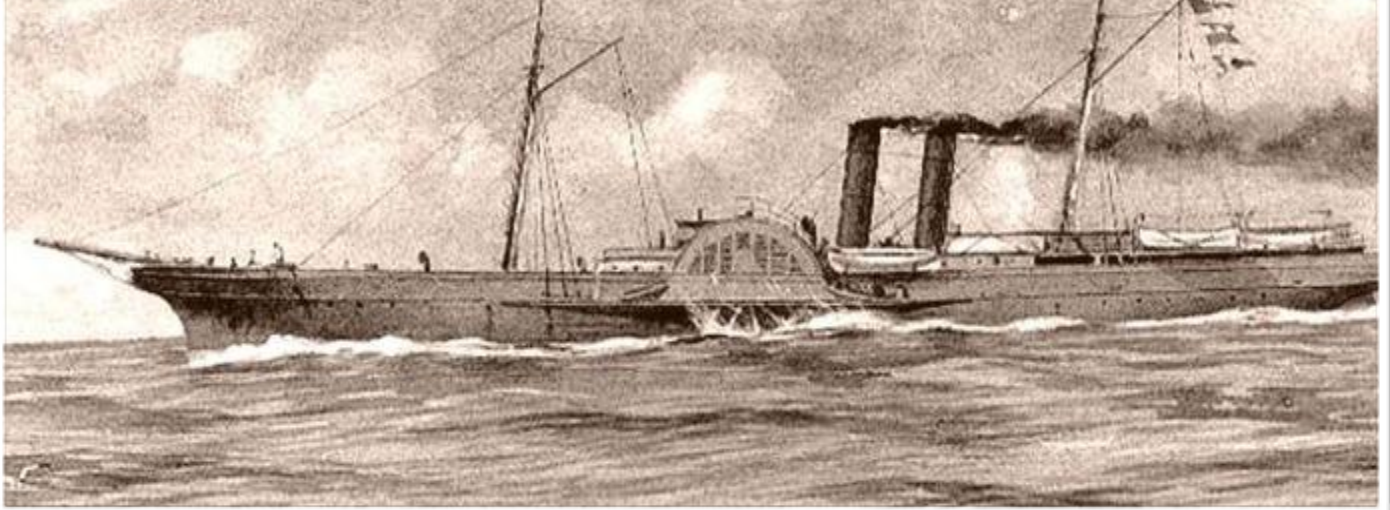


# THE RUNNER



The official newsletter of the Cape Fear Civil War Roundtable

## - From the Editor -

*The Runner will be getting a new captain starting with the next issue. Matt Howell has graciously volunteered to take over commanding this vessel as the new editor. As he's recently shown, he is more than qualified to take over and run with it (pun intended)! It has been my pleasure to christen and launch this newest iteration of the newsletter for some sixteen issues. Thanks to my steadfast contributors, it has been a great way to be involved with the Roundtable. I'm looking forward to some new challenges and tasks. Thanks for the privilege of guiding "her" through the blockade!*

## Next Members Forum Looks At Generalship: Theory and Substance

by Bill Jayne, CFCWRT President

The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table invites all members and friends to the third session in our summer Members Forum series. Titled "Generalship: Theory and Substance," this audience-participation program will be presented by round table member John Weisz, a West Point graduate and retired U.S. Army officer. The meeting will be held on Thursday evening, August 8, at centrally located St. John's Episcopal Church in Midtown Wilmington near Independence Mall. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting begins at 7:00 p.m.

In June, retired archaeologist Pat Garrow of the round table presented an enlightening program on the phenomenon of "Galvanized Yankees," captured Confederates who joined the Union army, and also discussed the thousands of white North Carolinians who joined the Union army on their own. Many of them were from northeastern North Carolina, an area that

## Membership Report

By Bruce Patterson  
CFCWRT Secretary

Following our June double header, the second in our *Summer Member Forums*, saw some 38 members enjoy another double header as **Runner Editor Fred Claridge** and President **Bill Jayne** shared the podium for interesting and informative presentations on the Bentonville (NC) Battlefield and the medical care provided to the wounded there and Rifle Accuracy as related to range and effectiveness, respectfully.

While there were no new members, the meeting gave us an opportunity to welcome several visitors, all of whom attended at the invitation of existing members, thus answering our call for **every member to become a recruiter**. Our thanks to all.

Recall please that your membership renewal month is printed on your name tag and that membership renewals (\$30.) may be made online, <http://www.cfcwrt.org>, by mail **CFCWRT 8387 E. Highcroft NE, Leland, NC 28451** or in cash or by check at our next meeting. Treasurer Mike McDonald will also accept credit cards.

Finally, a reminder: Bring a friend to the August 8th meeting. We are always looking for new members to help fund our programs. Fees help to pay for our speakers.

was generally controlled by the Union through much of the war. We also enjoyed a savory sample of Civil War cooking from superlative re-enactor chef William Jordan.

In July we heard from retired Emergency Medical Services chief Fred Claridge, an active volunteer at the Bentonville Battlefield, who told us about battlefield medicine in the Civil War. Fred is also our newsletter editor. In addition, President Bill Jayne talked about the myths surrounding the use of rifled muskets in the Civil War. Conventional wisdom declares that because the rifle muskets such as the Springfield model 1861 had the potential to be accurate at a much greater range than older smoothbore muskets, the high casualty rates of assaults were due to the use of outmoded linear formations that were decimated at long-range by the newer weapons. Close study, however, shows that most musket fire occurred at ranges similar to the practical range of the smoothbores. This was due to the fact that it was difficult to estimate ranges correctly and Civil War soldiers weren't trained in marksmanship except for a few exceptions.

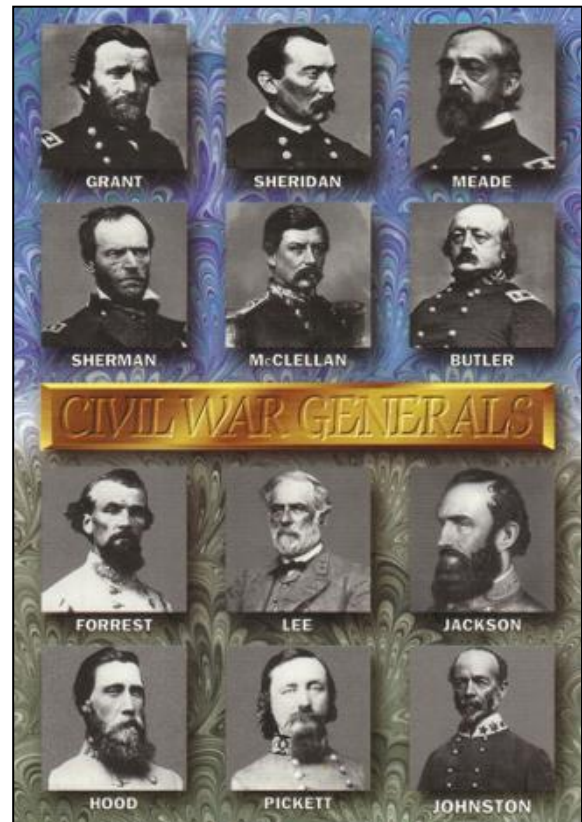
The Members Forum on August 8, 2024, will be presented by member John Weisz. John graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in 1974 with a degree in Engineering and minors in German and Military History. He retired from the Army in 1994 as a Lieutenant Colonel. He served in several leadership roles in Armored Cavalry, Armor and Infantry units and on the General Staff at Ft. Knox, KY. He is a graduate of the Command and General Staff School and the Defense Logistics Executive program. He has published several articles in military journals.

John will describe the characteristics of successful generals in the Civil War. He will bring the audience into the study of campaigns through practical exercises. Teams will form and will be provided with the information needed by the commander and several

options as to which maneuver to execute. The audience will not be provided with the identity of the generals and where the engagements were fought ahead of the exercise but, by the end, will surely be able to determine who and where.

As usual, the meeting will be held in Elebash Hall in St. John's Episcopal Church. Enter at the rear of the church, which is located at 1219 Forest Hills Drive. The church parking lot, close to the entrance to the meeting room, is easily accessed via Park Avenue off of Independence Boulevard. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and there is ample time to browse our used books table, and talk to other members of the round table. Remember, you are a recruiter. Ask a friend to come along and find out more about the round table. For information about membership, go to our website at <http://cfewrt.org> and click on "Join".

See you there!



## “Don’t Use the Stuff” - Peanut Coffee in the South (Yikes!)

The venerable, tabloid style Civil War News has transitioned to a glossy, bimonthly magazine. The first issue has an interesting article about Civil War food titled “Peanuts and Parched Corn.”

Apparently “peanut coffee” was a thing in the south because it was difficult to import coffee beans because of the blockade and given all the other supplies needed by the Confederacy. So, several alternatives to coffee sprouted up. The magazine article says that peanut coffee was made from 1/3 cup of peanuts, 1/3 cup rye or wheat, and 1/3 cup of cow peas (black-eyed peas). “The three ingredients are roasted black, then ground up and brewed.”

Interestingly enough, the article then quotes the Wilmington, N.C., *Daily Journal* of October 3, 1861, for a review of the finished cup. The newspaper opined:

“Don’t use the stuff. There isn’t one cook in five hundred who ever did anything else than ruin it. Some of the papers are recommending substitute-parched beans, rye, peas, acorns, etc. Swamp mud will blacken water just as effectively, but neither will it make coffee ... Think of paying forty cents a pound for charcoal to embitter and blacken the water you drink. The practice should be suppressed by the Board of Health, if there were no war to do it.”

## Area Historical Association Events

By Yelena Howell, Tours and Trips Committee

**Friday, August 2, 4-4:30 pm. Cameron Art Museum, 3201 South 17th St., Wilmington. Public Tour of Boundless**, a sculpture by NC artist Stephen Hayes commemorating the United States Colored Troops and their fight for freedom. Free with museum admission. Cultural Curator Daniel Jones will lead this tour on **multiple other August dates as well**: <https://cameronartmuseum.org/events/> CAM: (910) 395-5999

**Friday, August 2, 5:30-9 pm** (this night for Friends of the Library members only, may join for \$20 at the door); **Saturday, August 3, 10 am-5pm; Sunday, August 4, 1-5 pm. Book Sale at the New Hanover Public Library (Northeast Branch).** 1241 Military Cutoff Rd, Wilmington, NC 28405. \$1-\$3.

**Saturday, August 3, or Saturday, August 17, 8-9 pm. Latimer House Night Tour.** 126 S. 3<sup>rd</sup> St., Wilmington. Tickets are \$20: <https://tinyurl.com/LatimerAug>

**Saturday, August 3, 10 am-3 pm (drop-in). North Carolina Maritime Museum at Southport.** 204 E. Moore St., Southport. **Skippers Crew: Crafty Canoes.** Hands-on activities for the whole family. The first two hours are adapted for children with sensitivities. No charge; donations appreciated. Info: (910) 477-5151. **Additional topics on Wednesday, August 14:** <https://tinyurl.com/SMaritime>

**Wednesday, August 7, drop-in 10 am – 4 pm through Sunday, November 10. Bellamy Mansion Museum, 503 Market St., Wilmington. We Built This: Profiles of Black Architects and Builders in North Carolina.** No charge to view the exhibit. Info: (910) 251-3700 or [info@bellamymansion.org](mailto:info@bellamymansion.org)

**Thursday, August 8, 6:30 pm-until. Bellamy Mansion Museum, 503 Market St., Wilmington. Summer Jazz Series: Sean Meade Quartet.** \$15-\$25, tickets only at the door. <https://tinyurl.com/BellJaz> Info: (910) 251-3700 or [info@bellamymansion.org](mailto:info@bellamymansion.org)

**Friday, August 9, 9-10:30 am. Burgwin-Wright House, 224 Market St., Wilmington. Outlander in the Cape Fear Walking Tour.** Join storyteller extraordinaire **Hunter Ingram** to learn about the Colonial Wilmington that real Scottish Highlanders found when they arrived in America in the 1770s. \$20+ tax: (910) 762-0570

**Sunday, August 18, 10am-12pm. Dr. Chris E. Fonvielle Jr. and Wilmington Water Tours** present a river cruise themed around the **Civil War** in the Lower Cape Fear. \$25 (ages 4-12), \$45 (ages 13+): <https://tinyurl.com/FonvielleC>

**Wednesday, August 28, 9:45-11 am. Remembering Our Heroes (ROH) at NHC Senior Center, 2222 South College Road (Shipyard and College). WWII Tank Lecture Series: Modern Armor (Paul Spiers).** Info: (910) 798-6400



## Kim Berger Named New Membership Chair

President Bill Jayne has announced that he has appointed Kim Berger to lead our round table's membership activity. Kim replaces Bruce Patterson who has served as membership chair, on and off, for many years. Great thanks are due to Bruce Patterson for all he has done for the round table over the years.

On volunteering for the membership job, Kim wrote:

It is with great pleasure and enthusiasm that I take this opportunity to introduce myself as the new Membership Chair for CFCWRT. Having recently relocated to the Wilmington area with my family, I am honored to join such a remarkable organization and look forward to making a meaningful impact within our community.

Professionally, I am a New York State certified educator in English Language Arts for students in grades 7-12, and a Teaching Literacy instructor for Birth-12th grade students. In addition to my teaching background, I served as a volunteer firefighter and EMT for 14 years in New York. I also volunteered for the Mondays at Long Island's Racine Cancer Care Foundation as a Community Outreach coordinator.

Please invite your friends and neighbors to join us for our programs. We welcome everyone to be part of our community. I am looking forward to meeting and working with all of you.



Kim was born in Queens, NY, and raised in the Hamlet of Nesconset near Stony Brook, Long Island. Nesconset is in the township of Smithtown, about halfway between Manhattan and the Hamptons.

She notes that both of her parents were raised in Greenpoint, Brooklyn, just blocks from where the *USS Monitor* was built. Kim's mother actually attended John Ericcson Middle School, named for the inventor and industrialist who famously built the innovative "cheese box on a raft" that fought a momentous draw with the Confederate ironclad *CSS Virginia* (ex *USS Merrimack*) in 1862. Her father was a history buff but was especially interested in the Civil War. So she reports, "I grew up surrounded by Civil War books and at a young age, I was drawn to the maps."

Kim graduated from Dowling College with a BA in 1999. Dowling College was a small private college on the south shore of Long Island. It was housed in an old Vanderbilt Mansion and grounds. She obtained her MS degree from Touro University. Touro is a worldwide learning

institution with opportunities throughout the United States, as well as Russia, Germany, and Israel.

Kim and husband Thomas "Tommy," have been happily married for almost 28 years. Son Roman is an active member of our round table as well and we know him as our audio-visual chair. Their youngest son, Russell lives in Troy, NY, and is a PhD Candidate in Physics at RPI (Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute).

Thank you, Kim, for volunteering to help lead our round table.

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## Wreaths Across America Campaign Begins Next Month

by Bruce Patterson, CFCWRT Secretary

Our Cape Fear CWRT is beginning our annual ***Wreaths Across America*** campaign next month with a goal of purchasing not less than 75 wreaths, for the *Wilmington National Cemetery*, in December.

This is a Wilmington Community effort, one that has been largely successful in years past. It is our goal, indeed our intent, to place a Christmas Wreath on every Christian grave in the *Wilmington National Cemetery* this Christmas.



Member **Kim Jordan** has volunteered to chair our effort again this year and to that end is beginning the drive a month early in the hopes that our unit goal of 75 will be met before the end of October.

Cost is \$17 per wreath. A bundle of 5 wreaths (the most popular purchase) is \$85. Wreaths will be placed on graves, in a community-wide effort, on Saturday, December 14th.

See Kim at one of the next three CWRT meetings and join in this wonderful project. Cash or check (Wreaths Across America) please. Should you desire to purchase directly online, she can accommodate you, but the process is somewhat difficult to navigate while being sure that our CWRT receives credit for your purchase. For each wreath purchased, our CWRT receives \$5, thus this also becomes an important fund-raising effort.

## Last Meeting Program Featured Member Presentations on the Bentonville Battlefield and the Effectiveness of Civil War Muskets

by Yelena Howell, Tours and Trips Committee

**“For me, the Harper House is the most sacred place [at Bentonville].” - Fred Claridge**

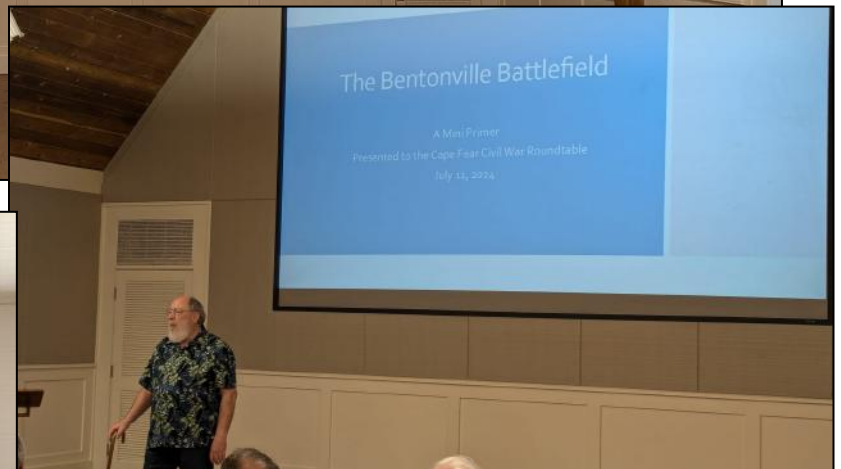
On July 11th, Fred Claridge and Bill Jayne delivered stimulating member presentations on the past and present of **Bentonville Battlefield State Historic Site** and the role of musketry in Civil War casualties. Fred extolled well-preserved historical and natural vistas at Bentonville, best explored in cooler times of the year. Coming from a medical background, he provided important details on period military medicine and the role of the Harper House as a field hospital in 1865.

Bill reexamined assertions and historical data on the **effective range of Civil War musket fire** that, in practice, differed significantly from the theoretical range of this class of arms. He recommended books by Prof. Earl J. Hess, *The Rifle Musket in Civil War Combat: Reality and Myth* and *Civil War Infantry Tactics: Training, Combat, and Small-Unit Effectiveness* and Jack Coggins' *Arms and Equipment of the Civil War*. Bill's presentation underscored the importance of questioning assumptions and examining a wider range, if you would pardon the pun, of extant evidence.

Many thanks to the two excellent speakers and to our engaged audiences! We look forward to seeing you again on August 8th. In the meanwhile, **if you have travel stories, research, or photos to share, we welcome submissions** for *The Runner*. The deadline for the next newsletter is Thursday, July 25.







Member Forums in the summer months are a good way for our members to speak about topics that are of interest to them. Consider speaking if you want to spread your knowledge.





[Editor's Note: The staff at Bentonville Battlefield gave us permission to reprint this interesting post from their blog site "From the Trenches." If you've never checked out that blog, you should. There is always something reflecting current research to be found there. We hope you will find the recent post informative.]



## But What About the Dead: Raleigh National Cemetery and John Knapp

Written and photographed by Rachel McLaughlin,  
Bentonville Battlefield Staff

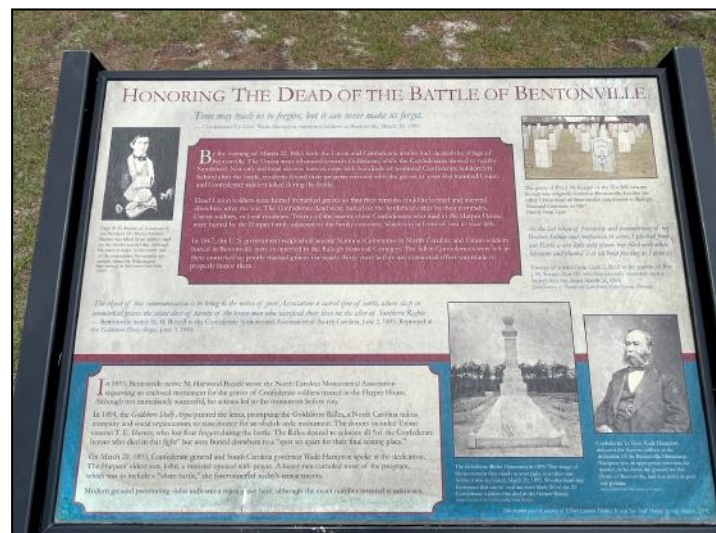
One question often asked on our Harper House tours is "But what about the dead?"

People are often curious what the armies did with the remains of the fallen. The answer is simple: It was common to bury the Union and Confederate

dead where they fell, i.e. the battlefield.

There is a panel about this subject located in the monument area of Bentonville Battlefield. The signage here mostly focuses on the Confederate dead and the monuments placed at Bentonville in commemoration of soldiers on both sides who fell here; Reason being there are 20 unknown graves of Confederate soldiers in this area. For more information on the Confederate monuments and graves, check out ["A Monumental Mystery"](#) a Youtube Video from Bentonville Battlefield Staff Member Derrick Brown explaining the history of this area. In the corner of this sign, however, is the mention of one soldier in the 21st Michigan Infantry, John M. Knapp, or J. M. Knapp, from Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Knapp was 21 years young when he enlisted on August 9th, 1862 at Grand Rapids, MI as a Private. At the battle of Stones River, Tennessee, (Dec. 31st, 1862 - Jan. 2nd, 1863) Knapp was wounded and taken prisoner but was later paroled. According to *The City of Grand Rapids and Kent County, Mich.: Up to Date, Containing Biographical Sketches of Prominent and Representative Citizens*, Knapp was familiar with blacksmithing tools because of his father's business ventures, which paid off well when his regiment was assigned to Engineer duty while in Tennessee in 1863-1864. He fell wounded again at the Battle of Bentonville during the intense



fighting on the Cole Plantation on March 19th. The story continues that he “stopped a moment to aid a wounded comrade and was himself shot through while performing this human act. He crawled along while thus wounded, for more than a mile, but died a few hours later.”

Like the rest of the deceased, John Knapp was buried on the battlefield; It was common practice for the victor to take charge of this endeavor. According to a report posted in the Raleigh newspaper *The Daily Standard* on May 11th, 1865, “[Sherman] directed General Howard and the cavalry to remain at Bentonville during the 22nd, to bury the dead and remove the wounded...”



During and after the war, there was a national concentrated effort to keep an accurate record of the fallen Union soldiers and in 1862 the Omnibus Act was passed which “directed the president to purchase land to be used as a national cemetery for the soldiers who shall die in the service to the country.” This effort led to the creation of National Cemeteries around the country in which Civil War soldiers could be buried and honored. During this time, however, Confederate soldiers were not awarded any benefits from the United States, including burial in National

Cemeteries. The only Confederate Soldiers who would be interred into these cemeteries were those who were captured as prisoners or died while being treated in Union hospitals.

In 1865, when Sherman had possession over the city of Raleigh, the Raleigh National Cemetery was established. this time, workers contracted by the United States government reinterred, or moved, bodies from Averasboro, Bentonville, Goldsboro, Greensboro, Franklinton, and Henderson.

You can view the original burial ledger for John Knapp in line 200 (if enlarged).

RECORD BOOK of									
No.	NAME	RANK	COMP.	DATE OF DEATH					REMARKS
				Mo.	Da.	Yr.	Hour.	Place.	
191	W. M. King	Priv.							191
192	P. H. Smith	Priv.							192
193	W. M. King	Priv.							193
194	J. M. King	Priv.							194
195	J. M. King	Priv.							195
196	J. M. King	Priv.							196
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According to the National Register of Historic Places information: “Graves were originally marked with headboards, painted and lettered that were later replaced with upright marble markers.”

The friends and family of John M. Knapp grieved his loss through letters and memorials. These men saw their own friends and fellow soldiers pass away in bloody combat. It’s important to remember that these men had relationships with one another after traveling together, fighting together, and surviving together. Through the correspondence that is available, it was clear that Knapp had a lasting impact on his friends and family.

In Michigan where Knapp’s parents are buried is a marker on the back of their headstones that commemorates their son.

A letter was from friend Clark L. Reed to John Knapp’s Parents writes:

“As the last token of friendship and remembrance of my Brother Soldier and companion in arms, I plucked from our Earth a nice little wild plum tree filled with white blossoms and planted it at his head praying as I done so.”

In another letter friend of Knapp, Amherst Cheney laments:

“My joy will be mingled with sorrow for the many whose epitaph will be “He was buried where he fell. The soldierly and kind Cha. Hillton; the brave fearless Blackhall; **my friend Knapp**; the prompt and efficient Lozo, and many others belonging to my company are now sleeping their last sleep. They fell fighting for truth and justice...”



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Mark the date of **October 26th** on your calendar - for the Bentonville Battlefield Fall Festival!

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