped our course for Egg Island. She keeping a little on our star-board quarter was gaining on us rapidly, in consequence of a calm preventing us from obtaining a sufficient draft for our fires. About 7:30 the Federal commenced to fire at us and continued to do so till 9:30. At 8:00 she was so near us that we were obliged to lighten our vessel by throwing overboard about 70 bales of cotton. On entering Six Shilling Channel, we ran inside the reef. She fired one more shot and then left us for the purpose of picking up the cotton we had thrown overboard. The Federal vessel is very fast, brig rigged, has a straight stern, and is supposed to be the *Vanderbilt*.



VIZITELLY ACTION DRAWING SHOWS THE HANSA, CLOSE TO SHORE, STEAMING UNDER THE GUNS OF FORT FISHER. CONFEDERATE SOLDIERS WATCH FROM THE BEACH AS FEDERAL SHIPS STAND OFFSHORE.

SOURCE: HARVARD UNIVERSITY

Upcoming Events

Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

- ◆ **April 11, “The Wilmington Campaign”** Speaker: Chris E. Fonvielle, Jr., Ph.D.

Bentonville Battlefield - State Historic Site

- ◆ **March 16, “A Fighting Chance for Life”** focuses on Civil War Medicine: 154th Anniversary of the battle.
- ◆ **April 5-7—“Two Weeks of Fury”** tour and symposium visits Kinston, Monroe’s Crossroads, Fayetteville, Averasboro, and concludes at Bentonville. [Bentonville Battlefield](#)

Virginia Tech Civil War Weekend

- ◆ **March 24-26, Civil War Weekend** at The Inn at Virginia Tech and Skelton Conference Center, Blacksburg, VA. Speakers include Gary Gallagher, “Bud” Robertson, Joan Waugh, and others. [VT Civil War Weekend](#)

Fort Fisher - State Historic Site

- ◆ **April 6, American Battlefield Trust Park Day** Volunteer work day. [Ft Fisher American Battlefield Trust Park Day - 2019](#)

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](#).

American Civil War Museum in Richmond

- ◆ **May 4, Grand Opening of Historic Tredegar Iron Works location** [Historic Tredegar Iron Works](#)

North Carolina Museum of History in Raleigh

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

HOLD THE DATE:

**WREATHS ACROSS
AMERICA**

WREATH LAYING

SATURDAY
14 DEC. 2019

WILMINGTON NATIONAL
CEMETERY

(AND 1,640 OTHER
CEMETERIES ACROSS
THIS GREAT LAND).



Mary Edwards Walker—cont.

anything about spying as that could not be said about a woman in polite society, but it alluded to her “serving in a variety of ways”.

On November 11, 1865, President Andrew Johnson awarded Walker the Medal of Honor. Her citation reads:

Whereas it appears from official reports that Dr. Mary E. Walker, a graduate of medicine, “has rendered valuable service to the Government, and her efforts have been earnest and untiring in a variety of ways,” and that she was assigned to duty and served as an assistant surgeon in charge of female prisoners at Louisville, Ky., upon the recommendation of Major-Generals Sherman and Thomas, and faithfully served as contract surgeon in the service of the United States, and has devoted herself with much patriotic zeal to the sick and wounded soldiers, both in the field and hospitals, to the detriment of her own health, and has also endured hardships as a prisoner of war four months in a Southern prison while acting as contract surgeon; and Whereas by reason of her not being a commissioned officer in the military service, a brevet or honorary rank cannot, under existing laws, be conferred upon her; and Whereas in the opinion of the President an honorable recognition of her services and sufferings should be made: It is ordered, That a testimonial thereof shall be hereby made and given to the said Dr. Mary E. Walker, and that the usual medal of honor for meritorious services be given her.

**WALKER REFUSED
TO GIVE UP HER
MEDAL OF HONOR
STATING “YOU CAN
HAVE IT BACK OVER
MY DEAD BODY!”
AND WORE IT UNTIL
HER DEATH.**

Mary Edwards Walker proudly wore the Medal of Honor for the rest of her life. In 1916 the Army undertook a review of eligibility of all previous Medal of Honor recipients and determined that 911 of them—including Dr. Walker—did not meet the criteria for awarding the Medal. In Walker’s case, it was primarily because she was a civilian surgeon, not a member of the Army, during the service for which she received the Medal. Those 911 names were stricken from the record and their Medals rescinded. Walker refused to give up her Medal of Honor stating “you can have it back over my dead body!” and wore it until her death.

Mary Edwards Walker’s Medal of Honor was restored in 1977, nearly sixty years after her death. To this day, she remains the only female recipient of America’s highest military award.

Trivia Questions

1. When was the threat of secession first raised?
2. By which states was the threat of secession first raised?
3. What did President Andrew Jackson threaten to do when South Carolina threatened to leave the Union?

Answers on page 9.

CAPE FEAR CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

YOU CAN FIND US ON THE WEB! CFCWRT.ORG

VISIT US ON FACEBOOK: CFCWRT

Trivia—Answers

1. 1803 Secession was threatened several times starting in 1803.
2. The New England States threatened to secede due to the Louisiana Purchase.
3. President Jackson threatened to invade South Carolina with federal troops.



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](mailto:Sherry.Hewitt@CFCWRT.org). Thank you.

Steering Committee—Officers

President:

[Bill Jayne](#) (910) 386-9203

Vice President:

[Greg Willett](#) (910) 777-3935

Secretary/Treasurer:

[Bruce Patterson](#) (910) 794-8905

Membership:

[Linda Lashley](#)

Tours/Trips:

[Dale Lear](#)

Runner Editor/Publicity: [Sherry Hewitt](#)

Raffle Master:

[Ed Gibson](#)

Webmaster:

[Richard Buggeln](#)

Refreshments:

[John Moore](#)

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](#)