



FEBRUARY 2020

THE RUNNER



VOLUME 2 ISSUE 2

Bert Dunkerly: The Richmond Bread Riots



Robert M. (Bert) Dunkerly will cover the 1863 Richmond Bread Riot, the largest civil disturbance to take place in the Confederacy. Bert will examine the causes of the riot, follow the route of the marchers, and discuss its long term impacts.

Bert is a historian, award-winning author, and speaker who is actively involved in historic preservation and research. A native of Central Pennsylvania, he holds a degree in History from St. Vincent College in Latrobe, PA, and a Masters in Historic

Preservation from Middle Tennessee State University. He has worked at fourteen historic sites, including Moore's Creek from 2007 to 2009 and lived in downtown Wilmington during that time. He's the author of twelve books and numerous scholarly articles, including *Redcoats on the River: Southeastern North Carolina in the Revolutionary War*, published in 2008. His research includes archaeology, colonial life, military history, and historic commemoration.

Gaunt, hungry women—several wielding weapons—took to the streets of Richmond, Virginia, on April 2, 1863, to protest food shortages, hoarding, speculation, and spiraling inflation in the Confederate capital. When a group of Richmond women took their complaints to Virginia governor John L. Letcher that day, he refused to see them. Their anger turned into a street march and attacks on commercial establishments. Several eyewitnesses reported seeing an emaciated woman raise a skeleton of an arm and scream, "We celebrate our right to live! We are starving!" Others heard a chant of "Bread or blood!" The mob then began attacking government warehouses, grocery stores, and various mercantile establishments, seizing food, clothing, and wagons, as well as jewelry and other luxury goods. Only after troops were deployed and authorities threatened to fire on the mob did the rioters disperse. More than sixty men and women were arrested and tried for their actions during the riot.

(Continued on page 2)

NEXT PRESENTATION

- ◆ Thursday, Feb. 13th
- ◆ **Bert Dunkerly:** The Richmond Bread Riots
- ◆ 6:30 Social 7:00 Meeting
- ◆ Harbor UMC
4853 Masonboro Loop
Wilmington



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>This Day in History</i>	2
<i>Second Battle of Fort Fisher</i>	3
<i>Book Summary~ Gen. Jubal Early</i>	6
<i>Member News</i>	7
<i>July Member Forum Trivia Questions</i>	8
<i>Shock Troops of the Confederacy</i>	9
<i>Trivia Answers</i>	10
<i>Upcoming Events</i>	11



Bert Dunkerly: The Richmond Bread Riots, cont.



Richmond wasn't the only southern city to see bread riots. The Salisbury, NC, "Bread Riot," and similar disturbances in Georgia, also in 1863, are dramatic evidence of the stresses on local life brought on by the Civil War. Bert, currently a park ranger at Richmond National Battlefield Park, will illuminate this little-known story of the war on the home front.

*Southern Women Feeling
the Effects of the Rebellion,
and Creating Bread Riots
Photograph retrieved from the
Library of Congress
www.loc.gov/item/2007683044/.*

This Day in History - January 26, 1863



Maj Gen Joseph Hooker

Major General Joseph Hooker proudly took command of the Federal Army of the Potomac at Fredericksburg. But Lincoln, in one of his most famous letters, had advice for the new commander: "there are some things in regard to which, I am not quite satisfied with you. I believe you to be a brave and skillful soldier, which, of course, I like. I also believe you do not mix politics with your profession, in which you are right. You have confidence in yourself, which is valuable, if not an indispensable quality. You are ambitious, which, within reasonable bounds, does good rather than harm. But I think that during General Burnside's command of the Army, you have taken counsel of your ambition, and thwarted him as much as you could, in which you did a great wrong to the country, and to a most meritorious and honorable brother officer. I have heard, in such way as to believe it, of your recently saying that both the Army and the Government needed a dictator. Of course it was not *for* this, but in spite of it, that I have given you the command. Only those generals who gain successes, can set up dictators. What I now ask of you is military success, and I will risk the dictatorship."

155th Commemoration of the Second Battle of Fort Fisher ~ Glory Enough For All

On the weekend of January 18-19, the Fort Fisher State Historic Site hosted a very successful commemoration of the pivotal 1865 battle that saw the fall of the “Confederate Goliath” that closed the Cape Fear River and the port of Wilmington to blockade running and thus halted the flow of essential military supplies from overseas to the Army of Northern Virginia.

The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table maintained a presence at the event and spoke to hundreds of people interested in Civil War history. Literally thousands of visitors came to the event in spite of the wintry weather.

Our Round Table enjoyed a prominent location on the walkway around the visitor’s center and adjacent to the North Carolina Military Historical Society (NCMHS). John Winecoff is president of the Wilmington Chapter of the NCMHS and great thanks is due to John for his work in setting up tents and table to ensure our effective participation.



The Round Table (left) set up next to the NC Military Historical Society (center) and the MG Thomas Ruger Camp #1 of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (right). Round Table member Ed Gibson, commander of the camp, and John Bolger chat with John Winecoff while Jim Gannon looks over Round Table materials at tent manned by Dale Lear and Bill Jayne. Mark Swanstrom helped with the setup and Bob Cooke participated on Saturday. Thanks also go out to Joe Hack who helped on both days.

155th Commemoration of the Second Battle of Fort Fisher ~ Glory Enough For All, cont.



*Union re-enactors fire on the fort's defenders as they stage for the assault.
Fire works simulated the bombardment of the Union fleet.*



Confederate re-enactors defend the fort.

155th Commemoration of the Second Battle of Fort Fisher ~ Glory Enough For All, cont.

An accomplished Confederate re-enactor demonstrated the technology of a “torpedo” or command detonated land mine. Mines were placed in front of the fort but the naval bombardment dislodged the fragile wiring necessary to employ the devices.

Professor Ken Rutherford of James Madison University is scheduled to speak to our round table next fall about his new book, [America's Buried History: Landmines in the Civil War](#).

Silent Auction

The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table is running a silent auction with donated items such as books, prints, memorabilia, etc., to raise money specifically to help fund the travel costs of our speakers. We pay travel costs for speakers and our budget limits us, generally, to speakers from neighboring states. It's advantageous for us that so much Civil War history is centered on Virginia, Tennessee and the Carolinas, but still those costs mount up and there are times when we have the opportunity to engage a speaker from a more distant location and we strive to present the best possible program we can. Look for the table outside the meeting area to see some of the items being offered and put in your bid.

If you have anything you'd like to donate to the cause, please let us know. Contact Bill Jayne, Ed Gibson or Bruce Patterson. Thanks.



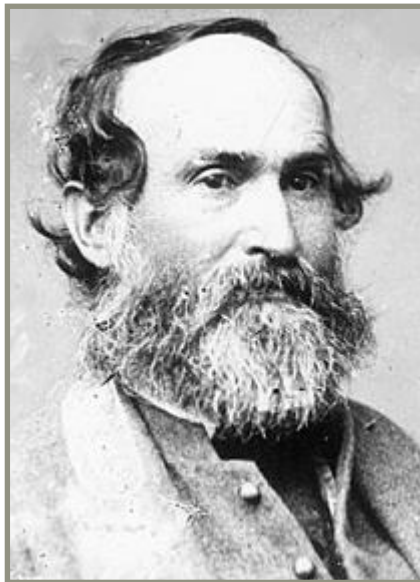
*Book Summary ~**Lieutenant General Jubal Anderson Early C.S.A.**Autobiographical Sketch and Narrative of the War between the States*

Jubal Anderson Early was born in Franklin County, Virginia in 1816. He was appointed to the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1833 and served for a short time in the Seminole War in 1837 and 1838. In 1838, he resigned from the military and became a lawyer in Virginia. After serving one term in the Virginia House beginning in 1841, Early returned to practicing law and served as a volunteer in the Mexican War from 1847 to 1848. Although he voted against secession at the Virginia state convention, Early volunteered for the Confederate army and became a colonel in the 24th Virginia Infantry when the Civil War began in 1861. He participated in such significant campaigns as The First Battle of Bull Run (First Manassas), Antietam (Sharpsburg), and Gettysburg. General Robert E. Lee promoted Early to lieutenant general in 1864, but he was later relieved of his duties after suffering defeat at the hands of George Custer at the Battle of Waynesboro on March 2, 1865. After the war, Early refused to swear his allegiance to the United States. Early moved to Canada shortly after the war and while there he began work on his autobiography. In 1869 he returned to Lynchburg, Virginia and resumed practicing law. He served as director of the Louisiana Lottery Company, and helped found and lead the Southern Historical Society beginning in 1869. He died in 1894.

Autobiographical Sketch and Narrative of the War Between the States (1912) begins with Early's account of his attempts to interrupt Virginia's efforts to secede, his failure in that endeavor, and his decision to join the Confederate army. Early then describes his military experiences, the typical lives of soldiers, his responsibilities as colonel, and several military engagements. The final chapter includes a letter from General Robert E. Lee and the editor's summary of Early's life after the war ended in 1865. Early's *Autobiographical Sketch* and other writings proved to play a very important historical role; in fact in *American National Biography*, Gary Gallagher asserts, "No person North or South did more to influence nineteenth-century historiography of the Civil War."



Lieutenant General Jubal Anderson Early

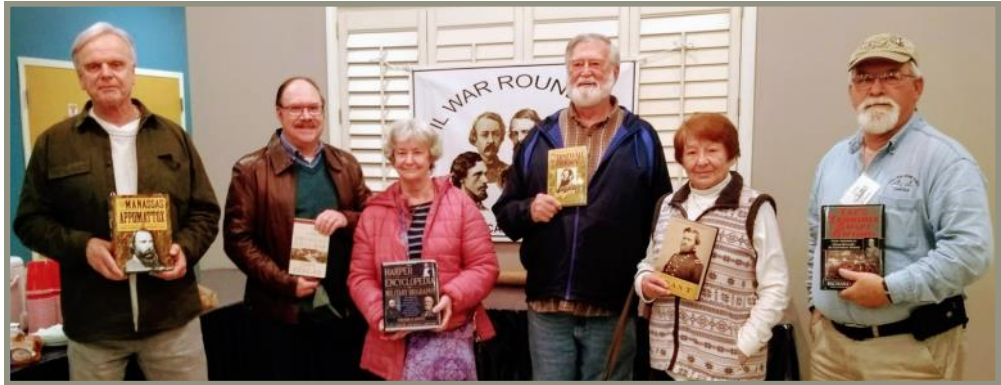


Member News

CFCWRT Upcoming Events

March 12, 2020 **Dr. E. V. Smith** - Chickamauga
 April 9, 2020 **William Brown** - Wartime N C Governor Zebulon Vance
 May 14, 2020 **Douglas Waller** (Author) - Lincoln's Spies

January Raffle Winners



Longstreet - Manassas to Appomattox - Joe Steyer
American Civil War - Al Anderson
Encyclopedia of Military Biography - Gail Clements
Stonewall Jackson - Bill Hewitt
Grant - Jane McDonald
Lee's Terrible Swift Sword - 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.

New Member - Welcome!

Don Smith

Volunteer needed

Quartermaster needed to manage our small inventory of items. Please contact [Bill Jayne](#) if you are interested.

In H.B. McClellan's book, *I Rode with Jeb Stuart: The Life and Campaigns of Major General J.E.B. Stuart*, McClellan summed up the Gettysburg Campaign and Stuart's role:

"It was not the want of cavalry that General Lee bewailed, for he had enough of it had it been properly used. It was the absence of Stuart himself that he felt so keenly; for on him he had learned to rely to such extent that it seemed as if his cavalry were concentrated in his person, and from him alone could information be expected."

"CONGRESSMEN
 WHO WILLFULLY
 TAKE ACTIONS
 DURING WARTIME
 THAT
 DAMAGE MORALE
 AND UNDERMINE
 THE MILITARY
 ARE SABOTEURS
 AND SHOULD BE
 ARRESTED,
 EXILED,
 OR HANGED."

ABRAHAM LIN-
 COLN
 ~ 1863

July 2020 Member Forum – Invitation for presenters

Our July 2020 meeting will be an opportunity for a few of our own Round Table members to share a short (15 to 20 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.

“REMEMBER, WE
ARE ALL ONE
COUNTRY NOW.
DISMISS FROM
YOUR MIND ALL
SECTIONAL
FEELING, AND
BRING THEM UP TO
BE AMERICANS.”

ROBERT E. LEE

QUOTE ABOUT
COUNTRY AND
RECONSTRUCTION

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 or ljimgannon@gmail.com if you would like to make a presentation.

Photos from our 2019 Members Forum



John Winecoff - Davis Co. &
The Sabine Pass Battle



John Bolger - Gen. Thomas F. Meagher,
The Irish Brigade
Jim Gannon led the Members Forum

Trivia Questions

1. What Union Naval Officer commanded the mortar flotilla used in the campaign against New Orleans?
2. What was the official name of Mosby's Rangers?
3. What geographical area was called "Kirby-Smithdom"?
4. What prominent Union general was called "Spoons"? Why?

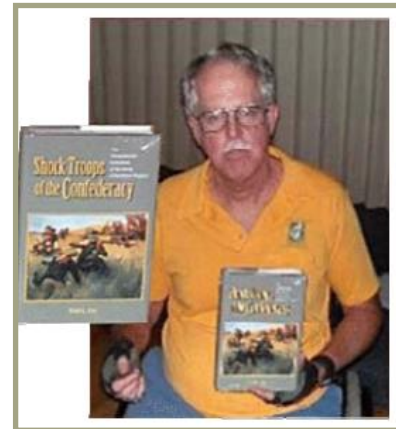
Answers on Page 11



Shock Troops of the Confederacy: The Sharpshooter Battalions of the Army of Northern Virginia

This article, written by a previous editor - Bob Cooke, was originally in the November 2006 issue of The Runner. It is based on a previous presentation to the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table members by Fred L. Ray. I wanted to share it with the members who have joined since then. Enjoy!

Fred L. Ray, author of *Shock Troops of the Confederacy: The Sharpshooter Battalions of the Army of Northern Virginia*, spoke to us about his research, which culminated in the above work. "They couldn't hit an elephant at this distance", said Union Major General John Sedgwick as he observed the Confederate position some 500 yards away. Less than a moment later, a ball hit the General in the head, killing him almost instantly. He became another casualty of the Civil War "sharpshooter" (from the German *Scharfschütze*) who by this time (May 1864) roamed the battlefields picking off the unwary soldiers of both sides. In the Army of Northern Virginia, these men, eventually numbering nearly seven thousand, were organized into several battalions whose duties included not only harassing the enemy with their accurate long-range fire, but also as skirmishers, scouts, flank and rear guards. Their first action as a unit came in May 1863 when they guarded Stonewall Jackson's flank at Chancellorsville. Mr. Ray demonstrated the use of the men as "shock troops" who plowed through the Union picket lines and then swung around to gather up as many Federals as they could, from behind. This tactic, used by (North Carolinian) Major Thomas Wooten, became known as "seine-hauling" due to its similarity of fishing along the coast. Mr. Ray illuminated a much-neglected subject (the last work was written before the turn of the century-the 19th century, that is!) And indicated however, that sharpshooters alone, could not win a war.



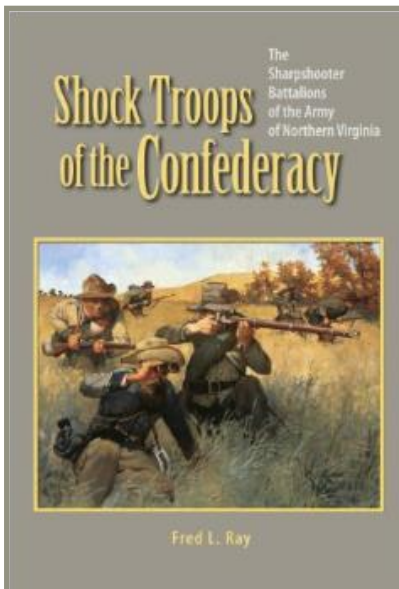
Mr. Ray also described some of the weapons used by the marksmen: the Whitworth (caliber .451, weight almost 10 lbs.), Enfield (cal. .577, weight 9½ lbs.) and several target rifles (English match rifles used mainly by Union troops) weighing anywhere from 25 to 60 pounds. In an accuracy test conducted in 1971, "various rifles fired 15 shots at 400 yards at a 72" by 72" wooden target." The U.S. Springfield hit 7 times, the British Enfield 13, while the 1842 smoothbore musket missed entirely. *As for the Whitworth, 15 shots scored 15 hits on the target!*

Shock Troops of the Confederacy tells the story of the elite troops of the South -- on the picket line and in the thick of the battlefields of Virginia.

Whether screening Stonewall Jackson's flank march at Chancellorsville or leading the last desperate assault at Fort Stedman, the sharpshooters led the Army of Northern Virginia in the attack, protected it at rest, and covered its retreat.

(Continued on page 10)

Shock Troops of the Confederacy, cont.



At the beginning of the Civil War the Army of the Potomac had, thanks to Hiram Berdan, an advantage in sharpshooting and light infantry, which came as a rude shock to the Confederates during the 1862 Peninsular campaign. In response the Confederates organized their own corps of elite light infantry, the Sharpshooters. Building on the ideas of an obscure Alabama colonel, Bristol Gayle, General Robert Rodes organized the first battalion of sharpshooters in his brigade in early 1863, and later in each brigade of his division. In early 1864 General Lee adopted the concept for the entire Army of Northern Virginia, directing each infantry brigade to field a sharp-shooter battalion. These units found ready employment in the Overland campaign, and later in the trenches of Petersburg and in the fast-moving Shenandoah campaign of 1864. Although little has been written about them (the last book, written by a former sharpshooter, appeared in 1899), they played an important and sometimes pivotal role in many battles and campaigns in 1864 and 1865. By the end of the war the sharpshooters were experimenting with tactics that would become standard practice fifty years later. Although most people think of Berdan's Sharpshooters when the subject comes up, the Confederate sharpshooter battalions had a far greater effect on the outcome of the conflict. Later in the war, in response to the Confederate dominance of the skirmish line, the Federals began to organize their own sharpshooter units at division level, though they never adopted an army-wide system.

The book tells the story of the development of the sharpshooter battalions, their tactical use on the battlefield, and the human story of the sharpshooters themselves.

Trivia Answers

1. David Dixon Porter commanded the mortar flotilla used in the campaign against New Orleans.
2. The 43rd Battalion, Virginia Cavalry, known as Mosby's Rangers or Mosby's Raiders, was a partisan ranger unit noted for its lightning-quick raids and its ability to elude Union Army pursuers and disappear, blending in with local farmers and townsmen.
3. General Edmund Kirby Smith was appointed as commander of the Trans-Mississippi Department in January 1863. The area included most actions east of the Rocky Mountains and west of the Mississippi River. In 1863, Smith dispatched troops in an unsuccessful attempt to relieve the Siege of Vicksburg. After Vicksburg was captured by the Union in July, the isolated Trans-Mississippi zone was cut off from the rest of the Confederacy, and became virtually an independent nation, nicknamed 'Kirby Smithdom'.
4. For an eight-month period in 1862 Major General Benjamin Franklin Butler, the Union military governor of New Orleans, was probably the most reviled man in the South. He quickly became known as "Beast" and "Spoons"—and undoubtedly countless other sobriquets not usually heard in genteel Southern drawing rooms. Butler was given the nickname "Spoons" for allegedly stealing silverware from homes on one of his campaign badges.

Upcoming Events

February 15-16, 2020 [The 155th Anniversary of the Fall of Fort Anderson](#)

Join Fort Anderson as they commemorate the 155th Anniversary of the Fall of Fort Anderson with two days of historic entertainment. Come out to watch as civil war living history actors re-live battles demonstrating the heart of both sides of the engagements. In addition, enjoy Civil War historians and browsing the pristine and normally inaccessible northern and southern batteries of the fort.

February 22, 2020 [20/20 Hindsight and Insight on the American Civil War](#)

The American Civil War Museum sponsors their 2020 Symposium. Speakers include: William "Jack" Davis, Dr. Tamika Nunley, Dr. Jonathan White, Gary Gallagher and (a Wilmington favorite) Dr. Susannah J. Ural. *Library of Virginia*, 800 Broad Street, Richmond, VA. Registration fee is \$40 for members including lunch (\$65, non-members) Pre-registration required due to lunch. Visit Museum website at ACWM.org or email or call [Katie Lewis](#) at (804) 649-1861 Ext 144

April 25-26, 2020 [Annual Living History Weekend](#)

Washington County Historical Society is now celebrating its 30th anniversary, the Annual Living History Weekend is one of North Carolina's premier Civil War events. Known for its intimate feel and beautiful riverfront setting, the weekend-long event features two battle reenactments, an evening "Torchlight Tour", "Dueling Narrators" debate, period music, troop encampment, book signers, free museum entrance, and more!

April 25th - 11:00 am to 9:00 pm and April 26th 2:00 pm to ???

For more information, go click the link, call the Port o' Plymouth Museum at (252) 793-1377, or send an [email inquiry](#). Advance ticket sales begin March 1, 2020.

June 12-17, 2020 [Civil War Institute 2020 Summer Conference](#)

The Civil War Institute is hosting a premiere annual summer conference bringing leading historians and diverse public audiences together for lectures, battlefield tours, small group discussions, and roundtable conversations about the Civil War era. Sessions, lodging, and meals are held on the 200-acre Gettysburg College campus, and there are part-time and full-time packages available.


For 2020, we are excited to feature leading Civil War scholars, Harold Holzer, Catherine Clinton, Brian Wills, Jeffery Wert, Carol Reardon, and Scott Hartwig within our lineup of more than 40 distinguished speakers and tour guides. The conference will feature a wide range of topics, including POW prison escapes, soldier impressment, the Civil War in the West, the guerrilla experience, and more. The 2020 program will also debut debates between leading scholars about Civil War generalship. This year's topics include George B. McClellan at Antietam, James Longstreet, and Nathan Bedford Forrest.

In addition to touring the Gettysburg battlefield, participants will also be able to visit other nearby battlefields and such as First Manassas, 2nd Fredericksburg and Salem Church, Antietam, Cool Springs, Spotsylvania, and Bristoe Station. Attendees who prefer a shorter, more physically active experience can choose to sign up for our new "active track" package, which features lectures and a day and a half of walking-intensive tours of the Gettysburg battlefield with historian Timothy Orr. The 2020 conference offers something for everyone, from longtime students of the Civil War to those who are new to Civil War history.

Upcoming Events, cont.

[NC Maritime Museum at Southport](#)

204 E. Moore St. Southport, NC 28461



Enjoy three lectures, a panel discussion, and lunch in beautiful Southport, NC.

Dr. Angie Zombek
University of North Carolina at Wilmington
Competing Visions of the Post-War World: Military Reconstruction and Southern Resistance in North Carolina

Dr. Adam Domby
College of Charleston
North Carolina's Unique Memory of Reconstruction

Dr. Stephen West
Catholic University of America
Reconstruction in the Carolinas in the Eyes of the Nation

Registration required. Member, Teacher/Student discounts available. \$40/person.
Call for more information (910) 477-5151

Books

New Releases from Savas Beatie:

[Lincoln Takes Command: The Campaign to Seize Norfolk and the Destruction of the CSS Virginia](#)

~by Steve Norder

[Caught in the Maelstrom: The Indian Nations in the Civil War, 1861-1865](#)

~by Clint Crowe

Available by clicking on the title link. Also, available in eBook format.



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CAPE FEAR CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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Wilmington, NC 28408

You can find us on the Web! Cfcwrt.org

Visit us on Facebook: [CFCWRT](https://www.facebook.com/CFCWRT)



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EMBROIDERED AND PRINTED APPAREL



THE RUNNER is the official monthly newsletter of the CFCWRT.

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.

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](#)