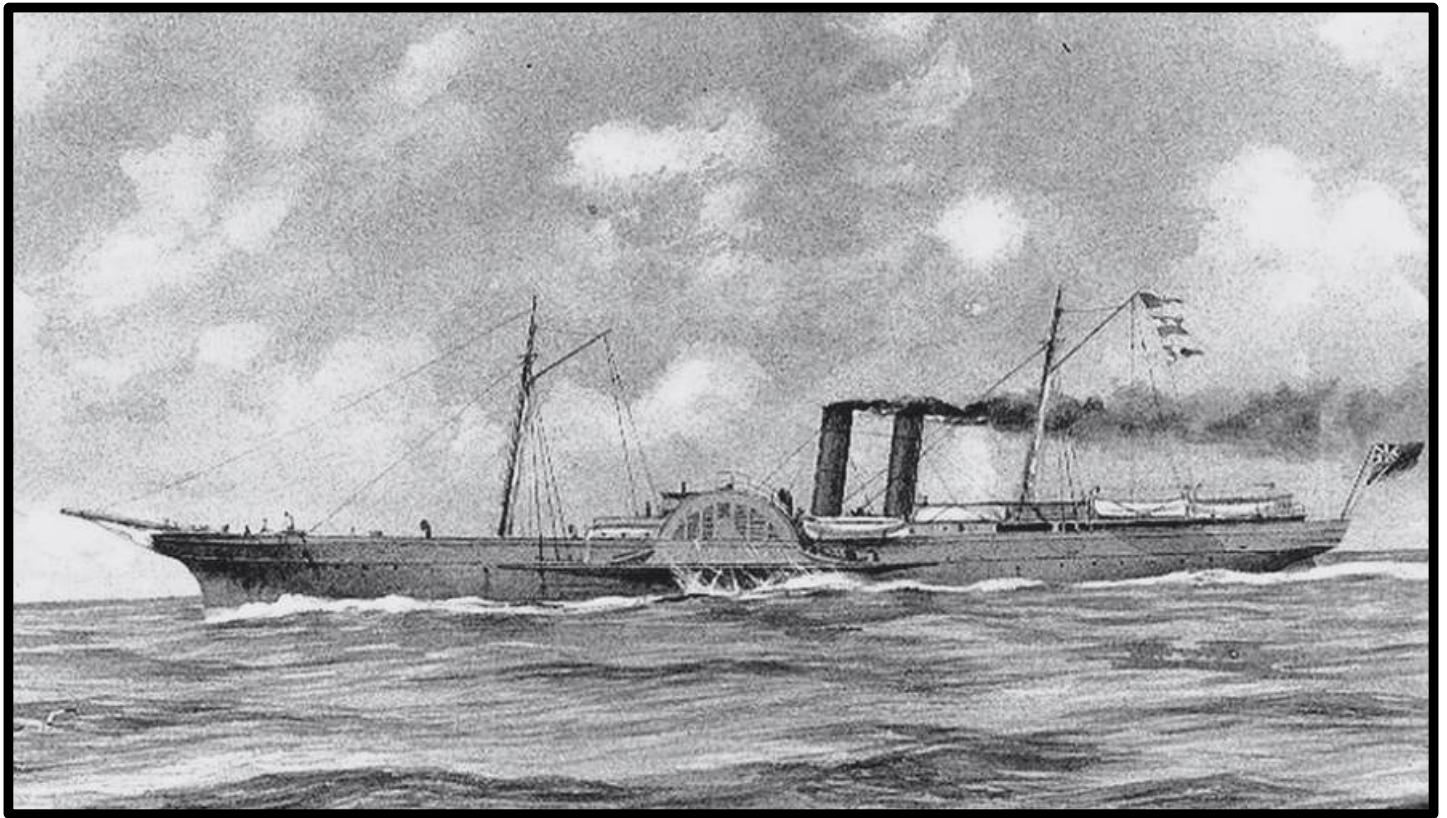


# The Runner

The Official Newsletter of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table



January 2025 | Volume 3 | Number 1

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## Letter from the Editor

Happy New Year, Members and Friends of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table!

I hope this message finds you well-rested and rejuvenated after a joyful holiday season spent with family and friends. As we step into the new year, let us carry forward the warmth and goodwill of the holidays, turning them into positive energy for the weeks and months ahead.

With 2025 upon us, we look forward to a prosperous and productive year for our Round Table. We are excited to share all that we have planned and invite you to participate in all of our upcoming programs, and special events.

This January also marks a particularly meaningful milestone in our community's story—160 years since the fall of Fort Fisher. The capture of this once-imposing Confederate stronghold was a pivotal moment as the war approached its end.

The year 1865 brought with it dramatic transformations, culminating in April with Lee's surrender and the assassination of President Lincoln. Reflecting on this anniversary gives us not only an opportunity to remember the immense sacrifices made by those involved but also to understand how these events shaped the cultural and historical landscape we live in today.

As we commemorate this historic anniversary, let us renew our commitment to learning, sharing, and honoring our past. May 2025 bring growth, understanding, and increased fellowship to our Round Table, so that we may continue to serve as thoughtful stewards of history for both our community and future generations.

Warm regards,

Matthew Howell  
Editor

Cape Fear Civil War Round Table



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# President's Address

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By Yelena Howell

Dear members and friends,

Marvelous “visions of sugarplums” are fading away like a dream, winter deepens, and the stark reality of festive excesses and New Year’s resolutions comes into focus. The beginning of the year can be sluggish. Not so for us: in the Lower Cape Fear, January and February will be anything but slow. The “high holy days” of regionally and nationally significant Civil War events are upon us. The year 2025 heralds the 160th anniversary of the Wilmington Campaign, with the momentous fall of Fort Fisher in January of 1865 precipitating a domino effect that brought down the embattled Confederacy. Several grand commemorative programs will take place at area historic sites.



Please refer to the contents section for additional information and join us in representing our organization (email [CapeFearRT@gmail.com](mailto:CapeFearRT@gmail.com) with your availability at Ft. Fisher on January 18th of half an hour or more if you would like to come staff our booth with us).

I am excited and hope you are, too! Relentless professional, family and civic demands notwithstanding, ongoing appreciation and preservation of local history also matter a great deal. There are remarkable speakers, reenactments and tours in the pipeline. Why don’t we all partake and take part as able? Far beyond a way to wile away a Saturday afternoon among like-minded others, actively focusing on American history is a duty of citizenship and a solemn privilege. As you plan to make the most of upcoming programs, please take a lot of pictures and notes that we will gladly feature in the next *Runner*.

Nothing noteworthy happens without intent and passion. Indeed, “he’s a fool who plays it cool”—not he who errs on the side of engagement. Don’t cool your jets, don’t cool your hearts and minds, and don’t cool your schedules. The only cool and cold we need this winter belong in the weather forecast. In every other regard, January 2025 is red hot! I will see you in the field and at our upcoming meeting.

Best,

Tune in live to our next meeting at <https://www.youtube.com/@CapeFearCivilWarRoundTable>  
and view our archives anytime at <https://cfcwrt.org/>



## Fort Fisher's 160th Anniversary Commemoration



Program Schedule: Jan. 18, 2025 10a-4p

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10:00: **Weapons Demonstration** @ Shepherd's Battery

10:45: **Presentation and Book Signing** by Dr. Chris Fonvielle & Dr. Bob Browning - "Fort Fisher: Art of the Battle" @ Orientation Theatre

11:00: **Above the Scenes Tour**, leaving from Main Entrance Breezeway

12:00: **Weapons Demonstration** @ Shepherd's Battery

12:45: **Presentation and Book Signing** by Rod Gragg - "Cold Steel and the Butt of a Gun: The Fall of Fort Fisher" @ Orientation Theatre

1:00: **Above the Scenes Tour**, leaving from Main Entrance Breezeway

2:00: **Weapons Demonstration** @ Shepherd's Battery

2:45: **Presentation and Book Signing** by Dr. Angela Zombek - "Suspicious Characters and Captured Combatants: The Experiences of Prisoners of War" @ Orientation Theatre

3:00pm: **Above the Scenes Tour**, leaving from Main Entrance Breezeway

4:00: **Weapons Demonstration** @ Shepherd's Battery

\* Above the Scenes Tour tickets to be purchased at 1st Floor Info Desk, advanced booking not available

\*\*Schedule subject to change or cancellation without notice

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# Membership Report

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By Kim Berger

I hope this joyous holiday season finds you and your families well. Thirty-two members attended our audience-focused December 2024 meeting. We enjoyed sharing the festivities with every one of you and thought fondly of those of you who were with us in spirit. As Membership Chair, my goal is to streamline the meeting check-in process. I now offer an alphabetical sign-in sheet where members can simply initial by their names. A second sheet is for new folks and guests. Current members can also use this sheet to update their contact information. I continue to welcome any feedback on process optimization.

## **Name Tags**

Name tags are an amenity that facilitates communication among all attendees. Please be sure to return your badge at the end of each meeting or plan to bring it the next time you join us in person. If you need a new tag, just let me know.

## **Membership Renewals**

Your renewal month is printed on your name tag. Please feel free to check with me in person or by email at [CapeFearRT@gmail.com](mailto:CapeFearRT@gmail.com) if you have a question about your renewal month. There are several easy ways to “reenlist”:

- See membership options and renew online: <https://cfcwrt.org/>
- Mail a check to CFCWRT, 8387 East Highcroft Dr NE, Leland, NC 28451
- See Mike McDonald at the next meeting with a check or cash.
- See Yelena Howell for Venmo.

## **Spread the Word**

Remember, we are all ambassadors for the Round Table. Please invite your family, friends, co-workers, and neighbors to join us. We will ensure every guest feels welcome.

Sincerely yours,

Kim Berger  
Membership Chair, Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

# CFCWRT December Meeting

By John Gough



## WAR GAME PUTS ARMCHAIR GENERALS IN THE SADDLE

On 12 December round table member John Weisz presented a war game of sorts to an enthusiastic holiday audience. Prior to the meeting members enjoyed eggnog (spiked or not), mulled wine, wine, snacks and three fantastic cakes from W.C. Pag, a.k.a, William Jordan, sutler and cook extraordinaire. In addition, former president Chris Fonvielle, Ph.D., was on hand with copies of his newest book presenting 19th-century artwork on the subject of Ft. Fisher. The subject of the meeting was “Generalship: Theory and Substance.” John noted that great generalship may be analyzed by looking at eight salient characteristics.

### Characteristics of Great Generals:

- Risk - analyzing acting on incomplete information
- Tenacity - ‘tending to hold fast’
- Flexibility - ability to change plans when opportunities or crisis arise
- Innovation - being bold and imaginative when the odds are bad
- Mastering Information - know what is needed & what supports the plan
- Empowerment - mentoring & encouraging independent thought
- Moral Courage - making the right decision, sticking with it & accepting & ‘owning’ the consequences
- Vision - imagining how future technology, tactics/strategy or human factors can give advantage to military success

Besides defining what generalship was and the characteristics behind it, John led the audience in a participatory exercise intended to illuminate the elements of Civil War generalship.

Audience members first formed several teams of from two to four members. West Pointer Weisz provided participants with information and maps and options to decide which way to defeat the enemy. Using a contemporary military term, the acronym METT-T, summarized the information provided to each team: Mission, Enemy, Terrain, Troop availability and Time.

## CFCWRT December Meeting Cont.



William Jordan's Delicious Cakes

Three scenarios were played and the various solutions were rationalized. Teams came up with various rationales and options and Retired Lt. Colonel Weisz was impressed with many well-thought-out solutions arrived at by the participants.

Fictitious names—"Big Tom Junction," "Princeton" and "Knox"—tagged the three scenarios but they were all based on actual Civil War engagements. The scenarios corresponded to actual battles in the Atlanta Campaign of 1864, pitting Major General William Tecumseh Sherman of the U.S. Army against General Joseph E. Johnston of the Confederate Army.

Sherman, of course, succeeded in driving Johnston back into entrenchments around Atlanta. Major battles occurred around Dalton, Resaca and Kennesaw Mountain north of Atlanta and Sherman also maneuvered his adversary out of strong defensive positions in several cases. Eventually, the Confederates abandoned Atlanta on September 1. According to Weisz, the campaign demonstrated Sherman's tactical and operational expertise.

British military writer, Captain Basil Lidell Hart published a biography of the victor of the Atlanta Campaign in the 1920s. It was called *Sherman: Soldier, Realist, American*. Lidell Hart considered Sherman the most outstanding general of the Civil War. He explained that the campaign tied down resources needed in other theaters, had a positive psychological and political effect by lowering enemy's national morale and contributing to the election of Abraham Lincoln in the United States, and sustained high morale in his own army by constantly moving forward and avoiding frontal assaults for the most part.



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## CFCWRT December Meeting Cont.

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### Tactical & Operational Expertise

- **Respect entrenchments !!!**
- **Mentor subordinates** [let them learn from mistakes]
- Put the enemy on defense to secure **his** tenuous Line of Communication (LOC)
- Well planned and executed operations will allow distance from **OUR** LOC for reasonable periods of time
- Threaten many points of the enemy's position(s)
- Bad weather and terrain can be used to advantage (against enemy)
- Keep the enemy commander "on the horns of Dilemma" [Captain Basil Lidell Hart, **Strategy**]

Sherman remained in the Army after the war and was promoted to General, commanding the entire U.S. Army from 1869 to 1884. As commanding general, Sherman's vision was for a large professional army. Congress's was for a small frontier force supplemented by militia. Congress won. He had more successful influence over West Point where, while he was a jealous guardian of tradition, he oversaw the transformation of the academy from a de facto school for engineers to a school truly for soldiers. He was also not a traditionalist when it came to uniforms and weaponry, where he was always on the side of practicality and firepower.

Was he the greatest general of the Civil War? Second? Third? Such rankings are largely specious in the opinion of this writer but there's no doubt that our enjoyable audience participation program gave those in attendance a deeper understanding of the elements of good generalship as well as the challenges facing those who exercised such responsibility in the Civil War.



# CFCWRT December Meeting Cont.

Supplemental charts courtesy of John Weisz

	Start Campaign	Kingston	1st Kenesaw Mountain	2nd Kenesaw Mountain
·Risk	✓	✓		
·Tenacity			✓	✓
·Flexibility	✓			✓
·Innovation	✓			✓
·Mastering Information	✓	✓	✓	✓
·Empowerment	✓	✓		✓
·Moral Courage			✓	✓
· <b>Vision</b>	Entire Campaign Was Driven By <i>The Commander's Vision</i>			

7/10/2024

Generalship, JWeisz CFCWRT

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## Outcomes of this Campaign

- Tied down resources needed in other theaters
- Psychological /political
  - Lower ratio of casualties to benefit
  - Northerners take heart from success (Just before Presidential Election)
- Jumping off point for siege and assault on Atlanta
- Driving Confederate forces AWAY from his LOC
  - At least for a while
  - Constantly forced out of earth works while inflicting minimal casualties

## Attrition

	Atlanta Campaign May 7-Sep 1,1864		Overland Campaign May 4-Jun 29,1864	
	USA	CSA	USA	CSA
Soldiers	98,500	74,000	110,000	63,000
Casualties	21,656	27,565	55,000	32,000
% Casualties	22%	37%	50%	51%

# CFCWRT January Meeting

By Bill Jayne



## Yes, the Marines Were Here in the Civil War

The next meeting of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table, now celebrating its 30th year of operation, is Thursday evening, January 9, 2025, 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. Members and friends are welcome. The best means of publicizing our round table is by word of mouth.

The January program is titled "US and Confederate Marines in North Carolina During the Civil War." Our speaker is Andrew Dupstadt, a crowd-pleasing favorite of our round table. This will be the eighth time Andrew has addressed our group going back more than 20 years.

His talk will take a brief look at the history of both the U.S. and Confederate Marine Corps in the Civil War and their involvement in actions in North Carolina. The Marine Corps tends to get overlooked in the broader scope of Civil War history, particularly the Confederate Marines, but both services were present in the Old North State, especially in the last year of the conflict, and both played crucial roles in the Second Battle of Fort Fisher in January 1865.

A veteran of the public history field with over 20 years experience, Andrew Dupstadt is currently the Education & Interpretation Supervisor for the North Carolina Division of State Historic Sites. He earned a BA in History and an MA in Public History from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. Previously, he had worked at Fort Fisher State Historic Site, Tryon Palace Historic Sites and Gardens, and the CSS *Neuse* State Historic Site. Andrew also serves as an Adjunct Instructor of History at UNC-Pembroke and Coastal Carolina Community College, teaching classes in American History and North Carolina History. Originally from Jacksonville, NC, Andrew currently resides in Kinston and is based at the NC Historic Sites East Region Office.

Interestingly, both the U.S. and Confederate Marine officers at the center of the second battle of Ft. Fisher, fought 160 years ago on January 15, 1865, had ties to distinguished families with somewhat conflicting loyalties. The U.S. Marine detachment that took part in the assault on the fort was led by Captain (later Major) Lucien Leconte Dawson who was born in Natchez, Mississippi in 1836.

## CFCWRT January Meeting Cont.

He was a son of a Maryland born former U.S. Army officer named James L. Dawson and the former Miss Sophia Elizabeth Baylor, a member of the historically prominent Baylor family of 19th century Kentucky, Alabama, and Texas.

A month old when the Alamo fell in Texas, Lucien accompanied his family from Mississippi to Arkansas during 1836-1842 and thence to the Indian Territory (Oklahoma) during 1842-44, where his father had found employment as a (Creek) Indian Agent.



*L. Prang & Co. Capture of Fort Fisher / J.O. Davidson ; Facsimile print by L. Prang & Co. Boston: L. Prang & Co. Photograph. Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <[www.loc.gov/item/93510336/](http://www.loc.gov/item/93510336/)>.*

Eventually, his mother and father divorced and with his mother and siblings, Lucien joined the Baylor family in the then independent Republic of Texas. In 1859, he was appointed from the state of Texas as a 2nd Lt USMC. Throughout his Marine Corps career, L.L. Dawson was carried on the rolls as a citizen of Texas.

Despite his ties to prominent Confederates in the Baylor family, Dawson remained loyal to the United States and served under the Stars and Stripes throughout the Civil War. In fact, at one point Confederate officials listed him as a Confederate officer because of his prominent family connections, but he never served in the Confederate military and never resigned his U.S. commission.

His Confederate counterpart at Ft. Fisher was Captain Alfred C. van Benthuisen, a member of a family that traced their origin to 17th Century Dutch settlers in New York who became very prominent in the history of the Empire State, particularly in Albany and the Hudson Valley. Remember, what we know today as New York was the Dutch colony of New Amsterdam until 1664 when the British took over the colony and named it New York.

Members of the van Benthuisen family emigrated to the south and Captain van Benthuisen was born in Natchez, Mississippi in 1836. He was connected to the family of Eliza van Benthuisen who became the wife of Joseph E. Davis, the older brother of Confederate President Jefferson Davis.

## CFCWRT January Meeting Cont.

Make plans to come and hear the story of the Marines in North Carolina and take advantage of the chance to get to better know one of the more prominent public historians of eastern North Carolina.

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 in Wilmington. 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. Ask a friend to come along and find out more about the round table. For information about membership, go to our website at <http://cfcwrt.org> and click on "Join".

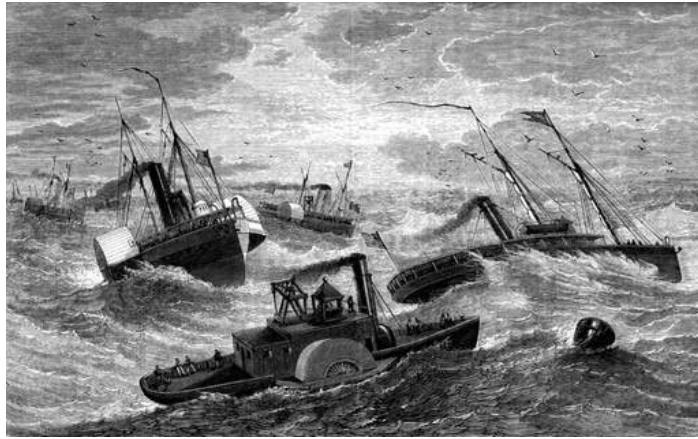
See you there!



*"Into the Hurricane of Fire," Col. Charles Waterhouse, USMC (ret), National Museum of the Marine Corps.*

# Continuing the Storm

By Matthew Howell



*A Union fleet was caught by a Nor'easter in January 1862 as it tried to cross the bar at Cape Hatteras on the way to attack Roanoke Island. Several ships were lost. (Print Collector/Getty Images)*

To My Fellow Round Table Members,

In last month's newsletter, we began Brandon Carter's thought-provoking essay, *Coincidence or Chemistry: Civil War Combat and its Effects on Weather*. In Part 1, we explored the aftermath of Malvern Hill, where torrential rain followed the brutal fighting, washing away the blood of the fallen but adding misery to the Union retreat. Drawing on Edward Powers' 19th-century work, *War and the Weather*, Carter introduced the intriguing idea that the violence of battle might influence weather patterns—a phenomenon that captured the attention of Civil War soldiers and historians alike.

In this month's installment, Part 2, Carter delves deeper, documenting patterns of post-combat precipitation across the Civil War. From Manassas to the siege of Lexington and even naval clashes like the *Monitor* and *Merrimac*, his research highlights the frequency and impact of rain following significant engagements. Drawing on letters, diaries, and Powers' meticulous observations, this section examines how weather influenced campaigns, disrupted troop movements, and shaped the experience of war.

Enjoy this unique perspective on Civil War history! As you ponder absorbing questions of correlation and causation, please note a comprehensive 2020 resource, Kenneth Noe's *The Howling Storm: Weather, Climate, and the American Civil War*, available at libraries and on Amazon at <https://www.tinyurl.com/ACWwx20>

Matthew Howell, Editor, CFCWRT

## Coincidence or Chemistry: Civil War Combat and its Effects on Weather

By Brandon Carter, Esq.; Serialized by Matthew Howell



"Charge of Duryee's Zouaves (Fifth Regiment New York Volunteers) at The Battle of Great Bethel" Harpers Weekly June 29, 1861, page 409.

### Part 2: Battles and Patterns of Post-Combat Rain

Precipitation followed battles in all theaters of the war and at all times of the year. The Appendix documents each Civil War battle that was followed by precipitation (within two days after the end of the fighting), as well as those which were not. One can quickly note that the pattern of combat preceding rain began with the first land battle of the war in June of 1861, and the last occurrence took place less than two weeks before the end of hostilities. I have gathered the data from various studies done on specific battles, works containing the weather logs of ships, diaries, journals, memoirs, and especially from Powers' book. He gathered data mainly through letters sent to him by the people who experienced the battles and their effects on weather firsthand. In a few cases, battles were fought during rainstorms. I have identified these in the chart. For the most part, however, rain followed very agreeable weather during combat.

Wet weather impaired the reliability of black powder, and movement of large armies over dirt roads or ground turned to mud created quagmires with which horse-drawn artillery and wagons could scarcely deal. Thus, Civil War commanders preferred to wait for dry conditions for maneuver and fighting.

Though it has already been noted that rain followed the war's first battle, the minor fight at Big Bethel, Virginia, on June 10, 1861, the first major battle of the war appears to have had an even greater effect on the weather. The first battle of Manassas or Bull Run was fought in Northern Virginia on July 21, 1861. The day dawned hot and clear, and a pitiless sun would both illuminate and exacerbate man's inhumanity to man until firing ceased late in the afternoon.

## Coincidence or Chemistry Cont.

The battle, which resulted in a Confederate victory, cost America nearly 5,000 casualties. Afterward the Union army resorted to what came to be known as the “Great Skedaddle,” as Federal soldiers almost literally ran the twenty-five miles back to Washington. Both Stonewall Jackson and President Jefferson Davis saw the importance of this and hoped for a pursuit of the demoralized enemy. The Confederates were exhausted and disorganized from the day’s fighting, however, and few troops followed the Union army that night. The next morning, Confederate officers awoke to heavy rain which would continue throughout the day. Any hope of pressing the defeated enemy was ended (Davis 244-45). After the war, some Confederates felt that this was one of the best opportunities the South had had to crush the Union army and win independence (Alexander 110). With the close of July 22, post-combat rain had made its first real effect on the course of the war.

The siege of Lexington, Missouri, which took place in September of that same year, is unique in that some Union officers apparently told their men that the continued artillery fire would bring them rain. The troops badly needed water, and their officers needed all the arguments they could muster to encourage the men to hold out as long as possible. It did in fact rain on the 17th. The men had no buckets with which to catch the water, so they wrung it out of their blankets. Powers got most of this information from General John McNulta, who was present at the fighting (Powers 154). This makes it clear that at least some Civil War soldiers saw a relationship between heavy cannonading and precipitation.

Even the world’s first ironclad warship to see combat appears to have had an effect on the weather. On March 8, 1862, the CSS *Virginia* (built out of the hull of the former USS *Merrimac*) ran wild through Hampton Roads, Virginia. Four U.S. vessels were sunk or run aground (Sears, *To the Gates of Richmond*, 15). The next day, during the famous fight between the *Virginia* and the USS *Monitor*, a rain set in. Powers received a good deal of this information from one Fred M. Patrick, a member of the 10th New York Volunteers. Mr. Patrick noted in his correspondence with Powers that he had believed that cannonading caused rain since 1861. He had even formed his own theory to explain the matter. He wrote, “It struck me as a curious fact that the amount of rain which fell after each battle, seemed to be very nearly in proportion to the amount of powder that was burnt” (Powers 188). This would not be the only time that a naval fight was followed by rainfall.

# Notable Events in the Cape Fear Region

By Yelena Howell

**Thursday, January 2, 10 am- 4 pm. Bellamy Mansion Museum's first day of 2025!** 503 Market St., Wilmington. Tours and programming resume at this outstanding historic institution. Info for visitors and prospective volunteers: <https://www.bellamymansion.org/>

**Friday, January 3, 3-4 pm. NHC Public Library, Oak Room at Northeast Branch, 1241 Military Cutoff Rd., Wilmington. Past Tense: Historical Fiction Book Club.** Info: <https://tinyurl.com/ReadFx>

**Friday, January 3, 8-9 pm, Burgwin-Wright House, 224 Market St., Wilmington. Candlelit Night Tour of the museum.** Tickets \$15 (+tax) ea. Please call (910) 762-0570 to reserve your spot.

**Saturday, January 4, and Saturday, January 18, 8-9 pm. Latimer House Night Tour** featuring a scholarly discussion of gaslight. 126 S. 3rd St, Wilmington; \$20. Info and tickets: <https://tinyurl.com/LatimerJan>

**Tuesday, January 7, doors open at 6 pm, program at 7 pm. Hatch Auditorium, Caswell Beach.** Brunswick Civil War Round Table welcomes **Wade Sokolosky** with his dynamic presentation on **North Carolina's Confederate hospitals.** The visitor fee is \$10 and can be applied toward the \$25 annual membership dues, which can include a spouse. Info: <https://brunswickcivilwarroundtable.com/>

**Wednesday, January 8, 1:30-2 pm, and every Wednesday of the month. Cameron Art Museum, 3201 S. 17th St., Wilmington. Public tour** of current exhibits. Info on this and other CAM events: <https://cameronartmuseum.org/events/>

**Saturday, January 18, 10 am – 4 pm. Fort Fisher State Historic Site.** 1610 Fort Fisher Blvd., Kure Beach. **Comprehensive 160th Anniversary Commemoration.** Save the date and see p. X for detailed schedule. CFCWRT will have a table and welcomes your help in half-hour or longer increments between 9 am (set-up) and 4 pm.

**Wednesday, January 22, 9 am. NHC Senior Center, 2222 College Rd., Wilmington. Remembering Our Heroes (ROH) Army Style, SOS Breakfast.** Full catered breakfast featuring chipped beef on toast. \$8. **Ken Brooks** will speak on **“Churchill's Commandoes” at 10 am.** Info: <https://tinyurl.com/ROH1Jan> or email [bppatterson1930@att.net](mailto:bppatterson1930@att.net)

**Saturday, January 25, 10 am-4 pm. Brunswick Town/Fort Anderson State Historic Site. Between the Devil and the Deep Blue Sea: Sailors and Tar Workers in the 18th Century.** An all-day living history event for all ages. Free of charge; donations graciously accepted. Info: <https://www.facebook.com/BrunswickTownFortAnderson/> or [brunswick@dncr.nc.gov](mailto:brunswick@dncr.nc.gov)

**Friday, January 31, 7:30 pm. Thalian Hall.** 310 Chestnut St, Wilmington. Musical theater: **NY Gilbert & Sullivan Players' H.M.S. Pinafore.** This “seaworthy satire”, first launched in London in 1878, has been sailing out of NYC for the past 49 years. Info and tickets: <https://www.thalianhall.org/pinafore>



## Remembering our Heroes



### **REMEMBERING OUR HEROES WARNING ORDER:**

**WHAT:** Army Style, SOS Breakfast (Chipped Beef on Toast)

**WHEN:** Wednesday, 22 January 2025, 0900 hours

**WHERE:** NHC Senior Center, (S College Road & Shipyard Blvd)

**DETAILS:** Sign up at regular December 18th meeting or respond to this Warning Order.  
We require a minimum of 35 paying attendees to commit.

Full catered breakfast cost is only \$8.00 (cash only) WW II Veterans eat as guests (free),  
Breakfast at 0900 hours.

**PROGRAM:** Ken Brooks, Churchill's Commandoes, begins at 1000 hours. Details to follow.

Your guests (friends, neighbors, family members) are encouraged and welcome.

Get the new year off to an early, nostalgic start with a traditional SOS breakfast. Stay for another exciting, superbly illustrated, presentation by Ken Brooks. He was there.

## Brunswick Civil War Round Table



### Civil War Hospitals: Challenges and Triumphs - A Presentation by Col. Wade Sokolosky (Ret.)

Throughout the Civil War, hospitals played a vital role in saving lives and treating both physical and emotional traumas. Yet, they faced immense challenges, from unsanitary conditions and overcrowding to scarce supplies and limited medical knowledge. To explore this often-overlooked aspect of Civil War history, the Brunswick Civil War Round Table welcomes returning guest speaker Col. Wade Sokolosky (Ret.) for an enlightening presentation at their upcoming meeting.

The event will take place on Tuesday, January 7th, at Hatch Auditorium, Caswell Beach. Registration begins at 6:15 PM, with the program starting at 7:00 PM. Visitors are welcome for a \$10 fee, which can be applied toward a \$25 annual membership, including a spouse.

Col. Sokolosky, a leading expert on North Carolina's Confederate hospitals and the 1865 Carolinas Campaign, will delve into the critical role hospitals played during the war. Drawing from firsthand accounts, he will detail the challenges and innovations that shaped medical care, including the expansion of hospital networks along North Carolina's railroads as Confederate resources dwindled.

A 25-year U.S. Army veteran and author of *North Carolina's Confederate Hospitals, Vol. 1, 1861–1863*, Sokolosky offers a unique perspective on how hospitals adapted to meet the increasing demands of wartime. His talk will shed light on both the successes and limitations of Civil War medical practices.



For more information, email president John Butler at [Brunswickcwrtable@gmail.com](mailto:Brunswickcwrtable@gmail.com) or call him at (404) 229-9425. Visit BCWRT online at <https://brunswickcivilwarroundtable.com/> or <https://www.facebook.com/brunswickcivilwarroundtable>

# The Timely Arrival of *Gun Crew at Fort Fisher*

By Yelena Howell



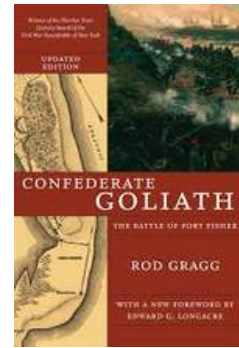
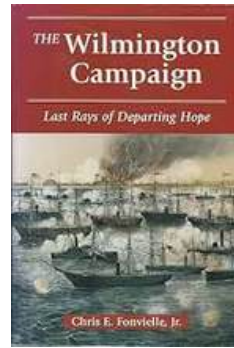
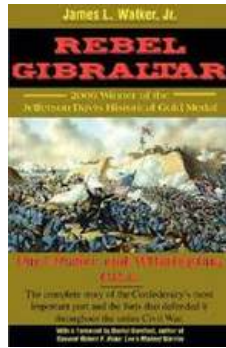
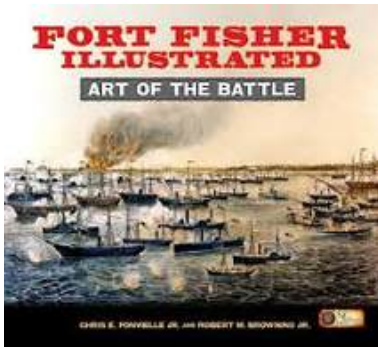
James C. Horton, affectionately known as Jim, is an acclaimed professional artist based in the Lower Cape Fear and an active, steadfast member of our organization. Jim's historical portfolio includes Civil War landmarks and scenes north and south of the Mason-Dixon line. *Blockade Runner*, *Guns of Fort Fisher*, *Cushing and the Monticello*, and *Beery's Shipyard* illustrate instantly recognizable local themes.

The collection is now joined by *A Gun Crew at Fort Fisher*, a 16" x 20" oil painting. The crew, commanded by Colonel William Lamb, loads a shell into a 32-pounder cannon to protect a blockade runner from U.S. gunboats. Congratulations to Jim on finishing this piece just in time for the 160th anniversary of the massive action at Fort Fisher that irreparably compromised the aorta of the Confederacy's failing heart (a former cardiac ICU nurse's choice of metaphor does not begin to approach the magnitude of bloodshed at the fall of the Fort, a chapter in our history that merits somber remembrance).

We will continue to feature announcements of Jim Horton's future public exhibits and new pieces. To peruse his work, connect with the artist, and purchase originals and prints, please visit <https://www.hortonart.net/>

# Read Your Way to January 18, 2025

By Yelena Howell



The body of nonfiction and fiction dedicated to the fall of Fort Fisher and the Wilmington Campaign is robust and growing. With the 160th anniversary of the decisive Second Battle of Fort Fisher now imminent, I would recommend to a serious student of history a two-step refresher over the next two weeks.

1. *Fort Fisher Illustrated: Art of the Battle* (Fonvielle & Browning, 2024).

This new book brings together the vast majority of extant XIX-century art featuring the Fort with expert commentary on the origin, veracity and significance of each piece. Visual learners and those desiring a succinct narrative summary will benefit tremendously from spending time here. Copies are available at Fort Fisher Visitor Center and directly from the authors:

<https://www.chrisfonvielle.com/>

2. Your choice of a scholarly non plus ultra, an abridged and more accessible account, or a journalistic masterpiece:

- If you can devote the next two weeks to a comprehensive review: *The Wilmington Campaign: Last Rays of Departing Hope* (Fonvielle, 2001).
- If you are shorter on time and would prefer a compressed take: *Rebel Gibraltar: Fort Fisher and Wilmington, C.S.A.* (Walker, 2005).
- If you appreciate the engrossing style of excellent journalism: *Confederate Goliath: The Battle of Fort Fisher* (Gragg, 1991).

While this is but my personal, focused pick from a broad bibliography, focus, availability and accessibility of book selections are senior to breadth as we review the basics to make the most of the upcoming commemorative program at Fort Fisher State Historic Site. Have you read these books and what other works would you recommend? Please let us know via this engaging reader's poll:

[https://uncw.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_eyXLbH32NdG7tRA](https://uncw.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eyXLbH32NdG7tRA)

# About Life on Mars

By Roman Berger



Life on Mars Beauty™ is the newest sponsor of the Cape Fear Civil War Roundtable. Founded by Cynthia Sansone and esthetician Rosemary Berger (half-sister of A/V Coordinator Roman Berger), Life on Mars seeks to develop and market beauty products without toxic chemicals.

Having assisted cancer patients with their Mondays Cancer Care program (documented in the Academy-nominated HBO documentary Mondays at Racine), they were particularly mindful of the need for beauty products free of harsh chemicals that could adversely impact the lives of their clients, including those in the fight of their lives. This is aided by Rosemary Berger's role in Research and Development.

By meticulously crafting and producing these products, all made in the USA and cruelty-free, Life on Mars seeks to reassure all those looking for beauty supplies that they can look wonderful and protect their skin and health.

<https://lifeonmarsbeauty.com/>  
<https://www.mondayscancercare.org/>

# Individual Sponsors Welcomed

By Yelena Howell

Yelena Howell, BSN, RN



## Doctoral Candidate in Nursing

I believe in our collective and individual ability to strengthen our Round Table in a variety of ways. There are multiple opportunities to contribute our time and treasure throughout each program year—it all adds up! Thank you for every single bit of it! How do you know if giving in a specific way is right for you? You just know. It should feel right, and it should feel fun.

Our organization has another Sterling sponsor: yours truly! I sent Mike McDonald a check for an additional \$20 to upgrade my current membership. When my renewal date comes up in August, I plan to re-enlist as a Gold member and, by then, a certified Family Nurse Practitioner.

In January and February, as a final-semester student, I am available to see you in primary and urgent care in Wilmington under the supervision of an award-winning internal medicine physician. Exclusive to our members, this winter I will be offering complementary follow-up over the phone, by email or in your home to see how you are and to make sure all your questions and concerns are addressed. *Disclaimer: there is no program or clinic requirement or incentive for me to bring in patients or to provide additional care. House calls can supplement, but do not replace your regular home health services.*

“No one has ever talked to me about all these things before.” –a patient

“Yelena is an outstanding student. She has surpassed all my expectations during this rotation.” – S. Staub, MD, FAAP

“Mrs. Howell is not only an exceptional student, but she is an exceptional human being. At all times, she displays cultural competence, compassion for the patient and the patient's family, superior critical thinking skills, and the ability to flow with ease and grace through many different clinic scenarios.” – S.T. Bowers, APRN, FNP-C

My goal is to exceed my patients' expectations. To connect: (910) 431-6102 cell.

## CFCWRT Lifetime Sponsors

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our strategic partners, whose generous support through discounts and services sustains the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table. Your ongoing contributions play an invaluable role in helping us preserve history, foster education, and connect our community. Thank you for standing with us in our mission!



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**New: a corporate membership adds your business or organization to our list of valued sponsors. Sterling (\$50), Gold (\$100), and Platinum (\$250) annual sponsorships are available. Contact [CapeFearRT@gmail.com](mailto:CapeFearRT@gmail.com) to join.**

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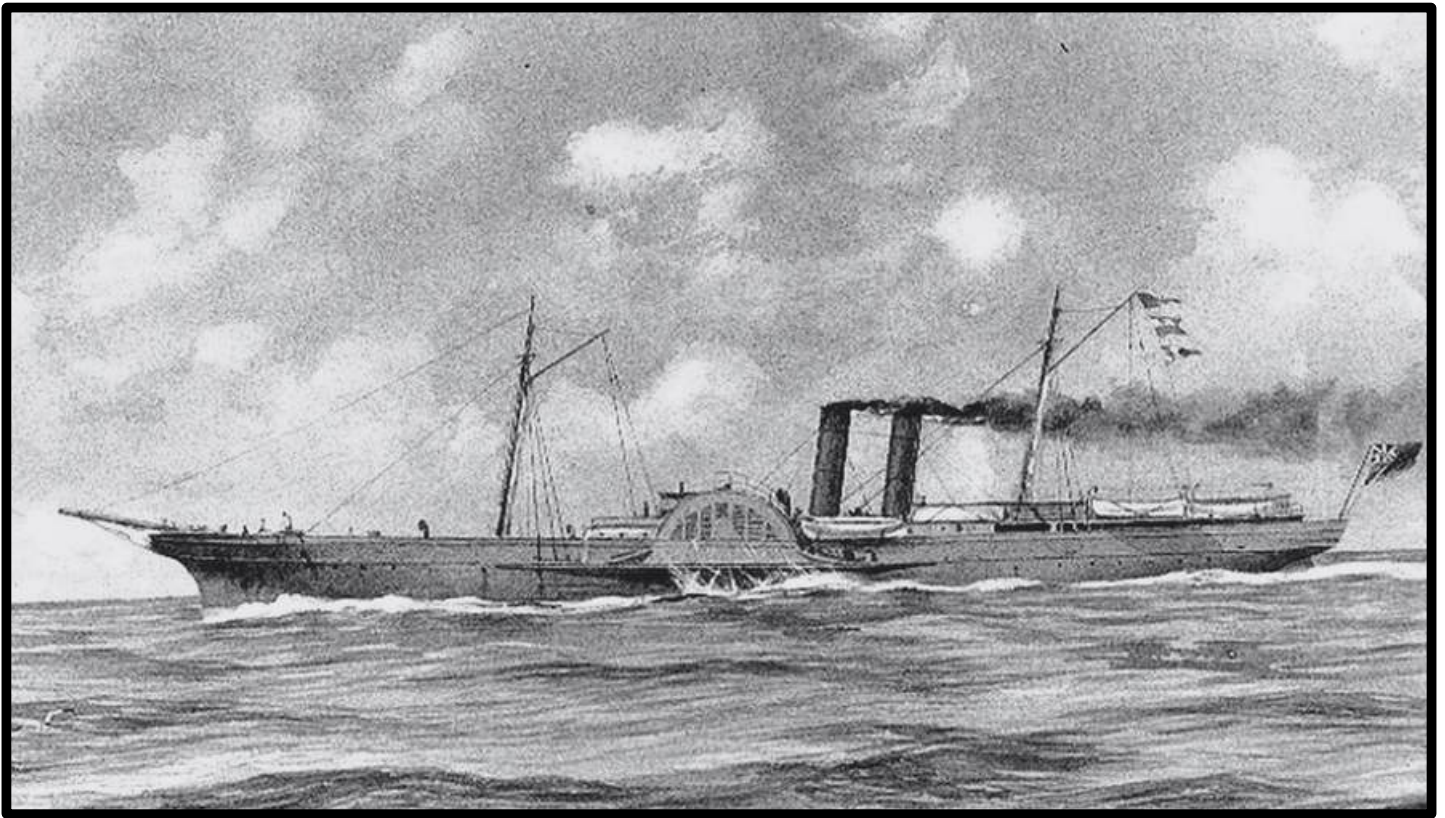
[CapeFearRT@gmail.com](mailto:CapeFearRT@gmail.com)





# The Runner

The Official Newsletter of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table



December 2024 | Volume 2 | Number 12





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## Letter from the Editor

Dear Members of the CFCWRT,

As the calendar turns to December, we enter a season of reflection and celebration. It's a time to look back on the year's accomplishments, the enriching discussions we've shared, and the growing appreciation for the history we all hold dear.

As we prepare to bid farewell to 2024, we also look ahead to a momentous occasion in 2025: the 160th anniversary of the battles at Fort Fisher and the closing days of the Civil War. These pivotal events in our nation's history offer a powerful lens through which we can examine themes of courage, sacrifice, and transformation. Fort Fisher, the "Gibraltar of the South," played a decisive role in shaping the course of the war, and its fall marked the beginning of the Confederacy's end.

Our Round Table will undoubtedly have much to explore in the coming months as we commemorate this anniversary and reflect on the broader lessons of the Civil War. It is our shared mission to keep this history alive, ensuring it continues to inform and inspire.

As we enjoy the festivities of the holiday season, let us also take pride in our dedication to studying and preserving the past. Together, we can finish this year strong and look forward to an even more engaging 2025.

Wishing you all a merry Christmas, happy holidays, and a healthy, prosperous New Year!

With warm regards,

Matthew Howell  
Editor  
Cape Fear Civil War Round Table





# President's Address

By Yelena Howell

Dear members and friends,

“You got a fast car” because somehow, the year 2024 is already in the rearview mirror. These months have been quite eventful for our organization and the local community, not to mention the broader arenas of which we are a part. I hope that your involvement with the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table has provided you with a measure of intellectual and social stimulation, a sense of belonging and continuity, and the anticipation of more talks, books, and trips to come. From this perspective, “it was a very good year”, and I am grateful to be completing it in your company.



Perhaps facetiously, my Sinatra-worshipping father used to warn me, a reader of dictionaries and a daydreamer, that I was sure to be a student until the ripe old age of 40. I have surpassed Viktor's forecast by five years and counting and am inspired by the steadfast commitment of my betters to lifelong learning. One of the mythical father archetypes of Western civilization, Ulysses, proclaims to us through Lord Tennyson:

I am a part of all that I have met;  
 Yet all experience is an arch wherethro'  
 Gleams that untravell'd world whose margin fades  
 For ever and forever when I move.

When times are uncertain and time is inescapable, ruthlessly short and agonizingly long by turns, why not allow the promises of the “untravell'd world” of pages you will yet read and write, words you will yet hear and say, music you will yet revisit and discover and a myriad other glimmers of hope to continue carrying you forward along with the precious cargo of memories of where you have been? After thirty years' worth of great get-togethers, we are on our way to the next twelve meetings. Our Roundtable is our Roundtable. Thank you, fellow travelers, for your ongoing interest and support, and please enjoy the holiday season with your loved ones.

Warmest regards,

Tune in live to our next meeting at <https://www.youtube.com/@CapeFearCivilWarRoundTable>  
 and view our archives anytime at <https://cfcwrt.org/>



# Membership Report

By Kim Berger

The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table's November 2024 meeting was well-attended, even with the chilly and rainy weather. A total of 46 participants joined us, including several guests and family members.

Linda Lashley was accompanied by her son, John, while James Steele brought his son, Daniel. John Pilli introduced his friend, Dale Hafer, to the group. Kevin Poggi also attended as a visitor and expressed interest in becoming a member soon. We hope all our guests enjoyed John Quarstein's presentation on The Battle of Mobile Bay and look forward to seeing them again at our December meeting.

As Membership Chair, I've been working to streamline the check-in process. To make things easier, I've created an alphabetical sign-in sheet where members can simply initial by their names. A second sheet will always be available for new members, guests, and any missing names. Current members can also use this sheet to update their contact information. Despite these efforts, there are still three members who were not officially accounted for at the November meeting. If you think you may be one of them, please let me know. I also welcome any feedback on the new procedure!

## **Name Tags**

Name tags remain a work in progress. A few were missing at the November meeting, but replacements will be ready for December. Ideally, name tags should be handed in at the end of each meeting to ensure their availability for the next one. If you prefer to take yours home, that's fine—just remember to bring it back and sign in for the meeting.

## **Membership Renewals**

Renewal reminders were emailed to five members. We had two renewals in November, including the Bergers.

If your membership anniversary is in December or if you are otherwise renewing, you can submit your fee in one of three ways:

Mail it to: CFCWRT, 8387 East Highcroft NE, Leland, NC 28451

Pay Mike McDonald at the December meeting.

Renew online at: <https://form.jotform.com/213434374836156>

Your membership anniversary month is printed on the bottom of your name tag. If you're unsure about your renewal status, feel free to reach out for clarification.

## **Spread the Word**

Remember, we are all ambassadors for the Round Table. Invite your family, friends, co-workers, and neighbors to join us. We will ensure every guest feels welcome.



## CFCWRT November Meeting

By John Jones



### “Sink Before Surrender!” John Quarstein Presents The Battle of Mobile Bay

On November 14, 2024, the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table once again welcomed renowned speaker and historian John Quarstein to regale us with a stirring presentation about one of the legendary nautical engagements of the Civil War. John is a native of the Eastern Shore of Maryland and divides his time now between his family farm in Still Pond, Maryland, and the historic Chamberlin Hotel in Hampton, Virginia. In addition to naval history, he is an expert on duck decoys and noted that a breakfast of oysters and whiskey is a good way to begin a day of duck hunting on the Eastern Shore.

Mr. Quarstein last spoke to us in September 2023, talking about the *CSS Albemarle*. He has authored 20 books (with a 21st soon to be published) and has written numerous articles, exhibits, essays, and documentaries. His titles include *A History of Ironclads: The Power of Iron over Wood*; *CSS Virginia: Sink Before Surrender*, and *The Monitor Boys: The Crew of the Union’s First Ironclad*. He is the winner of the 2012 Henry Adams Prize for excellence in historical literature.

Quarstein has also produced, narrated and written several PBS documentaries including the film series “Civil War in Hampton Roads,” a Silver Telly Award winner. Quarstein is the recipient of the National Trust for Historic Preservation’s President’s Award for Historic Preservation, the Civil War Society’s Preservation Award, and the Daughters of the American Revolution Gold Historians Medal. He has been a guest on C-Span multiple times and has served as an adjunct professor at the College of William & Mary.

On August 5, 1864, U.S. Navy Rear Admiral David Farragut’s fleet of 18 ships, including four ironclad ships of the monitor type, in what amounted to a frontal assault, forced its way through a narrow channel obstructed by torpedoes (naval mines) and swept by artillery fire from nearby forts, and defeated a Confederate force commanded by Admiral Franklin Buchanan.

It was a battle of wills between the two highest ranking officers of each navy. Buchanan, born in 1800, joined the U.S. Navy as a midshipman in 1815. He had a sterling career as a naval officer, serving with distinction in the Mexican War, commanding a ship in the expeditions of Commodore Matthew Perry and the opening of Japan to western trade, first commandant of the U.S. Naval Academy and commanding officer of the Washington Navy Yard.



## CFCWRT November Meeting Cont.

Illustrating the strange divisions surrounding the leadership of the country around the time of the beginning of the Civil War, Mr. Quarstein told us that Captain Buchanan hosted a wedding reception at the Navy Yard that was attended by Abraham Lincoln. A young girl in attendance wore a dress with a Confederate flag design and was treated by Lincoln with good humor. More seriously, Buchanan, a veteran of more than 40 years service in the U.S. Navy, submitted his resignation from the service on April 22, 1861, because he thought his home state of Maryland would secede from the United States. Within a week, however, it became clear that Maryland would not secede and that federal control of the state would continue to allow the passage of troops from northern states. He again wrote to Navy Secretary Gideon Welles and requested the withdrawal of his resignation but Welles responded with the news that Buchanan's name had been "stricken from the rolls of the Navy" on April 22, the date of Buchanan's original letter of resignation.

Farragut, a year younger than Buchanan, was, perhaps even more of a "sea dog." Orphaned at a very young age, he was adopted by Commodore David Porter, the father of David Dixon Porter of Civil War fame. Farragut became a midshipman on his adoptive father's ship at the age of nine. Named James Glasgow Farragut at birth, the boy's father, a native of Minorca, Spain, was a Revolutionary War veteran and friend of David Porter, Sr. David Porter Sr., met and befriended Jordi Farragut Mesquida, from the Spanish Balearic island of Minorca. Mesquida joined the American navy in the Revolutionary War and changed his name to George Farragut. Entertainingly, from then on in his presentation, Mr. Quarstein, simply referred to the various David Porters as Porter 1, 2 and 3.

In late spring 1808, David 1 suffered sunstroke, and George Farragut took him into his home, where his wife Elizabeth Farragut cared for him. Already weakened by tuberculosis, he died on June 22, 1808. Elizabeth Farragut died of yellow fever the same day. Motherless, the Farragut children were to be placed with friends and relatives. Thus began young Farragut's long association with Porter 2 and Porter 3. Compounding the confusion, young George Farragut decided to change his first name to "David" when he became a midshipman at the very young age of nine. At the incredibly young age of 12, during the War of 1812, the youngster was given command of prize vessel taken by Porter 2's ship, the *Essex*.

As the Civil War unfolded, both Buchanan and Farragut played major roles and earned even greater distinction. Buchanan commanded the CSS *Virginia* (vice USS *Merrimack*—with a "k") in the fateful battle of Hampton Roads. On March 8, 1862, the ironclad *Virginia*, making just five knots, attacked the wooden-hulled steamships of the U.S. Navy, destroying two large steam frigates and killing approximately 240 Union sailors. In the fighting, however, Buchanan was seriously wounded by fire from U.S. forces on shore. Buchanan did not command the *Virginia* in its momentous clash with the USS *Monitor* in Hampton Roads the next day. His wound was serious and as he slowly recovered, he was transferred to the major port of Mobile, Alabama on the coast of the Gulf of Mexico.



## CFCWRT November Meeting Cont.

By 1864, the stage was set for a furious clash at Mobile Bay. On board the USS *Hartford*, a wooden-hulled steam frigate, Farragut entered Mobile Bay, Alabama, 5 August 1864, in two columns, with ironclad monitors leading and a fleet of wooden ships following. When the lead monitor, the USS *Tecumseh*, was demolished by a mine, the wooden ship Brooklyn stopped, and the line drifted in confusion toward Fort Morgan. As disaster seemed imminent, Farragut gave the orders embodied by his famous words—“Damn the torpedoes, full speed ahead!” He swung his own ship clear and headed across the mines, which failed to explode. The fleet followed and anchored above the forts, which, now isolated, surrendered one by one. The torpedoes to which Farragut and his contemporaries referred would today be described as moored mines. Mr. Quarstein explained that most scholarship states that Admiral Farragut said “Damn the torpedoes! Four bells! Captain Drayton, go ahead! Jouett, full speed!” That was, perhaps understandably, shortened to the more pithy version known by all students of American history.

At the head of a seriously outgunned flotilla of ships, most of which were not ready for battle as the Union fleet quickly stormed past the forts, Confederate Admiral Buchanan onboard the ironclad CSN *Tennessee*, ordered his lieutenants to “Sink before surrender,” and directed the iron monster to attack the entire U.S. fleet. Mr. Quarstein told us that at this point Farragut reportedly, said “I didn’t think Old Buck was such a fool.” Buchanan, nonetheless, fought furiously and at one point Farragut’s second in command, Captain Percival Drayton saw Buchanan onboard the *Tennessee* and threw his binoculars at him, calling him an “infernal traitor.” Drayton was a South Carolinian who remained loyal to the Union.

As the *Tennessee* absorbed murderous punishment from the Union fleet, Buchanan was once again wounded. Taken below for medical treatment, he once again enjoined his officers to “sink before surrender,” but with the ship unable to defend itself, surrender came and the battle ended.

Although the city of Mobile remained in Confederate hands until 1865, the port was essentially closed to shipping and the Union victory became the first in a string of major Confederate defeats, including the fall of Atlanta and the Battle of Cedar Creek in the Shenandoah Valley that ensured electoral victory for Abraham Lincoln in the election of 1864, thus cementing Confederate defeat.



Graciously, Mr. Quarstein stayed for an extensive question-and-answer period after his presentation and also signed books for members of the audience. Such opportunities for personal contact with notable speakers are hallmarks of the round table. Our stated purpose is to “broaden the knowledge, understanding and interpretation” of the Civil War Era and this presentation achieved that purpose, par excellence.



# CFCWRT December Meeting

By Bill Jayne

## **Audience Participation Program Focuses On Generalship: Theory and Substance**



Tropical Storm Debby threatened the area back in August and we decided to cancel our program on August 11 rather than have members driving on flooded roads. As it turned out, Debby wasn't as severe as expected but emphasizing safety was the best course. Member John Weisz was poised to present the program back in August but instead we moved him in the schedule to December 12.

So now, we have the pleasure of inviting all members and friends to the December program 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, December 12, 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.

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.

For the program, 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.

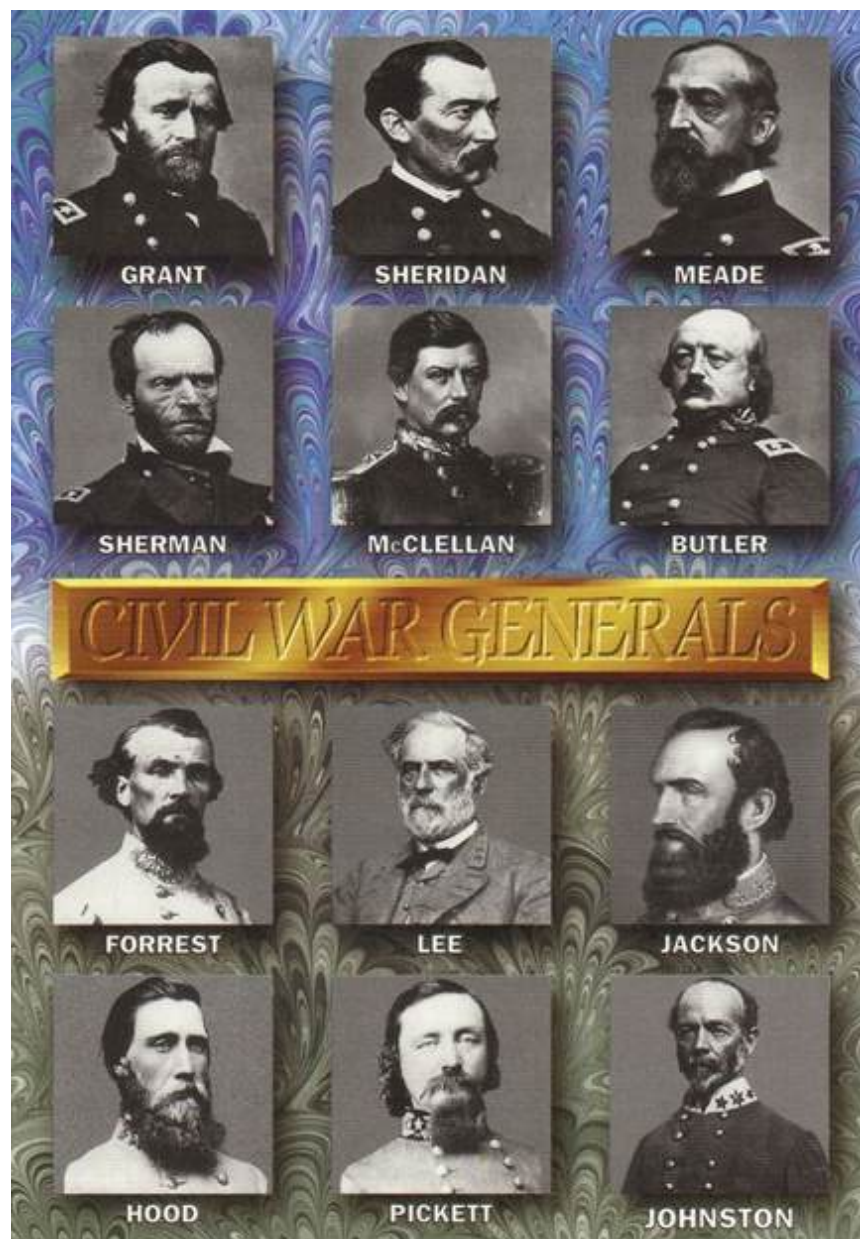




## CFCWRT December Meeting Cont.

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://cfcwrt.org> and click on "Join".

See you there!





# Unveiling the Storm: Introducing War and Weather

By Matt Howell

Dear Members,

It is with great excitement that I introduce our new serialized feature, *Coincidence or Chemistry: Civil War Combat and its Effects on Weather*. Our member and sponsor Brandon Carter, Esq., authored this study in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Bachelor of Arts degree in History at the Virginia Military Institute in 2008.

Drawing on Edward Powers' seminal 19th-century work *War and the Weather*—as well as firsthand accounts from soldiers, historical records, and modern meteorological theories—this series uncovers the unique interplay between combat and the environment.

Carter weaves a compelling narrative that spans Civil War campaigns, the Mexican-American War, and even Napoleon's battles. His exploration of this topic will captivate readers with its blend of military history and environmental science.

## **The series will be published in five concise installments:**

- Part 1: Introduction to the phenomenon and Malvern Hill, the first key example of post-battle rain.
- Part 2: Patterns of post-combat precipitation during the Civil War.
- Part 3: Edward Powers' early theories on the relationship between combat and weather.
- Part 4: Connections to other wars, including the Mexican-American War and Napoleon's campaigns.
- Part 5: Modern insights into weather modification and a conclusion on Powers' legacy.

Each installment offers a rich and accessible look into this underexplored topic. We are thrilled to bring you this series and invite you to dive into the first chapter below.

Enjoy this unique perspective on Civil War history! As you ponder absorbing questions of correlation and causation, please note a comprehensive 2020 resource, Kenneth Noe's *The Howling Storm: Weather, Climate, and the American Civil War*, available at libraries and on Amazon at <https://www.tinyurl.com/ACWwx20>



## Coincidence or Chemistry: Civil War Combat and its Effects on Weather

By Brandon Carter, Esq.; Serialized by Matthew Howell

### Part 1: Malvern Hill & the Phenomenon of Post-Battle Rain

July 1, 1862, dawned hot and humid in the fields east of Richmond, Virginia. Over the course of one week, Confederate General Robert E. Lee, in his first campaign as commander of the Army of Northern Virginia, had pressed General George B. McClellan's



Watercolor of the battle of Malvern Hill by Sneden

Union army from the outskirts of Richmond almost to Harrison's Landing, nearly twenty miles down the James. Only six days earlier, Union troops could set their watches by the bells of Richmond's churches. Now, they were in full retreat, or conducting a "change of base" as McClellan called it. The 1st of July would be the last day of fighting in what came to be known as the Seven Days Battles.

The Union position on Malvern Hill was as strong as any McClellan had ever held, or ever would hold. His engineers set up just under forty cannon across the crest of the hill, along with two divisions of infantry. Both flanks were protected by reserves. Gunboats provided additional artillery support from the James. All told, nearly 80,000 Union troops occupied Malvern Hill. The battle, which lasted until nightfall, cost each side dearly. Over 1,000 men were killed outright. The Confederates lost 5,650 men killed, wounded, or captured in their fruitless attacks. The Union army had lost 3,007 troops. The day had been a clear-cut Union victory. The scene after the battle was gruesome. General D. H. Hill famously remarked, "It was not war – it was murder." One Union officer still on the field early on the morning of July 2 said of the Confederate casualties that "enough were alive and moving to give the field a singular crawling effect."

Throughout the day on July 1, through the ebb and tide of the Confederate waves of attack, one thing was constant: Union artillery fire. Malvern Hill was unusual because it was one of the few battles of the entire Civil War in which at least half, if not more, of an army's casualties had been inflicted due to artillery fire. Early on the morning of July 2, something not so unusual happened. It had first occurred after the war's first significant land battle at Big Bethel, Virginia, on June 10, 1861. It was a natural phenomenon that soldiers took as a bittersweet occurrence. It was raining.



## Coincidence or Chemistry Cont.

Lt. Col. William Ogden McDonald, a surgeon in General Graham's brigade of the Union IV Corps, was understandably tired after Malvern Hill. He fell asleep by one of the roads that the Union army would be taking to their new base on the James River. He was awakened early the next morning by the noise of the retreating army. He joined his brigade on their march to Harrison's Landing on the James. Soon after, the rain began. It came in torrents. Lt. Col. McDonald noticed what seemed to be a link between the battle and rain. He observed, "And as was usually the case after a big battle it began to rain." He then spoke of the quickly deteriorating conditions of the march: "We marched along for a few miles thro [sic] the mud and rain." The Union march to the James would be miserable, but the rain that made it so was at the same time cleansing the blood of the dead and dying still on the hill from the sandy Virginia soil.

Civil War soldiers frequently made such observations in letters and diaries, and later in memoirs and regimental histories. However, since the close of the Civil War, only one attempt at a comprehensive, analytical study of the effects of combat on weather has been made. First published in 1871 and issued again as a revised edition in 1890, Edward Powers' *War and the Weather* contains letters sent to him from forty-two men who witnessed war firsthand, as well as his and their theories as to why precipitation so often followed battles. These letters are invaluable in not only determining what kind of weather followed battles, but also for the explanations that their writers offered to explain this phenomenon. As already noted, the rain that followed many battles was bittersweet to the men involved. For some, like General McClellan during his retreat to the James, it was an unpleasant nuisance. For others, like Joshua L. Chamberlain of Maine, it brought some relief.

Chamberlain was wounded a number of times during the war and was left to lie for periods of time following battles until help finally arrived. He wrote to Powers in a postwar letter that "these rains are balm to the fever and anguish of the poor body that is promoted to the ranks of 'casualties.'" Precipitation played a significant part in shaping the conduct of the Civil War, and Civil War soldiers played a significant part in, quite literally, triggering the precipitation. Yet the subject of war and weather has been all but ignored by scholars since Powers, and his book all but forgotten.

During the Civil War it rained with greater frequency than can be attributed to random chance after battles from Pennsylvania to Florida, from Virginia to Louisiana. Rain was mixed with snow after some fights. Precipitation also followed battles in the Mexican and in 19th-century European wars. We will begin by identifying the Civil War's major battles, and by identifying which ones were followed by precipitation.



# Notable Events in the Cape Fear Region

By Yelena Howell

**Friday, December 6, 4-7 pm. A Light in the Darkest of Night.** Brunswick Town/Fort Anderson State Historic Site. 8884 St. Philip's Rd., Winnabow. A free self-guided tour of decorated remnants of St. Philip's. Gift shop will be open. Info: [brunswick@dncr.nc.gov](mailto:brunswick@dncr.nc.gov)

**Saturday, December 7, 5-8:30 pm. In Heavenly Peace: Bentonville Christmas Open House.** 5466 Harper House Rd., Four Oaks. Come tour the home of John and Amy Harper as it may have appeared after the conclusion of the Civil War. Enjoy period refreshments and music by the campfire. \$5 admission, free for kids 8 and under. Info: (910) 594-0789 or [bentonvillebattlefield@gmail.com](mailto:bentonvillebattlefield@gmail.com)

**Saturday, December 7, 4-8 pm and Sunday, December 8, 1-5 pm. Old Wilmington by Candlelight 2024.** A festive, self-paced walking tour of community and private historic downtown properties. Tickets are \$50 and cover both days. Volunteers still sought and recompensed with free admission: <https://tinyurl.com/Aglow2024>

**Sunday, December 8, 1-5:30 pm. An 18th Century Christmas.** Brunswick Town/Fort Anderson State Historic Site. 8884 St. Philip's Rd., Winnabow. Refreshments, games, crafts, candlelit service 5-5:30 pm. \$5 admission, free for kids 12 and under. Tickets: <https://tinyurl.com/EnchantedChristmas24>

**Saturday, December 14, 10:30 am – 12:30 pm. First Battle of Kinston Bus Tour: 162nd Anniversary.** 100 N Queen St, Kinston, NC 28501. CSS Neuse Gunboat Association event, Dennis Harper in the lead. Tickets are \$10 ea. and limited to 28 participants: <https://tinyurl.com/1stKinston>

**Monday, December 16, 6 pm-until. Federal Point Historic Preservation Society Annual Christmas Potluck Dinner.** 112 N. Lake Park Blvd., Carolina Beach. Info: [info@federal-point-history.org](mailto:info@federal-point-history.org)

**Tuesday, December 17, 6 pm sharp – until. Burgwin-Wright House, 224 Market St., Wilmington. Cape Fear Revolutionary War Table Holiday Program.** “A splendid time is guaranteed for all” as refreshments are served and Exec. Dir. Christine Lamberton discusses Colonial Christmas. If not yet a member, you are most welcome to join at the door. Info: [CFRWRT@gmail.com](mailto:CFRWRT@gmail.com)

**Thursday, December 19 – Saturday, December 21, 5-8 pm nightly. Nights of Lights at the Bellamy Mansion.** A holiday walk-through experience at the lavishly decorated site. 503 Market St., Wilmington No charge; donations graciously received. Info: <https://www.bellamymansion.org/nights-of-lights.html>

**Sunday, December 22, 10:15 am. Christmas Pageant at St. James Episcopal Church.** 25 S. 3rd St., Wilmington. Come experience a moving retelling of the birth of Jesus by the youngest members of our town's oldest church (founded 1729). Info: <https://www.stjamesp.org/>



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## Opinion

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By Roman Berger

### **Take Your Children and Grandchildren to Civil War Sites!**

Recently, I had the opportunity to glance at a copy of *The Civil War Monitor* – specifically, Volume 14, No. 3. In the digital age, the unique nature of opening up a periodical is something to treasure; processing information put to paper might carry a certain weight not exactly found in information put onto the web. While glancing through to see what type of articles would be found in a magazine of this nature, I happened upon an infographic concerning the “Profile of a Civil War Traveler”, based on reader surveys (Pg. 12-13). And one statistic cited in that survey caught my eye – a stat that I took as somewhat concerning.

According to *The Civil War Monitor*, the average age for a first visit to a Civil War battlefield or a related site is 22 years old.

On one hand, the fact that people in their twenties are still exploring and studying battlefields in the most consequential war in this nation’s history, a war that was some generations separated from our daily lives, is surely heartening for us history enthusiasts. It speaks to the engagement that civilians have with the national story and the success of enthusiasts in keeping interest alive. But the fact that age is firmly in adulthood does make me wonder – how many adults are using their vacation time to explore this great nation of ours? In fact, given that older age, a more pressing question presents itself; should we find ways to get kids and teenagers to visit these battlefields at a formative age? And why?

It makes sense that families with sparse resources and vacation time would want to use it in more “exciting” locales – theme parks, beach cities, you name it. The memories from those trips last forever for all who undertake them, and a battlefield might be unfairly written off as “boring” to younger eyes at first glance, at least for those adults who might not have a vested interest in Civil War history.

But surely trips to explore the crucibles that this nation has been forged under are equally as important, with the battlefields and related sites in the Civil War being particularly pivotal. Gettysburg (which was cited in that same article as the most common “opening salvo” with an overwhelming majority at 52.8%) is a critical locale in the formation and maintenance of American society – you can arguably divide America in a “before Gettysburg” and “after Gettysburg” given the sheer tactical and emotional impact of that conflict. Here in Cape Fear, Fort Fisher’s capitulation served as the nail in the coffin for the Confederacy, which collapsed weeks later. Even smaller scale battlefields and historical sites can grant massive insight for younger viewers, as well as open undiscovered paths in their minds.



## Opinion Cont.

By Roman Berger

Historical sites and battlefields so often have technological artifacts used at the time of the conflict – surely, the weaponry and armory might encourage a young visitor to consider a STEM-focused career. The dedication of the nurses on the battlefield concerning the casualties might have some other visitors contemplate a career in the medical field, astonished at how far medical treatment has come from the field hospitals in Vicksburg and Antietam. And that’s beyond the philosophical rationale behind visiting these battlefields – understanding the issues that propelled the underlying conflict and the resulting battles, how military strategies influenced the endgame of the conflict’s outcome, the gravitas of giving your life for something beyond your self-interest.

But it’s pivotal for our national storytelling and our national development to encourage our youth to visit these battlefields. This is hallowed ground we are dealing with – so many of the Civil War dead are at eternal rest in these battlefields. My concern is that, without a lot of young people going to these sites, they will not only lose interest in our history, they will be quick to overlook the sobering nature of these pivotal sites in American history. Why do you think there is an interest in preserving these battlefields? Right now, as development proceeds – especially in the fast-growing modern South – there is cause for concern that Civil War battlefields, sites where brother warred against brother, could be swept aside by tract housing and chain stores.

It makes me wonder how we can put a stop to this encroachment before it starts, or at least, stop it before it reaches fever pitch. Parents and grandparents should take the initiative and take their children to pivotal sites in the Civil War. It should be treated with the same priority as a traditional summer vacation – what might seem a bit boring at first glance to young children could awaken in them a passion for preserving this nation’s history and related artifacts, if not other career interests.

Beyond that – given that not everybody in this country has the resources to do so – schools should include in their history curriculum trips to pivotal Civil War sites nearby. (Here, the newly renovated Fort Fisher Museum is surely a great opportunity for students across Cape Fear to visit a very epochal Civil War battleground.) Local libraries should also sponsor bus trips to these sites. We need community programs to entice young Americans and their families to visit these sites that so often set the stage for America’s contemporary state.

Our national history must be taught to and maintained by new voices. There is so much that one can extrapolate from a trip to a Civil War battlefield; so many paths can be opened, and by bringing a new generation to these sites, these paths can be open at the right time to shape lives in very dramatic ways.



*Roman Berger, a member of the CFCWRT Executive Committee, is the Audio-Visual Coordinator at the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table. A lifelong American History buff, he possesses a Bachelor of Arts in History from Stony Brook University.*



## Welcome to the Table, Sterling, Gold and Platinum Sponsors!

By Yelena Howell

We now have an additional membership category: sponsorship, with Sterling, Gold and Platinum options at \$50, \$100, and \$250 per year, respectively. In November 2024, an extra \$400 boosted our programming budget as our very first sponsors partnered with us in supporting our mission.

These fine companies offer top-notch services that may be of interest to our members. Corporate sponsorship of our Roundtable is by invitation extended to those whose work merits whole-hearted endorsement. Meanwhile, individuals also have the option to join or renew our memberships as Sterling, Gold or Platinum that includes personal or couples' membership along with advertising privileges and recognition. Sterling status is an additional \$20 per year as compared to our regular annual dues. CFCWRT thanks you for your support in any way that fits your preferences while respecting your numerous other financial and time commitments.

**Wilmington True History Tours** is the brainchild of Mr. & Mrs. Brandon Carter, Esq. In addition to his successful legal career, Brandon runs the most popular history tour company in Savannah, Georgia. (You guessed it: its name is Savannah True History Tours!) "Here, there and everywhere", he is renowned for his professionalism, customer care, and devotion to evidence-based history presented in a captivating manner. In Wilmington, Brandon collaborates with our very own Dr. Chris E. Fonvielle Jr. and other highly experienced tour guides to deliver the best walking tours year-round. Tremendous thanks to Wilmington True History Tours for contributing to our local culture and economy and for their Sterling Sponsorship! You are invited to peruse and bookmark their webpage:  
<https://wilmingtontruelhistory.com/>

**Carolina Custom Closets**, a locally-owned and operated company specializing in the construction of custom storage and organization solutions, honored us with the gift of Gold Sponsorship! With over 20 years of experience, they serve the coastal Carolinas by designing and installing gorgeous custom shelving for closets, pantries, garages, offices, laundry rooms and more. You can see their work on their webpage: <https://www.carolinacustomclosets.com>

**Pickles & Taps**, to whom we offer a resounding thanks, stepped up as a Platinum Sponsor! More details about their business continues on the following page.

My personal thanks to each of you for embracing our new sponsorship category and to our benefactors for following along with us and for your gracious gifts. With due recognition of multitudes of worthy civic causes that merit financial support, I am truly grateful for sponsoring relationships with us that have been carefully considered and found worthwhile.

Please join me in patronizing these businesses as desired. Links to their contact information and offerings will be provided concisely and regularly in our group communications as a token of our appreciation and reciprocity. Questions and feedback: [CapeFearRT@gmail.com](mailto:CapeFearRT@gmail.com)





## Pickle & Taps: Supporting the CFCWRT & Serving Wilmington

By Matt Howell



We are thrilled to welcome *Pickle & Taps* as a Platinum Sponsor of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table! Jason and Kayse Beasley, the husband-and-wife team behind this exciting new venture, have shown incredible generosity in supporting our group at the highest sponsorship level. Their dedication to fostering community partnerships is as strong as their passion for pickleball.

Set to open in mid-December at the corner of 13th and Marsteller, *Pickle & Taps* is Wilmington's first indoor pickleball facility. With 10 indoor courts and a welcoming atmosphere, it is the perfect space for players of all levels to gather. Guests can enjoy not only great games but also beer, wine, and snacks in a comfortable, community-focused environment.

Jason and Kayse are eager to share their love of pickleball with the Wilmington community. They have created a space where both seasoned players and beginners can connect, grow, and have fun. The Beasleys encourage any pickleball enthusiasts in our membership to join them for a game or two when the facility opens.

Their mission is to grow the love of pickleball, support local businesses, strengthen community, and give back through charities. Their values reflect this commitment: do the right thing, grow, build, innovate, give back, and have fun.

We are proud to have *Pickle & Taps* as part of our Round Table family and look forward to supporting their mission to bring people together through the joy of pickleball. Let us show our gratitude by visiting their facility and spreading the word about this fantastic addition to Wilmington!



## Brunswick Civil War Round Table



We are pleased to announce that Union General Ulysses S. Grant will return, in person, to the Tuesday, December 3rd monthly meeting of the Round Table. His return engagement is by popular demand recalling his ZOOM presentation during COVID back in December, 2020 when he captivated his audience on a variety of true-life and entertaining subjects. His opinions about the Civil War cover a myriad of events and personal observations, raising our curiosity as to what he will decide to discuss this time during his visit.

Actually Gen. Grant is portrayed by Dr. E.C. (Curt) Fields, Jr., educational consultant and living historian. He will appear in his Union uniform and favorite cigar. This will be a program not to be missed given his deep respect and admiration for Grant.

In fact, he is a living replica of Grant with the same height and body type.

The meeting will be held at Hatch Auditorium on Caswell Beach. Everyone is welcome. Registration begins at 6:15PM. The program starts at 7:00PM. The visitor fee is \$10, and can be applied toward the \$25 annual membership dues which can include a spouse for all nine monthly meetings.

For more information, email president John Butler at [Brunswickcwrt@gmail.com](mailto:Brunswickcwrt@gmail.com) or call him at (404) 229-9425. Visit BCWRT online at <https://brunswickcivilwarroundtable.com/> or <https://www.facebook.com/brunswickcivilwarroundtable>





## Wreaths Across America December Update



Tremendous thanks to each of our supporters! CFCWRT has exceeded our annual goal of 50 wreaths. We are at 62! Our special gratitude to Kimberly Jordan (Mrs. William) and Mr. Bruce Patterson for tirelessly championing this patriotic cause year in and year out.

Join us on at 12 noon on Saturday, December 14, 2024, at the Wilmington National Cemetery, 2011 Market Street, to remember and honor our veterans through the laying of remembrance wreaths and the act of saying the name of each and every veteran aloud.



Your support is dearly appreciated. Not only have you provided wreaths to cover 62 Christian military graves, but you have collectively contributed a rebate of  $\$5 \times 62 = \$310$  to our Roundtable's programming budget.

Photos by Yelena Howell, 2023.



# Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

## Executive Committee

President: **Yelena Howell**

Vice President: **Chris Langlois**

Secretary: **Fred Claridge**

Treasurer: **Mike McDonald**

Quartermaster: **William Jordan**

Programs: **position open**

Membership: **Kim Berger**

Audiovisual/Computer Support: **Roman Berger**

At Large: **Jim Gannon**

At Large: **Tom O'Connor**

At Large: **Al Turner**

Webmaster: **Richard Buggeln**

Editor: **Matthew Howell**

Immediate Past President & Publicity: **Bill Jayne**

## Advisors

**Dr. Chris E. Fonvielle Jr.**, Professor Emeritus, Dept. of History, UNCW

**Mr. Jim McKee**, Site Manager, Brunswick Town/Fort Anderson State Historic Site

**Mr. Jim Steele**, Site Manager, Fort Fisher State Historic Site

**Dr. Angela Zombek**, Associate Professor of History, Dept. of History, UNCW

## Contact

[CapeFearRT@gmail.com](mailto:CapeFearRT@gmail.com)



# CFCWRT Lifetime Sponsors

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our strategic partners, whose generous support through discounts and services sustains the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table. Your ongoing contributions play an invaluable role in helping us preserve history, foster education, and connect our community. Thank you for standing with us in our mission!



### Savas Beatie

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### Queensboro

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### Best Western Hotels & Resorts



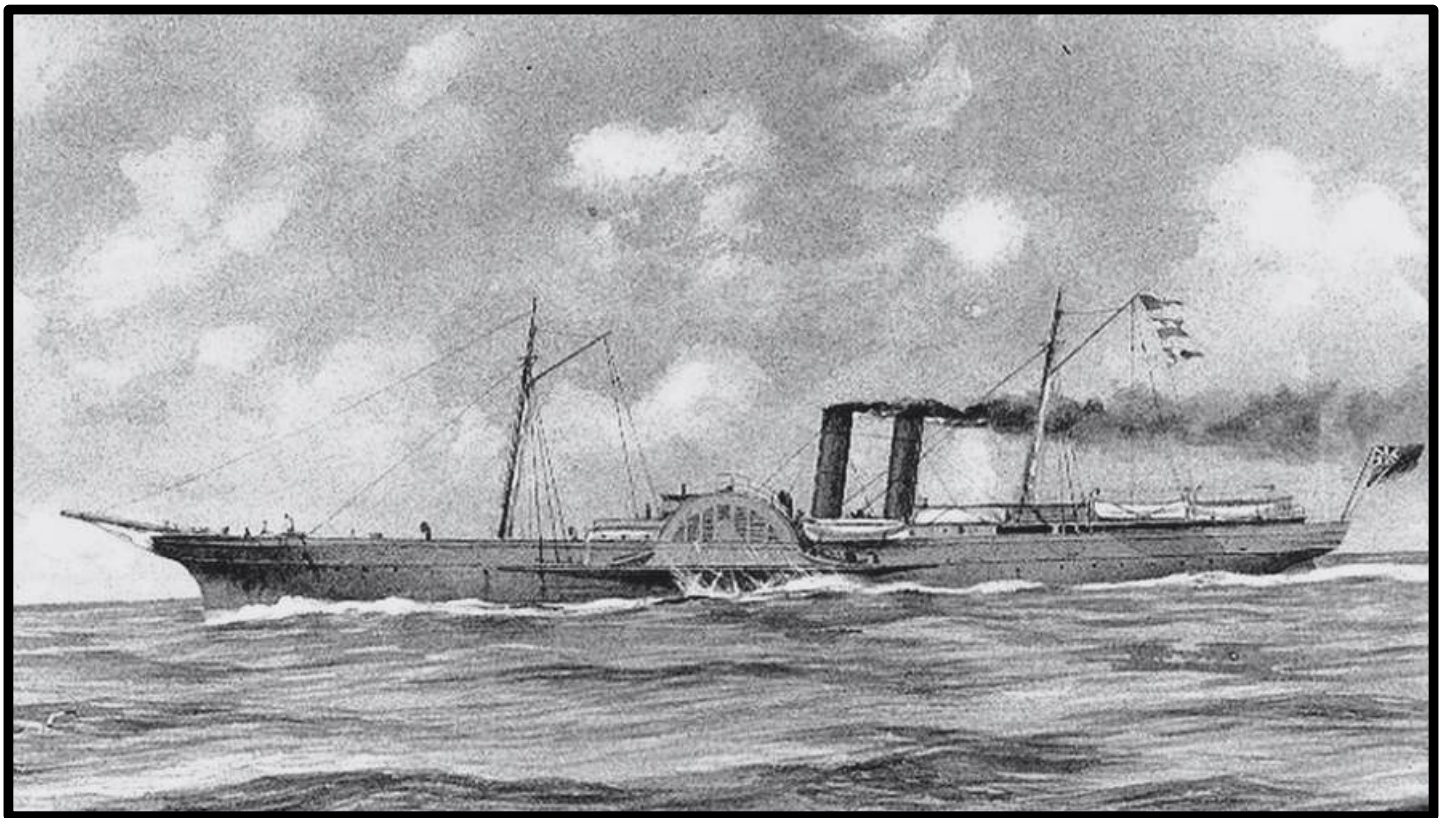
### Cape Fear Seafood Company

Specializing in regional American seafood, signature dishes, hand cut fish, steaks and chicken along with freshly made desserts.

**New: a corporate membership adds your business or organization to our list of valued sponsors. Sterling (\$50), Gold (\$100), and Platinum (\$250) annual sponsorships are available. Contact [CapeFearRT@gmail.com](mailto:CapeFearRT@gmail.com) to join.**

# The Runner

The Official Newsletter of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table



November 2024 | Volume 2 | Number 11

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## Letter from the Editor

Dear Members of the CFCWRT,

As we enter a new month, I am filled with a profound sense of pride and gratitude. I am honored to have joined this wonderful organization, especially as we celebrate the significant milestone of turning 30!

Over three decades, we have built a vibrant community of history enthusiasts, educators, and advocates, all committed to the mission of honoring and exploring our past while inspiring future generations.

I am particularly proud of the appointment of our first female president, Yelena Howell. As her husband for 13 years, I have witnessed firsthand how truly amazing she is. Her passion for history and unwavering commitment to fostering a sense of community will undoubtedly help us continue to thrive and grow. I am excited to see her dynamic leadership in action!

I was also honored to celebrate our anniversary with you at Indochine. It was an evening filled with laughter, great conversation, and, of course, delicious food. It was a joy to see familiar faces and finally meet those I have heard so much about.

As we look to the future, let us remember the spirit of collaboration and passion that have brought us to this point. I invite you all to participate in our upcoming events, share your ideas, and continue to engage with one another. Together, we can honor our past while embracing the exciting opportunities ahead.

Thank you for being part of this incredible journey. Here's to many more years of exploration and celebration of our shared history!

Warm regards,

Matthew Howell  
Editor

Cape Fear Civil War Round Table



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# President's Address

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By Yelena Howell

Dear members and friends,

*All the lonely people*

*Where do they all come from?*

Some folks, it seems, are wired to be inveterate students of history. Each and every one of us is wired for sharing our interests with others and regular doses of companionship and camaraderie. A sting of loneliness can propel us to seek out meaningful social interactions. If the impulse for connection is not adequately met, loneliness can become a chronic stressor that affects our sense of well-being, quality of life, and our very neurobiology, increasing our susceptibility to neurodegenerative changes. At times, I have felt the shadow of Eleanor Rigby (or Eleanor Vance—it is, after all, Halloween season), but allow me to try on Father McKenzie's ever-hopeful shoes as I conclude my homily on the importance of sustained fellowship. Our round table has entered its 31st year, providing a unique social circle where people from all walks of life continue to gather in the name of our esprit de corps: appreciation for American stories, history of the American Civil War, and lifelong learning.



It was such a joy to see some of you at our festive October get-together and to feel the goodwill of yet more of our hosts who were with us in spirit. In addressing you, I truly meant it: we embrace your diverse interests, viewpoints, life experiences, areas of expertise, abilities and varying capabilities to participate in our organization throughout your tenure. Civic engagement is a potent antidote to alienation; ongoing intellectual and social curiosity, to listlessness and apathy that have a way of aging us faster than hard work and the good sun on our cheeks can (though I do endorse regular use of sunscreen). We are finishing this year strong and heading into a bounteous 2025. See you in November and beyond!

Sincerely yours,

Yelena Howell

President, Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

View our live and recorded monthly meetings and more on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/@CapeFearCivilWarRoundTable>



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# Membership Report

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By Kim Berger

This month may have been quiet on the Membership front, but there's still plenty to look forward to! We didn't gain any new members, and we had just one renewal by mail. If November marks your membership anniversary, don't forget to renew!

You can mail your fee to CFCWRT at **8387 East Highcroft NE, Leland, NC 28451**, pay Mike at our November meeting, or renew online. Check the bottom of your name tag for your anniversary month, or just ask me if you're unsure!

Our October meeting at Indochine was a wonderful gathering, with 51 attendees—including 30 current and inactive members along with their families. It was a fantastic evening filled with great conversation and delicious food. A big thank you to Yelena for organizing such a delightful event and for treating us to her amazing homemade chocolate cake!

Let's keep the momentum going—remember, we're all recruiters! Invite your family, friends, co-workers, and neighbors. We promise to make everyone feel welcome!

## Money Matters

By Michael McDonald & Yelena Howell

We have decided to include a snapshot of our active membership numbers and finances once a quarter and annually. For the third quarter of 2004:

- We boast 97 members
- Our income was \$1,422.60
- Our expenses were \$425.10

\*Please expect natural variation in income and expenses from quarter to quarter based on the number of renewals and our hosting costs that are lower during the summer months.

Thank you very much for joining us, renewing your memberships, and giving in numerous other ways that sustain our organization! For additional details, please contact Treasurer Michael McDonald or President Yelena Howell, and we will be glad to address your questions.

# The Round Table's 30th Anniversary Bash

By Bill Jayne



Fifty-one members and guests of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table enjoyed a festive and lively evening at Indochine, Wilmington's distinctive and popular Vietnamese and Thai restaurant on Wayne Drive near Market Street, on the evening of October 10. In attendance were officers President Yelena Howell, Secretary/Historian Fred Claridge, Quartermaster William Jordan, executive committee members Al Turner, Jim Gannon, Kim Berger, Roman Berger, Tom O'Connor and immediate past president Bill Jayne as well as other

past presidents Chris Fonvielle, David Norris and Bob Cooke and advisor Dr. Angela Zombek, Ph.D. Webmaster Richard Buggeln and newsletter editor Matt Howell also joined us.

We gathered in the banquet space in the garden to enjoy the banquet menu and then short reflections from our presidents. Newly installed president, Yelena Howell—our first elected president and our first woman president—began the proceedings by reading a gracious letter from George Slaton, our first president. The letter in full is presented in *The Runner* on page 5. George now lives in Davidson, N.C., and was unable to attend the festive event because of a recent operation.

The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table (CFCWRT) was established in 1994 and George led the organization until the year 2000. He recalls that an organization called the Civil War Round Table Associates met in Wilmington in the summer of 1993. The organization was founded and led by legendary battlefield preservationist and Civil War activist, Jerry Russell, and their primary purpose was to encourage Civil War Round Tables to get involved in battlefield preservation.

The Wilmington event included a workshop on “How to Start a Civil War Round Table.” That workshop motivated George and others to establish a round table in Wilmington. Contributing to the momentum was Civil War publisher Ted Savas and prospective authors Chris Fonvielle and Mark Bradley. Ted, then leading the publishing company of Savas Woodbury, first published Chris Fonvielle's *The Wilmington Campaign: Last Rays of Departing Hope*, and Mark Bradley's *The Battle of Bentonville: Last Stand in the Carolinas*.

The new club soon got rolling and the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table first met at the University of North Carolina, Wilmington (UNCW) in October 1994. The first speaker was Chris Fonvielle. Although he is a Wilmington native, in 1994 Chris was living in the Outer Banks but, fittingly, he spoke about the Wilmington Campaign.

## The Round Table's 30th Anniversary Bash Cont.

Dr. Fonvielle, now retired, soon joined the faculty of UNCW and became more regularly involved with the round table. Professor Fonvielle led the CFCWRT from 2000 through 2006. At the commemorative dinner at Indochine, Chris reminded the audience of the atmosphere surrounding Civil War history in the 1990s. There was a great deal of interest sparked by mass entertainment such as Ken Burns' PBS documentary series on the Civil War and perhaps the nostalgia of those who recalled the Civil War Centennial from 1961 to '65 played a part. Noting that history tends to telescope time, he recalled the story of Lt. Col. John W. Taylor of the 36th NC who was served at Ft. Fisher and was badly wounded at Bentonville in 1865. Two of the colonel's grandsons were present to hear Chris's talk on the Wilmington Campaign at the first meeting of the round table in 1994.

Under the leadership of David Norris (2006-10) the round table moved several times but enjoyed several outings. David recalling Chris's point about nostalgia and the Civil War Centennial, said that he still thinks of the Civil War as having taken place 100 years ago. David, an artist and author of many historical articles for magazines and journals, noted that Civil War Round Tables like ours play an important role in encouraging writers and researchers who continue to advance our understanding of the Civil War.

Up next, our fourth president, Bob Cooke (2010 to 2018), told the audience that he moved to Wilmington in 1994 and joined the round table in 1995. He was the editor of the newsletter for many years and recounted the many steps necessary to prepare, print and mail a newsletter in those days and how thankful he was when the digital age allowed clubs like ours to send newsletters electronically. He compared our group—and most clubs such as ours—to a living organism that is born, grows, and matures. The president, Bob said, is the head, the members are the life blood of the organism and the “steering committee,” the cadre of leaders, is the backbone. Our round table is growing and set to remain healthy well into the future, Bob said, as he led the group in a round of applause for the round table.

Finally, immediate past president Bill Jayne thanked everyone at the event for all their support over the years when he was president from 2018 to 2024. Echoing the remarks of the previous presidents, he remarked on the importance of history as we continue to broaden our knowledge of the past and try to apply its lessons to the present. He noted his excitement over the adoption of bylaws and the election of officers and his optimism for the future with a great new set of leaders at the helm of our club.

President Yelena Howell closed the meeting portion of the event by thanking everyone for coming and inviting everyone to participate in the activities of the round table in any way they found interesting.

# A Letter from Founding President, George Slaton

7 October 2024

Dear Round Table Members

I can't adequately express how gratifying it feels to think of so many of you gathered this evening to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table!

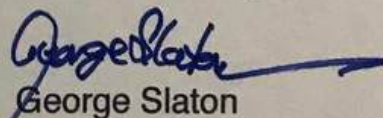
I recall the first meeting of the Round Table in October, 1994. The steering committee had sent out numerous invitations, but we had no idea what the turnout would be. We were both surprised and pleased that, in spite of a heavy rain, about 70 people attended that night to enjoy Chris Fonvielle's presentation.

From that initial meeting thirty years ago until now, the Round Table has hosted innumerable speakers, sponsored great battlefield tours and preservation projects, deepened the historical interest and knowledge of countless members, and provided enjoyable fellowship for so many.

Most recently I've been in touch with your former president, Bill Jayne, and your new president, Yelena Howell. I'm impressed with their enthusiastic and capable leadership and their ability to inspire participation in this organization.

My thanks to every one of you as you carry forward the traditions of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table and as you lead others to the study of this momentous period in our American history!

With kindest regards



George Slaton

Join George Slaton and others in our public Facebook group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1696952227331256>

## CFCWRT November Meeting

By Bill Jayne



Kicking off our 30th “campaign,” the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table will feature a repeat appearance by John V. Quarstein, the director emeritus of the USS Monitor Center at the Mariners’ Museum and retired director of the Virginia War Museum in Newport News, Virginia.

As usual, the meeting of the round table will be held on Thursday evening, November 14, at centrally located St. John’s Episcopal Church in Midtown Wilmington near Independence Mall. Doors open at 6:30 and the meeting begins at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Quarstein last spoke to us in September 2023, talking about the CSS Albemarle. He has authored 19 books and has written numerous articles, exhibits, essays, and documentaries. His titles include *A History of Ironclads: The Power of Iron over Wood*; *CSS Virginia: Sink Before Surrender*, and *The Monitor Boys: The Crew of the Union’s First Ironclad*. He is the winner of the 2012 Henry Adams Prize for excellence in historical literature.

Quarstein has also produced, narrated and written several PBS documentaries including the film series “Civil War in Hampton Roads,” a Silver Telly Award winner. Quarstein is the recipient of the National Trust for Historic Preservation’s President’s Award for Historic Preservation, the Civil War Society’s Preservation Award, and the Daughters of the American Revolution Gold Historians Medal. He has been a guest on C-Span multiple times and has served as an adjunct professor at the College of William & Mary.

John is one of the top experts on the Naval War and will speak to us about the legendary and furious battle of Mobile Bay in August 1864, pitting famous U.S. Navy Admiral David Farragut against Confederate States Navy Admiral Franklin Buchanan.

Born in Baltimore in 1800, Franklin Buchanan joined the U.S. Navy as a midshipman in 1815. He had a sterling record as a naval officer, including service in the Mexican War, becoming the first superintendent of the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis and commanding ships in Commodore Perry’s missions to Japan.

## CFCWRT November Meeting Cont.

As the Civil War began, Buchanan was commandant of the Washington Navy Yard. He thought of himself as a southerner because Maryland was a slave state. Nonetheless, he proclaimed that he was not a secessionist but sought an assignment overseas so that he would not be called upon to fight against family members and neighbors. U.S. Secretary of the Navy, Gideon Welles, responded by having Buchanan stricken from the U.S. Navy rolls.

While many serving U.S. Navy officers resigned their commissions and joined the Confederacy, it should be noted that by no means did all southern born officers leave the U.S. Navy. Famously, Admiral Samuel Phillips Lee, born in Fairfax County, Virginia, and a cousin of Robert E. Lee, remained loyal to the United States, saying “When I find the word Virginia in my commission, I will join the Confederacy.”

Buchanan, barred from serving in the U.S. Navy, retired to his home in Easton, Maryland, where he remained until September 1861 when he accepted a commission as a captain in the Confederate States Navy.

Come to learn and be entertained by a world-class speaker who will tell about the life and times of Franklin Buchanan from the momentous battle of Hampton Roads between the USS Monitor and the CSS Virginia, to the desperate, close-quarters naval combat in Mobile Bay, Alabama, in 1864 where his opponent, Admiral David Farragut, USN, led his fleet into the bay. It’s a tale of great courage, drama and legendary leadership.

The meeting will be held in Elebash Hall of 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, talk to members of the round table and discover new interests. See you there!



Pictured right is Admiral Franklin Buchanan, in CSN uniform. Courtesy of F.B. Own, 1929, U.S. Naval History and Heritage Command.

To the left is a depiction of the Battle of Mobile Bay, courtesy of Mariners Museum and Park.



# Notable November Events in the Cape Fear Region

By Yelena Howell

**Friday, November 1 through Monday, November 18, 10 am – 4 pm. Burgwin-Wright House**, 224 Market St., Wilmington. Artist, historian and CFCWRT member **Jim Horton's** exhibit "Journeys Near and Far" continues with familiar and new pieces on display. Info: (910) 762-0570. More events at BWH:

<https://www.burgwinwriighthouse.com/>

**Saturday, November 2 through Wednesday, November 16: City of Wilmington** will host a variety of events across multiple venues to commemorate the 126th anniversary of the 1898 coup. Detailed calendar:

<https://tinyurl.com/1898in2024>

**Saturday, November 2, 9:30 am – 12 pm. The Alliance for Cape Fear Trees.** 900 tree give-away at Riegelwood Baptist Church, 103 NC-87, Riegelwood, NC. Info, including on volunteer opportunities:

<https://www.allianceforcapefeartrees.com/events>

**Cancelled: November 2, Brunswick Town/Fort Anderson State Historic Site.** The Great Pumpkin Blowout. Please note this **important cancellation** due to impact of September's tropical event on the access road to the site. Stay tuned for announcements of restoration of public access to the grounds, anticipated in late fall. Info: <https://www.facebook.com/BrunswickTownFortAnderson/> or [brunswick@dncr.nc.gov](mailto:brunswick@dncr.nc.gov)

**Tuesday, November 5, doors open at 6 pm, program at 7 pm. Hatch Auditorium**, Caswell Beach.

**Brunswick Civil War Round Table** presents popular historian Will Greene with "The Beefsteak Raid at Petersburg", a discussion of the September 1864 Confederate bid for 3,000 heads of cattle to provision the troops. The visitor fee is \$10 and can be applied toward the \$25 annual membership dues, which can include a spouse. Info: <https://brunswickcivilwarroundtable.com/>

**Thursday, November 7, 1:30 – 3:15 pm. NHC Public Library, Main Branch, New Hanover Room, 201 Chestnut St.**, Wilmington. Seniors Mental Health Awareness-Depression/ Socialization/ Purposeful Living in-person monthly gathering (different topic every month). Free registration:

<https://libcal.nhcgov.com/event/13058656> Other events at all library branches:

<https://tinyurl.com/NHCLibCal>

**Thursday, November 7, 7 – 8:15 pm. Southport Historical Society**, 203 E. Bay St., Southport. **Dr. Chris E. Fonvielle Jr.** will discuss his 2024 book with **Dr. Robert M. Browning Jr.**, *Fort Fisher Illustrated: Art of the Battle*. All are welcome. Info: <https://www.southporthistoricalsociety.org/>

**Friday, November 8, 7 – 10 pm. Hannah Block USO**, 120 S. 2nd St., Wilmington. Show and Dance in honor of Veterans Day. Relive the sounds of the 1940s! Info and tickets (\$20 ea.):

<https://wilmingtoncommunityarts.org/>

**Saturday, November 9, 10 am – 3 pm, North Carolina Maritime Museum at Southport**, 108 S. Davis St., Southport. "Deep Dive Into History: 18th Century Blacksmithing." Drop-in series for all ages. Info: (910) 477-5151.

# Historic Day at Fort Fisher as New Visitor Center Opens

By Matt Howell



After years of anticipation and a month-long delay due to severe weather and flooding, Fort Fisher celebrated the opening of its new Visitor Center with a memorable ribbon-cutting ceremony. The event drew local and state historians, elected officials, and history enthusiasts who gathered to mark this landmark moment for our community and state.

Set to open to the public on October 30th, 2024, the new Visitor Center replaces the original facility, which was designed for just 25,000 annual visitors—a number far exceeded by last year’s record-breaking one million visitors. This new center not only meets the needs of Fort Fisher’s growing popularity but also serves as a space dedicated to telling the site’s story in a more comprehensive, inclusive way, celebrating the diverse groups that helped shape its history.

Speakers at the ceremony emphasized this commitment to inclusive storytelling, highlighting the contributions of people of color to Fort Fisher’s past and the importance of preserving Indigenous perspectives. Representatives from the Lumbee tribe were on-site to help commemorate the occasion, sharing insights into Fort Fisher’s cultural significance for Indigenous communities across North Carolina.

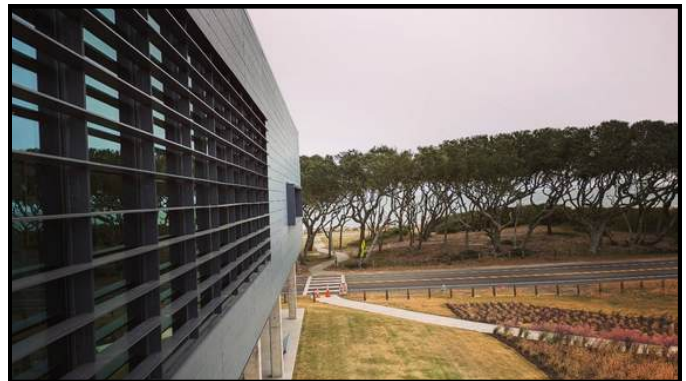
A cherished landmark, Fort Fisher has long drawn those interested in the region’s past, and this new Visitor Center will allow an even wider audience to engage with its layered history. From its critical wartime role to its enduring cultural impact, Fort Fisher’s story resonates with countless visitors each year. This facility now stands ready to deepen our connection to that history and ensure it endures for generations to come.

With updated exhibits and a strong focus on representing diverse voices, the Visitor Center invites everyone to experience Fort Fisher’s past in a new light. This state-of-the-art addition honors Fort Fisher’s legacy, celebrating its impact on our community and preserving its stories for generations to come.



# Historic Day at Fort Fisher as New Visitor Center Opens

Event Pictures by Matt Howell



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# Opinion

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By Roman Berger

## **Could the Round Table Influence Development of NC History Museum?**

The North Carolina Museum of History, located across the street from the Legislative Building in Raleigh, is one of the most important attractions for anybody interested in the development of and culture within the Tar Heel State. As the museum undergoes a major renovation that will see the building close down for the next two years, it has sought out feedback and recommendations from the state's academics and citizens – pivotal in any event, especially so given North Carolina's brisk growth.

Who better to provide such feedback than members of historical roundtables?

On October 3rd, at the New Hanover County Main Library in Downtown Wilmington, members of the Cape Fear Civil War Round table participated in a conversation with North Carolina Museum of History staff members, and Brocade Studio, a Richmond-based planning firm that has worked on the American Civil War Museum in Richmond and Dix Park in Raleigh. Round table members who participated in the meeting included President Yelena Howell, Immediate Past President Bill Jayne, Professor Emeritus and former President Dr. Chris Fonvielle, Membership Chair Kim Berger, former president David Norris, Audio-Visual Coordinator Roman Berger, Quartermaster William Jordan, Executive Committee member Tom O'Connor and Pat Garrow, retired archaeologist and program committee member – a sample size spanning age groups, birth locations, and careers.

The meeting concerned the artifacts that the Museum was looking to include in their collection. Over-arching that, museum representatives were seeking ways to attract larger and newer crowds and spark interest in history from a younger age. Members of the Civil War Roundtable encouraged the museum to research North Carolina's role in the epochal conflict. Ideas proposed included the Piedmont Quaker Belt, the role of Women on the Homefront, the coastal operations at Fort Fisher, money's role in crafting and preserving power, an exploration of Governor Zebulon Vance, the Native American Experience in the Conflict, and the exploration of pension records. The veteran experience, including USCT veterans and white North Carolinians who served in U.S. units, and the power of community in motivating Confederate soldiers were also brought up.

Meeting participants, however, also thought in the long term. How can the Museum ensure that interest in history is grown for all visitors of all ages across this state?

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## Opinion Cont.

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By Roman Berger

Multiple ideas were suggested to ensure the museum's longevity and reach, maintain continued interest over the next quarter-century, and increase the impact on visitors. These ideas included:

- displaying multiple perspectives to try and get into the minds of the citizens at the time, all to explore how perspectives evolved and gain new insight from state residents who had been overlooked;
- trying to decode propaganda and the rationale behind the messages, so we can see how messages are applied today and with what strategies and appeals;
- unearthing and purchasing rare artifacts such as old battle flags, to construct more authentic and striking exhibitions that make the museum unique;
- expanding educational outreach beyond the 4th and 8th Grade visits;
- and establishing a traveling museum, so students who would not normally take trips to the museum (particularly in under-served communities and those further away from the museum) can explore this cross-section of North Carolinian life and history.

Indeed, the end goal of all involved in the meeting is to invigorate that interest in local and regional history. North Carolina has a rich historical tapestry, with impacts both positive and negative, and a well-curated and unique museum is pivotal to introducing and explaining the past. The Museum Representatives appeared cognizant of such an ethos, and that made the feedback and response from these experts highly valuable. It helped that the CFCWRT participants were experts in varied fields from academic history, archaeology, and education to graphic art, genealogy, reenacting, veterans affairs, and well-informed devotees of history.

As a member of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table, my suggestions naturally centered on the impact of the Civil War within the state. And while it should not be the exclusive domain of the museum – the history of North Carolina spans centuries before and after the four-year war – surely the Civil War will have a significant presence in the museum. Its impacts on the state's society, economy, and political scene not only reverberate over the next 160 years from 1865 to today, these effects yield lessons that are just as relevant for citizens young and old today. The Civil War and the study of the conflict is almost certainly the most important story in American history, and a vibrant exploration of the conflict is absolutely necessary to understand the story of the state.

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## Opinion Cont.

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By Roman Berger

Further, it's my belief that should the Museum take up on the suggestions to expand their educational outreach, the dividends will be evident in a more historically astute and intellectually curious student population. That investment will prove to be very wise for both the Museum and the state's culture, and may ensure that interest in this most fascinating of conflicts persists in the general public well after our lifetimes.

Of course, there is bias in this analysis, but I'm sure that the round table member suggestions could only be of positive impact for the museum's redevelopment and for Civil War roundtables across the state. By providing our input to museums such as the State Museum, the benefits are shared far and wide.

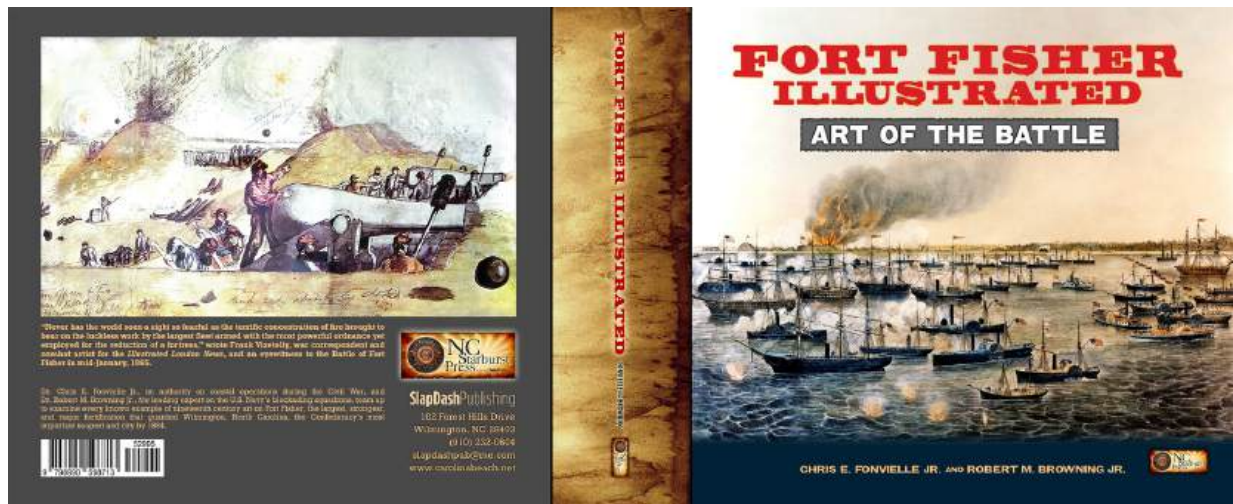
Following the conversation, Brocade Studio told the CFCWRT, "Thank you so much for hosting us last Thursday for a really insightful and dynamic conversation. We were struck by the thoughtfulness of the group - it was one of our favorite conversation groups all week."



*Roman Berger, a member of the CFCWRT Executive Committee, is the Audio-Visual Coordinator at the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table. A lifelong American History buff, he possesses a Bachelor of Arts in History from Stony Brook University.*

# Spotlight on *Fort Fisher Illustrated*

By Yelena Howell



On Monday, October 21, 2024, Dr. Chris E. Fonvielle Jr. premiered a conversation about *Fort Fisher Illustrated: Art of the Battle* at Federal Point Historic Preservation Society.

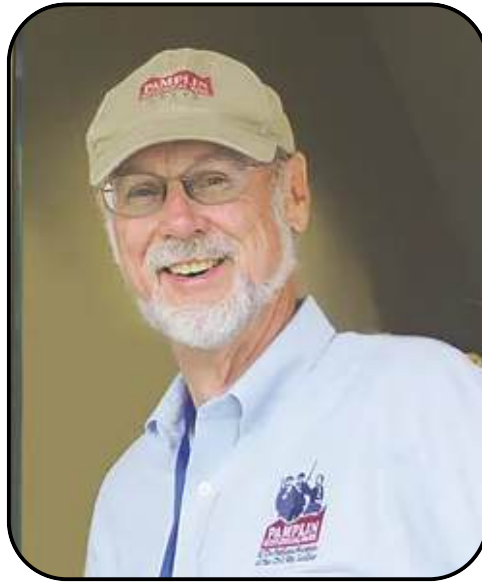
Co-authored with Dr. Robert M. Browning Jr., the book focuses on nineteenth-century art that brought the terrible grandeur of the First and Second Battles of Fort Fisher to American and European audiences.

With jewel-like vividness, reproductions of an estimated 99% of extant paintings, drawings, and lithographs are set amid the expert historians' commentary on sources, context, and veracity of images shaping public perception of the events of Christmas 1864 and mid-January of 1865 that effectively ended blockade running and ushered in the fall of Confederate Wilmington. Likewise, Fonvielle's talk on *Fort Fisher Illustrated* masterfully sets a sequential show of images in the volume amid facts and evidence, enabling listeners to reconstruct a coherent, lurid timeline of war and art. Comprehensive compilation of material along with analytical consideration of its pedigree and historical accuracy echo the spirit of *Curious Tales from Old Wilmington and the Lower Cape Fear Region: The Truth Behind the Legends* which also aims to preserve fully, appraise, and engage.

Copies of *Fort Fisher Illustrated: Art of the Battle* are expected to be available for sale by November 12, with a more detailed look at the contents to follow. Stay tuned for more upcoming talks and book signings, starting with a reprise on November 7 in Southport (refer to the November area events section of *The Runner*).

Visit <https://www.chrisfonvielle.com/> for updates on Dr. Fonvielle's books and events and to get in touch with him.

## Brunswick Civil War Round Table



The Beefsteak Raid, or Cattle Raid, was part of the Siege of Petersburg in September, 1864, when 3,000 Confederate troops trekked 100 miles to attack 3,000 head of cattle. Why? They were running out of food.

This incredible phase of the war entitled “The Beefsteak Raid at Petersburg” will be discussed by popular historian, author, and lecturer, **Will Greene**, at the Tuesday, November 5th meeting. Registration begins at 6:15PM. The program starts at 7:00PM. The visitor fee is \$10, and can be applied toward the \$25 annual membership dues, which can include a spouse.

For more information, email president John Butler at [Brunswickcwrtable@gmail.com](mailto:Brunswickcwrtable@gmail.com) or call him at (404) 229-9425. Visit BCWRT online at <https://brunswickcivilwarroundtable.com/> or <https://www.facebook.com/brunswickcivilwarroundtable>





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**Be a part of remembering and honoring our warriors and their loved ones at Wilmington National Cemetery on Saturday, December 14, 2024, at 12 noon.**

**Thank you for supporting Wreaths Across America and the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table!**

# Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

## Executive Committee

**President: Yelena Howell**

**Vice President: Chris Langlois**

**Secretary: Fred Claridge**

**Treasurer: Mike McDonald**

**Quartermaster: William Jordan**

**At Large: Al Turner**

**Programs: Jim Gannon**

**Membership: Kim Berger**

**Audiovisual/Computer Support: Roman Berger**

**At Large: Tom O'Connor**

**Webmaster: Richard Buggeln**

**Newsletter: Matthew Howell**

**Immediate Past President & Publicity: Bill Jayne**

## Advisors

**Dr. Chris E. Fonvielle Jr.**, Professor Emeritus, Dept. of History, UNCW

**Mr. Jim McKee**, Site Manager, Brunswick Town/Fort Anderson State Historic Site

**Mr. Jim Steele**, Site Manager, Fort Fisher State Historic Site

**Dr. Angela Zombek**, Associate Professor of History, Dept. of History, UNCW

## Contact

[CapeFearRT@gmail.com](mailto:CapeFearRT@gmail.com)



## CFCWRT Sponsors

**New: a corporate membership adds your business or organization to our list of valued sponsors. Sterling (\$50), Gold (\$100), and Platinum (\$250) annual sponsorships are available. Contact [CapeFearRT@gmail.com](mailto:CapeFearRT@gmail.com) to join.**



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### Cape Fear Seafood Company

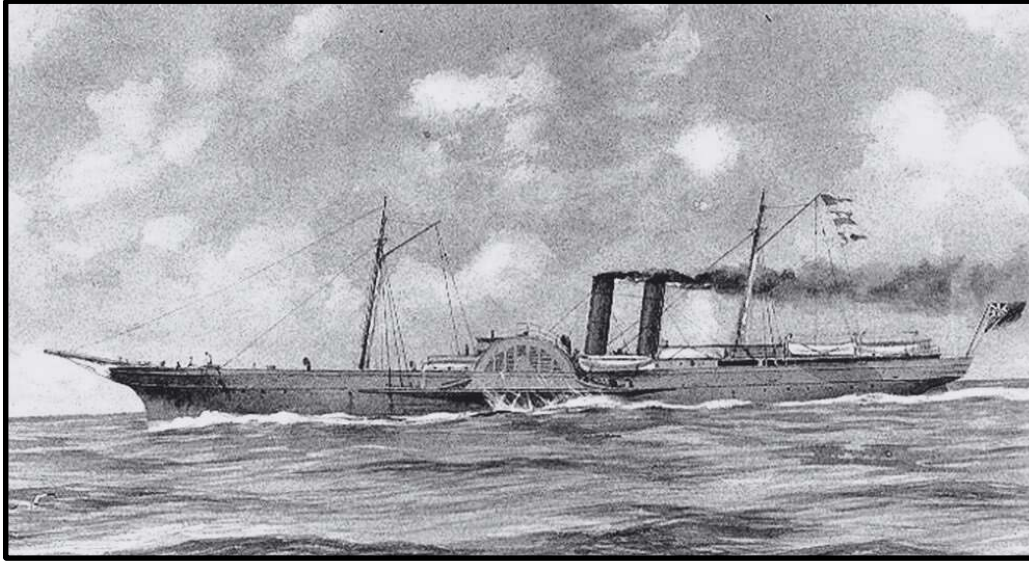
Specializing in regional American seafood, signature dishes, hand cut fish, steaks and chicken along with freshly made desserts.



**Best Western Hotels & Resorts**

# The Runner

The Official Newsletter of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table



October 2024 | Volume 2 | Number 10

Dear Members of the CFCWRT:

As we transition into fall, we find ourselves in a season of reflection and renewal. The cooler air reminds us of the many autumns past, where our ancestors walked the same land, facing their own challenges and uncertainties during the Civil War. While we often look to history for perspective, recent events in our state have brought us a different kind of struggle.

The recent flooding in western North Carolina has been a reminder of nature's unpredictable power. Our thoughts are with those affected by this disaster, and we hope for swift recovery and support for the impacted communities. As we continue to explore and discuss the history of this region, we also remain mindful of the present and the resilience of those around us.

Thank you for your continued dedication to preserving and sharing the history we all cherish. I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting.

Warm regards,

Matthew Howell  
Editor, Cape Fear Civil War Round Table Newsletter

## President's Report

By: Yelena Howell

Thank you for your confidence in us and welcome to our 2024-2025 program year!

Dear members and friends,

We appreciate your support of our newly elected Executive Committee and those who continue with us as sustaining leaders in every area of operations of our round table. From day one, our top priority is upholding the greatest good of our organization and nurturing the next generation of officers who will assume the reins in 1-2 years, after our terms are up. As a fellow American, I am truly honored to assume the responsibilities of CFCWRT presidency for this year and, possibly, for one more year beyond our 2024-2025 season.



May the example of America's most celebrated leader, George Washington, continue to inspire each of us to lead from where we are:

"He was not a brilliant strategist or tactician, not a gifted orator, not an intellectual. At several critical moments he had shown marked indecision. He had made serious mistakes in judgment. But experience had been his great teacher from boyhood, and in his greatest test, he learned steadily from experience." (McCullough, David. *1776*. Simon and Schuster, 2005, p. 293).

Immediate Past President Bill Jayne, Vice President Chris Langlois and I, along with the rest of our think and action tank, welcome your feedback and involvement at any time. Are you inclined toward accounting or media production? Do you enjoy writing? Does the idea of more field trips excite you? Please let us know, and we will connect with you deeper so that you can give it a try. Keep in touch by email at [CapeFearRT@gmail.com](mailto:CapeFearRT@gmail.com) or text me at (910) 431-6102. Things are what we make them—"let's go"!

Warm regards,

Yelena

Our thoughts are with our neighbors affected by severe weather this September. If you are able, would you consider a donation to the American Red Cross, Samaritan Purse, Catholic Charities USA, Episcopal Relief & Development, or another organization of your choice? At our October meeting and by other arrangement, Yelena will gratefully accept physical items like canned foods, especially with tabs for easy opening, baby and adult diapers and wipes, Lysol wipes, hand sanitizer, and packs of heavy-duty trash bags. These will be donated to reputable local relief efforts to be batched and transported to areas in need. Thank you for your ongoing caring concern for our region.

## Membership Report

By: Kim Berger

After the August gathering was canceled due to the inclement weather, we enjoyed our September meeting hosting Author/Editor/Publisher Ted Savas.

We had 56 participants in attendance during this presentation which introduced us to new material about George Washington Rains and the Augusta Powder Works Factory. Members, new and old, voted on the new slate of officers.

Cape Fear Civil War Round Table welcomed new members Eric & Susan VanCamp, Paul Johnson, Hugh Daughtry, and Dr. MaryBeth Allison, historian. We also had several guests who we are hoping will join us next month as members.

Thirteen members renewed their annual memberships.

Thank you all for your patience with me as I adjust to the new role of Membership Chair. I appreciate all the guidance and support as I grow within the role at the Round Table.

Sincerely,

Kim



## George Washington Rains & Confederate Strategy

By: Bill Jayne

On September 12, 2024, the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table met for a momentous meeting that marked the end of the club's 29th year of operation and saw the first election of officers in the history of the group. There were 56 people in attendance including 48 members (counting spouses) who voted in five new officers and five at-large members of the Executive Committee.



Elected as president was Yelena B. Howell, energetic, hard-working, devoted to the history of the region and full of new ideas to maintain and improve the health of the round table. She will be a great president.

Vice president is Chris Langlois, Fred Claridge is secretary/historian, Mike McDonald is the treasurer and William Jordan is the quartermaster.

They will each serve a one-year term. The president and vice president may run for an additional term but the bylaws limit them to a maximum of two one-year terms. That is, they are limited to two years in each office. The other three officers are not term-limited.

In addition to the five officers, the Executive Committee comprises five at-large members and the immediate past president as an ex-officio member. Thus, there are 11 members of the Executive Committee. Bill Jayne is the immediate past president and the five at-large members are Al Turner, Jim Gannon, Kim Berger, Roman Berger and Tom O'Connor.

Immediately after the election, Bill Jayne turned the meeting over to the new president, Yelena Howell, and she introduced our dynamic and engaging speaker of the evening, Ted Savas.

Ted is a lawyer who has become a full-time historian and publisher. His company, Savas Beatie, specializes in Civil War books. The provocative title of his talk was "Handshakes, Gambling and Gunpowder: How George Washington Rains and Jefferson Davis Changed the Course of the Civil War."



Ted has been researching the story of George W. Rains for more than 40 years and co-authored the 2007 book *Never for Want of Powder* about Rains' Augusta Powder Mill. Ted has noted that "George Washington Rains is the most important personality of the Civil War you've probably never heard of. Without him, there would have been no long and bloody war, no Vicksburg or Gettysburg, and Robert E. Lee would be but a footnote in history. Abraham Lincoln would have completed his second term (if there was one), and U. S. Grant would have never reached the White House.

## George Washington Rains & Confederate Strategy Cont.

“Rains organized, built, and operated the only major gunpowder factory in the Confederacy--a two-mile complex that enabled the South to fight for four long years. Its internal daily records, coupled with Rains' private writings, reveal stunning facts unknown to nearly every historian who has written on the war. From this day forth, you will never look at Union strategy and command decisions the same way.”



Early in the war President Jefferson Davis realized the Confederacy's need to supply its own gunpowder. Accordingly Davis selected Col. George Washington Rains, an 1842 graduate of West Point, to build a gunpowder factory. In their Army careers, Rains and Davis had met several times including frontier duty at Ft. Gibson, Indian Territory. Rains, a native of New Bern, N.C., was the younger brother of Confederate General Gabriel Rains who became the architect of the Confederacy's mine warfare program.

George Rains had resigned his U.S. Army commission in 1856 and married the wealthy Frances Ramsdell in New York. He then ran the Washington Iron Works in Newburgh, N.Y., an important industrial facility located very close to West Point. An engineer and accomplished chemist, he relied primarily on a written pamphlet rather than on practical experience in building the powder mill, yet he succeeded in designing a model of efficiency and safety. He sited the facilities at Augusta, Georgia, because of the city's central location, canal transportation, access to water power, railroad facilities, and relative security from attack.

Today a lone chimney along the Savannah River stands as the only reminder of the munitions facility that once occupied that site.

Walking constantly and working entirely from memory, Ted Savas unreeled a story of constant improvisation and adjustment as Rains, Davis and others such as Confederate Ordnance Bureau chief, General Josiah Gorgas, worked tirelessly to mask Confederate gunpowder shortages in 1861 as they built the new powder mill in Augusta, Ga.

In early 1862 Union victories at Forts Henry and Donelson cracked open the Confederate cordon and made the two modest gunpowder mills in Tennessee untenable. Ted contended that shortages of powder rendered the Confederacy exceedingly vulnerable at that point but the Union's strategic deficiencies and dysfunctional military command structure failed to realize the Confederacy's critical vulnerability and act on it. By mid 1862 the Augusta powder mill had kicked in and went on to provide 95 percent of all the gunpowder used by the Confederacy in the course of the war.

## George Washington Rains & Confederate Strategy Cont.

Ted then turned to the ending campaigns of the war and brought up the question of why Union General William T. Sherman led his army to Savannah instead of toward the strategically critical target of the Augusta powder mill. After the fall of Atlanta, Sherman focused on Hood's Confederate army, which was moving west and north back toward Chattanooga, and then after detaching a powerful force under General George Thomas to deal with Hood, he prepared his force for the demanding march to the sea.

Hood abandoned Atlanta on September 1, 1864 and Sherman began his march to the sea on November 15. Sherman's 62,000-man army reached Savannah on December 21, 1864. Ted Savas contended that the Augusta mill was eminently vulnerable during all that time and that its fall to Union forces would have effectively ended the Confederacy's ability to supply its forces with the copious amounts of gunpowder needed to sustain the war.

Ted has written: "Rains and other Confederate authorities had no way of knowing that Sherman would feint at Macon and Augusta to divide the paltry number of Rebel soldiers available to oppose him, and then drive through the yawning gap to link up with the Union Navy at Savannah. That decision was the biggest strategic mistake of his career, and he would repeat the same mistake under nearly the exact same circumstances three months later. The consequences would lengthen the war by months and increase the casualty lists by many tens of thousands of men."

Sherman, Ted Savas and others have noted, was more focused on avoiding guerrilla warfare and ending southern resistance by demonstrating the inability of Confederate forces to defend against the armies of the Union. Members of the round table were energized and fascinated by this creative presentation and asked many questions graciously answered by our speaker.

Next month will focus on a look back at 30 years of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table and a glimpse of the bright future of the club. See you on October 10!



Jim Wagner won the raffle for a chance to fire a Civil War cannon. Fire at will, Jim!



President Yelena Howell presents Ted Savas with print of Jim Horton's painting of USN Lt. William Cushing (and a toy for Ted's canine pal Kenya).

# October Auction

By: William Jordan

At the October CFCWRT Anniversary meeting we will not have our traditional monthly raffle. Instead, we will kick off a great chance to win one of the best donations our Round Table has ever received.

From October 10, 2024 to December 12, 2024 we will host a silent auction to win this Don Troiani limited edition print:



Sold Out Limited Edition:  
#1293 of 1500.

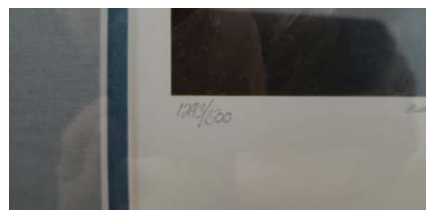
Personally signed by the artist and includes a certificate of authenticity.

Professionally framed and matted.

## The Emmitsburg Road, By Don Troiani

This print shows the 7th and 52nd North Carolina regiments fighting at Gettysburg on July 3, 1862. You can see this wonderful print in person at the October, November and December meetings. Bid to win!!!

All proceeds will directly benefit the programs put on by our Cape Fear Civil War Round Table.





## Cape Fear Civil War Round Table to Celebrate 30th Year

By: Bill Jayne

Wilmington's Cape Fear Civil War Round Table (CFCWRT) was established in 1994 and to mark the 30th anniversary of the founding of the club, the round table is hosting a special event to look back on its history. As members of the round table, you've heard by now of the special dinner meeting to be held at Indochine Restaurant on October 10.

The event is open to members only but it will be back to "business as usual" in November. John Quarstein, an extraordinary speaker and one of the nation's premier historians of Civil War maritime history, will be the speaker on November 14, talking about the Battle of Mobile Bay and Confederate Admiral Franklin Buchanan, who was perhaps the most aggressive senior naval officer to join the Confederate Navy.

The Civil War Round Table movement began in Chicago in 1941. Civil War Round Tables (also referred to as Roundtables or CWRTs) are independent organizations that share a common objective in promoting and expanding interest in the study of the military, political and sociological history of the American Civil War. There are hundreds of such organizations throughout the U.S., with some in other countries as well.

Here in the Lower Cape Fear, the first president of Wilmington's Cape Fear Civil War Round Table was George Slaton who led the organization until the year 2000. George, who now lives in the Davidson, NC, area, recalls that an organization called the Civil War Round Table Associates met in Wilmington in the summer of 1993. The organization was founded and led by legendary battlefield preservationist and Civil War activist, Jerry Russell, and their primary purpose was to encourage Civil War Round Tables to get involved in battlefield preservation.

The Wilmington event included a workshop on "How to Start a Civil War Round Table." That workshop motivated George and others to establish a round table in Wilmington. Contributing to the momentum was Civil War publisher Ted Savas and prospective authors Chris Fonvielle and Mark Bradley. Ted, then leading the publishing company of Savas Woodbury, first published Chris Fonvielle's *The Wilmington Campaign: Last Rays of Departing Hope*, and Mark Bradley's *The Battle of Bentonville: Last Stand in the Carolinas*. George Slaton noted "It was a momentous weekend!"

It took some time to get rolling and the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table first met at the University of North Carolina, Wilmington (UNCW) in October 1994. The first speaker was Dr. Chris Fonvielle, Ph.D., who later joined the faculty of UNCW. Professor Fonvielle, now retired, is the premier historian of the Lower Cape Fear from Colonial times through the Civil War. Following George Slaton, Professor Fonvielle led the CFCWRT from 2000 through 2006. The meeting site changed from UNCW to St. John's Episcopal Church and then to St. Andrew's on the Sound Episcopal Church. Under the leadership of David Norris (2006-10) and Bob Cooke (2010 to 2018), the organization grew steadily and many nationally known speakers and authors spoke to the group as well as accomplished local historians.

## CFCWRT 30th Year Cont.

From 1997 through 2005 the organization featured tours to locations such as Richmond and its vicinity, Sharpsburg, Md., and Spotsylvania County, Va. From 2006 through 2011 tours were shortened to locations in North Carolina that could be reached within a day rather than requiring overnight travel. Today, the round table features opportunities focused on local attractions such as the Wilmington Railroad Museum, a great attraction that preserves the history of the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad, the lifeline that connected the south's last blockade running port with the Army of Northern Virginia. Dr. Fonvielle has led many tours for the round table including a hike through the maritime forest to discover the earthworks of the "Sugar Loaf Line," a boat tour on the Cape Fear River and an evening tour of Ft. Fisher that ended well after dark looking out on the ocean as "friendly enemies," heroes of the 1865 battle, Col. William Lamb, CSA, and Brigadier General Newton Martin Curtis, USA, did in 1893.

The CFCWRT is actively involved in supporting Fort Fisher and Fort Anderson, the NC Historical Sites in the area, the J. Ryder Lewis historical park in Carolina Beach, as well as the NC Maritime Museum in Southport. We have also featured speakers from the Latimer House, the museum of the Lower Cape Fear Historical Society, in Wilmington.

Beginning in 2018, the round table moved to Harbor Church in Wilmington and then back to St. John's Episcopal Church in midtown Wilmington. Bill Jayne was been president of the club from 2018 and saw it through the devastating Hurricane Florence in 2018 and the COVID phenomenon. As of 2024, the round table has more members than it did in 2018.

The October dinner meeting will feature brief remarks by all of the five past presidents of the round table. The Civil War Round Table movement began as both an educational and social event always centered on dinner as well as a speaker. Over the years, the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table has hosted many dinner meetings. For example, in October 1997, distinguished historian and author Craig Symonds spoke about Patrick Cleburne, "The Stonewall of the West," at a dinner meeting at the Cape Fear Club.

Not only does this year mark a significant chronological milestone, in the 2023-24 "campaign" year, members of the club developed the first set of written bylaws to govern the round table, including rules for electing new officers every year. Those bylaws were approved at the May 2024 meeting.

At our September 2024 meeting, members elected new officers, at-large members of an executive committee and set the group on a course for sustained excellence in programs, tours and educational endeavors.

Dramatizing the historic first of electing officers, the new president of the round table is Yelena Howell, our first woman president! As the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table embarks on its 31st year, all systems are go.

## Events Celebrating History in the Cape Fear Region

By: Yelena Howell

Historian **Rod Gragg** talked to Yelena about his lifelong fascination with Fort Fisher. YouTube: <https://tinyurl.com/RGragg24>

**Friday, October 11, 6-7:30 pm.** Bellamy Mansion Museum's Executive Director **Gareth Evans** will lead a walking tour on Wilmington's African American Heritage. Tickets are \$20 ea.: <https://tinyurl.com/GEwalks> Info: [info@bellamymansion.org](mailto:info@bellamymansion.org)

**Tuesdays, October 1, October 8, and October 15, 11 am-12 pm.** NHC Public Library, Pine Valley Branch, 3802 College Rd., Wilmington. Fall Heritage Lecture Series. Info on topics and speakers: <https://tinyurl.com/FallNHC>

**Friday, October 11, 9-10:30 am,** Burgwin-Wright House, 224 Market St., Wilmington. **Hunter Ingram** will lead Cape Fear Legends and Lore Walking Tour. Tickets \$20 (+tax) ea. Please call (910) 762-0570 to reserve your spot.

**Wednesday, October 16, 7 pm-until,** Wilmington Railroad Museum, 505 Nutt St., Wilmington. **Dr. Chris E. Fonvielle Jr.** will regale his spellbound audience with some of the most curious and haunted tales from the Cape Fear Region. Admission is free. There will be a cash raffle for a variety of prizes: tickets are 1 for \$5 or 5 for \$20. To register, email [info@wrrm.org](mailto:info@wrrm.org)

**Cancelled: Saturday, October 19,** Brunswick Town/Fort Anderson State Historic Site. Port Brunswick Day. Please note this important cancellation due to severe impacts of September's tropical event on the access road to the site. There is no public access to the grounds until further notice. Info: <https://www.facebook.com/BrunswickTownFortAnderson/> or [brunswick@dncr.nc.gov](mailto:brunswick@dncr.nc.gov)

**Saturday, October 19, 7-9 pm,** downtown Wilmington walking tours. Additional dates: **Saturday, October 26, 7 pm start; Tuesday, October 29, 6:30 pm start; Wednesday, October 30, 6:30 pm start and Thursday, October 31, 6:30 pm start.** **Dr. Chris E. Fonvielle Jr.** will walk you through his popular *Curious Tales From Old Wilmington and the Lower Cape Fear: The Truth Behind the Legends*. Wilmington True History tickets are \$22 for Veterans and First Responders and \$25 for other adults: <https://tinyurl.com/Chris-octobre>

**Saturday, October 26, 10 am-4pm.** Bentonville Battlefield State Historic Site, 5466 Harper House Rd., Four Oaks, NC. Fall Festival. Family-friendly activities include wagon rides, old-timey crafts, and live music. Bring a chair, a blanket, and \$5 per ticket (free admission for kids under 8). Contact: Colby Lipscomb, (910) 594-0789 or [bentonvillebattlefield@gmail.com](mailto:bentonvillebattlefield@gmail.com)

**Saturday, October 26,** hourly tours starting at 5:30-9 pm. Historic Burgaw Cemetery, 106 E. Wilmington St., Burgaw, NC. The Ghost of Pender's Past. A family-friendly tour. Free for ages 4 and under, \$10 ea. for students, \$15 ea. for adults: <https://tinyurl.com/PenderBoo> Info: (910) 259-1278 or [info@visitpender.com](mailto:info@visitpender.com)

## Brunswick Civil War Round Table

“Closing Down the Kingdom: The Wilmington Campaign” is the title of popular local historian **Chris Fonvielle’s** presentation to be held at Hatch Auditorium on Caswell Beach on Tuesday, October 1st .

Registration begins at 6:15PM, and the program starts at 7:00PM. Everyone is welcome. The visitor fee is \$10, and can be applied toward the \$25 annual membership dues, which can include a spouse.



Chris will discuss Union military operations to capture, and Confederate efforts to defend, Wilmington, the South’s main seaport and most important city by late 1864. This will include the two battles for Fort Fisher which were the largest U.S. Navy bombardments of the Civil War.

By capturing Wilmington, the Union blockade was complete, and it gave General Sherman’s forces a base of supply and a route to the sea. Just months later the Civil War was declared over.

Chris is a prolific author, tour guide, and professor emeritus in the History Dept. at UNCW. He is a native of Wilmington with a lifelong interest in history, including the Civil War, North Carolina, and the Cape Fear region.

For more information, contact president John Butler at (404) 229-9425, or email to him at [Brunswickcwr@gmail.com](mailto:Brunswickcwr@gmail.com).



## Wreaths Across America



Our CWRT actively supports the Wilmington Community effort to cover over 5,200 graves at the Wilmington National Cemetery with a Christmas wreath each year.

Our organizational goal is some 75 wreaths. Our CWRT has met or exceeded that modest goal in all but one of the previous campaigns. Of interest, to our membership is that, in addition to contributing to the ILM goal, each wreath garners \$5. to our CWRT treasury. Each wreath is only \$17 or five for \$85 (the most popular, nation-wide purchase).

Please give your personal check to **Kim Jordan**, in multiples of \$17, made out to Wreaths Across America and she will do the rest. Better still, save Kim the task of forwarding your check to Maine, by just using your credit card at the CFCWRT web site, As the instructions say, click on the WAA picture and make your purchase.

Your efforts and generosity are sincerely appreciated.

If you prefer to sponsor a wreath online, here is CFCWRT's 2024 link:

<https://tinyurl.com/CFCWRTWreaths>

## CFCWRT Members Enjoy Gettysburg Field Trip

By: Bill Jayne

Five Cape Fear Civil War Round Table (CFCWRT) members and two guests took advantage of a gracious invitation from the Cleveland (OH) CWRT to participate in their annual field trip to a Civil War battlefield. This year, from September 19th to the 22nd, the destination was the king of Civil War battlefields, Gettysburg.

Approximately 70 participants began the weekend with a Thursday evening get-together at the Comfort Suites right on Baltimore Pike near the Gettysburg Visitors Center. Former Cleveland CWRT President Bob Pence, the organizer of this year's tour, handed out name tags and in-depth information packets and then presented a very professional program on the prelude to the Battle of Gettysburg.



The CFCWRT contingent at Robert E. Lee's Headquarters. Left to right: Joe Roman, Drew Peck, Tom Piech, Christina Grazer, John Bolger, Jr., Bill Jayne, John Bolger, Sr. and Joanne and Dan Bonder of the Cleveland CWRT.

Bob did an amazing job organizing this trip, beginning with regular emails starting in December. He provided Gettysburg reading lists, links to informative video presentations and interesting facts, as well as keeping track of all the minutiae of meal choices and financial details.

The spiral bound notebook provided to participants is a great reference work that I will keep on my shelf along with my Gettysburg books. In addition to the schedule and a list of participants, detailed maps and an order of battle were included.

The order of battle details every regiment and battery, it provides "Engaged Strength," killed, wounded, captured/missing and percentage of loss down to the brigade level. Want to know which Army of Northern Virginia brigade suffered the highest percentage loss in the three-day battle? With a percentage loss of 65.2 percent of its engaged strength, Iverson's all North Carolina brigade of Rodes' Division in Ewell's II Corps, had the greatest loss.

Friday, September 20, dawned perfectly clear and sunny and temperatures eventually reached the neighborhood of 90 but it was a beautiful—if warm—day to visit the Seminary Ridge Museum, climb to the cupola of the historic Lutheran Seminary and look out to the west in the same way Union Cavalry General John Buford did on July 1, 1863.

We then toured Seminary Ridge and in the afternoon continued on to McPherson Ridge, Oak Knoll, Barlow Knoll and ending up on East Cemetery Hill where the remnants of the Union I and XI corps retreated to be joined by Hancock's I Corps and Slocum's XII Corps.

Highly knowledgeable and experienced guide Jon Thompson brought us through an informative day that ended with a moving talk and rendition of Taps at the Soldiers National Cemetery.



Seminary Ridge Museum in the historic Lutheran Seminary, built in 1826, this is where Union Cavalry General John Buford observed Confederate infantry moving in strength toward Gettysburg.

## Gettysburg Field Trip Cont.



The view from McPherson's Ridge toward Seminary Ridge

Saturday, September 21, was cloudy and cooler. Although we missed the beautiful long views stretching west to the mountains, the cooler temperatures were welcome. With Jon Thompson as our guide, we started at Little Round Top, went down to the Wheatfield and then to the Peach Orchard, where General Robert E. Lee's plan to find the left flank of the Union army and attack along that axis was abundantly clear.

The failure, also abundantly clear, was that poor reconnaissance caused confusion about the location of the left flank of the Army of the

Potomac. The view from the Peach Orchard shines a bright light on the murk of the second day of the Battle of Gettysburg. A brief but informative stop on Culp's Hill brought the morning tour to a close.



Crossing the field of Pickett's Charge



The Plum Run valley below Little Round Top. Note beaver dam.

The afternoon, after another convenient and tasty box lunch from Jersey Mike's, was devoted to the fighting on July 3, especially Pickett's Charge. All of the CFCWRT stalwarts, along with most of the tour participants, bused to Seminary Ridge and the Virginia Memorial and then walked across the fields of Pickett's Charge.

Saturday evening brought one of the great highlights of the tour, a catered dinner at the Gettysburg Visitors Center. Imagine having the Visitors Center all to yourself with a viewing of the National Park Service movie about Gettysburg, narrated by Morgan Freeman, an unhurried and uncrowded view of the incomparable cyclorama and time to take in all of the museum.

Sunday morning, before returning home, we visited the Spangler Farm, a beautifully preserved and restored property owned by the Gettysburg Foundation. Perfectly located between the Taneytown Road and the Baltimore Pike, it became the XI Corps Field Hospital. The barn, where operations occurred, the farm house, and the summer kitchen, where Confederate General Lewis Armistead died, are pristine and the program is memorable and informative.

# Gettysburg Field Trip Cont.



The presentation on Civil War medicine inside the barn of the Spangler Farm, the XI Corps field hospital during the battle. This is where most amputations took place. Almost all the floor boards are original.

CFCWRT participants were Christina Grazer, Drew Peck, Tom Piech, John Bolger, Sr. and Bill Jayne. Guests John Bolger, Jr., and Joe Roman also enjoyed the tour.

We don't know where Cleveland's tour is headed next year, but I'm ready to sign up!



East Cemetery Hill, the end of the first day of fighting. Guide Jon Thompson gesturing in the center and Cleveland CWRT tour leader Bob Pence on the right wearing Union General's kepi.



Statue of Union General Gouverneur Warren on Little Round Top





## The Destruction of Civil War Sites Through Metal Detecting

By: Patrick H. Garrow, RPA

Most of us who are interested in Civil War history are aware of the continuing loss of Civil War battlefields, forts, and camp sites to development. What most are not aware of is the increasing lost opportunity to understand Civil War sites through metal detecting by hobbyists or looters. Civil War fortifications and landscapes are only part of the picture to understanding what went on within a Civil War site. Documentary history exists for most larger scale battles, and letters, drawings, and secondary histories provide insights into camp life and what at least some men on both sides faced daily. None of those sources provide a full, detailed account of what went on within a battle or the details of everyday life in both armies.

Removing artifacts from any archaeological site without proper recordation and maintenance of the chain of custody of the artifacts destroys part or in many cases all the information that site contains. It is important to think of every Civil War site as a unique book that contains information that can be important to understanding the past. Metal detection of that site and removing its metal artifacts can be tantamount to burning that book.

Those of us who have studied aspects of Civil War history in detail understand the biased or incomplete nature of documentary history. Official accounts and even the letters and diaries of those responsible for the historic record were often based on an incomplete understanding of the events they recorded. This was sometimes due to the fog of war or simply the inability to see beyond the small part of the event they observed. Accounts were often written to glorify the roles of the writers or to defend their mistakes.

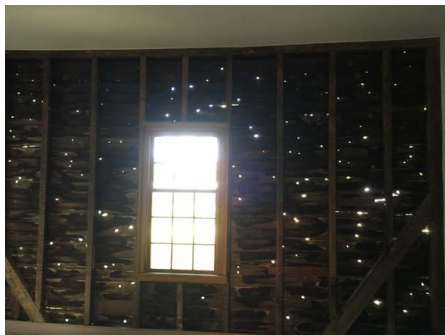
The artifacts left behind by those who took part in a battle or lived on a campsite are often the only evidence through which an unbiased and more complete account of what occurred can be reconstructed. That ability no longer exists in cases where the artifacts have been removed. Systematic metal detecting in the hands of an expert can reveal the configuration of a Civil War camp and identification of the soldiers who occupied it, as well as the state of supply at a precise moment in time. Metal detecting on Civil War battlefields can yield important information on troop movements during the battle and the exact avenues of attacks and defenses during the battle.

This author was based in Atlanta for many years as a professional archaeologist and investigated numerous Civil War sites. Those sites all had one unfortunate trait in common. Each site had been so completely metal detected by hobbyists or looters that they almost completely lacked metal artifacts. Fortifications survived in some cases, but the artifact content of the sites did not. There is no way to capture the information that has already been lost on Civil War sites. That loss is being increased every weekend through unregulated metal detecting on both private and public land. It is time we recognize the destruction of information on those sites and take steps to educate the public about this unfortunate problem.

## Two Haunting Photos from the Franklin Battlefield

By: Jim Gannon

Several civil war soldiers describe battles in which the bullets flew so thick that men bent forward as if they were walking into a rainstorm or a hail storm. This photo seems to illustrate how many bullets could be flying, almost randomly, about a Civil War battlefield.



The sunlight is shining through bullet holes made by Confederate fire. I took this photo from inside the farm office building at the Carter House on the Franklin Battlefield in Tennessee. This one room wooden building is just a few yards behind the Union line. There were about fifty or sixty yards between the opposing troops at this point on the line. The Union line consisted of shallow trenches hurriedly dug by the retreating Union forces after an all night forced march.

The Union force of roughly 27,000 men under Major General John Schofield was retreating as fast as possible toward Nashville, where prepared positions and more Union forces would welcome them.

However, the Union troops were delayed several hours at Franklin while a bridge was being repaired and that delay allowed the following Confederate Army of Tennessee to force a battle. Confederate General John Bell Hood who commanded roughly as many troops as Schofield was desperate to destroy this Union force separately before it could combine with the other Union forces in Nashville. So the Confederates attacked this line head on about 4PM and, unusual for the Civil War, kept on attacking in the darkness.

In the end, the Confederate attacks proved a disaster, as the Confederates suffered ruinous casualties that the South could never hope to replace, and during the night when the bridge was ready, Schofield's troops made the orderly withdrawal to Nashville that he intended.

The photo also calls to mind the remarks Heros von Borcke, a Prussian Army officer, who served with distinction on J. E. B. Stuart's staff. In his memoirs, Heros expressed his strong conviction that most casualties were caused by bullets aimed at someone other than the person who was hit.



Perhaps that was a bit of self delusion to justify what sometimes seemed like courage to the point of foolhardiness by Borcke and many other Civil War Officers who exposed themselves to enemy fire in order to inspire their troops. Nevertheless, the bullet holes all over the house suggest that Borcke could be right. In any event, the Confederate Officers at Franklin clearly led from the front.

Fourteen Confederate Generals became casualties (six killed, seven wounded and one captured.) Above is a photo of the back porch at the Carnton home where on the morning of December 1, 1864 lay the bodies of four Confederate Generals (Patrick Cleburne, Hiram Granbury, John Adams and Otho Strahl) while some of their troops said a final goodbye.

If you get the opportunity, it is a very haunting place to visit.

## American Battlefield Trust Recommended Reading List

The American Battlefield Trust recently announced a recommended reading list for both the Revolutionary War and the American Civil War. The Civil War books, many of which have been available at our monthly raffle, includes the Trusts first-ever book prize for exceptional works of history and biography.

In no particular order, except for the Trust's exceptional works recognition of Elizabeth Varon's Longstreet:

***Longstreet: The Confederate General Who Defied the South* by Elizabeth Varon**

***The American Heritage History of the Civil War* by Bruce Catton**

***The Battle Cry of Freedom* by James McPherson (Pulitzer Prize)**

***The Civil War: A Narrative* by Shelby Foote (Three volumes)**

***The Army of the Potomac* by Bruce Catton (Three volumes)**

The American Battlefield Trust, successor to The Civil War Trust, The Civil War Battlefield Trust and others similar organizations is the leader in saving America's history and hallowed ground. In addition to preserving forever over 58,000 acres of battlefield land, member commitment makes possible all aspects of the Trusts mission to preserve, educate and inspire. The Trust deserves your active support.



## Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

### Executive Committee

**President: Yelena Howell**

**Vice President: Chris Langlois**

**Secretary: Fred Claridge**

**Treasurer: Mike McDonald**

**Quartermaster: William Jordan**

**At Large: Al Turner**

**Programs: Jim Gannon**

**Membership: Kim Berger**

**Audiovisual/Customer Support: Roman Berger**

**At Large: Tom O'Connor**

**Webmaster: Richard Buggeln**

**Immediate Past President & Publicity: Bill Jayne**

### Advisors

**Dr. Chris E. Fonvielle Jr.**, Professor Emeritus,  
Dept. of History, UNCW

**Mr. Jim McKee**, Site Manager, Brunswick  
Town/Fort Anderson State Historic Site

**Mr. Jim Steele**, Site Manager, Fort Fisher State  
Historic Site

**Dr. Angela Zombek**, Dept. of History, UNCW

### Contact

[CapeFearRT@gmail.com](mailto:CapeFearRT@gmail.com)

## CFCWRT Sponsors

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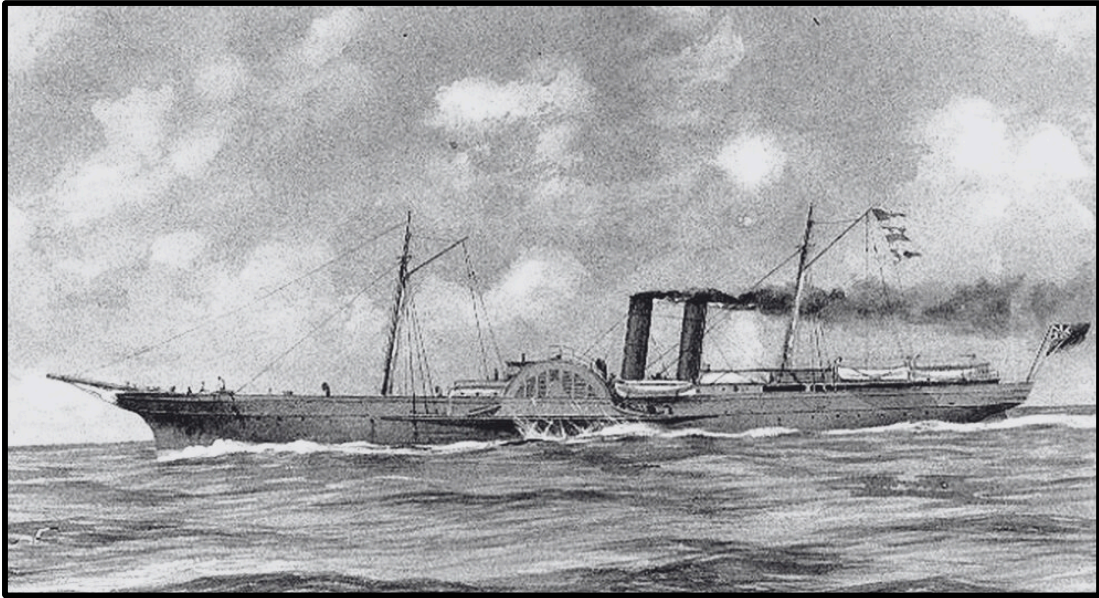
Specializing in regional American seafood, signature dishes, hand cut fish, steaks and chicken along with freshly made desserts.



Wherever life takes you,  
 Best Western is there!

# The Runner

The Official Newsletter of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table



September 2024 | Volume 2 | Number 9

Dear Members of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table,

I am deeply honored to have been entrusted with the responsibility of serving as your newsletter editor. This role is a privilege, and I look forward to continuing the tradition of excellence that has defined our organization.

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to Fred Claridge, our previous editor, whose dedication, wisdom, and hard work have been invaluable. Fred has set a high standard, and I am grateful for his support as I step into this role.

Thank you for your confidence in me. I look forward to serving you and contributing to our shared passion for history.

Warm regards,

Matthew Howell

Editor, Cape Fear Civil War Round Table Newsletter

## President's Report

By: Bill Jayne

I have had the privilege and honor to preside over more than 60 meetings of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table since 2018. It has been an honor to be in the company of previous presidents including George Slaton, Dr. Chris Fonvielle, David Norris and Bob Cooke.

I have not regularly submitted a "President's Report" for *The Runner*, rather choosing to only write such a report when there was something of more than routine import to communicate. This report is such a case.

In the past year we have developed and adopted bylaws to govern our round table in the future. Of most importance, I think, we have adopted rules to govern the orderly transition of leadership to new officers every year.

We will have five officers: President, Vice President, Secretary/Historian, Treasurer and Quartermaster. All will serve one-year terms. The president and vice president are limited to only two consecutive terms. The other three officers are not limited to a specific number of terms.

As the first order of business at our September meeting, we will elect the new officers for the 2024-25 term. We will also elect the at-large members of our inaugural executive committee. The executive committee will comprise the five officers, the immediate past president, and five at-large members. As immediate past president, I will serve as a member of the 11-person Executive Committee. An ad-hoc nominating committee has agreed on a slate of officers and executive committee members to put before the membership of the round table.



**PRESIDENT:** The nominee is Yelena Howell, our current Director of Tours and Trips. She has proven herself to be a most loyal, dependable and effective member of the round table. She is energetic, creative, and personable. Yelena Howell (Mrs. Matt) is a mother of three and a proud U.S. citizen of approximately two decades. Matt Howell, a native of eastern North Carolina, will be taking over the editorship of our newsletter.

Yelena hails from northern Russia, although the happiest days of her childhood passed in the Crimea and Mariupol, Ukraine. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in French Literature with a History minor and a Master of Science in Educational Psychology from the University of Tennessee.

She is also a certificated commercial pilot and flight instructor and a registered nurse of 16 years currently pursuing a doctorate in the Family Nurse Practitioner program at UNCW. Lena, as friends call her, loves field trips and is an impassioned student of Southern history and literature. Her simple motto is "let's go!" I thank her for her support and help during my term as president and I thank her for volunteering to serve as our first elected president. She will make a wonderful president.

## President's Report Cont.

By: Bill Jayne



**VICE PRESIDENT:** Chris Langlois has quickly become a valued member of the round table team. He has stepped in to assist with any job needed, especially with set-up of the meeting room, raffles and book sales.

He is a native of Jeanerette, Louisiana, who has worked at several important public safety and emergency management posts around the country. He started as a firefighter and has risen in the ranks to public safety director.

Among other professional accomplishments, Chris is a graduate of the Executive Fire Officer Program at the National Fire Academy, has a bachelor's degree in Public Fire Administration from Upper Iowa University and a master's degree in Executive Fire Service Leadership from Grand Canyon University, and holds numerous certifications from the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress. His interest in history goes back to ancestors who fought in the Civil War.



**SECRETARY/HISTORIAN:** Fred Claridge has been editor of our newsletter, The Runner, for more than a year. He has done an excellent job, putting out an informative, interesting newsletter that is timely and reliable. Like Chris Langlois, Fred has had a distinguished career in emergency medical and public safety services.

Fred grew up in Falls Church, Virginia, and is a graduate of Atlantic Christian College (now Barton College) in Wilson, N.C. He is retired but he worked in increasingly important

jobs in EMS in North Carolina, Kentucky, and California, including director of emergency medical services for two large counties in Northern California. His bachelors degree was in History and he is a dedicated volunteer at the Bentonville State Historic Site as well as with our round table.

**TREASURER:** Mike McDonald, a Harvard graduate with a degree in economics, has been doing a great job as treasurer and has agreed to stay on for at least one more term. He provides the leadership of the round table with a wealth of pertinent information about our finances and membership trends. A native of Maryland, Mike said he grew up thinking "damn Yankee" was one word.



**QUARTERMASTER:** William Jordan is a digital creator who is a reenactor cook par excellence. He specializes in camp cooking from the 18th and 19th centuries and reenacts a sutler named "W. C. Pag."

William has spoiled the round table membership with his cooking at past meetings as well as presenting an informative program about sutlers. He has also successfully run our raffle program for the past year, adding very importantly to our budget.



William's wife, Kim, is an active member of the round table, too, directing our Wreaths Across America program. Son, David, is also an avid reenactor and has given the membership informative programs about drum calls.



## President's Report Cont.

By: Bill Jayne

To recap, the slate of officers recommended for election is:

**President: Yelena Howell**

**Vice President: Chris Langlois**

**Secretary/Historian: Fred Claridge**

**Treasurer: Mike McDonald**

**Quartermaster: William Jordan**

We will also be electing five at-large members of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee comprises the five elected officers plus five elected directors, plus the immediate past President, for a total of up to eleven members. The Executive Committee is responsible for conducting the business of the Round Table and will report to the membership as required. Perhaps the most important function of the Executive Committee is to serve as the Nominating Committee. The Executive Committee will also have oversight over functional activities of the round table such as Membership, Program, Tours, Newsletter, etc.

The nominees for at-large members of the Executive Committee are:

**Al Turner - our current Vice President.**

**Jim Gannon - leader of our Program function, which selects and works with our speakers.**

**Kim Berger - our Membership chair.**

**Roman Berger - our Audio-Visual Chief.**

**Tom O'Connor - a graduate of the USMA at West Point, Tom has been an active member of the round table.**

I need to take some time to try to appropriately thank Colonel Bruce E. Patterson, U.S. Army (ret.). Most recently, Bruce has been the secretary of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table as well as membership director. I don't think I would have made it through my six-year term as president without Bruce's great leadership, support, guidance and assistance. Moreover, I've been greatly blessed to have had the opportunity to get to know him better and count him as a friend.

Born on December 13, 1930, Bruce marked his 90th birthday a few years ago with a family get-together facilitated by Zoom, a technology that even Dick Tracy couldn't have imagined in 1930 (actually, the comic strip detective with his wrist radio, etc., didn't make his debut until 1931).

In addition to his current duties as secretary and membership director, Bruce has been our treasurer at times, functioned as the key liaison with our speakers, facilitating their visits to Wilmington and their remote presentations when that was necessary. He is also a key volunteer for several other endeavors including the Southeast North Carolina Military Officers Association, the Remembering our Military Heroes group, Wreaths Across America, the N.C. Military Historical Society and the Wilmington Philatelic Society.

Originally from New York City, Bruce grew up in a small town in Western Massachusetts and joined the U.S. Army in 1948 after graduating from high school. He graduated from Officers Candidate School in 1951 and was commissioned in the Field Artillery, which was fitting since his father was a Coast Artilleryman who served in France in World War I. Bruce also counts Civil War veterans among his ancestors and perhaps that helps account, in part, for his interest and expertise in history.

Bruce went on to a distinguished career in the Army, retiring as a Colonel in 1979. He was inducted into the Hall of Fame of the OCS Alumni Organization. He holds an MBA from George Washington University and is a graduate of the Command and General Staff College, the Armed Forces Staff College and the Army War College.

With election of our new slate of officers and Executive Committee members, Bruce will step down from his various posts and enjoy the camaraderie and conviviality of our club. Best wishes, Bruce, and many thanks.

## Membership Report

By: Bruce Patterson

In what became my penultimate membership report, I noted that we had a renewal challenge awaiting us in August and I fully expected to receive several, if not many renewals at the August meeting.

As you are all aware, the August meeting never occurred, thanks to a storm called Debby. I am pleased to report however, that we received 14 renewals during the period and while that number is short of our goal, it is a substantial number, given the circumstances.

Our next meeting is 12 September and our **Treasurer, Mike McDonald** will be most happy to receive both August and September renewals that evening. If in doubt as to your renewal month, just check your name tag. Your renewal month appears at the bottom of the tag.

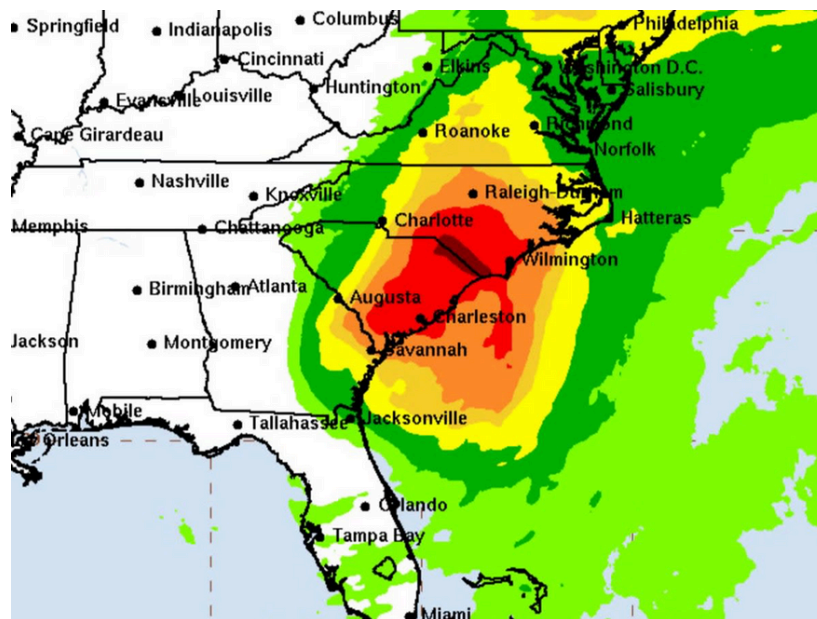
As always, you may mail your \$30 renewal to **CFCWRT 8387 E Highcroft NE, Leland, NC 28451** or you may renew online if that is more convenient.

As was announced in last month's *Runner* and effective at our next meeting, member **Kim Berger** will be assuming the duties associated with the Membership Chair. Her resume is solid, and she is far more charming than myself. In short, it's been a fun run, and I thank you all for your cooperation, indeed, your round table membership. I plan to remain active in round table activities.

Bruce Patterson



## Tropical Storm Debby Cancels August Meeting



In early August, the National Weather Service predicted the “potential for Extreme Flooding Rain across all of northeast South Carolina and southeast North Carolina” because of Tropical Storm Debby. “Life-threatening flash flooding” and “tropical storm force winds” were also in the forecast. Local governments closed their offices and warned residents of the Lower Cape Fear to stay home on August 8, when our meeting was scheduled.

In light of the forecast, I decided to cancel the regularly scheduled meeting of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table on Thursday evening, August 8. Hopefully, all our members and friends were made aware of the fact that the meeting had been cancelled. As it turned out, the storm had little serious impact in our area and that’s a good thing. I hope everyone is safe.

We were planning to elect new officers at the August meeting but, instead, election of officers will be the first order of business at our September 12 meeting.

The August meeting was to feature the third session in our summer Members Forum series. Titled “Generalship: Theory and Substance,” this audience-participation program was to have been presented by round table member John Weisz, a West Point graduate and retired U.S. Army officer.

The presentation has been re-scheduled for December 2024. 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. Looking forward to the program in December!

## Events Celebrating History in the Cape Fear Region

By: Yelena Howell

**Wednesday, September 4, 1:30-2 pm. Cameron Art Museum, 3201 South 17th St., Wilmington. Public Museum Tour.** Free with admission; recurs every Wednesday of this month. <https://cameronartmuseum.org/events/> CAM: (910) 395-5999

**Saturday, September 7, or Saturday, September 21, 8-9 pm. Latimer House Night Tour: "Step Into the Era of Gas Light!"** 126 S. 3rd St., Wilmington. Tickets are \$22: <https://latimerhouse.org/tours/>

**Wednesday, September 11, 6:30-8 pm, Burgwin-Wright House, 224 Market St., Wilmington. Cape Fear Revolutionary War Table** quarterly meeting featuring Nancy Fonvielle's marvelous fudge. James Legg, historical archaeologist, will discuss the archaeology of the Battle of Camden (1780), including the excavation of the remains of fourteen soldiers. Non-members welcome to attend with a \$5 contribution or to join CFRWRT at the door. Info: [cfrwrt@gmail.com](mailto:cfrwrt@gmail.com)

**Friday, September 13, 9-10:30 am. Burgwin-Wright House, 224 Market St., Wilmington. Colonial Wilmington & The Revolution Walking Tour.** Join storyteller extraordinaire Hunter Ingram to learn about Wilmington in the 1770s by visiting important period places like the former jail, courthouse and market sites. \$20+ tax, call to book: (910) 762-0570

**Friday, September 13, 6-7:30 pm. Bellamy Mansion Museum, 503 Market St., Wilmington. Past Meets Pavement:** Wilmington and the American Civil War walking tour. \$20, no walk-ups, please: <https://tinyurl.com/BellamyACW> Info: (910) 251-3700 or [info@bellamymansion.org](mailto:info@bellamymansion.org)

**Tuesday, September 17, 7-8 pm. North Carolina Maritime Museum, Community Building, 223 E. Bay St., Southport. Rod Gragg,** historian and award-winning author of *Confederate Goliath* and more than twenty other books, will discuss the role of the Federal Navy in the fall of Fort Fisher. No charge to attend, but pre-registration is needed: <https://tinyurl.com/MrRodGragg>

**Sunday, September 22, 10am-12pm. Dr. Chris E. Fonvielle Jr. and Wilmington Water Tours** present a river cruise themed around Wilmington and the Lower Cape Fear after the Civil War and through the end of the nineteenth century. \$25 (ages 4-12), \$45 (ages 13+): <https://tinyurl.com/ThePostWar>

**Wednesday, September 25, 9:45-11 am. Remembering Our Heroes (ROH) at NHC Senior Center, 2222 South College Road (Shipyard and College).** WWII Tank Warfare lecture series concludes with "Armored Cavalry" by John Weisz. No charge. Info: (910) 798-6400 or <https://tinyurl.com/ROHTanks>

**Saturday, September 28, 5-8 pm. Cameron Art Museum, 3201 South 17th St., Wilmington. Second Annual Barbecue Bourbon Bash.** Summer comfort foods, including a variety of barbecue favorites, sides, and cocktails from a local distillery. At 6 pm, the local band Hood's Creek will cover a selection of classic rock hits. CAM members: \$45, general public \$65, children 10 y.o. and under \$15: <https://tinyurl.com/CAMBBCue> or (910) 395-5999

## Wreaths Across America



**Wreaths Across America** - that annual Wilmington community-wide effort, to place a Christmas wreath on every Christian grave located within our Wilmington National Cemetery (some 5200 wreaths).

Our Cape Fear Civil War Round Table has been a part of that effort for the past decade and have contributed greatly to the success of the community effort. We planned to begin our campaign a month earlier than usual, but a storm called Debbie thought differently, thus our inaugural 2024 effort begins at our September 12th meeting.

Please consider contributing to this worthy effort by purchasing a wreath, priced at only \$17 each. We can accept your personal check made out to Wreaths Across America (WAA) or cash. Many members purchase a package of 5 wreaths at \$85. Recall please that our round table receives \$5 for every sponsored wreath, thus this effort also becomes a fund-raising benefit for us as well.

Please see members **Kim Jordan** or **Bruce Patterson** at the next meeting to make your contribution.

If you prefer to sponsor a wreath online, here is CFCWRT's 2024 link:

<https://tinyurl.com/CFCWRTWreaths>

## September Meeting Features

### Jefferson Davis, George W. Rains, and the Confederate Gunpowder Strategy

Our Cape Fear Civil War Round Table invites all members and friends to attend the first meeting of our 2024-25 “Campaign” year. This year marks the significant milestone of 30 years of learning about the history of the Civil War through stimulating, entertaining presentations by some of the foremost Civil War historians in the country. As usual, the meeting will be held on Thursday evening, September 12, 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.



Fittingly, our first speaker this campaign year is Theodore P. “Ted” Savas. A native of northern Iowa, Ted has a B.A. in history, most of a Masters, and a Juris Doctorate (with Honors) from the University of Iowa College of Law. He practiced law for many years in Silicon Valley, taught adjunct college classes in history, business, and politics for 20 years, and has been a full-time publisher and writer since 1990.

An organization called the Civil War Round Table Associates met in Wilmington in the summer of 1993 and Ted was one of the speakers at the conference. That conference became the catalyst for the establishment of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table in 1994.

Ted has authored many books as well as publishing literally hundreds of important military history studies. He is the owner of Savas-Beatie Publishing. He was one of the authors of *Never for Want of Powder: The Confederate Powder Works in Augusta, Georgia*, with co-authors C. L. Bragg, Gordon A. Blaker, Charles D. Ross, and Stephanie A. T. Jacobe.

We have all been taught to believe Confederate President Jefferson Davis made a significant strategic mistake during the first year of the war by choosing to defend nearly every square mile of Confederate territory, and that this mistake helped doom the Confederacy. This strategy is known as the “Perimeter Defense.” The Union, of course, famously adopted the “Anaconda Plan” devised by chief Union general Winfield Scott. Scott’s plan called for a naval blockade of the south coupled with a powerful joint Army-Navy offensive down the Mississippi River.

While controlling the waters along the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico, the United States sought to defend the line of the Ohio River in the north and gain control of the Mississippi River in the west and then invade the south at key points to end the rebellion. In a letter to Major General George B. McClellan, Lt. General Scott said his strategy aimed “to envelop the insurgent states and bring them to terms with less bloodshed than any other plan.” Should the plan to open the Mississippi to U.S. control fail, General Scott foresaw the necessity of conquering “the seceding states by invading armies.” His prediction, of course, was right on point.

## September Meeting Features Jefferson Davis, George W. Rains, and the Confederate Gunpowder Strategy Cont.



The U.S. Army Center for Military History states: “in 1861 the geographic situation appeared to favor the South. Borrowing from the antebellum U.S. Army system, Davis divided the Confederacy into eight departments. He dispersed his military forces around the Confederacy’s perimeter in the hope that the sheer size of the new nation would work in its favor by making it difficult for Federal commanders to coordinate multiple thrusts into Southern territory. The Southerners planned to counter Federal offensives by transferring troops from unthreatened areas to reinforce any department under attack. A successful defense of Confederate borders would demonstrate that the new nation could protect its sovereignty, increasing its chances of international recognition.”

According to Ted Savas, it is demonstrably false to blame the loss of the war on Davis’s Perimeter Defense Strategy, and a significant body of objective evidence proves it. Davis’s vision and decision-making were well-reasoned and much more successful than even he believed possible.

Ted links Davis’s success to the immensely significant but generally unknown Confederate Colonel George Washington Rains, one of the two “Bomb Brothers.” George Rains was a native of New Bern, N.C., who graduated from West Point and became an officer in the U.S. Army. He was always fascinated by chemistry and became a noted expert on chemistry, including a stint as an assistant professor at West Point. After U.S. service that included combat in the Seminole Wars in Florida and the War with Mexico, he left the Army and became proprietor of an iron works in New York’s Hudson Valley, manufacturing steam engines and boilers. His older brother, Gabriel, also graduated from West Point and went on to become a Confederate general in charge of the Confederacy’s mine program, devising, manufacturing and planting “infernal machines” including both land mines and nautical mines.

In partnership with George Rains, Jefferson Davis employed a strategy that avoided defeat early in the war and contributed to the Confederacy’s chances for ultimate success. Although little remembered today, Col. Rains went on to establish the Confederacy’s very modern and very successful gunpowder works in Augusta, GA. The war you think you understand was not the war that was actually waged, according to Ted Savas.

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 members of the round table. And, remember, we will be electing new officers in September. Bring a friend! For information about membership in the round table, go to our website at <http://cfcwrt.org> and click on “Join”.

See you there!

## Brunswick Civil War Round Table Announcement



Returning on Tuesday, September 3rd to captivate his audience with another dramatic performance is popular historian Chris Mackowski, award-winning author and co-founder of Emerging Civil War. His presentation is entitled, “The Battle of Spotsylvania Court House.”

Chris will describe one of the bloodiest battles of the war between Generals Lee and Grant; a battle that cost over 30,000 lives over a 12-day period in May, 1864. It was an incredible battle that ended in a draw. Lee then retreated to Richmond, and Grant ordered his troops to continue their march also toward Richmond. Both were determined to be victorious, and eventually put an end to the war.



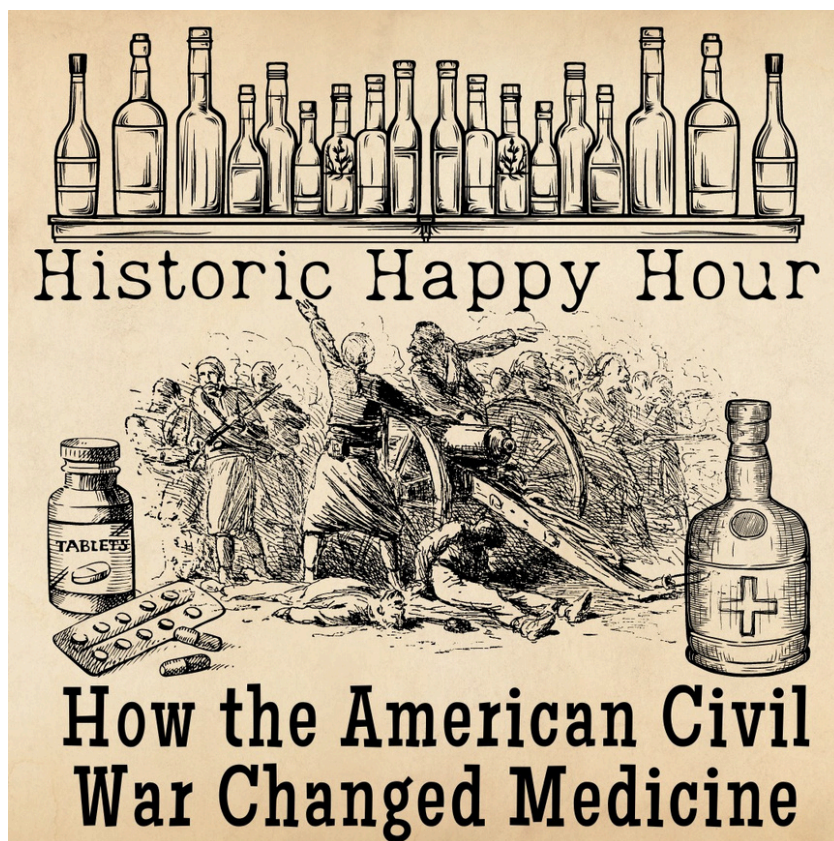
This will be the first meeting of the new season, and will take place at Hatch Auditorium on Caswell Beach. Everyone is welcome. Registration for this first meeting begins Tuesday, the day after Labor Day, at 6:15PM. The program starts at 7:00PM.

The guest fee remains \$10, and can be applied toward the \$25 annual membership dues, which can include a spouse. For more information, contact president John Butler at [Brunswickcwrtable@gmail.com](mailto:Brunswickcwrtable@gmail.com), or call him at (404) 229-9425. Or, visit their website at <https://brunswickcivilwarroundtable.com> and their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/brunswickcivilwarroundtable>.





## Old Baldy Lighthouse and Smith Island Museum of History



Join us on September 10th at 4:30 PM  
For an enlightening evening at the iconic Old Baldy Lighthouse!

Topic: "How the American Civil War Changed Medicine"

Speaker: Desiree Bridge – Historian, Customer Liaison and Merchandise Specialist at Turtle Central, and Baker

Bring a chair and discover the surprising truths behind medical advancements that emerged from the American Civil War. Desiree will debunk myths from movies and shed light on how the U.S. lagged behind Europe in medical practices.

Enjoy a unique blend of history, beers, and a selection of wines, all with a stunning lighthouse view. Don't miss this chance to dive deep into local history and sip on delicious drinks!

Book your tickets here: <https://bit.ly/3UKwhO6>

## “Don’t Use The Stuff!”

By: Bill Jayne



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  $\frac{1}{3}$  cup of peanuts,  $\frac{1}{3}$  cup rye or wheat, and  $\frac{1}{3}$  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, peans, acorns, etc. Swamp mud will blacken water just as effectually 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.”

## Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

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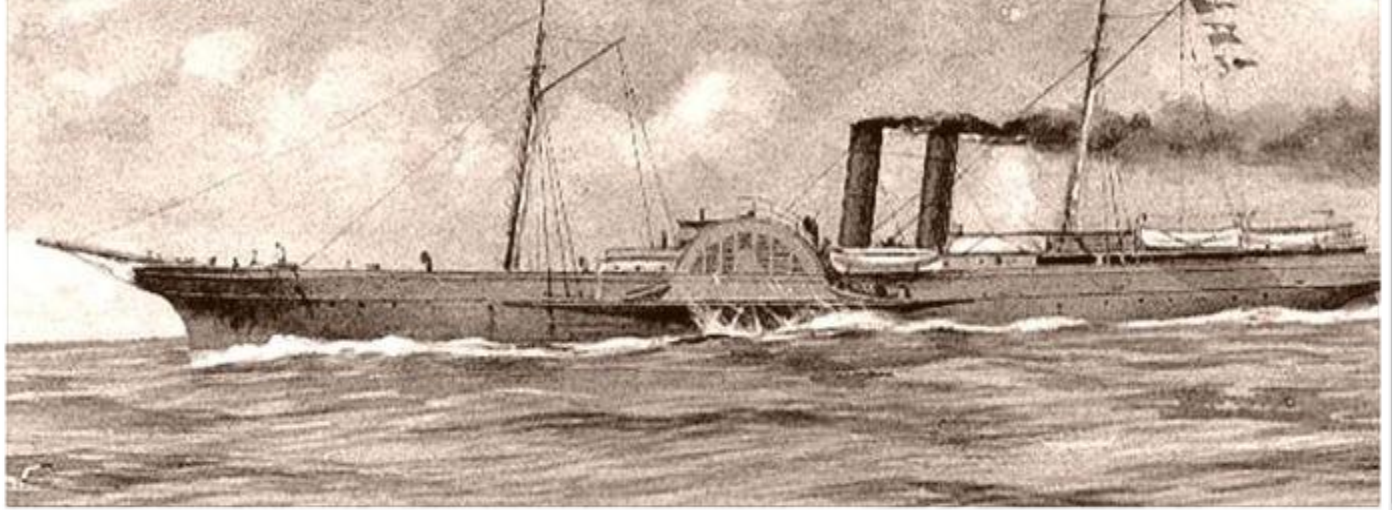


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# THE RUNNER



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.

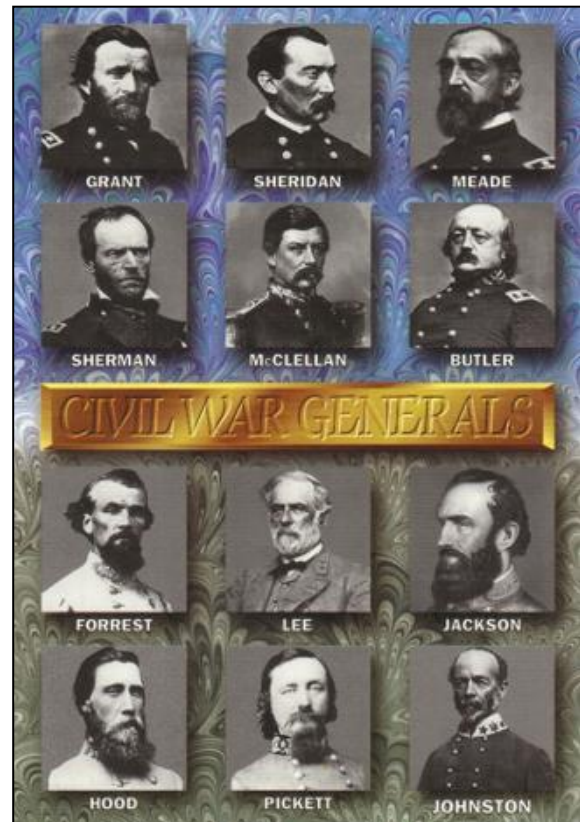
The Members Forum on August 8, 2024, will be presented by member John Weisz. John graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in 1974 with a degree in Engineering and minors in German and Military History. He retired from the Army in 1994 as a Lieutenant Colonel. He served in several leadership 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 whoever 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

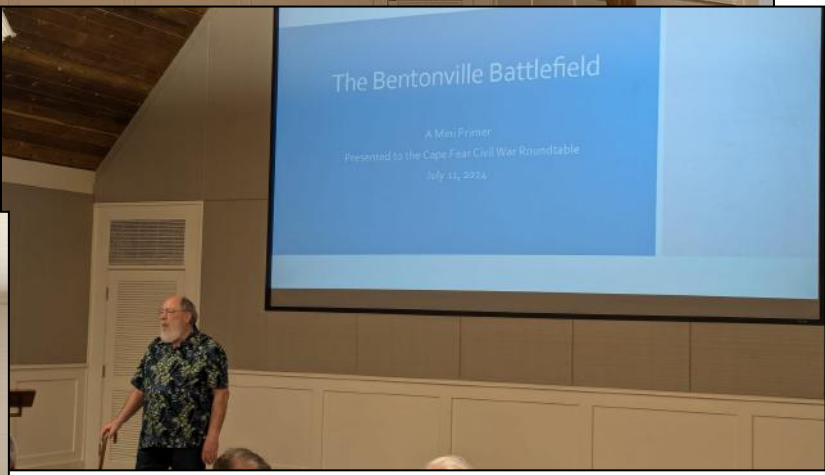
**“For me, the Harper House is the most sacred place [at Bentonville].” - Fred Claridge**

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

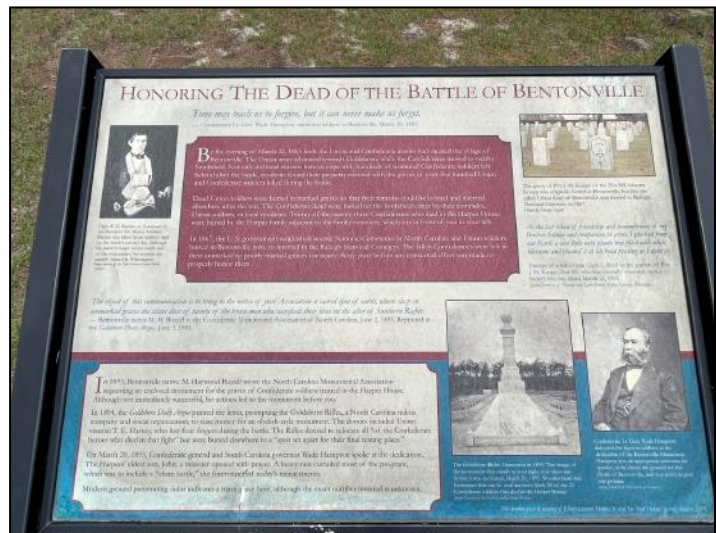
Written and photographed by Rachel McLaughlin,  
Bentonville Battlefield Staff

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	REG'T	REG'T				REG'T	REMARKS
				1	2	3	4		
191	W. M. King	Priv						191	
192	F. H. Smith	Priv						192	
193	W. H. Brown	Sgt						193	
194	J. M. Green	Priv						194	
195	J. M. Smith							195	
196	W. H. King							196	
197	J. M. Brown							197	
198	W. H. Smith							198	
199	J. M. Green							199	
200	J. M. King							200	
201	J. M. Smith							201	
202	J. M. Brown							202	
203	J. M. Green							203	
204	J. M. Smith							204	
205	J. M. Brown							205	
206	J. M. Green							206	
207	J. M. Smith							207	
208	J. M. Brown							208	

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...”



## References

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**FALL Festival**

OCT  
**26**  
10-4PM

5466 Harper House Road  
Four Oaks, NC 27524

\$5 Adult Admission. Kids  
8 and under FREE

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

## Cape Fear Civil War Roundtable

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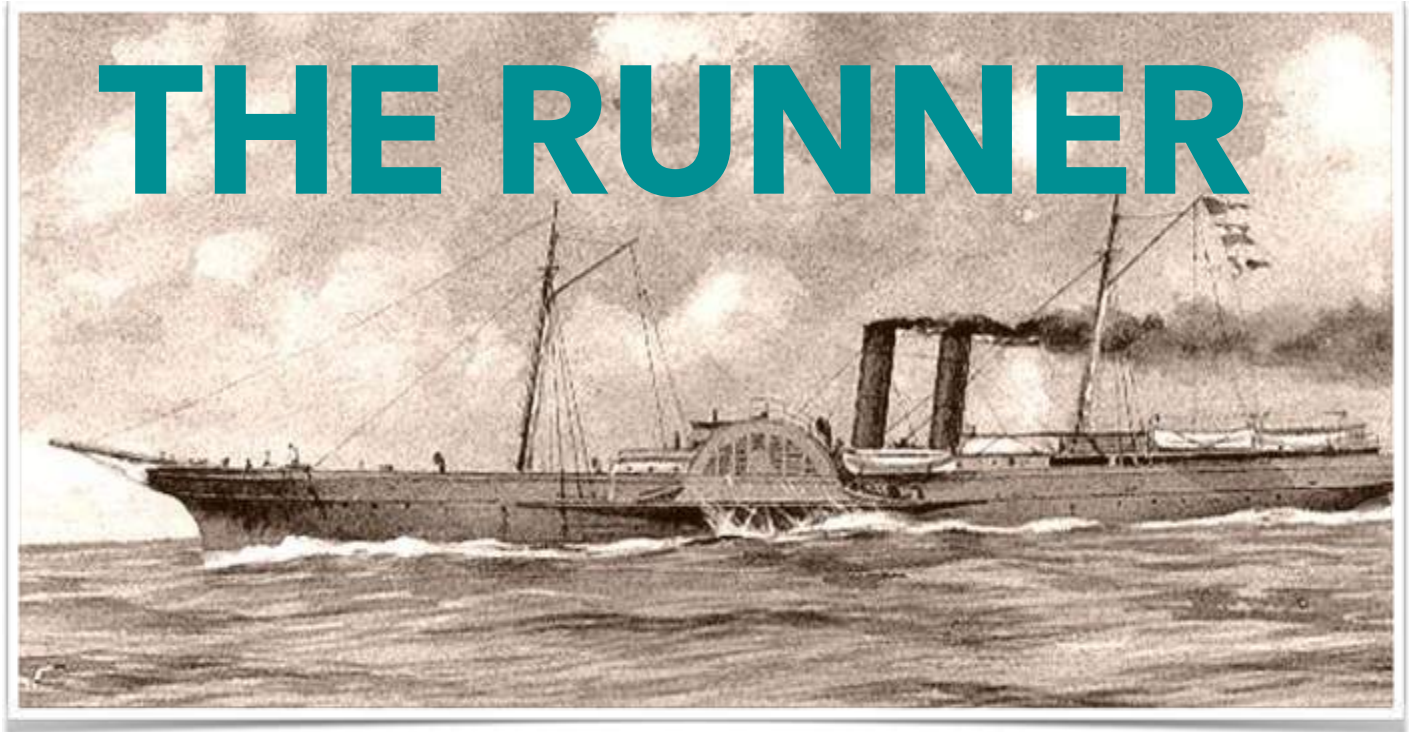


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The official newsletter of the Cape Fear Civil War Roundtable

## Cape Fear Civil War Round Table Highlights Bentonville Battlefield Update and “Myth of the Rifle Musket”

By Bill Jayne, CFCWRT President

The July 11 meeting of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table (CFCWRT) features a presentation by Fred Claridge, our newsletter editor and an avid volunteer at the Bentonville Battlefield State Historic Site, and President Bill Jayne talking about the outsized reputation of the rifle musket as the cause of high casualties in the Civil War.

*Many thanks to Matt Howell for taking the helm of The Runner during my unexpected medical misadventure last month. Matt did an outstanding job delivering the cargo to port despite taking over in a storm. Much appreciated Matt! - Editor -*

The presentations are part of the group’s Members Forum series. Most Civil War Round Tables across the country take the summer off but Cape Fear relies on the interests and scholarship of its members to continue to present informative programs throughout the summer. Most of these programs are more interactive than the standard lecture format the round table relies on throughout most of the “campaign” year.

The Battle of Bentonville, fought March 19-21, 1865, was the last full-scale action of the Civil War in which a Confederate army was able to mount a tactical offensive. This major battle,

## Membership Report

By Bruce Patterson  
CFCWRT Secretary

We are pleased to announce the June membership of **Dan and Susan Hickman**. The Hickmans reside in Wilmington and are long-time residents following Dan's very successful military and academic careers. As students of history, especially local history, we are especially pleased when a long-time Wilmingtonian joins our ranks.

A word about membership renewal. Please check you name tag. It reflects your month for annual renewal. If your tag reflects July, then your renewal is due prior to July 31st. You may renew on-line or by mail by sending your renewal fee (\$30.) to **CFCWRT, 8387 East Highcroft NE, Leland, NC 28451**. Better still, just give a check to **Treasurer Mike McDonald** at the July meeting. Mike will also accept your credit card payment. Lots of options folks but let's keep our ranks full.

Lastly, a reminder that every member is s recruiter. Bring a friend or neighbor to the next meeting. Visitors usually join following attendance.

And - we are looking for someone to help out with our attendance duties. Please stay tuned for more information on that opportunity to help!

the largest ever fought in North Carolina, was the only significant attempt to defeat the large Union army of Gen. William T. Sherman during its march through the Carolinas in the spring of 1865.

The site in Johnston County is less than 90 miles from Wilmington and it is one of the most pristine of all Civil War battlefields in the country. The area around the battlefield has remained largely agricultural and rural and one sees the terrain where the battle was fought much as the soldiers would have seen it almost 160 years ago.

In 1929 Fred Olds, of the NC Hall of History (forerunner of today's North Carolina Museum of History), wrote of a springtime battlefield tour recently enjoyed in remote southeastern Johnston County. He was truly amazed by what he found.

"One of the best-preserved battle fields of the War between the States is that of Bentonville," Olds asserted, noting that the field "still reveals lines of entrenchments so perfectly preserved as to be startling. They reach for miles." Extensive ground cover and little new construction in the area had kept the battlefield relatively undisturbed. Marveling at the pristine field fortifications, then adorned with fragrant arbutus blossoms, Olds observed that "nature has in the years which have passed cared for them with infinite tenderness." As he toured "no end of rifle pits," probably along the Sam Howell Branch, he found them "as distinct and well preserved as if they had been dug but a few years ago. Time has stood very still in that once bloody area."

The state of North Carolina has acquired extensive portions of the battlefield and assisted by the National Park Service and the American Battlefield Trust, it has continued to locate and map battlefield fortifications and other features. Moreover, the park has in recent years been able to develop new interpretative trails to bring people closer to these features and to better understand the highly significant battle.

From the perspective of a dedicated volunteer who has seen many of these new developments reach fruition in the past two years, Fred Claridge will give us an update on this jewel of battlefield preservation.



*Mower's Attack on the Confederate Left, East of Bentonville, March 21, 1865. Frank Leslie's Illustrated.*

In a second Member Forum presentation, Bill Jayne will take a look at the impact of the rifle musket on Civil War combat. In the immediate buildup to the outbreak of war in 1861, the rifle musket had replaced the smoothbore musket as the standard infantry weapon. A “musket” is an individual long weapon loaded by the muzzle. The smoothbore musket common to America’s Revolutionary War through the War with Mexico, fired a round ball that was propelled by black powder down a long barrel that was smooth on the inside. Effective range of the weapon was less than 150 yards.

The rifle musket was still loaded by the muzzle in a painstaking process but “rifling,” (something like the ridges and groves of a bolt or screw) caused the projectile to spin and thus remain truer to its trajectory as it left the barrel of the weapon. This weapon, in general, was seen to have an effective range of about 500 yards.

“The prevailing view of this weapon has been that it revolutionized warfare because of its increased range. Participants and latter-day historians alike have assumed that because the rifle deepened the killing zone so much—from roughly 100 yards to about 500 yards—it produced significant results.” This quotation is from the Introduction to *The Rifle Musket in Civil War Combat: Reality and Myth*, by Earl J. Hess. Dr. Hess, Ph.D., is a retired professor of history at

Lincoln Memorial University in Harrowgate, Tennessee. He is a prolific author whose books have been published by several prestigious academic presses. A native of rural Missouri, Dr. Hess received his Ph.D. from Purdue University.



The problem with the prevailing wisdom, which tends to portray the American Civil War as “the first modern war,” largely because of the rifle musket, is that it has seldom been subjected to rigorous analysis. Dr. Hess and others have pointed out that several factors limited the effective range of the rifle musket. Chief among those factors was the exaggerated parabolic arc of the projectile. Civil War long arms fired a large projectile, more than half an inch in diameter, with a relatively small amount of propellant. So, the projectile didn’t travel in a more or less flat flight, it rose and then, as gravity took over, came back to earth. When the weapon was sighted at 300 yards, there were two killing zones: from zero to about 75 yards, and then from about 250 yards to 350 yards. Opposing soldiers in the middle were relatively safe. A well-trained rifleman could estimate the range and adjust his sights in order to hit a target at well over 300 yards. The problem was, very few Civil War riflemen were trained marksmen. As the war progressed, specialized skirmish and sniper units benefited from training and began to have an effect.

Was, then, the new-fangled rifle musket the cause of the high casualties in Civil War battles? Dr. Hess wrote: “At best, the rifle musket had an incremental effect on changing the nature of combat for a few selected functions on the battlefield, such as skirmishing and sniping. It did not revolutionize warfare.” Within ten years, the rifle musket was a museum piece, replaced by breech-loading rifles and then bolt-action, magazine-fed rifles that were tremendously more powerful, easy to operate and a recruit could learn to accurately aim the weapon in a week of training.

Perhaps more important, in terms of causing high casualties, was the lack of training of higher-ranking officers. Not one general, north or south, had ever commanded a field force of more than a regiment or two in combat; that is 1,000 to 2,000 men. By 1862, however, men with no relevant experience and precious little academic preparation, were commanding armies in the neighborhood of 100,000 men.

Make plans to come and participate in these discussions. As usual, the meeting will take place on Thursday evening, July 11, beginning at 7 p.m. Doors open at 6:30. As usual, the meeting will be held in Elebash Hall at the rear of St. John’s Episcopal Church at 1219 Forest Hills Drive

in Wilmington. The church parking lot and entrance to the meeting room is easily accessed via Park Avenue off of Independence Boulevard. Bring a friend! See you there.

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## Brunswick Town/Fort Anderson Site Lecture Series in July



Join us at Brunswick Town/Fort Anderson State Historic Site for a guest lecture series that examines the construction and historical significance of Civil War era fortifications along the Carolina coast from a number of perspectives. **July 2, 9, and 23 6:00-8:00 PM. \$3 admission.**

Built atop the remnants of the colonial town, Brunswick, Fort Anderson protected the Cape Fear River and supply lines to Wilmington. Wilmington was a critical port for supply lines throughout the Confederacy and to General Lee's Army of Northern Virginia in Petersburg and Richmond. Although originally named Fort St. Phillip after the colonial Anglican Church ruins within the fortress, the fort was renamed in honor of Brigadier General George Burgwyn Anderson who died after complications from injuries suffered at Antietam. Lieutenant Thomas Rowland led the construction of Fort St. Phillip, which began on March 24, 1862. The earthwork was nearly a mile long and ran from the Cape Fear River to Orton Pond.<sup>1</sup>

Guest Speakers: Todd Rhoades, Paul Shivers, and Jim McKee

<sup>1</sup> Jessica Lee Thompson, "Fort Anderson (Confederate)," North Carolina History Project, accessed 18 June 2024, <https://northcarolinahistory.org/encyclopedia/fort-anderson-confederate/>; John G. Barrett, *Civil War in North Carolina*, (Chapel Hill, reprint, 1995); *Carolina Comments*, Vol 57: No 3 (July 2009); North Carolina Historic Sites, "Brunswick Town/Fort Anderson: Overview," accessed 4 May 2010, <http://www.nchistoricsites.org/brunswick/main.htm#ftanderson>.

## Area Historical Association Events

By Yelena Howell, Tours and Trips Committee

**Friday, June 28 (6-9 pm, opening night) through July 20 (Monday-Saturday, 10 am-4 pm), Burgwin-Wright House**, 224 Market St., Wilmington. Well-known local historian and artist David Allen Norris presents his exhibit “Walks in Wilmington: Glimpses of Nature and History.” Works of art in various media will be available for purchase. Info: (910) 762-0570

**Thursday, July 4, 5 pm program start with fireworks at 9:05-9:25 pm. Wilmington’s Riverside Celebration of Independence Day.** Details: <https://tinyurl.com/WNCJuly4>

**Friday, July 5, 1-1:30 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 July dates as well**: <https://cameronartmuseum.org/events/> CAM: (910) 395-5999

**Saturday, July 6, or Saturday, July 20, 8-9 pm. Latimer House Night Tour.** 126 S. 3<sup>rd</sup>. St., Wilmington. Tickets are \$20: <https://tinyurl.com/Latimer24>

**Saturday, July 6, 10 am-3 pm (drop-in). North Carolina Maritime Museum at Southport.** 204 E. Moore St., Southport. **Skippers Crew: Shell-abrate America!** Hands-on activities for the whole family. The first two hours are adapted for children with sensitivities. Free of charge; donations appreciated. Info: (910) 477-5151. **Additional topics on Wednesday, July 10, and Wednesday, July 24:** <https://tinyurl.com/SMaritime>

**Thursday, July 11, 6:30 pm-until. Bellamy Mansion Museum**, 503 Market St., Wilmington. **Summer Jazz Series: Darryll Murrill.** \$15-\$25, tickets only at the door. <https://tinyurl.com/BellJaz> Info: (910) 251-3700 or [info@bellamymansion.org](mailto:info@bellamymansion.org)

**Friday, July 12, 9-10:30 am, Burgwin-Wright House**, 224 Market St., Wilmington. **Cape Fear Legends and Lore Walking Tour.** Tickets are \$20 + tax: (910) 762-0570

**Saturday, July 13, 10 am-until. City of Raleigh Museum**, 220 Fayetteville St. **Body and Soul: The Intimate Experience of Civil War Soldiers.** **Dr. James Broomall**, *The Good Death Undone: The Fate of North Carolinians at Gettysburg*, **Dr. Douglas Porter**, “*The Unholy Cause*”: *Religion and Dissent in Civil War Era North Carolina*, and **Wade Sokolsky**, *Raleigh's Confederate Hospitals, 1861-1865*. No cost to attend. <https://tinyurl.com/CWExperiences>

**Tuesday, July 16, 7-8 pm. North Carolina Maritime Museum at Southport, Community Building.** 223 E. Bay St., Southport. “**NC 250: It’s Not 1976 Again!**” Historian LeRae Umfleet will discuss the upcoming semi-quincentennial of signing of the Declaration of Independence. <https://tinyurl.com/SMaritime> A helpful resource: <https://www.america250.nc.gov/>

## Members Pat Garrow and William Jordan Bring History Alive

By H. W. Walker, Runner Special Correspondent

Inaugurating the seventh iteration of our Members Forum series, retired archaeologist and author, Pat Garrow, told the story of the “Galvanized Yankees,” blue on the outside, gray on the inside. Galvanization was a relatively new process in Civil War days but the process of dipping iron or steel in molten zinc was growing by leaps and bounds because the zinc retarded rust on the ferrous metals being increasingly used for ships, trains, building structures, bridges, etc. Pat’s presentation was punctuated by an intermission featuring member William Jordan reenacting the role of victualer and chef W.C. Pag, and wowing everyone with fantastic 19th Century treats like “French Salad,” a kind of chicken salad served on lettuce leaves. More than 40 members and friends enjoyed the meeting.

Pat’s presentation was based on his second “Galvanized” book. His first book, published by the University of Tennessee press, focused on Union soldiers who grasped the opportunity to escape from Confederate prison by serving in the Confederate army. Titled *Changing Sides*, the book looked at the phenomenon through the lens of the various units that were formed for limited military duty. The experiment was largely a failure as former Union soldiers tended to desert their Confederate units as soon as feasible. Such deserters gave Union generals valuable intelligence at the battle of Bentonville in early 1865.



His second book, *Gray to Blue*, will focus on the opposite phenomenon, Confederate POWs who used the opportunity to serve in U.S. Army units in order to escape prison. This volume is scheduled to be published

by the University of Tennessee Press in 2025. Pat also focused on the experience of Union units composed of white southerners from Confederate states who abandoned allegiance to the Confederacy.

Pat’s research revealed that 3,156 white men were enlisted within the state by the Union to serve in units such as the 1st and 2nd North Carolina Infantry regiments in the U.S. Army. More than 5,000 white men born in North Carolina enlisted elsewhere. In all, Pat told us, 8,191 white men born in North Carolina fought for the Union.



The 2nd NC (Union) was raised from November 1863 to February 1864 in northeastern North Carolina. The area was a Union enclave throughout the war and most of the territory was controlled by the Union. Union supporters in the far northeastern counties of the state were often called “Buffaloes,” but not all the men in the regiment came from those counties.

The men were generally a little older than those in most Union regiments, but enlistees were as young as 14. For more about these Union soldiers, see the nearby article by John Wetherington about his ancestor, Ruel Wetherington, who served in the 2nd N.C.

The 2nd N.C. had a very unfortunate history as one company was captured virtually en masse. In February 1864. Company F was assigned to defend a blockhouse at Beech Grove near New Bern and as the Confederate army under Gen. George Pickett operated in the area, it surrounded the blockhouse, and it was surrendered by a Union Lieutenant from the 132nd N.Y. who was in command.

As the prisoners were marched toward Kinston, Confederate soldiers in Pickett’s force recognized some members of the 2nd N.C. who had served in Confederate units earlier in the war. Some of them had deserted. Ultimately, 22 men were executed by the Confederates and the rest sent to prison camps. Only three of the captives survived the war, according to Pat’s research.

After the intermission to enjoy W.C. Pag’s repast, Pat completed his presentation noting that 28 Federal units contained “Galvanized Yankees.” Many other units were formed outright from Unionists in places like East Tennessee and Northern Alabama. The 28 units, however, contained soldiers who had first served in Confederate units. Many of them were recruited from Point Lookout prison located in Maryland where the Potomac River empties into Chesapeake Bay.

One of the units formed was the 1st U.S. Volunteer Infantry. Recruits were subjected to a medical examination but only about 10 percent were disqualified. Some 94 of the volunteers examined had scars from gunshot wounds. A plurality of the volunteers, 486, came from North Carolina. The unit served as guards in Norfolk and Portsmouth, Virginia, and took part in raids in the Tidewater area, including Elizabeth City, N.C. Those raids, Pat added, “produced nothing but desertions.”

Because of the desertions and fears of Confederate executions if the men were captured, on August 8, 1864, the 1st U.S.V.I. was shipped west to Chicago. From there, the regiment was divided into two battalions and traveled further west. One battalion—named the Dimon Battalion for its commander—went all the way to Fort Rice in what is now North Dakota. They suffered from poor leadership and supply problems but they did fight against Sioux warriors and help protect settlements. Many died of illness and a fair number deserted. They were mustered out of service on November 7, 1865.

The other battalion, known as the Tamblyn Battalion because of its commander Col. William L.

Tamblyn, served in other locations in Minnesota and Dakota Territory. Its experience was similar to the other battalion, and many men deserted. Interestingly, one deserter was Wright Batchelor, an ancestor of Michael K. Brantley, who told us his story, "Reluctant Confederate," in November 2022. Bachelor deserted the battalion in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and walked all the way to Petersburg, Virginia, and somehow rejoined his old Confederate unit. The Tamblyn Battalion remained in service until the men were mustered out on May 21, 1866.

Pat summarized the service of the 1st USVI by noting that 195 men deserted, 121 died in service (only five as a result of enemy action) and 78 received medical discharges. Of the more than 1,000 who served in the regiment, 394 men did not complete their service.

Thanks to members Pat Garrow and William Jordan (assisted by wife Kim and son David) for an informative and enjoyable meeting.



The food was great at our June event. There was so much to choose from.

*Bon Appetit*



## Ruel Wetherington (24 October 1824 – 1 February 1912)

By John Wetherington, CFCWRT Member

[Editor’s Note: We hope you enjoy this article on one of our member’s ancestors - Ruel Wetherington. We have included some of the archival documents he discovered throughout the article. We also humbly apologize for the text gremlins which prevented us from fixing a number of the paragraphs. They’re still quite readable - but have some strange spacing anomalies we were powerless to fix. Thanks for your patience!]

The recent lecture by Pat Garrow on “Galvanized Yankees” reminded me of the research I had done on my Great Grandfather, Ruel Wetherington.

In May of 1861, Ruel enlisted in Company F, of the 2nd Infantry Battalion, CSA. He enlisted in New Bern, NC, but was later discharged for medical reasons: The records state: “Discharged by order of Surgeon Courts July 9, 1861, at Camp Advance, NC, on account of physical disability.”

In April 1863, in Craven County, Ruel enlisted in Company B, 67th NC Infantry Regiment of the Confederate Army (Whitford’s Partisan Rangers).

*Wetherington, Ruel* D-42.12

601524 **ARMY INVALID.** Act of February 6, 1907.

*Co. F 2nd Inf. 1861 - 1862. Co. B 67th Inf. 1863 - 1864. Vol. Inf. 1864 - 1865.*

Class	Date	Date of Discharge	Class	Date	Date of Discharge	Class	Date	Date of Discharge
	<i>Dec 20 61</i>	<i>11 Dec 1867</i>						
	<i>Dec 1 1861</i>	<i>7 July 1861</i>						

Discharged at: **INGOVILLE, TENN.**

Date: *1 Feb 1912* Serial: *30795* *7/12 - 2/14/12*

*Stuccoway N.C.*

*2165*

Union General Ambrose Burnside had captured New Bern in early 1862 and the Union held the city and much of the surrounding area for the remainder of the war. North Carolinians had always been ambivalent about the war. North Carolina was the last state to secede from the Union. Unionists, deserters, and opportunists in the occupied territories, seeing their chance, began enlisting in the Union army. Many were promised bounties ranging from \$100 to \$300,

most of which was never paid. They were promised their duties would be guarding Federal logistics and building fortifications, and that they would never be called away from their home county.

On January 13, 1864, Ruel Wetherington enlisted in Company F, Second North Carolina Union Volunteer Infantry of the Union Army at New Bern. (Not to be confused with the same company and regiment designation on the southern side.) About

NAME OF SOLDIER:					Wetherington, Ruel				
SERVICE:					Late rank, a. F. 1 Regt N. C. Inf				
TERM OF SERVICE:					Enlisted, 1 Discharged, 1				
DATE OF FILING:	CLASS:	APPLICATION NO.	LAW:	CERTIFICATE NO.					
1864 Aug 25	Invalid.	669 P 61	5	601524					
1912 Feb. 19	Widow.	980, 837	2	742,510.					
	Minor,								
ADDITIONAL SERVICES:					F + C 2 N. C. Inf				
REMARKS:									
Apr - 1864					Died Feb 1, 1864				

half of the 2nd NC were former Confederate soldiers. According to essays such as “Little Souled Mercenaries?” The Buffaloes of Eastern North Carolina during the Civil War by Judkin Jay Browning, published in the July 2000 issue of *The North Carolina Historical Review*, many had enlisted in local defense units to avoid harsh Confederate conscription practices, which often resulted in men being removed from their homes with no time to try to provide for their families.

Ruel was 35 years old. He was born and raised in the Tuscarora/Cove City region of Craven County, NC – about midway between Union held New Bern and Confederate held Kinston. On Jan 18th, 1864, part of the 2nd NC was sent to the “Masked Battery” at Beech Grove overlooking the Neuse River, near what is now called Bachelor's Creek – Ruel’s home ground. They joined fourteen men from the 132nd Reg’t, NY Infantry.

At this same time, Gen. R. E. Lee decided the time was ripe to re-capture New Bern and directed Gen. George Pickett in Kinston to accomplish it. Beech Grove on the Federal right flank, though concealed by darkness and heavy fog, came under attack. The men of North Carolina were not allowed to lead the Union troops to safety without orders, even though they were well acquainted with their home terrain. On Feb 2nd, 1864, the battery was immediately surrendered by Lt Leith of New York with not a man lost to battle.

As the Union prisoners were led back to Kinston (in their new blue uniforms), a member of Picket's troops recognized two of the former confederates. In the end, after three separate courts martial, twenty-seven of the captives from Beech Grove were charged with desertion. Twenty-six others were declared POWs and sent to prison camps, including Andersonville. Twenty-one of those charged were hanged in Kinston, with many of their wives and friends looking on. Among those hanged was Sergeant Jessie James Summerlin. His body was carried twenty miles to his wife Catherine Dail Summerlin by the sympathetic Sheriff.

Of the twenty-seven "Galvanized Yankees" captured at Beech Grove, only four survived to see the next month: The court martial board was reconvened in Goldsboro to consider the fate of the remaining men. Two of them were hanged. Two were sentenced to hard labor, and two men, George Hawkins and (my Great Grandfather) Ruel Wetherington, were sentenced to be branded on their left hips with the letter "D" four inches in length. In addition, each was ordered to have a five-foot-long chain and twelve-pound ball attached to his left ankle and to work at hard labor on government projects for the duration of the war.

The US Army General Hospital in Annapolis, MD, carried Ruel Wetherington on the roster of the 2nd NC Volunteers (Union) as 'absent' since April 12, 1864. The roster was contained in a Register of "enlisted men, rebel deserters, and refugees detained at Camp Distribution awaiting orders" to be transferred on Sept 18, 1864, from Alexandria, VA, to New Berne, and 'present' in the 2nd Reg't on Sept-Nov 1864.

He was transferred to the 1st NC Vols, Beaufort, NC, on Nov 30th, appearing on their rolls on Feb 27, 1865. It appears that Ruel Wetherington was exchanged by the Confederates sometime in mid 1864 and passed into U.S. control.

Catherine Dail Summerlin, whose husband, Sgt Summerlin, was hanged, married Ruel Wetherington on May 20, 1866, to be his second wife, of three. She applied for a Widow's Pension (based on the death of Sgt. Jesse J Summerlin) in August 1867. She died in October 1873, age 37.

Ruel married his third wife, my Great Grandmother, Sarah E Woods, in August 1880.



Sarah applied for an Invalid's Pension in August, 1888, and a Widow's Pension on Feb 19, 1912, stating Ruel was in F & C Company 2nd NC Inf, and F Co, 1st NC Inf. Ruel died in Tuscarora, NC, Feb 1, 1912, and was buried in Cove City, not far from Beech Grove. He never received the \$300 bounty, although it was carried as being owed on most of the reports.

As for why Ruel enlisted in the Union army: I assume 1) the local economy was very bad, 2) the Yankees were convenient, and 3) the people didn't want to join the Confederacy in late 1864. But that's a guess. And, \$300 was a LOT of money.

As for the chronology: Ruel was in the hospital in Annapolis/Baltimore (Hospital Muster Roll, Mar & Apr '64 of West's Bldg USA General Hospital, Baltimore, MD. Company Muster Roll, May & Jun '64, "Absent in Gen Hospital, Annapolis, since April 12, 1864") which was Yankee territory. There's a neighborhood in Annapolis called Parole, after Camp Parole, (I lived just a few miles from there) where prisoners were exchanged or paroled.

When he was transferred from Alexandria, VA, it was Union territory. Beaufort, NC was, of course, also Union territory-that's where Burnside came ashore in 1862 prior to his assault on New Bern.

At some point between Feb 2, and April 12, 1864, Ruel was exchanged between the US and Confederate armies. Company Muster Roll of Sept - Dec 1864, for Co C, 2nd NC show him 'present.' On Feb 27, 1865, he is transferred from 2nd NC to the 1st NC Inf Vols in Beaufort, NC.

Information gleaned from:

"General George Pickett and the Mass Execution," Dr. Donald E. Collins

Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers Who Served in Organizations from the State of North Carolina 1863, National Archives, NARA M270, NARA M401

US Veterans Administration Pension Payment Cards, NARA M850

Historical Data Systems, Inc.; Duxbury, MA 02331; *American Civil War Research Database - North Carolina Troops 1861-65, A Roster*

## Cape Fear Civil War Roundtable

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## Diverse Audience Bonds over Juneteenth Observance at Wilmington National Cemetery

By Yelena Howell, CFCWRT Tours and Trips Committee

Freedom jubilation in Wilmington rises toward its 30<sup>th</sup> consecutive year since Abdul Rahman Shareef’s co-founding of the local Juneteenth Committee in 1995, with numerous community events spanning an annual week of remembrance and celebration. On June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024, the incomparable Dr. Chris E. Fonvielle Jr. delivered the keynote address at the solemn gathering at the Wilmington National Cemetery to honor the legacy of the USCT, 500 of whom are interred there. A reverent assembly of community leaders and townspeople fellowshiped together, sacred and secular words of tribute to courage through difficult, proud chapters of American history were delivered, creating a sense of shared gratitude and hope.

As both our round table and the Wilmington Juneteenth Committee near the big 3-0, the pillars behind the lookalike Sanskrit symbol “om” come to mind: unity, thought, speech, and action. Stay in touch with the Juneteenth Committee here: <https://www.facebook.com/JuneteenthWilmington/>

Consider Cameron Art Museum’s ongoing, vibrant programming: <https://cameronartmuseum.org/events/> and brush on the Battle of Forks Road whose name and rediscovery we owe to Dr. Fonvielle: <https://www.chrisfonvielle.com/shop>



We thank our sponsors, who make it possible for us to thrive as an organization. It would be much harder without their support!



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**Savas Beatie**



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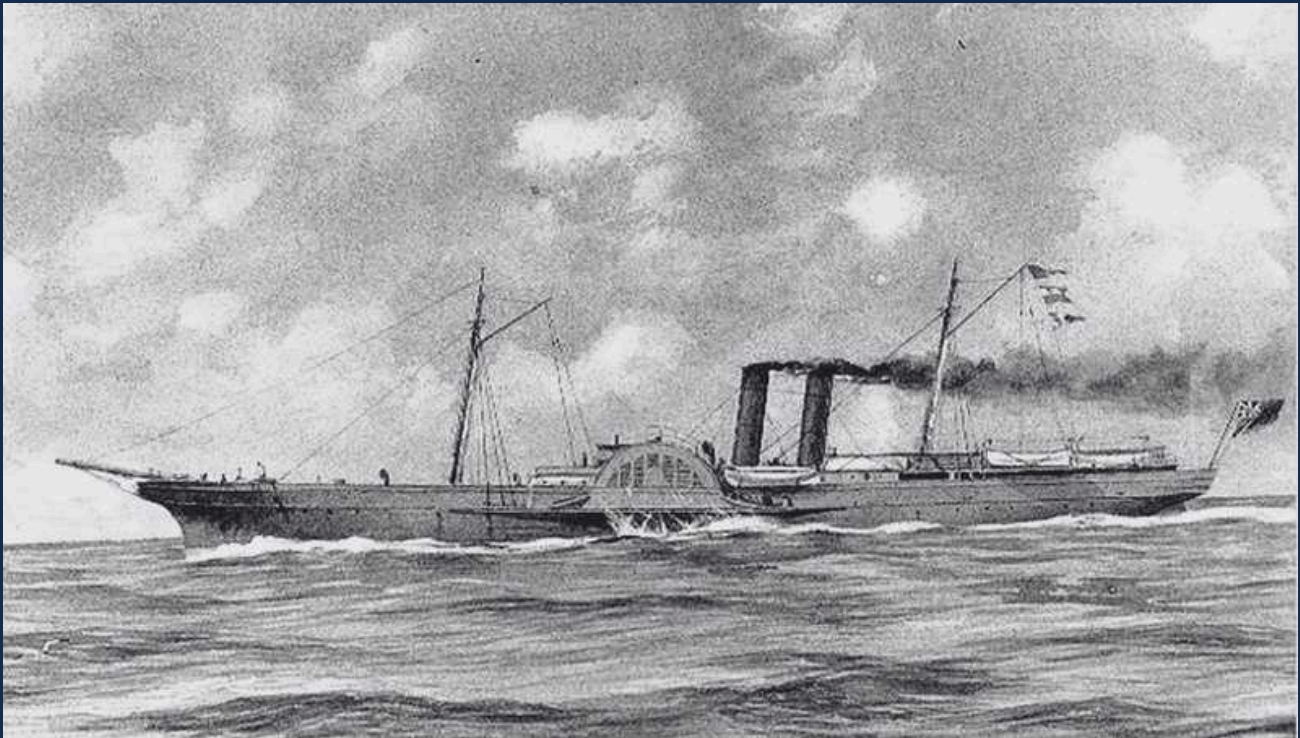
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# THE RUNNER

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THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE CAPE FEAR CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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Our intrepid pilot (AKA newsletter editor) Fred Claridge hit a figurative shoal last week. On May 20, Fred went to the emergency room because of significant problems walking and loss of feeling in his lower body. Doctors quickly discovered a mass on his spinal column that was pressing against his spinal cord. The next day Fred underwent an operation to remove the mass and a piece of spine. Pins, etc., were put in to stabilize his spine.

Thankfully, it was discovered the tumor was benign and Fred is now resting at home after the difficult ordeal. We solicit your best wishes and prayers for Fred's speedy recovery. He's been our newsletter editor for a year and he's done a great job. Fair winds and following seas, Fred, and we hope to see your steady hand on the wheel of the "Runner" again very soon.

And we offer our great thanks to Matt Howell who stepped in at a critical moment to take the wheel and deftly maneuver the Runner to a safe berth. Thank you, Matt!

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# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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As the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table approaches the anniversary of our first meeting 30 years ago, we can proudly announce that in the past year the leadership of the round table has produced our first set of **bylaws**. The bylaws were approved by approximately 40 members in attendance at the May 9, 2024 meeting.

I want to thank all those who participated in the many meetings we held to craft these bylaws. Officers Al Turner, Bruce Patterson and Mike McDonald all played a key role. Jim Gannon, Fred Claridge, William Jordan, Ray Repage, Bob Ferro and others also contributed greatly. Ed Gibson participated in those meetings and added much to the end result. Sadly, Ed is no longer with us to reap the benefits of our new organizational structure.



CFCWRT President, Bill Jayne

The biggest change effected by the bylaws is that we now have a blueprint for sustaining healthy leadership of the organization. There are five officers: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Quartermaster. Each officer will be elected by the membership for a one-year term. The President and Vice President are limited to two, one-year terms. That is, the President and Vice President cannot serve in those positions for more than two consecutive years. The other three officers are also elected for a one-year term but their number of terms is not limited. The bylaws state that the Vice President is expected to succeed the President.

This organizational structure will bring in new leadership with new energy, new ideas and new commitment. For the past 30 years, we have had just five presidents. Each served for six years except for one who served for four and his successor who served for eight years. Moreover, although there was some consistency in this pattern, each president served indefinitely. We are living in an age of rapid change. I feel confident that new leadership, openness to new ideas, and a welcoming attitude toward new contributors, will help the round table to thrive in such a period.

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# PRESIDENT'S REPORT CONT.

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Several people have stepped up and offered to serve as officers in the year ahead. Not all the positions have been spoken for, however, and we still welcome any and all volunteers. Please read over the bylaws looking especially at Articles 7, 8, 9 and 10. We want to be able to present the strongest possible slate of officers for approval of the membership at the August meeting. If you're willing to contribute to the success of our round table, please contact me. My contact information is below.

Article 8 deals with the Executive Committee which will be an important part of the governance of the round table. In addition to the five officers, the Executive Committee will comprise six additional members for a total of eleven maximum. The immediate past president will be a member plus five people from the membership at large.

Article 9 deals with the functional activities of the round table such as selecting and liaison with speakers, the newsletter, tours and special events, etc. Members of the Executive Committee will guide these functional activities and also serve as the Nominating Committee for new officers.

At this point, let me emphatically add two points for you to consider. Number one, we have a very healthy cadre of volunteers who are familiar with the workings of the club and donate their time and talents to keep us healthy. Number two, I don't plan to fade away into the sunset like a lonesome cowboy at the end of the movie. I hope to serve our new president and the other officers as a member of the executive committee and to remain active in both internal and external communications. Communications, whether you want to call it public relations or outreach, isn't an assigned duty of the president or any of the officers under the new bylaws.

There are a lot of new things that can be done and the new officers will put their own stamp on our operation, making our round table even better. We can do a lot more in battlefield preservation, encouraging young people to get involved, recognition of outstanding Civil War writers...and more. So, "Let's go!"

CFCWRT President, Bill Jayne

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# MEMBERSHIP REPORT

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Greetings, CFCWRT Members! A couple of brief announcements this month...

The May meeting saw us add six new members (including one couple) and welcome back a returning member. Brian Ballweg, and Ed Dominelli both hail from Wilmington, while Tom Thurman and Charles Gallucci show Castle Hayne as their residence. Returning member, Bob Maffitt (well steeped in blockade history) and Fort Fisher Site Manager Jim Steele are also Wilmington residents and following our Cape Fear River cruise, Mike & Dot Hamby (Wrightsville Beach) joined as well.

Indeed, the Membership Chair is pleased with our recruiting efforts where every member is a recruiter. Recall please, that our Cape Fear CWRT features an all-year program with our very popular member forum's scheduled for June thru August. Program Chair, Jim Gannon has performed yeoman service in lining up interesting and educational programs for the balance of the year. Our thanks to him and to all concerned.

Please renew as your anniversary month approaches (month shown on name tag) and either pay online, by cash or check at the next meeting or mail to our CFCWRT Treasurer at:

8387 East Highcroft Drive  
Leland, NC 28451.

Regards,  
Bruce Patterson  
CFCWRT Secretary



## **Professor Angie Zombek Regales Big Crowd With Story of Key West**

**By J. Fulton Reynolds**

**Dr. Angela Zombek, Ph.D., associate professor of history at UNCW, presented a lively program on Key West during the Civil War to a large group of approximately 50 members and guests at our May 9 meeting.**

**Dr. Zombek, an expert on the prisoner of war experience in the Civil War, provided much interesting background about Key West and Fort Zachary Taylor. Long recognized as a strategic point because of the narrowness of the Straits of Florida, Key West was a perfect harbor for any power attempting to control the sea lanes between the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic Ocean. Less than 100 miles wide from Florida to Cuba, the straits were regularly patrolled by U.S. ships in the pre-war era.**

**In 1822, Captain (later Commodore) David Porter was given command of the West Indies Squadron and on April 23, 1823 he established the Naval Station at Key West in the newly acquired Territory of Florida. This was the first permanent settlement on the island. The mission of the squadron was suppressing piracy in the West Indies. Pirates were operating freely near the coasts of Cuba and Puerto Rico. Commodore Porter assembled a Mosquito fleet of eight shallow draft schooners and five 20-oared barges to be used together with the USS Sea Gull, the first steam vessel to see active service. Porter was now able to follow the pirates into their havens in the shallow waters and channels of the islands. Porter's authoritarian style did not make him popular in Key West or in Congress. In fact, in 1833 he proclaimed martial law on the strategic island, a forerunner of things to come in the 1860s.**

**Commodore Porter, the father of Admiral David Dixon Porter, commander of the North Atlantic Blockading Squadron in the Civil War, was also the stepfather of Admiral David Glasgow Farragut of the Civil War.**

**In the decades before the Civil War, Key West was an important port for U.S. Navy ships engaged in the enforcement of the federal law ending the transatlantic slave trade. Although the law outlawing the slave trade went into effect in 1808, smugglers continued to acquire human beings in Africa, pack them into unsanitary ships and attempt to import them into the United States to be sold as slaves.**



For example, we learned that as late as April 30, 1860, U.S. Navy ships brought into Key West the bark Wildfire with 510 Africans to be sold as slaves. Approximately, 90 had died in the passage across the Atlantic from West Africa.

While the international slave trade was illegal, slavery was still legal in Florida and, as Dr Zombek explained, the U.S. Army ironically became the largest user of enslaved labor as they constructed the massive masonry Fort Zachary Taylor to protect the harbor of Key West.

The U.S. Army moved quickly to cement control of Key West when war broke out in 1861. William H. French, a Captain at the start of the Civil War, commanded the 1st U.S. Artillery, which was stationed at Fort Duncan, Eagle Pass, Texas. He refused to surrender his garrison to the Confederate-aligned state authorities as they requested. Instead, he moved his men to the mouth of the Río Grande in sixteen days and sailed to Key West, where he quartered at the Federal military post there, Fort Zachary Taylor and helped secure the fort from Confederate seizure. Shortly thereafter, he was elevated to major and assumed command of the base in conjunction with the Union Navy. He went on to achieve the rank of Major General and commanded the III Corps of the Army of the Potomac after Gettysburg.

Dr. Zombek went on to chronicle the salient events of the war at Key West as Federal officers maneuvered adroitly to maintain control of the strategic post. Enslaved people remained in Key West until the Emancipation Proclamation went into effect on January 1, 1863, at which time they were freed. Technically, perhaps, the slaves freed in 1863 weren't covered by the proclamation because Key West had never been under control of Confederate authorities. Regardless, they became free and later in 1864 a U.S Colored Troops regiment garrisoned the post.



The last act was the arrest of George Davis, the attorney general of the Confederate States of America in 1864 and 65. Davis, a native of Wilmington, became general counsel of the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad. Born in 1820 he became a Confederate senator and then attorney general. As Richmond fell and the Army of Northern Virginia surrendered in April 1865, Davis fled south and attempted to flee to England. He was captured at Key West on October 18, 1865. He was imprisoned at Ft. Hamilton in New York but freed by President Andrew Johnson in January 1866.

Dr. Zombek (PhD University of Florida) is an historian of the Civil War Era and is Associate Professor of History at the University of North Carolina Wilmington. She is also coordinator of the Masters Program in History at UNCW and the managing editor of "Interpreting the Civil War" series at Kent State University. She is the author of *Penitentiaries, Punishment, and Military Prisons: Familiar Responses to an Extraordinary Crisis during the America Civil War* (Kent State University Press). Her current book project, *Stronghold of the Union: Key West Under Martial Law*, is under contract with The University Press of Florida.



**A great favorite of our round table, Professor Zombek will be back soon!**

**Article By: J. Fulton Reynolds**

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# Events in the Cape Fear Region

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**Saturday, June 1, 9-11 am. Wilmington True History Tours.** Downtown Wilmington Civil War History Walking Tour. Dr. Chris E. Fonvielle Jr. in the lead. Tickets are \$25 for ages 14+, \$22 for Veterans/First Responders: <https://tinyurl.com/CFCWJune>

**Saturday, June 1, 11 am-3 pm (drop-in). North Carolina Maritime Museum at Southport.** 204 E. Moore St., Southport. Skippers Crew: Light It Up With Lighthouses. Hands-on activities for the whole family. The first two hours are adapted for children with sensitivities. Free of charge; donations appreciated. Info: (910) 477-5151. Additional topics on Wednesday, June 12, and Wednesday, June 26: <https://tinyurl.com/SMaritime>

**Friday, June 7, 1-1:30 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. Daniel Jones will lead this tour on multiple other June dates as well: <https://cameronartmuseum.org/events/> CAM: (910) 395-5999

**Saturday, June 8, 9-10:30 am. Bellamy Mansion Museum.** 503 Market St., Wilmington. Wilmington's African American Heritage Walking Tour. \$20, advance tickets needed: <https://tinyurl.com/AAWNC> Info: (910) 251-3700

**Saturday, June 8, 10 am-4 pm. Avasboro Battlefield Museum.** 3300 NC-82, Dunn. Artillery Living History. Live firings every hour on the hour, displays of camp life. Free of charge. No pets. Info: (910) 891-5019

**Friday, June 14, 9-10:30 am, Burgwin-Wright House.** 224 Market St., Wilmington. Colonial Wilmington and the Revolution Walking Tour. Tickets are \$20 + tax: (910) 762-0570

**Sunday, June 16, 1-4 pm. Cameron Art Museum.** 3201 South 17th St., Wilmington. Juneteenth Celebration in recognition of African American freedom and achievement. Poetry, history, music, community conversations, and good food and libations for purchase. Suggested donation: \$5. CAM: (910) 395-5999

**Wednesday, June 19, 6:30-8 pm, Burgwin-Wright House.** 224 Market St., Wilmington. Cape Fear Revolutionary War Table quarterly meeting featuring Nancy Fonvielle's irresistible fudge. Notable historian Jack Fryar will present his 2024 book, When The British Came: Revolution in the Cape Fear, 1765-1782. Non-members welcome to attend with a requested \$5 contribution or may join CFRWRT at the door. Info: [cfrwrt@gmail.com](mailto:cfrwrt@gmail.com)

**Saturday, June 22, 10 am-4pm. Bentonville Battlefield State Historic Site.** 5466 Harper House Rd., Four Oaks, NC. Heavy Thunder: Artillery and Infantry Event. Demos, historical discussions, and activities for the whole family throughout the program day. Free of charge. Info: (910) 594-0789



## Member Forum at Next Meeting Highlights “Galvanized Yankees” and Camp Food

Our June 13 meeting features a presentation by member Pat Garrow, a retired archaeologist with an MA degree from the University of Georgia who will talk about the “Galvanized Yankees,” Confederate prisoners of war who volunteered to serve in the Union army in order to escape the prison camps and for other reasons including disillusionment with the Confederate cause.

Pat will present his soon to be published book about Confederate soldiers who joined the Union Army to escape imprisonment. This book is a companion volume to his earlier book about Union prisoners of war who changed sides to join the Confederate army.



*Confederate prisoners at Camp Douglas, Chicago, Illinois*

The new book updates and extends Dee Brown’s classic volume *Galvanized Yankees*. Pat’s book is titled *From Gray to Blue*, and it’s under contract with the University of Tennessee Press. Pat will address the six regiments of US volunteers raised in Union prisons and sent to the western frontier to protect settlers and travelers and will go well beyond that to address lesser known units such as the Union Regiments raised in North Carolina.

More than 6,000 Confederates served in the Union army. Some of them were “Galvanized Confederates,” that is Union soldiers who had been captured and imprisoned but accepted the chance to serve in the Confederate army in order to escape the deadly prison pens of the Civil War,

More than 400,000 soldiers—about 194,000 Union and 214,000 Confederate—were captured over the course of the war. Prison conditions were brutal with approximately 30,000 Union soldiers and 26,000 Confederates dying while imprisoned. Deaths occurred most often because of medical conditions including infectious diseases such as typhoid fever, cholera, yellow fever, malaria, etc. Many also died because of malnutrition and exposure to the elements.

Several regiments of Galvanized Yankees (Blue or Yankee on the outside but Gray or Rebel on the inside) served on the frontier, especially in Minnesota, to protect settlers from hostile Indians, and that part of the story is fairly well known. Pat's research has gone much deeper into the subject, however.

In addition to Pat's presentation, CFCWRT member William Jordan, a talented and expert reenactor cook, will offer some savory samples from his campfire. William recently prepared a massive feast at the Eastern Carolina Village and Farm Museum in Greenville. William and wife Kim prepared a feast of turkey, pork tenderloin, boiled ham and corned beef for 47 people at the museum's "Celebration of Trades and Skills of the 1800s." Guests included the Pitt County Commissioners. And it was all done over the campfire!



The June 13 meeting begins the seventh year of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table's "Member Forum" series of summer programs. Most Civil War Round Tables take the summer off but our round table is able to call on the talents and knowledge of our members to present programs through the summer.

Make plans to come and hear this fascinating story. The meeting will take place on Thursday evening, June 13, beginning at 7 p.m. Doors open at 6:30. As usual, the meeting will be held in Elebash Hall at the rear of St. John's Episcopal Church at 1219 Forest Hills Drive in Wilmington. The church parking lot and entrance to the meeting room is easily accessed via Park Avenue off of Independence Boulevard. Bring a friend! For more information about membership in the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table, go to <http://www.cfcwrt.org> and pick "Join/Rejoin."



Pat Garrow

See you there!

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# CFCWRT Upcoming Speaker

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9/12/24

Ted Savas

## Civil War Uninterrupted: Jefferson Davis, George Washington Rains, and the Confederate Gunpowder Strategy



We have all been taught to believe Jefferson Davis made a significant strategic mistake during the first year of the war by choosing to defend nearly every square mile of Confederate territory, and that this mistake helped doom the Confederacy. According to Ted Savas, this is demonstrably false, and a significant body of objective evidence proves it. Davis's vision and decision-making were well-reasoned and much more successful than even he believed possible. Because of the partnership with George Rains and the strategy those two men employed to ward off invasion long enough to set the Confederacy up to fight.

The war you think you understand was not the war that was actually waged.

Theodore P. Savas is a luminary in the world of Civil War publishing. He is both an author and a publisher. He is the co-founder and majority partner of Savas Beatie, an award-winning independent book trade publishing company that specializes in military and general history, and especially the American Civil War.

Ted has a B.A. in history, most of a Masters, and a Juris Doctorate (with Honors) from the University of Iowa College of Law. He practiced law for many years in Silicon Valley, taught adjunct college classes in history, business, and politics for 20 years. He also founded and plays in the west coast rock band Arminius, flying back to Northern California to open for larger acts. Ted has no idea what he wants to do when he grows up. He and his wife Zoe recently moved to Myrtle Beach, SC.

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# CFCWRT Upcoming Speaker

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**10/10/24**

**Dr. Chris E. Fonvielle Jr., Ph.D.**

**Cape Fear Civil War Round Table  
30th Anniversary Celebration**



The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table held its first meeting in 1994, thirty years ago this coming October. To mark this important anniversary, our speaker for the October 10, 2024 meeting will be Dr. Chris E. Fonvielle Jr., Professor Emeritus in the Department of History at UNC Wilmington.

In 1994, the CFCWRT invited Chris, who lived in Currituck, North Carolina at the time, to be its premier speaker. He spoke on the Lower Cape Fear during the Civil War. After returning to his hometown of Wilmington the following year, Chris became active in the Round Table and eventually served as its second president, 2000 to 2006.

The first president was George Slaton (1994-2000), who now lives in Davidson, North Carolina. George has also been invited to the meeting, as have our other two presidents, David Norris (2006-10) and Bob Cooke (2010-18).

Chris will talk to us about the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table's early days and why we still find the Civil War so important and fascinating.

Much has changed since 1994. In fact, it often seems as if the pace of change has accelerated more quickly than we could have imagined. Yet, our organization is still growing and thriving.

Make plans to be with us on October 10, 2024 as we look back on the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table's past thirty years and look forward to the next thirty.

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# CFCWRT Upcoming Speaker

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11/14/24

John Quarstein

## Admiral Buchanan and The Battle of Mobile Bay



The CFCWRT is thrilled to welcome back the very popular and engaging John Quarstein. John, a premier Civil War naval war expert, will be speaking on the subject of “Admiral Buchanan and the Battle of Mobile Bay.”

Able, courageous, and experienced, Admiral Franklin Buchanan was perhaps the most aggressive senior officer to join the Confederate Navy. His strategic flair, discipline, and heroic qualities made him respected and admired by all those around him.

After being put in command of *CSS Virginia*, Buchanan led efforts that resulted in the Confederacy’s greatest naval victory before being appointed as the first Admiral in the Confederate Navy and selected to command the naval defenses in Mobile Bay, Alabama. As Admiral, he oversaw the construction of multiple ironclads and was on board *CSS Tennessee* during its battle against David Glasgow Farragut’s Union Fleet in 1864.

John V. Quarstein is a nationally known speaker and an award-winning historian, preservationist, and author. John served as the director of the Virginia War Museum until his retirement and is now Director Emeritus of the USS Monitor Center at The Mariners’ Museum in Newport News, Virginia. He has authored 18 books with three more on the way, He has served as an adjunct professor at the College of William & Mary.

John’s deep interest in all things related to the Civil War stems from his youth living on Fort Monroe, walking where heroes like Abraham Lincoln and R. E. Lee once stood. An avid collector of decoys, waterfowl/maritime art, and oriental rugs, John lives among them in his home, the 1757 Herbert House on Sunset Creek in Hampton, Virginia. On the National Register of Historic Places, this is the only house to have survived August 7, 1861, burning of Hampton.

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# CFCWRT Upcoming Speaker

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12/12/24

Bert Dunkerly

## The Battle of Stones River, Tennessee



With the fate of Middle Tennessee yet to be determined, President Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation went into effect on January 1, 1863. The president had signed the proclamation back in September of 1862, but he needed battlefield victories to bolster its authority. The stakes being gambled outside Murfreesboro along Stones River were enormous.

The battle of Stones River became a significant turning point of the Civil War, and one that had the highest percentage of casualties on both sides of any Civil War battle.

Lincoln himself would often look back on that fragile time and ponder all that was at stake. "I can never forget whilst I remember anything," he told Federal commander Maj. Gen. William S. Rosecrans, "that about the end of last year and the beginning of this, you gave us a hard-earned victory, which, had there been a defeat instead the nation could scarcely have lived over."

Robert M. Dunkerly (Bert) is a historian, award-winning author, and speaker who is actively involved in historic preservation and research. He holds a degree in History from St. Vincent College and a Masters in Historic Preservation from Middle Tennessee State University. He has worked at nine historic sites, written eleven books and over twenty articles. His research includes archaeology, colonial life, military history, and historic commemoration.

Dunkerly is currently a Park Ranger at Richmond National Battlefield Park. He has visited over 400 battlefields and over 700 historic sites worldwide.



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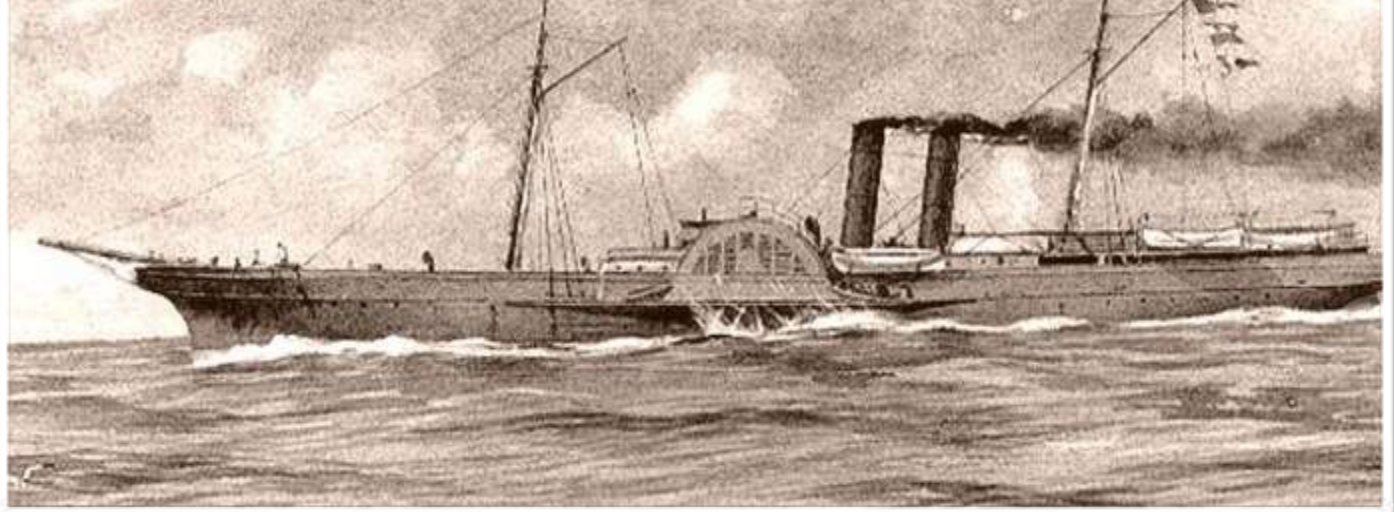


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# THE RUNNER



The official newsletter of the Cape Fear Civil War Roundtable

## UNCW Professor Angela Zombek to Speak on Key West in the Civil War: Union Stronghold Was No Tropical Paradise

by Bill Jayne, CFCWRT President

Our May 9 meeting of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table features a presentation by Dr. Angela Zombek, Ph.D., associate professor of history at UNCW. Dr. Zombek, an expert on the prisoner of war experience in the Civil War, will talk about the strategic Union outpost of Key West, including the use of Fort Zachary Taylor as a prison for blockade runners, Confederate sympathizers and Union miscreants. It was no “Margaritaville.”

Fort Taylor, on the southwest tip of Key West, overlooks the watery pass where the waters of the Gulf of Mexico blend into the Atlantic Ocean. Cruise ships pass, and fade into the background as beachgoers soak up sun, swim, snorkel, and witness magnificent sunsets, but it was much different from 1861 to 1865.

Today, Fort Zachary Taylor Historic State Park is one of the most sought-after attractions in Key West and in the Florida Park System, but during the Civil War, Fort Taylor was the “Gibraltar”



## Membership Report

By Bruce Patterson  
CFCWRT Secretary

The Membership Chair is pleased to welcome **Will Murray** to our membership rolls. **Will**, who hails from Wallace, is a full-time firefighter with the NHC Fire Department (Federal Point Station) but he finds (or makes) time to also serve as a volunteer firefighter in Wallace and is an active re-enactor aboard the *USS North Carolina* and rounds out his community service as a *World War I* and *Civil War* re-enactor as well.

Recall please that your re-enlistment month is printed on the face of your name tag. If your membership anniversary is May, please make your membership payment online or complete the process by computer, check or cash at our 9 May meeting. If in arrears for the current year, please play catch up that evening as well.

If you prefer to pay the good, old-fashioned way, please mail your check to **CFCWRT, 8387 East Highcroft NE, Leland, NC 28451**.

As always, we thank you for your active participation and monetary support.

And please see page 5 for a thoughtful memorial by President Bill Jayne to our Ed Gibson, who passed away on April 3rd.

of the Gulf,” defending U.S. interests against European powers in the Western Hemisphere, and headquartering the Union Navy’s East Gulf Blockading Squadron. According to the American Battlefield Trust, “Union seamen brought 299 captured blockade runners, their crews, and tons of supplies to Key West, which contributed to the Union victory as supplies in the Confederacy became scarce. U.S. authorities auctioned off captured vessels and cargo and held blockade runners and disloyal civilians – from Key West and elsewhere – in Fort Taylor.”

Before the war, Americans North and South recognized Key West’s significance. In 1856, the Key West newspaper *Key of the Gulf* contended that Forts Taylor and Jefferson on the tiny island of the Dry Tortugas west of Key West would, in any maritime struggle, “constitute the most important rallying points for all the commerce of the Gulf of Mexico” since the waters between the Florida Keys, Cuba, and the Bahamas would be an attractive theater for naval warfare. Fort Taylor guarded these waters and oversaw the “entire cotton crop of the country” on its way to market.

Dr. Zombek (PhD University of Florida) is an historian of the Civil War Era and is Associate Professor of History at the University of North Carolina Wilmington. She is also coordinator of the Masters Program in History at UNCW and the managing editor of “Interpreting the Civil War” series at Kent State University. She is the author of *Penitentiaries, Punishment, and Military Prisons: Familiar Responses to an Extraordinary Crisis during the America Civil War* (Kent State University Press). Her current book project, *Stronghold of the Union: Key West Under Martial Law*, is under contract with The University Press of Florida.

She is a native of Ohio and holds an MA from the University of Akron and a Ph.D. from the University of Florida. She recalls a visit to the Camp Chase historic site in Columbus, Ohio, as the spark that

ignited her interest in Civil War history, especially the history of incarceration in the war. Camp Chase became a prison for captured Confederates, and many died there. More than 400,000 soldiers—about 194,000 Union and 214,000 Confederate—were captured over the course of the



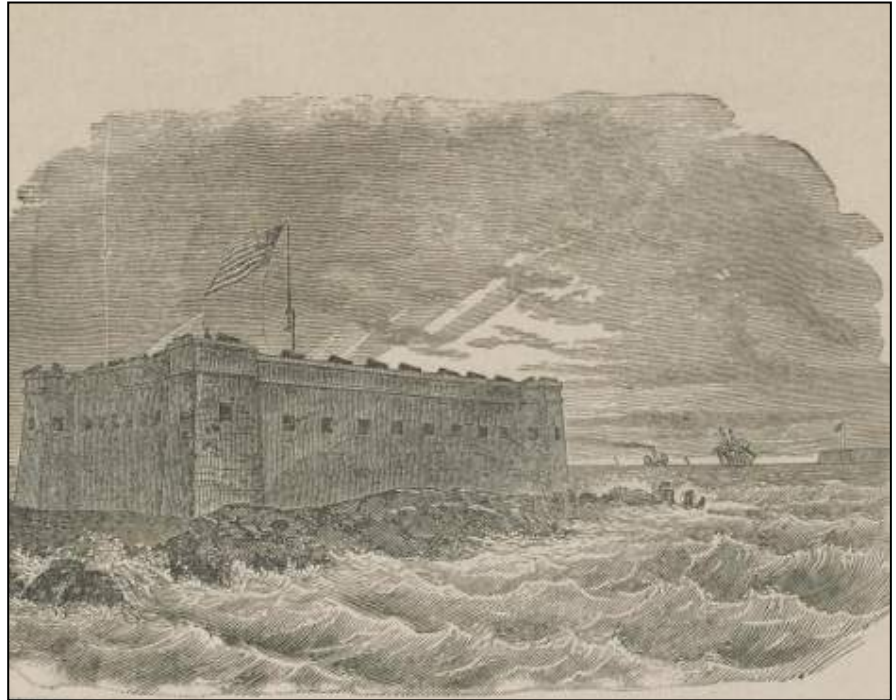
war. Prison conditions were brutal with approximately 30,000 Union soldiers and 26,000 Confederates dying while imprisoned. Deaths occurred most often because of medical conditions including infectious diseases such as typhoid fever, cholera, yellow fever, malaria, etc. Many also died because of malnutrition and exposure to the elements.

But Professor Zombek’s talk will go beyond the topic of incarceration. “The Civil War looks different from Key West,” she notes. Despite Florida’s secession, Union troops secured and occupied Key West, a strategic military and economic outpost, for the U.S. throughout the entire Civil War. The Union garrison, including the 2<sup>nd</sup> United States Colored Infantry come 1864, fortified Key West against potential Confederate and foreign attacks, confronted civilians with Confederate sympathies, and enforced both confiscation policy and the Emancipation Proclamation, from which Key West was not exempt despite the fact that it remained under U.S. control.

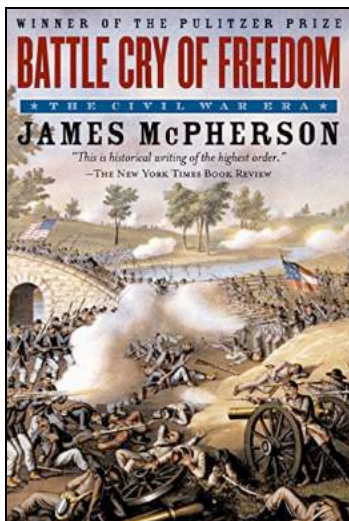
To maintain control, Union martial law cracked down on Confederate sympathizers, blockade runners, smugglers and even Union malcontents, including some draft protesters from New York City. At least one British citizen was held when he was captured trying to run the blockade. Most blockade running ships were built in the United Kingdom and British citizens often served on the ships. Cotton from the south escaped through the blockade and the small, fast ships “ran”

to neutral harbors like the Bahamas and Havana, Cuba, where the cotton was loaded onto larger ships bound for Europe. In Europe, the cotton was sold, and the Confederacy bought weapons and other military supplies (and private blockade runners bought scarce consumer goods such as coffee, luxury clothing and so forth) to be carried back to the intermediate ports where they were loaded onto the blockade runners for the dangerous voyage into the blockaded south. By 1864 most Confederate ports were closed to significant blockade running and only Wilmington remained to supply essential supplies to the beleaguered Confederate armies.

Make plans to come and hear this fascinating story about a little known aspect of the Civil War. The meeting will take place on Thursday evening, May 9, beginning at 7 p.m. Doors open at 6:30. As usual, the meeting will be held in Elebash Hall at the rear of St. John's Episcopal Church at 1219 Forest Hills Drive in Wilmington. The church parking lot and entrance to the meeting room is easily accessed via Park Avenue off of Independence Boulevard. Bring a friend!



Fort Zachary Taylor in Key West - "The Gibraltar of the Gulf."



[Have you read this book? If so, consider writing us a review!](#)

“This riveting history of the Civil War dives into the political, social, and military events that led up to the war and the battles, personalities, and politics that shaped it. With fresh interpretations and insights, the author challenges old myths and sheds light on new ones. The book touches on topics such as the Dred Scott decision, the Lincoln-Douglas debates, John Brown's raid on Harper's Ferry, and the North's eventual adoption of a policy of emancipation. Through this fast-paced narrative, readers will gain a deep understanding of this transformative period in American history.” - Goodreads review of 4.4 out of 5 stars



## Edward Charles “Hoot” Gibson, 64

By Bill Jayne, CFCWRT President

We of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table, and indeed all those in the wider community of



history lovers in Eastern North Carolina, were stunned to learn of the sudden and unexpected death of our friend Ed Gibson on Wednesday, April 3, 2024.

Edward Charles “Hoot” Gibson 64, passed away peacefully at home of natural causes. He leaves a great hole in this world, for his family, friends and all that knew him.

Ed was a charter member of the round table and was an intensely loyal and supportive member of the group. When we were struck by the twin scourges of Hurricane Florence and the COVID phenomenon, Ed was always there to provide whatever help and support that was needed. He was our ever-reliable

audiovisual guru and also brought his encyclopedic memory to bear in presentations at Oakdale Cemetery and at other events.

Ed was born July 20, 1959 on base at Camp Lejeune in Jacksonville, North Carolina to Elwood and Elizabeth (Dieterle) Gibson. He received his bachelor’s degree from UNCW and had Certificates of training from NC State. Ed spent his life in service of others through his work with the City of Wilmington Police Department, the City of Burgaw Police Department, and as a

Magistrate for North Carolina District 5. He also served as a reservist in the United States Coast Guard.

Ed had a passion for history, which led him to be involved with many groups in addition to the round table, including the North Carolina Military History Society and the Sons of the Union Veterans, where he served as commander of the General Ruger Camp of the SUV. He also loved to read, geocache and smoke a fine cigar. Ed traveled to most of the states of the country. He loved looking for hidden caches and made many friends along the way on his adventures.



A Celebration of Ed's Life will be held 2:00 PM Saturday May 11, 2024 at North Topsail Shores Baptist Church, 808 Old Folkstone Road Sneads Ferry, NC 28460.

The family will have a time of Visitation one hour prior to the service at the Church, also will be broadcast on the churches Facebook Livestream. In lieu of flowers please make donations to North Topsail Shores Baptist Church. 808 Old Folkstone Rd, Sneads Ferry, NC 28460.

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## Brunswick Civil War Roundtable Event May 7th

U.S. Navy Captain Edward W. Gantt (Ret.) will be the guest speaker at its Tuesday, May 7<sup>th</sup> meeting. His presentation is entitled, "Contributions of the United States Colored Troops during the Civil War." This meeting will also mark this organization's 14<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The meeting will be held at Hatch Auditorium on Caswell Beach at 7:00 PM. Everyone is welcome.

The United States Colored Troops played a critical role in the war. Over 180,000 African Americans enlisted, accounting for roughly 10% of the Union Army. Their regiments fought with courage and distinction, challenging racist notions about their fighting ability.

Capt. Gantt has had a celebrated career. U.S. Army Airborne and Ranger schools. Helicopter door gunner and crew chief in South Vietnam. Naval Aviation Officer Candidate School where he received his Naval Flight Officer "Wings of Gold." Career duty included over 2,000 hours flying time. Upon retirement, he became a teacher and is an active re-enactor.

The guest fee is \$10, and can be applied toward the \$25 annual membership dues, which can include a spouse. For more information, email [Brunswickcwrtable@gmail.com](mailto:Brunswickcwrtable@gmail.com). Or you may visit their website at [Brunswickcivilwarroundtable.com](http://Brunswickcivilwarroundtable.com) or their Facebook page.

## Area Historical Association Events

By Yelena Howell, Tours and Trips Committee

**Thursday, May 2, 6-8 pm. CSS Neuse Museum, 100 North Queen St., Kinston. Clara Barton Dinner Theater.** Tickets are \$15, incl. dinner; free for current/retired nurses and nursing students. Pre-registration required: <https://tinyurl.com/NurseBarton> Info: (252) 526-9600, ext. 222.

**Friday, May 3, 1-1:30 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. Daniel Jones will lead this tour on **multiple other May dates as well.** CAM: (910) 395-5999.

**Saturday, May 4, 10 am- 3 pm. CSS Neuse Museum, 100 North Queen St., Kinston. Medicine and Diseases in the Civil War.** Join Andy Bennett to learn about period medicine, including field wounds, procedures, and diseases. **The Clara Barton: Angel of the Battlefield Traveling Exhibit** will also be on display on the mezzanine. Cost: free. Info: (252) 526-9600, ext. 222.

**Saturday, May 4, 5:30-7:15 pm. Wilmington True History Tours. Wilmington Dark History Tour.** Local educator Alex will lead a ¾ mile walk through downtown and factual, but engaging conversation about pirates, yellow fever, fires, spies, etc. Tickets are \$25 for ages 14+, \$22 for Veterans/First Responders: <https://tinyurl.com/TruHx>

**Friday, May 10, 9-10:30 am, Burgwin-Wright House, 224 Market St., Wilmington. Outlander in the Cape Fear Walking Tour.** Learn about the Colonial Wilmington that real Scottish Highlanders like Outlander characters Claire and Jamie found when they arrived in America in the 1770. Tickets are \$20 + tax: (910) 762-0570.

**Saturday, May 11, 9-10:30 am. Bellamy Mansion Museum, 503 Market St., Wilmington. Wilmington and the American Civil War Walking Tour.** \$20, advance tickets needed: <https://tinyurl.com/cwwnc> Info: (910) 251-3700.

**Sunday, May 12, 10-11:30 am, Burgwin-Wright House, 224 Market St., Wilmington. Outlander in the Cape Fear River Cruise.** A Wilmington Water Tours cruise themed to the "Burgwin-Wright Presents... Outlander in the Cape Fear" podcast. Tickets are \$35 + tax: <https://wilmingtonwatertours.net/> or (910) 762-0570.

**Saturday, May 18, 10 am-4 pm. Brunswick Town/Fort Anderson State Historic Site, 8884 St. Phillips Rd SE, Winnabow. Women of the Port.** Fun for all ages. Cost: free. Info: (910) 371-6613

**Friday, May 24, 6-8 pm. Bellamy Mansion Museum, 503 Market St., Wilmington. Meet and Greet: CAM Watercolor Artists.** Come enjoy the Bellamy, mingle and chat with artists and art lovers, and let your heart be light. Info: (910) 251-3700. [continued on next page]

**Wednesday, May 29, 11 am-3 pm (drop in). North Carolina Maritime Museum at Southport.** 204 E. Moore St., Southport. Anchors Aweigh. **Got the Blues? Indigo Production on the Cape Fear River.** Hands-on activities for the whole family. Cost: free; donations appreciated. Info: (910) 477-5151.

## Victor Vignola Contrasts Differences in Command At Pivotal 1862 Battle of Fair Oaks/Seven Pines

By T. Jonathan Jackson, CFCWRT Correspondent

Award winning author Victor Vignola traveled from Upstate New York's Hudson Valley to far-off Wilmington to address our round table at the April 11 meeting. Vic noted that his car has over 300,000 miles on it, so long-distance road trips aren't unusual for him. His topic was *Contrasts in Command: The Battle of Fair Oaks, May 31-June 1, 1862.*

His many trips to the battlefields of Virginia engendered interest in the battle of Fair Oaks/Seven Pines (two phases of the same battle) on May 31 and June 1, 1862. McClellan led the Army of the Potomac up the Peninsula between the James and the York rivers to the outskirts of Richmond, the Confederate capital. His march had been slowed by abysmal weather, Union fears for the security of Washington City, and McClellan's inherent caution and lack of audacity. The Confederate army under Joe Johnston had also been cautious and reluctant to engage the larger Union army, but Confederate ingenuity and intrepidity had also served to slow McClellan's progress. With the armies less than 10 miles from Richmond, Johnston had run out of room to retreat.

Finally, McClellan made a move that left his army vulnerable because it was divided by the flooded Chickahominy, a river that Vignola said is "best described as the Rodney Dangerfield of rivers; it gets no respect...it's a swamp!" Easily forded in dry periods, it was now a flooded tangle of undergrowth, trees, mud and flowing



water hundreds of yards wide. One corps, to be followed by another was south of the river while the rest of the Army of the Potomac was north of the Chickahominy, now a formidable barrier.



Vignola, with extensive and welcome cooperation and guidance from National Park Service historian Robert E. L. “Bobby” Krick, poured over the primary sources related to the battle and



also visited the places where the battle took place. Unfortunately, most of the battlefield had been “developed” with houses, light commercial buildings and the nearby Richmond International Airport and Interstate 64. Maybe we feel a need these days to move fast because we have destroyed so much of our root structure (just a thought from your diligent correspondent).



Focusing on the remaining 12 acres of the Adams farm, Vic rediscovered what happened when nearly 200,000 men clashed with the fate of the Confederate capital in the balance.

As Bobby Krick wrote in the foreword to *Contrasts in Command*, “No truly accurate unraveling of the Fair Oaks portion of the May 31 fight existed until now. Nearly everything in the following pages is fresh and convincing. Author

Vignola even has reoriented the traditional alignment of the combatants by nearly 90 degrees. His work has reconfigured the boundaries of the Fair Oaks action and shows that room remains for original research and new discoveries.”

About 40 members and guests heard Vignola present the entire story of Fair Oaks with hardly a reference to his notes. His command of the subject matter and his energetic and engaging style was entertaining and enlightening. Many questions ensued, enlarging the enjoyment of the audience.



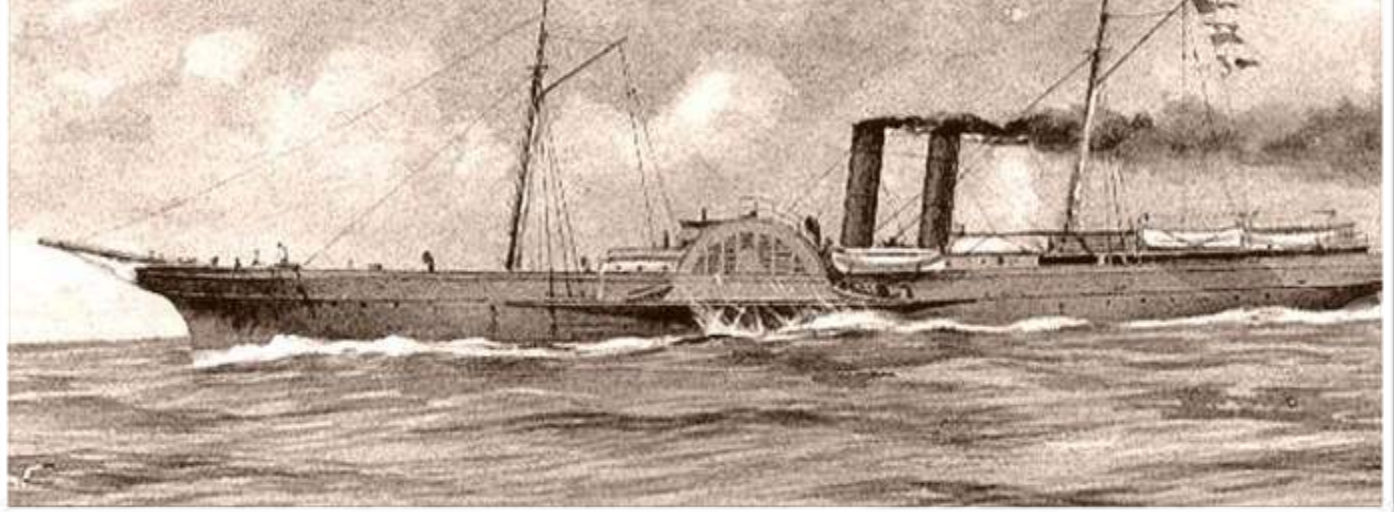
The after event presentation.

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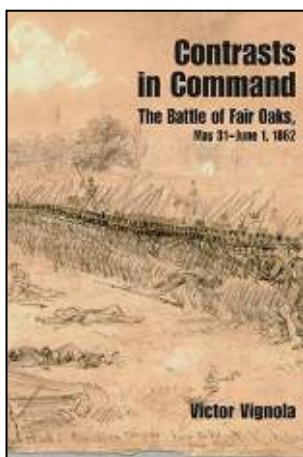


The official newsletter of the Cape Fear Civil War Roundtable

## Award-Winning Story Tells How Contrasting Command Decisions Led to Confederate Misstep at Battle of Fair Oaks

by Bill Jayne, CFCWRT President

Our April 11 meeting features a presentation by Victor Vignola on the battle of Fair Oaks, Virginia, on May 31 and June 1, 1862. The presentation is based on first-time author Vignola's award-winning study of the large, important but generally overlooked battle.



On March 17, 1862, Union Major General George B. McClellan landed at Ft. Monroe near the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay. By the end of May, he had slowly but surely moved the huge Army of the Potomac, with over 100,000 men, up the peninsula between the James and the York Rivers. Now, he was poised on the doorstep of the Confederate capital of Richmond. It was a crucial time as the Confederacy had suffered the loss of New Orleans, the south's largest city and most important port, and several strategic locations on the Atlantic Coast. Perhaps the end was near. The only bright spot was the Shenandoah Valley where Confederate Lt. General Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson had won a series of improbable victories and caused a certain amount of panic on the part of the U.S. government in Washington, D.C.

## Membership Report

By Bruce Patterson  
CFCWRT Secretary

We are pleased to welcome new members **Thomas Piech**, residing in Livingston, Tennessee and **Steven Rauschkolb** hailing from Leland to our Cape Fear Civil War Roundtable.

New members as well as membership renewals, remain the key to successful, non-profit volunteer organizations such as ours. Please check you name tag as it reflects your individual renewal month. You may renew online or in person at our next meeting. If you prefer to mail your membership fee, just mail it to **CFCWRT, 8387 E. Highcroft NE, Leland NC 28451**.

Remember please that **every member is a recruiter** and that our CWRT needs your active recruiting amongst your network of neighbors and friends. A great way to introduce member candidates is to bring them to the next meeting or better still invite them to join us on our April 27th Historical Cape Fear River Cruise.

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One of our members passed away recently - Ed Gibson. Please see the memoriam on page 5. We will get more information out to our members as it becomes available. Fair winds and following seas Ed. We will miss you.

Confederate General Joseph E. Johnston (shown) had skillfully retreated with his outnumbered army but now he was out of room. Reinforced to about 85,000 men, the Confederates looked for the opportunity to strike. In a spring notable for historic rainfalls across the country, Johnston saw a golden opportunity when McClellan moved about a quarter of his army across the rain-swollen Chickahominy River.



Johnston reacted quickly with a plan to defeat the isolated Union force, a victory that would certainly force McClellan to either retreat or fight with an army that was actually outnumbered.

Victor Vignola is a lifelong history student who, upon retirement from New York State government, devoted



his energy and formidable skills to researching the overlooked battle of Fair Oaks/Seven Pines. He is a graduate of the State University of New York at New Paltz and a resident of the Hudson Valley's Orange County, an area steeped in rich history including

George Washington's headquarters at Newburgh.

Fair Oaks and Seven Pines aren't like the tandem identifiers of Manassas/Bull Run and Sharpsburg/Antietam. That is, those well-known battles were given different names by the contending forces; the southerners naming the engagements for nearby towns and the northerners naming them for water courses that dominated the two battlefields. Fair

Oaks and Seven Pines were two different sectors of the same battle. In spite of the fact that more than 70,000 soldiers were engaged and more than 11,000 became casualties—including the Confederate commander, General Joseph E. Johnston—the battle has attracted little scholarly attention.

One reason for the lack of attention is the battle is considered a draw, a deadly but indecisive clash that resulted in little but damage to both armies. Perhaps we have an illogical or indefensible tendency to “keep score,” and see battles as wins or losses, like a sporting contest,



*“The Army of the Potomac - Furious attack of the rebels on Kirby’s battery at Fair Oaks. Sketch by Mr. Mead. Source: Illustration from **Harper’s Weekly**, July 5, 1862, page 428.*

rather than a point on a continuum, part of a campaign. At Fair Oaks and Seven Pines, the Union army suffered a loss of momentum, and perhaps confidence, while the Confederates experienced an obvious failure to destroy almost a third of the threatening force. The Confederates also “lost” the services of Gen. Johnston who was badly wounded. The quotation marks around “lost” refer to the fact that General Robert E. Lee was given command of the Confederate army in Virginia and the rest, as they say, is history. Lee’s Army of Northern Virginia wrote an amazing record of martial prowess and prolonged the war for three more years. Gen. Johnston, never a favorite of Confederate President Jefferson Davis was given a command in the Western Theater, relieved twice, brought back twice and ultimately surrendered to Maj. General William T. Sherman at Bennett Place, N.C., about a week after Lee surrendered to Grant at Appomattox.

Another reason for the lack of attention is that, sadly, almost the entire battlefield has been lost to development. Sandwiched between the Richmond International Airport and Interstate 64, close to the urban center of Richmond, almost none of the land where the battle was fought has been preserved. Vignola’s book became the catalyst for the preservation of 12 key acres of the Fair Oaks portion of the fight by the American Battlefield Trust. Unable to view the site of a battle, a contemporary student faces a much more difficult task to unravel the various movements of units and explicate the decisions of commanders.

It's likely that Fair Oaks/Seven Pines will be overlooked no longer. Not only has Vic Vignola's book led to the signal accomplishment of preservation of the last remaining part of the battlefield, it has garnered the prestigious Fletcher Pratt Award for the best non-fiction book on the Civil War published during the year. The award is presented by the Civil War Round Table of New York City. Previous winners include famous authors such as Dr. James M. McPherson, Ron Chernow, Ed Bearss and many other prestigious authors.

Vignola's work is also a finalist for the American Battlefield Trust's first annual prize for history. The trust announced that the "prize will be made annually to a work of military history or biography that underscores the essential role of the nation's military conflicts on the founding, formation and perpetuation of our exceptional country. In creating this award, sponsored entirely by a generous donor, the Trust is encouraging authors to create works that showcase the rich research potential of historic battlefields."

Vignola's work not only brings to light a forgotten battlefield, it shines a bright beam on the personalities and "Contrasts in Command" that led to the result of this momentous clash.

The meeting will take place on Thursday evening, April 11, beginning at 7 p.m. Doors open at 6:30. As usual, the meeting will be held in Elebash Hall at the rear of St. John's Episcopal at 1219 Forest Hills Drive in Wilmington. The church parking lot and entrance to the meeting room is easily accessed via Park Avenue off of Independence Boulevard. Bring a friend! For more information about membership in the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table, go to <http://www.cfcwrt.org> and pick "Join/Rejoin." See you there!

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## Successful "Spring Fling" Held at the Bellamy Mansion

By Bill Jayne, CFCWRT President

More than 20 attended the Round Table's "Spring Fling" at the Bellamy Mansion Museum at 5th and Market in historic downtown Wilmington. Bellamy Executive Director Gareth Evans and Dr. Chris Fonvielle, Ph.D., presented an informal and insight-packed look at the history of the house and what took place there during the Civil War and its immediate aftermath. Thanks is too small a word for Yelena Howell and all that she did to put the outing together and ensure it was a convivial and informational event. We were especially pleased to see Mr. and Mrs. Gannon, Mr. and Mrs. Buggeln, Mr. and Mrs. Burger, Mr. and Mrs. Taylor, and, of course, Mr. and Mrs. Howell. Sign up now for the Civil War Round Table cruise on the Cape Fear River with Dr. Fonvielle: Saturday, April 27, at 9:45 a.m.



[See next page for more photos of the "Spring Fling" event.]

### More pictures from the "Spring Fling" at the Bellamy Mansion



The Bellamy Mansion was built between 1859 and 1861 so predates the Civil War. It includes several architectural styles in its design. It has twenty-two rooms and was built by both enslaved and free craftsmen. It was built for Dr. John D. Bellamy, a physician and plantation owner.



### *In Memoriam*

Edward C. Gibson, 64, passed away unexpectedly on April 3. He was a charter member of Cape Fear Civil War Round Table and

remained a strong supporter of the group. He regularly ran the audio-visual operation for our meetings. Ed was a descendant of a soldier in the 147th Pennsylvania Infantry. He was commander of the Major General Thomas Ruger Camp #1 of Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. He was known for his encyclopedic memory and can-do spirit. Ed will be greatly missed.



## Area Historical Association Events

By Yelena Howell, Tours and Trips Committee

**Old Baldy Lighthouse and Smith Island Museum of History** are now open for the season. Meet public historian Jake Grossman, Education and Collections Coordinator: <https://tinyurl.com/OlBaldy>

**Friday, April 12, 9-10:30 am, Burgwin-Wright House**, 224 Market St., Wilmington. **Cape Fear Legends and Lore Walking Tour** will include stories of the tunnels underneath Wilmington, the legend of Lord Cornwallis' Revolutionary War visit to town, the time Yellow Fever turned the city into a ghost town, and the rebellious age of Prohibition. Tickets are \$20 + tax: (910) 762-0570.

**Saturday, April 13, 9 am-3 pm, Burgwin-Wright House**, 224 Market St., Wilmington. **Spring Craft Market**. Multiple vendors, including Dram Tree Books with Jack Fryar and Dr. Chris E. Fonvielle Jr. The house, jail, visitor center, and art gallery will remain open 10-4.

**Thursday, April 18, 6-7 pm. Cameron Art Museum**, 3201 South 17th St., Wilmington. **Boundless Lecture & Conversation Series: Tyanna West**. "Healing Backwards: The Journey of Tracing My Roots". West is a public historian and first-year PhD student at NC State whose work is informed by her proud Gullah Geechee ancestry. Free with museum admission. CAM: (910) 395-5999.

**Saturday, April 20, 10 am-4 pm. Brunswick Town/Fort Anderson State Historic Site**, 8884 St. Phillips Rd SE, Winnabow. **Living History: Tar, Pitch, and Turpentine: Oh My!** Tar production will begin around 11am, with second round at 1:30pm. Visitors will get a chance to learn about the components of naval stores and their importance to the area. Cost: free.

**Saturday, April 20, 8 pm-Sunday, April 21, 2 am. Bellamy Mansion Museum**, 503 Market St., Wilmington. Haunted Rooms America paranormal investigation. More of a light-hearted repeat event that helps support the Museum. Info: <https://www.hauntedrooms.com/>

**Saturday, April 27, 10 am- 4pm. Bennett Place State Historic Site**. 4409 Bennett Memorial Rd, Durham, NC 27705. **159<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Daytime Program** commemorating Gen. Jos. Johnston's 1865 surrender of almost 90K troops to Maj. Gen. W. T. Sherman. Info: (919) 383-4345 or [bennett@dncr.nc.gov](mailto:bennett@dncr.nc.gov)

**Saturday, April 27, 7-9 pm. Bennett Place State Historic Site**. 4409 Bennett Memorial Rd, Durham, NC 27705. **"The Day Had Come": Emancipation & Bennett Place**. 331 luminaries will dot the historic Hillsboro Road to honor 331,000 enslaved North Carolinians, free at last 159 years ago. Commemorative ceremony at 7:45 pm. Info: (919) 383-4345 or [bennett@dncr.nc.gov](mailto:bennett@dncr.nc.gov)

[Thanks to Yelena Howell for providing these events every month without fail.]



## Sarah Kay Bierle’s Presentation on the Hancock Family Emphasizes that “History is About People”

By Marty Green, CFCWRT Correspondent

Sarah Kay Bierle, managing editor-of the [Emerging Civil War](#) blog, presented an engaging and insight-filled talk about the family of Union General Winfield Scott Hancock - “From California to Gettysburg,” and indeed before and after.

Sarah’s personable approach made the family come alive, particularly Almira Russell Hancock, the wife of the general. As the young wife of a junior officer she was reluctant to follow the paths laid out in the pre-Civil War army, full of postings to primitive and uncomfortable places on the various frontiers of the



growing republic. Yet, she reported that a comment from then U.S. Army Colonel Robert E. Lee made a powerful impact on her and she went on to graciously and courageously share the hardships of the frontier army with her husband and, soon, two young children.



[At left, members of the Roundtable listen intently to Ms. Bierle’s presentation. Her point about the war being about people is often forgotten.]

Approximately 40 members and friends attended the presentation including visitor Dan Hickman, retired Army Brigadier General and author of *A Thousand Chances: A Memoir of Life and Death in the Air Cavalry During the Pivotal Year of the Vietnam War*. In addition to his service as a combat helicopter pilot in the Vietnam War,

General Hickman commanded the 30th Heavy Separate Brigade (Armored) of the NC National Guard in Iraq. We also welcomed two new members, Steve Rauschkolb and Tom Piech. Steve is a director of the Civil War Round Table Congress.

We need more contributors to the Runner newsletter. We’re looking for book reviews, short pieces about trips you’ve taken to a historic Civil War site (like Jim Gannon’s in this issue), a brief bit of history other members might find interesting, or your experiences with the Roundtable itself. This newsletter belongs to you - the members of the Roundtable. Let’s all take more of an active part.

## A Brief History of the Cape Fear Civil War Roundtable

By Bill Jayne, CFCWRT President

The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table (CFCWRT) was established in 1994 and our first president was George Slaton who led the organization until the year 2000.

George, who now lives in the Davidson, NC, area, recalls that an organization called the Civil War Round Table Associates met in Wilmington in the summer of 1993. The organization was founded and led by legendary battlefield preservationist and Civil War activist, Jerry Russell, and their primary purpose was to encourage Civil War Round Tables to get involved in battlefield preservation.

The Wilmington event included a workshop on “How to Start a Civil War Round Table.” That workshop motivated George and others to establish a round table in Wilmington. Contributing to the momentum was Civil War publisher Ted Savas and prospective authors Chris Fonvielle and Mark Bradley. Ted, then leading the publishing company of Savas Woodbury, first published Chris Fonvielle’s *The Wilmington Campaign: Last Rays of Departing Hope*, and Mark Bradley’s *The Battle of Bentonville: Last Stand in the Carolinas*. George noted “It was a momentous weekend!”

It took some time to get rolling and the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table first met at the University of North Carolina, Wilmington (UNCW) in October 1994. The first speaker was Chris Fonvielle, who later joined the faculty of UNCW. Professor Fonvielle, now retired, is the premier historian of the Lower Cape Fear from Colonial times through the Civil War. Following George Slaton, Professor Fonvielle led the CFCWRT from 2000 through 2006. The meeting site changed from UNCW to St. John’s Episcopal Church and then to St. Andrew’s on the Sound Episcopal Church. Under the leadership of David Norris (2006-10) and Bob Cooke (2010 to 2018), the organization grew steadily and many nationally known speakers and authors spoke to the group as well as accomplished local historians.

From 1997 through 2005 the organization featured tours to locations such as Richmond and its vicinity, Sharpsburg, Md., and Spotsylvania County, Va. From 2006 through 2011 tours were shortened to locations in North Carolina that could be reached within a day rather than requiring overnight travel. Today, the round table features opportunities focused on local attractions such as the Wilmington Railroad Museum, a great attraction that preserves the history of the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad, the lifeline that connected the south’s last blockade running port with the Army of Northern Virginia.

Dr. Fonvielle has led many tours for the round table including a hike through the maritime forest to discover the earthworks of the “Sugar Loaf Line,” a boat tour on the Cape Fear River and an evening tour of Ft. Fisher that ended well after dark looking out on the ocean as “friendly enemies,” heroes of the 1865 battle, Col. William Lamb, CSA, and Brigadier General Newton Martin Curtis, USA, did in 1893.

The CFCWRT is actively involved in supporting Fort Fisher and Fort Anderson, the NC Historical Sites in the area, the J. Ryder Lewis historical park in Carolina Beach, as well as the NC Maritime Museum in Southport. We have also featured speakers from the Latimer House, the museum of the Lower Cape Fear Historical Society, in Wilmington.

Beginning in 2018, the Round Table the round table moved to Harbor Church in Wilmington and then back to St. John's Episcopal Church in midtown Wilmington. Bill Jayne has been president of the club since 2018 and has seen it through the devastating Hurricane Florence in 2018 and the COVID phenomenon. As of 2024, the round table has more members than it did in 2018.

We now present a summer program featuring "member forums". in which members present short programs (approximately 15 minutes) on specific topics of their choosing. We have also offered seminar-style round table discussions on specific topics such as the failure of Confederate forces to attack the Union landing force before its assault on Fort Fisher.

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## Bentonville Battlefield Commemorates 159th Anniversary

By Fred Claridge, Newsletter Editor

Bentonville Battlefield commemorated the 159th Anniversary of the battle at an all day event on March 16. The weather cooperated; it was a beautiful sunny day. A major theme of this year's event was Civil War medicine. Several re-enactors portrayed Civil War surgeons, including one re-enactor who portrayed a surgeon who was actually at the battle. Another re-enactor displayed a surgical kit actually used by his three-times great uncle - Dr. Bleeker Hovey - during the war. A highlight was the participation of the National Museum of Civil War medicine. Museum staff came down from their home base of Frederick, Maryland to give several presentations and to display a canvas stretcher that was actually used at the Battle of Bentonville. It carried bloodstains from soldiers who were wounded there. Quite a sight to see for visitors and the public alike. Several organizations were also represented at the event, and a number of tours were given. The battlefield is lucky to have the Harper House which served as a field hospital during the battle open to the public. Roundtable members are encouraged to visit the battlefield someday if you haven't made it up that way. It's an important part of Civil War and North Carolina history. Pictures of the event can be seen below and on the following page.





Medical equipment on display in Bentonville.

## The Hunley Submarine is Still Hard to Find But a Visit Excels

By Jim Gannon, Program Director

It took over 130 years for scientists to locate the wreck of the Confederate submarine, the *CSS Hunley*. Using my GPS on a recent visit to Charleston, I found the Hunley was still hard to find because my GPS insisted we should go down a road that is closed for reconstruction. However, our persistence in finding a more circuitous route was well rewarded. Our visit far exceeded expectations.

The Hunley sank in Charleston's outer harbor on 17 February 1864 after sinking the *USS Housatonic*, a Union ship on blockade duty. The Hunley thus became the first combat submarine in world history to sink a ship. However, the Hunley never returned after the attack and the exact location of the wreck was unknown until 1995. The ship was raised in 2000, and despite study by many experts, uncertainty remains regarding her final moments and the cause of her sinking.



The ship alone would be the worth the visit. It is both fascinating and humbling to see her resting in her preservative pool and appreciate the courage of the men who were willing to take this experimental contraption into battle against real Naval ships of war. However, there is an outstanding museum

there as well that tells the whole story of the building of the ship, the experience of the crew, and the final voyage. In particular, the facial recreations of the crew members are haunting.

The museum also includes a recreation of the ship's crew compartment that was built for a movie. It is available for visitors to sit in and appreciate the cramped positions of the crew, as illustrated in the photo showing me at a crewman's station at the crank which turned the ship's propeller. Note, as squeezed as I was, the movie prop is actually a little more spacious than the ship.



Special mention must be made of the outstanding docents. The day we went we were able to see two different and outstanding presentations both similar in quality and duration to the presentations that we have at our own Cape Fear Civil War Round Table. One in particular focused on the research that has been done regarding what may have happened to the Hunley and its crew during and after the attack, and what could have caused the vessel to sink.

If you have the opportunity, your own search for the *CSS Hunley* will be the worth the effort.



A model of the Chimborazo Hospital at the Richmond Battlefield Visitors Center in Richmond, Virginia.

Richmond had a number of Confederate hospitals, but Chimborazo was by far the largest and best equipped of all the Confederate hospitals across the south. At its busiest times, the hospital housed nearly 4,000 patients. Compare that to most hospitals today which may have 250 to 350 beds. Approximately 75,000 wounded were treated at this hospital during its time of operation. None of the original hospital exists unfortunately, but the small museum is fascinating.

## Cape Fear Civil War Roundtable

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We thank our sponsors, who make it possible for us to thrive as an organization. It would be much harder without their support!

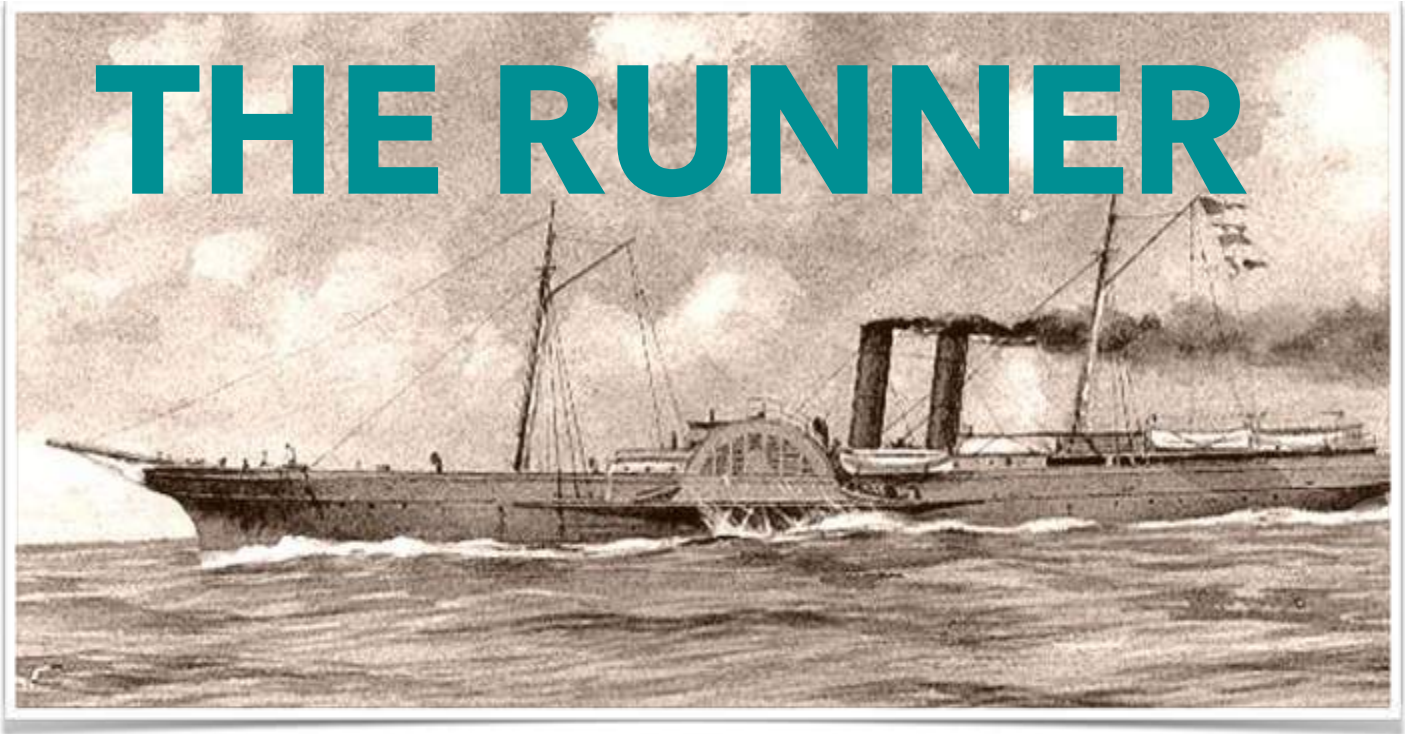


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The official newsletter of the Cape Fear Civil War Roundtable

## March Meeting Features Emerging Civil War Historian’s Program on “From California to Gettysburg: The Hancock Family”

by Bill Jayne, CFCWRT President

Our March 14 meeting features a presentation by Sarah Kay Bierle titled “From California to Gettysburg: The Hancock Family.” In 1858, Winfield and Almira Hancock and their two children moved to California. As a U.S. Army officer, Captain Winfield S. Hancock’s duties had taken the family to several remote outposts, but their time in California would be some of their most memorable days. The American Civil War began while the Hancocks were in California, and this conflict presented challenging choices. Their decision—made in California—would help keep the Golden State in the Union and also impact one of the great eastern battles of the war.



Sarah Kay Bierle is a native of California but she graduated from Thomas Edison State University in Trenton, N.J., with a BA in History, and now lives in Central Virginia within easy distance of several major battlefields of the Civil War. She serves as managing editor at [Emerging Civil War](#) (ECW). ECW is a public history-oriented platform for sharing original scholarship related to the American Civil War. ECW seeks to encourage a diversity of perspectives in the scholarship it



## Membership Report

By Bruce Patterson  
CFCWRT Secretary

Membership remains a key factor in the success of an organization such as ours. Every member is a recruiter. Please bring neighbors and friends to a meeting. We have ample seating capacity and convenient parking.

We gained one new member last month when Wilmington resident **Thomas Bello** joined our ranks. Welcome aboard Tom!

Check your name tag to determine your renewal month (or give me a call) and please try to remain current with your membership dues. They form the base for our annual budget. You can renew membership on-line <http://www.cfcwrt.org> or mail your check to Treasurer Mike McDonald at CFCWRT 8387 E. Highcroft NE, Leland, NC 28451. Better still, see Mike at the March 14th meeting.

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## Civil War Weekend Event

Virginia Tech University in Blacksburg, Virginia will hold a Civil War Weekend event from Friday, March 22nd through Sunday, March 24th. The cost without lodging is \$429. This year's theme is "The Information War." A number of topics will be discussed. For more info, here is the link:  
[civilwar.vt.edu/civil-war-weekend-2024/](http://civilwar.vt.edu/civil-war-weekend-2024/)

presents. They work to identify and spotlight the next generation of Civil War historians and the fresh ideas they bring to the historical conversation.

Ms. Bierle also works in the Education Department at American Battlefield Trust. She has spent years exploring ways to share quality historical research in ways that will inform and inspire modern audiences, including school presentations, writing, and speaking engagements. Sarah has published three historical fiction books and her first nonfiction book, *Call Out the Cadets: The Battle of New Market*, is part of the Emerging Civil War series. She is currently working on a short biography of John Pelham for the ECW series.

Her presentation focusing on the Winfield Scott Hancock family fits within her interest in exploring the American Civil War era and seeking to better understand the multi-layered stories. She writes: "Military or civilian, enslaved or free, blue or gray... every story fits together to help us gain a deeper and more complete portrait of our past. It is vital to continue conversing about this era of history, remembering to strip away myths and seeing that people really lived, suffered, loved, and lost. I believe that discussion about history can take various forms, but that listening, conversing, and pursuing an informed, gracious understanding is most important."

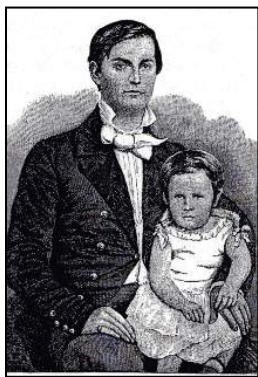
Capt. Hancock and his wife, Almira Russell Hancock, along with their two children, had served at several posts from St. Louis to Florida and then Kansas, Utah and California. An 1840 graduate of West Point, Hancock had distinguished himself in the Mexican War and served with many officers who would become notable leaders in the Civil War. In the Army's Department of the Pacific, one of the best friends of the Hancock family was Major Lewis A. Armistead, who chose to side with the Confederacy, while Hancock, a native of Pennsylvania remained loyal to the Union.

[continued on next page]

It might be said that in 1860, the professional officer corps of the U.S. Army, most of them graduates of West Point, were a family of sorts, and like many American families, they were split by the war. Research by Dick Crews of the Cleveland Civil War Round Table reveals that there were 977 graduates of the West Point classes of 1833 through 1861 alive at the beginning of the Civil War in 1861. Some 259 (26%) joined the Confederacy and 638 (65%) remained with the U.S. Army. Eight graduates didn't serve with either army in the war. Thirty-nine southerners, like General George H. Thomas, remained with the Union and 32 northerners, such as Gen. John C. Pemberton, served in the Confederate army. Ninety-five West Pointers were killed in the war, and 141 wounded.



Almira R. Hancock



Captain Hancock and son Russell

In the war, both Hancock and Armistead rose to General rank and, at the climactic ending of the titanic Battle of Gettysburg on July 3, 1863, Armistead was killed leading his brigade in the assault against the center of the Union line commanded by Hancock. Hancock was badly wounded in the battle and although he recovered to once again lead troops in the war—and run unsuccessfully for president in 1880—his health was damaged by the wound and he died in in 1886. His birthday, by the way, was February 14, 1824, and this most recently past Valentine's Day marks his 200th birthday.

In commenting on the Hancock family, Ms. Bierle notes that “It does not detract from General Hancock’s character to acknowledge that Almira helped make him a successful man. Her faithfulness, wisdom, determination, and domestic skills contributed to his respect among his superiors and peers. In the ancient Proverbs of Solomon, the writer questioned, ‘Who can find a virtuous wife? For her worth is far above rubies. Her husband is known in the gates, when he sits among the elders of the land.’ Almira Russell Hancock’s life is a positive example of how one courageously faithful lady can stand beside a man of strong character and enhance his success.”

The meeting will take place on Thursday evening, March 14. Doors open at 6:30. As usual, the meeting will be held in Elebash Hall at the rear of St. John’s Episcopal at 1219 Forest Hills Drive in Wilmington, easily accessed via Park Avenue, off Independence Boulevard.



To the right, an illustration of Pickett’s Charge shows Armistead waving his hat from the tip of his sabre. (Image source: Wikimedia Commons)

## In search of Captain H. B. Middleton or: Why was a Future Italian Count in the Confederate Army?

By Jim Gannon, CFCWRT Program Director

Recently I visited Middleton Place historic site on the Ashley River near Charleston. Among the numerous artifacts on display in a cabinet, I noticed a document, a parole, issued at Appomattox to Captain H. B. Middleton of the 1st South Carolina Infantry. I was quite fascinated by it and wondered, “Who was this man? And what happened to him after the war?”

I started my inquiry with the National Park Service’s online data base of Civil War Soldiers. It turns out that there were two different regiments that bore the name of 1st South Carolina and there were quite a number of men from South Carolina named Middleton who served in the war. However, after some poking about, I found our Captain. He enlisted as a private and finished the war as a captain in a regiment known as Hagood’s 1st South Carolina. I would later learn that he was 18 years old at the start of the war and at first served in a signal unit and an artillery unit before serving with Hagood’s regiment in Northern Virginia. The unit participated in some of the war’s most famous battles such as Fredericksburg, Sharpsburg, The Wilderness, Cold Harbor, and Petersburg and suffered heavy casualties. The NPS data base lists 2,147 officers and men who served in the regiment at some point during the Civil War. Captain Middleton was among only 222 who were still in the ranks at Appomattox.



So, what happened next? I think we can assume that it was a dismal homecoming after Appomattox. The photo at left shows the heap of rubble which is all that is left today of the main plantation house of Middletown Place. The house was burned by the 46th New York late in the war and the remaining, load bearing brick walls, were toppled by a post war earthquake. (Another flanking large house was restored and is now a museum well worth visiting.) According to the docent at Middleton Place, the

family was heavily invested in Confederate bonds and most of the vast wealth of the family was gone at the end of war.

However, the 22-year-old H.B. still had some unique opportunities that most veterans didn’t. Poking around the internet I stumbled onto a self-described “genealogical document” published in 1900. I learned that Captain H. B. Middleton’s full name was Henry Bentivoglio Van Ness Middleton. H.B. was born in 1843 in Charleston but educated in Paris before attending the South Carolina Military Academy (a predecessor to the Citadel.) He came from a long line of extremely wealthy and politically active Middletons and his ancestors included a member of the Continental Congress, a signer of the



An 1860s Papal Zouave

Declaration of Independence, and diplomats to Russia and Spain. His mother was an Italian woman, Pauline, the Countess of Bentivoglio. So, soon after the war, H.B. moved permanently to Italy where he became a captain of the Papal Zouaves, a military unit which was part of the army of the Papal States. H.B., like his father, would marry an Italian Countess in 1869, and their son would grow up to be an officer in the Italian Navy.

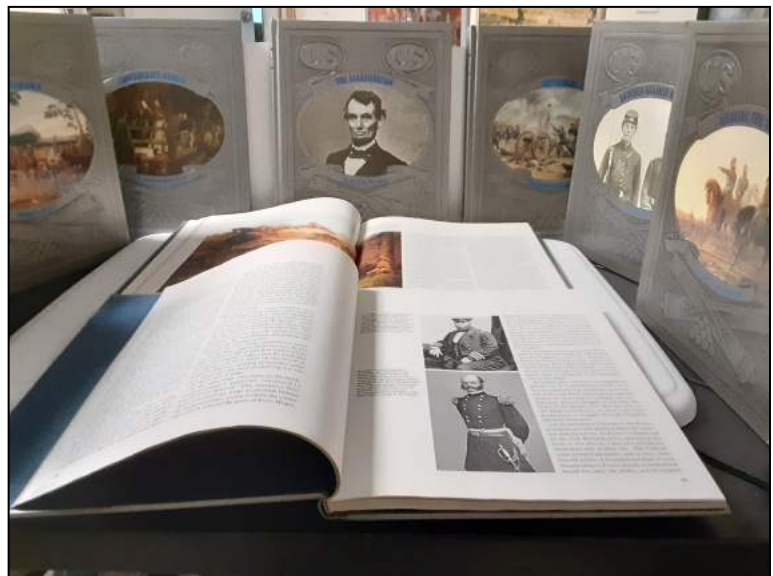
And eventually, in a world faraway from Appomattox, our veteran would become the Count of Bentivoglio, a title that was prominently intertwined with Italian history for hundreds of years.

## Beautiful Set of Time-Life Civil War Series Books Being Raffled

By Mike McDonald, CFCWRT Treasurer

The Round Table is auctioning off a beautiful set of the Time-Life Civil War Series books to benefit the Roundtable. This is a complete set of the famous Time-Life series, all 28 volumes, including a unique index that allows the reader to find the complete story of each important person, each battle, each significant building, and even horses! Book titles include:

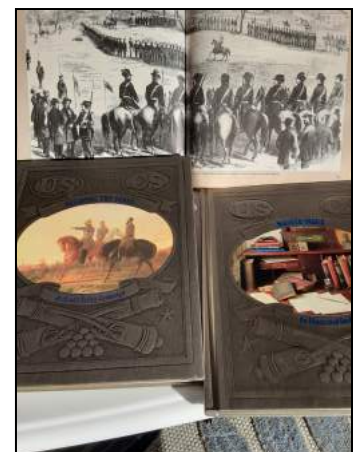
The War Begins  
 The Coastal War  
 Gettysburg  
 Sherman's March  
 War's Aftermath  
 Jackson's Valley Campaign  
 The Southern Home Front  
 Grant At Petersburg  
 The Assassination



And there are 19 other volumes, each with hundreds of little-known details, dozens of pictures, maps, charts, etc. that bring our nation's history to life.

This is not only an entertaining set of books, but also a reference work you will use for many years. You can go to the Roundtable's webpage <http://www.cfcwrt.org/> to get instructions on how to bid.

On March 16th, the Bentonville Battlefield will honor the 159th anniversary of the battle. The Museum of Civil War Medicine is going to be there for demonstrations. See the flyer on page 7.



## Area Historical Association Events

By Yelena Howell, Tours and Trips Committee

**The Local History Room at the New Hanover County Library** is a tremendous resource for professional and avocational researchers. Librarian Jennifer Finlay talks about it with Yelena: <http://tinyurl.com/JenFinl>

**Saturday, March 2, 10 am-5 pm. Brunswick Town/Fort Anderson State Historic Site**, 8884 St. Phillips Rd SE, Winnabow. **North Carolina Rice Festival**. History, cultural presentations, tours, demonstrations, live entertainment, family fun, children's stage, Gullah Geechee food vendors (wow!), and arts/crafts. This event and related activities: <http://tinyurl.com/Rice2024>

**Wednesday, March 6, 12 pm-5 pm. Cameron Art Museum**, 3201 South 17th St., Wilmington. **The Story of a Community Remembrance Project**. Co-chairs Tim Pinnick and Jim Downey will discuss their experiences with the project centered on honoring the victims of the 1898 coup. Pre-register here: <http://tinyurl.com/W1898> or contact CAM: (910) 395-5999.

**Friday, March 8, through Saturday, March 9. Wyse Fork Battlefield Tour**. A comprehensive weekend of history, fellowship and plentiful local food with Wade Sokolosky and Dennis Harper, all for \$150 per person. **All proceeds benefit the crucial initiative to save the battlefield:** <http://tinyurl.com/SaveWF>

**Tuesday, March 12, 630 pm-8 pm, Burgwin-Wright House**, 224 Market St., Wilmington. **Spring quarterly meeting of the Cape Fear Revolutionary War Round Table**. Join Dr. Chris & Mrs. Nancy Fonvielle, Christine Lambertson, Hunter Ingram and others for an outstanding guest history lecture and a bite of Death Fudge, and consider joining this worthy historical organization. Contact: [cfrwrt@gmail.com](mailto:cfrwrt@gmail.com)

**Saturday, March 16, 10 am- 4pm. Bentonville Battlefield State Historic Site**. 5466 Harper House Rd, Four Oaks, NC. **"Always on Duty": Caring for the Wounded at Bentonville, 159<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Living History**, in collaboration with National Museum of Civil War Medicine. For updates: <http://tinyurl.com/CWMed2024>

**Tuesday, March 19, 6 pm-8 pm. CFWCRT Spring Fling! Bellamy Mansion Museum**, 503 Market St., Wilmington. A gentle reminder to join us for a tour and social evening with Exec. Dir. Gareth Evans and Dr. Chris E. Fonvielle Jr. presiding, wine and light hors-d'œuvre. \$20 admission supports our round table. Reservations: Yelena at [ybh2035@uncw.edu](mailto:ybh2035@uncw.edu) or (910) 431-6102.

**Saturday, March 30, 645 am-5 pm. Brunswick Town/Fort Anderson State Historic Site**, 8884 St Phillips Rd SE, Winnabow. **Eighteenth Century Easter Litany**. A deeply moving Anglican service in the ruins of St. Philips. Grounds open at 615 am with a brief sunrise service to commence at 645 am and grounds to remain open until 5 pm. Rain or shine; no cost. Bring a folding chair.

Throughout the month of March, staff of the **Burgwin-Wright House will be collecting donations of baby wipes, diapers, and disposable adult briefs for the Diaper Bank of NC**. For your convenience, Yelena Howell can accept any contributions at CFCWRT's March meeting.

# “ALWAYS ON DUTY”

159th Anniversary  
Living History Event

March 16,  
2024

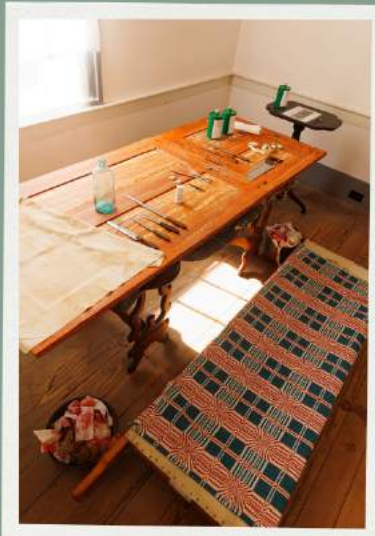
10-4pm

Join us for:  
Activities  
Demonstrations  
Talks and more!

Featuring:



BENTONVILLE  
BATTLEFIELD   
*Preserve - Educate - Explore*



## Additional Upcoming Events in March and April

Yelena Howell, our Tours and Trips Director, provides lyrical details on two more upcoming and fascinating opportunities.

Yet men have we, whom we revere,  
Now names, and men still housing here.  
—George Meredith, “The Lark Ascending” (1881)

Ladies and gentlemen:

We would like to invite you to two special events now that the exuberant joy of March returns to the Lower Cape Fear, with not a snowflake to our credit this passing winter. (In the mood for a stunning Victorian poem set to the music it inspired? Let George Meredith and Ralph Vaughan Williams take your breath away: <http://tinyurl.com/OnALark>)

In the mood, too, for a spring soir e at the Bellamy Mansion Museum? Join us for wine and light hors d'oeuvre on **Tuesday, March 19, from 6 until 8 p.m.** “Men we revere”, Executive Director Gareth Evans and Dr. Chris E. Fonvielle Jr., will preside over a scholarly discussion of the history and architecture of the famous historic home that was completed in 1861 and served as Federal headquarters after the fall of Wilmington in February of 1865.



RSVP with your preference of red or white wine or soft drink and any food allergies to Yelena by email at [ybh2035@uncw.edu](mailto:ybh2035@uncw.edu) or text (910) 431-6102. Tickets are \$20 ea. Checks, PayPal, and Venmo

payments are appreciated and will remain refundable through 10 a.m. the day of the event. Cash payments are welcome at the next round table meeting on March 14.

**Please be advised of accessibility issues at the Museum that has not been modified with an elevator or ramp entry. There are stairs to climb and descend.**

The following month, we will be taking a private cruise down the Cape Fear River with Dr. Chris E. Fonvielle Jr. narrating and Capt. Ned Rhodes of Wilmington Water Tours at the helm. Join us on **Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, between 945 and 1145 a.m.** for a Civil War-themed excursion. Tickets are available now for \$45 ea. Invite a friend or your beau/belle and reserve your seats directly with Yelena (contact information above).

## Chris Mackowski's Tour d'force Presentation on the Battle of Jackson, Mississippi, May 14, 1863

By S.K. Zook, Runner Correspondent

Prof. Chris Mackowski, founder and editor-in-chief of the [Emerging Civil War](#) blog, gave one of the most memorable presentations our round table has received on February 8. Without notes to refer to, Mackowski wove an interesting story around the personalities of the leaders and the impressions of the soldiers as U.S. Grant's Army of the Tennessee, moved quickly and confidently to eliminate a threat to its rear as it moved to isolate the essential Confederate fortress of Vicksburg.



Mackowski quickly reviewed the record and biographical details of U.S. Grant, emphasizing his greatest strength; “He just wouldn’t give up,” we were told. Turned back in six or seven attempts to neutralize Vicksburg, Grant kept trying until he found the solution in the spring of 1863. Crossing the mighty Mississippi River below Vicksburg, he moved inland with the equivalent of a Civil War blitzkrieg so that he could attack Vicksburg from practicable ground east of the city.

We learned that one of the oft repeated cliches of the campaign—that Grant cut himself off from his supply line in order to achieve his goal—was a myth. It was only after the Battle of Raymond on May 12, about two weeks and 40 miles into the campaign, that Grant decided to abandon his supply line in order to move quickly against the growing threat of Confederate General Joseph Johnston’s force converging on the Mississippi state capital of Jackson.

Johnston, we heard, didn’t want to be there. Although he was the highest-ranking U.S. Army officer to resign his commission and shift his allegiance to the Confederacy, his seniority in the rebel army was below that of three men he had outranked before.

Confederate President Jefferson Davis, a West Point graduate and former U.S. Secretary of War, stated that Johnston’s position behind the other three was because Johnston’s last U.S. rank of brigadier general had been tied to his staff post as Quartermaster General and the U.S. Army recognized his grade as a line officer as lieutenant colonel, not brigadier general.





Wounded at the Battle of Fair Oaks a year before the Battle of Jackson, Johnston was replaced by Robert E. Lee and although Davis gave him the important command of the Department of the West, the feud between the two leaders was never resolved. We also learned that Johnston and Davis differed on strategy.



As president and commander in chief, Davis felt driven to defend territory. “With a dozen governors tugging at him...’What about me?’ ‘You must defend my state,” etc., as Mackowski put it, the political pressure was understandable.

Johnston, on the other hand, felt the way to victory meant the south had to conserve the power of its forces, maintaining the mobility of its armies. On the Peninsula of Virginia in 1862, however, that strategy had

led to the Union army’s advance to the gates of Richmond, as Johnston continually gave up ground.

Prof. Mackowski was extremely critical of Johnston for what seemed to be his reluctance to give his best to stopping Grant, but also for seeming to place the defense of his own reputation above his duty to defend Vicksburg.

The battle itself was full of interesting anecdotes, including the part played by “Old Abe,” the eagle mascot of the 8th Wisconsin in the “Live Eagle Brigade” of BG Joseph Mower. Perhaps predictably, Johnston directed his subordinates to fight a delaying action while he retreated away from Jackson—and Vicksburg. Tragically for his cause, he had commanded Lt. General John C. Pemberton, commander of the Vicksburg defenses, to move against Grant. President Davis had ordered Pemberton to hold Vicksburg. Pemberton sought to obey both conflicting orders and split his forces. Ultimately, he faced Grant’s superior Army at Champion Hill and was soundly defeated, losing more than 4,000 men who would be needed to defend the river fort.



Notable historians: L to R, Sam Hood, Ted Savas, Chris Mackowski, Angie Zombek, Chris Fonvielle



More than 50 members and friends attended the presentation including former Round Table president Chris Fonvielle, professor emeritus of history at UNCW, UNCW Asst. Professor of History Angela Zombek, Civil War publisher and author Ted Savas and author Sam Hood.

We welcomed new member Thomas Bello, who also won the special raffle of a custom line drawing created by Mason Jones with historically authentic, handmade quills and historic inks.

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## What's Cooking at Bentonville? Why ... Bacon and Hotcakes



Bentonville Battlefield Education Coordinator Anna Kulcsar cooks up bacon and hotcakes in the Harper House kitchen hearth much as it would have been done in the 1860s. See the next page.



The results of the cooking. This is an interesting part of interpreting the Harper House site. The kitchen was detached from the main house for fire safety reasons.

## Cape Fear Civil War Roundtable

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**Cape Fear Round Table, you're invited**

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**September 19-22**

**Hosted by Cleveland CWRT**

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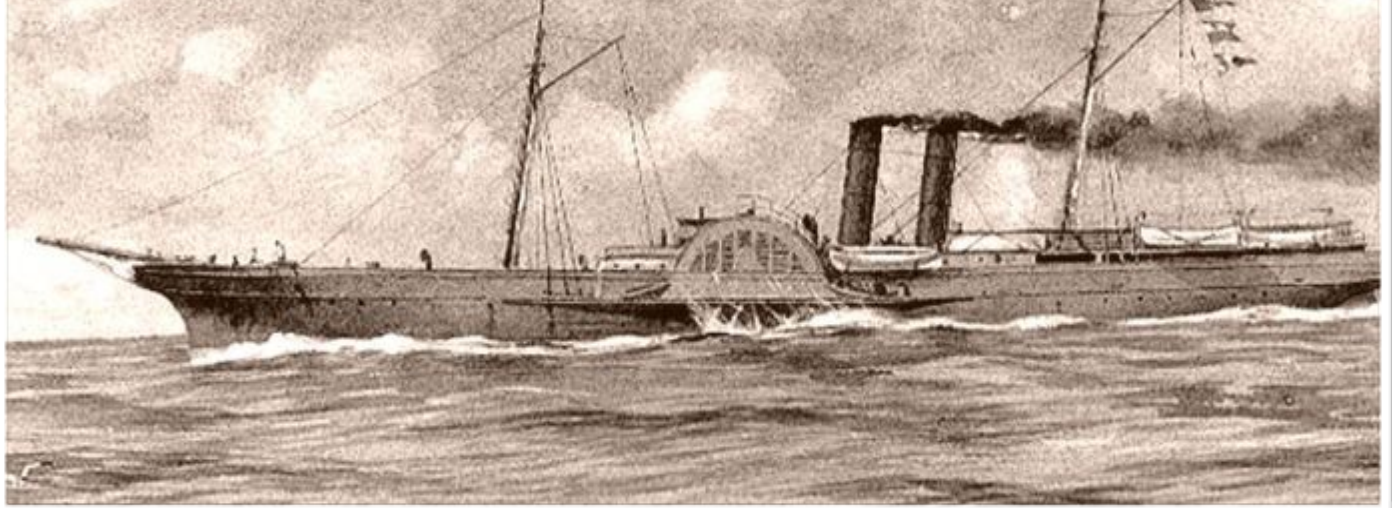
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# THE RUNNER



The official newsletter of the Cape Fear Civil War Roundtable

## February Program to Feature Battle of Jackson, 1863

By Bill Jayne, CFCWRT President

Our February meeting features a presentation by Prof. Chris Mackowski, one of the most engaging and energetic speakers on the national Civil War circuit. He will focus on the subject of one of his recent books, *The Battle of Jackson: May 14, 1863*, published in 2022. The presentation is scheduled for Thursday evening, February 8, at centrally located St. John's Episcopal Church in Midtown Wilmington near Independence Mall. Doors open at 6:30 and the meeting begins at 7:00 p.m.

Chris Mackowski, Ph.D., is the editor-in-chief and co-founder of Emerging Civil War and the series editor of the award-winning **Emerging Civil War Series**, published by Savas Beatie. Chris is a writing professor in the Jandoli School of Communication at St. Bonaventure University in Allegany, NY, where he also serves as associate dean for undergraduate programs. Chris is also historian-in-residence at **Stevenson Ridge**, a historic property on the Spotsylvania battlefield in central Virginia. He has worked as a historian for the National Park Service at Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park, where he gives tours at four major Civil War battlefields (Fredericksburg,



## Membership Report

By Bruce Patterson  
CFCWRT Secretary

2024 got off to a great start with a most informative and interesting discussion by *Fort Fisher Site Manager, Jim Steele* during which he detailed the progress on new site development and the new museum building construction. It was quite a process to get the project through to fruition, taking many years and a lot of hard work by many people. We departed the meeting that evening, as excited as our speaker, anticipating a project completion by early fall.

We were also very pleased to welcome two new members, **Raoul Rebillard** and **Alex Efirid**, both residing in Wilmington. Gentlemen, welcome aboard!

Lastly, if your membership was due for renewal in January (or February for that matter) you may renew by mailing your check to **CFCWRT, 8387 East Highcroft, NE, Leland, NC 28451**. You may also join or renew online or (best option) bring to our February 8th meeting and give it to our friendly Treasurer, Mike McDonald. He will be the distinguished gentlemen who doubles as the Round Table haberdasher who can also fit you to a new logo polo shirt or cap.

Recall please, that your month of membership renewal is printed on your name tag.

Chancellorsville, Wilderness, and Spotsylvania), as well as at the building where Stonewall Jackson died.

Chris has authored or co-authored more than 25 books and edited a half-dozen essay collections on the Civil War, and his articles have appeared in all the major Civil War magazines. Chris serves as vice president on the board of directors for the **Central Virginia Battlefields Trust**, he serves on the advisory board of the **Civil War Roundtable Congress**. He is also a member of the Antietam Institute and the U. S. Grant Homestead Association. In 2023, he was honored with the Houston Civil War Round Table's Frank Vandiver Award and also selected as the **Copie Hill Fellow at the American Battlefield Trust**.

Although Chris grew up in northwestern Pennsylvania and earned his bachelors' degree in communications at the University of Pittsburgh, he describes himself as a "Stonewall Jackson fanboy," and says that his fascination with the acclaimed Confederate general was his doorway into study of the Civil War. His book about the Battle of Jackson is dedicated to his eldest son, Jackson.

He also notes "I am a huge believer in the idea that battlefields teach us something about our history that we can't learn in any other way, so preserving those battlefields is vital." Unfortunately, as Dr. Mackowski notes in his book, the National Park Service assessment of Jackson's core battlefield areas overlays atop a busy state capital, with virtually no preserved space.

Jackson, Mississippi, was the third Confederate state capital to fall to Union forces. When Maj. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant captured the important rail junction in May 1863, however, he did so almost as an afterthought. Drawing on dozens of primary sources, contextualized by the latest scholarship on Grant's Vicksburg campaign, *The Battle of Jackson, Mississippi, May 14, 1863*, offers the most comprehensive account ever published on the fall of

the Magnolia State's capital during Grant's inexorable march on Vicksburg.

General Grant had his eyes set not on Jackson but on Vicksburg, the "Gibraltar of the Confederacy," strategically located on the Mississippi River the invaluable prize that had eluded him for the better part of a year. Vicksburg is located about half-way between Memphis, Tennessee, to the north, and New Orleans to the south. To get at Vicksburg, Grant finally



marched south on the far side of the Mississippi River and crossed onto Mississippi soil to approach Vicksburg by land from the east. As he drove a wedge between Confederate General John Pemberton to the west, a chance encounter with Confederates at Raymond alerted him to a potential threat massing farther east in Jackson under the leadership of General Joseph E. Johnston, one of the Confederacy's most respected field officers. Jackson is about 40 miles east of Vicksburg.

Mississippi was also the home of Jefferson Davis, president of the Confederacy. In addition to being the state capital, Jackson was a vital transportation and communications hub and a major Confederate industrial center, and its fall removed vital logistical support for the Southern army holding Vicksburg. "It is hard to understand why most works on the Vicksburg campaign devote



but few pages to the battle of Jackson,” Terrence Winschel retired historian of Vicksburg National Military Park, has written.

Grant turned on a dime and made for Jackson to confront the growing danger. He had no way of knowing that Johnston was already planning to abandon the vital state capital. The Southern general’s behavior has long puzzled historians, and some believe his stint in Jackson was the nadir of his long career. The loss of Jackson isolated Vicksburg and helped set up a major confrontation between Federal and Confederate forces a few days later at Champion Hill in one



Various treatments of the same photograph of General Grant after Vicksburg.

of the most decisive battles of the war. The capital’s fall demonstrated that Grant could march into Jefferson Davis’ home state and move about with impunity, and not even an acclaimed military leader like Joe Johnston could stop him.

Most people interested in Civil War military history focus their attention on the titanic contest between the Union’s Army of the Potomac and the Confederacy’s Army of Northern Virginia in the Eastern Theater, but Grant’s Vicksburg campaign, especially the movement of his army from the crossing of the Mississippi River to the gates of Vicksburg is often viewed as the most “bold and masterly” in the Civil War, according to one of his opposing generals, Stephen Dill Lee. Historian Donald L. Miller in his volume on Vicksburg, wrote: “It was a Civil War blitzkrieg. In eighteen days, Grant’s army had marched nearly two hundred miles; won five battles—four in six days; inflicted a loss of 5,787 killed, wounded, and missing; compelled the abandonment of two Confederate strongholds...captured the capital of Mississippi,” and pushed the opposing army into a confined space where a siege would result in an inevitable victory for the Union.

As usual, the meeting will be held in Elebash Hall at the rear of St. John's Episcopal at 1219 Forest Hills Drive in Wilmington. The church parking lot and entrance to the meeting room is easily accessed via Park Avenue off of Independence Boulevard. See you there! Bring a friend! For more information about membership in the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table, go to <http://www.cfcwrt.org> and pick "Join/Rejoin."

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## 2024 Member Forum Coming Up in July - We Need RT Speakers

By Jim Gannon, CFCWRT Program Director

Next summer will feature another member forum to give an opportunity to our own Round Table members to share a short (10-20 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. 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 910-789-0069 or [ljimgannon@gmail.com](mailto:ljimgannon@gmail.com) if you would like to make a presentation.

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Painting continues on the Harper House at the Bentonville Battlefield. It looks good!



## Area Historical Association Events

By Yelena Howell, Tours and Trips Committee

**Drew Gruber, Executive Director of Civil War Trails, Inc.**, indulged Yelena in a great video interview this January. View it here: <http://tinyurl.com/CWTrailsTalk>

**Thursday, February 1, 7-8:45 pm. Cameron Art Museum, 3201 South 17th St., Wilmington. Jazz @CAM: Sean Higgins Trio.** Higgins is an internationally renowned pianist and composer who got his start as a UNCW graduate. Tickets are \$35 for CAM members, \$55 for not-yet-members: <http://tinyurl.com/SeanHigg> Contact CAM: (910) 395-5999.

**Saturday, February 3, 8 pm to Sunday, February 4, 2 am. Bellamy Mansion Museum, 503 Market St., Wilmington.** If you have ever wanted to see the Bellamy at night and/or hunt for ghosts in the mansion, now is your chance! Join Haunted Rooms America on an overnight investigation. Visit <https://www.hauntedrooms.com/> with questions, for more information and to register.

**Friday, February 9, 9-10:30 am, Burgwin-Wright House, 224 Market St., Wilmington. Hunter Ingram** presents his “**Outlander**” in the **Cape Fear Walking Tour**, an exploration of downtown Wilmington through the events of the book and TV series "Outlander." Tickets \$20 (+tax) ea. Please call (910) 762-0570 to reserve your spot.

**Wednesday, February 14, 9 am-until. Brunswick Town/Fort Anderson State Historic Site, 8884 St Phillips Rd SE, Winnabow. Day of Caring.** Be a part of community engagement and share love through acts of service by helping build a fence at the historic site. Register: <http://tinyurl.com/BuildwithLove>

**Saturday, February 17, 10 am-4 pm. Brunswick Town/Fort Anderson State Historic Site, 8884 St Phillips Rd SE, Winnabow. Living History: 159<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Fall of Fort Anderson.** Artillery and infantry demonstrations throughout the day. Cost: free.

**Saturday, February 17, 9 am-12 pm and 1pm-4 pm. Bentonville Battlefield Walking Tour. Col. Wade Sokolosky (Ret.) of NC Historical Tours** will highlight the U.S. Army breastworks, the Last Grand Charge of the Army of Tennessee, Hoke’s Division, etc. Cost: \$40 per person for both tours. Contact Wade directly to sign up: (252) 646-5553 or [nchistoricaltours@gmail.com](mailto:nchistoricaltours@gmail.com)

**Saturday, February 24, 9 am-3 pm, Moores Creek National Battlefield, 40 Patriots Hall Dr. Currie. 248<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Moores Creek Bridge.** A full day of commemorative activities and living history. Monitor details here: <http://tinyurl.com/RevWarNC>

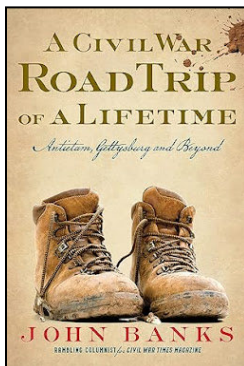
**As we approach the best season of all, please save the date for CFCWRT’s very own Spring Fling at the Bellamy Mansion on Tuesday, March 19, 6-8 pm!**

[Continued on next page.]

We will enjoy a **social evening** at the Museum with Executive Director Gareth Evans, staff, and our inimitable Dr. Chris E. Fonvielle, Jr. offering their scholarly perspectives. The round table will serve wines, soft drinks and light hors d'œuvres. Yelena will open up **admissions (\$20 ea.) on March 1**. For now, thank you for taking note!

## Brunswick Civil War Roundtable Event To Be Held February 6th

Fayetteville, NC played a significant role near the close of the Civil War following Union Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman's March to the Sea. This is the topic of returning guest speaker, Col. Wade Sokolosky (Ret.). He is a renowned historian, prolific author, tour guide, and popular lecturer. His presentation is entitled, "A Great Race Between Two Rivers: Sherman's March Toward Fayetteville." The meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 6<sup>th</sup> at Hatch Auditorium on Caswell Beach. Registration begins 6:15PM. The program starts at 7:00PM. The guest fee is \$10 and can be applied toward the \$25 annual membership dues which can include a spouse. For information, contact President John Butler at [Brunswickcwr@gmail.com](mailto:Brunswickcwr@gmail.com), or call him at (404) 229-9425. Or visit the website at [Brunswickcivilwarroundtable.com](http://Brunswickcivilwarroundtable.com) or Facebook page.



If you've never seen it, John Banks maintains an excellent Civil War blog site. He's also written a book. Here's how he describes it: "Over more than a year, I crisscrossed the country exploring battlefields, historic houses, forts and more. Join me for a road trip like no other." Banks is a long time journalist who has a very readable and enjoyable writing style. He mixes a lot of history, some personal reflections, and even some humor into his postings and in the book. His work has appeared in the New York Times and just about every major Civil War magazine and journal. Give him a try if you're looking for a good read.

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## January Program Features Jim Steele, Fort Fisher Site Manager, on the Long Road to the Development of the New Visitors Center

By Paul R. Revere, Special Correspondent

Our first meeting of 2024, our 30th year of continuous operation, featured Jim Steele, site manager of the Ft. Fisher State Historic Site, who, with masterly command of the details, gave our members an insider's view of the evolution and development of the magnificent project now under construction at Ft. Fisher.

The \$25 million plus project includes a new, 22,219 square foot, two-story visitors center with greatly expanded exhibit space, staff workspace, gift shop, multipurpose room, catering kitchen and multiple seating areas. It also includes a new Underwater Archaeology building, and perhaps the greatest improvement of all, the reconstruction of several traverses, or mounds, that



were demolished by the Army in WWII to build an airstrip for training purposes. The replica traverses will provide underground areas that visitors will be able to access safely to gain an understanding of the kinds of facilities the fort's defenders actually used.

Jim, a U.S. Navy veteran who earned his Masters Degree in History at the University of South Carolina, has been at Ft. Fisher for 16 years and he explained that he began working on the new visitors center project almost immediately because the existing facility, built in the 1960s for an estimated 25,000 visitors per year has been woefully inadequate for decades. Preparation for the project began with several false starts that involved in-depth planning that was extremely time consuming but failed to advance the project.

Ultimately, legislative support pushed the project to the forefront and allowed for the hiring of design professionals to prepare the plans for a project that will professionally serve the more than one million visitors who currently access the site every year. A “soft opening” is scheduled to occur late this summer followed by the full opening soon after.



More than 40 members attended and enjoyed the program along with an enhanced raffle that featured a guided tour of the Aversasboro battlefield as well as the choice of several high-quality Civil War books. Thanks to William Jordan for the Aversasboro tour and also to Karen and Mike Budziszewski for refreshments.

We also welcomed new members Alex Efird, Jr., and Raoul “Reb” Rebillard.



Jim Steele presented on the many challenges faced by planners in making the new visitor center a reality. It took patience and a “long view” to get to the point where ground was finally broken. Financing took several legislative sessions, and a lot of hard work by people dedicated to providing a great learning experience about the fort and its history.



## Not Originally a Tarheel, But He is One Now Forever

By Ed Gibson, CFCWRT Member/Audio-Visual Manager

[Editor's Note: Some language is included in the quoted passage which some members may find objectionable, but it was left in place as it is a passage taken directly from a published diary.]

One morning while sitting at coffee with several of the Cape Fear Civil War Roundtable members, I heard President Bill Jayne mention that there was a member of the 147<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania buried at the Wilmington National Cemetery. Bill was stationed at the cemetery for several years and knows a lot of the history of the place. I asked him to repeat what he had said because my great-grandfather was a member of that unit. Bill explained that Isaac Whitmer had been killed by friendly fire when Sherman's troops occupied Fayetteville in March of 1865 and was later interred at Wilmington National Cemetery.

I proceeded to do some Internet research into Isaac Whitmer after visiting his grave at the cemetery. Whitmer was the Sergeant Major of the regiment and had been recommended for promotion to Lieutenant but was never sworn in as an officer. I also found a diary written by M. S. Schroyer who was a member of Company G of the regiment. The following is from Schroyer's diary:

*The four corps and cavalry crossed Cape Fear River at this place, having only one pontoon bridge. General Joe Johnson was now in command of the Rebel forces and we had more or less skirmishing every day. Late in the afternoon of March 13, Monday, we were marched into the town of Fayetteville.*

### CHAPTER LXVIII

*At this time the regiment was about ready to move and the boys were scattered around town. All were ordered to report at once. Sergeant Major Witmer had been sent over on the opposite side of the square where part of the regiment had been, previously detailed to help extinguish the fire. On his way back he passed General Beard's headquarters of the 14th corps when two citizens from the opposite side of the street accused the Sergeant of being one who helped steal a barrel of flour. The guard called out Halt! When Witmer replied that he was a member of the 20th army corps, that he had nothing to do with the flour. For some reason unknown to any of us, Witmer did not stop. The guard again called Halt! but he passed on, when the guard raised his gun and fired, the ball entering the back part of his head, passing thru and coming out just back of the forehead. (The guard who shot him was a member of the 105th Ohio regiment, Beard's brigade, 14th army corps.) The boys of the regiment were so worked up and fearing a riot the Colonel moved the regiment across the river, leaving a detail to take charge of the corpse and give him a decent burial.*

*The funeral took place on the night of the 13th, or rather early on the morning of*

*the 14th. The detail was as follows: Lieutenant B. T. Parks, Sergeant A. M. Eby, George D. Griggs, Jacob Garman, and the writer. We had a good deal of trouble in getting material for making a box. Thirty-two pieces of boards were used to construct it. We had been refused hatchet, nails, etc., by the citizens, but we took the liberty of looking for what we needed. When finished, a small bunch of hay was put in the box upon which to lay the head, a web of muslin was secured, and several layers were put into the box, then the corpse was tenderly lifted off the ground, where he had been lying since he was shot, then several sheets of muslin was spread over him. This was the first and only corpse the writer ever prepared for burial and we did the best we could. This was all done in the dark hours of the night.*

*After taking a last sad look upon our dear friend and comrade. the box was nailed shut and we waited for the morning. When at last dawn appeared, we inquired of two darkies, who were passing, whether they knew where the cemetery was and they said they did. We told them we wanted them to go with us to the burying ground, but they said they had business for their master and could not go.*

*We told them they must. We saw a buggy in an alley but could not use it, as the box would not fit either way we might fix it. The only way we had was to tear off the top and place the box on the springs; then with a darkey in the shafts and the other pushing we moved out to the cemetery. When there the colored fellows left us, and we dug a grave. After depositing the corpse, Sergeant Eby placed a headboard and upon it inscribed the deceased's name, and the regiment, rank and company to which he belonged.*

*While we were digging the grave a little boy came, sat down and watched us. A new grave had just been made near the one we had dug. When this little fellow said: "You bury your man better than this one right here was buried." We asked him why, and he said: "You put yours in a box, the other was just thrown into the hole like a brute."*

*The guard who shot Witmer was relieved at once and another placed on his post. Later he was tried by military court martial and acquitted. After the burial the detail left the cemetery, crossed the river and marched hard to catch up to the regiment.*

Whitmer mustered in with the 147<sup>th</sup> Regiment in 1862. He had been commissioned as a 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant on October 7<sup>th</sup>, 1864, in Company I but never mustered in as a Lieutenant before he was killed. His body was reburied in Wilmington National Cemetery.

Sergeant Major Whitmer may not have been born a Tarheel, but he is one now forever.

Many people enjoyed the movie "Lincoln" directed by Steven Spielberg and starring Daniel Day Lewis who did a phenomenal job portraying Mr. Lincoln. But you may not know about an older movie titled "Abe Lincoln in Illinois" - a 1940 biographical drama starring Raymond Massey. It follows Lincoln from Kentucky to his election as president. It's been on TCM, and you may find it online. Well worth a look.



## Lucky Raffle Winners from Last Month's Meeting

By William Jordan, CFCWRT Member

Congratulations to CFCWRT member John Moore! John won January's grand prize: two spots for Colonel Wade Sokolosky's tour of Averasboro in February.

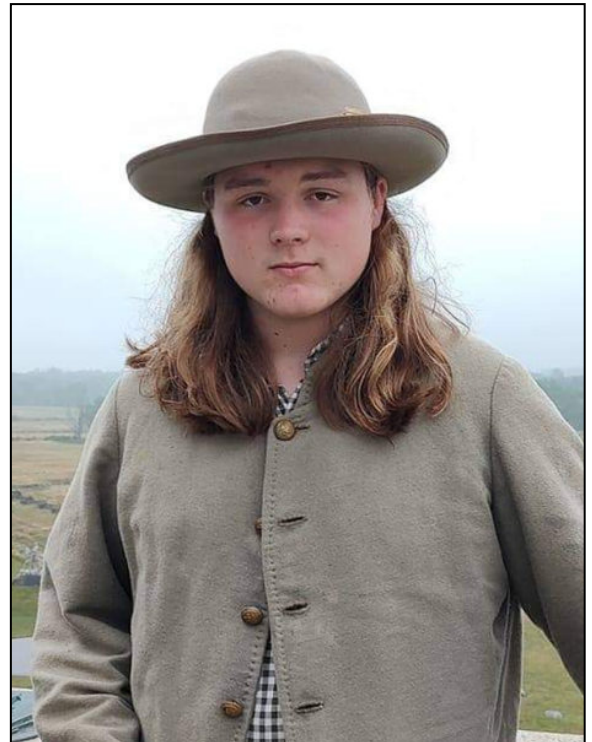
If you didn't win there are a few spots remaining for Wade's Averasboro tour. He is also offering a revamped and expanded tour of the Bentonville battlefield. Please contact him at [nchistoricaltours@gmail.com](mailto:nchistoricaltours@gmail.com) to reserve your spots!

Our next grand prize will be a custom line ink drawing by historical artist Mason Jones.

Mason, from Kinston, North Carolina, creates unique pieces of art using his own handmade quills and historic inks. Mason will discuss what YOU want him to draw and will deliver up to an 8x10 image. You will own the original!

Mason is an avid historian and is dedicated to helping preserve the threatened parts of the Kinston battlefield. He regularly reenacts with the 7th North Carolina State Troops as well as volunteering at the CSS Neuse II and Tryon Palace.

Thank you for supporting the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table. Raffle proceeds benefit the Roundtable directly and are an important source of income for us. We try to get some good prizes that make our members appreciative.



Artist Mason Jones above. Raffle winners at the January meeting (l to r), John Moore, winner of the guided tour of the Averasboro Battlefield; Jack Berry, Mike Budziszewski, and Milton Krivokuca, winners of the book raffle. Congratulations! (Photo of raffle winners by Kim Jordan.)

# “ALWAYS ON DUTY”

159th Anniversary  
Living History Event

March 16,  
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10-4pm

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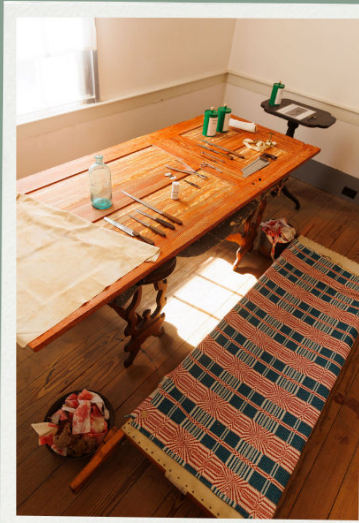
Featuring:



National  
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BENTONVILLE  
BATTLEFIELD

Preserve - Educate - Explore





Cape Fear Round Table, you're invited

# Gettysburg Trip

September 19-22

Hosted by Cleveland CWRT

Stay tuned for more information about this upcoming trip to Gettysburg.

We thank our sponsors, who make it possible for us to thrive as an organization. It would be much harder without their support!

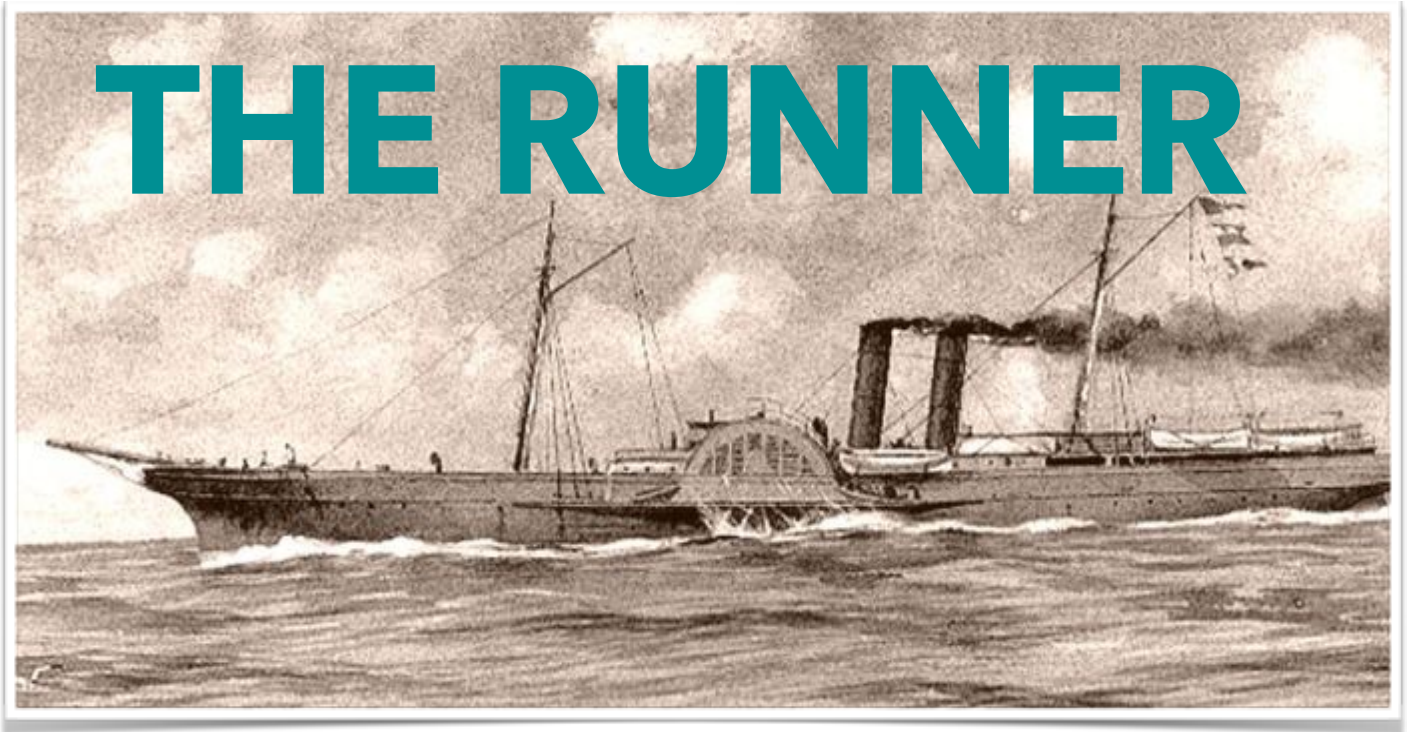


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The official newsletter of the Cape Fear Civil War Roundtable

## January Program to Feature Fort Fisher Visitor Center Project

By Bill Jayne, CFCWRT President

The January meeting of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table features a presentation by Jim Steele about the new Fort Fisher visitors center and other projects at the state's most visited historic site. The presentation is scheduled for Thursday evening, January 11, at centrally located St. John's Episcopal Church in Midtown Wilmington near Independence Mall. Doors open at 6:30 and the meeting begins at 7:00 p.m.

Jim Steele has been manager of Fort Fisher State Historic Site for 16 years. He came here from South Carolina, where he was a state park ranger managing the Rivers Bridge battlefield. Jim is a veteran of the U.S. Navy, and earned both his bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of South Carolina.

Jim's presentation will be about the new Fort Fisher visitor center and other improvements, and the journey it took to get from the idea phase of this project to the construction phase.

A new interpretive center is coming to Fort Fisher State Historic Site in Kure Beach. Nearly three times larger than its 1965 predecessor, the new center will welcome more than a million

## Membership Report

By Bruce Patterson  
CFCWRT Secretary

The end of the calendar year gives us an opportunity to review our procedures and examine statistics related to membership and attendance. Although we lost several members who chose not to renew or who had simply aged out, we also gained back several members who had departed years ago and were, thankfully, able to rejoin and become active once again.

We are grateful for each and every member and through our active recruiting and renewal procedures, maintain a relatively consistent membership. We are additionally heartened by the fact that our per capita attendance remains at a very respectable level. Recall please, that every member is also a recruiter. Please bring friends and/or neighbors to future a meeting.

We wrap up 2023 by welcoming **Peter G. Dorosko** (Radian Road, Wilmington) to the round table. Great to have Peter aboard.

Looking forward to 2024, please recall that *your month of renewal* is listed on your name tag. You may renew on-line, at the next meeting or by mailing your check (\$30.) to **Treasurer Mike McDonald at CFCWRT, 8387 East Highcroft NE, Leland, NC 29451.**

annual visitors and showcase museum exhibits about the history of Fort Fisher. In addition, the Underwater Archaeology Branch of the Office of State Archaeology will receive a new conservation lab.

These projects were in the planning stage for many years, but it took a long time for full funding to be secured for both projects. The Friends of Fort Fisher, Inc., the historic site's official support group, has been instrumental in the planning and in obtaining funding. The project budget is approximately \$25.5 million, most of which has been appropriated over several budget years. Work began in late 2022.

Plans are also in place to reconstruct a portion of Fort Fisher's earthen ramparts that were demolished during World War II for the construction of an airstrip. Much of the gigantic fort that guarded the "new inlet" entrance the Cape Fear River has been eroded by the ocean. It was an L-shaped fort with about one mile of fortifications on the sea face and one-third of a mile on the land face. Known as the "Gibraltar of the South," it was the key to maintaining access to the port of Wilmington for the blockade runners that provided critical supplies for the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia.

Jim explained, "A new interpretive center and restored earthworks will be welcome additions to Fort Fisher. The exhibits will cover Fort Fisher history in a broad, all-inclusive manner and feature something for every visitor. Visitation at Fort Fisher now exceeds one million visitors a year, and it is time for facilities that can accommodate such crowds and for historical interpretation that sets new standards in museum exhibits and scholarship."



Located at [1610 Fort Fisher Blvd S, Kure Beach, N.C. 28449](#), Fort Fisher is part of the Division of State Historic Sites in the N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (NCDNCR), the state agency with a vision to be the leader in using the state’s natural and cultural resources to build the social, cultural, educational, and economic future of North Carolina. “In 2021, we finally exceeded 1 million visitors,” Jim said.



That number clearly wasn’t in mind when the site’s visitor center was designed more than a half-century ago. The center, which has been sitting since 1965 at the entrance to the historic site at the southern end of Pleasure Island in New



Hanover County, was designed for 25,000 visitors a year.

The project includes a new center, three times larger than the current building, to house updated exhibits in an open, airy indoor space that will offer views of the natural, picturesque landscape strategically located near the mouth of the Cape Fear River at the Atlantic Ocean.

There will be a 120-person capacity multipurpose room available to rent, a gift shop overlooking the fort’s earthworks, a second-story balcony, a theater that will sit 100 people, and a changeable exhibit gallery of artifacts from the North Carolina Underwater Archeology Center.

The underwater archeology center, or UAC, is housed at Fort Fisher in a series of buildings, some built during World War II. A new lab is also under construction several yards from the visitor center.

The lab is not open to the public.



The new visitor center and archaeology facility carry a price tag of \$25.5 million, funds primarily secured through state budget appropriations.

The project also includes reconstruction of a series of Civil War-era mounds on the land face. To clear the site for a runway, the Army bulldozed three of the mounds after activating Fort Fisher as a training base during World War II. A fourth mound was taken out during construction of U.S. 421, which ends at the N.C. Department of Transportation’s Fort Fisher ferry terminal.

The idea is to tell a complete and inclusive history of Fort Fisher, one where reconstructed underground bunkers will give visitors a real sense life in a Confederate fort, one built of mostly earth and sand by soldiers and more than 500 free and enslaved African Americans.

Construction of the visitor center is expected to be complete in mid- to late May 2024. Once the building is open to the public, the current center is to be torn down.

As usual, the meeting will be held in Elebash Hall at the rear of St. John’s Episcopal at 1219 Forest Hills Drive in Wilmington. The church parking lot and entrance to the meeting room is easily accessed via Park Avenue off of Independence Boulevard. See you there!

We rely on the submission of content to the Runner to fill it up every month. Whether it’s an article on an aspect of the Civil War you’re interested in, a book review, or even a description of a site you visited, original writing by Roundtable members is what fills our pages. Please consider submitting something.



## Area Historical Association Events

By Yelena Howell, Tours and Trips Committee

**Tuesday, January 2, through Tuesday, January 9. Bellamy Mansion Museum** closed to the public for restoration work. Please visit the website for updates: <https://www.bellamymansion.org/calendar-of-events.html>

**Friday, January 5, 2-3:30 p.m. New Hanover County Public Library, Main Branch, Harnett Room. Senior Game Day.** 201 Chestnut St., Wilmington. Board games and refreshments. Ages 55+. Cost: free. Registration encouraged. Contact: Frances (910) 798-6347 or see <https://libcal.nhcgov.com/event/11674114>

**Saturday, January 6, or Saturday, January 20, 8-9 pm. Latimer House,** 126 South 3rd St., Wilmington. **Night tour** featuring gaslight and a scholarly discussion of the history and functions of gas lighting. Tickets are \$20: <https://latimerhouse.org/events/>

**Sunday, January 7, 3-7 pm. Cameron Art Museum,** 3201 South 17th St., Wilmington. **Floating Lantern Ceremony.** A tremendously popular event to honor and remember those who have meant a lot to us with a floating light to grace the pond on the property. Lantern sleeves are available now for purchase at the Visitor Services Desk during regular museum hours (\$15 for CAM members/ \$20 for Not-Yet Members). <https://cameronartmuseum.org/event/floating-lantern-ceremony/>

**Friday, January 12, 9-1030 am, Burgwin-Wright House,** 224 Market St., Wilmington. **Hunter Ingram** presents his **Cape Fear Legends and Lore Walking Tour**, a lively exploration of select downtown sites of historic interest. Tickets \$20 (+tax) ea. Please call (910) 762-0570 to reserve your spot.

**Friday, January 12, 5:30 pm. New Hanover County Public Library Book Sale** begins at the **Northeast Branch,** 1241 Military Cutoff Rd, Wilmington. **Members only Friday 5:30-9 pm** (can join at the door for \$20). Hardbacks \$3, paperbacks \$2, no AV items. Non-members welcome on **Saturday, January 13, 10 am-5 pm** and **Sunday, January 14, 10 am-5 pm.**

**Saturday, January 13, 10 am-12 pm. Cameron Art Museum,** 3201 South 17th St., Wilmington. Kid-friendly celebration of the **birthday and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.** Historian Daniel Jones will lead a family tour of the Boundless sculpture. To register: <https://cameronartmuseum.org/event/mlk-weekend-kidscam/>

**Thursday, January 18, 7-8 pm. Cameron Art Museum,** 3201 South 17th St., Wilmington. **Joel Cook**, historian, archaeologist, and host of the award-winning PBS NC series "Rogue History" will deliver the **first of the Boundless Lecture and Conversation Series.** To register: <https://cameronartmuseum.org/event/illustrated-lecture-with-joel-cook/>

Continued on next page.

Happy New Year 2024 to each of you! Many area historic organizations are taking January to regroup, re-energize and plan for the months to come. Please feel free to check in with them individually and monitor CFCWRT's Facebook page for additional announcements. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1696952227331256>

## “Hold the Date” for These Upcoming Speakers

### February 8

#### Chris Mackowski—The Battle for Jackson, MS

Nationally known speaker, founder of “Emerging Civil War,” prolific author, Professor Mackowski talks about the 1863 battle for Mississippi’s capital, part of the Vicksburg campaign.



### March 14

#### Sarah Kay Bierle—From California to Gettysburg The Hancock Family

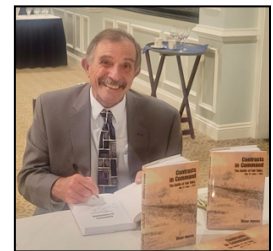
Author, speaker, and researcher focusing on the American Civil War. Sarah graduated from Thomas Edison State University with a BA in History, she is managing editor at Emerging Civil War, and works in the Educational Department of the American Battlefield Trust. Much of Sarah’s research focuses on real people and their trials and successes of everyday life, and the Winfield Scott Hancock family is a prime example.



### April 11

#### Victor Vignola—Contrasts in Command; The Battle of Fair Oaks, 1862

Vic Vignola, a lifelong student of the Civil War, has written articles for publication in “North and South Magazine” and *Contrasts in Command* is his first book. The book is listed as one of Top 10 Books reviewed in 2023 by the highly regarded [Civil War Books and Authors](#) site. Vic graduated from SUNY-New Paltz with a degree in economics and business. He lives with his family in Orange County, New York, home of the 124th New York Infantry “Orange Blossoms” Regiment. The battle of Fair Oaks/Seven Pines has been little studied although it was a large, bloody, pivotal battle on the outskirts of Richmond that saw Joseph Johnston fail to defeat a section of McClellan’s army dangerously exposed and cut off by flooded rivers and streams. Johnston not only failed, he was wounded and gave way to Robert E. Lee in command of the main Confederate army.



### May 9

#### Angela Zombek—Key West: Union Stronghold

Angela Zombek will speak to us about the subject of her latest book—*Stronghold of the Union: Key West Under Martial Law* which will be published by The University Press of Florida. Dr.

Zombek is a Copie Hill Civil War Fellow with the American Battlefield Trust and an assistant professor of history, Civil War Era, at UNCW. She holds a PhD in 19th Century U.S. History from the University of Florida. Key West was held by the Union from early in the war and became a valuable key in the control of shipping lanes.



## December Meeting Featured Talk on the Common Soldier

By B.R. Scurry, Correspondent



Our December 14 meeting featured Dr. Ev Smith’s very professional overview of the lives of “Billy Yank” and “Johnny Reb” in the Civil War. Replete with viewings of Dr. Smith’s authentic period weapons including various swords, a revolver, a muzzle loading rifle musket and a breech loading rifle, the presentation covered uniforms, tactics, weapons and logistics.

Dr. Smith earned his Ph.D. at UNC Chapel Hill and completed a career with NC state government. He is very much involved in historic preservation in Wilmington and was one of the key movers in the preservation of the WWII era USO building on Second Street.

In addition, USMC Gunnery Sergeant Peter Keen, an avid reenactor of Civil War through Vietnam War scenarios brought a sample of his Union uniforms and accouterments, including many uniform pieces handmade to exacting authentic standards.

We also welcomed new member Peter Dorosko.



Editor’s Note: In an effort to keep the Runner as timely as possible, events scheduled to take place several months in the future may be held for a later issue when Roundtable members are more likely to remember them. Bigger events may be run sooner.

## A Visit to the Levin Cole House in Johnston County

By Fred Claridge, Runner Editor

These are pictures of the ruins of the Levin Cole farmhouse on Battlefield Road in Johnston County - not far from the Bentonville Battlefield. They were taken recently. Much older pictures are also included here.



Levin Cole was a slave until he was freed. He might have been freed either during or right after the battle. Or perhaps he became emancipated later, when the war ended.

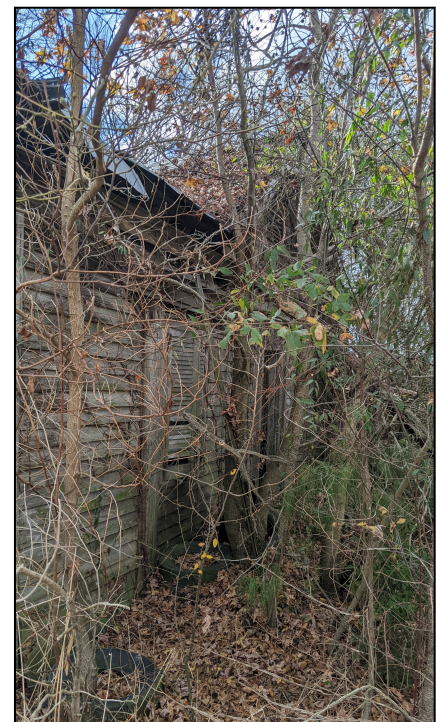
Unfortunately, not much detail is known about Cole's life. An extensive internet search doesn't provide much information or many leads. Records, even birth and census records, are sometimes conflicting, inaccurate or incomplete for slaves and former slaves. In some cases, they never existed. A couple of us from the battlefield did find some information however at the Johnston County Historical Society in Smithfield. The director there was very helpful. There are a few records contained in various volumes in the Society's library about the Cole house and farm. Other records show his family tree.

Cole married Harriet Morris. Both the white Cole and Morris families had farms near the battlefield, so it's likely that both Levin and Harriet were slaves

on those respective farms. As per custom, they took their owners last names. Together, Levin and Harriet had either seven or nine children, depending on the source reviewed. Famous descendants of the Coles (through marriage) include Theolonius Monk, the revered jazz musician, and Art Monk, the Hall of Fame receiver for the Washington Redskins during their championship years.

The Cole house was most likely built in the early 1870s according to a report by Cole's great grandson O.V. Cogdell. An early drawing of the floorplan of the house exists (it's impossible to know exactly when it was done) that shows a single story with a porch and three main rooms. An "L" addition to the house was completed later. The drawing also documents the planting of an oak tree on the site in 1872.

According to a book on historic Johnston County architecture, the Cole farmhouse was considered the oldest and most



substantial dwelling built by a former slave still standing in the county when the book was published in 2016.



There are also some copies of agricultural records of the Cole farm at the Historical Association, completed in 1880. The farm consisted of 120 acres, sixty of them tilled for crops, and sixty which remained as woodland and forest. Of the tilled acres, twenty acres were planted with Indian corn, one acre with wheat, ten acres with peas, four acres with cotton, one acre with sweet potatoes, one acre with forty apple trees, and one acre with forty peach trees. Ten acres were devoted to wood products. The farm was considered successful and Cole is thought to have become a well-to-do businessman in the community.

A cemetery not far from the house serves as a family plot. It's the final resting place for Levin and Harriet who were both buried there in the early 1900s. Other family members are buried there as well. There are twenty-two graves in all.



Unfortunately, like many older dwellings and buildings on the backroads of North Carolina, the Cole farmhouse is gradually being overtaken by nature and the elements. It's relatively structurally intact, but hard to get close to because of all the vegetation growing up around it. The "L" section is no longer there. Nor is the porch. But the condition of the house doesn't negate the fact that for many years it served as the residence and workplace of former slaves who did their

best to live a productive life with their family in post-war North Carolina. No doubt they worked very hard their entire lives.

Descendants of the Cole family still live in the area, including one who lives directly in front of the cemetery.

Places like this remind us that history is all around us. Sometimes you have to look a little bit to find it. Maybe hike some. Or even move a few branches. But it's there nonetheless and still has much to teach us.



We thank our sponsors, who make it possible for us to thrive as an organization. It would be much harder without their support!

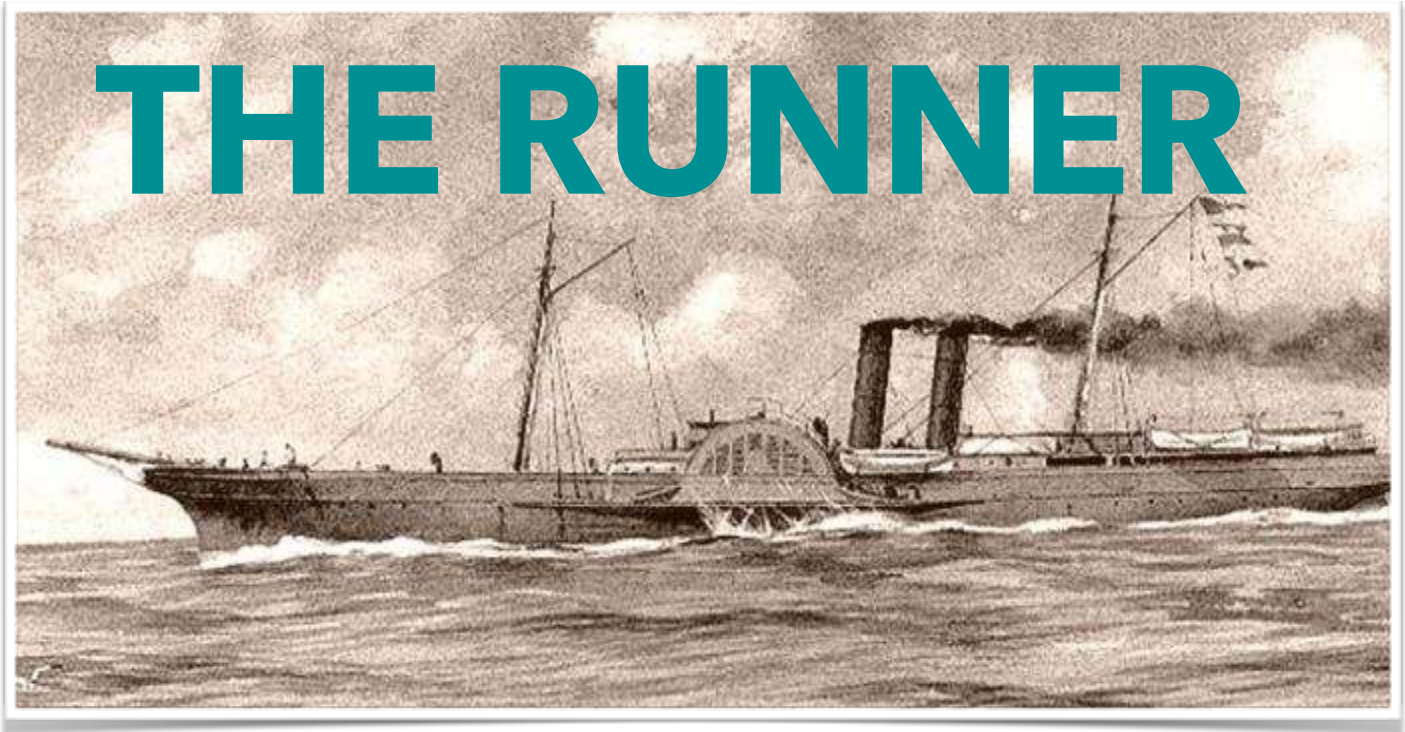


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The official newsletter of the Cape Fear Civil War Roundtable

## December Program to Feature Dr. Everard Smith on “Civil Warriors”

By Bill Jayne, CFCWRT President

The December meeting of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table features a presentation by Dr. Everard Smith, Ph.D., titled “Civil Warriors.” The presentation is scheduled for Thursday evening, December 14, at centrally located St. John’s Episcopal Church in Midtown Wilmington near Independence Mall. Doors open at 6:30 and the meeting begins at 7:00 p.m.

Local historian, former UNCW professor, and Round Table favorite, Dr. Everard Smith returns to our Round Table with another fascinating presentation on a totally new topic. Ev will focus on the volunteer soldier and some of the things he used and experienced in his everyday Army life. The presentation will be an overview of weapons, uniforms, tactics, medicine, and camp life of both sides including a display of a few actual relics.



A native of Washington, D.C., Dr. Smith received his B.A. degree from Yale and his Ph.D. in history from UNC Chapel Hill. From 1991 to 1993, he was a senior administrative officer and adjunct professor of history at UNCW. From 1994 until his retirement in 2015, he was employed

## Membership Report

By Bruce Patterson  
CFCWRT Secretary

Since our last report, members not only enjoyed our regular November meeting (reviewed elsewhere), but also a visit to the ***Wilmington Railroad Museum***. The museum event was a special evening during which members enjoyed a discussion of the *Wilmington and Weldon Railroad* (Circa 1864-65) that linked Wilmington to Confederate General Lee's forces entrenched around Petersburg Virginia in the waning days of that great conflict. A wine and deli table enhanced a most delightful event that included a museum tour coupled with an opportunity to view the museum's extensive model train operation.

We are always pleased to welcome new members and we did so at the November meeting. Mother-son duo, **Kim and Roman Berger** join us from the *Riverhead CWRT* (Riverhead, LI, NY) and now reside in Leland (Magnolia at Mallory Creek). **Nick Savastano**, a Brunswick CWRT member and residing in Southport, joins us as well. Welcome aboard folks!

A reminder that ***all members are recruiters***. Should your membership be up for renewal, please send your \$30 annual dues to **Treasurer Mike McDonald at CFCWRT, 8387 East Highcroft NE, Leland, NC 29451**.

by the North Carolina Department of Information Technology as a senior networking analyst for voice, video, and data.

Dr. Smith's service to the community includes membership on the Wilmington Historic Preservation Commission; on the Preservation Action committee of the Historic Wilmington Foundation; and on the City Council-appointed Advisory Board of the Hannah Block Historic USO Building and Community Arts Center, of which he was the chairman. He is a frequent public speaker on the Civil War and WWII periods, and has often conducted local history tours for visiting cruise ship passengers and other tourist groups. An active preservationist, Dr. Smith was a leader in the local movement to preserve the Hannah Block Building when it was endangered in the 1990s. He is the owner of the Larkins House, a 170-year-old home on Dock Street in the downtown Historic District.

Abner Small, a private in the 16th Maine Infantry, wrote a diary with a wealth of detail about soldier life in the Union's Army of the Potomac. He wrote that the regulation load of a Union infantryman was 58 pounds of "Army essentials." He also noted that uniforms came in only two sizes and that if you were a small man, you were to be "pitied," and if you were a big man, you were to be pitied "even more."

A haversack, carried over the shoulder, "often stinks with its mixture of bacon, pork, salt junk [usually salted beef], sugar, coffee, tea, desiccated vegetables, rice, bits of yesterday's dinner, and old scraps husbanded with miserly care against a day of want sure to come."

Shoes often wore out after hard marching and heavy items such as an overcoat or shelter half were thrown away. This phenomenon affected both sides to a great degree but Confederates relied more heavily on state governments for supplies such as uniforms so some units fared better than others.



There were no “miracle” fabrics to make uniforms more comfortable and durable and accouterments relied heavily on leather and metal. Rifled muskets were difficult to reload and not really all that accurate, especially since few soldiers received anything like systematic training in marksmanship. The most common weapon was a Springfield Model 1861 that was 56 inches long. The average soldier was about 5’7” or 5’8” tall. The rifle weighed about nine pounds.

Dr. Smith will fill the audience in on what camp life was like for the Civil War soldier and how battles were fought.

As usual, the meeting will be held in Elebash Hall at the rear of St. John’s Episcopal at 1219 Forest Hills Drive in Wilmington. The church parking lot and entrance to the meeting room is easily accessed via Park Avenue off of Independence Boulevard. See you there!



A Confederate soldier on the left and a Union soldier on the right. Dr. Smith’s lecture will focus on the lives of ordinary soldiers, including camp life and what it was like to fight in battle. It should be a very interesting evening, leaving attendees with a better “feel” for what these men really experienced.

## Area Historical Association Events

By Yelena Howell, Tours and Trips Committee

**Saturday, December 2, 4-8 pm. In Heavenly Peace: Bentonville Christmas Open House.** 5466 Harper House Rd., Four Oaks. Come tour the home of John and Amy Harper as it may have appeared after the conclusion of the Civil War. Refreshments, music, a hayride and an ornament to paint and take home! \$5 admission, free for kids 8 and under. Contact: Colby Lipscomb, (910) 594-0789 or [bentonvillebattlefield@gmail.com](mailto:bentonvillebattlefield@gmail.com)

**Saturday, December 2, and Sunday, December 3. Old Wilmington by Candlelight 2023.** A festive self-paced tour of select historic downtown properties. Tickets are \$50 and cover both days: <https://latimerhouse.org/event/old-wilmington-candlelight-tour-2/>

**Saturday, December 2, 9 am-12 pm or 1-4 pm. Bentonville Battlefield Tour with Col. Wade Sokolosky.** For information or to reserve your spot for these excellent walking tours, contact Wade at (252) 646-5553 or [nchistoricaltours@gmail.com](mailto:nchistoricaltours@gmail.com)

**Thursday, December 7, 4 pm. Volunteer Open House at the Bellamy Mansion.** 503 Market St., Wilmington. Contact: [jfenninger@bellamymansion.org](mailto:jfenninger@bellamymansion.org)

**Friday, December 8, 4-7 pm. A Light in the Darkest of Night.** Brunswick Town/Fort Anderson State Historic Site. 8884 St. Philip's Rd., Winnabow. A free self-guided tour of decorated ruins of St. Philip's. Gift shop will be open. Contact: Makayla Coley at (910) 371-6613 or [makayla.coley@ncdcr.gov](mailto:makayla.coley@ncdcr.gov)

**Sunday, December 10, 1-5:30 pm. An 18<sup>th</sup> Century Christmas.** Brunswick Town/Fort Anderson State Historic Site. 8884 St. Philip's Rd., Winnabow. Refreshments, games, crafts, candlelit service 5-5:30. \$5 admission, free for kids 12 and under. Tickets:

<https://friends-of-brunswick-townfort-anderson.square.site/upcoming-events?fbclid=IwAR3ZgDdLZ6KHXf4LbBLN05HnqQAqCSqCavcRitORkUCIHh7iHx-Fx0VZ2GA>

**Wednesday, December 13, evening. Cape Fear Revolutionary War Table Holiday Program.** Please stay tuned for details on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/CapeFearRevolutionaryWarRoundTable> or contact [CFRWRT@gmail.com](mailto:CFRWRT@gmail.com)

**Saturday, December 16, 8-9 pm. Latimer House Night Tour.** 126 S. 3rd Street, Wilmington. \$20: <https://latimerhouse.org/event/latimer-house-night-tour-2/2023-12-16/>

**Monday, December 18, 6 pm-until. Federal Point Historic Preservation Society Annual Christmas Potluck Dinner.** 112 N. Lake Park Blvd., Carolina Beach. Contact: [info@federal-point-history.org](mailto:info@federal-point-history.org)

**Wednesday, December 20 through Friday, December 22, 5-8 pm nightly. A free Christmas walk-through the Bellamy Mansion.** 503 Market St., Wilmington.

**Friday, December, 22, 7:30 pm. A Classical Christmas at St. James Episcopal Church.** 25 S 3rd St., Wilmington. Come experience beautiful seasonal musical selections at our town's oldest church. <https://www.stjamesp.org/blog/a-classical-christmas/?occurrence=1746>

## In November, the Roundtable Enjoyed Ed Lowe’s Lively Presentation about Longstreet’s Missed Opportunity

By S.R. Gist, Runner Correspondent

Our November 9 meeting featured a fast-paced lively exposition of the little studied campaign of Confederate Lt. General James Longstreet in eastern Tennessee in the waning days of 1863. Col. Ed Lowe told how, after playing a key role in Gen. Braxton Bragg’s smashing victory at Chickamauga, Longstreet and two divisions from the Army of Northern Virginia were detached from Bragg’s Army of Tennessee on a mission to wrest control of Eastern Tennessee from the Union command of Major General Ambrose Burnside.

Lowe, author of *A Fine Opportunity Lost: Longstreet’s East Tennessee Campaign, November 1863-April 1864*, explained that for a number of reasons, including bad weather and challenging terrain, Longstreet failed in his mission and East Tennessee, strongly pro-Union, was preserved from Confederate control.

Col. Lowe, U.S. Army (ret) is a graduate of the U.S. Command and General Staff College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, and his analysis was very instructive in terms of better understanding the many failures of Civil War campaigns. His analysis of the ill will and poor coordination between Longstreet and his subordinate commanders—Lafayette McLaws, Evander Law and Micah Jenkins led to many missed opportunities.

We also welcomed new members Roman and Kim Berger and Nicholas Savastano.

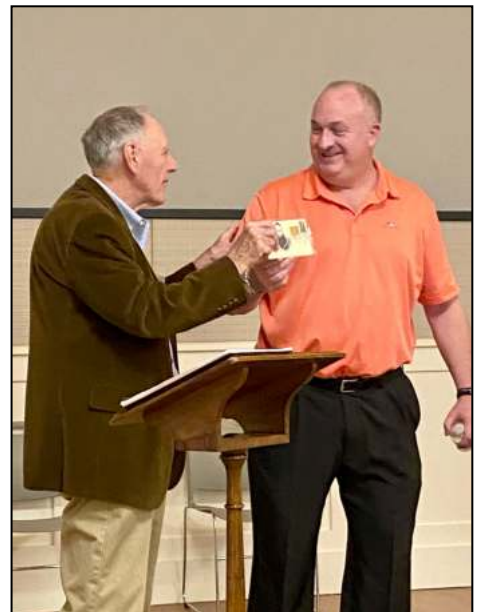




More pictures from the November meeting. As our Roundtable Secretary Bruce Patterson pointed out in a few sentences that had to be cut for space (sorry Bruce), the Elebash Hall in the Saint John's Episcopal Church at 1209 Forest Hills Drive in Wilmington is a very comfortable meeting place. There's plenty of parking and easy access.

As Bruce also pointed out (in more sentences that had to be cut), you may also pay membership renewals by credit card at <http://www.cfcwrt.org> or simply bring your check or cash to the December 13th meeting. We welcome early renewals.

Hope to see you in December!



## Who was James Longstreet?

By Bill Jayne, CFCWRT President

Harold Knudsen, who spoke to our roundtable in September 2022, was one of many who attended a festival of sorts marking the 30th anniversary of the release of the movie “Gettysburg.” The Ted Turner financed movie, based on Michael Shaara’s novel, *Gods and Generals*, has become one of the most well-known artistic representations of the American Civil War.

Lt. Col. Knudsen, USA (ret) is the author of *The Confederacy’s Most Modern General* about Lt. Gen. James Longstreet, the commander of the I Corps of the Army of Northern Virginia. Famously, Shaara’s novel and the “Gettysburg” film portray Longstreet in a pivotal role as the obedient but reluctant commander of the Confederate forces that assailed Little Round Top on the second day of the battle instead of moving around the flank of the position and then charge across wide open field to assault the center of the Union line on the third day.

Last month, we heard Col. Ed Lowe, USA (ret) talk again about Longstreet and his “opportunity lost” in Eastern Tennessee at the end of 1863. The exciting thing about looking again at the controversies, personalities and failed operations that characterized the Civil War is the fact that we continue to learn more about the history of this most pivotal event in our American saga.

In addition to Harold Knudsen’s book about Longstreet’s modern qualities and Ed Lowe’s soon to be released book about Longstreet in Eastern Tennessee, Cory M. Pfarr has written the recently published *Righting the Longstreet Record at Gettysburg: Six Matters of Controversy and Confusion*.

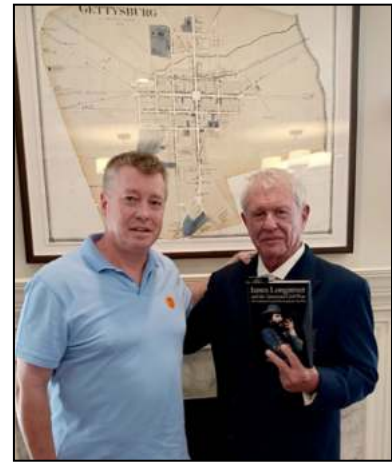
Why is Longstreet “suddenly” such a prevalent subject of Civil War scholarship? Elizabeth R. Varon, a professor of History at the University of Virginia has recently written *Longstreet: The Confederate General Who Defied the South, a biography of Longstreet*, a book that focuses a great deal of attention on Longstreet’s post-war life and does a lot to tie together the war and its aftermath, “Reconstruction.”

In a fine interview on the Abraham Lincoln Book Shop’s YouTube channel, Professor Varon discussed her book that was just released prior to Thanksgiving. One point she made resonated with me. She explained how the digitalization of sources ranging from newspapers and letters to official records has revolutionized research. Merely by typing “Longstreet” into a search function on, say, an archive of digitized historic newspapers, one can get a wealth of information that was literally buried in the past.

For example, she talked about the Longstreet who—while he firmly supported the idea of trying to engineer a battle fought on the tactical defensive—did not “sabotage” victory at Gettysburg by his reluctance to launch offensive assaults on strong Union positions. A search of southern newspapers after Gettysburg showed Longstreet was not scapegoated for the defeat at the time.

So, by looking longer and harder at the life and career of James Longstreet, perhaps we can come to a better understanding of how the north won the Civil War and also how Reconstruction unraveled in the years after the war.

*In the photo accompanying the article, Harold Knudsen, author of *James Longstreet: The Confederacy's Most Modern General*, poses with Tom Berenger, the actor who portrayed Longstreet in the 1993 movie "Gettysburg."*




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## Brunswick Civil War Roundtable Event to Showcase Photos

### Civil War Photo Extravaganza!

Join Garry Adelman, chief historian at the American Battlefield Trust for a lively photography presentation covering all manner of Civil War events, people and places. Through then-and-now photographs, extreme zooms that examine the details buried deep inside the photos, and other techniques, Mr. Adelman will tell the story of the Civil War and its aftermath through the intensive and revolutionary wet-plate photography process and the truly unique individuals involved in the birth of photojournalism. He'll be sure to bust the most pervasive Civil War photography myths, answer your questions, and more!

### Bio: Garry E. Adelman

A graduate of Michigan State University and Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania, Garry Adelman is the award-winning author, co-author, or editor of 20 books and 50 Civil War articles. He is the award-winning author, co-author or editor of *Gettysburg in 3-D* (2013) *Antietam in 3-D* (2012), *Manassas Battlefields Then & Now* (2011), *The Civil War 150* (2011) *Antietam: Then & Now* (2005), *The Myth of Little Round Top* (2003), *The Early Gettysburg Battlefield* (2001), *Little Round Top: A Detailed Tour Guide* (2000), and *Devil's Den: A History and Guide* (1997) as well as nine Civil War image booklets. He is the vice president of the Center for Civil War Photography and has been a Licensed Battlefield Guide at Gettysburg since 1995. He has conceived and drafted the text for wayside exhibits at ten battlefields, has given thousands of battlefield tours at more than 70 American Revolution and Civil War sites, and has lectured at hundreds of locations across the country including the National Archives, the Library of Congress and the Smithsonian. He has appeared as a speaker on the BBC, C-Span, Pennsylvania Cable Network, American Heroes Channel, and on HISTORY where he was a chief consultant and talking head on the Emmy Award-winning show *Gettysburg* (2011), *Blood and Glory: The Civil War in Color* (2015), *Grant* (2020), and *Battles America* (2022). He works full time as Chief Historian at the American Battlefield Trust.

**See the next page for more details about this event.**

**Date: Tuesday, Dec 5th at Hatch Auditorium, Caswell Beach**  
**Registration: 6:30 pm**  
**Program starts at 7 pm.**  
**All non-members will pay the \$10 guest member fee.**

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## From the Bentonville Battlefield Facebook Page

Harper House Restoration Update 11/14/2023

Following a rigorous process of sanding and testing to ensure the highest quality work is being done, the restoration process is finally moving forward with painting the historic Harper House, beginning with primer. This process has taken a while because the restoration is being held to a very high standard of long-term preservation.

We continue to offer guided tours of the Harper House daily at 10:00, 12:00, 2:00, 4:00. Tickets are only \$2 for adults and \$1 for children (ages 5-12) and seniors (age 55+).

Come see us soon and follow us for more updates!



Editor's Note: The Harper House will look as it did during the Battle of Bentonville when the painting is finished. New windows and repaired and repainted shutters will also be a part of the renovation. The house is in remarkably good shape for having been built in 1855. Guided tours of the house are still available during much of the renovation work and are held four times a day at 10, Noon, 2 and 4.

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## Cape Fear Civil War Roundtable

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 Newsletter: Fred Claridge [frdclar@gmail.com](mailto:frdclar@gmail.com)



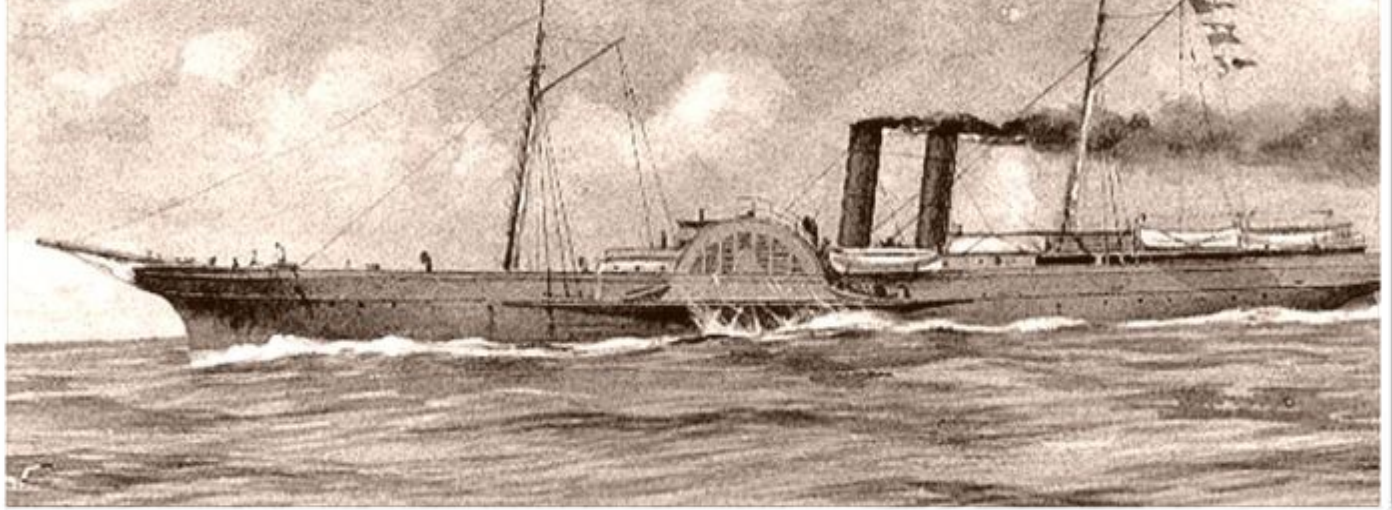


“Christmas Eve” by Thomas Nast published in the January 3, 1863 issue of Harpers Weekly magazine.





# THE RUNNER



The official newsletter of the Cape Fear Civil War Roundtable

## The History and Importance of Civil War Roundtables

By Bill Jayne, CFCWRT President

We often hear that there's a dichotomy between "Civil War Nerds," and those who are just "fans," that is members who are simply interested in the subject. Nerds know all the campaigns and battles, when they were fought, where, who the leaders were, what was the result. Fans don't want to have to rely on having all that information in their heads, they just want to hear an interesting, informative story.

In my mind, regardless of whether you think you're a "nerd" or a "fan" the Civil War Round Table is for you. Program Director Jim Gannon has an article in this newsletter about how we put together our slate of speakers, our "program" for the upcoming months. We try to get speakers who are not only knowledgeable and authoritative - "nerds" - but also entertaining.



When the Civil War Round Table movement started in December 1940, it was probably tilted more toward the nerd side of the scale. It's an interesting history and, I think, enlightening. Ralph G. Newman was "a master raconteur, minor league baseball player, Lincoln scholar, manuscript appraiser, prominent civic leader and hopeless bibliophile." He founded the renowned Abraham Lincoln Book Shop

## Membership Report

By Bruce Patterson  
CFCWRT Secretary

Our membership roll remains pretty constant with two (really three) members joining in October.

We welcome **Chris Langlois** (Leland, Waterford) to our membership. Chris became an active participant immediately, by managing the raffle and stacking chairs at meeting conclusion, at his first meeting.

We are also pleased to announce that long-time -ago members, **Mike** and **Karen Budziszewski** (Wilmington, Beau Rivage) have rejoined the round table. **Mike**, many will recall, was Vice President of the CFCWRT, a decade or more ago. **Karen**, likewise, was active in the organization and was at the forefront when refreshments were served. Welcome home **Mike** and **Karen**.

A reminder folks that your name tag now reflects the month of your due's renewal. Just send your \$30 check to **Treasurer Mike McDonald at CFCWRT, 8387 East Highcroft NE, Leland, NC 28451**. You may also pay online by credit card at <http://wwwcfcwrt.org> or better still, just bring your cash or check to the November 9th meeting and give it to Treasurer **Mike**.

Remember, *every member is a recruiter*, so bring a friend or neighbor to our November meeting. We have ample parking and seating !

Editor's Note: Thanks to Bruce for these monthly updates!

in Chicago. By the way, the book shop has a fascinating YouTube channel with author interviews and other talks about Civil War subjects.

The Chicago Civil War Round Table is still going strong. And no wonder. It started off with historians such as Carl Sandburg, Bruce Catton and T. Harry Williams among the group who met for dinner and then listened to a presentation on Stonewall Jackson's Valley Campaign.

The round table movement continued to grow across the country, and in December 1960, President Dwight D. Eisenhower issued a proclamation asking the American people to take a direct and active part in the Centennial of the Civil War (1961-65) to commemorate a conflict he called the country's "most tragic experience." During the Centennial, the round table movement grew exponentially.

Ike requested all federal, state and local government agencies "to encourage, foster and participate in the Centennial" for the "purpose of enriching the knowledge and appreciation of the war," and "marking this memorable period truly a centennial for all Americans." This gets pretty close to our round table's purpose. We are an "association of people with a common interest in the history of the American Civil War and Reconstruction... The Round Table's purpose is to broaden the knowledge, understanding, and interpretation of the era." The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table kicked off in December 1994. It was a time when the Ken Burns PBS documentary and Ted Turner's movie, "Gettysburg," had reignited general interest in the conflict, and, once again, the round table movement grew by leaps and bounds. If Chicago's round table leaned toward the "nerd" side of the equation, the TV and movie phenomena balanced things out and many more fans got involved.

Today, our round table is strong but in order to stay strong, we need everybody so we can bring in speakers who are knowledgeable and entertaining.

It's been a generation since the last big boost to the movement and although we, as a nation, as a people, still grapple with the paramount issues that gave rise to the Civil War, fewer and fewer people seem to be interested in Civil War history or, for that matter, any kind of history.

Times change and the place of historical study in the culture changes, too. New technologies—whether it's ground-penetrating radar or the amazing search capabilities of the computer—keep giving us new perspectives and new information. History is what happened, but we keep finding out more about “what happened.” Memory, on the other hand, is how we think about and interpret what happened.

There's more to do on both fronts and that's why the Civil War is still so important. There are lots of ways to get involved in moving us forward. Send me an email or give me a phone call if you'd like to devote a couple of hours once in a while to helping our club prosper—help us enrich our knowledge and appreciation of the Civil War.

## The Wreaths Across American Campaign - You Can Help

By Bruce Patterson, CFCWRT Secretary

The **Cape Fear Civil War Round Table**, as in years past, has joined in the community-wide effort to place wreaths on the more than 5,000 graves in the Wilmington National Cemetery on Saturday December 16th.

Each wreath costs \$17. Your contribution may be made by check, payable to *Wreaths Across America*, or cash (in multiples of seventeen dollars) to Kim Jordan or Bruce Patterson. We will continue collections at all CWRT activities, including the special program at the Railroad Museum, on Monday 30 October.

Stop by the **Wilmington National Cemetery**, anytime beginning Sunday, December 17th and be inspired by the *community tribute to the fallen military* which dates back to the Civil War era.



## Formidable Civil War Figures from the Eastern Theater Clash in the Mountains of Tennessee

By Bill Jayne, CFCWRT President

This month's meeting of our Cape Fear Civil War Round Table features a presentation by Col. Ed Lowe titled "A Fine Opportunity Lost: Longstreet's East Tennessee Campaign." The presentation is scheduled for Thursday evening, November 9, at centrally located St. John's Episcopal Church in Midtown Wilmington near Independence Mall. Doors open at 6:30 and the meeting begins at 7:00 p.m.

Col. Lowe served 26 years on active duty in the U.S. Army, with deployments to Operation Desert Shield/Storm, Haiti, Afghanistan, and Iraq. He attended North Georgia College and has graduate degrees from California State University, the U.S. Army War College, U.S. Command & General Staff College, and Webster's University. He is an adjunct professor for the University of Maryland/Global Campus and Elizabethtown College, where he teaches history and government. Ed is also president of the Chickamauga-Chattanooga Civil War Round Table.

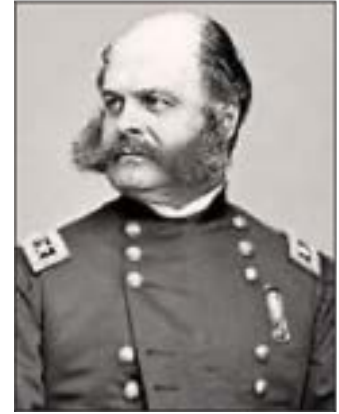


Ed will speak to our round table about Lieutenant General James Longstreet's campaign in East Tennessee in 1863. His book, *A Fine Opportunity Lost: Longstreet's East Tennessee Campaign, November 1863-April 1864*, was recently published by Savas Beatie as part of their "Emerging Civil War" series.

This is a story of personalities and politics as much as it is a story of military operations. From the very beginning of the war, East Tennessee was largely pro-Union. Tennessee was the last state to vote for secession and in the decisive vote in June 1861, 105,000 Tennesseans voted for secession and 47,000 voted against. Those proportions were reversed in East Tennessee where 33,000 citizens voted against secession while only 14,000 voted for secession.

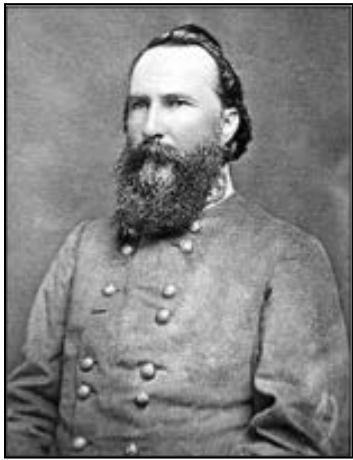
Unlike other slave states with split loyalties—including Missouri, Kentucky and Maryland—the Confederacy controlled the state and, in effect, occupied the mountainous area of East Tennessee. Andrew Johnson was from East Tennessee and he remained in the U.S. Senate after his state's secession. In 1862, when the Union Army had largely re-asserted U.S. control over most of the state, Johnson was named military governor. Yet, wedged in between the Confederate controlled states of Virginia, North Carolina and Georgia, the Confederacy held control in East Tennessee. Like other border states, however, a guerrilla war of sorts made life and security perilous for all sides. Moreover, men from Eastern Tennessee formed approximately 30 Union regiments and fought for the U.S. throughout the war. President Abraham Lincoln, motivated by the paramount requirement to maintain control over the border states and to relieve the suffering of Union supporters in Confederate territory, repeatedly urged his military commanders to reassert control over Eastern Tennessee.

Into this complicated scenario, came two highly significant Civil War personalities in late 1863. Union Major General Ambrose Burnside (whose opulent facial hair gave rise to the term “sideburns”) had been named commander of the Army of the Potomac in late 1862 as the political leadership of the country floundered to find a competent general to lead its most important army in Virginia. Burnside, unfortunately, led the Army of the Potomac to a tragically destructive and futile defeat at Fredericksburg in December 1862. Relieved of command, he was sent west into Kentucky with his IX Corps, and orders to command the “Army of the Ohio” and, along with the XXIII Corps, gain control of Eastern Kentucky. He moved with cautious competence and soon controlled Knoxville and much of the disputed region. As larger armies maneuvered and fought to reduce the Confederate stronghold at Vicksburg, Mississippi, and expel Confederate General Braxton Bragg’s army from southeastern Tennessee, Burnside consolidated control over Eastern Kentucky.



Gen. Ambrose Burnside

The Confederacy’s “most hated general,” Braxton Bragg commanded the Army of Tennessee and after two hard-fought battles in Kentucky and middle Tennessee, found his army maneuvered



Gen. James Longstreet

into the strategic pocket of southeastern Tennessee, the gateway to Atlanta and the deep south. Not only had Bragg failed to control Kentucky and Tennessee for the Confederacy, his subordinate generals had grown to detest the man and worked to undermine his authority. Bragg, however, had the support of Confederate President Jefferson Davis and it was decided to send General James Longstreet and his redoubtable First Corps from the Army of Northern Virginia to Bragg’s Army of Tennessee. The First Corps arrived just in time to play a key role in a smashing Confederate victory at Chickamauga, near the city of Chattanooga. Bragg, however, failed to press his victory to neutralize the Union army in southeastern Tennessee. Dissension in the army continued to fester like an infected wound and Longstreet, too, joined the chorus of influential voices calling for Bragg’s removal.

Davis “rushed” to Tennessee on the south’s inefficient railroad system and ultimately decided to remove Bragg and bring him to Richmond to serve as his military advisor. General Joseph E. Johnston, another Confederate general with a checkered record and a disputatious nature, was named commander of the Army of Tennessee and Longstreet and his troops were given the assignment of ousting Burnside from Eastern Kentucky.

So, in November 1863, Longstreet and Burnside, these two imposing figures from the Eastern Theater were poised to clash as independent commanders in the politically charged region of Eastern Tennessee.



Battle of Fort Sanders, Knoxville, Tennessee


Col. Lowe has studied these two figures and their campaign in depth and will tell the story of their clash. The meeting will be held in Elebash Hall of 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, talk to members of the round table and discover new interests.

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## Brunswick Civil War Roundtable Event

The much-anticipated program by Dwight Hughes, U.S. Naval Academy graduate, author, historian, and frequent speaker on the Civil War Navy will be the guest at the Tuesday, November 7<sup>th</sup> meeting. His presentation is entitled, "The Naval Civil War in Theaters Near and Far." He was originally scheduled for the October 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting but had to cancel but is now rescheduled. The meeting will be held at Hatch Auditorium on Caswell Beach. Everyone is welcome. The visitor fee is \$10 and can be applied toward the \$25 annual membership dues, which may include a spouse. Registration begins at 6:15PM. The program starts at 7:00PM. For more information contact president John Butler at [Brunswickcwr@gmail.com](mailto:Brunswickcwr@gmail.com), or call him at (404) 229-9425. Or go to [Brunswickcivilwarroundtable.com](http://Brunswickcivilwarroundtable.com), or their Facebook page.

Store Sale



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NOV 2023

JOIN US FOR OUR NEXT  
WENDELL STORE SALE

**Saturday, November 4, 2023**  
**Saturday, December 9, 2023**  
**10:00-2:00**

6624 Robertson Pond Road,  
Wendell, NC.

- Note there will be no sale during October, but you're more than welcome to stop by during normal business hours.
- Stay and have lunch with us and enjoy the company of other book collectors.
- Free lunch provided; ample free parking.
- Call ahead to have sets pulled and ready for you.

Thousands of books - out-of-print, new, used, antique, display sets, collection sets, and more!

Hours:  
Wednesday and Friday,  
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

6624 Robertson Pond  
Road, Wendell, NC

Call if you'd like to visit  
while traveling in the  
area.

Store: 919-365-6963  
(Wednesday and Friday)  
or Jean's cell phone: 919-  
604-4519

An excellent selection of  
Books, priced \$5 - \$10 -  
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½ off collectible books.  
Many books marked 75%  
off.

All new vault books

**DIRECTIONS FROM THE WEST OR SOUTH (new bypass)**

Take I-40 to Raleigh, NC, take 440 (the Raleigh Bypass), get off on Hwy. 64 East, go approximately 10 miles and get off at the Wendell Boulevard Exit (Hwy. 64 Business). At the stoplight, turn right and get in the left lane. Go about 1 mile to the first stoplight, turn left on Rolesville Road. In ½ mile, East Wake High School will be on the right. Just past the high school turn right on Robertson Pond Road. Travel 1 ½ miles and look to the right for the Broadfoot sign (Books of Valor).

**DIRECTIONS FROM THE EAST OR NORTH**

Take I-95 to Hwy. 64 West, go approximately 25 miles, take the Rolesville exit. At the stop sign turn right. East Wake High School will be on your right. Just past the high school turn right on Robertson Pond Road. Travel 1 ½ miles and look to the right for the Broadfoot sign (Books of Valor).

## Area Historical Association Events

By Yelena Howell, Tours and Trips Committee

**Friday, November 3, 8 pm to Saturday, November 4, 1 am. Bellamy Mansion Museum.** If you have ever wanted to see the Bellamy at night and/or hunt for ghosts in the mansion, now is your chance! Join Haunted Rooms America on an overnight investigation. Visit <https://www.hauntedrooms.com/> with questions, for more information and to register for this one-night-only event.

**Saturday, November 4, 10-1130 am, Burgwin-Wright House, 224 Market St., Wilmington.** **Hunter Ingram** presents his “**Outlander**” in the **Cape Fear Walking Tour**, an exploration of downtown Wilmington through the events of the book and TV series "Outlander." Tickets \$20 (+tax) ea. Please call (910) 762-0570 to reserve your spot.

**Saturday, November 4, 11 am-4 pm. Brunswick Town/Fort Anderson State Historic Site, 8884 St Phillips Rd SE, Winnabow.** Detonate your leftover pumpkins with the same technology that was used to detonate Civil War-era torpedoes! \$10 fee per pumpkin and BYOP (Bring your own pumpkin). It is free to watch, but YOU get to press the button to detonate if you bring your own! Contact: Makayla Coley at (910) 371-6613 or [makayla.coley@ncdcr.gov](mailto:makayla.coley@ncdcr.gov)

**Saturday, November 4, or Saturday, November 18, 8-9 pm. Latimer House, 126 South Third Street, Wilmington.** Night tour featuring gaslight and a scholarly discussion of the history and functions of gas lighting. Tickets are \$20: <https://latimerhouse.org/event/latimer-house-night-tour/2023-11-04/>

**Saturday, November 11, 10 am-5 pm. Cameron Art Museum, 3201 South 17th St., Wilmington.** **USCT Descendants Homecoming Day.** Dr. Bryant, a Brunswick County native, will discuss his research on USCTs while Daniel Jones will give a Boundless tour. **Oral history short film** will be screened. Free, museum admission applies. Contact CAM: (910) 395-5999

**Saturday, November 11, 2-3 pm, Thalian Hall's City Council Chambers, 102 North 3rd St., Wilmington.** LeRae Umfleet, author of *A Day of Blood: The 1898 Wilmington Race Riot*, and WHQR's Rachel Lewis Hilburn will discuss the coup of 1898. More information and to register: <https://libcal.nhcgov.com/event/10794483>

**Now through December 8, 10 am-4 pm Monday-Saturday, Burgwin-Wright House, 224 Market St., Wilmington.** **Marine Toys for Tots Campaign.** As Christmas draws nearer, organizers, staff, and recipients will dearly appreciate your gift of a new, unwrapped children's toy in the visitor center on the ground. For your convenience, CFCWRT's Yelena Howell can also accept your gift and take it to the drop-off location. Thank you for your generosity!

If you've never taken a tour of the Oakdale Cemetery in Wilmington, it's a fascinating walk through local history - including much from the Civil War. Check their website for details. The UNCW OLLI adult education program also offers a class/tour of the cemetery. It's also a beautiful park-like place.



## How We Put Together Our Programs

By Jim Gannon, Program Director

We are sometimes asked, “How do we put together our program of speakers?”

Our Program Committee gets together roughly once a month for a very unstructured lunch meeting to review our progress, kick around some ideas, and have some fun. The committee includes Bill Jayne, Al Turner, Bruce Patterson, Mike McDonald, Jim Horton, Pat Garrow, Fred Claridge and the committee chair, Jim Gannon. Suggestions for speakers come from our membership as well as the committee members. We also get ideas from on line sources such as the Emerging Civil War Blog and the publisher, Savas Beattie, has been helpful to us.

Our goal is to offer a balanced program that includes local historians, nationally known authors, and our own membership. We also strive for a mix of topics which includes campaign/battle histories, coverage of special topics, and stories about people. We want a program that will appeal to people new to Civil War history as well as those who are more advanced in their study of the Civil War. Another consideration is that we want to find great historians that are also great speakers. To do this, we check out potential speakers on You Tube and sometimes contact other round tables. We also have to always keep an eye on the budget as we often provide a hotel room and help with travel expenses for out of town speakers. Travel expenses can sometimes be limiting. For example, Western Theatre speakers are often located far away from us.

When we select a speaker, our Round Table will send a detailed invitation to the speaker. At this time we will confirm all the details of the event: topic, location, date, times, addresses, alternate contact information, any arrangements about hotel or expenses. Well known authors are sometimes booked as much as a year in advance, so we try to confirm our Fall, Winter and Spring speakers about 11 to 13 months out. We usually reserve the summer months for Member Forums, but we like to confirm these several months in advance also.

This is a team effort and our whole Round Table can take pride in the quality of our program and the speakers we have been able to attract. Historians tell us they like to come to our Round Table because of the great interest and appreciation that all our members show for their work. That reputation helps us to continue to attract outstanding speakers.

### Raleigh's Civil War Earthworks Tour

Join in the search for the remains of Raleigh's Civil War Earthworks with historian Al Bredenberg. Built between 1862 – 1863, this nine-mile fortification ringed the Capital City to protect it against Union attacks. Over 160 years later the City of Raleigh Museum will sponsor a hunt to find remnants of the massive structure that will take participants to across the city to uncover where and why this earthwork was built. The tour takes place on November 12th from 9 a.m. to noon. Tickets are \$20 and seats are limited to 25. Please arrive early for receipts to be checked and to meet the trolley on time. Receipts are required to board the trolley and will be emailed to you when purchased online or at the City of Raleigh Museum. Digital or printed receipts will be accepted. If you need assistance or have any questions, please call [\(919\) 996-2220](tel:9199962220).

## Busy October Meeting Features Operational History

By Felix K. Zollicoffer

Our October 12 meeting featured a through operational history of the XII Corps of the Army of the Potomac at the Battle of Antietam. Chris Bryan, author of *Cedar Mountain to Antietam*, told the story of the understrength corps through the intense fighting on the right flank of the Union attack.

We also welcomed new member Chris Langlois and returning members Mike and Karen Budziszewski. Ned Rhodes told us about the October 30 event at the Wilmington Railroad Museum, Kim Jordan updated us on the annual Wreaths Across America drive and Treasurer Mike McDonald told us about the new fundraising project hosted on our website.

We are auctioning off the Time-Life books series on the American West (as seen below). Twenty volumes tell the story of the American West in words and hundreds of fascinating illustrations. It's easy to bid online and help raise money for the round table. Just go to the website to [make a bid](#).



## Pictures from the October Meeting with Chris Bryan



## FORKS ROAD AND THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR MUSEUM: THE WILMINGTON CONNECTION

By Bill Jayne, CFCWRT President

The American Civil War Museum (ACWM) in Richmond recently developed a “pop-up exhibit” at the prestigious facility housed in the historic Tredegar Iron Works, an exhibit with a very significant and obvious Wilmington connection but with a more personal and interesting twist beyond the obvious.

First of all, the American Civil War Museum maintains three unique sites: [The American Civil War Museum – Historic Tredegar](#) and the [White House of the Confederacy](#), both in Richmond, VA; and [The American Civil War Museum–Appomattox](#), in Appomattox, VA. In 2013, the museum was formed by a consolidation of the American Civil War Center and the Museum of the Confederacy. In May 2019 they opened a new, state-of-the-art facility at Historic Tredegar. The new, building encases the original Tredegar Iron Works ruin wall, and features storage space to protect its unparalleled collection of artifacts.

Speaking of state of the art, what is a “pop-up exhibit”? One definition is “A **pop-up exhibition** is a temporary art event, less formal than a gallery or museum but more formal than private artistic showing of work.” In an amazingly short period of time, the museum developed an exhibit that capitalized on a chance conversation in Wilmington.

Aliyah Harrison, Digital Engagement Manager for ACWM, told the story in the Summer 2023 edition of “Ironclad,” the ACWM magazine. Aliyah earned her Bachelor’s degree in Communications at UNCW before going on to a Masters at George Mason University. She has strong North Carolina roots. Her father, Army Brigadier General Richard Harrison was born in the tiny northeast North Carolina town of Seabury. He graduated from Elizabeth City State University and is now commanding general of the 32nd Army Artillery and Missile Defense Command in Ft. Bliss, Texas. In the course of his career he and his family were posted at (then) Ft. Bragg and Aliyah lived there from 2006 to 2014, except for a two-year hiatus in the middle.



Daniel Jones and Aliyah Harrison at Cameron Art Museum, Wilmington

So, during a birthday gathering at UNCW not very long ago, Aliyah and fellow UNCW alum Daniel Jones naturally enough started talking about their jobs. Daniel, a graduate of the History program at UNCW, is cultural curator at the Cameron Art Museum (CAM) in Wilmington. Now, let Aliyah tell the story: Daniel “explained that in November 2021 [CAM]...unveiled an outdoor art sculpture called ‘Boundless.’ The sculpture commemorates the more than 1,800 United States Colored Troops who fought for two consecutive days in February 1865 on the ground where the museum now stands.” She continued: “Artist Stephen Hayes, also from North Carolina, created a life-size bronze sculpture using the facial features of eleven African American men connected to the site, including USCT descendants, re-enactors, veterans, and community leaders. Daniel also let me know that he collaborated with Stephen Hayes to develop a tour for school groups and museum visitors and that he conducts it every Friday. To our surprise, this traditionally insignificant encounter was leading us to connect our institutions in ways we could have never imagined!”

Here at the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table, we’re proud to note that we have a special connection to the site as well. Chris E. Fonvielle, Jr., author, professor emeritus of history, and former president of our round table, played the key role in developing the history of the Forks Road encounter and preserving the site. In 2002 members of our round table helped restore a section of Confederate earthworks just north of the "Boundless" statue on land donated by Bruce Cameron for the Cameron Art Museum. Mr. Cameron ensured that the site of the battle would be preserved.



Boundless statue on the Forks Road battlefield, Cameron Art Museum, Wilmington

From a military history perspective, after the fall of Ft. Fisher, Union forces outflanked Confederate defenses anchored on the “Sugar Loaf Line” in Carolina Beach by shipping significant forces across the river and taking Ft. Anderson. With the Sugar Loaf Line untenable, Confederate units retreated north toward the City of Wilmington. Before Confederate troops were ordered to evacuate the city, a sharp encounter at the site of the Cameron Art Museum left two Union USCT (U.S. Colored Troops) soldiers dead and 48 wounded (eight to ten died later of their wounds) as the Union troops bravely assaulted the strong defensive position. For more information, check out Chris's book *Glory at Wilmington: The Battle of Forks Road*. [Buy here](#).

The “Boundless” statue, according to CAM, is the “first sculpture park in the nation dedicated to honoring the USCT.” Aliyah immediately saw the importance of the Boundless project and potential connections for ACWM. She wrote: “as a member of the ACWM’s Marketing team, my goal was to find ways to show our visitors the similarities between our museums. Firstly, we are both part of the Civil War Trails. Secondly, we share stories of the Civil War that are not well-known. Lastly, our sites have significant historical value as they played a crucial role in the end of the war, showing visitors that Civil War history can be found everywhere.” That’s how history can be marketed so that more people become interested.



Artifacts on display at the ACWM. The special exhibit will be up through Jan. 2024.

ACWM staff travelled to Wilmington and interviewed Daniel and CAM Executive Director Heather Wilson and gathered film and still photographs of the statue and the park. Back in Richmond, ACWM Collections staff revealed artifacts related to the USCT that had never been exhibited and even some artifacts from Wilmington. Moreover, they had muster rolls of the five USCT regiments that assaulted the Forks Road fortifications.

It was more than enough to put together a very informative and engaging exhibit on short notice. The exhibit, titled “Beyond Valor: United States Colored Troops & the Fight for Freedom” opened on June 2. And, the muster rolls allowed the ACWM to help with the CAM project to connect descendants of the USCT soldiers with their ancestors who fought.

If you haven’t seen the moving “Boundless” statue at Wilmington’s CAM, I urge you to take the time to visit the park on the museum grounds at Independence Boulevard and S. 17th Street in Wilmington. It’s in a beautiful location and is quite moving. And, the ACWM museum at Historic Tredegar is well worth a special trip.



American Civil War Museum at Historic Tredegar Iron Works, Richmond.

## CFCWRT Winter 2023/2024 Programs

**12/14/23 Everard Smith**

***Civil Warriors: An overview of weapons, uniforms, tactics, medicine, and camp life of both sides including a display of a few actual relics.***

Local historian, former UNCW professor, and Round Table favorite, Dr. Everard Smith returns to our Round Table with another fascinating presentation on a totally new topic. Ev will focus on the volunteer soldier and some of the things he used and experienced in his everyday Army life. His thoroughly researched presentation will include some surprising details and a display of some actual relics of the civil war.

A native of Washington, D.C., Dr. Smith received his B.A. degree from Yale and his Ph.D. in history from UNC Chapel Hill. From 1991 to 1993, he was a senior administrative officer and adjunct professor of history at UNCW. From 1994 until his retirement in 2015, he was employed by the North Carolina Department of Information Technology as a senior networking analyst for voice, video, and data.



Dr. Smith's service to the community includes membership on the Wilmington Historic Preservation Commission; on the Preservation Action committee of the Historic Wilmington Foundation; and on the City Council-appointed Advisory Board of the Hannah Block Historic USO Building and Community Arts Center, of which he was the chairman. He is a frequent public speaker on the Civil War and WWII periods, and has often conducted local history tours for visiting cruise ship passengers and other tourist groups. An active preservationist, Dr. Smith was a leader in the local movement to preserve the Hannah Block Building when it was endangered in the 1990s. He is the owner of the Larkins House, a 170-year-old home on Dock Street in the downtown Historic District.

**1/11/24 Pat Garrow**

***Author of "Grey to Blue: Galvanized Yankees in the Union Army"***



Pat Garrow is a CFCWRT member, author, historian and professional archeologist.

Pat will present his soon to be published book about Confederate soldiers who joined the Union Army to escape imprisonment. This book is a companion volume to Pat's earlier book "Changing Sides: Union Prisoners of War Who Joined the Confederate Army."

Pat's new book updates and extends Dee Brown's classic volume "Galvanized Yankees." Pat will address the six regiments of US volunteers raised in Union prisons and sent to the western frontier to protect settlers and travelers and will go well beyond that to address lesser known units such as the Union Regiments raised in North Carolina.

Pat has authored, co-authored or edited nine books or monographs and over 50 articles during a career in archaeology that spanned 50 years of work throughout the US and in the Virgin Islands. His projects have included a number of major data recoveries, including the excavation of a Colonial ship in made land of Lower Manhattan, a de Soto contact village site in the interior of Georgia, a deeply buried prehistoric site in West Virginia, and many other historic and prehistoric sites from Connecticut to Florida to Phoenix.

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## In Heavenly Peace - A Bentonville Holiday Event

Experience the Harper House as a family residence, not as a Civil War field hospital. This holiday season, you are invited to tour the home of John and Amy Harper as it may have appeared after the conclusion of the Civil War. The event is on December 2nd from 4 - 8 p.m. Come enjoy the beauty of a 19<sup>th</sup> century Christmas aglow with candlelight. Also enjoy period refreshments in the kitchen, festive music by a warm campfire, and a ride on the Bentonville Holiday wagon. You can also paint your own ornament to take home! Do not miss your chance to experience Christmas by candlelight at Bentonville Battlefield! \$5 admission for adults, FREE for kids 8 and under!



Editor's Note: This really is a beautiful and festive event. You'll enjoy it if you go.

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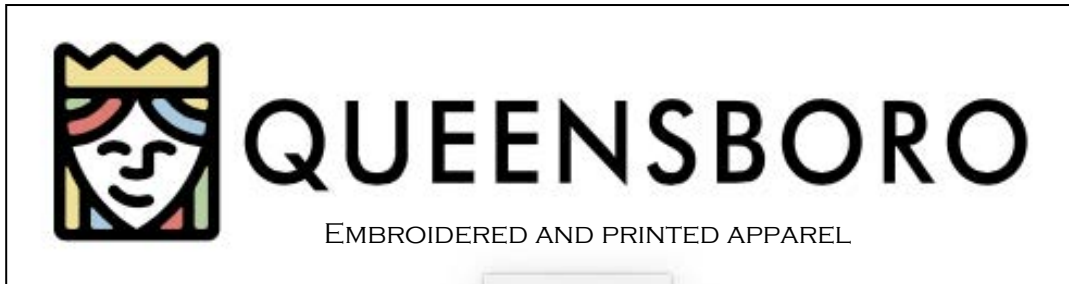
## Cape Fear Civil War Roundtable

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We thank our sponsors, who make it possible for us to thrive as an organization. It would be much harder without their support!

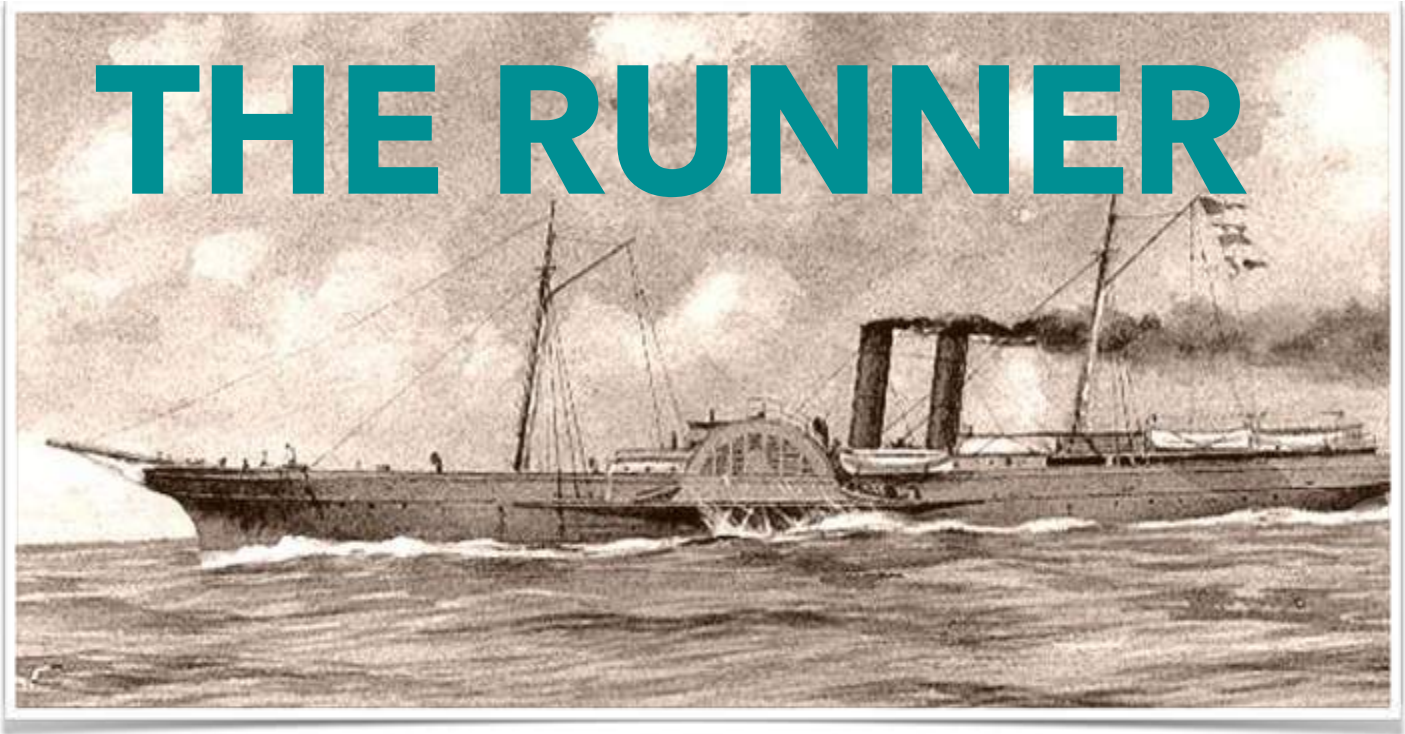


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The official newsletter of the Cape Fear Civil War Roundtable.

## CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE HOSTS YOUNG HISTORIAN DISCUSSING A MAJOR TURNING POINT IN THE WAR

By Jim Gannon, CFCWRT Programs Director

This month's Wilmington's Cape Fear Civil War Round Table features a presentation by M. Chris Bryan on the Union XII Corps from Cedar Mountain to Antietam in 1862. Chris Bryan earned a B.S. in History from the United States Naval Academy, an M.A. in Liberal Arts from St. John's College, Annapolis, and a Masters in Historic Preservation from the University of Maryland, College Park. The former naval aviator works as a project manager and lives in southern Maryland with his wife and two children. This is his first book.

The meeting of the round table will be held on Thursday evening, October 12, at our normal meeting place, centrally located St. John's Episcopal Church in Midtown Wilmington near Independence Mall. Doors open at 6:30 and the meeting begins at 7:00 p.m.

James M. McPherson, perhaps the most highly respected of all living Civil War historians, wrote in *Battle Cry of Freedom*, that there were



## Membership Report

By Bruce Patterson  
CFCWRT Secretary

The September meeting was special in many regards. We experienced a very exciting and interesting kickoff to the program year with a presentation by John Quarstein and we welcomed two new members: **Diane Speer** (Leland) and **Robert Timson** (Southport) to our round table membership.

Remember folks, every member is a recruiter. Please continue to bring friends and neighbors to our monthly meetings. There is ample room in both the parking lot and the meeting hall. The acoustics are great by the way.

Lastly, just a word about dues. Your name tag reflects the month in which your membership fee is due. You will also receive an email notification from the membership chair. We offer you many payment options, the best being either cash or check, handed to our **Treasurer, Mike McDonald** at the next meeting. But Mike can also take credit cards and you always have an on-line option as well.

Your annual dues are used to pay the following reoccurring expenses: \* rent of meeting place, \*speaker expenses including an honorarium and travel, \*web site and domain expense and other miscellaneous expenses such as printing, zoom fees and equipment. In short, we depend on your fees and support.

four major turning points that “defined the eventual outcome” of the war. Professor McPherson explains that each of those four turning points could have gone either way, perhaps changing the result of the war.

Two of the four turning points occurred in 1862 when the conflict was just entering its second year. The first was in the summer of 1862 when Confederate counter-offensives in both the eastern and western theaters arrested the momentum of “a seemingly imminent Union victory.” The second occurred in the fall of 1862 when battles at Antietam [Maryland] and Perryville [Kentucky] “threw back Confederate invasions, forestalled European mediation and recognition of the Confederacy...and set the stage for the Emancipation Proclamation.”

The soldiers who are the subject of Chris Bryan’s book played a significant role in both of these momentous turning points. The story he tells is the story of the formation of this often luckless command as the II Corps in Maj. Gen. John Pope’s Army of Virginia on June 26, 1862. The corps endured a bloody and demoralizing loss after coming within a whisker of defeating Maj. Gen. “Stonewall” Jackson at Cedar Mountain on August 9, 1862, and then suffered through the hardships of Pope’s campaign before and after the Battle of Second Manassas, and its resurgence after entering Maryland and joining the reorganized Army of the Potomac. The reorganization also included the relief of the corps’



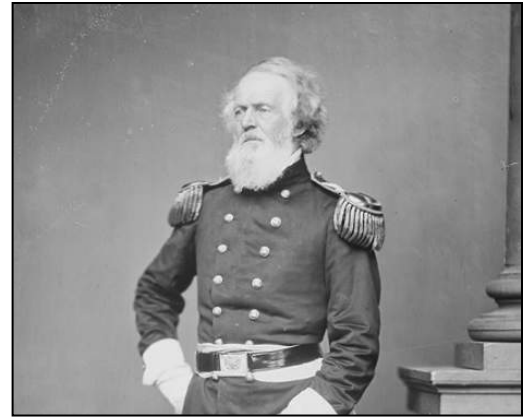
Major General Nathaniel Banks

commander, Major General Nathaniel Banks, a “political general” who had been governor of Massachusetts and speaker of the House of Representatives but had no military experience. As part of the Army of the

Potomac, the command was designated the XII Corps.

(continued from page 2)

The undersized command found significant success on the field at Antietam. Its soldiers swept through the East Woods and the Miller Cornfield, permanently clearing both of Confederates, repelled multiple Southern assaults against the Dunker Church plateau, and eventually secured a foothold beyond the Dunker Church in the West Woods. This important piece of high ground had been the Union objective all morning, and its occupation threatened the center and rear of Gen. Robert E. Lee’s embattled Army of Northern Virginia. Unfortunately, their new commander, Major General Joseph Mansfield, a West Pointer with decades of distinguished military service, was mortally wounded at Antietam. Federal leadership largely ignored the corps’ signal achievement and the opportunity it presented. The XII Corps’ achievement is especially notable given its string of disappointments and hardships in the months leading up to Antietam.



Major General Joseph Mansfield

Bryan’s story is a hybrid unit history and leadership and character assessment, and it puts the XII Corps’ actions in proper context by providing significant and substantive treatment to its Confederate opponents. His unique study, based on extensive archival research, newspapers, and other important resources, and complete with detailed maps and images, is a compelling story of a little-studied yet consequential corps and fills a longstanding historiographical gap.

The meeting will be held in the sanctuary of 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, talk to members of the round table and discover new interests. See you there! And bring a friend...or two.



Restoration work on the Harper House Field Hospital Site at the Bentonville Battlefield continues with good progress being made. Workers had to strip - by hand - seventeen layers of paint applied to the house since its construction in 1855. State experts and battlefield staff are regularly checking the work to make sure it’s done properly. It will be repainted in the colors the house wore during the battle - light cream with dark green shutters. The work will take months before it’s complete.



## President's Message

By Bill Jayne, CFCWRT President

Upon being asked to serve as a panelist, I grasped the pleasant opportunity to travel to Gettysburg for the Civil War Round Table Congress "Sustainability Conference" from August 25-27. It's always inspiring to visit Gettysburg and it was energizing to share an intensive conference experience with dozens of others from around the country who are dedicated to the round table movement. About 88 attendees represented approximately 35 round tables from as far away as Puget Sound, Washington. Plus, many organizations such as Civil War Trails, American Battlefield Trust and Central Virginia Battlefield Trust were represented.

The conference began on Friday evening with a reception at the Seminary Ridge Museum and Education Center. This is the original building of the Lutheran Seminary and attendees got the chance to climb to the belvedere where Union Cavalry General John Buford viewed the approaching Confederate units converging on Gettysburg. The evening ended with Prof. Chris Mackowski's tour d'force presentation titled "What if Stonewall Had Been at Gettysburg." Chris will make his second visit to our round table in February 2024. Don't miss it! Chris is a top-notch historian who is also extremely entertaining.



The meat of the conference was concentrated on the Saturday session at the beautiful Adams County Historical Society building. We had a huge and well-appointed meeting hall equipped with the best presentation technology. There were three panel discussions.

I had been asked to participate in the first panel titled "Emerging from the Pandemic." Every member of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table should be proud that our club went from a low of less than 40 members in January 2021 to more than 90 members today. We survived the COVID phenomenon and we are stronger now than we were before it. I shared the stage with the moderator representing the Civil War Round Table Congress board of directors and three great representatives of the round table movement from Indianapolis, Cleveland and Harrisburg, PA.

My presentation focused on how we emphasized speaker quality, fundraising and diversified outreach to bring membership levels back up to a healthy level. In addition, we added value to the round table experience with popular tours and special events. We also, like most successful

round tables, ultimately decided to use Zoom to maintain connection with our members during the months when we were unable to meet in person.

The period from April 2020 through August 2020 was particularly trying because we were unable to meet and had not yet decided to try Zoom. Some months we thought we would be able to meet only to have the Governor or the county say, “No, you can’t meet after all.” Throughout this period, Ed Gibson and Bruce Patterson were indispensable. I can’t thank them enough for their help.

Next was the “Community Partnership Panel” where round tables talked about the potential for strengthening the club by means of partnering with agencies and organizations involved in historic preservation, education and planning. We have a strong historic preservation community in the Wilmington area and we can do a lot more in terms of partnering with them. For example, we can have joint meetings. Scholarships and awards can help build relationships with educational agencies. We can do joint trips to battlefields and other attractions. Outreach at public events—“tabling” as it’s called—can be expanded beyond what we now do with Fort Fisher once a year.

The next panel talked about the CWRT Congress’s “Sustainability Challenge,” a formal plan with ten modules for improving sustainability. Check out the Sustainability Challenge here: <http://www.cwrtcongress.org/challenge.html>. Finally, a high-powered panel of young historians and history professionals talked about “Target Marketing Younger Members.” “Go where they are!” was one strong message. How about we have a special meeting at a brewery? We’re already talking about that one. Homeschoolers may be an audience. One young historian, Jonathan Noyalas from Shenandoah University, pointed out that “Facebook is for old people,” according to his students. After years of hard work—thank you, Yelena Howell—we have a good Facebook group page but now it looks like we may have to develop an additional social media channel.



President Bill Jayne representing the CFCWRT.

So, what’s next? I’ve empaneled a committee of leaders, including our officers, to develop a set of bylaws for our club. We’re starting our 30th year but we don’t have a written set of rules for governing the round table. Historically, our presidents have served for an average of six years.

In this day and age, the challenges are too great for just naming a “president for life” and hoping that he or she will hang in there for six years before leaving this mortal coil or just walking away. So, I will step down in August 2024 and we will have some bylaws to govern the choice of our next president and slate of officers. It’s gonna be great! Wait and see.

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## Area Historical Association Events

By Yelena Howell, Tours and Trips Committee

**Friday, October 6 and Saturday, October 7, 10-1130 am, Burgwin-Wright House, 224 Market St., Wilmington. Hunter Ingram presents Cape Fear Legends and Lore Walking Tour.** Tickets \$20 (+tax) ea. Please call (910) 762-0570 to reserve your spot.

**Saturday, October 14, 10 am-4 pm. Outlander at the Battle of Moores Creek Bridge as the bi-annual Scottish Heritage Day Event.** Navigate to 40 Patriots Hall Dr, Currie, NC. Program incorporates Diana Gabaldon’s book “A Breath of Snow and Ashe” and features tours, Highland soldiers, Scottish dancers, guest speakers, bagpipers, etc. Free admission, food available for purchase. Contact: [jason\\_m\\_collins@nps.gov](mailto:jason_m_collins@nps.gov)

**Saturday, October 21, 10 am-4pm. Brunswick Town/Fort Anderson State Historic Site. Port Brunswick Day.** Living historians will interpret what life was like in the Lower Cape Fear in fall of 1767. Free admission. Contact: (910)371-6613 or [brunswick@ncdcr.gov](mailto:brunswick@ncdcr.gov)

**Saturday, October 21, 1-3 pm. Oakdale Cemetery, 520 N. 15th St., Wilmington. Dr. Chris E. Fonvielle Jr.** will lead a much-beloved **walking tour** of our town’s oldest cemetery. Tickets: <https://wilmingtontruehistory.com/>

**Thursday, October 26, 630-730 pm, Wilmington Railroad Museum. Dr. Chris E. Fonvielle Jr.** presents **Old Wilmington’s “Bumps in the Night”**, his take on some of the most intriguing local paranormal tales. To reserve your seat, contact [info@wrrm.org](mailto:info@wrrm.org) or (910)763-2634.

**Saturday, October 28, 10 am-4pm. Bentonville Battlefield State Historic Site, 5466 Harper House Rd., Four Oaks, NC. Fall Festival.** Family-friendly activities include wagon rides, old-timey crafts, and live music. Bring a chair, a blanket, and \$5 per ticket (free admission for kids under 8). Contact: Colby Lipscomb, (910) 594-0789 or [bentonvillebattlefield@gmail.com](mailto:bentonvillebattlefield@gmail.com)

**Saturday, October 28, starting at 530 pm. Historic Burgaw Cemetery, 106 E. Wilmington St., Burgaw, NC. The Ghost of Pender’s Past.** A family-friendly tour. Contact: (910) 259-1278 or [info@visitpender.com](mailto:info@visitpender.com) Tickets: [https://ghostwalkofpenderspast.ticketleap.com/2023ghostwalkofpenderspast/dates/Oct-28-2023\\_at\\_0530PM](https://ghostwalkofpenderspast.ticketleap.com/2023ghostwalkofpenderspast/dates/Oct-28-2023_at_0530PM)

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at Bentonville Battlefield!

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Historic demonstrations, activities,  
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## Hardy B Marshman: A Young Soldier in the 24th North Carolina Infantry Regiment from 1863-1865

By Al Turner, CFCWRT Vice-President

A few weeks ago, I was visiting relatives at Topsail Island, N.C. My sister-in-law was downsizing her home and moving. During my visit, she gave me an album of family pictures which she thought would be important to me and my family. As I thumbed through the album, I discovered a typed five-page single spaced description of a relative's service in the Confederate Army. The paper was obviously old and appeared to be typed on a typewriter and not a computer. It had been written by the soldier's great-great-grandson. It was a very interesting read and provided insight into the history of the 24th North Carolina Infantry Regiment and the experiences of Hardy B Marshburn a young soldier in the unit.

Private Hardy B Marshburn was born in 1845 and raised on a farm in Onslow County near Richlands, North Carolina. He was 16 years old at the start of the Civil War and finally persuaded his parents to let him join the Confederate Army just before his 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Hardy learned that the 24th N.C. Troops were encamped in Kenansville, N.C., so he made his way there. On February 8th, 1863, he enlisted with Company B, (also known as the "Onslow Guards") 24th Regiment North Carolina Troops, General Robert Ransom's Brigade, Army of Northern Virginia. Pvt. Marshburn was promised thirteen dollars a month, but the pay was running up to six months behind and by the time he got paid, it wasn't worth as much as it was six months before. None of this mattered to Private Hardy, because like so many others, he was there only to do his duty to defend his homeland.

As a raw recruit Hardy was considered a "fresh fish" by the veterans. There was little time for basic training as we know it today and his combat training would literally be on the job. For a young inexperienced soldier with little training like Hardy, it was a very dangerous endeavor. Fortunately, he was in the company of some very seasoned and hardened veterans who had fought at Antietam and Fredericksburg.

On July 4, 1863, Hardy would get his first taste of fighting at Bottoms Bridge, on the Chickahominy River. Later the 24<sup>th</sup> N.C. was ordered back into North Carolina to protect the vital Weldon Railroad bridge where they helped repulse the Federal Cavalry at the battle of Boone's Mill.

In January 1864, the brigade took part in a failed attempt to recapture New Bern, which had been captured by the Federals in March 1862.

In April, Hardy found himself in extremely heavy fighting while trying to penetrate Federal defenses in the town of Plymouth, N.C. Ransom's brigade and General Robert F. Hokes brigade, with help from the Confederate Ironclad, Albemarle, successfully attacked the town and the Federals surrendered around 10:00 a.m. on April 20th.

In late April another attempt to recapture New Bern was under way. But, before preparations to assault the city were completed, the brigade received orders to move to Petersburg. The 24th N.C. Troops were engaged in the defense of Drewry's Bluff on May 12-16 and saw action at Bermuda Hundred on May 16-20.

On June 15, the 24th N.C. joined General P.G.T. Beauregard in the defense of Petersburg. The brigade marched all night to get to Petersburg. Upon arrival the next morning, they were immediately sent to the Confederate line where they were under constant attack throughout June 16. That night they drove the enemy back from some captured works. The next morning, they repulsed another Federal Assault. That evening, after having no rest for at least two full days, men of the 24th N.C. were finally relieved and marched to the rear.

Thus, began the Siege of Petersburg that would last for the next ten months. That July was extremely hot, and the brigade was under constant bombardment from Union guns, mortars and sharpshooters. Pvt. Marshburn and the rest of the 24th N.C. spent July digging entrenchments that would become their home for the next few months.

During the siege the Federal Army devised a plan to dig a tunnel underneath the Confederate line of defense, blow it up with explosives, thereby opening a breach in the Confederate line. The tunnel was completed on July 23rd at 3:30 a.m. On July 30th the explosives blew an enormous hole - 200 feet long, 50 feet wide and 30 feet deep. At least 278 Confederate soldiers were killed in the blast.

The 24th N.C. had been just to the left of the "Crater" so they moved to the right to seal the broken trench line. The regiment fought hard to prevent the attacking Federals from breaking through. Much of the fighting was bloody and hand to hand. Bodies were piled up three and four deep in the bottom of the crater. The Union Army suffered 3800 casualties, while the Confederates suffered 1500 in just a few hours. By about 2:00 p.m., the Battle of the Crater was over.

Life at Petersburg was becoming unbearable for the Confederate soldier. The men were literally starving to death. Their clothes were ragged, and many had no shoes. Often there were times when a rat could be found, it would become stew for the day. Some soldiers even boiled their haversacks, hoping to get some kind of flavor for a soup. As a result of an effort throughout the North to deliver dinner to the Union's "gallant soldiers and sailors", the Federal Army at Petersburg celebrated Thanksgiving 1864 with a feast of turkey, chicken, pies and fruit. No such celebration took place in Lee's starving army.

The winter of 1864-1865 was terribly cold. Many soldiers died from disease and from the effects of the cold. The Confederacy began enlisting young boys and old men because desertion was on the rise. Plus, as one officer said, much of the Confederate Army had been "worn out, killed out and starved out." Even with all the hardships of soldier life, Pvt. Marshburn was present and accounted for at every single roll call.

Finally, the hard winter was over and General Lee called on General John B. Gordon to devise a plan and find a likely place to batter through the enemy works and break the Federal grip on

Petersburg. General Gordon planned an attack of Fort Stedman. The 24th N.C. Troops were a part of this attack.

At 4: 00 a.m., on March 25, 1865, the attack was launched with great success, but as the Federal Army came to life, they counter attacked with such force, that Lee had no choice but to withdraw. This was the last offensive assault for the Confederate Army, and it had cost the Confederates 600 killed, 2,400 wounded, 1,000 missing or captured. The 24th N.C. Troops suffered heavy casualties. Two of its companies lost over half their number as prisoners of war. Pvt. Marshburn was wounded with a gunshot to the right arm. He was immediately taken to a Richmond Hospital. One week later, on April 3, 1865, he was captured in the hospital by the invading Federal Army. No details of the severity of his wound are available but considering the state of medical care during the Civil War and the fact he was wounded seriously enough to be hospitalized, it is amazing that he did not lose his arm.

On April 9, 1865, General Robert E. Lee surrendered his Confederate Army at Appomattox Court House. Fifty-five members of the 24th Regiment N.C. Troops were present to receive their paroles. It would not be until April 26, 1865, that Pvt. Hardy B. Marshburn would take the Oath of Allegiance and be paroled. Hardy came back to Richlands with a broken spirit. The cause, for which he fought, was lost forever. He had left home a 17-year-old boy and returned a 20-year-old man who had experienced the horror and trauma of combat in a bloody war.

After some time of recuperation, Hardy went back to doing the only thing he knew besides soldiering which was farming. He eventually married and raised a family on the family farm in Onslow County. Hardy Marshburn died at the young age of 52.

On October 27, 1996, a memorial service was held at Hardy's gravesite on the Marshburn family farm to dedicate a Confederate tombstone given by the Veterans Administration to Marshburn's descendants. In accordance with an act of March 9, 1906, congress authorized a special style upright marble or granite headstone to mark the graves of eligible Confederate States of America (CSA) soldiers/sailors. Congress adopted the same size and material for Confederate headstones as for Union deceased but altered the design to give the stones a pointed rather than rounded top and inscribed with the Southern Cross of Honor.

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i This article relied heavily on the writings of Bob and Warren Jarman who compiled the history of Hardy B Marshburn.

ii A chronological history of the 24th North Carolina Infantry Regiment is available at <https://civilwarintheeast.com/confederate-regiments/north-carolina/24th-north-carolina-infantry-regiment/>

iii The terms "gallant soldiers and sailors" were used during the campaign by The Union League in 1864 to help promote providing Thanksgiving Dinner for all federal soldiers and sailors. The Union League Committee Treasurer was Theodore Roosevelt father of the future president with the same name.

iv Unverified sources indicate that the Confederates could see the celebrations taking place and out of respect would not fire on them.

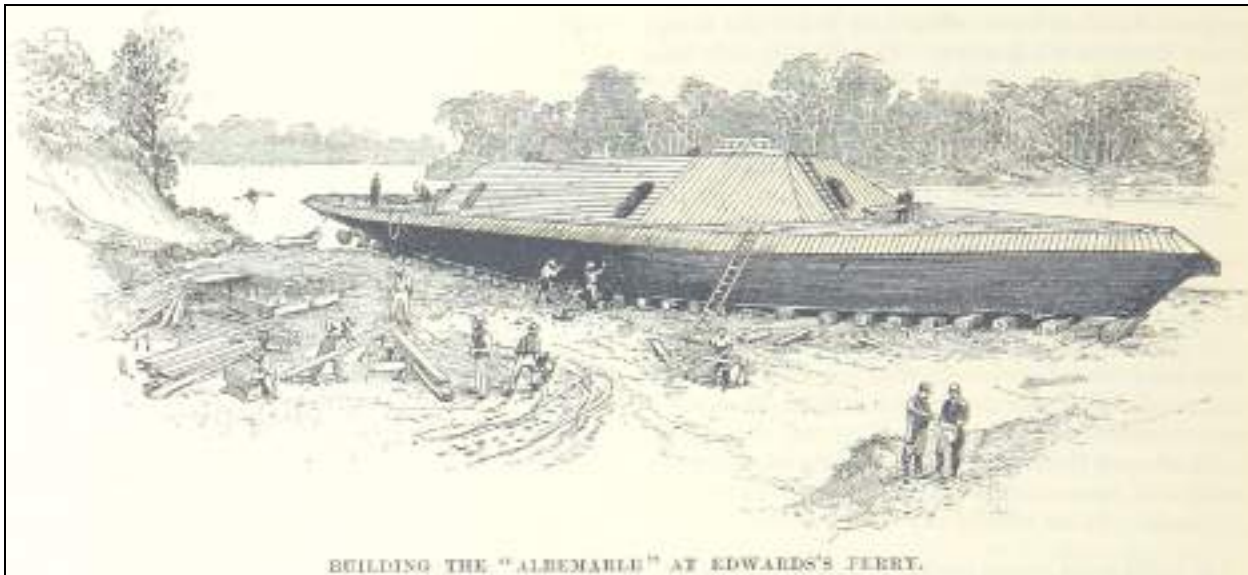
v Legend has it that Confederate tombstones are cut to a point so no Union soldiers could sit on top on them.

## September CFCWRT Meeting Report

By Tim Winstead, Former “Runner” Editor

Are you interested in Civil War Naval actions? If so, read on. If not, read on anyhow because these actions started with Scott’s Anaconda Plan and ended with the surrender of the CSS Shenandoah on November 6, 1865.

At our Cape Fear CWRT Meeting Thursday night, September 14, we had an engaging speaker who addressed the North Carolina cornfield built *CSS ALBEMARLE* and its actions against Union presence in the eastern area of North Carolina. John V. Quarstein, a Chesapeake area native and historian, told the story of the 19-year-old contractor, Gilbert Elliott, and his efforts that almost changed the war’s course during 1864.



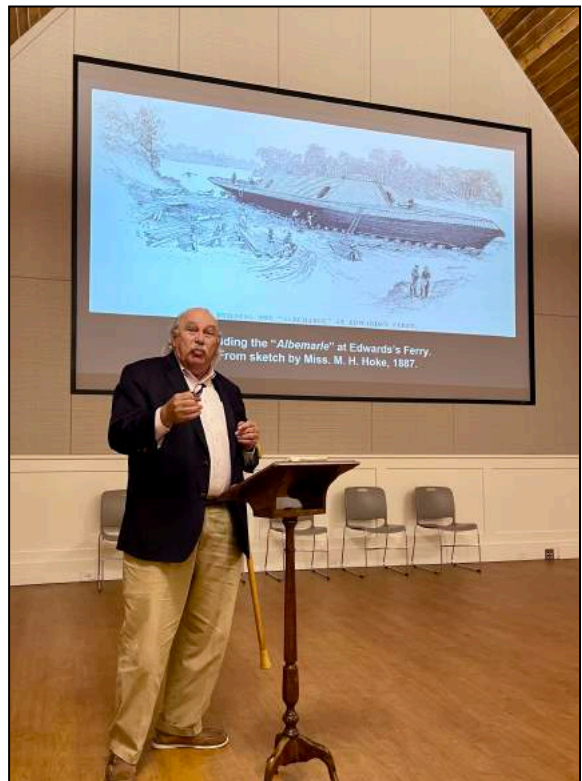
If you want to read numerous interesting articles, check out [marinersmuseum.org](http://marinersmuseum.org) and John’s blog for the more complete story of the *CSS ALBEMARLE* and many other naval actions.



[More pictures from last month's meeting.]



John Quarstein was an amazing speaker who kept the audience entertained as he shared his very special knowledge of ironclads and the role they played during the war. An animated speaker, he made the history fun. We hope to have him back someday.



We thank our sponsors, who make it possible for us to thrive as an organization. It would be much harder without their support!



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## CFCWRT Winter 2023/2024 Programs

By Jim Gannon, Programs Director

12/14/23 Everard Smith

***Civil Warriors: An overview of weapons, uniforms, tactics, medicine, and camp life of both sides including a display of a few actual relics.***

Local historian, former UNCW professor, and Round Table favorite, Dr. Everard Smith returns to our Round Table with another fascinating presentation on a totally new topic. Ev will focus on the volunteer soldier and some of the things he used and experienced in his everyday Army life. His thoroughly researched presentation will include some surprising details and a display of some actual relics of the civil war.



A native of Washington, D.C., Dr. Smith received his B.A. degree from Yale and his Ph.D. in history from UNC Chapel Hill. From 1991 to 1993, he was a senior administrative officer and adjunct professor of history at UNCW. From 1994 until his retirement in 2015, he was employed by the North Carolina Department of Information Technology as a senior networking analyst for voice, video, and data.

Dr. Smith's service to the community includes membership on the Wilmington Historic Preservation Commission; on the Preservation Action committee of the Historic Wilmington Foundation; and on the City Council-appointed Advisory Board of the Hannah Block Historic USO Building and Community Arts Center, of which he was the chairman. He is a frequent public speaker on the Civil War and WWII periods, and has often conducted local history tours for visiting cruise ship passengers and other tourist groups. An active preservationist, Dr. Smith was a leader in the local movement to preserve the Hannah Block Building when it was endangered in the 1990s. He is the owner of the Larkins House, a 170-year-old home on Dock Street in the downtown Historic District.

### Cape Fear Civil War Roundtable

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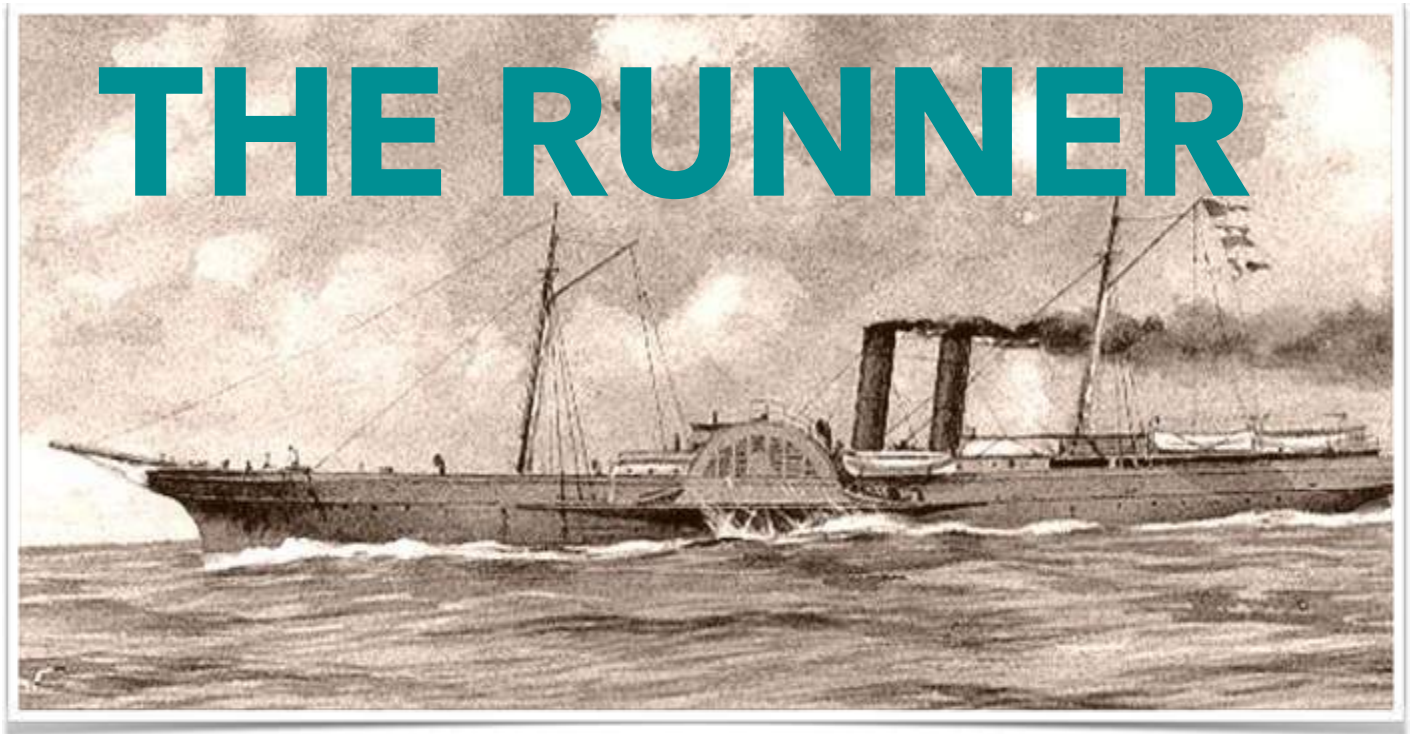


Editor's Note: Remember that the battle for Wyse Fork isn't quite over. Almost every day, battlefields from the wars fought in this country face extinction due to the rush to develop the lands on which they were fought. Such a battle is going on now in North Carolina with the land where the Battle of Wyse Fork took place. There are a number of ways to help in the fight to save this sacred ground. You can simply go to last month's newsletter to get some valuable information on what to do. Mostly, it involves people who are interested in preserving these historic sites taking action - something as simple as writing an email or a letter, calling a state representative, donating to the organizations who seek to protect these lands or taking one of the tours starting to develop to tell this important story. It's easy to sit back and think "someone else will take care of it. I don't really have to put forth the effort." When that attitude prevails, these lands tend to disappear. Once they're gone, they're gone forever.

You can go to the Save Wyse Fork Battlefield Facebook page here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/4914158828666582/> or check out the American Battlefield Trust page on the effort here: <https://www.battlefields.org/preserve/speak-out/protect-site-second-largest-battle-fought-north-carolina>.

As people who care about what happened in the Civil War, this is our battle today. Obviously, the bullets aren't flying and we aren't facing any artillery barrages, but the battle is very real nonetheless. There are strong forces at work trying to claim that land for their own purposes. There are alternatives to taking that land. The battle is worth fighting because the land is worth protecting.





The official newsletter of the Cape Fear Civil War Roundtable.

## CFCWRT's 30th Campaign Opens with John Quarstein September Program on Actions on Our Inland Waterways

By Bill Jayne, CFCWRT President

After a successful summer program featuring presentations by our members, including two interactive discussions, we begin the Round Table's 30th Campaign this fall. Our first speaker was Dr. Chris Fonvielle in October 1994. Our speaker this September will be John Quarstein. John is a nationally known speaker and an award-winning historian, preservationist, and author, whose name will be familiar to many of our members.

John served as the director of the Virginia War Museum until his retirement in 2008 after 30 years of service. He is now Director Emeritus of the USS Monitor Center at The Mariners' Museum in Newport News, Virginia.

John has authored 19 books and has written numerous articles, exhibits, essays, and documentaries. His titles include *A History of Ironclads: The Power of Iron over Wood*; *CSS Virginia: Sink Before Surrender*; and *The Monitor Boys: The Crew of the Union's First Ironclad*. He is the winner of the 2012 Henry Adams Prize for excellence in historical literature. Quarstein

## Membership Report

By Bruce Patterson  
CFCWRT Secretary

We finished our summer with a membership of just over 90-family units. Our largest renewal challenge, however, begins this month due to the preponderance of members originally joining in September. (a family unit is defined as a membership paid for a family, be it a single or multiple member unit).

September renewal members have been notified. You may send your \$30. annual fee to **CFCWRT, 8387 East Highcroft NE, Leland, NC 28451** or better still, just bring your renewal fee to our September 14th meeting. You may also pay on-line by credit card at <http://www.cfwrt.org> **Treasurer Mike McDonald** will also accept your credit card at the meeting.

We begin the season of increased activity and to that end, **Program Chair, Jim Gannon**, has scheduled a really terrific lineup of speakers.

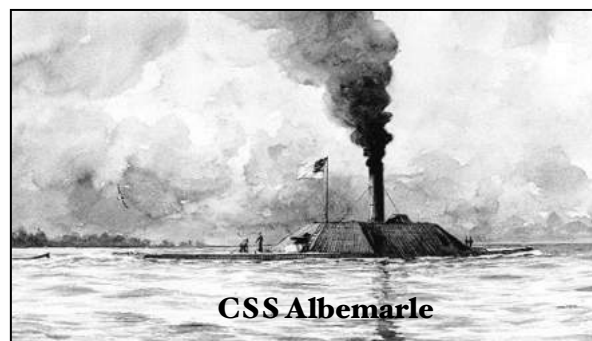
With *The Runner*, our monthly newsletter, resuming regular publication, we can promise a productive and most enjoyable program year. We are not only encouraging renewals but asking members to bring friends and neighbors to our next meeting. We have ample seating and parking at St John's Episcopal Church, our regular meeting venue.

has also produced, narrated and written several PBS documentaries including the film series Civil War in Hampton Roads, a Silver Telly Award winner. Quarstein is the recipient of the National Trust for Historic Preservation's President's Award for Historic Preservation, the Civil War Society's Preservation Award, and the Daughters of the American Revolution Gold Historians Medal. He has been a guest on CSpan multiple times and has served as an adjunct professor at the College of William & Mary.



John is an expert on the Naval War and will speak to us about the Civil War actions that occurred along North Carolina's inland waterways, specifically the actions at Edenton, Plymouth and New Bern in 1864.

The meeting of the round table will be held on Thursday evening, September 14, at centrally located St. John's Episcopal Church in Midtown Wilmington near Independence Mall. Doors open at 6:30 and the meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. 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. There is ample time to browse our used books table, talk to members of the round table and discover new interests. See you there!



## November Program to feature Colonel (Ret.) Ed Lowe

By Jim Gannon, CFCWRT Programs Director

**11/9/23 Col. (Ret) Ed Lowe**

*Author of “A Fine Opportunity Lost: Longstreet’s East Tennessee Campaign, November 1863 April 1864.”*

In November the CFCWRT will welcome Col. Ed Lowe who served 26 years on active duty in the U.S. Army, with deployments to Operation Desert Shield/Storm, Haiti, Afghanistan, and Iraq. Ed attended North Georgia College and has graduate degrees from California State University, the U.S. Army War College, U.S. Command & General Staff College, and Webster’s University. He is an adjunct professor for the University of Maryland/Global Campus and Elizabethtown College, where he teaches history and government. Ed will speak to us about Lieutenant General James Longstreet’s campaign in East Tennessee.



Longstreet’s deployment to East Tennessee promised a chance to shine. The commander of the First Corps of the Army of Northern Virginia had long been overshadowed by his commander, Robert E. Lee, and Second Corps commander, Stonewall Jackson. Lee had nonetheless leaned heavily on Longstreet, whom he called his “Old Warhorse.” Reassigned to the Western Theater because of sliding fortunes there, the Old Warhorse hoped to run free with—finally—an independent command of his own.



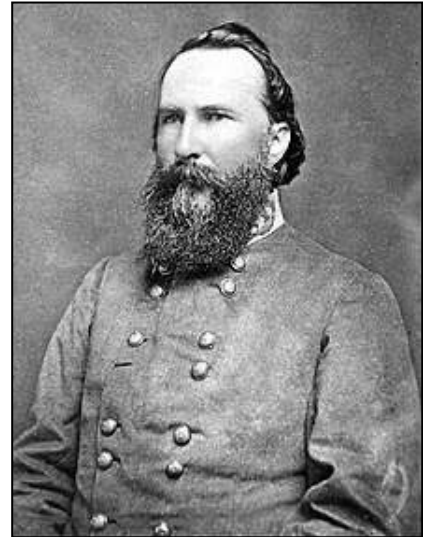
For his Union opponent, Maj. Gen. Ambrose Burnside, East Tennessee offered an opportunity for redemption. Burnside’s early war success had been overshadowed by his disastrous turn at the head of the Army of the Potomac, where he suffered a dramatically lopsided loss at the battle of Fredericksburg followed by the humiliation of “The Mud March.”

Removed from army command and shuffled to a less prominent theater, Burnside suddenly found his quiet corner of the war getting noisy and worrisome. The mid-September loss by the Union Army of the Cumberland at the battle of Chickamauga left it besieged in Chattanooga, Tennessee. That, in turn, opened the door to Union-leaning East Tennessee and imperiled Burnside’s isolated force around Knoxville, the region’s most important city. A strong move by Confederates would create

political turmoil for Federal forces and cut off Burnside's ability to come to Chattanooga's aid.

Into that breach marched Longstreet, fresh off his tide-turning role in the Confederate victory at Chickamauga. The Old Warhorse finally had the independent command he had longed for and an opportunity to capitalize on the momentum he had helped create.

Longstreet's First Corps and Burnside's IX Corps had shared battlefields at Second Manassas, South Mountain, Antietam, and Fredericksburg. Unexpectedly, these two old foes from the Eastern Theater now found themselves transplanted in the Western—familiar adversaries on unfamiliar ground. The fate of East Tennessee hung in the balance, and the reputations of the commanders would be won or lost.




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## The Next Program at the Brunswick CWRT

**Editor's Note:** As a "sister" organization, we have an agreement with the Brunswick Civil War Roundtable to publicize each others programs. Members from that roundtable often attend our meetings and vice versa. If you get a chance, check out this interesting local BCWRT program:

The first monthly meeting of the new season begins on Tuesday, September 5th when popular Civil War historian Max Longley will present "Marble Nash Taylor and Edward Stanly: North Carolina's Two Civil War Union Generals." A curious event took place on Hatteras Island involving two unique and charismatic individuals, President Lincoln, and two short-lived governorships of North Carolina. The meeting will be held at Hatch Auditorium on Caswell Beach.

Registration begins at 6:15PM. The program starts at 7:00PM. The visitor fee is \$10, and can include a spouse, and could be applied toward the \$25 annual membership dues. For more information, contact president John Butler at [Brunswickcwr@gmail.com](mailto:Brunswickcwr@gmail.com), or call him at (404) 229-9425. Or, visit their website at [Brunswickcivilwarroundtable.com](http://Brunswickcivilwarroundtable.com). or their Facebook page for additional information, news, and updates.

### *Bentonville Battlefield Fall Festival*

*Saturday, October 28th at the Battlefield 9 am - 5pm*

*Crafts, Music, Tours, Games, Food, and Lots More*



## Area Historic Association Events

By Yelena Howell, Tours and Trips Committee

**Tuesday, September 5, 2023, doors open 6:15 pm, program begins at 7 pm.**  
**Brunswick Civil War Round Table. Hatch Auditorium, NC Baptist Assembly at Fort Caswell.** Civil War historian Max Longley will present “Marble Nash Taylor and Edward Stanly: North Carolina’s Two Civil War Union Generals”. Cost: \$10 for non-members, can be applied to annual membership dues. Contact: [Brunswickcwrt@gmail.com](mailto:Brunswickcwrt@gmail.com)

**Thursday, September 7, 2023.** CFCWRT member and artist **James C. Horton** turns 70 years young! Save room for cake at September’s CFCWRT meeting and plan to visit Jim’s **exhibition of original paintings and drawings at the Bellamy Mansion** between 9/13/2023 and 10/22/2023.

**Tuesday, September 19, 2023, doors open at 6:30 pm, program begins at 7 pm.**  
**Cape Fear Revolutionary War Table at the Burgwyn-Wright House. Dr. Charles Ewen,** award-winning professor in the Department of Anthropology at East Carolina University, will present on the ongoing archaeological excavation at the Brunswick Town/Fort Anderson State Historic Site. Cost: \$5 for non-members, can be applied to annual membership dues. Contact: [cfrwrt@gmail.com](mailto:cfrwrt@gmail.com)

**Wednesday, September 27, 2023, doors open at 9:45 am, program begins at 10:15am. Remembering Our Heroes at the NHC Senior Center, 2222 College Rd, Wilmington, NC 28403.** Dr. Everard H. (Ev) Smith, historian of the Civil War and WWII, will discuss the Battle of Little Big Horn. Cost: free, donations appreciated. Contact: (910) 798-6400.

**Saturday, September 30, 202, 3-4:30 pm. Cameron Art Museum.** Book launch for **Words and Music: An Album of a Life in Story and Song**, the long-awaited autobiography of Philip Gerard, beloved late historian, writer, and teacher. Pre-orders taken now at [beachglassbook.com](http://beachglassbook.com) and [barnesandnoble.com](http://barnesandnoble.com). Contact: (910) 395-5999.

**In September, 30-45 min. tours of Brunswick Town (every Saturday) and Fort Anderson (every Friday) continue at 10 am.** Cost: \$2 kids 12 and under, \$5 adults (cash, please). Tickets can be purchased on site the day of the tour. Contact: [brunswick@dncr.nc.gov](mailto:brunswick@dncr.nc.gov)

## Were West Point Graduates Responsible for the High Casualty Lists of the Civil War? *Part Two*

By John Weisz, CFCWRT Member

Victory on the battlefield in the Mexican War, was much more likely to be a predictor of victory in the Civil War when leadership and moral courage were applied by higher level officers. Towards the end of the war it would lead to dramatic success and even annihilation of Confederate forces by the Federal armies.

Two particularly important characteristics of a commander's success are physical and moral courage. Appreciating the statistics relative to casualties of general officers in the first part of this article, it shows that physical courage on the battlefield was not in short supply and those numerous casualties among officers was definitely not limited to the USMA grads.

With this in mind let us investigate a significant characteristic of strong and successful commanders..

**Moral Courage** is characterized by one's ability to take decisive action despite the risk of adverse consequences. It requires agile thinking and the ability to quickly analyze alternatives without sacrificing deliberate thought. Furthermore, the commander who works against the plans of a superior due to his timelier and 'from the front' knowledge of the situation at hand, would likely face great risk to his career. Moral courage is the act of doing the right thing, understanding the possible consequences and not backing off from sound decision.

An example of the lack of moral courage is the case of George McClellan. In the Peninsula campaign, early in 1862, McClellan cautiously crawled with his Army of 100,000 up the Peninsula while facing less than 13,000 Confederates. This weak execution gave other Confederate units time to entrench up to and around Richmond. Subsequently, the Federals were pushed back, and the strategic goal of taking the Confederate capital was lost. It took three more years and over 500,000 additional fatalities to finally end the war.

McClellan based his hesitancy on the very inaccurate and overestimated intelligence of the Pinkerton spies and detectives. Seemingly, the Union commander took the intelligence at face value and pursued no other sources of intelligence in estimating the Confederate army's size. Some historians suggested that he used these inflated numbers as "insurance," that is, as an excuse for him to use in the event of losing a battle.

His own staff and field subordinates, as well as Lincoln, knew of his problem in making decisions; and when he finally did act, the rare battlefield opportunities were already lost. Besides the slow march up the James River, once he was aggressively attacked by General Lee and the seven days battles, he ordered a hasty retreat back to his base on that peninsula; in essence being beat back by a force significantly smaller than the size of his command.

Later, during the Antietam campaign, he squandered opportunities to defeat Lee in detail even though he had captured Confederate plans outlining exact locations where all Lee's scattered forces were.

Again, believing that he was outnumbered he deployed his corps piece meal, thus allowing the Confederates to move their reserves to threatened points during the battle. Even after Lee was forced to withdraw and pull his army back to Virginia, McClellan forfeited several opportunities to attack and annihilate Lee's force when they were trapped on the northern bank of a flooded Potomac River.

Robert E Lee was the exact opposite of 'Mac.' Lee took risks and accepted responsibilities for his failures. In terms of moral courage. His shortcomings were in terms of not weighing all the available alternatives; often to the point of recklessness. A significant cause for this was his narrow view of the war and the capabilities of his men. After his early victories he believed that his men could defeat twice the number of Federal soldiers on any given battlefield. When he faced defeats, he was devastated and took a while to recover from his failures. His moral courage however did rest on his own acceptance of responsibility for failures rather than blaming his subordinates or the spirit of his men.

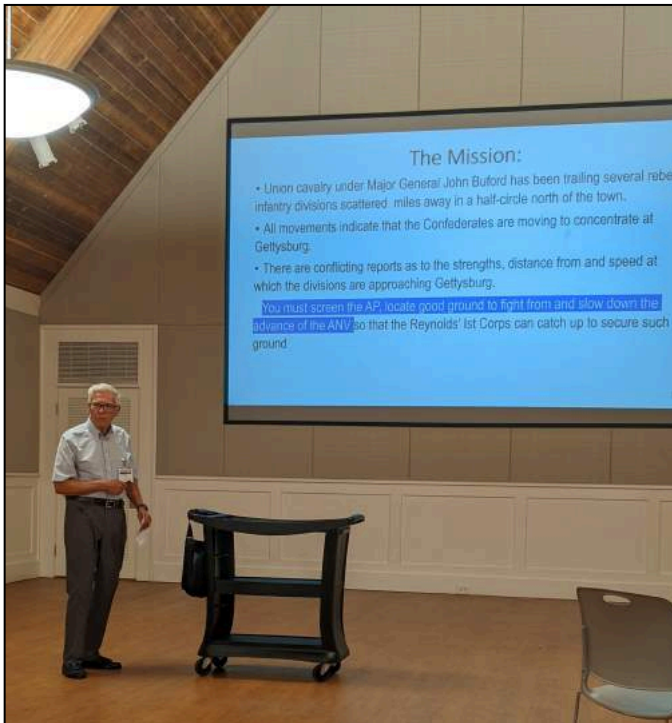
Some other examples where lack of moral courage resulted in failures:

- "Fighting Joe" Hooker's loss of nerve at the time victory was in sight at the Battle of Chancellorsville in May 1863. At the critical moment he became disoriented and was unable to give orders. The result was no overall direction of the campaign for several days, in which the Confederates regained the initiative and forced the Federals to retreat back to their starting point in the battle. (This all occurring when Hooker had twice the number of men as the Confederate forces and 4x the number when either of Lee's corps were separated).
- Braxton Bragg, at both Shiloh and Chickamauga; where indecisiveness led him to delay deployments and sacrifice surprise over an already disorganized enemy army.

The original hypothesis of this article was that USMA graduates themselves were responsible for the high casualty rates during the war. This article seems to be wholly unfounded on the basis of the preceding facts. For every commander who could not quickly decide on viable course of actions, several others were 'modern thinkers' using ingenuity and understanding of the variables in warfare to deliver solutions in how did defeat the enemy with less casualties; mostly because of their moral courage based on analysis, determination and dedication to more strategic purpose of their planning and execution than their contemporaries.

In short, it wasn't Jomini tactics and operational examples from Napoleon's campaigns, deficits in staff work, communications or logistics and the improved rifling of small arms and cannon that caused monstrous numbers of deaths from battle, wounds or disease. Defeat was 'snatched from the jaws of victory' when commanders on both sides lacked the guts to make a decision and fight it out to victory. Moral courage!

Unfortunately, the Bentonville Battlefield Symposium scheduled for this month had to be canceled.



Thanks to John Weisz for leading the group in a "you're in command" program at our August meeting. Great fun!



**Editor's Note:** We received information from the Save Wyse Fork Battlefield campaign. As you may know, there are a number of dedicated people working hard to save this important piece of Civil War history. We're reprinting some of this information here to guide CFCWRT members who are interested in helping in this and conservation efforts in other areas. Once these cultural treasures are gone, we can't get them back. It takes people like us to save them - especially in our backyard.

The Save Wyse Fork Battlefield group reports that: "We received some positive news from the NPS last week! We have been invited to apply for a Battlefield Land Acquisition Grant that would allow us to preserve more of the battlefield while we wait other avenues to pan out. More to come as we prepare our grant application."

From the NPS:

[Battlefield Land Acquisition Grants](#) from the NPS [American Battlefield Protection Program](#) empower preservation partners nationwide to acquire and preserve threatened Revolutionary War, War of 1812 and Civil War battlefields. In addition, the program administers three other grant opportunities: [Preservation Planning Grants](#), which are open to all sites of armed conflict on American soil, and the newly authorized [Battlefield Restoration](#) and [Battlefield Interpretation](#) Grants. This financial assistance generates community-driven stewardship of historic resources at the state, tribal and local levels.

Learn more, here:

<https://www.nps.gov/orgs/2287/battlefield-land-acquisition-grants.htm>

### **H.R. 3448 – American Battlefields Protection Program Enhancement Act**

#### ***From the National Parks Conservation Association:***

NPCA supports this legislation which strengthens the ability to protect and rehabilitate battlefields across the country through the American Battlefield Protection Program managed by the National Park Service. The bill also expands the list of organizations and entities, including tribes, eligible to directly receive American Battlefield Protection Program grants, targets ABPP grants towards priority battlefield protection, enhancement, and restoration projects, and "creates a process for expanding and updating battlefield boundaries." (<https://www.npca.org/articles/3546-position-on-h-r-386-h-r-1318-h-r-3448>)

#### ***From the American Battlefield Trust:***

From Gettysburg and Antietam to Bentonville and Yorktown, the American Battlefield Protection Program has aided the preservation of more than 35,000 acres of hallowed ground across 21 states. Managed by the National Park Service, the program administers grants to preserve, restore and interpret America's hallowed grounds related to the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, and the Civil War.

The American Battlefield Protection Program Enhancement Act (H.R.3448) would make key modifications to the existing program, helping to strengthen it to ensure its continued success for years to come.

The legislation would allow non-profits and tribes to apply directly for these grants, saving valuable time and ensuring key land acquisitions can move quickly and efficiently. Additionally,

the legislation would widen the scope of ABPP's restoration grants to all NPS identified battlegrounds and ensure land acquisitions grants can be used to preserve our most significant battlefields from our nation's founding conflicts. Finally, it would create a mechanism for the National Park Service to update the Congressionally authorized reports identifying the key Revolutionary War, War of 182 and Civil War battlefields when there is new research, archaeology or study that shows a larger battlefield than originally known.

Now more than ever, as we see development threats rise against the backdrop of our nation's hallowed ground, the strengthening of the program is key to continue the preservation of the nation's heritage, especially as we gear up for our nation's 250th commemoration.

***Please join us and send your representative a message to support the  
American Battlefield Protection Program Enhancement Act (H.R.3448)***

### **Building our Army of Believers**

All of you, who read this weekly briefing, are part of our army of believers. The power of your passion to save this important piece of history cannot be understated. Citizen advocacy is what this country is built on and it is no different here. Your voices matter and your voices tell the story of Wyse Fork so that it is not forgotten or destroyed.

*From: The Partnership for a More Perfect Union at the Congressional Management Foundation:*

1. Direct constituent interactions have more influence on lawmakers' decisions than other advocacy strategies. In three surveys of congressional staff over a 10-year span, 99% (2004), 97% (2010), and 94% (2015) said that "in-person visits from constituents" would have "some" or "a lot" of influence on an undecided lawmaker.
2. Congress places a high value on groups and citizens who have built relationships with the legislator and staff. When asked what advocacy groups should do to help build relationships with the office, 79% of staff surveyed said "meet or get to know the Legislative Assistant with jurisdiction over their issue area" and 62% said "meet or get to know the District/State Director."
3. Citizen advocates are more influential and contribute to better public policy when they provide personalized and local information to Congress. 9 out of 10 (91%) congressional staffers surveyed said it would be helpful to have "information about the impact the bill/issue would have on the district or state." However, only 9% report they receive that information frequently. Similarly, 79% said a personal story from a constituent related to the bill or issue would be helpful, but only 18% report they receive it frequently.
4. Citizens have significant potential to enhance their advocacy skills and influence Congress. After concluding 40 hours of CMF/Feeding America advanced advocacy training conducted over four months, citizen-advocates from local food banks met their Members and congressional staff. Whereas 12% of congressional staff report that the typical constituent they meet with is "very prepared," 97% of the congressional staff who met advanced advocacy trainees agreed that these citizen-advocates were "very prepared" for their meetings.

<https://www.congressfoundation.org/projects/communicating-with-congress/citizen-centric-advocacy-2017>

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## Cape Fear Civil War Roundtable

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## 2023 Antietam Memorial Illumination

**Editor's Note:** This event is supposed to be soul-stirring and humbling according to the people who have seen it. There is a luminary for every one of the casualties suffered on that bloody day - the bloodiest single day of the war. It can be rained out (as per my personal experience so far), but we're going to try again this year. The information below is from the National Park Service:

**Antietam National Battlefield will present the Annual Memorial Illumination on Saturday, December 2, 2023 to honor the 23,000 casualties from the Battle of Antietam on September 17, 1862.**

The event is a driving tour open to the public starting at 6:00 pm. Cars enter the park by traveling west on Route 34 and lining up on the shoulder of the road. Cars are allowed to enter the event until midnight. Walking is not allowed.

The temporary visitor center is closed that day except for the park store and the lobby which will be open from 9:00 am until 3:00 pm. Visitor services during the day will be limited and only porta-johns will be available. The northern end of the park, north of Route 34, will close at 3:00 pm.

We thank our sponsors, who make it possible for us to thrive as an organization. It would be much harder without their support!

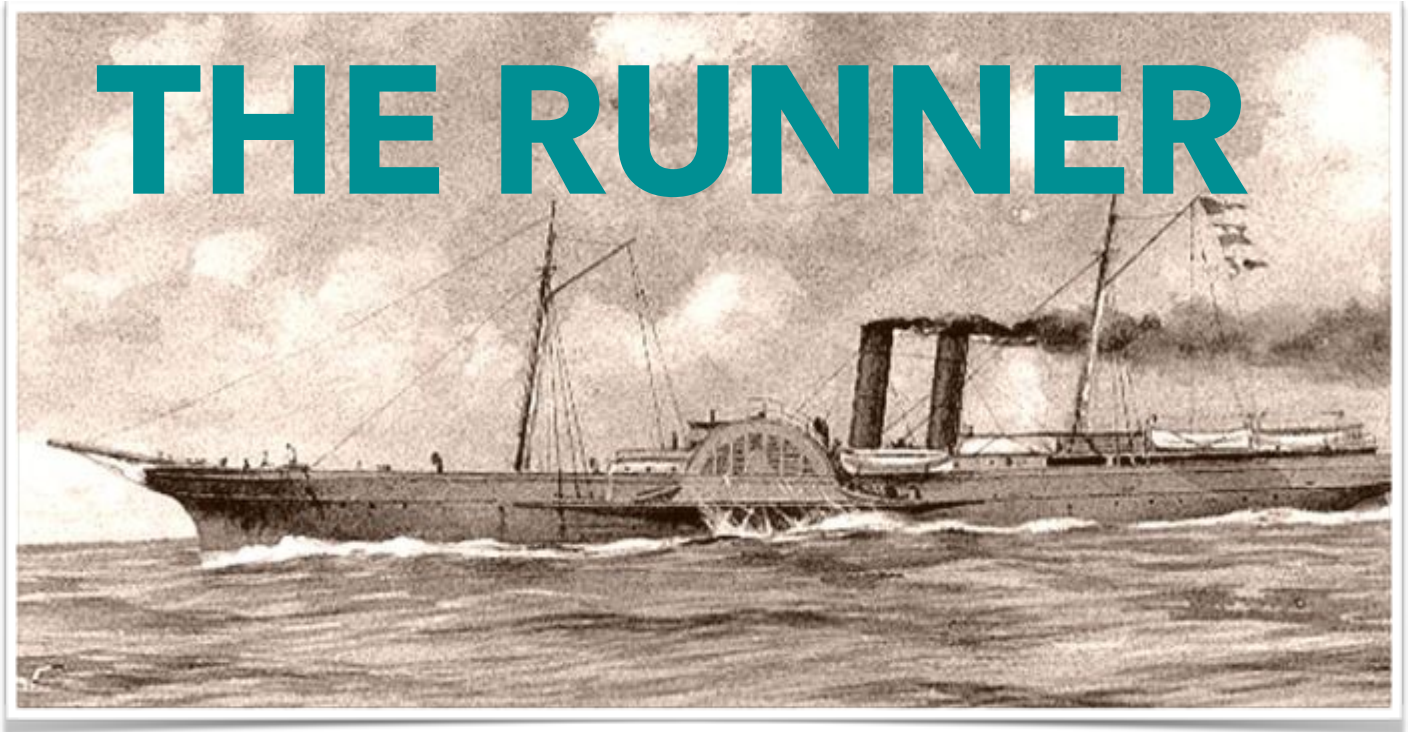


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The official newsletter of the Cape Fear Civil War Roundtable.

## August Battle Scenario Puts You in Command at Gettysburg

By Bill Jayne, President

All members of the Cape Fear Civil War Roundtable are encouraged to attend. In June, members of the round table presented fascinating and enlightening programs on the surprisingly prevalent use of anesthesia in treating wounds and an entertaining look at camp cooking in the armies, accompanied by VERY tasty samples. In July, the round table held a classic, seminar-style discussion about the pivotal battle of Cedar Creek, just a few weeks before the presidential election of 1864.

The August meeting will be held on Thursday evening, August 10, 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.

The Summer Forum on August 10, 2023, is based on a scenario that will allow all members to participate in making decisions as though they were Major General John Buford, Commanding Officer of the First Cavalry Division of the Army of the Potomac on the first day at Gettysburg.

(continued on next two pages)

## Membership Report

By Bruce Patterson, Secretary

We welcomed two new members at our July meeting, **Drew Peck** from Burgaw and **Jack Berry** who recently moved into *Trinity Landing* in Wilmington. Welcome Gentlemen! We have also had recent returnees from our pre-COVID membership and thus welcome back **Alan & Beverly Hunsberger** and **George Holston**. Their memberships bring our total membership to over 90 but our current venue, *St John's Episcopal Church*, is large enough to accommodate.

Our mid-summer, member forums have been popular, and we thus present the third in the series, *A War Game of Sorts*, led by member **John Weisz**.

August renewing members (you will be notified) may send their \$30 annual fee to **CFCWRT, 8387 East Highcroft NE, Leland, NC 28451** or better still, just bring your renewal fee to our August 10th meeting. You may also pay on-line at <http://www.cfcwrt.org> or by credit card at our meeting.

Per our membership system, your membership is good for a full 12 months and your renewal is thus a year from your prior payment. Due to our prior system, where everyone re-enlisted in August, there will be a significant number of members receiving renewal notices in August. Please respond accordingly.

Would-be commanders will be presented with a mission statement, maps and some relevant facts. Four options for executing the mission will be presented and the audience will offer their solutions to the problem.

It should be stated that the solutions will not require the detailed analysis and planning that would characterize the planning of a real civil war engagement. The goal is to engage as much of the audience as possible to help find the best solutions. Among the four possible options, the one actually used in the campaign will be discussed with the impact that decision of General Buford's had on the battle Of Gettysburg and the ultimate outcome of the war.

On June 3, 1863, soon after his celebrated victory over Union Maj. Gen. Josph Hooker at the Battle of Chancellorsville, near Fredericksburg, Virginia, Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee leads his troops north in his second invasion of enemy territory. The 75,000-man Army of Northern Virginia is in high spirits. In addition to seeking fresh supplies such as horses, shoes and other goods, the depleted soldiers look forward to availing themselves of food from the bountiful fields in Pennsylvania farm country, sustenance the war-ravaged landscape of Virginia can no longer provide.

Lee's southern army shields its presence from the Union by traveling north in the Shenandoah Valley as the opposing cavalry commands clash repeatedly over the mountain passes. Hooker also heads north, but he is reluctant to engage with Lee directly after the Union's humiliating defeat at Chancellorsville. Hooker is ultimately relieved of command in late June. His successor, Maj. Gen. George Gordon Meade, continues to move the 90,000-man Army of the Potomac northward in grueling marches of 20 miles per day or more, all the while following orders

to keep his army between Lee and Washington, D.C.

Early in the morning of July 1, a Confederate infantry division under Maj. Gen. Henry Heth marches toward Gettysburg to seize supplies. In an unplanned engagement, they confront Union cavalry. Union Brig. Gen. John Buford chooses to engage the larger Confederate unit, thereby slowing the Confederate advance until the infantry of the Union I and XI Corps under Maj. Gen. John F. Reynolds arrives. Reynolds is killed in action. Soon Confederate reinforcements reach the scene. By late afternoon, the wool-clad troops are battling ferociously in the sweltering heat. Thirty thousand Confederates overwhelm 20,000 Federals, who fall back through Gettysburg and fortify Cemetery Hill south of town.

The Battle of Gettysburg marked, perhaps, the most significant turning point of the Civil War. With more than 50,000 estimated casualties combined in the two armies, the three-day engagement was the bloodiest single battle of the conflict. Gettysburg ended Confederate general Robert E. Lee's ambitious second quest to invade the North and bring the Civil War to a swift end. The loss at Gettysburg dashed the hopes of the Confederate States of America to become an independent nation.

After a year of defensive victories in Virginia, Lee's objective was to win a battle north of the Mason-Dixon line in the hopes of forcing a negotiated end to the fighting. His loss at Gettysburg prevented him from realizing that goal. Instead, the defeated general fled south with a wagon train of wounded soldiers straining toward the Potomac. Victorious Union General George Meade pursued the retreating army but was unable to trap Lee and force a Confederate surrender. The bitterly divisive war raged on for another two years.



Union General John Buford

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 members of the round table. See you there!

At the Battle of Gettysburg, a group of nuns from the Sisters of Charity convent (located in nearby Emmitsburg) provided medical care at field dressing stations, in field hospitals and on the very battlefield itself. They were easily distinguishable from the large white habits they wore on their heads (think the Flying Nun). Their neutrality was respected by both sides as they were there to care for the wounded. They had no political leanings. They were credited as being great caregivers.



## Area Historic Association Events

By Yelena Howell, Tours and Trips Committee

**Friday, August 4, 2023, 2-4 pm. New Hanover County Public Library, Main Branch, Quiet Room. Senior Game Day.** Board games and refreshments. Ages 50+. Cost: free. Registration encouraged. Contact: Frances (910) 798-6347.

**Friday, August 4, 2023, 5:30-9 pm. New Hanover County Public Library, Northeast Branch. Book Sale.** Friends of the Library Members night (may join at the door). Hardbacks and AV \$3 ea., paperbacks \$2 ea. **Sale continues** 10-5 on Saturday and 1-5 on Sunday.

**Saturday, August 5, 2023, 4-6 pm. Dr. Chris E. Fonvielle Jr.** will lead a **Civil War Walking Tour** of downtown for Wilmington True History Tours. The ability to alternate standing and walking on urban terrain for 2 hours in hot weather is needed. <https://wilmingtontruehistory.com/>

**Wednesday, Aug 9, 2023, 4-6 pm. Historic Wilmington Foundation. Learn About Historic Home Plaques.** Learn about historic homes and buildings and applying for plaques. Registration required. 211 Orange Street, Wilmington, NC 28401, (910) 762-2511. <https://historicwilmington.org/>

**Wednesday, Aug 9, 2023, 5:45-7 pm. New Hanover County Public Library, Main Branch. The Ties That Bind: From the Wilmington Colored Educational Institute to the Wilmington Massacre.** Dr. Glen Harris of UNCW's Department of History will present on the noted photojournalist and PR specialist Alexander McAllister Rivera Jr. <https://libcal.nhcgov.com/event/10916453>

**Thursday, August 10, 2023, 6:30-8 pm (doors open at 6). Jazz at Bellamy Mansion. Jim Ferris Trio.** Proceeds benefit the musicians, the Bellamy Museum, and the Cape Fear Jazz Society. Tickets sold at the door (no pre-sales). Cost: **\$25.00** general admission; **\$20.00** member and volunteer; **\$15.00** student/active Military (please bring ID). Subject to fair weather. Contact: (910) 251-3700.

**Saturday, August 19, 10 am-4 pm. Bentonville Battlefield State Historic Site, 5466 Harper House Rd., Four Oaks, NC. "Heavy Thunder" (summer Artillery and Infantry program).** Hear the roar of cannon fire and learn about the role of artillery and infantry during Civil War. Cannon and musket demonstrations at 11 am, 1 pm, and 3 pm along with hands-on activities, talks and presentations.

**Sunday, August 20, 10 am-12 pm. Wilmington Water Tours. Dr. Chris E. Fonvielle Jr.** will discuss the Civil War in the Lower Cape Fear on a scenic two-hour river cruise. Tickets: <https://wilmingtonwatertours.net/cruises/speciality-cruises/history-comes-alive-with-dr-chris-fonvielle/>

Thank you for following Cape Fear Civil War Round Table on Facebook for additional events at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1696952227331256>

FRIENDS OF BENTONVILLE BATTLEFIELD AND THE  
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**FEATURING:**

GARRY ADELMAN · SUZY BARILE · MARK BRADLEY  
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ERIC WITTENBERG · ANGIE ZOMBEK · AND MORE!

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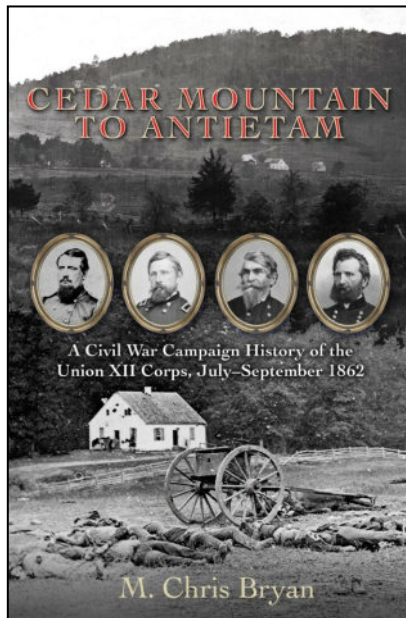
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FOR MORE INFO:

REGISTRATION OPENS  
JUNE 1ST!



**10/12/23 Chris Bryan**  
**Author of “Cedar Mountain to Antietam:**  
**A Civil War Campaign History of the Union XII Corps, July - September 1862”**



Chris Bryan’s book is both a unit history and a leadership and character assessment. It is a compelling story of a little studied yet consequential corps and fills a long standing gap in the history of the civil war. It is the story of how this often luckless command began as part of MG John Pope’s Army of Virginia in June 1862, endured defeat after coming within a whisker of defeating MG Stonewall Jackson at Cedar Mountain, suffered through the hardships of the campaigns before and after Second Manassas, but despite it all, found its resurgence in Maryland as part of the rebuilt Army of the Potomac.

The Union XII Corps found significant success on the field at Antietam. Its soldiers swept through the East Woods and the Miller Cornfield, permanently clearing both of the Confederates, repelled multiple Southern assaults against the Dunker Church plateau, and eventually secured a foothold beyond the Dunker Church in the West Woods. This important piece of high ground

had been the Union Objective all morning, and its occupation threatened the center and rear of General Lee’s army. The XII Corps’ achievement is especially notable given its string of disappointments and hardships in the months leading up to Antietam.

Chris Bryan is a native of Franklin County, Pennsylvania. After graduating from the United States Naval Academy with a B.S. in History, he served as a naval aviator for eight years. He has since worked as a project manager, during which time he earned an M.A. in Liberal Arts from St. John’s College in Annapolis, Maryland and a Masters in Historic Preservation from the University of Maryland, College Park where his studies focused on architectural investigations of antebellum domestic and agricultural outbuildings in the Chesapeake Bay region. He has remained active with historic preservation and architectural investigations.



Don’t forget to purchase books and merchandise at our meetings. The books, shirts, and hats sold contribute to the funding available for speakers and their expenses. Plus, the clothing is a good way to “fly the flag” of the Cape Fear Civil War Roundtable when you’re out and about. The shirts come in all sizes and many colors and the hats are adjustable. Reading the books - of course - increases your knowledge about the intricacies of the Civil War. It’s a win-win for you and the organization!

## Were West Point Graduates Responsible for the High Casualty Rates of the Civil War?

By John Weisz, CFCWRT Member

What were the contributions of West Pointers to the outcome of the Civil War?

To begin with let's look at a few facts about the United States Military Academy [USMA]. It was established at West Point New York in 1802. Within 59 years of its founding, the Civil War broke out and the foundation of the institution seemed to be in jeopardy. Military Academy was the first school in the United States for training officers in the infantry, cavalry, artillery, engineering and fortification science. It undoubtedly contributed much to the leadership during the battles, and in logistics and strategic planning in the ACW.

During the war, The Academy ...

- Produced 445 generals [294 fought for the Union, and 151 for the Confederacy].
- Suffered 105 fatalities killed and 151 seriously wounded [57% of those engaged].
- USMA graduates commanded one or both armies in every one of the 60 major battles of the war.

Although these statistics show a significant physical commitment to the Civil War, they don't show, on the whole, many great tactical innovations or operational successes, other than by a few modern thinkers like Grant, Sherman, Longstreet and Sheridan.

Founded in 1802, The United States Military Academy [USMA] is an institute for engineering and science, as well. West Point began with a rocky start with a total of two dozen cadets and staff at its birth. The first four superintendents either resigned or were fired. The next superintendent was one of the earliest graduates, who provided exemplary service in peace and war. Sylvanus Thayer immediately took steps to provide more discipline and academic regimen to an otherwise failing program.

In 1815, Sylvanus Thayer was sent to Europe to study the military systems and schools of the major military powers. Most of his time was spent at the École Polytechnique and in obtaining engineering and military texts. Thayer brought back over a thousand books, maps and artifacts from France. Most of these now reside in the Thayer Collection of the Academy Library.

Upon returning to the United States in 1817, Thayer began his tenure as Superintendent of the Academy which ended in 1833. To this day he is known as "the Father of the Academy" for the work he did to revise and revitalize USMA's curriculum. The French influence, particularly Napoleon's campaigns and maxims, were embedded in the academic experience of generations of graduating classes and subsequently throughout the Army as well as the scientific, engineering and transportation fields. The Academy had strong ties to the École Polytechnique and St. Cyr, the French military academy which was founded shortly after West point. Hence the strong

influence of Napoleonic legends and tactics, many of which were collected in Jomini's work, The Art of War.

With this resulting improved school for soldiering, much was expected (and delivered) by subsequent graduates. General Winfield Scott, Commander-in-Chief in the Mexican War, sang their praises in their service of that war. Scott made a toast to the graduates of West Point that it was his "fixed opinion" that the war was won mainly because of the service and leadership of the Academy graduates

This tribute was significantly contributed by the work of Captain Robert E Lee, who was Scott's chief engineer and scout, and Lee's firm grasp of terrain and fortifications. His tactical acumen allowed the Army to screen American forces from Mexican view and locate 'seams' between the main Mexican battle lines. This would later to be essential in exploiting opportunities for major breakthroughs of enemy positions.

Not to be forgotten, were the young leaders like Jefferson Davis, Albert Sidney Johnston, Thomas 'Stonewall' Jackson, US Grant and others who led their companies superbly. This war was one where small units could make a significant impact to turn the tide of battle against the more unwieldy Mexican Army (which, by the way, were firmly devoted to Napoleon's legacy. Santa Ana was so impressed that he even, arrogantly referred to himself as the 'Napoleon of the West.'

One does wonder how the tactical and operational expertise Lee showed in 1846 and 1847, later occasionally failed him from 1862 to 1865; where his plans and execution often led to horrendous casualties without an accompanying victory. On several occasions, he threw men up against entrenched positions, such as at Malvern Hill and Gettysburg.

It is true that the cadets were versed in the brilliant campaigns of Napoleon, however Napoleon had an entirely different army from that of the Confederate or Union troops. Although conscripted, the French soldiers were green at first but were absorbed by the veterans of the many French campaigns where they soon became professional and veteran themselves.

The American soldiers were a different breed. Following their officers, but they could also think for themselves; a characteristic of 'democratic soldiers.'

The tactics of maneuvering regiments on the battlefield were similar in these two eras of warfare but the weapons were not. ACW infantry fired rifled muskets, which were much more accurate and deadly.

Other differences between AWC and Napoleonic warfare are:

- **Terrain** in Europe was much wider and open, with a better road system for tactical infantry movement. Looking at warfare in Northern Virginia, Tennessee in Northern Georgia, the Civil War commanders could not readily send out several corps along different routes and expect them to meet at its designated point at the most opportune time directed by the commander. There were, of course, exceptions. Sherman did very well in his 'March to the Sea' to keep all three of his corps within two day's march of

each other. Lee had success in the Second Antietam campaign, and Jackson's subordinates, during the Shenandoah Valley campaign, would usually converge to fight a battle almost always at their preordained times. But generally, operations were often delayed as the army commander would wait patiently for supporting troops or flanking divisions to settle into their designated jump off points.

- **Communications** were basically the same, however the use of the telegraph should have provided a quantum leap in control of the various fighting corps in supporting services. At Chancellorsville, however, that technology suffered many mechanical and human shortcomings that led to the isolation of the two major elements of Hooker's plan and subsequent retreat.
- **Lines of Communication [LOC]**. Napoleon's tactics were based on the need to separate the fighting body of the army from the enemy's logistics base. Most commanders on both sides were extremely sensitive to exposing their LOC to interdiction by the enemy. Yet at Gettysburg, Lee ignored Longstreet's pleas to go around the Round Tops and put himself between the Army of the Potomac and Washington DC. This was a much less costly alternative to climbing the little Round Top or Cemetery Ridge, in terms of soldiers lost for limited gains

We have shown how the influence of Napoleonic tactics and operations strategy heavily influenced the new Academy and its graduates up to 1850. In the Mexican war, however, it was the initiative of company and field grade officers using their tactical analysis of terrain, understanding of their soldiers and those of the enemy to seize opportunities on the battlefield before them. They would outthink and outmaneuver their enemy without a large expenditure of manpower and other resources. Their instincts and basic training in tactics at the Academy bore more fruit in that earlier war than when they commanded corps and armies in the ACW.

*Editor's Note: Due to its length, John's article will be divided into two parts. This is the end of part one. Part two will run in next month's Runner.*

The Harper House at Bentonville Battlefield is getting a new paint job. 15 - 17 layers of paint have to be removed first. Hard work. Then the exterior will be painted in the colors believed to exist at the time of the battle. All in an effort to be as historically accurate as possible. Stay tuned.



## John Quarstein Will Be Speaker on 9/14/23

### ***CSS Albemarle and the actions at Edenton, Plymouth and New Bern***

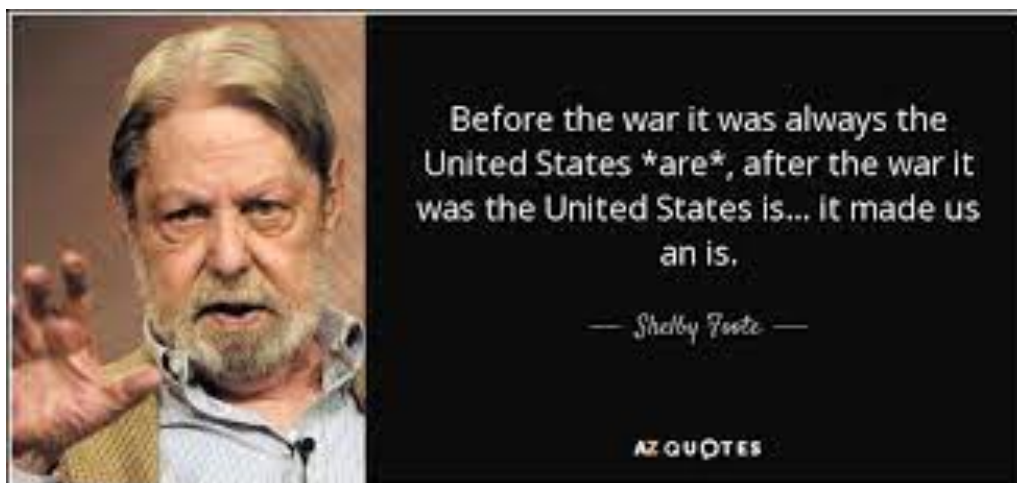
We are honored to have John V. Quarstein as our September Speaker. John is a nationally known speaker and an award-winning historian, preservationist, and author, whose name will be familiar to many of our members.

John served as the director of the Virginia War Museum until his retirement in 2008 after 30 years of service. He is now Director Emeritus of the USS Monitor Center at The Mariners' Museum in Newport News, Virginia.



John has authored 19 books and has written numerous articles, exhibits, essays, and documentaries. His titles include *A History of Ironclads: The Power of Iron over Wood*; *CSS Virginia: Sink Before Surrender*, and *The Monitor Boys: The Crew of the Union's First Ironclad*. He is the winner of the 2012 Henry Adams Prize for excellence in historical literature. Quarstein has also produced, narrated and written several PBS documentaries including the film series *Civil War in Hampton Roads*, a Silver Telly Award winner. Quarstein is the recipient of the National Trust for Historic Preservation's President's Award for Historic Preservation, the Civil War Society's Preservation Award, and the Daughters of the American Revolution Gold Historians Medal. He has been a guest on *C- Span* multiple times and has served as an adjunct professor at the College of William & Mary.

John is the expert on the Naval War and will speak to us about the Civil War actions that occurred along North Carolina's inland waterways, specifically the actions at Edenton, Plymouth and New Bern.



## CFCWRT Fall 2023 Programs

By James Gannon, Programs Committee

**9/14/23 John Quarstein**

### ***CSS Albemarle and the actions at Edenton, Plymouth and New Bern***

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**11/9/23 Ed Lowe**

### ***Author of "A Fine Opportunity Lost: Longstreet's East Tennessee Campaign, November 1863 - April 1864"***

Confederate General Longstreet's First Corps and Union General Burnside's IX Corps had already shared battlefields at Second Manassas, South Mountain, Antietam, and Fredericksburg. Unexpectedly, these two old foes from the Eastern Theater now found themselves transplanted to the Western Theater—familiar adversaries on unfamiliar ground. The fate of East Tennessee hung in the balance, and new reputations could be won or lost. General James Longstreet's deployment to East Tennessee gave him the chance for an independent command. For his Union opponent, Major General Ambrose Burnside, the Western Theater offered an opportunity for redemption from past failures. Colonel Ed Lowe USA (Ret) tells the story of how this was "a fine opportunity lost" for both men.

*Calling all authors! The Runner doesn't exist without your contributions. Please consider turning in an article, book review, meeting recap, upcoming event information that you know about - in short, anything you think our readers would be interested in. The newsletter is only as good as the content it receives from the members. Thanks in advance!*



YOU ARE INVITED TO THE  
**BULL PEN TRAIL  
GRAND  
OPENING**  
**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15TH  
10:00AM**  
PARKING FOR THE CEREMONY WILL  
BE AT THE ACORN RUN TOUR STOP  
PLEASE RSVP TO  
[DERRICK.BROWN@DNCR.NC.GOV](mailto:DERRICK.BROWN@DNCR.NC.GOV)



This new trail at the Bentonville Civil War Battlefield will be open to the public after the Grand Opening ceremony on September 15th. It's a beautiful trail that works its way through a special place on the battlefield. A great place to soak up some history and some nature.

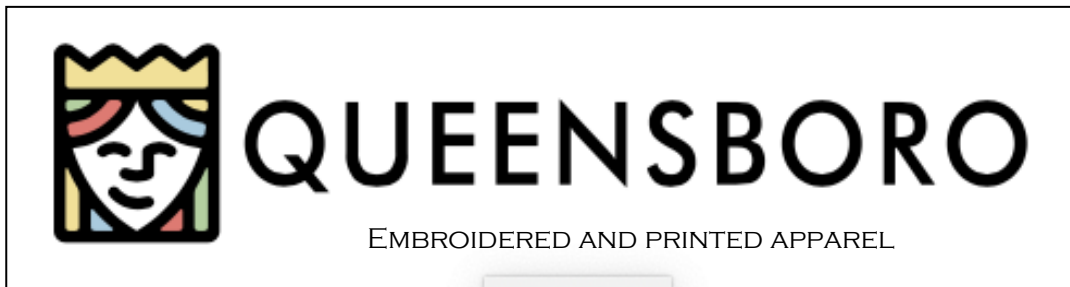
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## Cape Fear Civil War Roundtable

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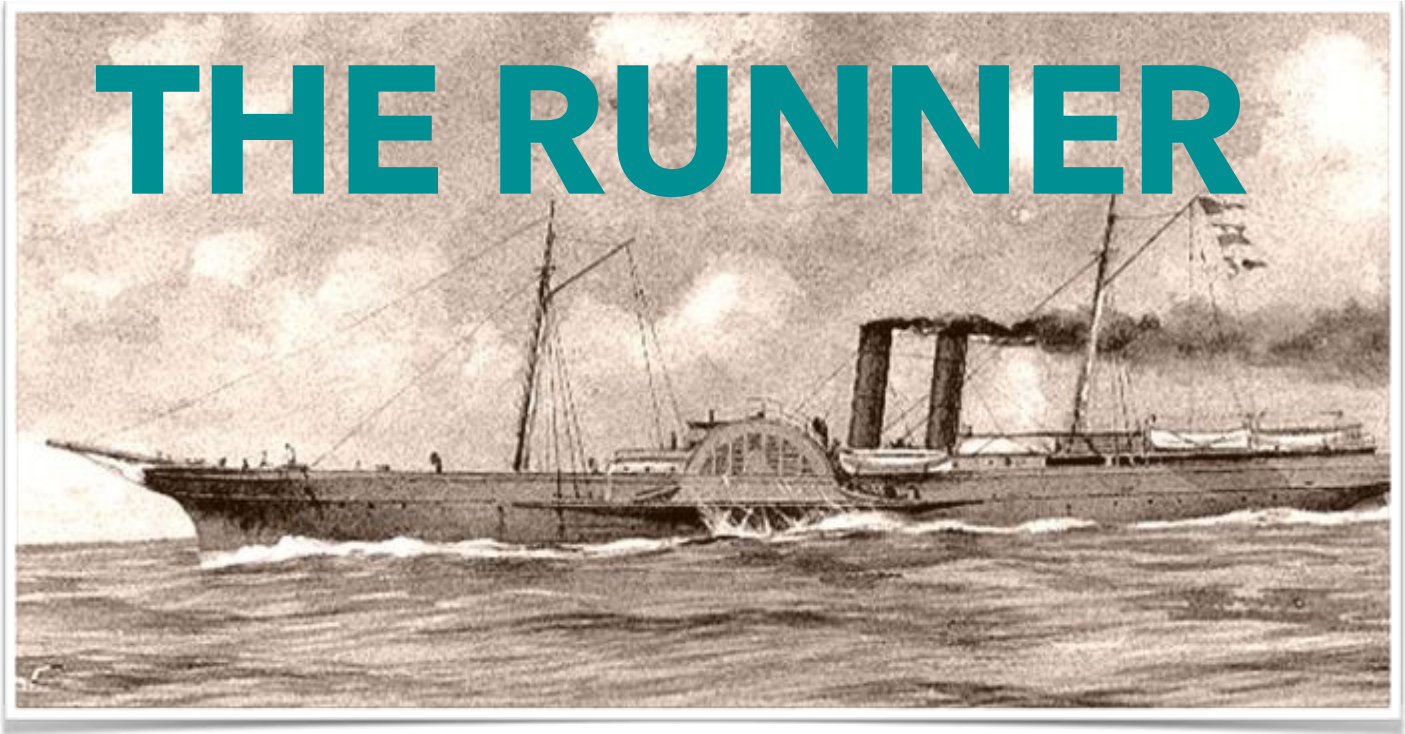
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The official newsletter of the Cape Fear Civil War Roundtable.

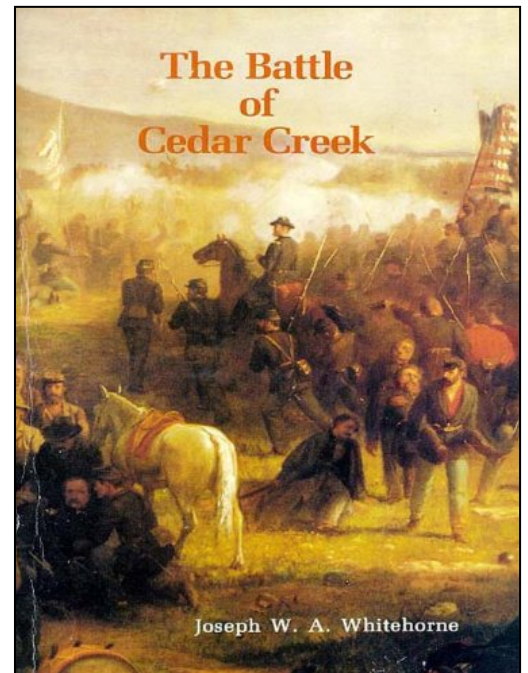
## Cedar Creek and the Significance of Contingency

By Bill Jayne, President

Our next meeting on July 13 will be a classic round table discussion—something like a seminar—in which all members in attendance will have the opportunity to talk about the Battle of Cedar Creek, October 19, 1864, in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. The Civil War Round Table movement began in Chicago in the 1940s in something like this format. See ground rules for the discussion in the box nearby.

The question before the club is: Was the Battle of Cedar Creek a case of the Union “snatching victory from the jaws of defeat,” or a case of the Confederate army allowing victory to slip from its grasp and, in effect, “snatching defeat from the jaws of victory.”

What’s the significance of this question? One of the preeminent Civil War historians of the last half century is James M. McPherson, professor emeritus of History at Princeton



## Membership Report

By Bruce Patterson, Secretary

We are pleased to report, at this mid-way point of the year, that our paid membership remains at 87.

We have entered our *member forum* season. These summer months are ideal for members to bring a friend and/or neighbor to our regularly scheduled monthly meeting, as attendance is predictably lower during those months and your invitee may then experience how a traditional CWRT operates.

July renewing members (you have been duly notified) may send their \$30 annual membership renewal fee to **CFCWRT, 8387 East Highcroft NE, Leland, NC 28451** or better still, just bring your renewal fee to our July 13th meeting. You may also pay on-line at <http://www.cfcwrt.org> or by credit card at our monthly meeting. We thank you for your support.

### **Roundtable Ground Rules**

Civility at all times

Listen Respectfully

No sidebars

One person speaks at a time

Moderator will call on people

Moderator may ask people to conclude

Questions may be posed to those who have spoken

University. His *Battle Cry of Freedom* is, quite likely, the most influential volume of Civil War history published in the last 50 years.

The last chapter of *Battle Cry of Freedom*, “Epilogue: To the Shoals of Victory,” analyzes the reasons for Confederate defeat and Union victory. He wrote: “Most attempts to explain southern defeat or northern victory lack the dimension of *contingency*—the recognition that at numerous critical points during the war things might have gone altogether differently.”

He then names four “major turning points”:

1. The summer of 1862 when Jackson and Lee in the east, and Bragg and Kirby Smith in the west, “arrested the momentum of a seemingly imminent Union victory.”
2. The fall of 1862 when “battles at Antietam and Perryville threw back Confederate invasions, forestalled European mediation...and set the stage for the Emancipation Proclamation.”
3. Summer and fall of 1863 when Vicksburg, Gettysburg and Chattanooga “turned the tide toward ultimate northern victory.”
4. Finally, “one more reversal of that tide seemed possible in the summer of 1864 when appalling Union casualties and apparent lack of progress especially in Virginia brought the North to the brink of peace negotiations and the election of a Democratic president. But the capture of Atlanta and *Sheridan’s destruction of Early’s army in the Shenandoah Valley* (emphasis added) clinched matters for the North.”

When Professor McPherson writes of “Sheridan’s destruction of Early’s army in the Shenandoah Valley,” he’s talking about the Battle of Cedar Creek. In other words, Cedar Creek is of vital importance because it was one of the critical turning points of the war when what followed was contingent on the outcome of this particular battle.

Read up on Cedar Creek and come to the meeting on

July 13 ready to enjoy a challenging and interesting opportunity to discuss this critical battle.



Members of the Cape Fear CWRT participate in an earlier roundtable discussion on the Battle of Fort Fisher. Rules of “decorum” are used.

Here are a few books to give you some detail on the Battle of Cedar Creek. **The Shenandoah Valley Campaign of 1864**, edited by the renowned historian Gary W. Gallagher, is an excellent thematic over- view of the context of the Battle of Cedar Creek and includes two very enlightening chapters on Cedar Creek itself. A very important chapter by Joseph T. Glatthaar looks at the campaign through the lens of General U.S. Grant’s strategy. **From Winchester to Cedar Creek** by Jeffrey D. Wert is a more straightforward, chronological battle history that provides much useful information about the three Confederate defeats that occurred before the Battle of Cedar

Creek. **The Guns of Cedar Creek** by Thomas A. Lewis is a battle history that focuses more on Cedar Creek. **The Battle of Cedar Creek** by Jonathan A. Noyalas is a more recent battle history prepared for the Civil War Sesquicentennial Series. A book I have found very useful is a self-guided tour of the battlefield by Col. Joseph W. A. Whitehorne, U.S. Army (ret.).

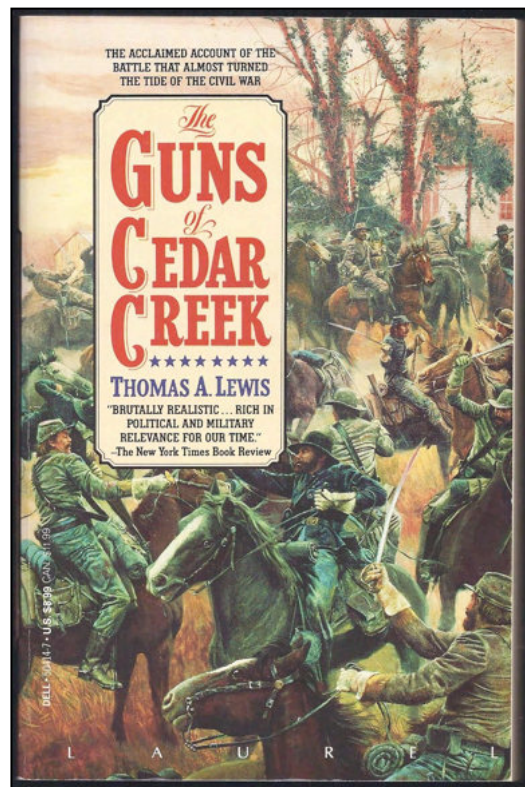
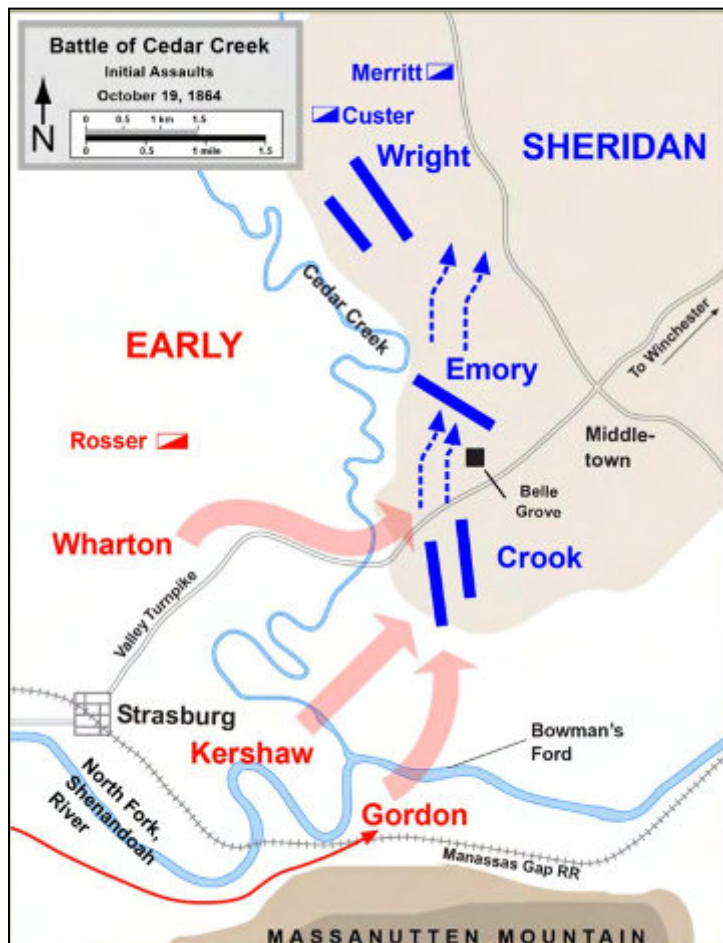
The powerful and fascinating personalities who guided and moved this dramatic battle are worth reading about either in their own memoirs, biographies or anthologized writings in books like **Battles and Leaders**. Their personalities are central to analysis of the battle. Union General Philip Sheridan, was an 1853 graduate of West Point from Ohio. An Irish Catholic, he was an under- sized and very aggressive leader who rose to the pinnacle of his profession as the commanding general of the U.S. Army in the 1880s. Grant sent Maj. Gen. Sheridan to the Shenandoah Valley as commander of the newly consolidated Middle Division of the Army. His command was known as the Army of the Shenandoah. Sheridan brought unified, focused command to a large, extremely powerful force of three infantry corps plus a provisional division and a superbly equipped cavalry corps of more than 8,000 men. He commanded a total force of about 31,600 effectives at Cedar Creek, including 1,856 artillerymen serving 90 guns, according to Col. Whitehorne.

Much older than Sheridan, Lt. Gen. Jubal Early, graduated West Point in 1837. He was a Virginia native connected to many of the most prominent FFVs (First Families of Virginia). He left the Army after brief service in the Seminole War and then studied law and rose to political prominence in Virginia. He volunteered for the state militia in the War with Mexico but his unit arrived in Mexico too late to see combat. His aggressive style of leadership brought him to the

attention of Robert E. Lee and he soon rose through the command structure as attrition removed leaders such as Thomas J. Jackson and Richard S. Ewell. By 1864, Lt. Gen. Early commanded the “Army of the Valley,” composed primarily of the redoubtable II Corps of the Army of Northern Virginia. Col. Whitehorse estimates his strength as approximately 21,000 at Cedar Creek including 5,300 cavalry and 1,100 artillerymen serving more than 40 guns. He notes, however, that some estimate Confederate strength as low as 12,780. The National Park Service estimates the size of the Army of the Valley as “14,000-15,000 men.”

Some other personalities are also of great interest and importance to the conduct of the battle. On the Confederate side, Maj. Gen. John B. Gordon of Georgia was crucial. Maj. Gen. Horatio Wright played an important role in Sheridan’s army but many other generals such as Crook, Geary, and Custer added to the complexity of the engagement. Col. Rutherford B. Hayes (yes, that Rutherford B. Hayes who later became president of the United States) commanded a brigade caught up in the initial surprise of the Confederate assault.

The weather also played a role in the battle. Typical of autumn in the Shenandoah Valley, the weather was generally dry with warm days and cool nights. However, the battlefield is enveloped by the Shenandoah River and Cedar Creek and overshadowed by the imposing landform of Massanutten Mountain. In the crucial hours around dawn on October 19, 1864, fog prevailed over much of the battlefield.



The Union counter-attack took place later that day from about 4 - 5 p.m.

FRIENDS OF BENTONVILLE BATTLEFIELD AND THE  
BENNETT PLACE SUPPORT FUND PRESENT:

# BENTONVILLE BENNETT PLACE & BEYOND

THE CIVIL WAR'S CONCLUSION IN NORTH CAROLINA  
**SYMPOSIUM**

SEPTEMBER 29-OCTOBER 1, 2023

**FEATURING:**

GARRY ADELMAN · SUZY BARILE · MARK BRADLEY  
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**VISIT:**

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REGISTRATION OPENS  
JUNE 1ST!



## Area Historic Association Events

By Yelena Howell, Tours and Trips Committee

**Saturday, July 1, 2023, 7:30 pm-10:05 pm. New Hanover County Public Library, Pine Valley Branch** parking lot. **Carpool Cinema!** A free screening of the beloved movie National Treasure will recall the days of drive-in theaters. Event capacity is 200 people. For more information, feel free to call (910) 798-6391.

**Friday, July 7, 2023, 2-4 pm. New Hanover County Public Library, Main Branch. Senior Game Day.** Board games, refreshments, and fellowship. Ages 50+. Registration is encouraged. Contact Frances at 910-798-6347.

**Thursday, July 13, 2023, 6:30 pm-8 pm (doors open at 6 pm): Bellamy Mansion.** Summer 2023 Jazz Series continues with Terry Burgh Trio. Proceeds benefit the musicians, the Bellamy Museum, and the Cape Fear Jazz Society. Tickets sold at the door (no pre-sales). Cost: **\$25.00** general admission; **\$20.00** member and volunteer; **\$15.00** student/active Military (please bring ID). Subject to fair weather. Contact: (910) 251-3700.

**Family-friendly activities every Saturday in July at Fort Fisher. For all site events here,** please note that all ages are welcome. In the event of adverse weather, an alternative indoor activity will take place in the Visitor Center. Cost: free, but donations always appreciated. Contact: Kaitlin O'Connor, (910) 251-7347 or [kaitlin.oconnor@ncdcr.gov](mailto:kaitlin.oconnor@ncdcr.gov)

**Sat, July 1, 2023, 10am - 2pm: Fort Fisher State Historic Site.** School of the Soldier, a Junior Reserves activity to teach kids about Civil War uniforms, weapons, equipment, drills, and camp life.

**Sat, July 8, 2023, 10am - 2pm: Fort Fisher State Historic Site.** Ready, Aim, Fire! The next activity in the July Junior Reserves series will teach kids about the basics of firing a Civil War cannon by exploring the underlying principles of physics and firing biodegradable water balloons.

**Sat, July 15, 2023, 10am - 2pm: Fort Fisher State Historic Site.** "I, Spy". This junior program will discuss Civil War spies and coding techniques.

**Sat, July 22, 2023, 10am - 2pm: Fort Fisher State Historic Site.** "Inked". Kids of all ages will learn about Civil War tattoos and can choose a temporary tattoo to sport until it washes away.

**Sat, July 29, 2023, 10am - 2pm: Fort Fisher State Historic Site.** Junior Reserves Signal Flags. Come learn the wig-wag alphabet and try your hand at sending messages with signal flags.

For additional events of interest, be sure to follow Cape Fear Civil War Round Table on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1696952227331256>



## Jim Horton’s Guns of Fort Fisher Echo on the National Scene



Combat veteran and the author of *The Confederacy’s Most Modern General: James Longstreet and the American Civil War*, Harold Knudsen, LTC (Ret.) was a much-anticipated presenter at the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table meeting in September 2022. On the behalf of our organization, President Bill Jayne gifted Col. Knudsen a print of Jim Horton’s remarkable watercolor, *Guns of Fort Fisher*. The print continues to grace Col. Knudsen’s office and draws positive feedback from visitors, sparking conversations about

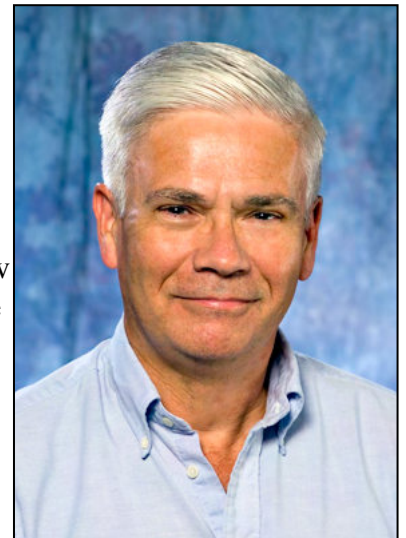
the role of Fort Fisher in the great conflict. We appreciate Col. Knudsen keeping in touch with CFCWRT on our Facebook page and treasure the far-reaching impact of art, writing, and our tradition of gathering in fellowship to learn more about many facets of the American Civil War experience.

### 8/10/23: CFCWRT Audience Participation Program “A War Game of Sorts” led by John Weisz

The game will focus upon the options available to Major General John Buford leading a division of US cavalry and searching for the main Confederate force which has invaded southern Pennsylvania and Maryland. The audience will play the role of General Buford and will be presented four possible courses of action available to Buford.

After our audience discussion we will poll the participants and then review the actual decision made by Buford and why he made that choice. Was he following or disregarding his orders? Did he understand his new boss’ (General Meade’s) plan? What information did he have? What information did he lack?

If you were John Buford what would you do?



John Weisz is a former Army Officer, graduate of the US Military Academy at West Point and a Six Sigma Black Belt. John is an accomplished speaker and well known for his work with the Remembering Our Heroes organization.

Remember to patronize our merch. and book sales. It helps us to raise money for our programs.

## CFCWRT Fall 2023 Programs

By James Gannon, Programs Committee

**9/14/23 John Quarstein**

### ***CSS Albemarle and the actions at Edenton, Plymouth and New Bern***

John V. Quarstein is a nationally known speaker and an award-winning historian, preservationist, and author. John served as the director of the Virginia War Museum until his retirement and is now Director Emeritus of the USS Monitor Center at The Mariners' Museum in Newport News, Virginia. He has authored 18 books and has served as an adjunct professor at the College of William & Mary. John is an expert on the Naval War and will speak to us about the Civil War actions that occurred along North Carolina's inland waterways.

**10/12/23 Chris Bryan**

### ***Author of "Cedar Mountain to Antietam: A Civil War Campaign History of the Union XII Corps, July - September 1862"***

Chris Bryan's book is both a unit history and a leadership and character assessment. It is a compelling story of a little studied yet consequential corps and fills a long standing gap in the history of the civil war. It is the story of how this often luckless command began as part of MG John Pope's Army of Virginia in June 1862, endured defeat after coming within a whisker of defeating MG Stonewall Jackson at Cedar Mountain, suffered through the hardships of the campaigns before and after Second Manassas, but despite it all, found its resurgence in Maryland as part of the rebuilt Army of the Potomac. Chris Bryan is a former naval aviator and USNA graduate, and is active with historic preservation and architectural investigations.

**11/9/23 Ed Lowe**

### ***Author of "A Fine Opportunity Lost: Longstreet's East Tennessee Campaign, November 1863 - April 1864"***

Confederate General Longstreet's First Corps and Union General Burnside's IX Corps had already shared battlefields at Second Manassas, South Mountain, Antietam, and Fredericksburg. Unexpectedly, these two old foes from the Eastern Theater now found themselves transplanted to the Western Theater—familiar adversaries on unfamiliar ground. The fate of East Tennessee hung in the balance, and new reputations could be won or lost. General James Longstreet's deployment to East Tennessee gave him the chance for an independent command. For his Union opponent, Major General Ambrose Burnside, the Western Theater offered an opportunity for redemption from past failures. Colonel Ed Lowe USA (Ret) tells the story of how this was "a fine opportunity lost" for both men.

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The Bentonville Battlefield has an interesting event coming up on August 19th from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. - it's called Heavy Thunder: Bentonville Summer Artillery and Infantry Program. Hear the roar of cannon fire and learn how cannons were loaded/fired!



## June Program Both Illuminating and Quite Filling!

By Bill Jayne, President



Approximately 30 members of the round table attended a special double feature starring fellow members William Jordan and Dr. Charles Ewell, M.D. William is a dedicated re-enactor who is an expert at 18th and 19th Century cooking. Dr. Ewell, a descendant of CSA Lt. General Richard S. Ewell, is a dedicated historian and an anesthesiologist.

William told us about sutlers and how they supplied the armies with foodstuffs from oysters, sausages, eggs, flour, lemons to cheese and butter. They also supplied all sorts of everyday items such as hair brushes, buttons, boot and shoe polish, needles, thread, etc. And, although it was mostly illegal, they sold whiskey, brandy and other liquors to the troops. Most were attached to a regiment or brigade and usually printed or minted their own tokens or scrip to ensure that soldiers would come back to the sutler to spend more of his money.

Fortified by the sutlers, when circumstances allowed, soldiers were able to cook some pretty decent meals. After William's presentation, the audience enjoyed an alfresco intermission where

he and wife Kim served an authentic barbecue of pork roast, soft bread, burgoo, lemonade, and gingerbread. One put the pork on the bread, topped it with burgoo and—Presto!—a delicious and filling meal.



As mentioned in the article, the food was delicious and was enjoyed by many members of the roundtable. It was suggested that William and Kim attend every meeting to ensure that we have a good understanding of Civil War era foods and desserts!

For the next feature, Dr. Ewell gave us a history of the development of ether and chloroform in the 1840s and how the two agents were soon adopted by many surgeons to help patients tolerate surgeries. Chloroform acted faster so it was often the first choice in military applications. The English used anesthesia fairly widely in the Crimean War but the French were slower to adopt it.

By the Civil War, anesthesia was widely used by both sides. The south developed factories to produce ether and chloroform in Richmond, Virginia, and Columbia, S.C. but it was never as widely available as it was in the Union armies. The Union reported that 80,000 anesthetics were given in the military. In 8,900 cases they recorded the type of anesthesia used. In those cases, chloroform was used 76% of the times, ether accounted for 15%, and a mixture of the two accounted for 9%. Only 37 chloroform deaths were recorded, along with 4 attributed to ether and two to a mixture. Thirteen deaths happened before surgery started. Half of the deaths were for minor procedures.

Charlie also talked about the very liberal administration of painkillers such as laudanum and other forms of opium. Such use led to a large number of addicted veterans, a problem that was noted into the early 1900s.



We're lucky in our round table to have such knowledgeable and talented members willing to share their stories with us. Thanks to William and Kim Jordan, and Dr. Charlie Ewell.



The invention of anesthesia certainly made for more humane surgery.



### From Pat Garrow

I took this photograph on Saturday June 10 at an excavation that is being done by the Public Archaeology Corps of Wilmington. The find is a bar shot found in flood deposits from the 1769 hurricane that was one of the worst storms of the century to hit Wilmington. It had to have been dropped there, sometime after the hurricane and probably before the Revolutionary War. Bar shot was shot from a cannon and spun from end to end to take out ship rigging, sails, and masts. It could also be used as an anti-personnel device.

We excavate on the site every other Saturday and we have a web site that can be found by googling Public Archaeology Corps. Call me at 865 548 8802 if you have questions.

### And from Yelena Howell

**July 26, 2023: CRWCRT member, archeologist and author Patrick Garrow will turn 80 years old. Happiest of birthdays, Pat! You share this big day with Mick Jagger and are every bit as cool, energetic and handsome as the Rolling Stone!**

“Between 1861 and 1865, Americans made war on each other and killed each other in great numbers - if only to become the kind of country that could no longer conceive of how that was possible.”

Bruce Catton, Journalist and Historian (1899 - 1978)

## Sarah Kay Bierle to be our March 2024 speaker

### “From California to Gettysburg: The Hancock Family”

In 1858, Winfield and Almira Hancock and their two children moved to California. As a U.S. Army officer, Winfield S. Hancock’s duties had taken the family to several remote outposts, but their time in California would be some of their most memorable days. The American Civil War began while the Hancocks were in California, and this conflict presented challenging choices. Their decision—made in California—would help keep the Golden State in the Union and also impact one of the great eastern battles of the Civil War.



We are excited to welcome Sarah Kay Bierle to our Round Table. Sarah is a nationally known speaker and author. She serves as managing editor at the Emerging Civil War blog, and works in the Education Department at the American Battlefield Trust. She has spent years exploring ways to share quality historical research in ways that will inform and inspire modern audiences, including school presentations, writing, and speaking engagements. Sarah has published four books, including “Call Out The Cadets: The Battle of New Market” which is part of the Emerging Civil War series, and published by Savas Beattie.

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## Treasurer’s Report

By Mike McDonald, Treasurer

The year started with a substantial cushion, dollars we can use to attract speakers from other cities. Although the cushion has shrunk a bit, it is still substantial - more than adequate for the balance of the year.

We have no financial problems.

The bank requires us to maintain a \$3,000 balance to avoid a monthly fee of \$100 (for all small business accounts). And we need about \$1,000 to \$1,500 to handle normal expenses for several months. In case something awful happens (like COVID). The \$1,000 would be for speaker commitments, rents, and web/internet fees.

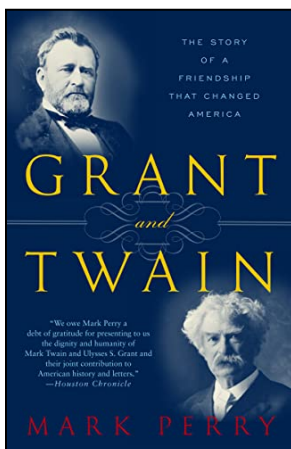
So far, revenue and expenses are pretty much as budgeted, but neither matches 2022. Our income for the January to June period has been about \$2,000, exactly what was budgeted way back in 2022. And our expenses have been about \$2,600, within \$100 of the budget.

The imbalance (\$2,000 income versus \$2,600 in expenses) is not worrisome because our “cushion” is much greater than \$600. We planned for the July to December period to produce more income than January to June.

Last year was different - for January to June 2022, our income was almost \$1,000 greater. Emily Lapisardi had a moving presentation at Oakdale Cemetery which was attended by seventy some people, mostly members and guests. Oakdale provided \$500 to help us with expenses, which was recorded as income. And we had a silent auction that also produced extra dollars. Both of these items were missing in 2023, so total revenue is less.

This year, our July to December budget is considerably more than the \$2,000 left from the first half of the year. We expect inputs from planned tours and events, from logo-embroidered hats and shirts, books, from raffles and auctions.

In October, we will again support Wreaths Across America, as we have for many years.



[Grant and Twain: The Story of a Friendship That Changed America](#) by Mark Perry gets rave reviews. Twain helped Grant publish his memoirs (they were published by Twain’s nephew). Grant worked feverishly to complete his memoirs (pun intended) as he was trying to finish them before his bad health (cancer) incapacitated him. Grant had an easy to read and understand writing style which made his memoir very popular. Twain had actually served as an editor, but didn’t feel the need to make many changes. Their friendship was said to be beneficial to both men. Grant’s family ended up making much more money from the memoir than they would have and Twain gained ideas for his writing.

## Gettysburg To Mark 160th Anniversary This Year

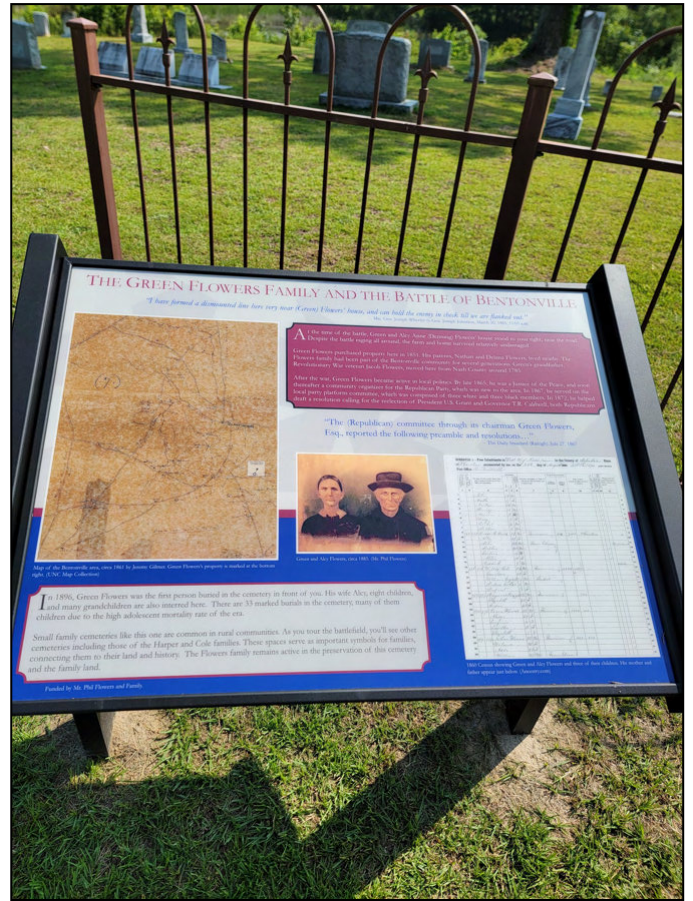
By Bill Jayne, President

This year marks the 160th anniversary of Gettysburg. One of the organizations marking the anniversary with special events is [pcntv.com](http://pcntv.com), a nonprofit cable television network “dedicated to educating, connecting, and celebrating Pennsylvania’s past, present, and future. “ PCN receives no state or federal tax dollars. You can watch PCN’s Gettysburg coverage on cable or by streaming with PCN Select. PCNTV Gettysburg.

*From their news release:*

Programming will air from July 1 to 3 with four new Battlewalks featured each night beginning at 7 p.m. In partnership with the Gettysburg National Military Park, PCN has televised Battlewalks on the anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg since 1995.





The Bentonville Battlefield unveiled a new tour stop on June 28th at the Flowers Crossroads section of the battlefield. It's the eleventh tour stop on the driving tour completed so far; number twelve is in the planning stages. Funds for the signage were provided by the Friends of Bentonville Battlefield (FOBB). Information on the panels is written by battlefield staff.

### Cape Fear Civil War Roundtable

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- Vice President: Al Turner [allanturner67@gmail.com](mailto:allanturner67@gmail.com) (703) 967-9667
- Secretary: Bruce Patterson [brucepatterson7338@gmail.com](mailto:brucepatterson7338@gmail.com) (910) 794-8905
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- Newsletter: Fred Claridge [frdclar@gmail.com](mailto:frdclar@gmail.com)



We thank our sponsors, who make it possible for us to thrive as an organization. It would be much harder without their support!



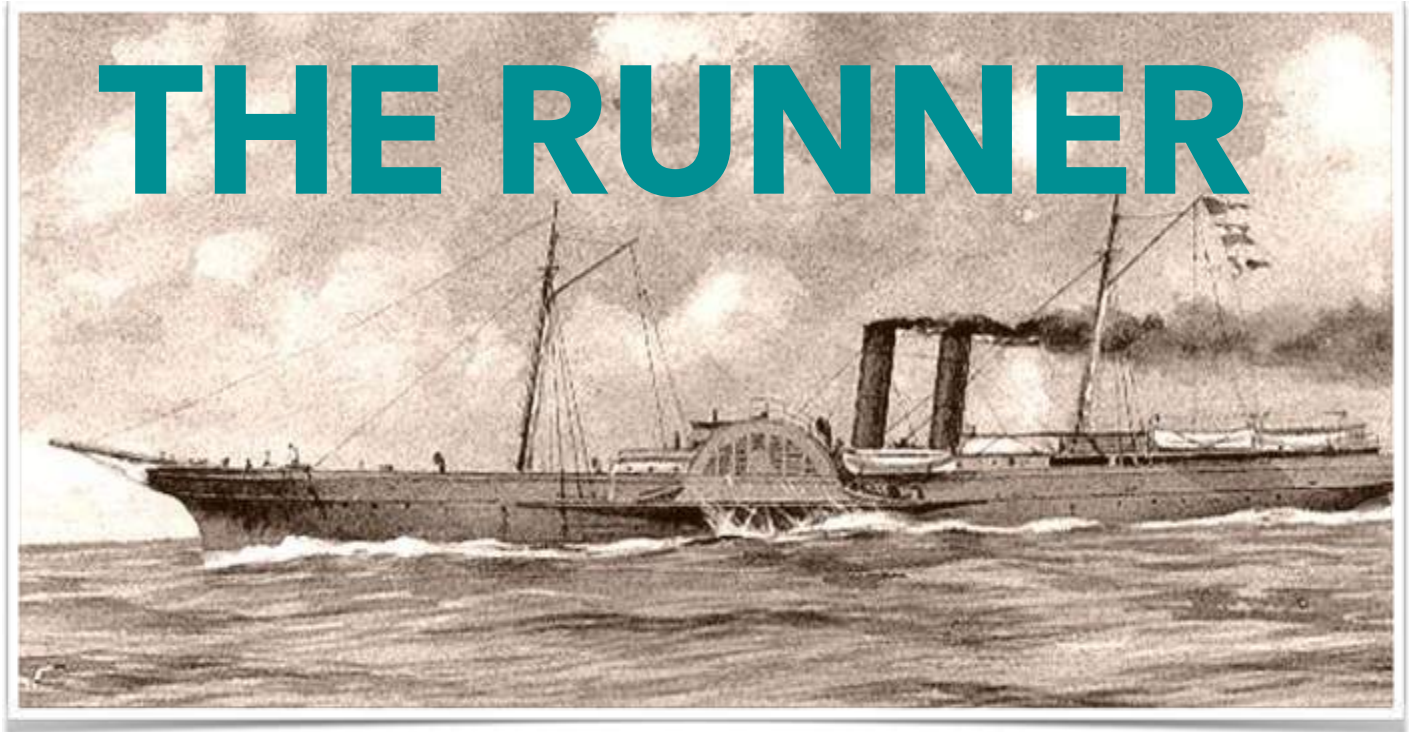
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The official newsletter of the Cape Fear Civil War Roundtable.

**INSIDE THE NEWSLETTER**

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**Membership Report**

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**Upcoming Summer Programs**

**Alfred Nugent's Arm**

**Our May Events**

**Naval Symposium**

**July Round Table Discussion will be "Victory from the Jaws of Defeat"**

By Bill Jayne, President

As part of our expanded summer program, the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table will host a true "round table" discussion about the battle of Cedar Creek in October 1864.

The fall of 1864 was, of course, a pivotal time of political decision making. In the United States, the National Union Party of Abraham Lincoln ran against the Democratic Party standard bearer, former Union General George B. McClellan.

The summer of 1864 was a terrible time of trial for the North. Grant and Meade drove the Union armies of the east to Petersburg and Richmond,

(continued on next page)

## Membership Report

By Bruce Patterson, Secretary

Thanks in part to superb programs, **Bob Browning** in April and **Ed Gantt** in May for example, plus a very welcoming venue at *St. John's Episcopal Church*, our membership remains steady with a net gain of one for a total paid membership of 87 which includes remote and associate members.

Attendance at the May meeting was 52 and we can thus claim a very respectable 60% per capita attendance. Thankfully, we return to *St. Johns* for the balance of the year and have ample room to accommodate a larger audience as the *Cape Fear Museum* is limited as to capacity.

Renewing members may send their \$30 annual membership fee to **CFCWRT, 8387 East Highcroft NE, Leland, NC 28451** or bring your check to our June 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. You may also pay on-line at <http://www.cfcwrt.org> or by credit card at our monthly meeting. Membership renewal notices are sent, via email, during the first week of your renewal month Meeting attendees may have noticed that your new name tag reflects the month of your membership renewal.

Please attend our monthly meetings during the summer months and bring a neighbor or friend. We have room to grow. We're lucky to have so many people in our area interested in the Civil War.

inflicting terrible losses on the Army of Northern Virginia but absorbing astronomical casualties themselves.

Sherman drove the Confederate Army of Tennessee back onto the defenses of Atlanta, but the pace of advance seemed glacial and a decisive victory still much in doubt.

Close to home for Lincoln and the political leaders of the north, a small but ferocious army under Confederate Lieutenant General Jubal Early arrived at the gates of the Federal City itself like some reincarnation of the "barbarians" assaulting Rome as the empire decayed.

In August, Lincoln received some political visitors to the White House to discuss the upcoming election and they ventured the opinion that the sitting president would lose the election. Lincoln responded, "You think I don't know I am going to be beaten, but I do and unless some great change takes place badly beaten."

Finally, the tide turned. Farragut damned the torpedoes and closed Mobile Bay, Sherman cut the Confederate supply line and drove the Army of Tennessee out of Atlanta, and Grant detailed Major General Philip Sheridan to the Shenandoah Valley to dispose of Early's Army of the Valley.

Sheridan won resounding victories at Winchester and Fisher's Hill and by October all seemed well. On October 16, Sheridan departed the valley heading for Washington City and a conference, leaving his army of about 31,000 men under the command of Maj. Gen. Horatio Wright, commander of the

(continued on next page)

stalwart VI Corps of the Army of the Potomac. Camped on the north side of Cedar Creek, a tributary of the North Fork of the Shenandoah, the situation seemed secure.



Gen. Early's army of about 21,000 was south of the creek but connected to Richmond by good roads and rail. The Union intercepted a Confederate message suggesting that Gen. Robert E. Lee was about to send reinforcements to Early. It was a planted message and very unlikely, but, even so, Sheridan cautioned Wright to look carefully to his defenses. Sheridan also ordered the very powerful Union Cavalry Corps back to Cedar Creek.

With a deep creek to their front and an even more forbidding river gorge to their left (east), the Union put their strongest forces on the right (west) and middle, blocking the Valley Pike running north to south.

The relative weakness of the Union left, gave Early an opportunity to mount a risky surprise attack. At dawn on October 19, 1864, Kershaw's Confederate division crossed the creek at a ford to attack the Union left. Another division crossed the Valley Pike bridge and added its weight to the surprise attack and then, Maj. Gen. John B. Gordon's division, after crossing the Shenandoah at a ford, attacked the left flank and rear of the Union forces.

The initial assaults were spectacularly successful for the Confederates and although Union troops fought doggedly in spots, the army gave ground for miles, fighting at Belle Grove Plantation, around the village of Middletown and by late morning, the Confederate attack ran out of steam.

(continued on next page)

In a famous ride on his famous horse Rienzi, Sheridan turned back from Winchester and hurried to the battlefield. He helped rally the Union forces and then planned a counterattack that proved crushingly successful.



CSA General John Gordon reconnoitering Union lines from the Confederate signal station on Signal Knob on the north end of Massanutten Mountain in the Shenandoah Valley.

The discussion will focus on the Confederate pause. Gen. Gordon urged Early to continue the assault against the unbroken Union VI Corps, but Early seemed confident they would retire. Writing later, Early seemed to say that Confederate troops, stopping to pillage Union camps, led to disorganization and weakness that prevented further attacks.

By late mid-afternoon, Sheridan had rallied the Union forces and positioned them for a counterattack. The powerful Union cavalry turned

the counterattack into a crushing defeat for the Confederates, a defeat that finally drove them from the Shenandoah Valley and gave a significant boost to Lincoln’s reelection campaign.

More will be forthcoming, but there is plenty of time to read about the battle and form your opinions so you can participate in the discussion on July 13.

Was it a case of Sheridan snatching victory from the jaws of defeat, or Early snatching defeat from the jaws of victory?

**Battle of Winchester**

This is a painting of the final charge at the Battle of Winchester, prior to Cedar Creek. It shows the powerful Union cavalry overrunning Confederate lines.



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JUNE 1ST!



## Area Historic Association Events

By Yelena Howell, Tours and Trips Committee

**Friday, June 2, 2023, 2-4 pm. New Hanover County Public Library, Main Branch, Harnett Room. Senior Game Day.** Board games and refreshments. Ages 50+. Cost: free. Registration encouraged. Contact: Frances (910) 798-6347.

**Thursday, June 8, 2023, 6:30 pm-8 pm (doors open at 6 pm): Bellamy Mansion.** Jay Killman Quartet kicks off the Summer Jazz Series. Proceeds benefit the musicians, the Bellamy Museum, and the Cape Fear Jazz Society. Tickets sold at the door (no pre-sales). Cost: **\$25.00** general admission; **\$20.00** member and volunteer; **\$15.00** student/active Military (please bring ID). Subject to fair weather. Contact: (910) 251-3700.

**Sat, Jun 17, 2023, 10am - 2pm: Fort Fisher State Historic Site.** Youth program for “junior reservists” to master various crew positions and steps of loading and firing a Civil War cannon. In the event of adverse weather, an alternative indoor activity will take place in the Visitor Center. Cost: free, but donations always appreciated. Contact: Kaitlin O’Connor, (910) 251-7347 or [kaitlin.oconnor@ncdcr.gov](mailto:kaitlin.oconnor@ncdcr.gov)

**Sat, Jun 24, 2023, 10am - 2pm: Fort Fisher State Historic Site.** Town Ball. All ages are welcome to try their hand at the 19-century precursor to baseball. In the event of adverse weather, an alternative indoor activity will take place in the Visitor Center. Cost: free, but donations always appreciated. Contact: Kaitlin O’Connor, (910) 251-7347 or [kaitlin.oconnor@ncdcr.gov](mailto:kaitlin.oconnor@ncdcr.gov)

For additional events of interest, be sure to follow Cape Fear Civil War Round Table on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1696952227331256>

We strive to update our public page frequently and appreciate your participation.



Bill Jayne, John Walsh, tours director for Brunswick CWRT, and Gifford Stack, newsletter editor of Brunswick CWRT. Bill visited the Brunswick CWRT back in April.



## CFCWRT Summer 2023 Programs

### 6/8/23: A Double Feature Member Forum!

#### *Bill Jordan: Civil War Cooking*

There was a whole lot more to Civil War Cooking than salt pork and hardtack crackers. Civil War era cooks used different ingredients than we usually do in order to achieve some very good meals. Bill will dispel the myth that the food was always unpalatable. (Bill might even bring a sample.)

#### *Charles Ewell: Civil War Anesthesia*

Although anesthesia was "discovered" less than two decades before the civil war, any controversy about the benefits was settled early in this conflict. Charles will summarize the milestones that led to general anesthesia and focus on the details of its use in civil war surgery. There are some misconceptions about surgery during the civil war which probably arose from depictions in the movies. Charles will dispel these and try to put the successful organization of anesthesia services into the context of the rapid transformation of surgery from the barber shop to something resembling what we have now. Charles's role as an anesthesiologist brings an interesting and different perspective to his subject.



### 7/13/23: A Round Table discussion led by CFCWRT President Bill Jayne

#### *Victory Snatched from the Jaws of Defeat...or Vice Versa?*

The initial Confederate assaults at the battle of Cedar Creek, October, 1864, came while Sheridan was away, and were spectacularly successful. However, by afternoon, the Confederate attack ran out of steam. In his famous ride, Sheridan turned back from Winchester and hurried to the battlefield, helped rally the Union forces, and ordered a counterattack that proved crushingly successful. The Round Table discussion will focus on the Confederate pause that afternoon. Gen. Gordon urged Early to continue the assault against the stalwart Union VI Corps, but Early seemed confident they would retire. Writing later, Early seemed to lay the blame for the defeat upon the Confederate troops, who, by stopping to pillage Union camps, became too disorganized for further attacks. More will be forthcoming before our meeting, but there is plenty of time to read about the battle and form your opinions before our discussion.



### 8/10/23: Audience Participation

#### *"A War Game of Sorts" led by John Weisz*

The game will focus upon the options available to Major General John Buford leading a division of US cavalry and searching for the main Confederate force which has invaded southern Pennsylvania and Maryland. The audience will play the role of General Buford and will be presented four possible courses of action available to Buford. After our audience discussion we will poll the participants and then review the actual decision made by Buford and why he made that choice. If you were John Buford what would you do?



## CFCWRT Fall 2023 Programs

By James Gannon, Programs Committee

**9/14/23 John Quarstein**

### ***CSS Albemarle and the actions at Edenton, Plymouth and New Bern***

John V. Quarstein is a nationally known speaker and an award-winning historian, preservationist, and author. John served as the director of the Virginia War Museum until his retirement and is now Director Emeritus of the USS Monitor Center at The Mariners' Museum in Newport News, Virginia. He has authored 18 books and has served as an adjunct professor at the College of William & Mary. John is an expert on the Naval War and will speak to us about the Civil War actions that occurred along North Carolina's inland waterways.

**10/12/23 Chris Bryan**

### ***Author of "Cedar Mountain to Antietam: A Civil War Campaign History of the Union XII Corps, July - September 1862"***

Chris Bryan's book is both a unit history and a leadership and character assessment. It is a compelling story of a little studied yet consequential corps and fills a long standing gap in the history of the civil war. It is the story of how this often luckless command began as part of MG John Pope's Army of Virginia in June 1862, endured defeat after coming within a whisker of defeating MG Stonewall Jackson at Cedar Mountain, suffered through the hardships of the campaigns before and after Second Manassas, but despite it all, found its resurgence in Maryland as part of the rebuilt Army of the Potomac. Chris Bryan is a former naval aviator and USNA graduate, and is active with historic preservation and architectural investigations.

**11/9/23 Ed Lowe**

### ***Author of "A Fine Opportunity Lost: Longstreet's East Tennessee Campaign, November 1863 - April 1864"***

Confederate General Longstreet's First Corps and Union General Burnside's IX Corps had already shared battlefields at Second Manassas, South Mountain, Antietam, and Fredericksburg. Unexpectedly, these two old foes from the Eastern Theater now found themselves transplanted to the Western Theater—familiar adversaries on unfamiliar ground. The fate of East Tennessee hung in the balance, and new reputations could be won or lost. General James Longstreet's deployment to East Tennessee gave him the chance for an independent command. For his Union opponent, Major General Ambrose Burnside, the Western Theater offered an opportunity for redemption from past failures. Colonel Ed Lowe USA (Ret) tells the story of how this was "a fine opportunity lost" for both men.

Did you know that Carl Sandburg spent fifteen years researching his biography of Abraham Lincoln? The biography, when complete came in at six volumes and won a Pulitzer Prize. One of Sandburg's prize possessions was a table made from wood from the White House ceiling from Lincoln's time there.



Editor's Note: Bentonville Battlefield has an interesting blog - From the Trenches. The Runner will occasionally reproduce (with permission) some of the posts on that blog. This month, we feature a post by your intrepid newsletter editor (and volunteer at the battlefield) Fred Claridge. To see the post as it was originally published, go to [bentonvillefromthetrenches.wordpress.com](http://bentonvillefromthetrenches.wordpress.com). You should also check out the Friends of Bentonville Battlefield page at <https://fobb.net/> when you get a chance.

## Alfred Nugent and His Amputated Arm

By Fred Claridge, Newsletter Editor

Whenever we give a tour of the Harper House Field Hospital Site, we usually try to include some information about individual wounded soldiers who were treated there. Sometimes, we talk about the surgeons who performed the operations and cared for those wounded. We believe adding those personal stories gives our visitors a better feel for what it was like in this small but very busy hospital site during the battle. We see that as our mission - to make the important history that happened here come alive and to be meaningful for our visitors.



The Harper House Field Hospital Site at Bentonville.

One of the wounded we talk about is a young 17-year-old private from the state of Wisconsin named Alfred Nugent. He was only 15 when he enlisted in 1864. Alfred was severely wounded in his right arm on the first day of the battle, the bones in his arm completely shattered - as was often the case with the type of bullets used at the time. He was transported by horse-drawn ambulance to the front yard of the Harper House where an Assistant Surgeon examined him and made him a priority 1 casualty. He required a quick amputation to save his life, so would have been taken inside promptly for surgery. After being put to sleep with chloroform poured on a sponge by Surgeon James T. Reeve, the amputation took approximately ten to fifteen minutes. Surgeons didn't have the luxury of spending hours on one patient. There were simply too many wounded. And back then, if you were wounded in the head, chest or abdomen, you were prioritized as a low priority, since there was very little that could be done for you. Alfred received his amputation and was taken to the recovery area.

For several years, we told Alfred's story a certain way - based on the best information we had available. Stories from that time period tend to morph a bit over time. It was the team's belief that when Alfred was recovering after his surgery the next day, he found his own arm in the pile of arms and legs outside a window of the amputation room. He recognized it because one of the fingers on his right hand was deformed. Visitors tend to be fascinated by that story. Kids love it.

For almost four years, staff at the battlefield have been conducting extensive research to confirm the details of Alfred's story. We never stop researching here. That's what we do. We want to present as accurate a representation of what happened here as we can. Recently, Colby Lipscomb, the Battlefield's Education Coordinator, found a letter to the editor from an 1886 newspaper (12/15/1886) from a gentleman named J. Max Clark. Apparently, Clark was a buddy of Alfred's who recounted an experience he had at the Bentonville battlefield. The letter had originally been sent to Alfred and was reprinted. That letter provided us with some much-needed detail about the "legend" of Alfred's arm. As a result, we've changed our presentation of that story. The biggest change is that J. Max found the arm, not Alfred. It's still a cool story.



The "Amputation Room" at the Harper House. It was the house parlor before the battle. Note the door in use.

Clark's letter is typical of the writing of the time. It's very wordy and full of hyperbole. There's also a fair amount of self-aggrandizement. The section that we find most interesting is the paragraph (a long one) where he describes his encounter with Alfred at the Harper House. That paragraph is included in its entirety here:

*"I remember probably more of you in fact than you do of me. Let me recall to your mind an incident which will prove that I do. On the morning after the fight at Bentonville, I went over to the hospital to visit you. I found you sitting jauntily head up on a pillow looking just as saucy and plucky as you had always done, and the first thing you asked me to do was to fill your pipe and light it. I was afraid it was not best to let you smoke, but you said the doctor told you you might, so I went into the backyard to light it, after having filled it from your old jacket pocket which was near at hand. When I got to the backyard, I had to put a coal in the pipe to light it, and then to keep it from going out, had to pull where I went into the ward where you were, when I went to your bedside I was so sick I could hardly stand and had to sit down on the bunk to keep from falling, but I never smoked, and the few whiffs were too much for me. You were wounded if I remember correctly on the skirmish line just at the time or a little before our line gave way the first time in the afternoon and before we went to look you up the next morning the first thing that surely proved that you were inside the hospital was your arm in the pile of limbs on the outside with the crippled finger and thumb sticking out from the ghastly heap."*

So, there it was. Alfred didn't find his arm, but someone did. And the owner of the arm was recognized because of the deformed finger. Since most of the enlisted men were taken out the back door of the house to recover under the stars, we're a little unsure about what Clark means by going out to the "backyard" from "inside" the hospital. It's possible Alfred was inside the house for a time or Clark is talking about one of the tents we believe were set up out back. At any rate, we had most of the story right. As an aside, we also learned that J. Max had a tough time with his first inhalations of tobacco. We know that Alfred would have been moved out from around the Harper House with the rest of the Union wounded on the last day of the battle. Most likely, he was transferred to a general hospital in New Bern for further treatment. He mustered



Surgeon James T. Reeve who performed Alfred's right arm amputation.

out of the Army on May 16th, slightly less than two months after the battle. He lived for several more decades. He went back to Wisconsin and started a family. He was one of the many wounded of the battle who survived because they received a timely amputation by a skilled surgeon.

When I think about Alfred, I try to imagine what it must have been like for a 17-year-old boy to go through what he did. The searing pain and heat when a bullet tears into his right arm. The bumpy ambulance ride as he's rushed to the Harper House field hospital. Soon after arriving in the front yard of the house, Alfred is placed on a canvas stretcher and carried inside the house for his surgery. He's then placed on a door which serves as an operating table. A tired looking surgeon in a bloody apron stands over him. He tells Alfred that he has

sustained a serious injury to his arm and that it will have to be amputated. Alfred watches nervously as the surgeon pours liquid from a green tin onto a sponge; the surgeon tells him to breathe deeply as the sponge is held over his nose and mouth. Alfred's vision becomes blurry as he begins to feel dizzy and sleepy. Then blackness. When he awakens, Alfred is outside laying under a tree. When he looks where his right arm used to be he sees a stump just below the shoulder covered by a bloody bandage. There are other wounded laying all around him. He will lay under that tree for two days before he is loaded into an ambulance wagon for the trip that will begin his long road home. For Alfred, the war is over. But his new life is just beginning ...

Alfred's story may change again someday. As could any story we tell here. That's how history works. More research leads to more insight and harder facts. But the important thing is that we have a good understanding of what happened here to a young soldier, seriously wounded in battle. It's those individual stories, that added together, make for the grand sweep of important historical events. And we owe it to men like Alfred to tell their stories.

Notes: The full letter can be found on [ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com). Unfortunately, we've never been able to find a picture of Alfred Nugent. He must have looked very young at the time of the battle. If you happen upon one in your research travels, please let us know about it at the battlefield. It would mean a lot to us to be able to put a face to his story.

# Our May Events with Ed Gantt on United States Colored Troops

[Thanks to all the members who submitted photos of the events for the newsletter.]





Captain Ed Gantt helped our roundtable with two events in May - a presentation to the Roundtable on Thursday night and a public event at the Wilmington National Cemetery on the following Friday afternoon. He talked about the research he's been doing since retiring fifteen years ago after a distinguished military career.

There were over 209,000 USCTs between 1863 - 1865. Over 5,000 came from North Carolina. He described the history of how the units were formed and talked about the many battles they played an important role in. Many of those battles were fought in our area - including at Fort Fisher.


Perhaps most moving was his statement at the end of his presentation on Friday at the cemetery when he said that he had found four Gantts who served in the USCT, and that it felt like one or more of them may be ancestors giving him a little push from behind to find them. We certainly wish him luck in that endeavor. Thanks Captain Gantt.

Wilmington National Cemetery.



—◆—

# *North Carolina Naval History in the Age of Sail and Steam Symposium*



*June 23-24, 2023*

Hosted by Friends of the CSS Neuse Museum

—◆—

For more information on the symposium contact:

**Keith Hayes**

Friends of the CSS Neuse Museum  
252-526-9600, ext. 222  
cssneusegba@gmail.com

This conference will be held here in Kinston on Friday and Saturday, June 23 and 24. Friday evening we will have a dinner and keynote speaker, Hampton Newsome, at the CSS Neuse Museum. The program on Saturday will be held in Briley Auditorium on the campus of Lenoir Community College.

Ticket prices: \$50- Full registration

\$35- Friday night only

\$30- Saturday only

**The deadline to register is June 10th!**



## **Symposium Schedule**

### **Friday, June 23**

5:15 pm-6:00 pm- Check-in and Explore the CSS Neuse Museum

6:00-6:45 pm - Dinner

7:00-8:00 pm - The Battle of Plymouth and the Civil War in Eastern North Carolina, Spring 1864  
-Hampton Newsome

### **Saturday, June 24**

8:00-8:45 am - Check-in at the CSS Neuse Museum

8:45-9:00 am- Welcome and Introduction-Keith Hayes and Matthew Young

9:00-9:45 am - The Spanish Attacks on Brunswick Town and Beaufort in the War of Jenkins Ear, 1741 - Jim McKee

10:00-10:45 am - HMS Cruizer and British Naval Activity in the Lower Cape Fear Region, 1775-1776 - Stephen Atkinson

11:00-11:45 am - The War of 1812 on the Waters of North Carolina - Jim Greathouse

12:00-1:30 pm - Lunch on your own (list of local restaurants provided at check in)

1:45-2:00 pm-Welcome and Introduction for Afternoon Speakers- Andrew Duppstadt

2:00-2:45 pm - “It is the Most Grand, Sublime Scene I Ever Could Think of Seeing:” The Letters of Sidney Stockbridge Office, USS Pawtuxet. 1864-1865 - Becky Sawyer

3:00-3:45 pm – The Exploits of US Naval Officer William B. Cushing - Dr. Chris Fonvielle

4:00 pm - Program Ends

Book Sales: Books by some of our speakers and other authors will be available for sale in the lobby throughout the day. If you have any questions, please contact Keith at [cssneusegba@gmail.com](mailto:cssneusegba@gmail.com).

“History does not usually make real sense until long afterward.” Bruce Catton - noted historian

## **Cape Fear Civil War Roundtable**

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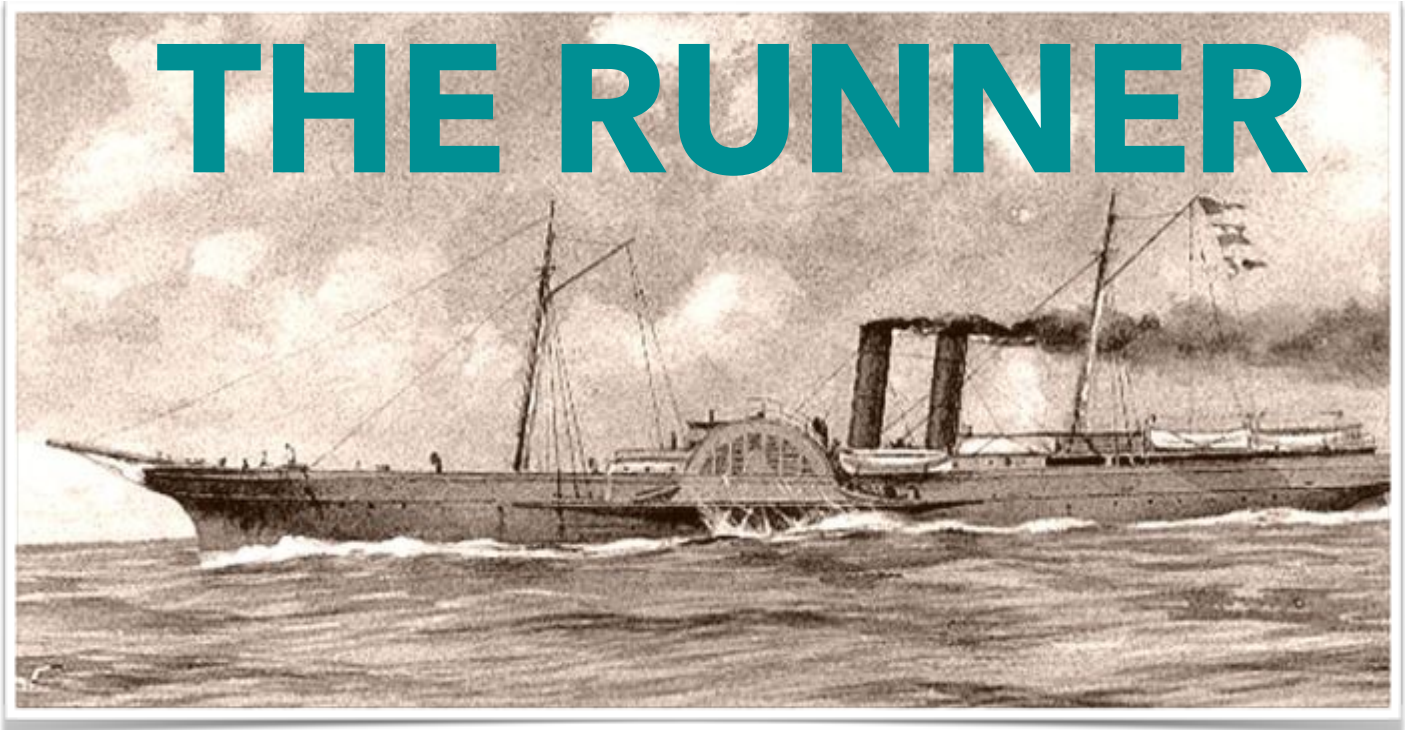
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The official newsletter of the Cape Fear Civil War Roundtable.

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**MAY PROGRAM FEATURES USCT AND THEIR ROLE IN CIVIL WAR**

By Bill Jayne, President

Wilmington's Cape Fear Civil War Round Table invites the public to attend a presentation by retired U.S. Navy Captain Edward Gantt. The May 11 meeting will be held at the Cape Fear Museum at 814 Market Street in Wilmington. He will present "The United States Colored Troops in the Civil War." Doors open at 6:30 and the meeting begins at 7:00 p.m.

During the presentation, Capt. Gantt will address the contributions of African American soldiers in the USCT with special attention to their activities in southeastern North Carolina. USCT played an important role in the Battle of Ft. Fisher on January 15, 1865, and led the advance up the peninsula from Ft. Fisher to Wilmington from mid-January to the fall of the city on February 22.

(continued on the next page)

## Membership Report

By Bruce Patterson, Secretary

The April meeting, with presenter Dr. Robert (Bob) Browning, was well attended. The meeting was buoyed by six new memberships that brings our total paid membership to 86, six of whom are either remote or associate. Several of our members attend via Zoom but even so our attendance reflects a current and growing interest in history, specifically Civil War history.

That brings me to what I call the *key to membership* (no surprises here) and while great speakers, interesting topics, wonderful visual aids and a centrally located and comfortable meeting place are essential to maintaining a successful program, the *key to membership* remains a content member who will renew promptly and recruit from neighbors and friends. You, the content member is the *key to membership*.

Our rolls are enhanced by returning members **Mike O'Brien** and **Ann Polanski**, (Wilmington) and new members **John & Nancy Wetherington** from Castle Hayne, **John Lewis**, **Ed LeStrange** and **Mike Anthony** from Leland and **William Lees** from Wilmington. Welcome aboard folks. Hope to see all at our May 11th meeting.

Renewing members may send their \$30 annual membership fee to **CFCWRT, 8387 East Highcroft NE, Leland, NC 28451** or better still, bring a check to our May 11th meeting being held at the *Cape Fear Museum* (one time only). You may also pay online or by credit card.

First came the little-known fighting along the Sugar Loaf line in Carolina Beach. The Sugar Loaf line was a Confederate defensive line that ran from the ocean near today's J. Ryder Lewis Civil War Park on Myrtle Sound all the way to the Sugar Loaf dune in Carolina Beach State Park on the Cape Fear River. The Lewis Civil War Park preserves and interprets the earthwork trenches and other fortifications that can be found all the way across the island. Today, by the way, we know the location as "Pleasure Island," but it wasn't an island until the 1920's when the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers dredged Snow's Cut to carry the Intracoastal Waterway from the sounds to the Cape Fear River, avoiding a dangerous voyage around or through Frying Pan Shoals. Until Snow's Cut was constructed, the narrow stretch of land from Wilmington to Federal Point, below Fort Fisher, was a peninsula unobstructed by water but full of marshes and dense maritime forest.

On February 11, 1865, five brigades of Union troops, about 12,000 men including those held in reserve, attacked the Confederate line manned by General Robert Hoke's five to six thousand Confederates. On the Union center and left, the assault was led by nine regiments of USCT, including the battle tested 4th and 5th USCT regiments. These units had figured prominently in the fighting between Grant and Lee around Richmond in 1864 and their ranks including nine men who eventually received the Medal of Honor for their valor in the Richmond fighting.

The attack was pressed with fighting all along the line and support from Federal gunboats on both the ocean side and the river side. More than 100 casualties were incurred, notably 16 men killed in action and 76 wounded in the 4th USCT alone. Finally, Union commanders Major Generals Alfred Terry and John Schofield decided the Confederate defensive line was too strong and halted the attack. In overall command, General Schofield transferred troops across the river to overcome Ft. Anderson on the western bank and

thereby outflank the Confederates at Sugar Loaf. Ft. Anderson was abandoned on February 18 and Hoke retreated toward Wilmington.

On February 20 and 21, Union and Confederate forces clashed once again in the Battle of Forks Road around the intersection of modern-day 17th Street and Independence Boulevard. USCT brigades led the attack up the Federal Point Road where they encountered well-entrenched Confederates once again. There were about 50 Federal casualties before General Hoke, under orders, abandoned the defenses and marched out of Wilmington up today's Castle Hayne Road.

Capt. Gantt will address the background of the USCT as well as their contributions in both Eastern and Western theaters of the war. It's a complicated story, of course. Originally not allowed to join the Army, by the end of the war, some 180,000 to 200,000 Blacks served in the United States Colored Troops (USCT) and comprised ten percent of the U. S. Army. There were at least 166 regiments of Black soldiers, who fought in approximately 450 battle actions and were instrumental in helping to win the Civil War and freedom for their people.

Gantt was born in Maryland and saw combat as a helicopter door gunner and crew chief during a 12-month tour in South Vietnam. His first stint in the service included graduation from the U.S. Army Airborne and Ranger schools.

After his Army service, and following graduation from Howard University, he re-entered the armed forces serving as a naval aviator, including a tour as commanding officer of Fighter Squadron 31 at Naval Air Station Miramar (at that time the home of Top Gun).

In July 2000, Gantt took command of the Navy boot camp at Great Lakes, Illinois. At Recruit Training Command (the Navy's only boot camp), he was responsible for the development of nearly 50,000 sailors annually. He retired from the Navy in September 2003 after 30 years of active service and began a new career as a high school teacher in the Washington, D.C. area.

In the spring of 2014, Gantt began an association with the 23rd Infantry Regiment USCT Civil War re-enactors and living historians. He is currently a member of Company B, 54th Massachusetts Civil War re-enactors and president of the re-formed 23rd Regiment USCT in Spotsylvania, Virginia.

Sugar Loaf lines  
earthworks in Carolina  
Beach on the left. USCT  
- 4th Regiment on the  
right.



Capt. Gantt will also present a special program on Friday, May 12, at Wilmington National Cemetery, beginning at 4 p.m. Established in 1867, the historic cemetery is located at 2011 Market Street and is the final resting place of more than 500 USCT soldiers, the vast majority buried as unknowns. The round table will accept donations from adults who attend but not from school. There is no parking in the cemetery.

We will open the Friday event, scheduled to begin at 4 p.m., to the general public and request a donation of \$10 except for school children.

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## CFCWRT Speakers in the News

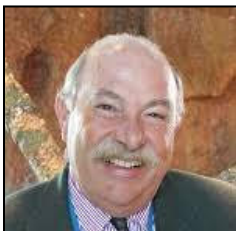
By James Gannon, Programs Committee

**Dr. Chris Mackowski**, our February 2024 CFCWRT speaker recently published an interesting article in the April Emerging Civil War newsletter about his visit to the American Civil War Roundtable of the United Kingdom. Chris found the members of the UK roundtable to be “deeply engaged and highly knowledgeable.”

<https://emergingcivilwar.com/2017/04/28/ecws-april-newsletter-now-available/>

**Captain Ed Gantt**, our May 2023 CFCWRT speaker is a Vice Commander of the Military Order of the World Wars. “The Officer Review” is the magazine of the MOWW. You can check out the magazine at this link.

[https://moww.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/OFFICER-REVIEW\\_January-February-2023-Web-Edition.pdf](https://moww.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/OFFICER-REVIEW_January-February-2023-Web-Edition.pdf)



**John Quarstein** frequently makes virtual on line presentations for the Mariners’ Museum and Park such as his April 28 presentation for the USS Monitor Legacy Program about Admiral John Dahlgren who invented the famous Dahlgren gun. John is Director Emeritus of the USS Monitor Museum in Newport News and will be out September 2023 CFCWRT Speaker.

<https://www.marinersmuseum.org/event/uss-monitor-legacy-program-rear-admiral-john-a-b-dahlgren/>

If you’ve never been there, Harpers Ferry in West Virginia is well worth a visit. Not only is it one of the most historic locations in the country, it’s also a beautiful spot nestled up on a bluff between the Potomac and Shenandoah rivers. The NPS does a great job of interpreting the history of John Brown’s raid there.

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FOR MORE INFO:

REGISTRATION OPENS  
JUNE 1ST!



This looks to be a great event. You can use the scan code to obtain more information. See you there!

## Area Historic Association Events

By Yelena Howell, Tours and Trips Committee

**Thursday, May 4, 2023, 1030 am-1130am:** New Hanover County Public Library, Pine Valley Branch, Pelican Room. “Get to Know the Senior Resource Center” presentation to highlight various recreational activities, education, support and counseling services, congregate meals, transportation, and assistance services for adults 55+. [Completed before publication but included for reference.]

**Friday, May 5, 2-4 pm:** New Hanover County Public Library, Main Branch, Cape Fear Room. Senior Game Day. Board games, refreshments, and good company. Ages 50+. Preregistration optional. Call Frances at (910) 798-6347 with any questions. [Completed before publication but included for reference.]

**Tuesday, May 9, 2023, 1030-1130 am:** Bellamy Mansion Volunteer Open House. For more information, see <https://www.bellamymansion.org/volunteer.html>

**Saturday, May 13, 2023, 1 - 2pm:** Fort Fisher State Historic Site is resuming the popular Beat the Heat series at the Visitor Center. Site historian Becky Sawyer will speak on Asian Pacific Islanders in the US Navy at Fort Fisher.

**Saturday, May 27, 10 am, and Sunday, May 28, 3 pm:** Bennett Place State Historic Site, Durham, NC: Annual Memorial Day Remembrance Event. \$3 per adult, \$2 per child to attend. For more information, contact Ryan Reed at (919) 383-4345 or [ryan.reed@ncdcr.gov](mailto:ryan.reed@ncdcr.gov)

**Saturday, May 27, 2023:** Dr. Chris E. Fonvielle Jr., the preeminent scholar of the history of Wilmington and the Lower Cape Fear, turns 70 years young! Cape Fear Civil War Round Table wishes Dr. Fonvielle a very happy birthday and many happy returns.

**Mrs. Rose Greenhow sighting in downtown Wilmington!** On April 20, 2023, CFCWRT President Bill Jayne and Tour Director Yelena Howell had the pleasure of seeing Emily Lapisardi, Rose Greenhow scholar and actor of more than two decades and Director of Musical Activities for Most Holy Trinity Catholic Chapel at the United States Military Academy (West Point, New York). Be sure to follow Mrs. Greenhow’s new appearances at <https://www.facebook.com/rosegreenhowportrayal> and consider taking the time to read Rose Greenhow's My Imprisonment: An Annotated Edition (2021) with Ms. Lapisardi’s painstakingly researched commentary that places people and events into appropriate context: <https://a.co/d/exJXLGT> Over the next few months, we will be auctioning off two exciting items to help raise funds for our round table so that we can continue to bring you top-notch speakers and historians.

*Editor's Note: Please remember that we try to get everything submitted to us in every issue, but sometimes we may have to leave something out due to space constraints. Often, items that don't make it in one month may show up in the next month's newsletter. Thanks to everyone for your submissions! There wouldn't be a newsletter without you!*



## CFCWRT Summer 2023 Programs

### 6/8/23: A Double Feature Member Forum!

#### *Bill Jordan: Civil War Cooking*

There was a whole lot more to Civil War Cooking than salt pork and hardtack crackers. Civil War era cooks used different ingredients than we usually do in order to achieve some very good meals. Bill will dispel the myth that the food was always unpalatable. (Bill might even bring a sample.)

#### *Charles Ewell: Civil War Anesthesia*

Although anesthesia was "discovered" less than two decades before the civil war, any controversy about the benefits was settled early in this conflict. Charles will summarize the milestones that led to general anesthesia and focus on the details of its use in civil war surgery. There are some misconceptions about surgery during the civil war which probably arose from depictions in the movies. Charles will dispel these and try to put the successful organization of anesthesia services into the context of the rapid transformation of surgery from the barber shop to something resembling what we have now. Charles's role as an anesthesiologist brings an interesting and different perspective to his subject.



### 7/13/23: A Round Table discussion led by CFCWRT President Bill Jayne

#### *Victory Snatched from the Jaws of Defeat...or Vice Versa?*

The initial Confederate assaults at the battle of Cedar Creek, October, 1864, came while Sheridan was away, and were spectacularly successful. However, by afternoon, the Confederate attack ran out of steam. In his famous ride, Sheridan turned back from Winchester and hurried to the battlefield, helped rally the Union forces, and ordered a counterattack that proved crushingly successful. The Round Table discussion will focus on the Confederate pause that afternoon. Gen. Gordon urged Early to continue the assault against the stalwart Union VI Corps, but Early seemed confident they would retire. Writing later, Early seemed to lay the blame for the defeat upon the Confederate troops, who, by stopping to pillage Union camps, became too disorganized for further attacks. More will be forthcoming before our meeting, but there is plenty of time to read about the battle and form your opinions before our discussion.



### 8/10/23: Audience Participation

#### *"A War Game of Sorts" led by John Weisz*

The game will focus upon the options available to Major General John Buford leading a division of US cavalry and searching for the main Confederate force which has invaded southern Pennsylvania and Maryland. The audience will play the role of General Buford and will be presented four possible courses of action available to Buford. After our audience discussion we will poll the participants and then review the actual decision made by Buford and why he made that choice. If you were John Buford what would you do?



A great site to visit is Bennett Place near Durham where General Joseph E. Johnston surrendered to General William T. Sherman. It was the largest surrender of troops in the war - nearly 90,000. Johnston and Sherman became lifelong friends after their experience together at Bennett Place.

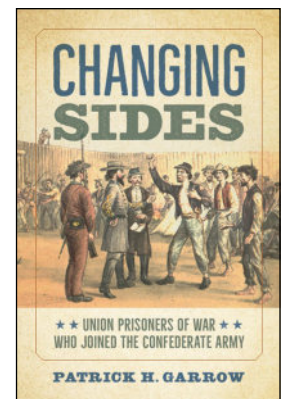
## Changing Sides During the Civil War

By Patrick H. Garrow, Roundtable Member

I became interested in soldiers who changed sides while working on an archaeological site associated with the Confederate Florence Prison in Florence, South Carolina. Hundreds of Union prisoners held in Charleston and then in Florence expressed interest in joining the Confederate army in late 1864. Those men and many others were allowed to do so, which resulted in the creation of four Confederate units made up entirely of former Union soldiers. The first unit raised was sent to Savannah to man a section of the defenses around the city as Sherman's army approached the city. The "galvanized Confederates" tried to mutiny and were arrested and returned to Florence prison. Seven of their number were executed after a brief trial. A second unit became a regiment of pioneers who improved or built roads and bridges ahead of Johnston's army's march through the Carolinas and to its eventual surrender. A third unit was rushed to Salisbury, North Carolina, to defend the city from Stoneman's raid and arrived there as the Confederate defenses were crumbling. Many of the former Union soldiers were captured and taken to a prison in Nashville. The last unit, 1,000 strong, was raised for use in the western theater with Hood's Army. Two thirds of those men were sent to Mississippi, where over 200 of them were captured at the battle of Egypt Station during Grierson's second raid. Those men were taken to Camp Douglas, where most joined a Union regiment of galvanized Yankees that was shipped to the western frontier. The galvanized Confederates were documented in a book titled *Changing Sides Union Prisoners of War Who Joined the Confederate Army*, which was published by the University of Tennessee Press. That book is available from UT Press, Amazon, and most other major online book sellers.

I am currently under contract to the University of Tennessee Press for a companion volume that deals with former Confederate soldiers who joined the Union army. The tentative title of that book is *Gray to Blue: Galvanized Yankees in the Union Army*, which is scheduled to be published in late 2023 or early 2024. The purpose of the second volume is to expand and update Dee Brown's classic work *Galvanized Yankees*. Dee Brown restricted his volume almost entirely to five regiments and one battalion raised from Confederate prisoners of war sent to the western frontier to protect the Oregon Trail, the Overland Trail, and the Santa Fe Trail. Research has revealed that there were many more men raised both from Union prisons and from among deserters from the Confederate army who joined existing Union regiments and battalions. An unknown number of men completed their term of service in the Confederate Army and then changed sides and joined the Union army. The Union raised units in every state in the south except South Carolina and enlisted over 10,000 men in those units. Four such units were raised in North Carolina.

The two-volume set, when completed, will represent the first thorough treatment of men who changed sides during the American Civil War. It is important to understand the Civil War from the perspective of its battles and leaders. Perhaps it is more important understand the war from the perspectives of the men who fought it.



## CFCWRT Fall 2023 Programs

By James Gannon, Programs Committee

**9/14/23 John Quarstein**

***CSS Albemarle and the actions at Edenton, Plymouth and New Bern***

John V. Quarstein is a nationally known speaker and an award-winning historian, preservationist, and author. John served as the director of the Virginia War Museum until his retirement and is now Director Emeritus of the USS Monitor Center at The Mariners' Museum in Newport News, Virginia. He has authored 18 books and has served as an adjunct professor at the College of William & Mary. John is an expert on the Naval War and will speak to us about the Civil War actions that occurred along North Carolina's inland waterways.

**10/12/23 Chris Bryan**

***Author of "Cedar Mountain to Antietam:  
A Civil War Campaign History of the Union XII Corps, July - September 1862"***

Chris Bryan's book is both a unit history and a leadership and character assessment. It is a compelling story of a little studied yet consequential corps and fills a long standing gap in the history of the civil war. It is the story of how this often luckless command began as part of MG John Pope's Army of Virginia in June 1862, endured defeat after coming within a whisker of defeating MG Stonewall Jackson at Cedar Mountain, suffered through the hardships of the campaigns before and after Second Manassas, but despite it all, found its resurgence in Maryland as part of the rebuilt Army of the Potomac. Chris Bryan is a former naval aviator and USNA graduate, and is active with historic preservation and architectural investigations.

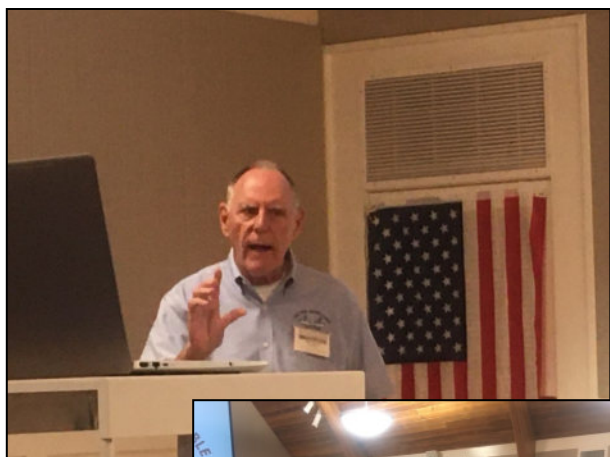
**11/9/23 Ed Lowe**

***Author of "A Fine Opportunity Lost:  
Longstreet's East Tennessee Campaign, November 1863 - April 1864"***

Confederate General Longstreet's First Corps and Union General Burnside's IX Corps had already shared battlefields at Second Manassas, South Mountain, Antietam, and Fredericksburg. Unexpectedly, these two old foes from the Eastern Theater now found themselves transplanted to the Western Theater —familiar adversaries on unfamiliar ground. The fate of East Tennessee hung in the balance, and new reputations could be won or lost. General James Longstreet's deployment to East Tennessee gave him the chance for an independent command. For his Union opponent, Major General Ambrose Burnside, the Western Theater offered an opportunity for redemption from past failures. Colonel Ed Lowe USA (Ret) tells the story of how this was "a fine opportunity lost" for both men.

*Next month, look for a page dedicated to our sponsors. Our sponsors mean a lot to the CFCWRT. We couldn't do much of what we do without them. We'll print all their logos in our next issue.*

April's event featured Dr. Robert L. Browning's presentation on "Success is All that was Expected: The Failed Efforts to Take Charleston." Dr. Browning told the fascinating story of the Union's unsuccessful attempt to use ironclads to destroy the forts protecting Charleston Harbor. The forts were stronger than expected and there were challenges with the design of the ironclads themselves. A great program that was enjoyed by all. Here are some photos of the fellowship enjoyed at the meeting. See you on Thursday evening!





Editor's Note: Bentonville Battlefield has an interesting blog - From the Trenches. The Runner will occasionally reproduce (with permission) some of the posts on that blog. This month, we feature a post by Colby Lipscomb, Education Coordinator at the battlefield. Due to space limitations we were not able to print all the photos. To see the post as it was originally published, go to [bentonvillefromthetrenches.wordpress.com](http://bentonvillefromthetrenches.wordpress.com). All the photos can be found there. Thanks to Colby for letting us print it.

## “She’s a Real Veteran:” Lucy Nichols and the 23<sup>rd</sup> Indiana at Bentonville

December 1898, over 30 years after the end of the Civil War, the *Owensboro Messenger Inquirer* printed an article titled “She’s a Real Veteran.” “By a special act of Congress,” the article explains, “Aunt Lucy Nichols of this city will receive a pension of \$12 a month.” Written so casually, it’s not immediately clear how revolutionary it is that a black woman was being granted a pension from the United States government for work she did as part of the military during the Civil War. That quietly revolutionary story is that of Lucy Nichols.

Lucy Higgs was born April 10th, 1838 in Halifax County, North Carolina. Enslaved from birth by the Higgs family, we know very little about her early life. Lucy involuntarily moved with the Higgs around the south as she grew up within the confines of slavery. Lucy established a family, marrying a man also enslaved by the Higgs family and gave birth to a child just before the Civil War broke out. While living in Western Tennessee in 1862, Lucy’s enslavers decided to move her and her family further south. Before this move was possible, Lucy took her liberty into her own hands and self-emancipated with her young daughter Mona. Less is known about what happened to Mona’s father, although some sources claim he self-emancipated as well and joined with a different US Army regiment, potentially serving with the United States Colored Troops.

Lucy and Mona traveled 30 miles under pursuit by their enslavers before finding sanctuary with the 23rd Indiana infantry regiment stationed in Bolivar, TN. Citing the Confiscation Act of 1862, the Hoosier soldiers provided safety and shelter, but most importantly their invocation of the Confiscation Act of 1862 granted legal freedom to Lucy and Mona. This law specifically allowed for the United States government to seize any property owned by people who aided in or participated in the rebellion. Since the Confederate government considered enslaved people property, the Confiscations Act granted many people their freedom.



Lucy Nichols in 1898

“All slaves of persons who shall hereafter be engaged in rebellion against the government of the United States, or who shall in any way give aid of comfort thereto, escaping from such persons and taking refuge within the lines of the army; and all slaves captured from such persons or deserted by them and coming under the control of the government of the United States; and all slaves of such person found on or being within any place occupied by rebel forces and afterwards occupied by the forces of the United States, **shall be deemed captives of war, and shall be forever free of their servitude, and not again held as slaves.**”- Confiscation Act of 1862

To show her gratitude Lucy remained with the 23<sup>rd</sup> Indiana, serving as a cook, laundress, and nurse. With no connection to her husband, who later died due to illness, staying with the regiment ensured Lucy and Mona’s safety in what was a terrifying world for freedom seekers whose freedom was still very much in question as the war raged on.

While the 23<sup>rd</sup> Indiana was celebrating the surrender of Vicksburg July 1863, Mona fell ill and tragically passed away. Mona’s death left Lucy “absolutely alone but,” according to a postwar newspaper article, “she still clung to the regiment.” The heartbroken Indianans organized an ‘elaborate funeral’ to lay young Mona to rest.

Lucy remained with the regiment throughout the remainder of the war, providing necessary services to the men. As the 23<sup>rd</sup> advanced through Georgia and the Carolinas her own life was often at risk as she worked near the front lines, providing vital care to the wounded and sick and support to the rest of the regiment.

By the Battle of Bentonville in March 1865, Lucy had been with the regiment for nearly three years. Part of Sherman’s Right Wing, they arrived after the heaviest fighting had ended. Although the 23<sup>rd</sup> Indiana saw limited action at Bentonville, their presence was noted. Lucy, as a nurse, may have been called into action to help care for the wounded of other regiments but primary sources have yet to be found to provide insight into her role here.

After the surrender at Bennett Place, Lucy traveled with her regiment to Washington DC and marched with them in the Grand Review of the Armies, one of the final acts of the Civil War. Lucy’s freedom was now secure, but it had come at a high cost. Within just a few years she lost her husband and daughter. With little else to her name and nowhere to go, Lucy chose to accept the invitation of the men of the regiment to return with them to New Albany, Indiana.

Lucy lived out the rest of her life in New Albany, where she became a vital part of the community and remained close with many of the men of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Indiana. In 1870, she married John Nichols and lived with him until his death in 1910. She attended every reunion and many other events as a member of the regiment, including marching in some of the first Memorial Day parades. Lucy became one of the only female members of the Grand Army of the Republic, a national fraternal organization of US Army Civil War veterans.

In 1892, thirty years after Lucy joined with the 23rd Indiana as their nurse, the United States Congress passed an act granting a federal pension to “all women employed by the Surgeon General of the Army as nurses, under contract or otherwise, during the late war of the rebellion.” Pensions had become essential in providing monetary relief to those who served the Union during the war and who needed financial help as they aged. This act extended that assistance to many more who labored in the service of the Union. However, after applying for pension twice, Lucy Nichols was denied, most likely due to her race.

In 1895, 55 of the 23rd Indiana veterans campaigned for Lucy to get her earned pension from the US government. It was December 1898 before their complaints were finally heard and Congress passed a special act specifically to grant a federal pension of \$12 a month for the rest of her life to Lucy Nichols. This special act of Congress made Lucy a minor celebrity and articles like the one below were printed in newspapers across Indiana and Kentucky. After 30 years, Lucy finally began to receive the recognition she deserved and had been given by her friends in the 23rd Indiana.

In 1915, five years after her husband’s death, Lucy was admitted to the Floyd County Poor Farm. She died there a few weeks later on January 29, 1915 at the age of 76. Tragically, the location of her grave is unknown.

Not until the 21<sup>st</sup> century did history begin to recognize Lucy for her acts during the Civil War. In 2011, a historical plaque was erected near her church, the Second Baptist Church of New Albany. In 2019, the church unveiled a nine-foot-tall statue of Lucy and her daughter Mona, further cementing her legacy within the community. With these monuments and the written sources and photographs that remain, we are fortunate to be able to tell the story of Lucy Nichols. Her strength and valor gained not just her freedom from slavery but her work with the 23<sup>rd</sup> Indiana helped ensure the freedom of so many others.

Research is actively ongoing to find more information about Lucy and others like her as it relates to the Battle of Bentonville. For more information about Lucy Nichols, her incredible life, and the rest of the 23rd Indiana regiment, check out these resources below:

[Lucy Higgs Nichols, New Albany. Digital Civil Rights Museum, Ball State University.](#)

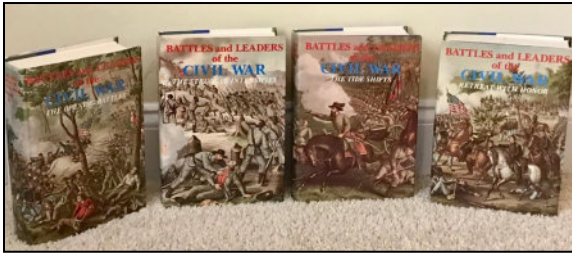
[Lucy Higgs Nichols Historical Marker, Indiana Historical Bureau](#)

[Frenzel, Hallie. “Stories of Service: The Life of Lucy Higgs Nichols.” Indiana War Memorials Foundation.](#)

[Boyle, John. “Celebrating an Icon: Statue of New Albany’s Lucy Higgs Nichols Unveiled.” \*News and Tribune\*](#)

[“Remembering the Life of Lucy Higgs Nichols.” Carnegie Center for Art and History.](#)

## Auction Items Up for Bid to Benefit Roundtable



First of all, we are auctioning off a brand-new set of the *Battles and Leaders* series reprinted by Castle in 1990. The original volumes were published in 1887 by Century Company. The subtitle tells the tale: "Being for the most part contributions by Union and Confederate Officers." A central part of the "battle of the

books," *Battles and Leaders of the Civil War*, became the best-selling and most frequently cited works ever published on the Civil War.

The set we are offering was donated to us and was wrapped in shrink wrap. The four volumes sell for \$100 on Amazon and other book sellers ask for considerably more.



We are also offering a beautiful framed, limited edition of seven Civil War commemorative stamps. The ensemble was sold by Hanford Heirlooms and is numbered "161/10,000". These stamps are not only collector's items, they are historical artifacts. The three-cent Sherman-Grant-Sheridan stamp was issued in 1937 and caused considerable controversy (mostly among southerners) because... Sherman. The four-cent Lee-Jackson stamp was issued in 1937 and caused considerable controversy (mostly among southerners) because the portrait of General Lee

has only two stars on the collar. [According to Wikipedia: "At the outbreak of war, Lee was appointed to command all of Virginia's forces, which then encompassed the Provisional Army of Virginia and the Virginia State Navy. He was appointed a Major General by the Virginia Governor, but upon the formation of the Confederate States Army, he was named one of its first five full generals. Lee did not wear the insignia of a Confederate general, but only the three stars of a Confederate colonel, equivalent to his last U.S. Army rank. He did not intend to wear a general's insignia until the Civil War had been won and he could be promoted, in peacetime, to general in the Confederate Army."] Seriously, it's a very important and attractive piece of memorabilia donated by one of our most generous members.

If you want to bid virtually, just send me an email or text.

*The Bentonville Battlefield held the 158th Anniversary Commemoration of the battle in March. Wade Sokolosky led a tour with re-enactors, cannons were fired, the Huckleberry Brothers Band played period music and artisans demonstrated crafts from that era. Pictures can be found on the next page.*

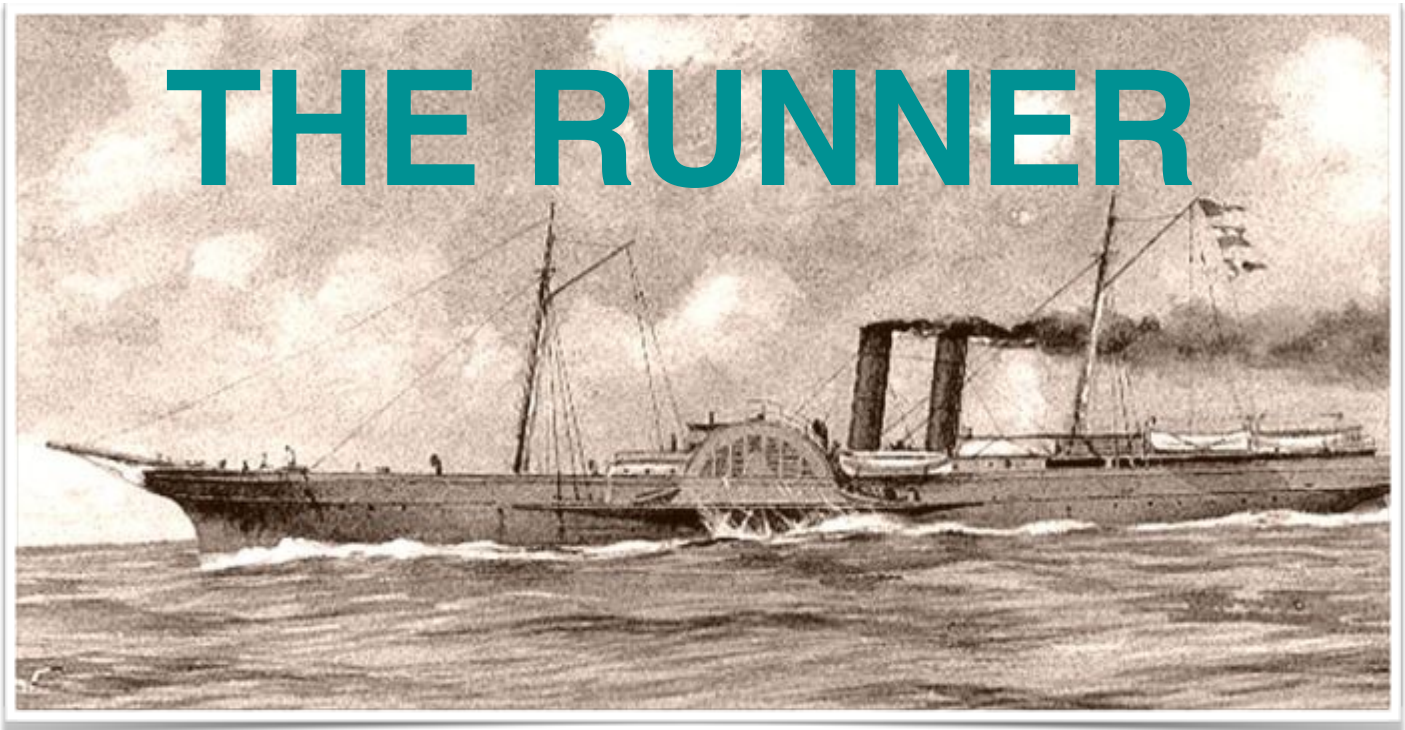




## Cape Fear Civil War Roundtable

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**The Official Newsletter of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table**

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## The Return of the Prodigal Newsletter

By Fred Claridge, Newsletter Editor

Welcome to the newly “rebooted” Runner Newsletter - the official newsletter of the Cape Fear Civil War Roundtable. At my first meeting at the roundtable, I checked a box suggesting I would be interested in helping with the newsletter. The next thing I knew I had coffee with Bill and a new title as the Editor of the Newsletter. This is a new experience for me, so we’ll learn all about what goes into putting together a newsletter together. Thanks to everyone who agreed to help and who submitted content for this first issue. Our hope as a newsletter staff is that we’ll get contributions from a number of our members. This is your newsletter after all. Let us know what you’d like to see in it. Better yet, don’t just tell us what you’d like to see, write it up and turn it in.

(continued on next page)

## Membership Report

By Bruce Patterson, Secretary

Membership in our Round Table stands at 79 paid members, 5 of whom are either remote or Associate. With attendance at approximately 48 attending regularly scheduled meeting, we can claim a very respectful 63% per capita attendance. While Zoom attendance is not significantly large, we continue to provide that service to remote members, visitors, and local members who may, for whatever reason, be unable to attend meetings in person.

Although our Zoom attendance is low, we have, during the height of the pandemic, had attendance at a single meeting from as far away as Tasmania, Australia, and Glasgow Scotland. This writer can attest to the thrill of talking to and communicating with folks that far apart.

Your membership chair will report monthly, reminding members that our membership year is for 12-months, calculated on a monthly basis, thus members who joined or renewed in April 2022, are due for renewal. Please remit your annual dues of \$30. to **CFCWRT, 8387 East Highcroft NE, Leland, NC 28451** or better still, bring a check to our next meeting on April 13th. You may also pay online or in person by credit card at the monthly meeting. Next month - the key to membership.

The layout will no doubt change and improve as I figure out what I'm doing, but we feel good about getting something together before the April meeting. Thanks to Bill for all his contributions and for helping to line up some regular contributors. We will always be open to members of the roundtable for your contributions.

As a history major in college, and as a volunteer at the Bentonville Battlefield, I love Civil War history - especially the medical component. One of the treasures we have at Bentonville is a farmhouse used as a field hospital by the Union Army for the three-day battle there. It's set up as it would have looked during the battle - with doors on tables as operating tables, a Hospital Stewards office, and an officer recovery room. The upstairs remains as a set of bedrooms - which the Harper family stayed in during the battle. That would have been a memorable experience to say the least. Not to mention that 54 wounded Confederate soldiers were left at the house after the battle, under the care of the Harper family. 24 of them died; 20 unknowns are buried next to the Harper family burial ground across the road from the visitor center. If you haven't been to Bentonville in a while, come by and take a tour of the Harper House and drive the battlefield. It's a great way to learn about the biggest Civil War battle in North Carolina. We just commemorated the 158<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the battle on March 18<sup>th</sup> with an extended tour by Wade Sokolosky, re-enactors, period music by the Huckleberry Brothers and gun and cannon firing. We estimate over 4,600 people attended - a great turnout on a very cold day. A full re-enactment is on tap in 2025.

Please read through the newsletter. We think there's some interesting content here that would be worth your time. A good deal of information about upcoming events can be found here too. And again, don't hesitate to let us know if there's something you'd like to see or even better, something you'd like to contribute. Until next month ...

## **Cape Fear Round Table Discusses “Success is All That Was Expected; The Failed Effort to Take Charleston”**

By Bill Jayne, President

Wilmington’s Cape Fear Civil War Round Table invites the public to attend a presentation by Robert M. Browning, Jr., Ph.D., on April 13th talking about the Union’s herculean efforts to close the harbor and take the city of Charleston, S.C., in 1863. The round table meets at centrally located St. John’s Episcopal Church in Midtown Wilmington near Independence Mall. Doors open at 6:30 and the meeting begins at 7:00 p.m.

Dr. Browning, retired chief historian of the U.S. Coast Guard, is the foremost scholar on the Union blockade and has authored three books centered on the activities of the U.S. Navy’s various blockading squadrons. A native of North Carolina, he earned his Ph.D. at the University of Alabama. He is the author of six books and more than four dozen articles relating to the Coast Guard, the Civil War, and U.S. naval and maritime history.

President Lincoln proclaimed a blockade of the 3,500-mile coastline on April 19, 1861, soon after the fall of Ft. Sumter. In all the years since, the role of the U.S. Navy in putting down the rebellion has received little attention compared to the monumental clashes of the armies at places like Gettysburg and Chickamauga.

Yet, the role of the navy was crucial to victory. When the blockade was proclaimed, there were only three armed vessels ready for service on the Atlantic coast. By the end of the war, however, the U.S. Navy comprised 671 ships of all kinds from the revolutionary new ironclad monitors to shallow draft wooden gunboats. Enforcement of the blockade was never airtight but by 1864 only custom built blockade running ships could effectively evade the noose that was strangling the Confederate economy. In addition, the navy provided essential logistical, transport and gunfire support for army operations.

In 1993 Dr. Browning published *From Cape Charles to the Cape Fear*, which chronicles the establishment of the crucial blockade from the entrance to Chesapeake Bay south to the mouth of the Cape Fear River. It was crucial to control this stretch of the coast and the inland waters of Chesapeake Bay, James River and the North Carolina sound country.

In 2002, he added *Success is All That Was Expected*, a history of the South Atlantic squadron that sailed the coast from the Cape Fear to Florida. This story covers the harrowing engagements between ships and forts, daring amphibious assaults, and the evolution of submarine warfare in the form of the *CSS Hunley*. In *Lincoln’s Trident*, he continued his magisterial series to chronicle the squadron that operated in the Gulf of Mexico.

(continued on next page)

Charleston, of course, was the “seat of rebellion,” the most important city in South Carolina, the state that led the way in secession and the place where the most destructive war in the nation’s history erupted when southern forces fired on Fort Sumter dominating the entrance to the harbor. By 1863, Charleston remained a potent symbol and was also the most important blockade running port in the Confederacy. Its railroads connected the port to the primary Confederate armies in both Virginia and Tennessee.

The summer of 1863 seemed even at the time, the most fateful of the war. Vicksburg fell and “the father of waters once again goes unvexed to the sea,” and the Army of Northern Virginia reached its “high water mark” at Gettysburg, and then receded. What would have happened if Charleston had fallen in that summer?

The entrance to Charleston harbor—through a narrow channel— was guarded by two powerful forts Ft. Moultrie on Sullivan’s Island and Ft. Sumter in the middle of the passage. The distance from Ft. Moultrie to Ft. Sumter is only 1800 yards. On April 7, 1863, Admiral Samuel F. DuPont took a fleet of nine U.S. Navy ironclads, including seven monitors, into that narrow space and attempted to reduce the forts or run through the gauntlet into the harbor. An effective barrier in the channel and the overwhelming volume of accurate fire from the forts stopped the attempt although more effective planning and joint Army-Navy operations might have led to success.

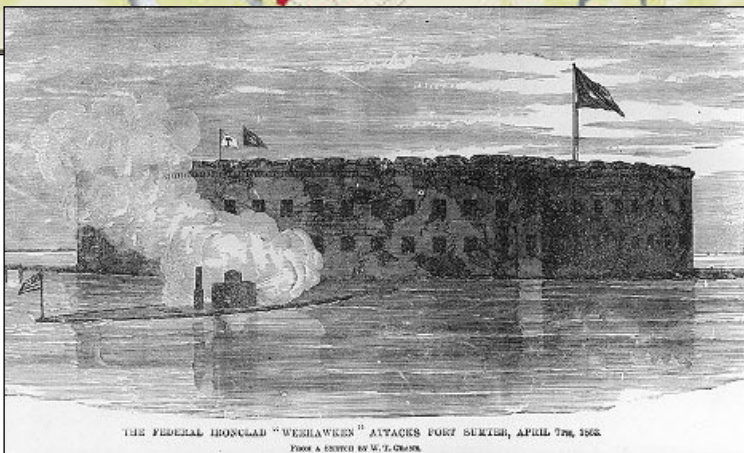
The campaign then shifted to the fragile barrier island known as Morris Island. Most of the island has since washed into the ocean but in 1863 it was the scene of fierce fighting in which the Union army eventually reduced Battery Wagner and other Confederate positions, allowing them to virtually close off the main shipping channel, which ran parallel to Morris Island and batter Ft. Sumter into a pile of rubble that was no longer effective as an artillery platform but as a lightly manned infantry post anchored the obstructions that prevented Union warships from steaming into the harbor.

Although the Confederates didn’t abandon the fort and the city until 1865 when Sherman advanced through South Carolina, it was no longer the premier blockade running port in the south. That distinction fell to Wilmington.

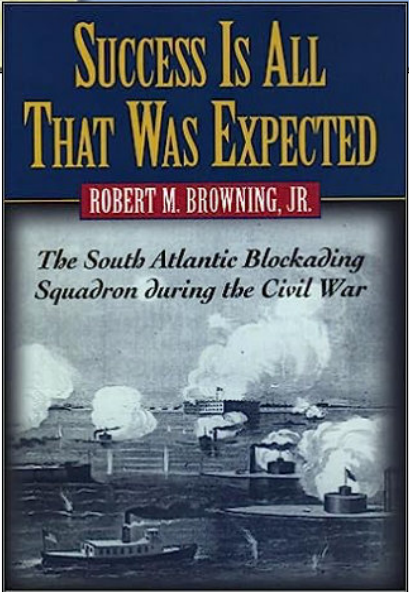
Knowing the Navy’s role in isolating the Confederate economy and preventing the movement of troops and supplies within the South is crucial to understanding of the outcomes of the Civil War, as well as the importance of naval power in military conflicts.

The meeting will be held in Elebash Hall, 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, talk to members and meet Dr. Browning. For information about membership, go to our website at

<http://cfcwrt.org> and click on “Join”. See you there! (Pictures for this article on the next page.)



The Federal ironclad "Weehawkin" attacks Fort Sumter, April 7th, 1863. From a sketch by W. T. Crane.



Charleston is a city steeped in history and is a fascinating place to explore. Almost the entire downtown area is a historic district, on a peninsula between the Ashley and Cooper rivers. Much of the old architecture remains - as does the very "southern" feel of the city. And it's not far from our area.

## CFCWRT Summer 2023 Programs

### 6/8/23: A Double Feature Member Forum!

#### *Bill Jordan: Civil War Cooking*

There was a whole lot more to Civil War Cooking than salt pork and hardtack crackers. Civil War era cooks used different ingredients than we usually do in order to achieve some very good meals. Bill will dispel the myth that the food was always unpalatable. (Bill might even bring a sample.)

#### *Charles Ewell: Civil War Anesthesia*

Although anesthesia was "discovered" less than two decades before the civil war, any controversy about the benefits was settled early in this conflict. Charles will summarize the milestones that led to general anesthesia and focus on the details of its use in civil war surgery. There are some misconceptions about surgery during the civil war which probably arose from depictions in the movies. Charles will dispel these and try to put the successful organization of anesthesia services into the context of the rapid transformation of surgery from the barber shop to something resembling what we have now. Charles's role as an anesthesiologist brings an interesting and different perspective to his subject.



### 7/13/23: A Round Table discussion led by CFCWRT President Bill Jayne

#### *Victory Snatched from the Jaws of Defeat...or Vice Versa?*

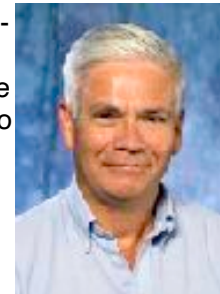
The initial Confederate assaults at the battle of Cedar Creek, October, 1864, came while Sheridan was away, and were spectacularly successful. However, by afternoon, the Confederate attack ran out of steam. In his famous ride, Sheridan turned back from Winchester and hurried to the battlefield, helped rally the Union forces, and ordered a counterattack that proved crushingly successful. The Round Table discussion will focus on the Confederate pause that afternoon. Gen. Gordon urged Early to continue the assault against the stalwart Union VI Corps, but Early seemed confident they would retire. Writing later, Early seemed to lay the blame for the defeat upon the Confederate troops, who, by stopping to pillage Union camps, became too disorganized for further attacks. More will be forthcoming before our meeting, but there is plenty of time to read about the battle and form your opinions before our discussion.



### 8/10/23: Audience Participation

#### *"A War Game of Sorts" led by John Weisz*

The game will focus upon the options available to Major General John Buford leading a division of US cavalry and searching for the main Confederate force which has invaded southern Pennsylvania and Maryland. The audience will play the role of General Buford and will be presented four possible courses of action available to Buford. After our audience discussion we will poll the participants and then review the actual decision made by Buford and why he made that choice. If you were John Buford what would you do?



**If you're interested in Civil War medicine, check out the National Museum of Civil War Medicine in Frederick, Maryland. It's fascinating.**

## May Program Scheduled For Cape Fear Museum USCT Expert Will Talk On Their Role in the Civil War

By Bill Jayne, President

Our May 11 meeting will be held at the Cape Fear Museum at 814 Market Street in Wilmington. Retired U.S. Navy Captain Edward Gantt will present “The United States Colored Troops in the Civil War.”

During the presentation, Capt. Gantt will address the contributions of African American soldiers in the USCT with special attention to their activities in southeastern North Carolina. USCT played an important role in the Battle of Ft. Fisher on January 15, 1865 and led the advance up the peninsula from Ft. Fisher to Wilmington from mid-January to the fall of the city on February 22.

They fought at the Sugar Loaf line in Carolina Beach and the Battle of Forks Road around the intersection of modern-day 17th Street and Independence Boulevard.

Capt. Gantt will address the background of the USCT as well as their contributions in both Eastern and Western theaters of the war. It’s a complicated story, of course. Originally not allowed to join the Army, by the end of the war, some 180,000 to 200,000 Blacks served in the **United States Colored Troops (USCT)** and comprised ten percent of the U. S. Army. There were at least 166 regiments of Black soldiers, who fought in approximately 450 battle actions and were instrumental in

helping to win the Civil War and freedom for their people.

Gantt was born in Maryland and saw combat as a helicopter door gunner and crew chief during a 12-month tour in South Vietnam. His first stint in the service included graduation from the U.S. Army Airborne and Ranger schools.



After his Army service, and following graduation from Howard University, he re-entered the armed forces serving as a naval aviator, including a tour as commanding officer of Fighter Squadron 31 at Naval Air Station Miramar (at that time the home of Top Gun).

In July 2000, Gantt took command of the Navy boot camp at Great Lakes, Illinois. At Recruit Training Command (the Navy’s only boot camp), he was responsible for the development of nearly 50,000 sailors annually. He retired from the Navy in September 2003 after 30 years of active service and began a new career as a high school teacher in the Washington, D.C. area.

In the spring of 2014, Gantt began an association with the 23rd Infantry Regiment USCT Civil War re-enactors and living historians. He is currently a member of Company B, 54th Massachusetts Civil War re-enactors and president of the re-formed 23rd Regiment USCT in Spotsylvania, Virginia. (continued on next page)



Capt. Gantt will also present a special program on Friday, May 12, at Wilmington National Cemetery. Established in 1867, the historic cemetery is located at 2011 Market Street and is the final resting place of more than 500 USCT soldiers, the vast majority buried as unknowns.

We will open the Friday event, scheduled to begin at 4 p.m., to the general public and request a donation of \$10 except for school children.



Members enjoy perusing the book table.



### Area Historic Association Events

By Yelena Howell, Tours and Trips Committee

**Sat, Apr 8 2023, 6:15am - 7:15am, Brunswick Town/Fort Anderson State Historic Site, Winnabow: 18th Century Easter Litany.** Period Anglican service in the ruins of St. Philip's with sunrise service starting at 6:45 a.m. Bring your own seating if desired. Cost: adult admission is donation based; children 12 and under are free. For more information, contact Makayla Coley at (910) 371-6613 or [brunswick@ncdcr.gov](mailto:brunswick@ncdcr.gov). Blessed Easter to all who celebrate!

**Thursday, April 13, 2023, 7-8:30 p.m., Cape Fear Civil War Round Table: Dr. Robert M. Browning, Ph.D., former Chief Historian of the US Coast Guard will present *Success is All that Was Expected: The Failed Efforts to Take Charleston*.** As always, we look forward to seeing you at St. John's Episcopal in Wilmington starting at 6:30 p.m.

**Thursday, April 13, 2023, 10 a.m.-3p.m., Bentonville Battlefield State Historic Site, Four Oaks, NC.** Explore the natural side of Bentonville during their annual spring program, Bentonville in Bloom. Learn about the plants and wildlife that call eastern North Carolina home. Cost: free. For more information, contact Chad Jefferds at [\(910\) 594-0789](tel:9105940789) or [chadwick.jefferds@ncdcr.gov](mailto:chadwick.jefferds@ncdcr.gov)

**Saturday, Apr 22, 2023, 10 a.m. – 4.p.m., Brunswick Town/Fort Anderson State Historic Site, Winnabow, NC. Living History: Tar, Pitch and Turpentine; Oh My!** Living history demonstration of the production of tar, pitch, and turpentine. Tar production will begin around 11am and another will begin at 1:30pm. Cost: free. For more information, contact Makayla Coley at (910) 371-6613 or [brunswick@ncdcr.gov](mailto:brunswick@ncdcr.gov).

## **CFCWRT Fall 2023 Programs**

By James Gannon, Programs Committee

**9/14/23 John Quarstein**

***CSS Albemarle and the actions at at Edenton, Plymouth and New Bern***

John V. Quarstein is a nationally known speaker and an award-winning historian, preservationist, and author. John served as the director of the Virginia War Museum until his retirement and is now Director Emeritus of the USS Monitor Center at The Mariners' Museum in Newport News, Virginia. He has authored 18 books and has served as an adjunct professor at the College of William & Mary. John is an expert on the Naval War and will speak to us about the Civil War actions that occurred along North Carolina's inland waterways.

**10/12/23 Chris Bryan**

***Author of "Cedar Mountain to Antietam:  
A Civil War Campaign History of the Union XII Corps, July - September 1862"***

Chris Bryan's book is both a unit history and a leadership and character assessment. It is a compelling story of a little studied yet consequential corps and fills a long standing gap in the history of the civil war. It is the story of how this often luckless command began as part of MG John Pope's Army of Virginia in June 1862, endured defeat after coming within a whisker of defeating MG Stonewall Jackson at Cedar Mountain, suffered through the hardships of the campaigns before and after Second Manassas, but despite it all, found its resurgence in Maryland as part of the rebuilt Army of the Potomac. Chris Bryan is a former naval aviator and USNA graduate, and is active with historic preservation and architectural investigations.

**11/9/23 Ed Lowe**

***Author of "A Fine Opportunity Lost:  
Longstreet's East Tennessee Campaign, November 1863 - April 1864"***

Confederate General Longstreet's First Corps and Union General Burnside's IX Corps had already shared battlefields at Second Manassas, South Mountain, Antietam, and Fredericksburg. Unexpectedly, these two old foes from the Eastern Theater now found themselves transplanted to the Western Theater —familiar adversaries on unfamiliar ground. The fate of East Tennessee hung in the balance, and new reputations could be won or lost. General James Longstreet's deployment to East Tennessee gave him the chance for an independent command. For his Union opponent, Major General Ambrose Burnside, the Western Theater offered an opportunity for redemption from past failures. Colonel Ed Lowe USA (Ret) tells the story of how this was "a fine opportunity lost" for both men.

**What's the best Civil War movie you've ever seen? "Glory" and "Lincoln" and "Gettysburg" come to mind. What are some others?**

## CFCWRT Winter 2023/2024 Programs

By James Gannon, Programs Committee

**12/14/23 Everard Smith**

***Civil Warriors: An overview of weapons, uniforms, tactics, medicine, and camp life of both sides including a display of a few actual relics.***

Local historian, former UNCW professor, and Round Table favorite, Dr. Everard Smith returns to our Round Table with another fascinating presentation on a totally new topic. Ev will focus on the volunteer soldier and some of the things he used and experienced in his everyday Army life. His thoroughly researched presentation will include some surprising details and a display of some actual relics of the civil war.

**1/11/24 Pat Garrow**

***Author of "Grey to Blue: Galvanized Yankees in the Union Army"***

Pat Garrow is a CFCWRT member, author, historian and professional archeologist. Pat will present his soon to be published book about Confederate soldiers who joined the Union Army to escape imprisonment. This book is a companion volume to Pat's earlier book that about Union prisoners of war who changed sides to joined the Confederate army. The new book updates and extends Dee Brown's classic volume "Galvanized Yankees." Pat will address the six regiments of US volunteers raised in Union prisons and sent to the western frontier to protect settlers and travelers and will go well beyond that to address lesser known units such as the Union Regiments raised in North Carolina.

**2/8/24. Chris Mackowski**

***Author of "The Battle of Jackson, Mississippi, May 14, 1863"***

CFCWRT welcomes back one of our most dynamic speakers, Dr. Chris Mackowski. Chris is a nationally known speaker, and also very well known for his work as the Editor in Chief of the Emerging Civil War blog. He is the author of more than a dozen books, and will speak to us about his recent work, "The Battle of Jackson." General Grant had his eyes set on Vicksburg, not Jackson, when he crossed the river south of Vicksburg and marched into the interior of Mississippi. A chance encounter with a small Confederate force at Raymond alerted Grant to the Confederate threat massing further east in Jackson under General Joseph Johnston. Chris will tell the story of how Grant turned his army on a dime to quickly capture Jackson and destroy this vital transportation and communications hub, thus isolating Vicksburg and setting the stage for the Union victories at Champion Hill and Vicksburg.

The American Battlefield Trust has preserved more than 53,000 acres of land on which battles from the Civil War, Revolutionary War, and the War of 1812 were fought. The Trust boasts more than 200,000 members. Close to home, the Trust has helped preserve land from the Battle of Bentonville and is now working to preserve land associated with the Battle of Wyse Fork, just east of Kinston. You can learn more about this important organization by going to their website: [www.battlefields.org](http://www.battlefields.org)

## A Tour of the Sugar Loaf Line

By Bill Jayne, President

On a beautiful day of sunshine with temperatures in the 50s, about 20 members and friends of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table were treated to an eye-opening tour of the Sugar Loaf Lines in Carolina Beach. It was Saturday, February 18, a week after the anniversary of the engagement on February 11, 1865, when several brigades of Union troops, spearheaded by nine regiments of U.S. Colored Troops (USCT) attempted to force the strongly fortified Confederate line of General Robert Hoke’s veteran division. The group met at 9 a.m. at J. Ryder Lewis Park in Carolina Beach near the Publix supermarket. Dr. Chris Fonvielle, Ph.D., professor emeritus of history at UNCW, was our leader, and there is none better.

Lewis Park preserves the remains of the Confederate defensive line that stretched from the inlet in Carolina Beach all the way to the Sugar Loaf sand dune on the Cape Fear River—a fortified line that held up the Union advance on Wilmington after the fall of Ft. Fisher. Remember that in those days, Carolina Beach to Fort Fisher was a peninsula not an island. It wasn’t

cut off from the mainland until Snow’s Cut was excavated by the U.S. Corps of Engineers in 1929. It was not until the Union army sent strong forces across the river and took Fort Anderson that the Confederates under Gen. Robert Hoke, fell back toward Wilmington. We toured the well interpreted new park and then caravanned in our cars to a parking area near the Carolina Beach fire station on Dow Road. From there we tramped into the maritime forest heading toward the Sugar Loaf dune on the Cape Fear River.

The woods were full of earthworks, some several feet high, running east and west across the landscape. Once we reached Sugar Loaf and turned back toward the ocean, we were treated to the remains of a line of rifle pits, or fox holes (often called “Gopher Holes” in Civil War times) discovered by Dr. Fonvielle. Your round table puts together very informative and entertaining tours of the Civil War sites in our area. Be sure to be on the lookout for our next tour!



Dr. Fonvielle



Tour members hike off in search of earthwork fortifications on the Sugar Loaf line. The tour was conducted shortly after the anniversary of the engagement which took place on February 11, 1865.

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## CFCWRT Treasurers Report

By Mike McDonald, Treasurer

Your Round Table is financially in excellent shape. In years past, the first few months were short on revenue and long on expenses; but not this year. We usually have out of town Speakers who travel some distance, and therefore need a hotel night after our evening meeting. Our quarterly rent is due at St. John's church, and only a few Members pay dues (start their new year) in Jan/Feb/Mar.

But this year two of our Speakers didn't need a hotel, and 4 new Members found us. Plus we had revenue from a great tour of the Sugar Loaf area, two Silent Auctions, and very successful book raffles at the meetings.

The net result has been a small net gain for the first quarter 2023, instead of the loss we had last year. We had more in our bank account (at Bank of America) ending March, than we did ending December. So, we are a bit ahead of our budget --- hopefully we can continue that through the balance of the year.

Speaking of December, we had a very good year in 2023, financially speaking. Much of our success was due to two factors: We developed a lot of opportunities for Members and tours, silent auctions, book raffles, logo clothing. Each of these generated a small amount of revenue for the Round Table. Together, they totaled about half of all revenue. (continued on next page)

Many New Members have found us in the last two years—about 20-25 in both of the last 2 years. Each Member contributes his or her \$30, and that is the other half of our revenue. It is great to have them and we appreciate all their involvement. If your friends, family, neighbors have an interest in our subject, bring them along to a meeting --- no obligation, we will be glad to welcome them!

Lastly, our mailing address (snail mail) is 8387 E Highcroft Dr, Leland, 28451.

Any questions, suggestions, comments, don't hesitate to let me know.

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## February Presentation on Confederate Hospitals

By Bill Jayne, President

On February 9, Wade Sokolosky presented an energetic, informative lecture on the Confederate hospitals in North Carolina. Wade is one of the premier historians of Sherman's Carolinas Campaign and his research into the battles of 1865, especially, drew him into the subject of the hospitals and the Confederate medical system.

It was a lively meeting as 54 members and guests, plus eight on Zoom, heard a story that illustrated the difficulties caused by the Confederate tension between states' rights and national control, a tension that greatly affected military affairs. Would the hospitals be run by the military, by the state government, by the Confederate government in Richmond? It's a story that's not often considered but it's one that greatly affected morale, both military and civilian and contributed directly to the Confederacy's ability to maintain itself.

Highlights of the meeting included presentation of an Honorary Life Membership certificate to David Norris, a past president of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table. David was joined by other past presidents Bob Cooke and Dr. Chris Fonvielle. All three were cited many times in Wade's book *North Carolina's Confederate Hospitals, Volume 1: 1861-1863*.

Yelena Howell, one of the administrators of our Facebook group, received an autographed copy of Wade's book in recognition of her brief interview of the author that was posted on Facebook. To follow the Facebook group, search for Cape Fear Civil War Round Table group. Here's the link <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1696952227331256>.

Book sales and raffle activity was brisk, and our speaker was pleased to receive a framed print of member Jim Horton's painting of "The Guns of Fort Fisher," as a memento of his visit to the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table.





Our March meeting - with Charles Knight on Robert E. Lee's daily Civil War chronology - 1861- 1865.



## Cape Fear Civil War Roundtable



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## *Lincoln's Gettysburg Address*

*Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth upon this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.*

*Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battle-field of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.*

*But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate—we can not consecrate—we can not hallow—this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.*

*—Abraham Lincoln*

SallieBorin@com

A peek at the editing process: Couldn't get this extra page to go away, so put this great speech here instead of leaving the page blank. It's so beautifully written, it's a nice way to close out this month's newsletter.





# THE RUNNER



DECEMBER 2021

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 11



## December Presentation: How WV Became a State

The creation of the state of West Virginia in the midst of the American Civil War is an often overlooked and little-known event to all but the serious Civil War history enthusiast. However, the story has been given more attention in the past decade, with at least two books published on the topic and another in progress. West Virginia's creation brought to light numerous legal and constitutional issues and highlighted intrastate sectional diversity on a level not seen elsewhere in the states. Even Confederate states with relatively high numbers of Union sympathizers like North Carolina and Tennessee did not schism as a result; only Virginia did. West Virginia was a region of a southern state that had more in common with its neighbors to the north than with its brethren to the east and its creation was wrapped up in issues of slavery, race, culture, and economics. Early in the war, the region was hotly contested, but



West Virginia State Seal



Andrew Dupstadt is the Education & Interpretation Supervisor for the North Carolina Division of State Historic Sites. He has a BA in history and an MA in public history from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington.

was largely forgotten about when the focus of the war shifted farther south, and West Virginia officially entered the Union. Even so, West Virginia was still a somewhat divided state, that provided only slightly more manpower to the Union cause than it did to the Confederacy. But the new state's politicians were firmly committed to the Union and worked with the federal government to remain part of it.



### December Meeting

Thursday, Dec 9, 2021

Presenter:  
**Andrew Dupstadt:**  
**How West Virginia**  
**Became a State**

6:30 Social 7:00 Meeting

Harbor UMC, Rm. 226  
 4853 Masonboro Loop  
 Wilmington  
 (See map on [website](#))



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

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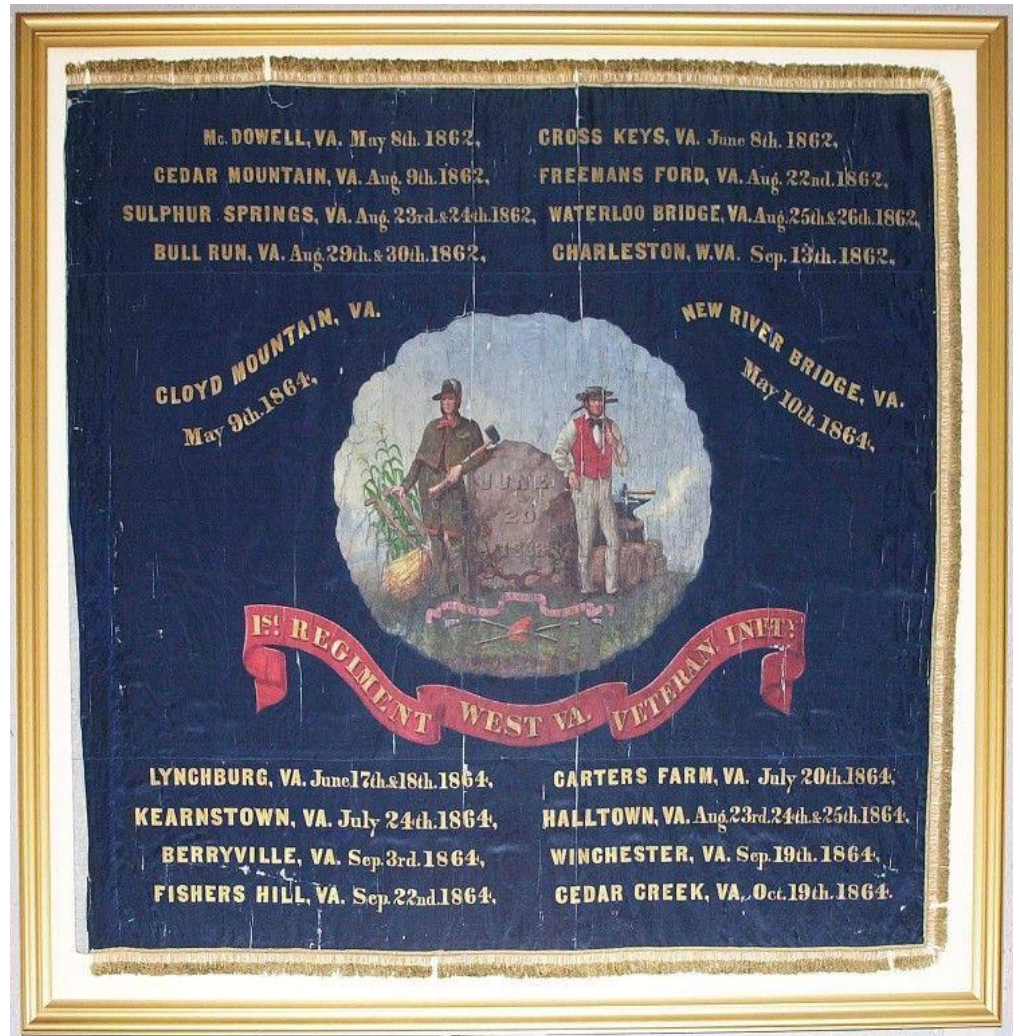
*December Presentation: How WV Became a State, cont.*

Previously, he has worked at the CSS Neuse State Historic Site, Fort Fisher State Historic Site, and Tryon Palace Historic Sites and Gardens. Andrew also serves as an Adjunct Instructor of History at UNC-Pembroke and Coastal Carolina Community College. He is Treasurer of the North Carolina Military Historical Society and serves on the boards of Civil War Trails, Inc. and the North Carolina Maritime History Council.

Did you know...?

Stonewall Jackson was born in Clarksburg, Virginia in 1824. Clarksburg, in Harrison County, was part of what became West Virginia in 1863.

There are writings which indicate that in Jackson's early childhood, he was called "The Real Macaroni", though the origin of the nickname and whether it really existed are unclear.



**Battle Flag - 1st WV Veteran Infantry**  
Listed on the flag are the battles in which they fought.

The U.S. state of West Virginia was formed out of western Virginia and added to the Union as a direct result of the American Civil War, in which it became the only modern state to have declared its independence from the Confederacy.

## November Presentation: Betty Vaughn, *Christmas in the Civil War*



Betty Vaughn, an artist, teacher and writer of historical fiction, narrated a PowerPoint presentation giving a comprehensive history of the traditions of Christmas going to their European origins and continuing to the evolution of customs in this country. She explained the differences in celebration between those in the North and the South and the underlying causes for the disparity between them. In the north it tended to be a quiet religious celebration in the home...after a day of work. The South followed more liberal English customs. The Dutch in New York were responsible for several of our traditions. The original Dutch customs were explained, as well as the way they would eventually be adapted and popularized. Thomas Nast, the famous German-born cartoonist who grew up in New York around the time of the Civil War, was responsible for many of our iconic symbols of Christmas. It is interesting to note Thanksgiving was declared a national holiday years before Christmas! The program discussed the Christmas hymns that were sung by our soldiers as they huddled by their campfires. The food, decorations, candy, cookies, and religious observations of the period were traced to their origin. The use of period photos and imagery are enhanced with automation and music where appropriate.

## Upcoming Events

Cape Fear Civil War Roundtable Speakers:

January 13th: **Ernest Dollar**, Author and Public Historian (Director, City of Raleigh Museum), speaking about "NC Military Operations in 1865"

February 10th: **Jim Horton**, Artist (Member of CFCWRT), speaking about his Civil War historic paintings

March 10th: **Charles Knight**, Author and Public Historian (Curator of Military History at NC Museum of History), speaking about his book *From Arlington to Appomattox: Robert E. Lee's Civil War Day by Day 1861-1865*

## Trivia Questions

1. What Union spy, destined to gain fame for a daring railroad exploit, won the confidence of Confederates by smuggling quinine to them?
2. What raiders, captured by Confederates, were treated as civilian spies because they were out of uniform?
3. Why was the death of Brig. Gen. Benjamin Hardin Helm, CSA, mourned in the White House?

## *New Bern Battlefield Trip*

On December 4th, members and friends of the Cape Fear Civil War Roundtable gathered for a trip to the New Bern Battlefield Park.

New Bern Battlefield Park is the ground where nearly one third of the Civil War *Battle of New Bern* occurred. The park is in near pristine condition: unmarked by development or agriculture, the “redans” or fighting positions remain as they were a century and a half ago. Today the Battlefield Park includes over 30 acres of the original battlefield. The Gateway Plaza leads to a unique 20 foot diameter color ground map and signage that provides an overview of the battle.



The park's Gateway Plaza provides an overview of the battlefield and effectively orients visitors. Guide Brian Kraus, in blue checked shirt, explains the map.

## *New Bern Battlefield Trip, cont.*



The park has a large picnic shelter, restrooms and ample parking.



The Atlantic and North Carolina Railroad connected the port of Beaufort with the Wilmington and Weldon at Goldsboro and provided a line of attack for Union troops as they achieved a breakthrough in this area of the battlefield.



Brian Kraus points out a feature of the battlefield with preserved original earthworks in the background.



Swampland that covered part of the battle

*Friends of Fort Fisher*

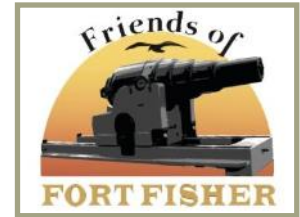
**The Friends of Fort Fisher** is a member driven non-profit organization devoted to supporting the activities and needs of Fort Fisher, an official North Carolina State Historic Site. Membership in the Friends consist of individuals, governments, foundations and businesses who make gifts that support programming, special events and site improvements.

The Friends are involved with the State in an exciting project to replace the outdated and inadequate visitors center built in the 1950's to accommodate 25,000 annual visitors. We will soon have 1 million people annually visiting the Fort making it the most visited state historic site in North Carolina. The Friends are working with the State to design and construct a new visitors center with modern exhibits which will highlight the history of the area and the Fort. Our goal is to focus on all the people who were involved in the initial construction of the Fort and those who defended or attacked the Fort in the January 1865 battle which was instrumental in ending the American Civil War.

The Friends invite you to join our membership and to also consider ways you can support the building campaign. One of the Friends goals is to construct three of the original 50 foot earthen mounds that was central to the Fort's defense and operations. The State will build the \$21M visitors center and the Friend will raise \$3M for the mounds. We invite your participation in this important mission.

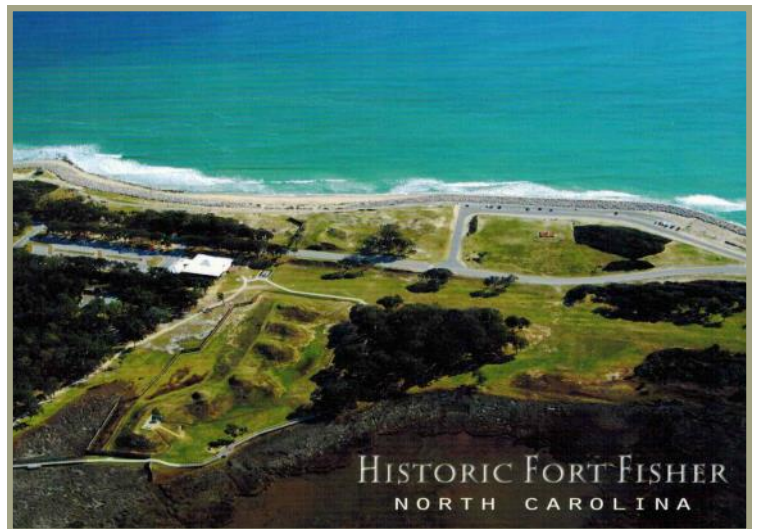
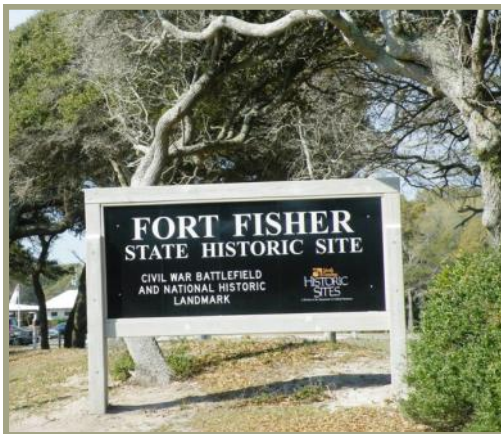
Contributions can be made to Friends of Fort Fisher, 1610 S. Fort Fisher Boulevard, Fort Fisher, North Carolina 28449

In this month issue of The Powder Magazine is an article about William Keeler. Historical Specialist Becky Sawyer gave two CFCWRT presentations about Keeler's letters - one presentation was about Fort Fisher and the other about action on the James River in 1865.



Please check out the latest issue of their newsletter [The Powder Magazine](#).

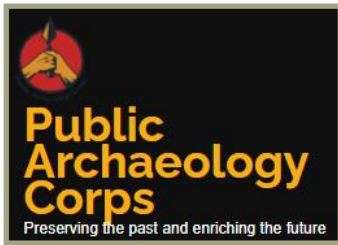
Also check them out on [Facebook](#).



Fort Fisher, in New Hanover County south of Wilmington, was the largest earthwork fortification in the Confederacy and for four years (1861-65) played a vital role in the Southern war effort. Located at Confederate Point (now called Federal Point) the fort guarded the New Inlet entrance to the Cape Fear River and kept the port of Wilmington open to the blockade-runners, upon whom the Confederacy heavily relied to supply its armies. With the fall of Fort Morgan on Mobile Bay in August, 1864, Fort Fisher became the last important coastal fortification under Confederate control. When the fort fell to Union forces on January 15, 1865 -- after the heaviest naval bombardment of land fortifications known to that date -- the only remaining link between the already-doomed Confederacy and the outside world was broken.



## The Public Archaeology Corps



Cape Fear Civil War Round Table member Pat Garrow recently lent his expertise to the excavation of a segment of the Confederate earthworks on the Cameron Art Museum grounds that date to The Forks Road battle that occurred immediately before the Confederate evacuation of Wilmington. That excavation exposed the original ground surface beneath the earthworks during dedication of a statute dedicated to the US Colored Troops involved in that battle.



Pat is a (semi) retired professional archaeologist who has worked in the field for more than 50 years. He holds a MA in Archaeology from the University of Georgia. He recently went back to The Chieftains Museum (Major Ridge Home) in Rome, Georgia, to lead the investigation of a site thought to have been a kitchen at the home of the Cherokee chief who was one of the signers of the Treaty of New Echota that led to the forced removal of the tribe. Pat originally worked on the Chieftains site in 1969-71. He is pictured at the far right of the photo below.

A native of Newport News, Virginia, he is also the author of *Changing Sides: Union Prisoners of War Who Joined the Confederate Army*.

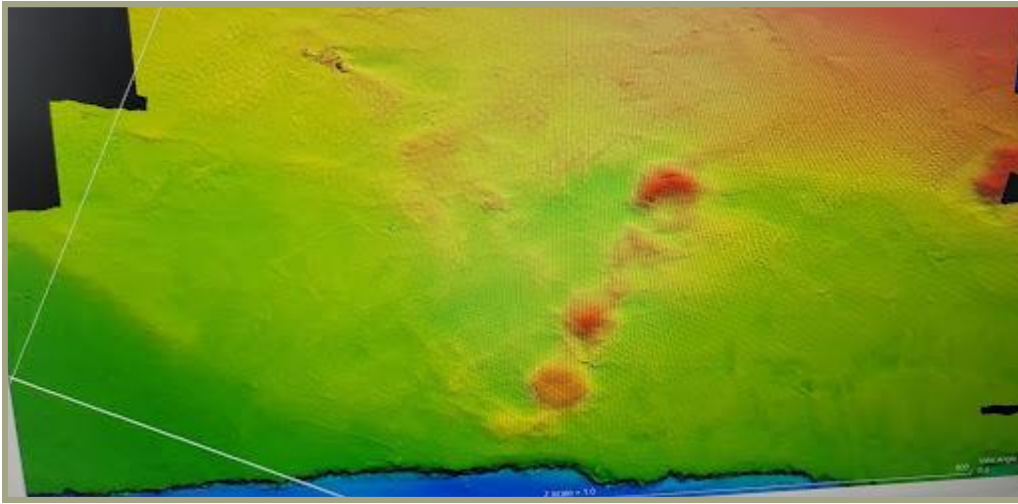
The Forks Road excavation was an example of the public education/public outreach projects undertaken by Public Archaeology Corps (PAC). PAC has a long-term excavation underway at 10 S. Front Street in downtown Wilmington. That excavation has encountered archaeological deposits from the 18th century, and will continue on selected weekends.

Membership in the PAC is open to all interested parties. Please go to the [PAC website](#) to become a member and for additional information and for notices of upcoming excavations.

The Public Archaeology Corps is a 501(C) (3) nonprofit organization that is dedicated to public education, public outreach, and researching endangered archaeological sites on private land that are not protected by federal or state laws. The PAC includes professional archaeologists, historians, and interested citizens.



## *Archaeologists Locate Underwater Artifacts*



**Sonar image of four Confederate cribs in Savannah River (USACE, Savannah)**

Archaeologists using sonar to scan the bottom of the Savannah River have located the remnants of four underwater obstructions placed by Confederate defenders during the Civil War.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineer's Savannah office last week released a video and press release on the discovery of the so-called cribs, which were intended to prevent a Federal attack on the Georgia city.

"A crib is actually the wooden structure that would have held rubble, in this case mostly bricks," Will Wilson, an archaeologist with Commonwealth Heritage Group said in the video. "This is a fairly simple frame system that is (put) in place really to hold the rubble and provide an obstruction to ships that might want to pass up the river."

Wilson and others recorded 3D images ahead of dives on two of the crib sites. The dives are underway, Corps officials said this week.

While tourists coming to the popular coastal destination gaze upon the supertankers coming from or to the Atlantic Ocean, they likely have no idea what lies beneath the river's surface: Remnants of vessels, pieces of Native American pottery that washed down stream, and other items deposited over the centuries.

The Corps began new fact finding and artifacts recovery in the past couple weeks.

The project follows the discovery earlier this year of [three historic artillery pieces](#) in the river.

The cannons appear to have been made in the mid-1700s, and some theorize they may have been carried by the HMS Rose, a British warship that took part in the siege of Savannah during the Revolutionary War.

The Rose was scuttled to block the channel from French ships that might come to the aid of colonists trying to retake the city.

"A definitive conclusion on their origins is still pending and may require future conservation efforts to study any identifying marks that may tie the artifacts to a specific vessel or



*(Continued on page 9)*



## *Archaeologists Locate Underwater Artifacts, cont.*

wreck,” the Corps said.

It’s possible the artillery pieces were on a Confederate warship, such as the CSS Georgia, which was used in conjunction with cribs to defend the city.

The cannons were found this past February in the general vicinity of where the Rebel ironclad was scuttled in December 1864 during the Civil War. Most of the ironclad’s wreckage was removed a few years back as part of the Corps’ deepening of the Savannah harbor.

The ironclad itself was an obstruction: Too slow to travel downstream and engage the enemy, the CSS Georgia was a floating battery stationed near Fort Jackson, another defensive bastion a few miles east of downtown.



**Confederate torpedoes in Charleston at war's end (Library of Congress)**

Smaller batteries dotted the river banks toward Fort Pulaski, near Tybee Island. The fort fell to Union forces in 1862 and the city was effectively bottled up for the remainder of the conflict.

In its press release, the Corps said investigators this spring “found additional artifacts related to the cannons on the river bottom. The exact number and types of artifacts re-

maining in the Savannah River will be determined through the current and upcoming investigations, and these materials will be recovered for further study.”

Corps spokesman Billy Birdwell told the Picket on Tuesday that the crib dives and artifact recovery are part of necessary clearing for ongoing deepening of the harbor.

He said divers are working in an area filled with all kinds of debris, from before and after the Civil War. Dozens of cribs were placed in the river during the Civil War.

The Confederacy used a wide array of weapons and obstructions to defend against advances on Savannah from the sea. Besides forts and warships, wooden cribs, pile dams, torpedoes (mines), snags, logs and dozens of shipwrecks were employed.

A 2007 report by New South Associates on the CSS Georgia said the ironclad was situated to protect obstructions from Federal wrecking parties.

“The obstructions themselves were double-lines of sunken structures, comprised of cribs put together with 18 to 20-inch timbers, and loaded with bricks. Except for a small opening to allow Confederate patrol boats to go in and out, these obstructions stretched across the navigable width of the river. In the south channel, these cribs were reported to have a height of 30 to 35 feet,” the report says.

Shore batteries supported Fort Jackson.



## Archaeologists Locate Underwater Artifacts, cont.

“There were two lines of obstructions in the vicinity of Fort Jackson. The line furthest downstream, on either side of the head of Elba Island, appears to have been Georgia’s first home,” New South Associates said. “A more irregular line of obstructions was also laid in the immediate vicinity of Fort Jackson, upstream from the first line. This line too appears to have had moorings for Georgia.”

Wilson, the archaeologist speaking in the Corps video, said the cribs being investigated now are north of the river channel, a bit outside of freighter traffic.

An 1865 map in the collection of the Library of Congress shows a narrow waterway labeled “obstructed by cribs” not far from CSS Georgia and Fort Jackson. The river’s flow has changed since then and some land that appeared in the map is now underwater. It is unclear exactly where these cribs being studied by the Corps were discovered.

A map by Robert Knox Sneden, a renowned Union mapmaker, shows Southern batteries and obstructions all the way to Fort Pulaski.

An 1874 account of the fortifications in and around Savannah includes this description:

*“The guns in these positions were supplied with an average of rather more than one hundred rounds of ammunition to the piece. As additional obstructions to an ascent of the Savannah river by the enemy, cribs, filled with brick and stone, had been sunk in the channel below the forts and under cover of their guns. Below the Thunderbolt battery the river was impeded by quantities of live oak logs.”*

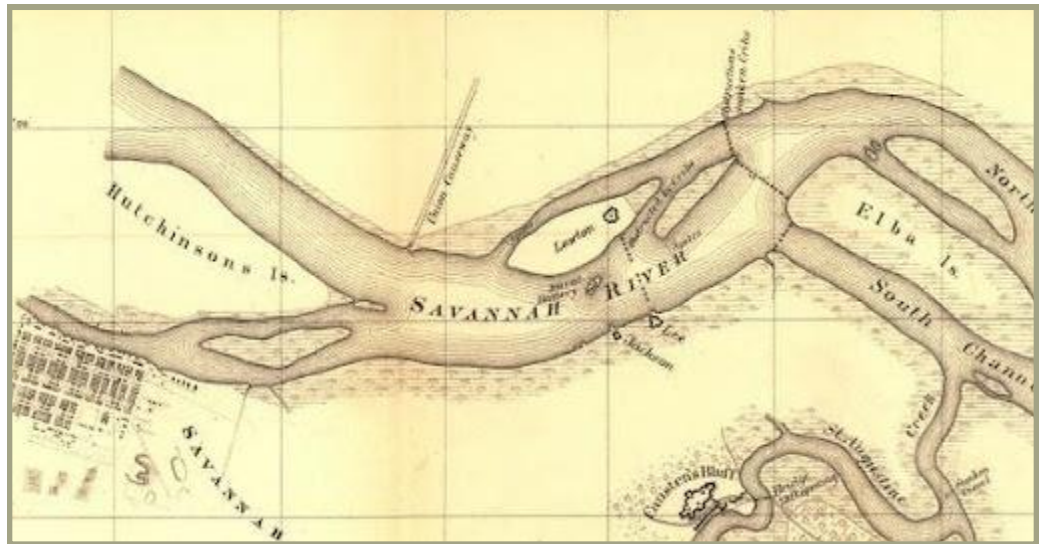
All of these defensive weapons did the trick: Savannah did not succumb to the Federal navy. Instead, it fell to the Union army during Sherman’s March to the Sea.

After the war, contractors were hired to raise obstructions, including cribs, sunken vessels, piles, snags and torpedoes, so that commercial traffic could safely resume. They even got part of the CSS Georgia. (Interestingly, there were complaints during the Civil War of obstructions left over from the Revolutionary War).

W. Todd Groce, president and CEO of the Georgia Historical Society, told the Picket a friend in 1996 discovered a Confederate torpedo buried in the mud along the river and downstream from the city.

“It was one of the old wooden barrel types. He excavated it and kept it in a big tub of water so it would not dry out and disintegrate.” The man wanted to donate it to the society, but it did not have proper facilities to care for and display it, Groce said.

Stay tuned to the Picket for an update on this project.



Fort Jackson, area of placed cribs (Library of Congress)

***“These submerged crib obstructions are believed to be some of the last remaining examples of this type of obstruction placed in the Savannah River during the Civil War,” the Corps said.***

## Trivia Answers

1. James J. Andrews was a Kentucky civilian who worked for the Union Army during the early years of the American Civil War. He led a daring raid behind enemy lines on the Western and Atlantic Railroad, known as **The Great Locomotive Chase**. Andrews and seven fellow raiders were caught at the end of the chase and executed by the Confederates on the charge of spying.
2. Army volunteers who followed Civilian James J. Andrews. In April 1862, Andrews proposed a scheme to Major General Ormsby M. Mitchel to seize a locomotive in northern Georgia and drive it to Chattanooga, Tennessee, where he would rendezvous with Mitchel's attacking Union Army. On April 12th Andrews, another civilian, William "Bill" Campbell, and 24 volunteers from three Ohio infantry regiments garbed in civilian clothes, stole a locomotive known as **The General** at Big Shanty, near Kennesaw, Georgia. They headed north, destroying tracks and telegraph wires along the way in an effort to discourage pursuers and render the railroad useless for supplying the Confederate troops in Tennessee. William Allen Fuller, the conductor of the stolen train pursued the train hijackers on foot, by handcar, and in a variety of other locomotives, most notably the "Texas", in which he gave chase for 51 miles (82 km) in reverse. After an 87 miles (140 km) chase, the General lost power just north of Ringgold, Georgia, and Andrews and his raiders scattered. He was captured soon afterwards and identified as the leader. The captured military raiders were treated as civilian spies because they were out of uniform.
3. Benjamin Hardin Helm was Mary Todd Lincoln's brother-in-law. He came into Abraham Lincoln's Kentucky family circle when he married Emilie Todd, Mary Lincoln's half sister, in 1856.

Benjamin Hardin Helm had attended the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and graduated ninth in his class in 1851. After serving briefly on the Texas frontier before illness forced his resignation from the army, he studied law and entered practice in Elizabethtown before being elected to the Kentucky House of Representatives in 1855. A year before the Civil War started, he became an assistant inspector general in the Kentucky State Guard.

As the Civil War began, President Lincoln offered his brother-in-law a commission as paymaster in the Union army. He turned down the offer and helped recruit the First Kentucky Cavalry Regiment for the Confederate army. Commissioned a colonel, Helm quickly rose in rank when he was promoted to brigadier general after the battle of Shiloh and served under fellow Kentuckian General John C. Breckinridge in Mississippi and Louisiana. Eventually, General Helm became commander of the First Kentucky Infantry Brigade (the "Orphan Brigade") and was killed at the battle of Chickamauga in northern Georgia on September 20, 1863. When President Lincoln learned of his brother-in-law's death in battle, he was deeply moved and told one member of his cabinet that he felt like David in the Bible when he learned that his son Absalom had been killed.

Walt Disney made a movie of Andrews' exploits in 1956 called **The Great Locomotive Chase** starring Fess Parker as Andrews.



## Civil War This and That

In the aftermath of battle, soldiers from both sides often swarmed over the field to loot the dead. A gold watch was seldom ignored and any wallet full of currency went into the pocket of the finder. But more than gold or currency, those who scavenged among the fallen wanted a special prize: **a good pair of shoes.**

Respectable women attached to the army performed various camp and nursing duties were known as **Vivi-andières.**

Transportation magnate **Cornelius Vanderbilt** prized each of his ships. But as a patriotic gesture, he agreed to sell a 1,700-ton vessel that bore his name to the Federal government - at his own price. He asked for, and received, exactly one dollar.

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## CAPE FEAR CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

PO Box 15750

Wilmington, NC 28408

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

**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](#)

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*[Savas Beatie](#)*



# THE RUNNER



NOVEMBER 2021

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 10



*Nov. Presentation: Betty Vaughn, Christmas in the Civil War*

Betty Vaughn, an artist, teacher and writer of historical fiction, will narrate a PowerPoint presentation giving a comprehensive history of the traditions of Christmas going to their European origins and continuing to the evolution of customs in this country. She explains the differences in celebration between those in the North and the South and the underlying causes for the disparity between them. While in the north it tended to be a quiet religious celebration, the South followed more liberal English customs. The Dutch in New York were responsible for several of our traditions. The original Dutch customs will be explained, as well as the way they would eventually be adapted and popularized. Thomas Nast, the famous German-born cartoonist who grew up in New York around the time of the Civil War, was responsible for many of our iconic symbols of Christmas. It is interesting to note Thanksgiving was declared a national holiday years before Christmas! The program discusses the Christmas hymns that were sung by our soldiers as they huddled by their campfires. The food, decorations, candy, cookies, and religious observations of the period will be traced to their origin with an explanation of why and how they changed. The use of period photos and imagery are enhanced with automation and music where appropriate. It is particularly noteworthy that many songs and customs date to this period in history.



**Betty Vaughn** is well known for her novels, especially those belonging to the genre of historical fiction. She has received numerous awards from the NC Society of Historians for the following historical novels set in the Civil War Period: **The Man in the Chimney**, **Turbulent Waters**, **The Intrepid Miss LaRoque**, and **Run, Cissy, Run**. Each of these books feature actual people living in the area at the time and factual events, fictionalizing only the main characters.

**The Mystery of Sarah Slater**, a biography, explores the mysterious courier who lived in North Carolina during the war and disappeared while carrying messages and gold to the Confederate outpost in Montreal just after the fall of Richmond. This book was also an award winner due to the extensive research presented. She was sought by investigators who wanted to question her in connection to the Lincoln assassination, but they could not find her.

Mrs. Vaughn received awards for writing while in school and afterwards. Graduating from East Carolina University, the prize-winning watercolorist pursued a career in teaching AP art history and painting. Later she took up writing full time. Her first novel, a contemporary fiction, is **Yesterday's Magnolia**.

**November Meeting**  
Thursday, Nov 11, 2021

Presenter:  
**Betty Vaughn,**  
**Christmas in the Civil War**

6:30 Social 7:00 Meeting

Harbor UMC, Rm. 226  
4853 Masonboro Loop  
Wilmington  
(See map on [website](#))



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*Union Blockade by Robert M. Browning, Jr.*

Robert M. Browning, Jr., Ph.D., retired chief historian of the U.S. Coast Guard informed and entertained our round table on Thursday evening, October 14, with a great presentation on the Union blockade with special focus on the blockade of Wilmington and the special difficulties the Navy faced.

With two entrances into the Cape Fear River, and a large, dangerous shelf of shoals in between, the Navy had to develop a large enough squadron, an efficient supply depot and doctrine that would allow them to intercept the fast, purpose-built blockade running steamers that exported cotton and imported munitions and other scarce items for the beleaguered Confederacy.

Frying Pan Shoals forced the North Atlantic Blockading Squadron to, in effect, maintain two blockades; one off the mouth of the river and the other at New Inlet. Now closed off, New Inlet just below Fort Fisher was a very difficult nut for the Navy to crack.

Acting Rear Admiral Samuel P. Lee, a Virginian and distant cousin of Robert E. Lee, took over in September 1862 and developed different tactics to try to intercept blockade runners entering the river. He used smaller, faster ships, such as steam tugs, to patrol closer to the bars at the entrance to the inlets and called them “bartenders,” sometimes keeping them within a mile and a half of the beach. Other lines of ships patrolled further out.

Rear Admiral David Dixon Porter replaced Lee in October 1864 and was given many more ships to enforce the blockade. His tactical disposition amounted to three half-circles with the most distant line about 130 miles from the beach and stretching from Beaufort in the north to a point south of the mouth of the Cape Fear River. See maps on the next page.

The duty was boring, frustrating and sometimes humiliating because the blockade runners had all the advantages of initiative. They could choose the time and the place to enter or exit the river and make their run to or from Bermuda or to or from Nassau, Bahamas.

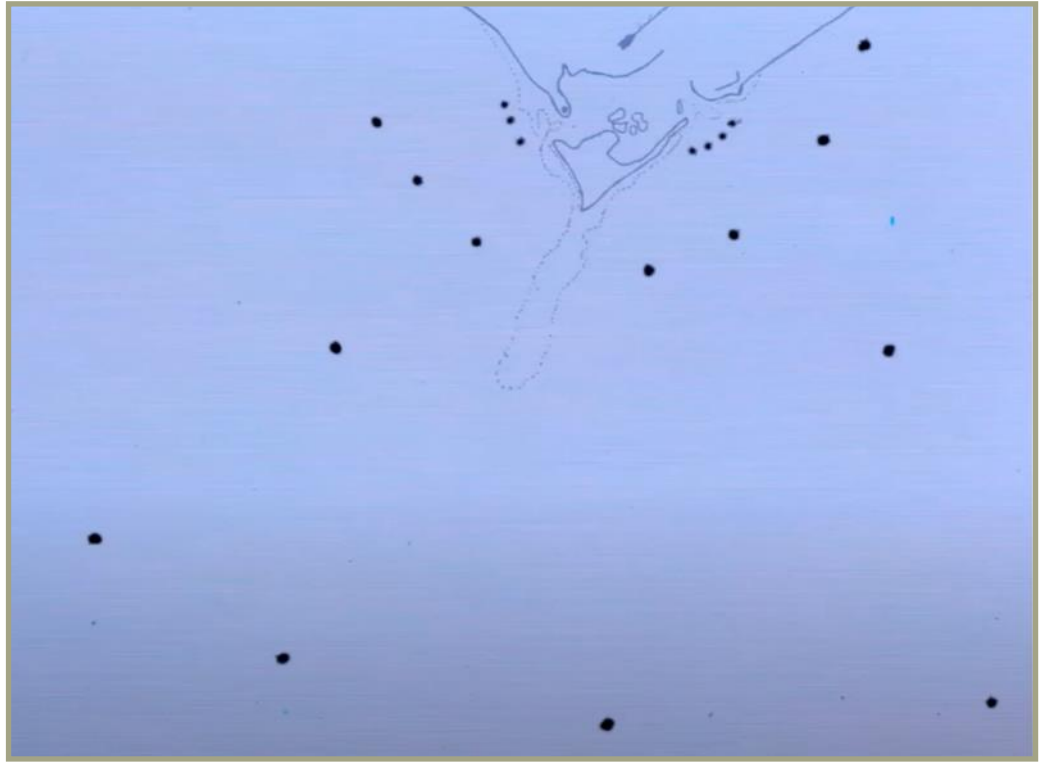
Blockade running remained potentially very profitable even as the Union Navy became more effective at stopping the trade. Eventually, many of the most effective blockading ships were blockade runners that had been captured. In those days ships and cargos captured by the Navy greatly enriched the officers and men of the fleet with prize money.

An audience of about 25 live and 12 virtual viewers contributed to a very lively question-and-answer session after the presentation and all thanked Dr. Browning for his excellent presentation.

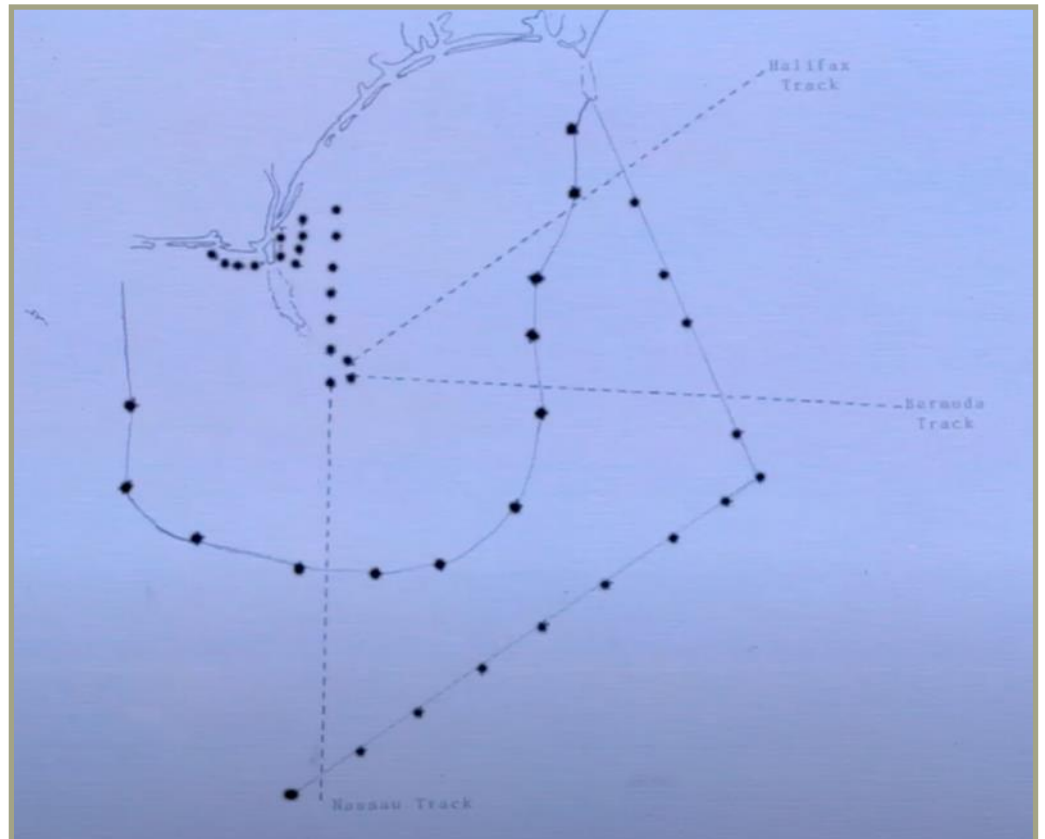
A recording of the presentation is available on YouTube through [our home page](#).



*Union Blockade by Robert M. Browning, Jr., cont.*



Admiral Lee's tactical arrangement of ships (above) and Admiral Porter's below.



### *Dr. Rutherford - Development and Use of Civil War Land Mines*

In September, Professor Kenneth Rutherford, Ph.D., gave our round table a most informative and personally moving presentation about the development and use of land mines by the Confederate army in the Civil War.

Dr. Rutherford is a leader in the worldwide effort to ban the use of landmines and ameliorate the damage done to civilians by mines and other explosive ordnance. He shared in the receipt of a Nobel Peace Prize awarded to the International Campaign to Ban Landmines in 1997.

As an aid worker in Somalia in 1993 he was grievously wounded when his vehicle hit a landmine. The incident led to the amputation of both legs.

Today, in addition to writing books such as *America's Buried History: Landmines in the Civil War*, Dr. Rutherford teaches at James Madison University and finds time to serve as a director of the Shenandoah Valley Battlefield Foundation.



*Professor Fonvielle (center with back to camera) briefs Professor Rutherford (center facing camera with blue shirt).*

His presentation was most powerful and enlightening. Our visit with Ken was made even more meaningful when retired Professor Chris Fonvielle, a founding member of our round table and our second president, led a tour of Fort Fisher for Professor Rutherford the next morning.

The Confederates had deployed command detonated landmines at Fort Fisher to oppose a land assault but the naval bombardment disrupted the mine field and the wires that were intended to detonate the devices so they didn't play a role in the battle in January 1865.





## National Archives - Civil War

Have a question relating to military records? [History Hub](#) can help.

### [National Archives - Civil War](#)

**Begin your Civil War Research** Learn about resources at the National Archives for researching individuals who served in the Civil War.

**Request Copies of Records** You can order online or use NATF Form 86 for military service records or NATF Form 85 for pension records.

**Teach using Civil War Documents** Use their online tool, *DocsTeach*, for teaching with primary source documents from the National Archive.

## Trivia Questions

1. Who was the only man on either side, Confederate or Union, who started in the war as a private and ended as a lieutenant general?
2. What soldier of fortune, who had fought with Garibaldi for the unification of Italy in 1860, led a company of former convicts from New Orleans that was called the “Tiger Rifles”?
3. Whose activities as a Partisan Ranger were so successful that General Grant ordered that he be hanged without trial if captured?
4. As an unenrolled drummer, nine-year-old Johnny Clem of Ohio received how much pay?
5. When Federal gunboats bombarded Fort McRee, Florida, with five thousand shells in November 1861, how many defenders died?

Answers on page 7

## Did you Know..?



British ship builders in Liverpool, England, knew they were working for the CSA when they produced No. 290. At least, that was the verdict of an international tribunal in 1872. Renamed the CSS Alabama, the sleek 1,050-ton sailing vessel was equipped with an auxiliary steam engine. Pounded mercilessly by a warship of the US Navy, she sank in French waters. But a post-war arbitration panel awarded the US damages of \$15.5 million in gold to compensate for “negligence” shown by the British in filling a Confederate order.

*Field Trip: New Bern Battlefield Park*

The Cape Fear Round Table is planning a trip to the **New Bern Battlefield Park**. The park is more than 30 acres and in superb fashion interprets the March 14, 1862 battle that secured New Bern as a base for the Union throughout the war.

New Bern Battlefield Park comprises the ground where nearly one third of the Civil War Battle of New Bern occurred. The park is in near pristine condition: unmarked by development or agriculture, the “redans” or fighting positions remain as they were a century and a half ago. You can literally walk in the footsteps of young Confederate and Union soldiers who were here on that fateful day: March 14, 1862.

Some of you may recall Brian Kraus’s excellent presentation on the battle at a meeting in May 2019. Brian has agreed to be our guide for the visit.

The park is owned and maintained by the New Bern Historical Society and its volunteers. An impressive feature of the park are the many period earthworks preserved on the grounds. It also includes a “unique 20 foot diameter color ground map and signage that provides an overview of the battle and a starting point for tours.”

**On the morning of December 4, 2021**, we will meet in a central location in Wilmington to travel to the battlefield in New Bern. The means of transportation will depend on the number of participants and we will share the cost of transportation.

Please bring a “brown bag” lunch and drinks to maximize the time we can spend visiting the battlefield.

The tour of the battlefield and, potentially, outlying sites such as the location of the Union landing and the original Croatan Line that wasn’t defended by the Confederates, will take approximately three hours. Overall, this is an all-day event.

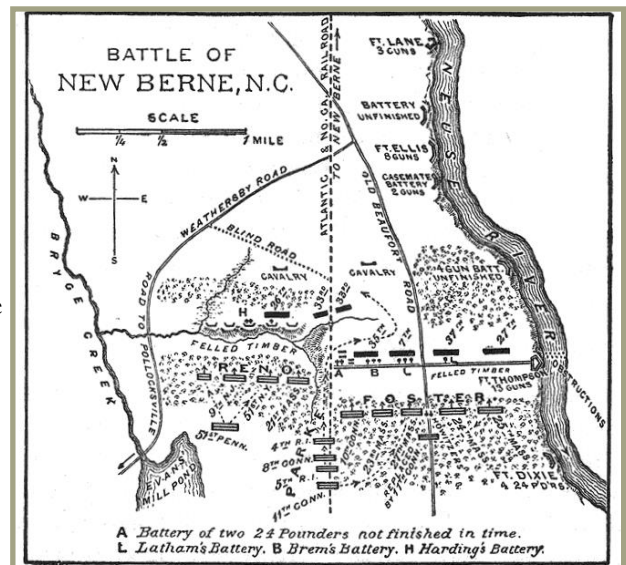
In case of inclement weather, we’ll reschedule for December 11th.

More information about the park is contained at this [website](#).

If you’re interested, please contact either party below and let us know:

Yelena Howell at [ybh2035@uncw.edu](mailto:ybh2035@uncw.edu), or (865) 919-6206 (call or text)

Bill Jayne at [jayne.bill@gmail.com](mailto:jayne.bill@gmail.com).



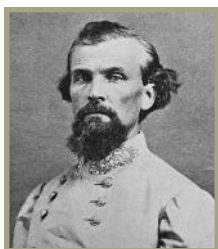
MAP OF THE BATTLE OF NEW BERNE, NORTH CAROLINA, MARCH 14, 1862.  
This map is based upon the sketch map accompanying General Branch's official report of the Confederate operations in this engagement, with the addition of the Union dispositions as indicated by the official reports.



Brian Kraus



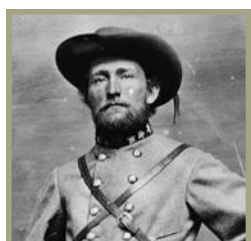
## Trivia Answers



**Nathan Bedford Forrest**



**Chatham Roberdeau Wheat**



**John Singleton Mosby**



**Johnny Clem**

1. Nathan Bedford Forrest - Despite having no formal military training, Forrest rose from the rank of private to lieutenant general, serving as a cavalry officer at numerous engagements including the Battles of Shiloh, Chickamauga, Brice's Crossroads and Second Franklin.
2. Chatham Roberdeau Wheat - Wheat was born in Alexandria, Virginia, the son of an Episcopal clergyman and member of a distinguished Maryland family. After graduating from the University of Nashville in 1845, he studied law for a year in Memphis, Tennessee, before volunteering for service in the Mexican War. There he earned a captain's commission and, returning to civilian life, he settled in New Orleans, began a legal practice, entered politics, and was elected to the Louisiana legislature. He abandoned a promising career to join filibustering expeditions to Latin America, and by 1860 he was in Italy, fighting with English volunteers in Giuseppe Garibaldi's revolutionary forces. When the Civil War began, he returned to the United States, organized the 1st Louisiana Special Battalion, and was appointed its commander, with the rank of Major. One company of the battalion was composed of unsavory characters and former convicts from New Orleans who styled themselves the "Tiger Rifles." The name stuck to the entire battalion, and "Wheat's Tigers" soon left Louisiana for Virginia. The Tigers saw their initial action at First Bull Run.
3. John Singleton Mosby - The 43rd Battalion, "Mosby's Rangers", were partisans who melted into the civilian population when not on a raid, and at one-point General Grant ordered several captured partisans hanged for being out of uniform. Nonetheless when raiding they did wear Confederate gray at least in some fashion. When the Union began hanging Mosby's men they captured, this quickly became the norm for Mosby's men when they captured Union soldiers. This continued until late in November 1864 when Mosby wrote to General Philip Sheridan and requested that both sides return to treating prisoners of war more humanely. Both sides agreed and there were no more executions.
4. Thirteen dollars per month, which was soldier's pay but was contributed by officers and men of the Twenty-second Michigan until he was old enough to enlist.
5. About half a dozen - At 10:00 AM on the morning of November 22, 1861, the Union batteries at Fort Pickens opened fire on the Confederate steamers docked at the Navy Yard wharf. The steamers escaped the line of fire with minimal damage, but the Confederate guns at Forts McRee and Barrancas returned fire. The Union ships USS Richmond and USS Niagara soon moved closer to shore and joined the Union barrage, firing primarily at Fort McRee. Union guns shot off the flagstuffs at both McRee and Barrancas. The artillery battle continued the next day. In all, Union troops expended 5,000 rounds of ammunition while Confederate troops returned some 1,000 shots. Although Fort McRee survived, it was badly battered. Large chunks of the wall were blown away while other portions had holes shot clean through by the cannon shells. In one area a section of wall totally collapsed. Most of the wood decking within the fort had gone up in flames while one powder magazine caved in, killing six Confederates in the process.

Trivia questions and answers from the *Civil War Trivia and Fact Book* by Webb Garrison.



**Fort McRee**

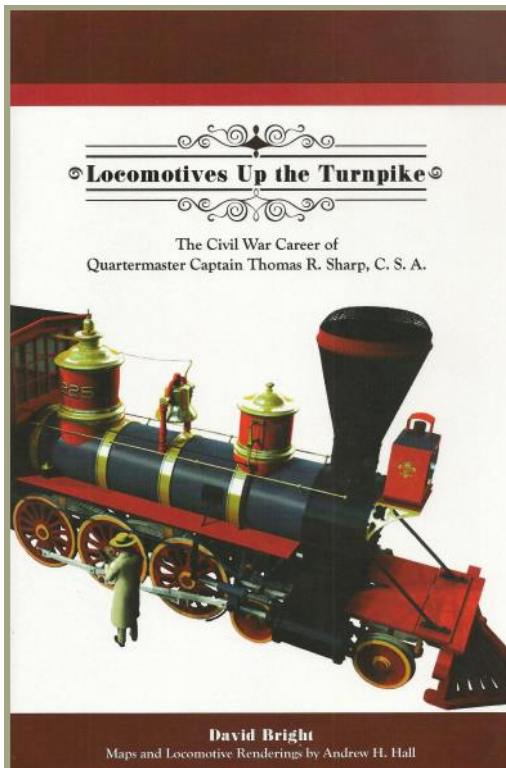
### *Locomotives Up the Turnpike - The Civil War Career of Quartermaster Captain Thomas R. Sharp CSA by David L. Bright*



David L. Bright

When the Civil War began, the railroads of the Confederate States had the immense job of collecting the men, supplies and equipment needed to create a government and its armed forces. Railroads had never been used in the direct support of a war and the new nation soon learned that its railroad resources were far short of what would be needed. Thomas R. Sharp, a young Richmond-based railroad superintendent was tapped by the new government to haul to the Confederate railroads the cars and locomotives captured by the future Stonewall Jackson from the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad near Martinsburg, Virginia.

Sharp hired dozens of men and hundreds of horses and wagons to haul the rolling stock south on the Valley of Virginia Turnpike, from Martinsburg and Harper's Ferry to Winchester to Strasburg. Seventeen locomotives and well over 100 cars were hauled over the country roads to intersections with the Manassas Gap Railroad and the Virginia Central Railroad, then on to Richmond.



The locomotives had been burned before Capt. Sharp could begin to haul them, and he had to essentially take them apart to reduce the weight to be hauled. This led to Sharp being assigned to repair the locomotives, as well as haul them. While some repairing was accomplished in Richmond, most was done in the Confederate Locomotive Shop, in Raleigh, created and run by Sharp.

By the summer of 1863, Sharp had been assigned to be the superintendent of the Charlotte & South Carolina Railroad, a critical road in the supply chain supporting Richmond and the main Confederate army. Later, Sharp was given responsibility for coordinating the railroad transportation of all of central and western South Carolina. As Gen. Sherman approached, in 1865, Sharp assisted in the evacuation of Columbia, and then worked to improve the railroads between Charlotte and Salisbury, N. C. Capt. Sharp's story has never been told before and is a unique adventure.

The book is available through the website below.

#### [Confederate Railroads Website](#)

With this site, David presents the details behind the railroads. Here you will find each railroad, its location and length, its type and size of rail, the number of cars and locomotives it had when the war started, and the names and technical data of each locomotive. He also provided lists of stations on each road and comments about most Confederate cities, taken from a Confederate railroad guide. I have also posted well over 20,400 transcriptions of the railroad issues-related documents that I continue to find and post.

This site was specifically created because it is so hard to locate this information. Most of the important terms are defined in Data Definitions and discussed in the Essays section.

“-- and I am anxious to hear from any of you who have data or sources to share to make this listing more complete and accurate. I am particularly looking for photographs of Confederate locomotives that I can post.”

David L. Bright

## Civil War Phrases

**Fascine Knife:** A type of sawtooth bayonet developed in 1864.

**Horological Torpedo:** A torpedo set off through a timekeeping device, i.e., a time bomb. Horological means “pertaining to a timepiece.” Besides using this formal term for the weapon, people also referred to it in simpler ways, such as “clock-work torpedo.”

**Pigeon Shot:** A Confederate term for a smoothbore projectile in which, after it cleared the muzzle, springs popped out a pair of triangular wings to stabilize flight. Previously *pigeon shot* meant small-sized bird shot.

**Shaler Bullet:** A Union .58 caliber bullet that, after firing, separated into three pieces as it flew towards the target.

From *Civil War Wordbook* by Darryl Lyman

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## CAPE FEAR CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

PO Box 15750

Wilmington, NC 28408

You can find us on the Web! [Cfcwrt.org](http://Cfcwrt.org)

Visit us on Facebook: [CFCWRT](#)

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.

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OCTOBER 2021

# THE RUNNER



VOLUME 3 ISSUE 9



*October Presentation: Robert M. Browning, Jr. -  
The Blockade of Wilmington and  
the Challenges Associated With the Effort*

***Cape Fear Round Table Features Historian of the Blockade  
“How did Naval power contribute to the winning of the war?”***



**Robert Browning, Jr.**

Wilmington’s Cape Fear Civil War Round Table invites you to attend a “hybrid” live and virtual Zoom presentation at Harbor United Methodist Church, 4853 Masonboro Loop, on Thursday evening, October 14. Our speaker will be Robert M. Browning, Jr., Ph.D., talking about the Union blockade. Dr. Browning, retired chief historian of the U.S. Coast Guard, is the acknowledged expert of the blockade.

President Lincoln proclaimed a blockade of the 3,500-mile coastline on April 19, 1861, soon after the fall of Ft. Sumter. In all the years since, the role of the U.S. Navy in putting down the rebellion has received little attention compared to the monumental clashes of the armies at places like Gettysburg and Chickamauga.

Yet, the role of the navy was crucial to victory. When the blockade was proclaimed, there were only three armed vessels ready for service on the Atlantic coast. By the end of the war, however, the U.S. Navy comprised 671 ships of all kinds from the revolutionary new ironclad monitors to shallow draft wooden gunboats. Enforcement of the blockade was never airtight but by 1864 only custom-built blockade running ships could effectively evade the noose that was strangling the Confederate economy. In addition, the navy provided essential logistical, transport and gunfire support for army operations.



**USS Onondaga, a twin turret monitor**

(Continued on page 2)

**October Meeting**  
Thursday, Oct 14, 2021

Presenter:  
**Robert M. Browning, Jr.**  
**Union Blockade**

6:30 Social 7:00 Meeting

Harbor UMC, Rm. 226  
4853 Masonboro Loop  
Wilmington  
(See map on [website](#))



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*October Presentation: Robert M. Browning, Jr. -  
The Blockade of Wilmington and  
the Challenges Associated With the Effort , cont.*

In 1993 Dr. Browning published *From Cape Charles to the Cape Fear*, which chronicles the establishment of the crucial blockade from the entrance to Chesapeake Bay south to the mouth of the Cape Fear River. It was crucial to control this stretch of the coast and the inland waters of Chesapeake Bay, James River and the North Carolina sound country.

In 2002, he added *Success is All That Was Expected*, a history of the South Atlantic squadron that sailed the coast from the Cape Fear to Florida. This story covers the harrowing engagements between ships and forts, daring amphibious assaults, and the evolution of submarine warfare in the form of the CSS Hunley. In Lincoln's Trident, he continued his magisterial series to chronicle the squadron that operated in the Gulf of Mexico.

Knowing the Navy's role in isolating the Confederate economy and preventing the movement of troops and supplies within the South is crucial to understanding of the outcomes of the Civil War, as well as the importance of naval power in military conflicts.

The meeting will be held in Room 226, at the right rear of the church complex. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. For information about Zoom and membership in the round table, go to our [website](#) and click on "Join."



**Cutting off a Confederate Dispatch  
on the Potomac River**



**USS Nippon, a ship that patrolled a  
30-mile arc at sea off the bar at the  
mouth of the Cape Fear**



**USS Agawam, a double-ender—a ship that had  
a rudder at each end to facilitate movement  
in narrow waters.**

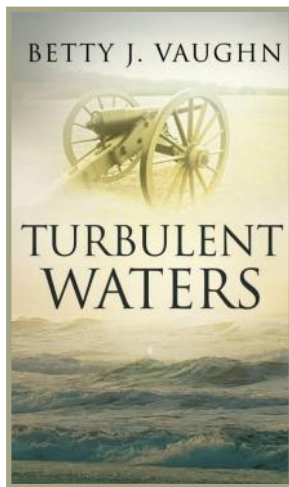


**Naval battle of New Orleans, 1862**

## *November Presentation: Betty Vaughn, Christmas in the Civil War*



Our featured speaker for November is Betty Vaughn, an artist, teacher and writer of historical fiction. Scheduled for November 11, Veterans Day, Ms. Vaughn will narrate a Power-Point presentation giving a comprehensive history of the traditions of Christmas going to their European origins and continuing to the evolution of customs in this country. She explains the differences in celebration between those in the North and the South and the underlying causes for the disparity between them. In the north it tended to be a quiet religious celebration in the home...after a day of work. The South followed more liberal English customs. The Dutch in New York were responsible for several of our traditions. The original Dutch customs will be explained, as well as the way they would eventually be adapted and popularized. There was no notable distinction between Catholic and Protestant celebrations in the South. Thomas Nast, the famous German-born cartoonist who grew up in New York around the time of the Civil War, was responsible for many of our iconic symbols of Christmas. It is interesting to note Thanksgiving was declared a national holiday years before Christmas! The program discusses the Christmas hymns that were sung by our soldiers as they huddled by their campfires. The food, decorations, candy, cookies, and religious observations of the period will be traced to their origin with an explanation of why and how they changed. The use of period photos and imagery are enhanced with automation and music where appropriate. While we have all celebrated the holiday, few of us know how our customs evolved. It is particularly noteworthy that many songs and customs date to this period in history.



**Betty Vaughn** is well known for her novels, especially those belonging to the genre of historical fiction. She has received numerous awards from the NC Society of Historians for the following historical novels set in the Civil War Period: **The Man in the Chimney**, **Turbulent Waters**, **The Intrepid Miss LaRoque**, and **Run, Cissy, Run**. Each of these books feature actual people living in the area at the time and factual events, fictionalizing only the main characters.

**The Mystery of Sarah Slater**, a biography, explores the mysterious courier who lived in North Carolina during the war and disappeared while carrying messages and gold to the Confederate outpost in Montreal just after the fall of Richmond. This book was also an award winner due to the extensive research presented. She was sought by investigators who wanted to question her in connection to the Lincoln assassination, but they could not find her.



Mrs. Vaughn received awards for writing while in school and afterwards. Graduating from East Carolina University, the prize-winning watercolorist pursued a career in teaching AP art history and painting. Later she took up writing full time. Her first novel, a contemporary fiction, is **Yesterday's Magnolia**.

You are certain to fall in love with her characters and her ability to keep you enthralled. Described as a seasoned writer by critics, Mrs. Vaughn uses issues faced by people in everyday life making it easy to relate to her well-delineated characters. However, the beauty of her work remains in her mastery of literary technique, which enables her to use words in a way that does not sound superficial, farfetched, or boring. Her ability to keep the readers interested in the story to the very end bears testimony to her expertise as a writer.



## *Who Wants To Go On A Trip?*

The Round Table is considering a trip to the **New Bern Battlefield Park** on a Saturday in early December. The park is more than 30 acres and in superb fashion interprets the March 14, 1862 battle that secured New Bern as a base for the Union throughout the war.

Some of you may recall Brian Kraus's excellent presentation on the battle at a meeting a couple of years ago. Brian has agreed to be our guide for a visit.

The park is owned and maintained by the New Bern Historical Society and its volunteers. An impressive feature of the park are the many period earthworks preserved on the grounds. It also includes a "unique 20 foot diameter color ground map and signage that provides an overview of the battle and a starting point for tours."

More information about the park is contained at this [website](#). If you're interested, please contact either party below and let us know:



Yelena Howell at [ybh2035@uncw.edu](mailto:ybh2035@uncw.edu), or (865) 919-6206 (call or text)

Bill Jayne at [jayne.bill@gmail.com](mailto:jayne.bill@gmail.com).

## *Trivia Questions*

1. When riding his horse, what general had to hold the reins between his teeth because his left arm was missing?
2. What former Indian fighter was the highest ranking officer captured during the war?
3. What member of the West Point class of 1822 would take off his hat to reveal his long white hair when riding among his men?
4. Whose name was omitted from all future newspaper stories in retaliation for his having expelled a reporter from the Army of the Potomac?
5. Who formed an African Brigade from former North Carolina slaves and made them part of the force that occupied Richmond?

Answers of Page 7



*NC Maritime History Council Conference*



# 2021 Annual Conference

Hidden Histories of Maritime Carolina

November 4-6, 2021

Southport, North Carolina

[Main Page](#)

[Agenda](#)

[Registration](#)

(Click above links for information.)

North Carolina Maritime History Council was incorporated with the mission to identify and encourage historical and educational projects that have as their purpose the enhancement and preservation of the state’s maritime history and culture, and that create public awareness of that heritage.

Over the years the NC Maritime History Council has supported a variety of projects and programs to help encourage advancement and awareness of maritime history. Currently these projects include the annual NC Maritime History Council’s annual conference, the NC historic vessel registry, and the annual publication of Tributaries.

*Wreaths Across America*



It's October and time to turn our attention towards Christmas activities.

During the months of October and November, the citizens of Wilmington (and surrounding environs) will be raising funds with which to cover the graves in our National Cemetery, with Christmas wreaths. Wreaths Across America will once again, honor all veterans with an appropriate wreath to be placed, with ceremony, on 18 December.

Our Round Table has traditionally supported this community effort with individual contributions, in increments of \$15, with a generous contribution, last year exceeding 70 wreaths. As an incentive, WAA returns to the sponsoring organizations (CFCWRT) five dollars (\$5) which we apply to our speaker’s fund.



Contributing is very simple, especially this year. Just write a check (in \$15 increments) to Wreaths Across America. Mail to PO Box 15750, Wilmington, NC 28408 or give to any Committee member or Bruce Patterson at the next meeting. Checks will be bundled and sent directly to WAA. If you prefer, you may contribute by credit card, by simply visiting the WAA web site, click the red **Sponsor Wreath** button, designate the Wilmington National Cemetery, and apply the CFCWRT code (**NC0240P**). All contributions are tax deductible (if you itemize) and gratefully appreciated by our community and this organization.

*2019 Wilmington  
National Cemetery*

## Book Review: *The Boy Generals: George Custer, Wesley Merritt, and the Cavalry of the Army of the Potomac*

Reviewed by Doug Crenshaw

By Adolfo Ovies  
Savas Beatie, 2021

Adolfo Ovies has undertaken a massive project in writing a three-volume history of the relationship between George Armstrong Custer and Wesley Merritt. *The Boy Generals* is the first book of that study. Ovies spends considerable time separately discussing the backgrounds of each man, from their early years at West Point through their work as staff officers during the Peninsula Campaign. While both men enjoyed the perks of their positions, each eagerly sought a more active role in leading troops in combat.

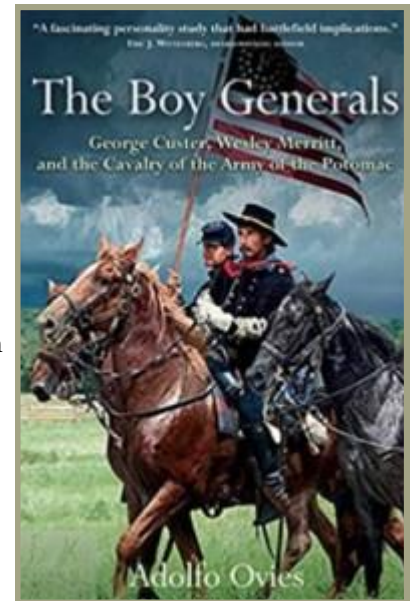
The book doesn't get too far into their interpersonal relationship; that will likely be revealed in upcoming volumes. It does develop their characters: Custer is the flamboyant type, while Merritt is more reserved. But more than that, Ovies shows the transition in cavalry tactics through his study of each man. As Eric Wittenberg says in the foreword, "their personal relationship was a microcosm of the tension between the hussars and the dragoons." Custer was the "hussar" who preferred the shock and glory of the saber charge. However, with the advent of more modern weapons, the days of the charging hussar were numbered. Merritt was a "dragoon," a cavalryman who would dismount and use the repeating rifle to good effect.

Ovies' work is also more than a story about Custer and Merritt. It goes into detail about the development of the Federal cavalry, particularly during the Brandy Station to Gettysburg period. He also delves into the lack of effectiveness of leaders such as Philip St. George Cooke and Alfred Pleasonton.

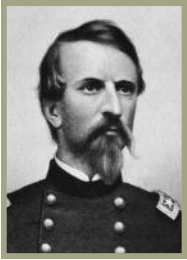
The book is well-written and engaging; at times it's difficult to put down. The story of Brandy Station, Aldie, etc. are of interest, but it's Gettysburg where Ovies' writing really shines. There Merritt's role is disappointing. On July 3 Judson Kilpatrick ordered Merritt's and Elon Farnsworth's troopers to attack the Confederate right flank. Unfortunately, the attacks were not properly timed and were ineffective.

Custer's experience that day was quite different. While he had been ordered to move to the South field, David Gregg, a solid cavalry commander, countermanded the order and told him to stay on the East field. There they met J.E.B. Stuart's massed attack behind the Federal lines. Custer displayed his trademark personal bravery and hussar style, and the blue-coats stopped the Confederate attack. Ovies' writing on the actions of this day is riveting.

If you are interested in the story of the Federal cavalry, this book is for you. Following the development of the Federal cavalry will be interesting, as will the relationship between Merritt and Custer. I know I am eagerly waiting for the second volume.



## Trivia Answers



Maj Gen Philip Kearny



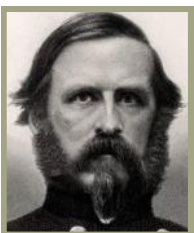
Maj Gen George Crook



Brig Gen Joseph  
Mansfield



Maj Gen George Meade



Brig Gen Edward Wild

1. **Major General Philip Kearny** - known as “The One Armed Devil” and called “the bravest man I ever knew” by LTG Winfield Scott, lived a life that not only straddled continents, but also the line between genius and insanity. In 1847 during the Battle of Churubusco Kearny’s badly wounded left arm was amputated. He rehabilitated himself by re-learning to ride a horse by holding the reins with his teeth and his sword in his right hand.
2. **Major General George Crook** - He was assigned to the 4th US infantry as brevet second lieutenant, serving in California from 1852 to 1861. He served in Oregon and northern California, fighting against several Native American tribes. He was promoted to captain in 1860 and ordered east in 1861. With the beginning of the Civil War, he was made colonel of the 36th Ohio Volunteer Infantry. In February 1865, Crook was captured by Confederate raiders at Cumberland, Maryland, and held as a prisoner until exchanged on March 20th. After the Civil War, Crook was assigned to the 23rd US Infantry, on frontier duty in the Pacific Northwest, and served with distinction through the Indian Wars. He fought the Paiute in the rugged desert of eastern Oregon, pacifying the region within a year. When President Ulysses S. Grant sent him to Arizona to fight the Apache, he reorganized his command, employed Indian scouts, and put constant pressure on the roving war parties. In two years most of the Apache were on reservations. General William Sherman said the greatest Indian fighter of them all was General Crook.
3. **Brigadier General Joseph King Fenno Mansfield** - He was appointed to the U. S. military academy, where during part of the fourth year he acted as assistant professor of natural philosophy, and was graduated in 1822, standing second in a class of forty. At the battle of Antietam he fell mortally wounded early in the day while cheering on his troops in a charge.
4. **Major General George Gordon Meade** - Meade was a perfectionist with a volatile temper. His men gave him the nickname the “Old Snapping Turtle”. All of the major Northern newspapers sent war correspondents to cover the Army of the Potomac. But when one Philadelphia Inquirer reporter published rumors that Meade had wanted to retreat after the Battle of the Wilderness, the outraged general expelled the offending journalist from camp. Stinging from the rebuke of one of their own, several other newsmen conspired to write only negative stories about Meade. Henceforth, Grant would get the credit for the Army of Potomac’s victories while Meade’s name only appeared in articles where reporters could blame him for defeats.
5. **Brigadier General Edward Augustus Wild** - When President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, Massachusetts Governor John Andrew called for the creation of an African American regiment, forming the 54th Massachusetts Infantry. Inspired by the success of the 54th, Andrew pushed for the creation of an entire brigade of United State Colored Troops to be led by the newly promoted Brigadier General Edward A. Wild. In April 1863 the “African Brigade” made its way to North Carolina to recruit local freedmen. While recruiting, Wild liberated hundreds of slaves from plantations. The Brigade’s remarkable success in the Carolinas showcased the efficiency of United States Colored Troops to the nation. In early 1865, Wild's men performed picket duty along the Appomattox River. They were a part of the large force of black troops under Godfrey Weitzel that occupied the former Confederate national capital, Richmond, Virginia, holding that city through the end of the war. Wild's men were among those troops who witnessed the historic visit of President Abraham Lincoln to Richmond following the city's fall to the Union forces

Trivia questions and answers from the *Civil War Trivia and Fact Book* by Webb Garrison.

*After the end of the Civil War whatever happened to...?*

**Admiral Raphael Semmes**

Although Semmes originally was paroled with the rest of the army, he was later arrested and imprisoned at the New York City Navy Yard. Charges of treason, piracy, and ill-treatment of prisoners proved groundless, however, and Semmes was released after three months without having been brought to trial. After a good deal of behind-the-scenes political machinations, all charges were eventually dropped, and he was finally released on April 7, 1866. He was elected probate judge of Mobile County in May 1866 but prohibited from taking office by U.S. authorities. After Semmes's release, he worked as a professor of philosophy and literature at Louisiana State Seminary (now Louisiana State University). After brief employment as a professor he worked as the editor of the *Memphis Daily Bulletin*. Later, Semmes returned to Mobile, where he practiced law, delivered lectures, and wrote *Memoirs of Service Afloat During the War Between the States*.

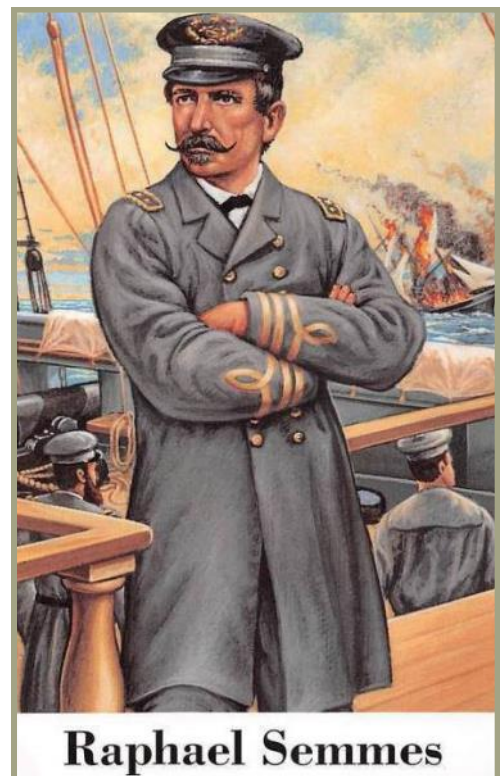
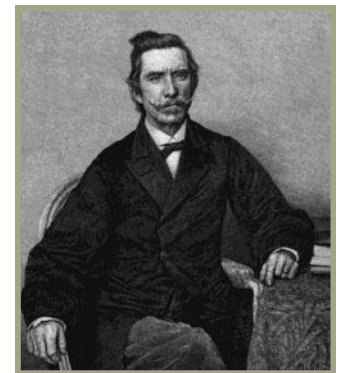
He enjoyed Point Clear on Mobile Bay as often as he could, spending long summers there. He and the Catholic Bishop raced sailboats – theirs was naturally named ALABAMA and naturally they won – against the young Jesuit candidates for the priesthood, summering at Loyola Villa on Mobile Bay. He helped to start raising money to build the lovely heart pine summer church on Mobile Bay at Battles Wharf, Sacred Heart.

He died at Point Clear on August 30, 1877, after contracting food poisoning, and was buried in that city's Catholic Cemetery. Southerners in search of heroes of their "Lost Cause" found Raphael Semmes well suited to the role. The cavalier officer had inflicted considerable harm to the enemy, had fought a gallant duel, and after the war gained sympathy for his imprisonment by the federal government. A bronze statue of Semmes was dedicated in Mobile on June 27, 1900, to honor his contributions to the Confederate cause.

able harm to the enemy, had fought a gallant duel, and after the war gained sympathy for his imprisonment by the federal government. A bronze statue of Semmes was dedicated in Mobile on June 27, 1900, to honor his contributions to the Confederate cause.

**Statue of Admiral Raphael Semmes erected in Mobile, Alabama in June 1900. It was removed in June 2020 during the protests.**

**Admiral Raphael Semmes, The picture that became a U.S. postage stamp - issued in 1995**



## Civil War Phrases

**Acoustic shadow:** A phenomenon in which the sounds of battle cannot be heard by people nearby, but are clearly audible many miles away. Pockets of silence are created by a variety of factors, such as thick woods and unusual atmospheric conditions. Aka *silent battle*.

**Agnew:** A type of attire worn by Sanitary Commission nurses. It was a man's army shirt (the prototype was borrowed from a doctor named Agnew) - with the collar open, the sleeves rolled up, and the shirtheads out - worn over a full skirt without hoops.

**Alert club:** An organization of Northern children who collected food and money to help the Union soldiers. Many communities had alert clubs.

*From Civil War Wordbook by Darryl Lyman*

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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](http://Cfcwrt.org)

Visit us on Facebook: [CFCWRT](#)

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.

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*[Savas Beatie](#)*



SEPTEMBER 2021

# THE RUNNER



VOLUME 3 ISSUE 8



## *September Presentation: Ken Rutherford - Landmines in the Civil War*

On September 9th, the CFCW Round Table will welcome James Madison University Professor **Kenneth R. Rutherford**, a prominent leader in the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, an organization that was awarded the 1997 Nobel Peace Prize.



The appearance of landmines in warfare has an ancient history but the “infernal machines” were first widely used in the Civil War. They were used almost exclusively by the Confederacy because the technology limited them generally to defensive uses and the Confederacy was on the strategic defensive throughout the war.

Mines were most often called “torpedoes” in the Civil War from the Latin “torpore” which meant to be stiff, torpid or inert. Robert Fulton, credited with the development of the first practical steamboats, first used the term to describe a device filled with gunpowder that could be exploded under a ship. Working for France, his devices were used to sink two ships in 1801 and 1805.

The use of mines in naval combat in the Civil War is much better known than their use on land. One of the most memorable quotes from the Civil War was the sentence credited to Admiral David Farragut who was reputed to have ordered his fleet to “Damn the torpedoes, full speed ahead” at the Battle of Mobile Bay on August 5, 1864. The famous battle cry (or something close to it) was uttered immediately after the ironclad *USS Tecumseh* hit a floating mine and sank almost immediately with the loss of almost all of its 120-man crew.

By the end of the war, however, torpedoes had been widely used on land, especially to defend forts such as Fort McAllister near Savannah, and Battery Wagner where the African-American troops of the 54th Massachusetts lost heavily traversing a minefield before reaching the walls of the fort near Charleston.

Ken Rutherford’s passion for the subject began in 2011, when he read a historical marker in Virginia that incorrectly stated landmines were first deployed during the war in 1864. The weapon was actually first used in 1862 during the Peninsula Campaign. Rutherford dug deep into the history of landmines. He traces their development from before the war through the establishment of

**September Meeting**  
Thursday, Sept 9, 2021

Presenter:  
**Ken Rutherford -  
Landmines in the  
Civil War**

6:30 Social 7:00 Meeting

Harbor UMC, Rm. 226  
4853 Masonboro Loop  
Wilmington  
(See map on [website](#))



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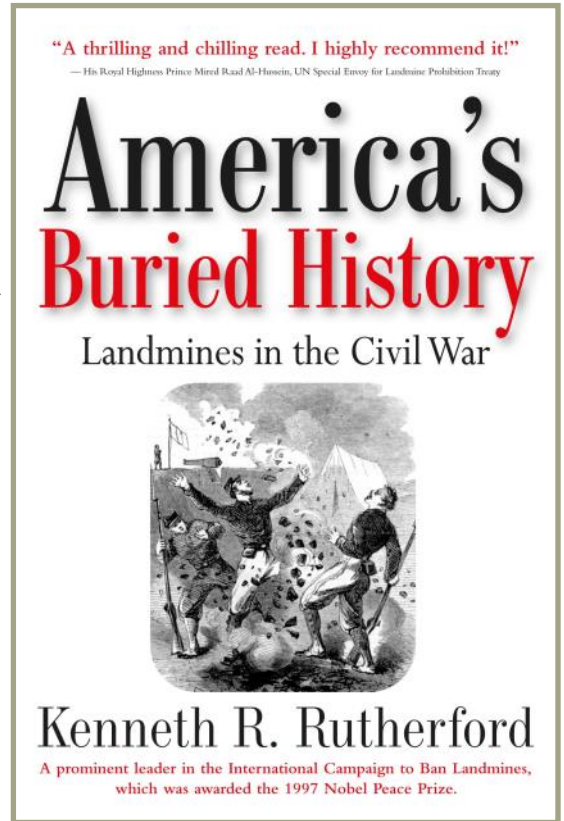
(Continued on page 2)

*September Presentation: Ken Rutherford - Landmines in the Civil War, cont.*

the Confederacy’s Army Torpedo Bureau, the world’s first institution devoted to the systematic production of the notorious weapons.

The story is masterfully told by Ken Rutherford. Ken holds bachelors and masters degrees from the University of Colorado, where he also earned a varsity letter in football, and a Ph.D. in Government from Georgetown. He is also a landmine survivor who suffered bilateral amputations of his legs after his vehicle hit a landmine in Somalia in 1993 where he was working as a humanitarian relief worker.

The meeting will be held in Room 226, at the right rear of the church complex. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.



[America's Buried History](#) can be purchased from [Savas Beatie](#).

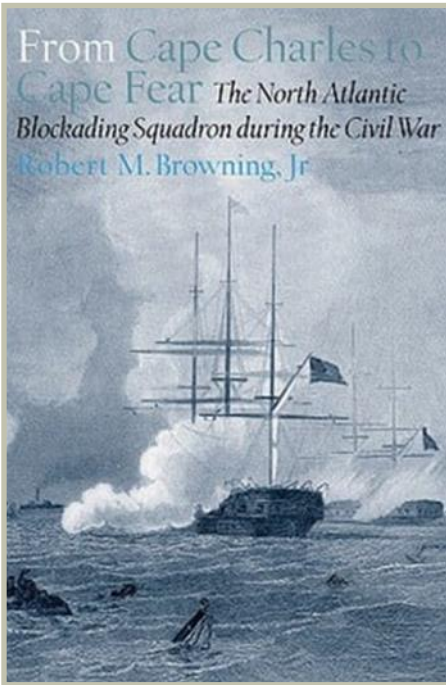


Ken Rutherford stands where the 8th New York was devastated in the 1862 Battle of Cross Keys. Massanutten Mountain commands the skyline. (Photo by John Banks)



*October Presentation: Robert M. Browning, Jr. - Union Blockade*

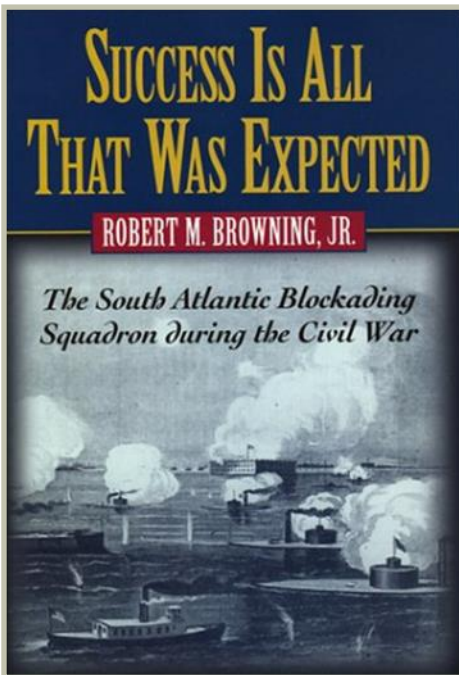
In October, we will welcome Robert M. Browning, Jr., Ph.D., to speak to us about the Union blockade. Dr. Browning, retired chief historian of the U.S. Coast Guard, is the acknowledged expert of the blockade. He has authored three “magisterial” volumes chronicling and analyzing the three most significant blockading squadrons of the U.S. Navy. He earned his Ph.D. in history from the University of Alabama and joined the Coast Guard in 1989, retiring in 2015.



Published in 1993, *From Cape Charles to the Cape Fear: The North Atlantic Blockading Squadron during the Civil War* chronicles the establishment of the crucial U.S. Navy blockade of the Confederate coast from the entrance to the Chesapeake Bay south to the mouth of the Cape Fear River. It was crucial to control this stretch of the coast and the inland waters of Chesapeake Bay, the James and other Virginia rivers and the North Carolina sound country. *The Armed Forces Journal* wrote of this volume: “Highly recommended for its convincing demonstration of the significant influence of naval power on the eastern campaigns—a theater that was thought of almost exclusively in terms of its land warfare.”

In 2002, Dr. Browning added *Success is All That Was Expected: The South Atlantic Blockading Squadron during the Civil War* to his history of the Union blockade.

*Success Is All That Was Expected* is a comprehensive operational history of the Union naval blockade that monitored the southern Atlantic coast from South Carolina to Florida during the American Civil War. Created in 1861 by the order of President Abraham Lincoln and charged with halting Confederate maritime commerce and closing Southern ports, the South Atlantic Blockading Squadron was the largest of the four Union coastal blockading squadrons for much of the conflict. This story covers the harrowing engagements between ships and forts, daring amphibious assaults, the battles between ironclad vessels, the harassment of Confederate blockade runners, and the incredible evolution of underwater warfare in the form of the *CSS Hunley*.



The world’s leading scholar of Union naval blockades during the Civil War, historian Robert Browning, reveals the squadron’s numerous tactical accomplishments. He also illustrates how its success was constantly hampered by indecisive leaders in Washington who failed to express their strategic vision as well as by reputation-conscious naval commanders who were reluctant to press the fight when the specter of failure loomed. Despite lost opportunities, unfulfilled expectations, and failures along the way, the bravery, sacrifice, and vigilance of these fighting men played a crucial role in the Union’s ultimate victory.

In *Lincoln’s Trident: The West Gulf Blockading Squadron* during the Civil War, Robert M. Browning Jr. continues his magisterial series about the Union’s naval blockade of the Confederacy during the American Civil War. Established by the Navy Department in 1862, the West Gulf Blockading Squadron operated from St. Andrews Bay (Panama City), Florida to the Rio Grande River. As with the Navy’s blockade squadrons operating in the Atlantic, the mission of the West Gulf Blockading Squadron was to cripple the South’s economy by halting imports and disrupting cotton exports, the South’s main source of hard currency. The blockade also limited

*(Continued on page 4)*

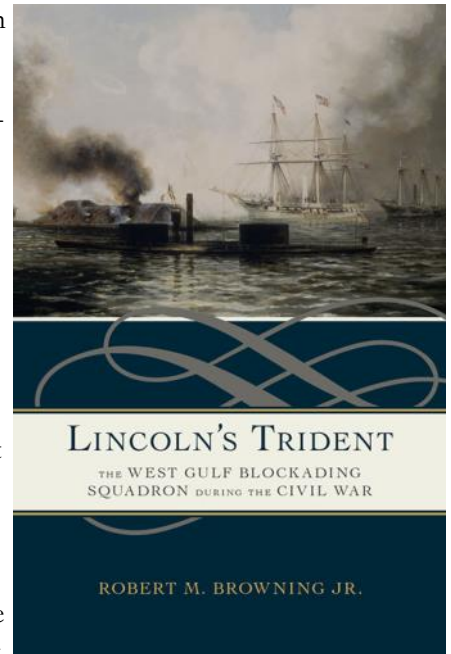
*October Presentation: Robert M. Browning, Jr. - Union Blockade, cont.*

transportation within the South and participated in combined operations with Union land forces.

The history of the squadron comprises myriad parts and players, deployed in a variety of missions across the thousand-mile-wide Western Theater. From disorganized beginnings, the squadron's leaders and sailors had to overcome setbacks, unfulfilled expectations, and lost opportunities. Browning masterfully captures the many variables that influenced the strategic choices of Navy commanders as they both doggedly pursued unchanging long-term goals as well as improvised and reacted to short-term opportunities.

Notable among its leaders was David Glasgow Farragut, believed by many to be America's greatest naval hero, who led the squadron through most of the war and the climactic Battle of Mobile Bay. Under his legendary leadership, the squadron not only sealed Confederate sea ports, but also made feints and thrusts up the Mississippi River as far north as Vicksburg, Mississippi.

Knowing the Navy's role in isolating the Confederate economy and preventing the movement of troops and supplies within the South is crucial to understanding of the outcomes of the Civil War, as well as the importance of naval power in military conflicts. With thirty-five maps and illustrations, *Lincoln's Trident* expounds upon an essential part of the Civil War as well as naval and American history.



"... This comprehensive work will stand as the definitive treatment of its topic. Recommended."

—CHOICE

"The herculean task of patrolling the one thousand miles of shoreline between St. Andrews Bay, Fla., and the Rio Grande fell to the West Gulf Blockading Squadron. In *Lincoln's Trident*, Browning presents what will surely be the definitive study for years to come, if not forever. The depth and breadth of his research is incredible. . . In truth, I don't know that I have ever seen a more impressive documentary foundation. . . How the blockade was maintained, and how under Farragut's superb leadership it helped shorten the war, are beautifully answered in this big and important book."

—Alabama Review

"The story of the Union blockade in our part of the world is beautifully and thoroughly told in a new book, *Lincoln's Trident: The West Gulf Blockading Squadron during the Civil War* by Robert Browning Jr., chief historian of the U.S. Coast Guard and author of several books."

—Mobile Bay

"It is an extremely well-researched, highly readable book about the West Gulf Squadron, it informs, it engages and it educates. It explains the problems of blockading and of fighting in rivers, it praises when due and criticizes when necessary. It complements Browning's other Civil War books on the blockading squadrons and is a welcome addition to the naval view of the war."

—The Mariner's Mirror

"In recent years, some of the most valuable contributions to the naval bookshelf have been authored by U.S. Coast Guard chief historian Robert Browning, whose Union blockading squadron studies remain unmatched in magnitude of research and content. Each new release in his series is a significant event in Civil War publishing and Browning's newest book, *Lincoln's Trident: The West Gulf Blockading Squadron during the Civil War*, is more than the qualitative equal of its North and South Atlantic squadron predecessors."

—CIVIL WAR BOOKS and AUTHORS

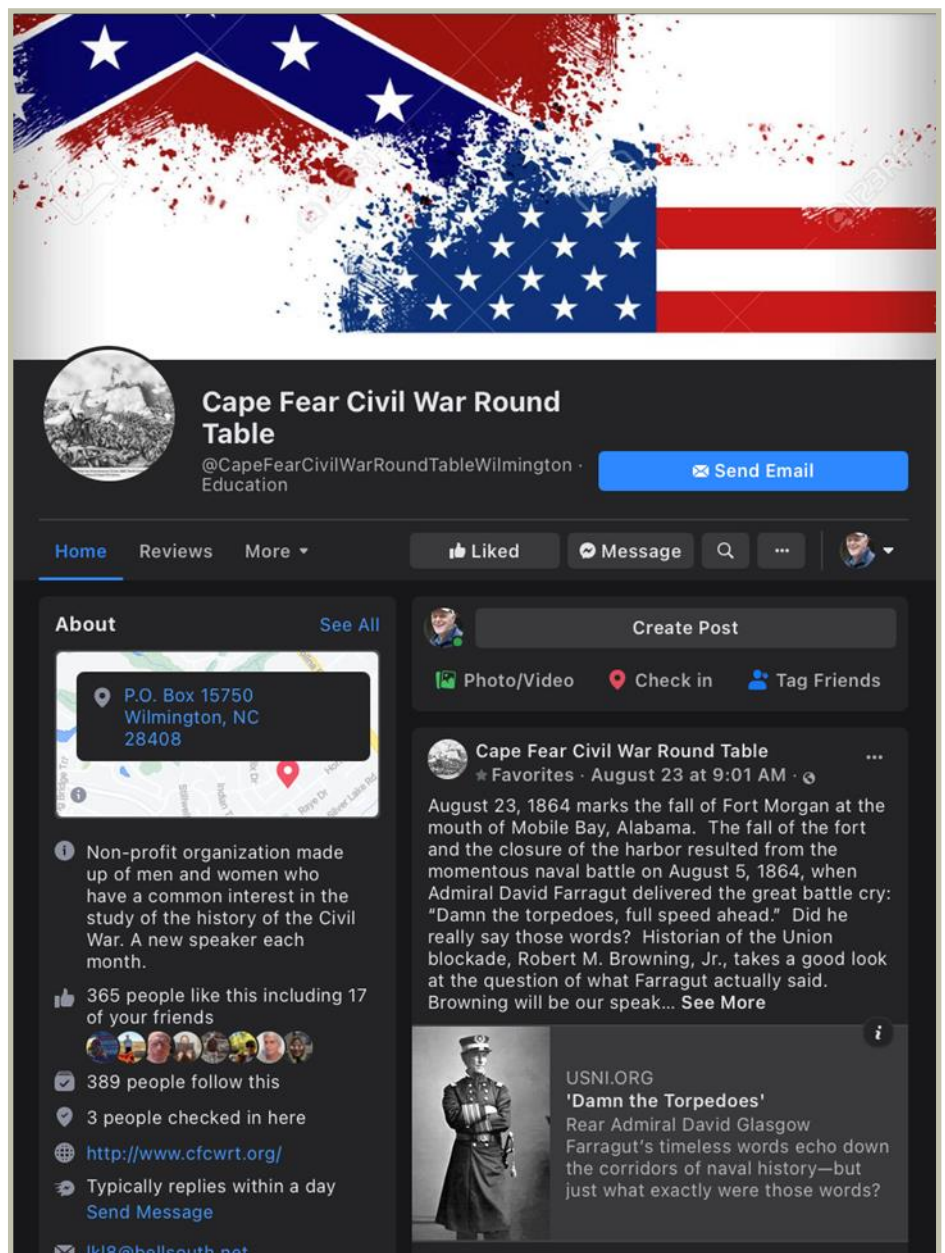
**Volunteers wanted**

Social media is a potent communications tool for an organization like our **Cape Fear Civil War Round Table**. We have an active Facebook presence and it has helped to raise awareness of our mission and our speakers, but MUCH MORE could be done.

Our Facebook page (perhaps it should be converted to a “group”) needs renovation. I follow many other Civil War Round Table groups around the country and I’m impressed by the way some round tables develop original content almost every day. Often, it’s something as simple as following a “Civil War Day by Day” blueprint to come up with ideas. Once the topic is chosen, a bit of Internet research can practically write the item.

Many round table Facebook groups rely on sharing content from other sources such as other round tables, the American Battlefield Trust, the Library of Congress, and others. We’ve made good use of this technique. Most round tables do a very good job of promoting upcoming meetings and we could do much better in that regard.

There’s a lot more than Facebook out there in the “universe” of social media: Instagram, Twitter, etc. If you’re interested in helping out, please contact Bill Jayne at [jayne.bill@gmail.com](mailto:jayne.bill@gmail.com) or (910) 386-9203, or just bring it up at our next meeting. Thanks!





## *Upcoming CFCWRT Events*

**October 14, 2021**

**Robert Browning:** Union Blockade

**November 11, 2021**

**Betty Vaughn:** A Civil War Christmas

## *Trivia Questions*

1. What notable CSA strategist typically refused to inform top aides about forthcoming movements?
2. When the mail transported to front-line Federal units was delayed, what rumor frequently spread as a result?
3. How many different railroad companies were in operation in the southern states during the civil war?
4. What body of uniformed black troops is believed to have been the first to organize and drill?
5. Because of heavy casualties, before going into battle, Civil War soldiers devised the first “dog tags” of what material?

Answers of Page 10

## *Online Presentations*

### [The American Civil War Museum Online Exhibits](#)

- § Birth of Monument Avenue (Richmond)
- § Contested Franchise: The 15th Amendment and The Right to Vote in America
- § Embattled Emblem (Battle Flags)

### [The Mariners Museum](#)

Sept. 9th 12 pm (ET) - Coastal Ironclads other than Monitors  
Presented by John V. Quarstein, director emeritus of the USS Monitor Center

Sept. 24th 12 pm (ET) - Battle of New Market Heights  
Presented by John V. Quarstein, director emeritus of the USS Monitor Center

## *Did you know...?*

Union Major General Daniel E. Sickles was visiting the White House one night in December 1863 when there was a confrontation over Confederate sympathies of Mary Todd Lincoln's half-sister, Emilie Todd Helm. Sickles went up to the President's office to complain about “that rebel” in the White House. “Excuse me, General Sickles, my wife and I are in the habit of choosing our own guests,” responded President Lincoln. “We do not need from our friends either advice or assistance in the matter. Besides, ‘the little ‘rebel’ came because I ordered her to come, it was not of her own volition.”

*Arming the Confederacy: Virginia's Mineral Contributions to the Confederate War Effort*  
by Robert C. Whisonant



The American Civil War is often seen as the first truly industrialized total war, one that consumed enormous amounts of human and material resources. But the two opponents were not evenly matched; the North had a preponderant share of raw materials, manufacturing ability, and population. On the eve of battle in April 1861, most of the mines, forges, and foundries in America were located in Union states. Some 90 per cent of the manufacturing capacity resided there—their factories made 97 per cent of the firearms, 94 per cent of the cloth, 93 per cent of the pig iron, and over 90 per cent of the boots and shoes. The disparity in the capability to make items necessary to the conduct of hostilities rested primarily on the North's possession of more mineral riches, most particularly iron and coal, the foundation of heavy industry.

Within the Confederacy, Virginia had long been the foremost mineral producer. The greatest concentration of this natural wealth lay in the mountainous southwestern quarter of the state where large deposits of saltpeter, lead, salt, iron, and coal had been exploited for over a century. In addition, mines in the region yielded some copper, zinc, gold, and silver from time to time. To be sure, other parts of the South had mineral resources, notably Alabama with important iron and coal operations; none, however, rivaled the richness and variety of the troves in Southwest Virginia. This did not go unnoticed by Federal strategists intent on bringing down the Confederate war machine.

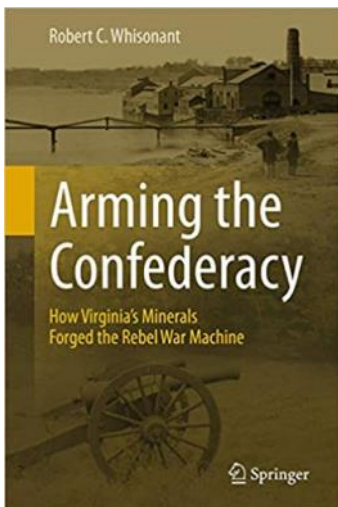
#### Part IV ~ Coal

By the 1860s, coal was rapidly replacing wood to power the new iron machines essential to conflict, especially railroad locomotives and armored warships, and to fuel the factories that made such devices. Nowhere is the growing importance of coal better exemplified than by the March 9, 1862, clash between the *USS Monitor* and the *CSS Virginia* on the waters of Hampton Roads, Virginia. That benchmark day witnessed two historic firsts in naval engagements: both warships were covered with iron plate and both were propelled by coal-fired steam engines. Coal and iron were now inextricably linked as keys to the successful prosecution of warfare.

In mid-19th century America, one Northern state—Pennsylvania—possessed three-fourths of the world's known deposits of anthracite. This hot-burning, carbon-rich coal was extremely desirable for the high-temperature furnaces making pig iron. The anthracite-fired metal was much less expensive to make than that from the less efficient charcoal-burning furnaces more commonly used in the South. The abundance of anthracite had prompted a fundamental relocation of American iron manufacturing to Pennsylvania in the antebellum years. There the numbers of furnaces and forges grew rapidly and gave rise to a supporting network of railroads, all of which had the North's heavy industry well on the way to world-class status when open warfare finally erupted in 1861.

In contrast, the states that comprised the Confederacy, with the notable exception of Virginia, had failed to build up a strong coal mining industry to undergird iron making. Besides Virginia, sizeable accumulations of bituminous coal had been found in Kentucky, Tennessee, and Alabama. The Midlothian coalfields, however, just west of Richmond were much more developed than any others in the South. Discovered around 1700, Midlothian coal became the first in America to undergo commercial-scale production in 1748. A century later, these

(Continued on page 8)



***Arming the Confederacy: Virginia's Mineral Contributions to the Confederate War Effort***  
 by Robert C. Whisonant (cont.)

mines were providing energy for the forges and foundries in the capital city and had even given rise to a small railroad network, similar to the much larger Pennsylvania system. During the war, the Midlothian fields produced over 100,000 tons of coal annually. Much of that output went directly to the Tredegar Iron Works, the heart of the Confederate industrial war effort.

Across the state from the Richmond fields, Southwest Virginia coal had been mined in Montgomery County near Blacksburg since the late 1700s. Known generally as the Valley coal fields, these beds are semi-anthracites, significantly higher in grade than the bituminous Midlothian coal. During the war, the Confederate government obtained coal from one of the Montgomery County mines and shipped it eastward to Richmond and Norfolk. The tradition has grown up that this coal was placed in the bunkers of the South's first armored warship and stoked her engines in the epic battle with the *Monitor*.

In summary, Virginia turned out massive amounts of niter, lead, salt, iron, and coal for the Confederacy. The state also contributed copper and zinc, though in much smaller quantities. Some historians have contended that one of the main reasons for shifting the Confederate capital from Montgomery, Alabama, to Richmond in 1861 was to ensure that Virginia's industrial might and vast natural resources would be staunchly defended to the very end, as indeed they were. Lee, Jackson, and the Army of Northern Virginia would go on to great glory and legendary status, but from the beginning, perceptive Confederate leaders knew that Virginia's mineral wealth and manufacturing based on those resources would be requisite to arming and sustaining the South in a prolonged, resource-intensive conflagration.



1866 stock certificate-image courtesy of Virginia Historical Society.



## *Trivia Answers*

1. Stonewall Jackson possessed attributes to succeed: a combination of great audacity, excellent knowledge and shrewd use of the terrain, and an uncommon ability to inspire his troops to great feats of marching and fighting.
2. Glory be! The war is over!
3. 112. The 1850s had seen enormous growth in the railroad industry so that by 1861, 9,500 miles of track had been laid in the South. The great rail centers in the South were Chattanooga, Atlanta, and most important, Richmond. Very little track had yet been laid west of the Mississippi.
4. The First South Carolina Volunteer Infantry was the first officially recognized black unit of the Union Army during the Civil War. It was quietly authorized by President Lincoln and organized in August of 1862. The regiment reached its full complement of 1,000 men and was mustered in during November of that year.
5. Names and addresses were hand lettered on handkerchiefs or pieces of paper pinned to uniforms.

Trivia questions and answers from the *Civil War Trivia and Fact Book* by Webb Garrison.

First South  
Carolina Volunteers  
Infantry Regiment  
(1862-1866)



## *Did you know...?*

### **Vulnus sclopetarium**

Fading from the vernacular, the Latin phrase vulnus sclopetarium is a quaint, mystifying, and fascinating term that is translated as gunshot wound. Trauma surgeons, military surgeons, and scholars of the medical aspects of the Civil War may be familiar with the term. Vulnus is easily deciphered from ancient Latin as wound, whereas the origin of sclopetarium proves more difficult to discern. Since there were no guns present in ancient Rome because guns were not invented until around the 13th century; hence, no Latin word for them existed. Sclopetarium is classified as neo-Latin, and deconstruction of the word reveals that sclopeteta means gun, but that destination was arrived at via a convoluted path. The suffix -arium implies a place. Remarriage of the two parts suggests that the gun is an instrument of injury, which is typically incurred on a battlefield.

Read the whole article: [Baylor University Medical University](#)

*After the end of the Civil War whatever happened to...?*

**Union Major General Daniel Sickles**

Sickles served as military governor of the Carolinas from 1865 to 1867. President Andrew Johnson’s views differed from those of Sickles, however, and the President relieved Sickles of his command. Sickles was mustered out of the service January 1, 1868, and was placed on the retired list with the full rank of Major General on April 14, 1869.

In spring 1869, President Grant appointed him United States Minister to Spain, a post which he retained until March 20, 1874. He continued his reputation as a ladies’ man in the Spanish royal court. In 1871, Sickles remarried Senorita Carmina Creagh, the daughter of a Spanish Councilor of State. He converted to Catholicism, and fathered two children with her. After relinquishing his position as minister, Sickles continued to live abroad until 1880.

Sickles returned to New York alone and re-entered politics, living out the remainder of his life in New York City. He lived apart from his wife and children for almost thirty years.

In 1886, at the age of 67, Sickles was re-elected to Congress, where he made important legislative contributions to the preservation of the Gettysburg Battlefield, a site he often visited during his later years.

What has gotten lost amidst the negative Sickles portrayals is the often commendable work that he did in preserving the Gettysburg battlefield. Dan Sickles was a driving force in the early preservation and development of Gettysburg National Military Park. In addition to establishing the appropriate legislation in Congress, he was the leader in marking New York’s positions and monuments on the battlefield. Few veterans contributed as much to memorializing the battlefield as he did. Many men played significant roles on the battlefield, and many were significant in developing the National Military Park as we know it today. But Sickles is unique in having made significant contributions both during and after the battle. For more in-depth information check out this link: [Dan Sickles: Battlefield Preservationist](#)

Sickles died of "cerebral hemorrhage" at New York City on May 3, 1914 at the age of 94. He is buried at Arlington National Cemetery.



Congressman Sickles



Two former 3rd Corps commanders. Dan Sickles (sans leg) and Samuel Heintzelman.



National Museum of Health and Medicine photo

Sickles lost his right leg in the Battle of Gettysburg. After the surgery, Sickles gained lasting fame for donating his amputated limb to the Army Medical Museum in Washington, DC. The limb was received with a small card which said, "With the Compliments of Major General D.E.S." Part of the Walter Reed Army Medical Center, the Army Medical Museum has kept Sickles' amputated limb on display.



## Civil War Phrases

**Camp Kettle:** An artillery missile.

**Candlestick:** A soldiers' derisive term for the bayonet, which, though seldom used as a weapon, could be thrust into the ground so that its upturned socket would hold a candle. Also called and used as a tent peg.

**Carpet Knight:** (1) In the North, a member of the National Guard. The term has been used since at least the 1500s in England for a stay-at-home soldier, or one used to luxury. (2) In the South, a name given by Confederate soldiers to any member of John Mosby's partisan rangers.

**Forty Rod:** Cheap whiskey, so strong it could kill at forty rods.

*From Civil War Wordbook by Darryl Lyman*

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## CAPE FEAR CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

PO Box 15750

Wilmington, NC 28408

You can find us on the Web! [Cfcwrt.org](http://Cfcwrt.org)

Visit us on Facebook: [CFCWRT](#)

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](#)

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*[Savas Beatie](#)*



AUGUST 2021

# THE RUNNER



VOLUME 3 ISSUE 7



## August Presentation - Colby Stevens

On August 12 the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table will welcome Colby Stevens, site manager of the Bentonville Battlefield State Historic Site.

The Battle of Bentonville, fought March 19-21, 1865, was the largest battle ever fought in the state of North Carolina, dwarfing the size of battles such as Fort Fisher, New Bern and the Revolutionary War battle of Guilford Courthouse. Approximately 80,000 troops clashed, yet, it's often overlooked because the end of the war was so near and it seems anticlimactic.

The situation was, indeed, desperate for the Confederacy. Union Major General William T. Sherman had led his superb, veteran army on an audacious and destructive march through Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina. Unsupported by a conventional supply line, his forces cut a swath through the heart of the rebellious southern states, brushing aside ineffectual attempts to stop them and overcoming daunting physical obstacles such as winter rains, flooded streams and swamps in their path. Of Sherman's 60,000-man army, his opponent Confederate General Joseph E. Johnston said there "was no such army since the days of Julius Caesar."

As the fourth spring of the terrible Civil War arrived, Sherman's force neared the strategic railroad junction of Goldsboro where he would be resupplied and reinforced by about 30,000 additional federal troops arriving from Wilmington and New Bern.



**Colby Stevens**

To mislead Confederate forces and to move with maximum speed, Sherman divided his force into two wings. In a desperate gamble, Johnston gathered his forces from as far away as Tennessee and launched his 20,000 men at one of Sherman's wings at a point at which the two wings were relatively far apart and hoped to defeat one wing and then turn against the other.

The story of the battle is compelling and there are many questions regarding tactical decisions and the ultimate outcome of the clash.

The state of North Carolina administers the Bentonville Battlefield Historic Site and has done an excellent job with almost 2,000 acres saved, including an historic house that played an important role in the battle, a visitors center and an

*(Continued on page 2)*

## June Meeting

Thursday, Aug 12, 2021

Presenter:

**Colby Stevens**

**Site Manager**

**Bentonville Battlefield  
State Historic Park**

6:30 Social 7:00 Meeting

Harbor UMC, Rm. 226  
4853 Masonboro Loop  
Wilmington  
(See map on page 3)



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

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## *August Presentation - Colby Stevens, cont.*

expanding network of trails that add immensely to the observer’s ability to interpret the battle.

According to the American Battlefield Trust, “thirty years ago, there were only a few acres of protected land at this incredibly important site, the last full-scale action of the Civil War. In hundreds of letters, diaries and reports, men on both sides bore witness to the ferocity of this three-day battle, saying things like ‘all agree that it was one of the hottest places we were ever in.’ “ The Trust currently has a campaign underway to preserve even more land. Colby Stevens, is going to fill us in on not only the history of the battle but the current state of the historic site, including recent improvements. Colby grew up in the small town of Coats, NC, in Harnett County, about half way between Fayetteville and Raleigh. Cody went on to earn a Masters Degree in Public History from Appalachian State and quickly rose through the ranks of the NC Division of State Historic Sites, and came to Bentonville in March of 2019.

What is “Public History”? Public historians come in all shapes and sizes. They may be historical consultants, museum professionals, government historians, archivists, oral historians, cultural resource managers, curators, film and media producers, historical interpreters, historic preservationists, policy advisers, local historians, and community activists, among many, many other job descriptions. All share an interest and commitment to making history relevant and useful in the public sphere.

Although public historians can sometimes be teachers, public history is usually defined as history beyond the walls of the traditional classroom. It’s a very challenging and important field of intellectual endeavor and we’re very lucky to have some great public historians in our area, including Colby Stevens.

As a student of the Carolinas Campaign Colby Stevens has always been fascinated with history of the lower Cape Fear region. His interest in the Civil War began as a spectator at the 143rd Anniversary of the Battle of Aversasboro. That initial interest, stoked by research, fueled by volunteer service at several historic sites, and funneled by earning a MA in Public History developed into a passion to learn and share the Civil War history of the Old North State. His first day at Bentonville, in March of 2019, was truly a homecoming. During grad school he served as the Buck Dunn Intern and after graduation returned as a temporary employee to the site. Before coming to Bentonville Battlefield he worked at Gov. Aycock Birthplace and House in the Horseshoe State Historic Sites. His time at Aycock Birthplace focused on 19th century farming and gardening. He spent his mornings working the land and evenings talking to the chickens/guineas/and sheep – thankfully they did not talk back! As manager of House in the Horseshoe he dove into the

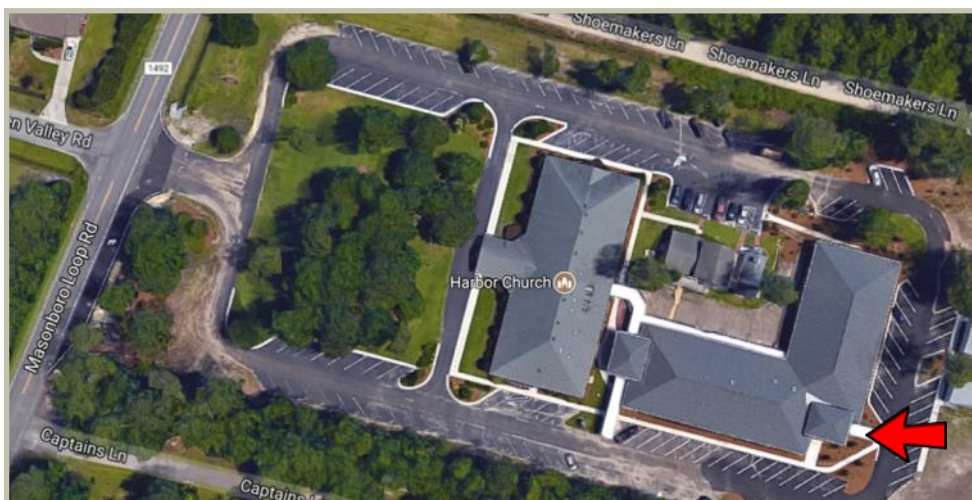
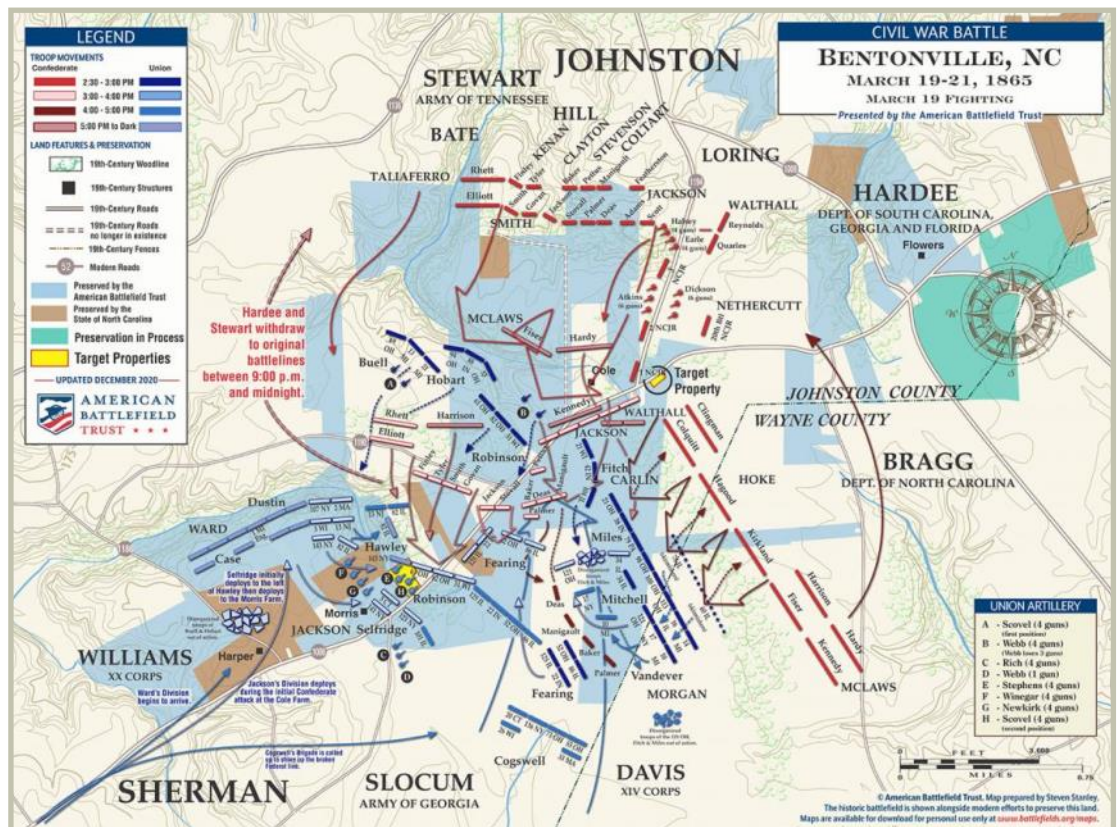


**Michigan Engineers Original Field Works**

*(Continued on page 3)*

## August Presentation - Colby Stevens, cont.

struggles and bloodshed of the Revolutionary backcountry. Both sites helped mold and grow his passion of NC history. With guidance from the staff, community, and Friends of Bentonville Battlefield he has striven to continue the drive of battlefield preservation at Bentonville. Bentonville is more than a battlefield, it's a story – a story one can connect with in the Harper House, experience on the walking trails, and witness from the trenches – it is a story that he is grateful to share, and one that must be told for generations to come.



Harbor UMC  
 4853 Masonboro Loop  
 Wilmington

We are meeting in Room 226.  
 Please use the entrance indicated by the red arrow.

*June Presentation ~ Members Forum*

Our June presentation was opened with a drum tattoo of the Star Spangled Banner by the 26th North Carolina Regiment Drummer David Jordan.



CFCWRT Member and former editor of *The Runner* **Tim Winstead** unraveled a fascinating story of his great-great uncle. A Confederate soldier from North Carolina, his relative, William Pearson, Company A, 55th North Carolina, was captured on the first day of Gettysburg, July 1, 1863. William H. Pearson never returned to North Carolina. With considerable sleuthing on Tim's part his resting place was located and restored.

**Tim Winstead** Tim is still researching his great-great-grandmother and her tireless efforts to free her sick husband from a Civil War POW Camp at Point Lookout MD.

Lower Cape Fear artist and CFCWRT member **Jim Horton**, discussed his search and discovery in the story of Elijah Hawke, his great-great-grandfather, who served in the 2nd Pennsylvania Heavy Artillery Regiment.



**David Jordan**



**Elijah Hawke's Grave by Jim Horton**



**Jim Horton**

## *Upcoming CFCWRT Events*

**September 9, 2021**

**Ken Rutherford:** Civil War Mines and Torpedoes

**October 14, 2021**

**Robert Browning:** Union Blockade

**November 11, 2021**

**Betty Vaughn:** A Civil War Christmas

## *Echoes of Battle - Bentonville Battlefield*

*Nightfall, March 19, 1865, the first day of fighting is over. A Union stretcher bearer recalled that "all over the woods could be seen officers & men with pine torches in their hands seeking after some fallen comrade or friend to take him to a hospital if alive & bury him if dead..."*

This scene and others will be recreated on the evening of **October 23, 2021** during "Echoes of Battle," a one of a kind program depicting the chaos and confusion of the early morning and nighttime on March 19 in Bentonville. Join us for a nighttime wagon ride and a candlelit walk through the woods featuring vignettes performed by Civil War reenactors. The program takes place from 7:00pm to 10:30pm. Tickets will go on sale October 1 for Friends of Bentonville Battlefield members only. Go to [www.fobb.net](http://www.fobb.net) for information about becoming a member. Remaining tickets will be sold to the public starting on October 11. A link for ticket information will be posted at [www.fobb.net](http://www.fobb.net). Tickets for the night tours are extremely limited and cost \$20 each. As this is a time-limited, one-night only program, we will sell out of tickets. **Warning:** This program will simulate combat trauma and may not be suitable for all audiences.

## *Online Presentations*

**CWRT Congress - [All sessions start at 7pm Eastern](#)**

**August 11th - Bert Dunkerly & Doug Crenshaw** Embattled Capital

**August 18th - Craig Apperson** Civil War Trauma: The Fire Inside

[The 40th Annual Fredericksburg Civil War Relic Show](#) **August 14th** Saturday 9-5

Fredericksburg Eagles Aerie  
21 Cool Springs Rd.  
Fredericksburg, VA

[Fall 2021 Richmond Virginia Military Antique Show](#) **November 13th** Saturday 9-5

Richmond Int'l Raceway Old Dominion Bldg.  
600 E Laburnum Ave  
Richmond, VA

*In Memoriam - Daniel Geddie 1951 - 2021*

Long-time member & former Treasurer of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table, **Dan Geddie**, passed away on July 19, 2021. Dan was a very active member of the Round Table who shared his love of Civil War history through his fellowship and leadership at numerous events and on field trips to Civil War battlefield and museums.

A search in THE RUNNER revealed many photographs of Dan and references to his efforts that ensured RT members enjoyed their association with this organization.



At the CSS Neuse in Kinston

L to R: Ed Gibson, John Winecoff, Dan Geddie, Bob Cooke, John Bolger

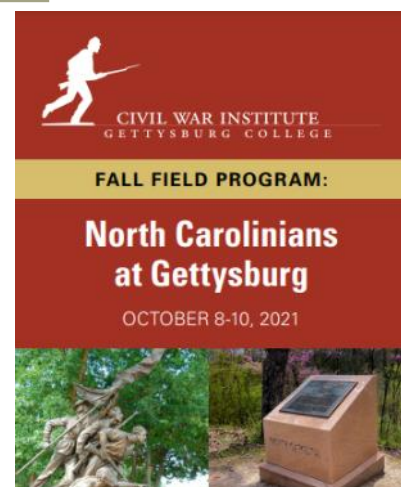
*North Carolinians at Gettysburg - October 8-10, 2021*

Civil War Institute. Gettysburg College is presenting a fall field program, featuring lectures and battlefield tours exploring life in the Old North State throughout the war, as well as the experiences of North Carolinians during the battle of Gettysburg.

Speakers and tour guides include:

- § Judkin Browning (Appalachian State University)
- § Peter Carmichael (Gettysburg College)
- § Scott Hartwig (Ind. Historian & retired Supervisory Historian, Gettysburg NMP)
- § Ashley Whitehead Luskey (Gettysburg College)
- § Christopher Gwinn (Gettysburg National Military Park)
- § Daniel Vermilya (Eisenhower National Historic Site)

For questions, please email [civilwar@gettysburg.edu](mailto:civilwar@gettysburg.edu) or call (717) 337-6590. A full schedule of events can be found on the [Gettysburg College website](http://www.gettysburgcollege.edu/civilwar).



## *...The Rest of the Story*

**Adelbert Ames** was the great-grandfather of George Plimpton. John F. Kennedy, through George Plimpton, is indirectly responsible for a full-length biography of General Ames. In *Profiles in Courage*, Kennedy relied on Reconstruction-era historical texts to produce a brief but misleading, false, and devastating portrait of Ames's administration of Mississippi in his profile of Mississippi Senator Lucius Q.C. Lamar. Ames's daughter Blanche Ames Ames, a formidable figure in Massachusetts, bombarded the then-senator with letters complaining about the depiction, and continued her barrage after Kennedy entered the White House. President Kennedy then turned to his friend Plimpton to tell Blanche, Plimpton's grandmother, that she was "interfering with state business." Her response was to write her own book about her father, Adelbert Ames, in 1964.

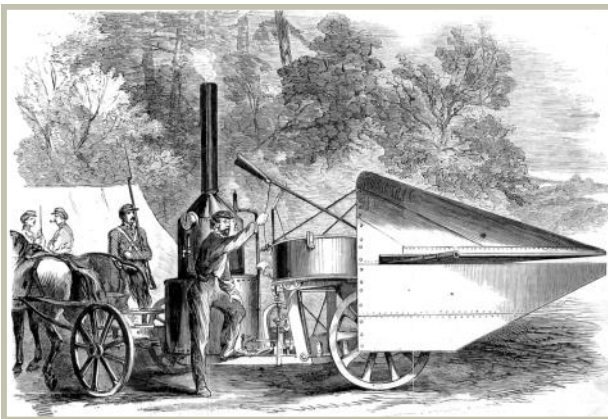
*Adelbert Ames: 1835 to 1933, General, Senator, Governor* by Blanche Ames Ames

## *Trivia Questions*

1. What Virginia-born artilleryman named his four cannons Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John?
2. Who was the last surviving full-rank Civil War General?
3. In battle, while cavalry and artillery relied on buglers for directive signals, whom did the infantry rely on for directions of maneuvers?
4. What state provided the Union with only about 500 fighting men, who served in the Second Massachusetts Cavalry?
5. At what age did future rear admiral David D. Porter, USN, go to sea?

Answers of Page 10

## *Did you know...?*



Wealthy Ross Winans of Baltimore, a strong backer of the Confederate cause, decided to invest part of his fortune in what became perhaps the most unusual heavy weapon in the era. His patented steam cannon attracted the interested attention of Abraham Lincoln. Reputedly, Lincoln offered amnesty to Winans in exchange for the plans from which his steam cannon was built. When it was assembled, trained horses bolted at the sight of it, and strong men shuddered. But there's no record that it produced a single battlefield casualty.



***Winans Steam Gun***



***Arming the Confederacy: Virginia's Mineral Contributions to the Confederate War Effort***  
by Robert C. Whisonant



The American Civil War is often seen as the first truly industrialized total war, one that consumed enormous amounts of human and material resources. But the two opponents were not evenly matched; the North had a preponderant share of raw materials, manufacturing ability, and population. On the eve of battle in April 1861, most of the mines, forges, and foundries in America were located in Union states. Some 90 per cent of the manufacturing capacity resided there—their factories made 97 per cent of the firearms, 94 per cent of the cloth, 93 per cent of the pig iron, and over 90 per cent of the boots and shoes. The disparity in the capability to make items necessary to the conduct of hostilities rested primarily on the North's possession of more mineral riches, most particularly iron and coal, the foundation of heavy industry.

Within the Confederacy, Virginia had long been the foremost mineral producer. The greatest concentration of this natural wealth lay in the mountainous southwestern quarter of the state where large deposits of saltpeter, lead, salt, iron, and coal had been exploited for over a century. In addition, mines in the region yielded some copper, zinc, gold, and silver from time to time. To be sure, other parts of the South had mineral resources, notably Alabama with important iron and coal operations; none, however, rivaled the richness and variety of the troves in Southwest Virginia. This did not go unnoticed by Federal strategists intent on bringing down the Confederate war machine.

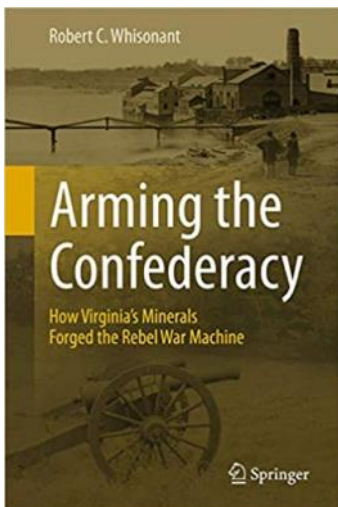
#### Part IV ~ Iron

Iron, a mainstay of warfare for thousands of years, became even more indispensable in the Civil War. Railroads, ordnance, armor plate for the new ironclad warships, and a host of tools and machines vital to both civilians and the military required huge quantities of iron and steel. When war came, the Richmond-Petersburg complex of iron and steel mills, highly dependent on the state's iron and coal resources, constituted nearly all of the Southern heavy industry. The crown jewel was the gigantic Tredegar Iron Works in the capital city, the only operation in the South that could make the big guns and iron plate needed immediately. It was a Tredegar mortar that lofted the signal shot opening the bombardment of Fort Sumter. Of the 48 pieces that shelled the fort, this company made at least 20. By the end of hostilities, Tredegar had manufactured almost half of the Confederate cannon and 90 per cent of the artillery ammunition.

Although not as well developed as Virginia's, some iron industry did exist in other Confederate states as the war got underway. Alabama in particular possessed considerable reserves of ore, and furnaces and forges had sprung up at Selma and elsewhere across the state in the antebellum years. In the course of the conflict, the Alabama iron operations expanded swiftly and managed to overtake the Virginia producers. In the end, the two states generated about 90 per cent of the Confederate iron. Smaller iron works were located in five other Southern states – North and South Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee, and Mississippi.

Though the domestic iron output increased during the war, the Confederacy never had enough. The amounts necessary just for the railroads completely overwhelmed the production system. To maintain and extend the lines would use an estimated 50,000 tons of rolled steel a year, yet the combined capacity of all the Southern furnaces totaled only about 20,000 tons a year. Moreover, the Confederate tracks and rolling stock began the war much inferior

*(Continued on page 9)*



***Arming the Confederacy: Virginia's Mineral Contributions to the Confederate War Effort***  
 by Robert C. Whisonant (cont.)

to the North's, and soon the persistent lack of iron made simply keeping the trains running the most pressing problem. As early as 1862, work crews routinely ripped out rails from smaller lines to replace those in the more valuable arteries. The last rail ever made in the Confederacy had been manufactured the year before.

Iron making began with the smelting of ore in charcoal-fired furnaces to produce the refined bars or "pigs" for shipment to the larger forges and foundries such as the Tredegar Works. The exact numbers and locations of the Southern furnaces are not known, but a detailed Niter and Mining Bureau report in January 1865 noted that the national government operated seven furnaces in 1864 – three in Virginia and two each in Alabama and Texas. Forty-five more privately-owned furnaces were in blast at one time or another that year, 20 of them in Virginia and nine in Alabama. About 80 per cent of the Virginia furnaces lay in the western mountains where they remained relatively safe from harm until late in the contest.

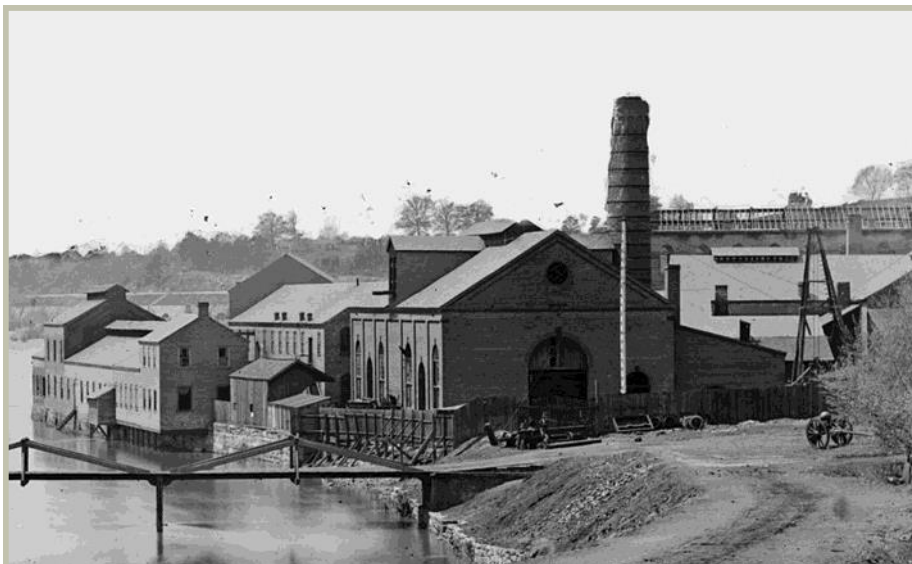
No Union campaign ever targeted the western Virginia iron furnaces as the single operational goal. Like the niter caves, the furnace sites were too numerous and too scattered to be the primary focus of an enemy offensive. Regardless, Federal raiders often found them when they penetrated deeper into the remote highlands as the war went on. In summer 1864, Union Major General David Hunter led a force into the southern Shenandoah Valley, hoping to take Staunton and then attack Lynchburg, an important industrial and rail center. Though driven away from Lynchburg, the Northern soldiers discovered three of the biggest and best Tredegar-owned furnaces during the foray which they reduced to smoldering ruins. In December 1864, General George Stoneman invaded Southwest Virginia to assault Saltville, the lead mines near Wytheville, and the Virginia and Tennessee Railroad. His troopers came upon and pillaged several iron operations.



**Union Major General  
David Hunter**



**Union Major General  
George Stoneman**

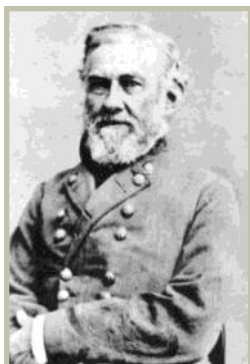


***Tredegar Iron Works - Richmond, Virginia***

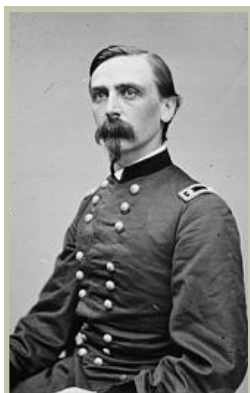
*Next month's issue  
will share  
Part V ~ Coal*



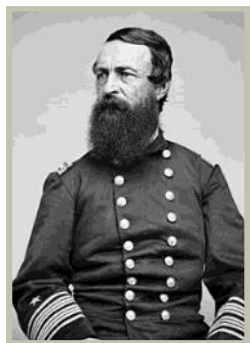
## Trivia Answers



**Brig Gen Wm Pendleton**



**Brig Gen Adelbert Ames**



**Rear Adm David D Porter**

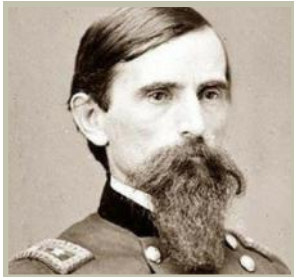
1. Brigadier General William Nelson Pendleton, an ordained Episcopal rector. William Nelson Pendleton was an American teacher, Episcopal priest, and soldier. He served as a Confederate general during the American Civil War, noted for his position as Gen. Robert E. Lee's chief of artillery for most of the conflict. After the war, Pendleton returned to his priestly duties and also wrote religious materials. Camp Pendleton in Virginia Beach, Virginia, is named in his honor.
2. Adelbert Ames, born in Maine in 1835 and dies in Florida in 1933. Adelbert C. Ames was an American sailor, soldier, and politician who served with distinction as a Union Army general during the American Civil War. A Radical Republican, he was military governor, U.S. Senator, and civilian governor in Reconstruction-era Mississippi.
3. Drummers. In the 19th century, drums were used as invaluable communication devices in camps and on battlefields. The drummers in both the Union and Confederate armies were required to learn dozens of drum calls, and the playing of each call would tell the soldiers they were required to perform a specific task.
4. California. California's involvement in the American Civil War included sending gold east to support the war effort, recruiting volunteer combat units to replace regular U.S. Army units sent east, in the area west of the Rocky Mountains, maintaining and building numerous camps and fortifications, suppressing secessionist activity (many of these secessionists went east to fight for the Confederacy) and securing the New Mexico Territory against the Confederacy.
5. Ten. Porter began naval service as a midshipman at the age of 10 years under his father, Commodore David Porter, on the frigate USS John Adams. For the remainder of his life, he was associated with the sea.

Trivia questions and answers from the *Civil War Trivia and Fact Book* by Webb Garrison.

## Did you know...?

The Rev. William N. Pendleton became a minister of Grace Episcopal Church in Richmond, VA in 1853 and retained that post until his death 30 years later. When the war broke out, he asked for and was granted a leave of absence. Without military experience, he was elected captain of the Rockbridge Artillery, where he named the four cannons of his battery Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

Each of the four evangelists roared so effectively that the pastor on leave, soon made a colonel, was chosen by Joseph E. Johnston to serve as his chief of artillery.

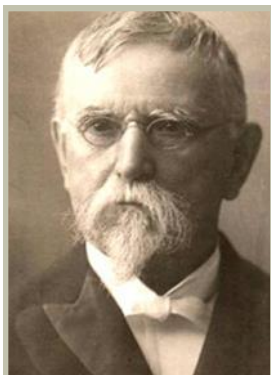
*After the end of the Civil War whatever happened to...?***Union Major General Lewis Wallace**

**Major General  
Lewis Wallace**

Following President Lincoln's death, Wallace was appointed to the military commission that investigated the Lincoln assassination conspirators. The commission was dissolved in June 1865. In mid-August 1865, Wallace was appointed head of an eight-member military commission that investigated the conduct of Henry Wirz, the Confederate commandant in charge of the South's Andersonville prison camp.

Wallace returned to Indiana in 1867 to practice law, but he turned to politics. Wallace made two unsuccessful bids for a seat in Congress (in 1868 and 1870), and supported Republican presidential candidate Rutherford B. Hayes in the 1876 election. As a reward for his political support, Hayes appointed Wallace as governor of the New Mexico Territory, where he served from August 1878 to March 1881.

Wallace was involved in efforts to resolve New Mexico's Lincoln County War, a contentious and violent disagreement among the county's residents, and tried to end a series of Apache raids on territorial settlers. Wallace resigned from his duties as territorial governor in March 1881, and waited for a new political appointment.



His next assignment came in March 1881, when Republican president James A. Garfield appointed Wallace to an overseas diplomatic post in Constantinople, Turkey, as U.S. Minister to the Ottoman Empire. Wallace became a trusted friend of Sultan Abdul Hamid II. When a crisis developed between the Turkish and British governments over control of Egypt, Wallace served as an intermediary between the sultan and Lord Dufferin, the British ambassador. Although Wallace's efforts were unsuccessful, he earned respect for his efforts and a promotion in the U.S. diplomatic service. Wallace remained in this post until 1885.

The election of Grover Cleveland, the Democratic candidate for president, ended Wallace's political appointment.

Wallace confessed in his autobiography that he took up writing as a diversion from studying law. Although he wrote several books, Wallace is best known for his historical adventure story, *Ben-Hur: A Tale of the Christ*, which established his fame as an author.

In 1843, Wallace began writing his first novel, *The Fair God*, but it was not published until 1873. The popular historical novel, with Cortez's conquest of Mexico as its central theme, was based on William H. Prescott's *History of the Conquest of Mexico*. Wallace's book sold seven thousand copies in its first year. Its sales continued to rise after Wallace's reputation as an author was established with the publication of subsequent novels.

*Ben-Hur* made Wallace a wealthy man and established his reputation as a famous author. Only 2,800 copies were sold in the first seven months after its release, but the book be-

*(Continued on page 12)*

came popular among readers around the world. By 1886, it was earning Wallace about \$11,000 in annual royalties (equivalent to \$290,000 in 2015 dollars), and provided Wallace's family with financial security. By 1889, Harper and Brothers had sold 400,000 copies and the book had been translated into several languages.

In 1900, *Ben-Hur* became the best-selling American novel of the 19th century. At the time of *Ben-Hur's* one hundredth anniversary in 1980, it had "never been out of print" and had been adapted for the stage and several motion pictures. One historian, Victor Davis Hanson, has argued that *Ben-Hur* drew from Wallace's life, particularly his experiences at Shiloh, and the damage it did to his reputation. The book's main character, Judah Ben-Hur, accidentally causes injury to a high-ranking Roman commander, for which he and his family suffer tribulations and calumny.

Wallace wrote subsequent novels and biographies, but *Ben-Hur* remained his most important work. Wallace considered *The Prince of India; or, Why Constantinople Fell* (1893) as his best novel. Wallace was writing his autobiography when he died in 1905. His wife Susan completed it with the assistance of another author from Crawfordsville. It was published posthumously in 1906.

Wallace continued to write after his return from Turkey. He also patented several of his own inventions, built a seven-story apartment building in Indianapolis, The Blacherne, and drew up plans for a private study at his home in Crawfordsville. Wallace remained active in veterans' groups, including writing a speech for the dedication of the battlefield at the Chickamauga.

Wallace, seventy-seven years old, died at home in Crawfordsville on February 15, 1905. Wallace is buried in Crawfordsville Oak Hill Cemetery.



Following Wallace's death, the State of Indiana commissioned the sculptor Andrew O'Connor to create a marble statue of Wallace dressed in a military uniform for the National Statuary Hall Collection in the U.S. Capitol. The statue was unveiled during a ceremony held on January 11, 1910. Wallace is the only novelist honored in the hall. A bronze copy of the statue is installed on the grounds of Wallace's study in Crawfordsville.

## Civil War Phrases

**I.F.W.** ~ An abbreviation for *In For the War*

**Josh** ~ A Confederate soldier from Arkansas. Short for Joshua.

**Latin Farmer** ~ Any one of the many German immigrants who had fled the 1840s European revolutions and, though well educated in such topics as Latin and Greek, had become farmers in America through necessity. Several became Civil War Generals, including the Union's Carl Schurz.

**To open the ball** ~ To start a battle

**Pumpkin Rinds** ~ A Union soldiers' term for lieutenants or lieutenantcies. So called because of the shape of the shoulder straps for that rank.

*From Civil War Wordbook by Darryl Lyman*

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## CAPE FEAR CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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Visit us on Facebook: [CFCWRT](#)

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](#)

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*[Savas Beatie](#)*



JUNE 2021

# THE RUNNER



VOLUME 3 ISSUE 6



## *June Presentation - Member Forum - Forgotten Soldiers*

CFCWRT Member and former editor of *The Runner* **Tim Winstead** will unravel the fascinating story of his great-great uncle. A Confederate soldier from North Carolina, his relative, William Pearson, Company A, 55th North Carolina, was captured on the first day of Gettysburg, July 1, 1863. William H. Pearson never returned to North Carolina and considerable sleuthing was necessary to discover his resting place.

Tim is still researching his great-great-grandmother and her efforts to free her sick husband from a Civil War POW Camp at Point Lookout MD. Their story started after meeting at a college he attended in Greencastle, Indiana in the mid 1850s. They married in 1856 and moved to a farm in Wilson County, NC. Life was good until war came to their world.

Join the CFCWRT meeting on June 10th when Tim completes the story of William and Rowena Pearson.



**William Pearson**



**Tim Winstead**



**Tim's Granny Let**



**Point Lookout Confederate Cemetery**



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

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**June Meeting**  
Thursday, June 10, 2021

Member Forum:  
**Jim Horton**  
**Tim Winstead**

6:30 Social 7:00 Meeting

Harbor UMC  
4853 Masonboro Loop  
Wilmington

*June Presentation - Member Forum, cont.*

Lower Cape Fear artist and CFCWRT member **Jim Horton**, originally from Western Pennsylvania will discuss his search, discovery and the story of Elijah Hawke, his great-great-grandfather, who served in the 2nd Pennsylvania Heavy Artillery Regiment.



**Jim Horton**



**Elijah Hawke's Grave by Jim Horton**



**2nd Pennsylvania Heavy Artillery by Jim Horton**



## *May Presentation - Salmon P. Chase by Walter Stahr*

Biographer sheds light on the relationship between Lincoln and Salmon P. Chase, one of the President’s “Team of Rivals”



**Walter Stahr**

Approximately two dozen members and friends of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table tuned in via Zoom on Thursday evening, May 13, to hear award-winning biographer Walter Stahr talk about his upcoming biography of Salmon P. Chase and the relationship between Lincoln and his ambitious Secretary of the Treasury.

Coming to us from California, Walter talked a little bit about the similarities between Lincoln and Chase—both lawyers, both Midwesterners, both defended fugitive slaves and were in favor of rights for black Americans. But there were also major differences: Chase was a well-educated member of a distinguished family with New England roots and Lincoln, of course, was self-educated and a son of the frontier.

Mr. Stahr’s biographies rely greatly on period writings rather than secondary sources such as memoirs written, in many cases, decades after the events. As a former governor and senator of Ohio and a longtime leader of the abolitionist movement, Chase was seen as a favorite for the Republican nomination in 1860, as was New Yorker W.H. Seward. It was realized, however, that in order for the Republican nominee to win the general election, he would have to carry almost all of the northern states. Both Chase and Seward were seen as “too radical” on slavery to sweep the northern vote and the nomination went to Lincoln.



*Abraham Lincoln and Salmon Chase  
Conferring About the National Bank  
Act of 1863*

*Courtesy of Library of Congress,  
Prints & Photographs Division  
Reference Number: LC-US26-33*

Rather than sulk, however, both Seward and Chase campaigned energetically for Lincoln and both became extremely successful cabinet members, contributing greatly to the success of the Union. As Secretary of the Treasury, Chase led and administered bond drives and the establishment of a national bank that controlled the flow of funds necessary to pursue the massive war effort. Before the Civil War and Chase’s term in office, there was no single currency in the country. States and banks issued their own currency, and the chaos of such a system could not support a successful war effort. Confederate efforts to finance the war effort varied by state and were largely ineffective, leading to runaway inflation.

Chase also became involved directly in some military affairs, including the celebrated expedition to Hampton Roads, Virginia, in May 1862 as McClellan finally began moving the Army of the Potomac up the Peninsula and after the momentous draw between the ironclad monsters, the *USS Monitor* and the *CSS Virginia* (aka *Merrimack*).

Lincoln led a group including Chase and Secretary of War Stanton to the war zone and, when McClellan was found to be “too busy” to speak to the Commander in Chief, the political leaders took matters into their own hands, quickly inducing Major General John E. Wool (like Lt. Gen. Winfield Scott, a veteran of the War of 1812) and Rear Admiral Louis Goldsborough to move on Norfolk, home port of the *Virginia*.

Chase and Lincoln quickly found landing places near Norfolk, on the southern shore of Hampton Roads, and ordered Wool to move several thousand Union soldiers across the waterway to gain control of the navy yard and the city of Norfolk. Union Brigadier General Egbert Viele, who accompanied the presidential party,

*(Continued on page 4)*

*May Presentation - Salmon P. Chase by Walter Stahr, cont.*

found the various regiments of the landing party in some disarray and Chase took control. The Treasury Secretary negotiated the surrender of the city in a meeting with the mayor and city council but not before retreating confederates burned much of the city and destroyed the navy yard much more thoroughly than the Union had done the job the year before when Confederates took over.

Rhetorically posing the question of whether Chase and Lincoln were political rivals, Walter said the answer was that the usual view of their rivalry was “only partly true.” In the “Cabinet Crisis” of December 1862, after the disastrous Union defeat at Fredericksburg, the Republican senatorial delegation worked to effect a reorganization of the cabinet, focusing their aim on Secretary of State Seward, who was portrayed as insufficiently abolitionist and somehow holding a mysterious influence over the president. Chase had given many senators to believe that there was a lack of unity within the cabinet and that Seward was at fault. Seward submitted his resignation to Lincoln on the grounds of removing himself as a distraction and an obstacle to the war effort. Lincoln refused to accept it. A subsequent meeting at the White House brought together the leading senators and members of the cabinet except for Seward. Lincoln directed the meeting to a point at which Chase was put on the spot and failed to back up his previous suggestion that Seward was a negative influence. Soon after, Chase told Lincoln that he had written his resignation and Lincoln quickly told Chase to give him the piece of paper. Lincoln asked both cabinet secretaries to withdraw their resignations and go back to their work. Both did.

Nonetheless, many “radical” Republicans favored Chase’s approach to abolition and black rights and, as the war dragged on through 1863 and 1864 a “boomlet” developed favoring Chase as the Republican nominee in 1864. Lincoln adroitly maneuvered through the shoals of the political crisis and by summer had been renominated. Once again, however, there arose difficulties in the relationship between the President and the Treasury Secretary and Chase again submitted his resignation. This time, Lincoln accepted it.

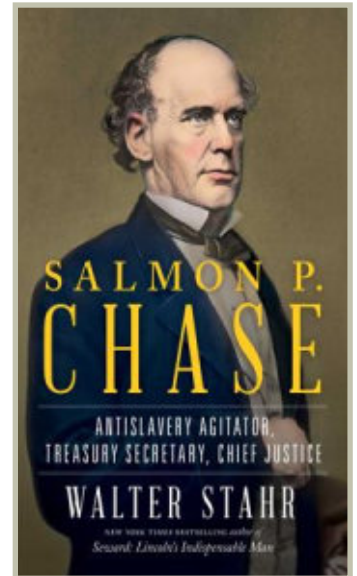
Still, however, Chase supported the party and the president and campaigned in the fall. When an opening occurred with the death of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Lincoln nominated Chase and he was quickly confirmed.

Reconstruction of the Union loomed as the war rapidly came to a victorious end for the Lincoln government and Chase was in a powerful position to help achieve quick and effective reunification. Tragically, of course, the assassin John Wilkes Booth once again plunged the nation into chaos.

Chase was a strong supporter of universal suffrage for all men, both black and former Confederates (except for some high-ranking officials) and, Mr. Stahr related an interesting story about Chief Justice Chase accompanying a Treasury Department fact-finding mission to southern ports and how he visited Wilmington in May of 1865, meeting with noted North Carolina anti-secessionist Bartholomew Moore and black leaders including Johnathan Gibbs, a Dartmouth College graduate. Although Chase worked to influence Lincoln’s successor, Andrew Johnson, he was unsuccessful. Johnson’s reconstruction program effectively disenfranchised blacks.

We thank Walter Stahr for his masterful presentation and his gracious response to the many questions from his interested audience. Much more of the story of the fascinating figure of Salmon P. Chase remains to be told in Mr. Stahr’s book, which will soon be available.

<https://walterstahr.com>





## *Did you know...?*

When the Civil War broke out after the shots on Ft Sumter on April 12, 1861 many thought the war would start and be over in a matter of months. However, when the Union and Confederate armies showed up to fight the First Battle of Bull Run (Manassas) on July 21, 1861, they began fighting on retired Virginia militia Major Wilbur McLean's farm.

Concerned for his family's safety, he moved them to a place in Virginia called Appomattox Court House. Little did he know that four years later, General Robert E. Lee would surrender to General Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Court House on April 9, 1865, and would choose McLean's parlor to sign the surrender. Unable to escape the war it can be said that the Civil War started in McLean's backyard in 1861 and ended in his parlor in 1865.

## *Trivia Questions*

1. What were some of the nicknames used for Major General George H. Thomas?
2. John L. Clem (b.1851) received fame as one of the youngest soldiers to serve in the Civil War. He served at Shiloh and later under General Thomas at Chickamauga and Chattanooga. What was his nickname?
3. General Thomas appointed the first woman physician who worked as an assistant surgeon on battlefields in Kentucky and Tennessee. She was later awarded the medal of honor for her service. What was her name?

Questions by Dave Mercado from the [General Thomas website](#).

Answers of Page 10

## *Upcoming CFCWRT Events*

**July 8th TBA**

**August 12th Colby Stevens, Bentonville Battlefield Site Manager**

Colby Stevens will focus on an overview of the battle and an update on preservation and interpretation at the battlefield.

## *Online Presentations*

**CWRT Congress - [All sessions start at 7pm Eastern](#)**

**June 2nd - Dana Zaiser** Money Alternatives

**June 9th - Leslie Goddard** Civil War Battlefield Nurse

**June 16th - Charles D. Ross** The Creative Science & Technology of the Civil War

**June 23rd - Mark Dunkelman** Adventures of a Civil War Historian

**June 30th - David Keller** Military Prisons of the Civil War



*The Confederacy's Most Modern General by Harold M. Knudsen*

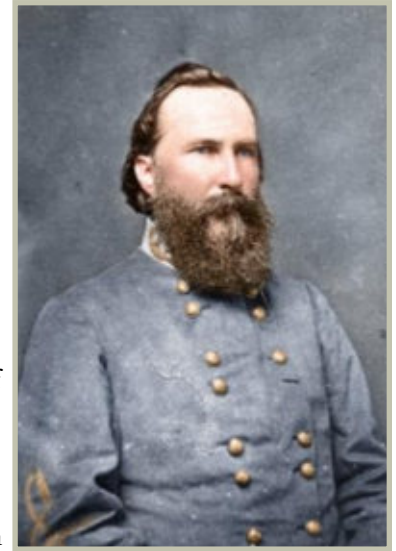
The Civil War is often called the first “modern war.” The Civil War spawned a host of “firsts” and is often looked upon as a precursor to the larger and more deadly 20th century conflicts. Confederate General James Longstreet made some of the most profound modern contributions to the art of war. Retired Lieutenant Colonel Harold M. Knudsen explains what he did and how he did it in *The Confederacy's Most Modern General: James Longstreet and the American Civil War*.

Initially, commanders on both sides extensively utilized Napoleonic tactics that were obsolete because of the advent of the rifled musket and better artillery. Some professional army officers, like Union Generals U. S. Grant and William T. Sherman, worked to improve tactics, operations, and strategies. On the Confederate side, a careful comparison of Longstreet's body of work in the field to modern military doctrine reveals several large-scale innovations. He understood early that the tactical defense was generally dominant over the offense, which was something few grasped in 1862. His thinking demonstrated a clear evolution beginning on the field at First Manassas in July 1861. It developed through the bloody fighting of 1862, and culminated in the brilliant defensive victory at Fredericksburg that December. The lethality with which his riflemen mowed down repeated Union assaults hinted at what was to come in World War I. Longstreet's ability to launch and control powerful offensives was on display at Second Manassas in August 1862, and his offensive plan at Chickamauga in Georgia the following September was similar, if not the forerunner to, World War II tactical-level German armored tactics. Other areas show progressive applications with artillery, staff work, force projection, and operational-level thinking.

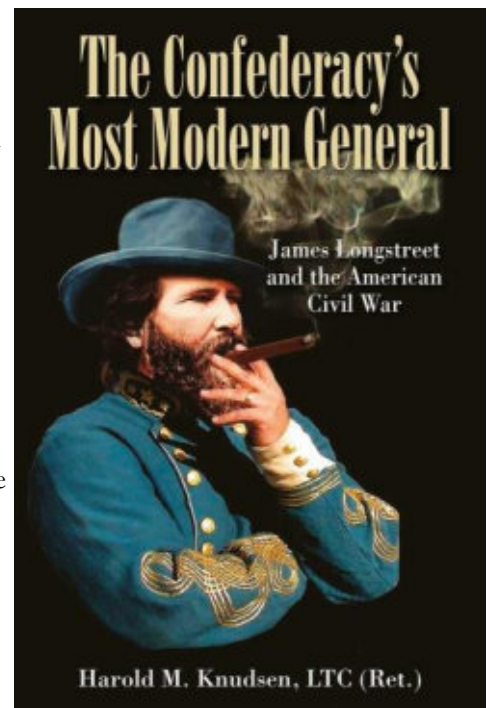
LTC Knudsen's thoughtful study ties comparatives from the Napoleonic era through World War II and beyond back to the Civil War, and in doing so, demonstrates that Longstreet evolved his thinking across several battles, and how his innovations appeared in future wars. Longstreet was not the sole agent of all modern change away from the Napoleonic method, but his contributions were very significant, executed on a large scale, and demonstrated that he was a modern thinker unparalleled in the Confederate Army.

Unfortunately, many Civil War students have a one-sided view of Longstreet. His legacy fell victim to bitter postwar Southern politics when “Old Pete” supported Reconstruction bills, accepted postings with the Grant Administration, and dared to criticize General Robert E. Lee. His military record was attacked by Lost Cause proponents who viewed his politics and actions as scandalous. More modern writers have taken up the cudgel with their pens, skewing the general's legacy.

*The Confederacy's Most Modern General* draws heavily on 20th Century Army doctrine, field training, staff planning, command, and combat experience, and is the first serious treatment of Longstreet's generalship vis a vis modern warfare. Not everyone will agree with LTC's Knudsen's conclusions, but it will now be impossible to write about the general without referencing this important study.



Gen James Longstreet



***Arming the Confederacy: Virginia's Mineral Contributions to the Confederate War Effort***  
by Robert C. Whisonant



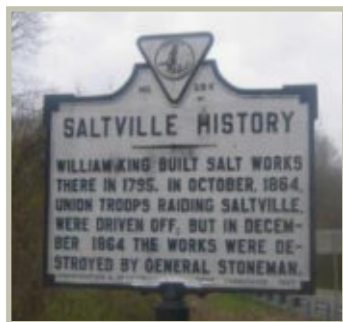
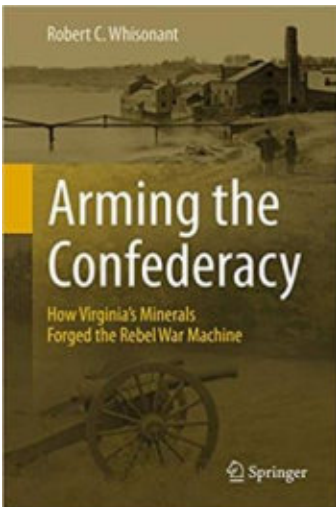
The American Civil War is often seen as the first truly industrialized total war, one that consumed enormous amounts of human and material resources. But the two opponents were not evenly matched; the North had a preponderant share of raw materials, manufacturing ability, and population. On the eve of battle in April 1861, most of the mines, forges, and foundries in America were located in Union states. Some 90 per cent of the manufacturing capacity resided there—their factories made 97 percent of the firearms, 94 per cent of the cloth, 93 percent of the pig iron, and over 90 per cent of the boots and shoes. The disparity in the capability to make items necessary to the conduct of hostilities rested primarily on the North's possession of more mineral riches, most particularly iron and coal, the foundation of heavy industry.

Within the Confederacy, Virginia had long been the foremost mineral producer. The greatest concentration of this natural wealth lay in the mountainous southwestern quarter of the state where large deposits of saltpeter, lead, salt, iron, and coal had been exploited for over a century. In addition, mines in the region yielded some copper, zinc, gold, and silver from time to time. To be sure, other parts of the South had mineral resources, notably Alabama with important iron and coal operations; none, however, rivaled the richness and variety of the troves in Southwest Virginia. This did not go unnoticed by Federal strategists intent on bringing down the Confederate war machine.

### Part III ~ Salt

Of all Virginia's mineral contributions, perhaps none held more importance to both the general population and the military forces of the Confederacy than salt. Early in the conflict, Union Major General William Tecumseh Sherman branded salt as a fundamental strategic resource: "Salt is eminently contraband, because of its use in curing meats, without which armies cannot be subsisted." Besides preserving meat and other perishables, salt is essential in the human diet and in the Civil War, every soldier's ration included it. Livestock required salt as well; a lack of it apparently fostered an outbreak of hoof and mouth disease among the cavalry horses of Lee's army in 1862. Treating animal hides to make leather involved salt. Armies of that day used tremendous amounts of leather for soldiers' shoes and accessories, and for horses' bridles and saddles. Salt had a host of other applications in manufacturing pharmaceuticals and other chemical compounds.

In Civil War times, salt production typically involved one of three methods: evaporation from saline springs or wells (the most common), boiling down sea water or water from salt lakes, and mining ancient layers of rock salt. At the outbreak of fighting, the Southern states had five noteworthy salt operations, these being on the Kanawha River near Charleston, Virginia (after June 1863, West Virginia); along Goose Creek in southeastern Kentucky; in Clarke County in southwestern Alabama; at Avery Island in southern Louisiana; and, most prolific of all, in southwestern Virginia at Saltville. The South lost the Goose Creek works almost immediately after the war commenced, as well as those on the Kanawha. The fall of Vicksburg on July 4, 1863, denied all of the extensive Louisiana sources to the eastern Confederacy. Thus, by mid-summer 1863, even though the Alabama brines still produced salt in the Gulf Coast area, Saltville was by far the major supplier to the states east of the Mississippi.



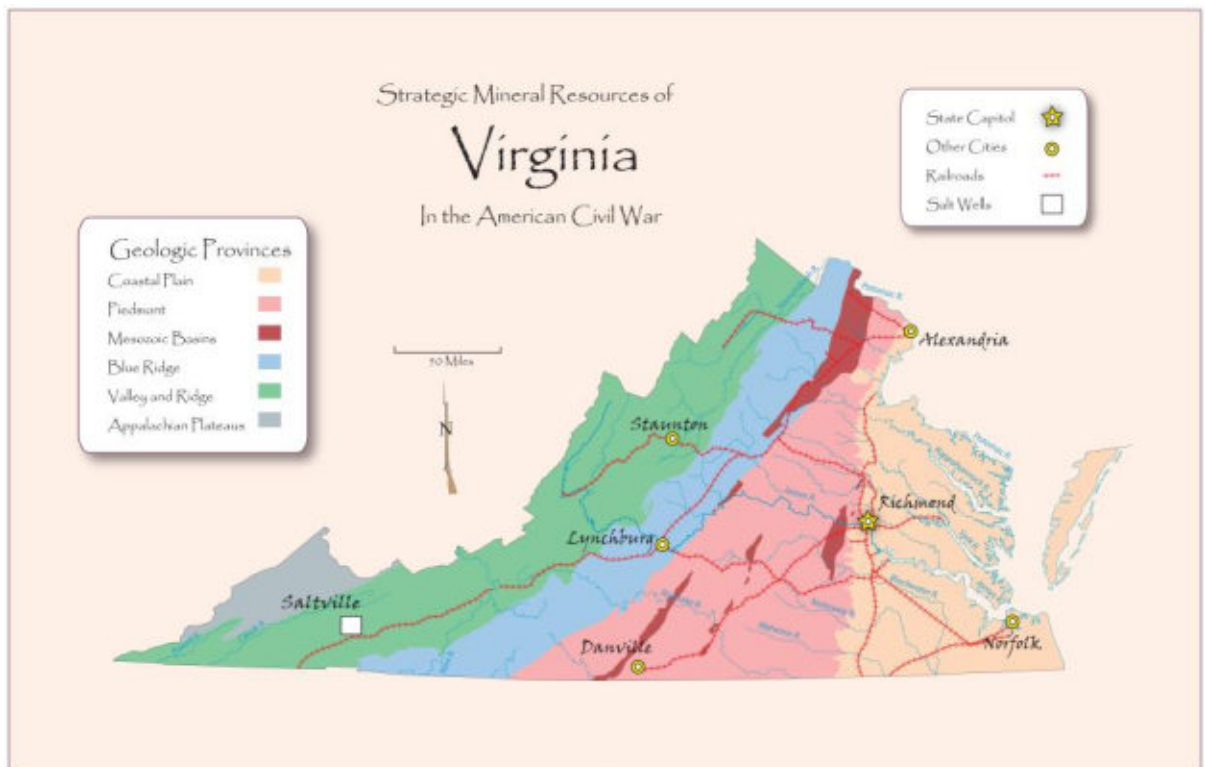
***Arming the Confederacy: Virginia's Mineral Contributions to the Confederate War Effort***  
 by Robert C. Whisonant (cont.)

Native Americans took salt from the Saltville Valley's abundant briny springs and ponds for thousands of years before white settlers began commercial endeavors in the late 1700s. In subsequent decades, entrepreneurs dug numerous wells to bring more brines to the surface where they were heated in iron kettles atop brick furnaces to precipitate the salt. By 1860, Saltville had grown to be one of the three largest salt-making centers in the United States. (The Kanawha works in northwestern Virginia and the massive installations at the Onondaga springs near Syracuse, New York, were the other two.)

In late summer of 1861, Stuart, Buchanan, and Company, the prime Saltville enterprise, negotiated a contract with the national government to provide salt "to and for the uses of the Confederate State armies." Within the next year, Georgia, North Carolina, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, South Carolina, Florida, and Virginia all worked out separate agreements with local businesses to procure the mineral or erected their own operations. At the peak of wartime production, the physical plant at Saltville included as many as 300 buildings containing 38 furnaces and 2,600 kettles. Salt output reached a maximum of four million bushels (200 million pounds) in 1864.

*Next month's issue will share Part IV ~ Iron.*

Union sorties into the region to demolish the salt works began early, yet none reached Saltville before the fall of 1864. That changed on October 2, when a Federal unit from Kentucky that included a regiment of black soldiers, the 5th United States Colored Cavalry (5th USCC), stormed the defenses at Saltville only to be turned back. The Northerners withdrew in haste, leaving many of their wounded on the battlefield. The next day, Confederates sought out and shot the helpless still-living men of the 5th USCC left behind in what became known as the Saltville Massacre; a few whites were executed as well. The number of blacks murdered is in dispute, but something between 50 and 150 is commonly cited. Another Union command



(Continued on page 9)

*Arming the Confederacy: Virginia's Mineral Contributions to the Confederate War Effort*  
by Robert C. Whisonant (cont.)

returned on December 20, broke through the defenders, and devastated much, though not all, of the salt works. A few weeks later, Saltville was up and running again, this time making salt until peace returned.

Although salt shortages happened from time to time during the struggle, thanks to Saltville more than any other source, the scarcity was never severe enough to cause serious problems for the military. Confederate Commissary General Lucius Bellinger Northrop noted in January 1865 that "...the supply of salt has always been sufficient and the Virginia works were able to meet demand for the army." At the war's conclusion, Saltville had provided approximately two-thirds of the Confederate salt.

*NC Soldiers in the Shenandoah Valley*

**"Tar Heels in the Valley"**

[North Carolina Soldiers in the Shenandoah Valley](#)

*A Civil War Conference*

Saturday, October 23, 2021

North Carolina Museum of History

Raleigh, North Carolina

Far from home, North Carolinians played a pivotal role in many of the actions in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley during the Civil War, from Stonewall Jackson's early campaigns to the epic fights of the 1864 Shenandoah Campaign. On **Saturday, October 23, 2021**, the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation will present a Civil War conference, "Tar Heels in the Valley": North Carolina Soldiers in the Shenandoah Valley, that will look back on the experiences of those North Carolina soldiers.

Held at the North Carolina Museum of History in Raleigh, North Carolina, the conference will focus on famous personalities such as Gen. Stephen D. Ramseur, the experiences and hardships of everyday foot soldiers, and battles such as Harper's Ferry, Second Winchester, and Cedar Creek. Speakers will include Keith Bohannon, Michael Hardy, Scott Mingus, and Brian Steel Wills.

**Cost:** \$30; Pre-registration is required.

For more information call, 540-740-4545. To register, call 540-740-4545 or click on the title link above.



## Trivia Answers

### 1. Pap or Uncle George

"Under the shadow of a spreading oak, near Snodgrass house, is a grizzled soldier, calm, silent, immovable, who resolves to hold the field until night comes ... hemmed in by appalling ruin yet supreme above disaster ... The Rock of Chickamauga."  
 J. S. Ostrander  
*Two September Days*

Fondly given by his men. His men trusted him not to needlessly risk their lives in no-hope attacks (unlike many other union generals who were pressured into doing some tragic things). His men knew he would have the odds in their favor with superior planning, tactics, and resources in place, and having done so, he would expect each of them to do their utmost to defeat the enemy and help end the war. This resulted in some spectacular actions such as the spontaneous charge up Missionary Ridge. Only a Thomas inspired army could pull off such a feat of arms. Thomas resisted Grant's urging for an early attack until he knew that Hooker's men were close to flanking Bragg's position from Lookout Mountain. With one eye on Hooker and seeing the daring frontal attack pressed home with vigor, the Confederate line dissolved. A similar attack was not successfully accomplished by any other army - North or South. At Nashville he was quite willing to be fired rather than send his men out to attack during an ice storm which would have needlessly raised the number of casualties and might lead to an inconclusive battle. He hated inconclusive battles because he knew that it only meant that another battle would need to be fought with additional loss of life.

### The Rock of Chickamauga

The first usage of this term may have come from General James A. Garfield (future president). Garfield, after he had joined Thomas on Horseshoe Ridge, dispatched a message informing Rosecrans in Chattanooga that Thomas was fighting off the Confederates and was "standing like a rock". Reprinted in newspapers all over the country, the message made a national hero of Thomas, who would be known for the rest of his life as the "Rock of Chickamauga."

Also, Secretary of War Stanton later wrote: "You stood like a rock and that stand gives you fame which will grow brighter as the ages go by."

"There is nothing finer in history than Thomas at Chickamauga."  
 Henry M. Cist,  
*The Army of the Cumberland*

### 2. Johnny Shiloh or The Drummer Boy of Chickamauga

Johnny was a tag-along drummer boy and after proving his worth, he was enrolled as a volunteer soldier in the 22nd Michigan. He served as a courier and was wounded twice. He served ably at the Battle of Chickamauga where the 22nd Michigan fought well in the rear guard action. He was captured with his regiment but was able to escape. He later claimed he killed a Confederate officer during that action which was probably not true.

In 1871 President Grant approved his application for a commission. By 1903 he was a colonel and assistant quartermaster general. He retired as a major general in 1916 and died in 1937.

### 3. Mary Edwards Walker

We shared an article about her in the March 2019 issue of The Runner. You can find the past issues on the [Cape Fear Civil War Round table website](#).



*After the end of the Civil War whatever happened to...?*

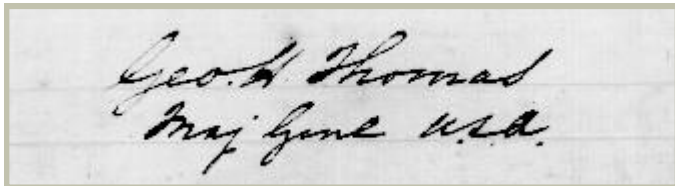
## Union Major General George H. Thomas

President Andrew Johnson asks the Senate to confirm Thomas to the rank of brevet Lt. General. President Johnson wants to replace U.S. Grant as Commander-in-Chief of the Army because Grant is openly running for president.

Johnson was the War Governor of Tennessee and knew Thomas well and held him in high regard. He was prepared to promote Thomas over Generals Grant, Sherman, Meade and Sheridan. Thomas, ever the honorable gentleman and soldier, quickly asks the President to recall the nomination as he knows it is inspired primarily by politics.

With the end of the Civil War, Thomas continued in military service, commanding the Department of the Cumberland through 1869 and leading the fight against the campaign of terror and intimidation of the newly formed Ku Klux Klan. In 1869, Thomas was transferred to San Francisco to command the Division of the Pacific.

General Thomas dies of a stroke in San Francisco on March 28, 1870, on duty at his headquarters of the Military Division of the Pacific. A very private person, he had no intention of leaving memoirs, but was content that in the fullness of time, history would do him justice. He was buried in his wife's hometown of Troy, New York with full military honors.



From Benjamin F. Scribner, *How Soldiers Were Made*:  
 The General frequently rallied me upon my large and increasing family, and said, "I think you might name one of your children for me." So when my next son was born I wrote to him announcing that "George Henry Thomas Scribner has this day reported in person for duty." The General was at Washington, and by return of mail I received a document bearing all the official marks of special orders, with the following extract: "George Henry Thomas Scribner having reported in person for duty, is hereby assigned to the care of his mother until further orders."

<https://generalthomas.com>

This web site is dedicated to the life of Major General George H. Thomas. He commanded the Army of the Cumberland after the Battle of Chickamauga, and he was one of the few great generals of the American Civil War. However today, for a number of reasons, General Thomas is relatively unknown to the general public. This website will address these issues.

Thomas was a Southerner and a career soldier who, at great personal loss, stood by the Union. George Henry Thomas was a man of honor and courage in a time of great turmoil. His story deserves to be known by future generations of Americans.

## Civil War Phrases

**Hell-fire stew** - A blend of everything available and edible (and sometimes inedible!)

**Hellhound** - A Confederate term for a Northern gun-boat.

**Here's your mule** - A nonsense-slang expression used by Union troops to mean "We've been here."

**Hunky** - Fine, in good condition. This term became a popular slang expression just as the war was beginning. The word evolved from English dialectal *hunk* ("home base" in children's games), itself from Dutch *honk* ("home base"). Late in the war, or just after the war, the term expanded to *hunky-dory*.

*From Civil War Wordbook by Darryl Lyman*

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## CAPE FEAR CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

PO Box 15750

Wilmington, NC 28408

You can find us on the Web! [Cfcwrt.org](http://Cfcwrt.org)

Visit us on Facebook: [CFCWRT](#)

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](#)

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MAY 2021

# THE RUNNER



VOLUME 3 ISSUE 5



## May Presentation on Chase and Lincoln

Join us on the evening of **May 13th** for a Zoom presentation by Walter Stahr on “Chase and Lincoln.”

Walter Stahr was born in Cambridge, Massachusetts, in 1957, grew up in Arcadia, California, and went away for high school, to the Phillips Exeter Academy in New Hampshire. Then it was back west, to Stanford University, then back east, to Harvard, where he studied law and public policy.

After graduating from Harvard Law School in 1982, Stahr worked in international law for several years, including a posting to Hong Kong. He then spent time working in the Securities and Exchange Commission before returning to international law on behalf of investment companies.

In 2008, he and his family, including two children, moved to Exeter, New Hampshire, where he began working on his Civil War biographies while his wife taught mathematics. In 2014 they once again moved to southern California, and we are lucky to be able to bring Walter Stahr to our audience via Zoom.

Walter Stahr is a very accomplished and entertaining speaker, as you can see from the videos posted on his [website](#).

And now, soon to be published, comes, *Salmon P. Chase: Antislavery Agitator, Treasury Secretary, Chief Justice*. Salmon Chase was among the most influential Americans of his century. Chase was governor of Ohio, an outspoken U.S. senator, and nationally renowned defense attorney for fugitives escaping slavery. He played a key role in the establishment of the Republican Party. Without Chase’s groundwork, Lincoln could never have been elected president in 1860, states Stahr’s publisher, Simon and Schuster.

Tapped by Lincoln as his Secretary of the Treasury, Chase not only brilliantly funded the Civil War effort—marketing bonds directly to the public when northern banks balked—but also modernized the country’s financial institutions, pushing legislation through Congress to create the first national bank and a single national currency. Once considered a rival for the presidency in 1864, he would soon find himself appointed by Lincoln to lead the Su-



Walter Stahr

### May Meeting

Thursday, May 13, 2021 7:00 P. M.

Zoom Meeting

Email from Bruce Patterson will be sent prior to Event

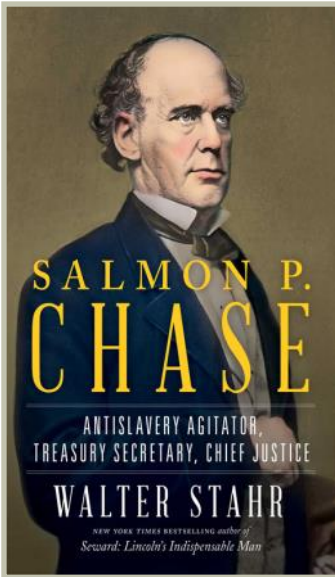
Speaker: **Walter Stahr**  
Topic: **Chase and Lincoln**



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(Continued on page 2)



## *May Presentation on Chase and Lincoln, cont.*

preme Court, where he continued his advocacy for black rights during the first decade of Reconstruction.

“Drawing on previously overlooked sources, Walter Stahr sheds new light on this complex and fascinating political figure, as well as on the pivotal events of the Civil War and its aftermath. *Salmon P. Chase* tells the story of a man at the center of the fight for racial justice in America,” the publisher writes.

## *Trivia Questions*

1. Which battlefield other than Gettysburg contains an Irish Brigade monument?
2. What was the official name of Mosby's Rangers?
3. Which Civil War General had the longest name?
4. One of Stonewall Jackson's 1846 West Point classmates was only 15 when he entered West Point. Who was he?
5. Who was the highest ranking officer of either side to be killed and in what battle?

Answers of Page 6

## *Upcoming CFCWRT Events*

### **June 10th Member Forum - Forgotten Soldiers**

Member Jim Horton will tell us about his search for a Union ancestor and his story: Elijah Hawke of the 2nd Pennsylvania Heavy Artillery

Tim Winstead will tell us the story of his ancestor Wesley Bone of the 30th North Carolina Volunteers, a most remarkable man with a good story.

**July 8th TBA**

### **August 12th Colby Stevens, Bentonville Battlefield Site Manager**

Colby Stevens will focus on an overview of the battle and an update on preservation and interpretation at the battlefield.

## *Online Presentations*

### **CWRT Congress - [All sessions start at 7pm Eastern](#)**

**May 5th - David Cannon** Forgotten Iowans of the Civil War

**May 12th - Lee Ann Rose** Mary Todd Lincoln “take that woman out, and do not let her in again!”

**May 19th - Douglas Dammann** Elmer Ellsworth and the US Zouave Cadets

**May 26th - Gordon Damman** Iron Brigade evacuated from the Antietam Battlefield



## *Historical Tidbit ~ Joseph Wheeler - Nathan Forrest*

In late January 1863, Major General Joseph Wheeler set off with about 2,000 troopers to again interrupt Federal navigation on the Cumberland River. Along the way, Forrest with 800 men joined him. Unfortunately, the Federals were aware of Wheeler's presence and purposely avoided sending vessels upstream on the Cumberland. For that reason, Wheeler decided to strike the Federal base at Dover, Tennessee. The Yankees repulsed the February 23rd attack.

After the Yankees refused a Confederate demand for surrender, Wheeler ordered his guns to hammer the post. "Little Joe," as he was also called, planned to launch a coordinated attack with Brig. Gen. John Wharton and Nathan Forrest's dismounted troopers. Forrest, who assumed the Yankees were abandoning the place, ordered his men to mount up and charge. The Federals met the screaming Rebels with withering rifle and artillery fire that shattered the attack and killed or wounded almost a quarter of Forrest's men. Forrest dismounted his men and joined Wharton's attack, which achieved some success at first but could not breach the Federal earthworks. With casualties mounting, Wheeler called off the attack. Dover remained in Federal hands.

Forrest was in a foul mood. He had objected to the attack before it began. "I mean no disrespect to you," he told Wheeler. "You know my feelings of personal friendship for you; you can have my sword if you demand it; but there is one thing I do want you to put in that report to General Bragg, tell him that I will be in my coffin before I will fight again under your command."

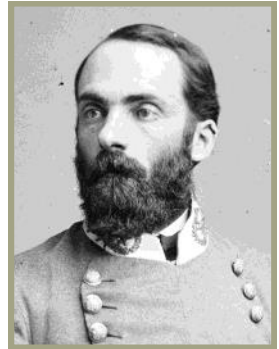
Wheeler declined to take his sword. "As the commanding officer I take all the blame and responsibility for this failure," he told Forrest.

## *Lifeline of the Confederacy - Stephen Wise*

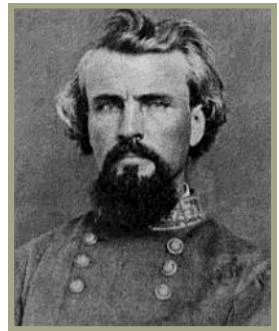
On April 8, a large audience of more than 40 enjoyed Stephen Wise's enlightening and entertaining presentation of the "Lifeline of the Confederacy." Included in this large audience was John Messner, curator of transport and technology from the Riverside Museum in Glasgow, Scotland, and a Civil War historian from Hobart, Tasmania, Australia.

Much of Professor Wise's talk focused on the specialized ships that were built for the blockade running trade. Ultimately, sleek, shallow-draft, fast ships were built in Scotland and England to bring luxury items, ordnance and war materiel from intermediate stops such as Nassau, the Bahamas, Bermuda and Havana, Cuba, to southern ports. The Union blockade never totally succeeded in preventing the ships from making their way into harbors such as New Orleans, Mobile, Savannah, Charleston and Wilmington. However, joint Army-Navy operations did succeed in seizing the forts that guarded the approaches to the harbors and, in cases such as New Orleans, the largest port in the Confederacy, they took the port city itself. By late 1863, Wilmington was the only port able to support a substantial maritime trade through the blockade.

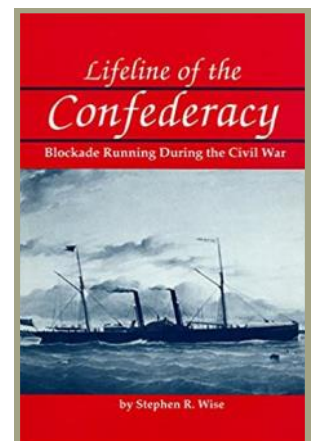
Ultimately, blockade running was indeed the "lifeline" of the Confederacy, according to Professor Wise, and the Confederate "defeat was not because of a lack of material."



**Joseph Wheeler**



**Nathan Forrest**



***Lifeline of the Confederacy***  
by Stephen Wise

## *Arming the Confederacy: Virginia's Mineral Contributions to the Confederate War Effort* by Robert C. Whisonant



The American Civil War is often seen as the first truly industrialized total war, one that consumed enormous amounts of human and material resources. But the two opponents were not evenly matched; the North had a preponderant share of raw materials, manufacturing ability, and population. On the eve of battle in April 1861, most of the mines, forges, and foundries in America were located in Union states. Some 90 per cent of the manufacturing capacity resided there—their factories made 97 per cent of the firearms, 94 per cent of the cloth, 93 per cent of the pig iron, and over 90 per cent of the boots and shoes. The disparity in the capability to make items necessary to the conduct of hostilities rested primarily on the North's possession of more mineral riches, most particularly iron and coal, the foundation of heavy industry.

Within the Confederacy, Virginia had long been the foremost mineral producer. The greatest concentration of this natural wealth lay in the mountainous southwestern quarter of the state where large deposits of saltpeter, lead, salt, iron, and coal had been exploited for over a century. In addition, mines in the region yielded some copper, zinc, gold, and silver from time to time. To be sure, other parts of the South had mineral resources, notably Alabama with important iron and coal operations; none, however, rivaled the richness and variety of the troves in Southwest Virginia. This did not go unnoticed by Federal strategists intent on bringing down the Confederate war machine.

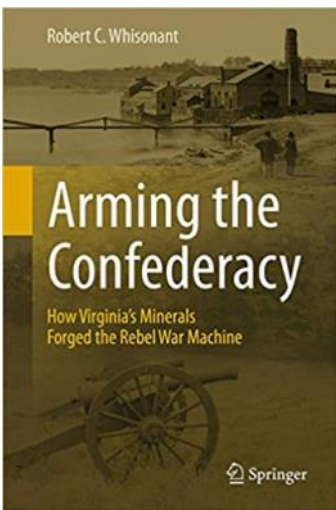
### Part II ~ Lead

Lead was another strategic mineral product critical to Civil War armed forces. Without it, weapons would lack ammunition – no bullets for the rifles nor pellets for the shrapnel shells. In 1847, French Army Captain Claude-Etienne Minié had introduced an innovative lead bullet that transformed firearm technology. It was the first projectile to effectively grip the rifling or spiral grooves cut into a musket barrel. This spinning, aerodynamically shaped missile discharged from a rifled musket dramatically improved marksmanship and rate of fire over that of the old smoothbores. First used in substantial numbers by the British against Russian troops in the Crimean War (1853-1855), the Minié bullet led directly to the horrific totals of killed and maimed men on American Civil War battlefields.

Both Union and Confederate infantry fought almost exclusively with rifles shooting Minié bullets. Estimates are that 90 per cent of the casualties came from such weapons. Fighting men commonly referred to the “hailstorm of lead” tearing into them on battlefields; often they advanced leaning forward as if walking into a driving rain. Prodigious stores of lead were required to conduct such engagements, but the Confederacy had only one large-scale lead mining and smelting facility within its borders—the Wythe County operations deep in the mountains of southwestern Virginia. Just a handful of sporadically active workings were present elsewhere, and no significant domestic lead deposits besides Wythe County existed. It would be the Southwest Virginia mines together with importation that supplied the majority of Confederate lead.

The Wythe County mines opened in the mid-1700s and served as the main source of lead balls for the muskets of the patriot armies during the Revolutionary War. The mines continued to operate into the first half of the 19th century, sending lead shot to markets throughout the Southern states. On March 8, 1860, with war clouds gathering, the Wythe County works were reorganized and incorporated as the Union Lead Mine Company, an ironic name

*(Continued on page 5)*



**Minié Bullet**

***Arming the Confederacy: Virginia's Mineral Contributions to the Confederate War Effort***  
by Robert C. Whisonant (cont.)

for the foremost Confederate lead provider.

At the onset of fighting, the Richmond government demanded that the Union mines owners work the facilities to their maximum capacity or give them up for operation by the government. The company directors chose the former and round-the-clock activity commenced. The actual lead bullets were not made at the Wythe County site. Rather, the workmen dug out the ore, processed it in the smelters, cast the molten lead into ingots, and shipped the lead bars by rail to Richmond and Petersburg to be molded into ammunition. Production records are incomplete, but over three million pounds of lead, an estimated one-third of the total consumed by the Confederacy, are known to have come from the Union mines.

Still, even with this prolific output from Virginia, lead became increasingly scarce as the contest ground on. The government asked citizens for contributions of common household items containing lead, such as pipes, roofing materials, window weights, and eating utensils. In 1863, the city of Mobile ripped up unused lead water mains and shipped them off to the munitions plants. On occasion, officers directed soldiers back onto battlefields after the fighting ceased to scavenge for bullets to be recycled into fresh rounds.

The Northern high command eventually came to recognize the extreme importance of the Wythe County lead works and mounted a number of raids to destroy them. A July 1863 attack led by Union Colonel John T. Toland resulted in a pitched battle on the streets of Wytheville, about 10 miles away from the mines. Although the Federals won the engagement, Toland was killed and his soldiers withdrew back into West Virginia. Another expedition occurred in May 1864 in which Union cavalry under Brigadier General Woods William Averell clashed with Confederates led by Brigadier General John Hunt Morgan just north of Wytheville. Morgan drove Averell away and the lead works again escaped unscathed. In December 1864, a Northern force under Major General George Stoneman at last reached the mines and did much damage. The mines were running again by March 1865, but Stoneman's men returned in April and laid waste to the facilities two days before Lee's surrender at Appomattox.

After hostilities ceased, Confederate Ordnance officer Colonel William Broun summed up the contribution of the Wythe County mines: "Our lead was obtained chiefly, and in the last years of the war entirely, from the lead mines at Wytheville Virginia. The mines were worked night and day, and the lead converted into bullets as fast as received."

*Next month's  
issue will share  
Part III ~ Salt.*



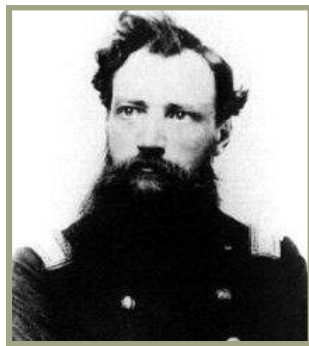
## Trivia Answers



1. Antietam contains one of two Irish Brigade monuments.

The monument to the Irish Brigade at Antietam is at the base of the observation tower at the end of the Sunken Road (or Bloody Lane). (Sunken Road East tour map). It was dedicated on October 25, 1997.

The heart of the monument is a ten foot tall, fifteen ton block of granite brought from County Wicklow, Ireland. On the front of the monument a bronze bas-relief shows the charge of the Irish brigade at Antietam. On the rear of the monument is a bas-relief of Brigadier General Thomas Francis Meagher, who raised the brigade and commanded it until early 1863. The bronze reliefs were created by sculptor Ron Tunison,

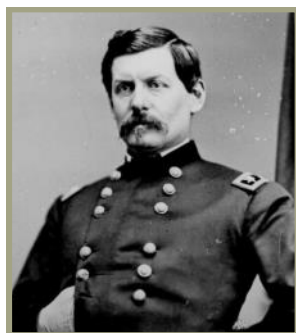


**US Brig Gen Alexander Schimmelfennig**

2. Company A, 43rd Battalion, 1st Virginia Cavalry, 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. U.S. Brigadier General Alexander Schimmelfennig had the longest name.

He (July 20, 1824 – September 5, 1865) was a Prussian soldier and political revolutionary. After the German revolutions of 1848–1849, he immigrated to the United States, where he served as a Union Army general in the American Civil War.

Schimmelfennig had the honor of accepting Charleston's surrender on February 18, 1865. During his time of service in the swamps about Charleston, he contracted a virulent form of tuberculosis which ultimately led to his death in Wernersville, Pennsylvania.



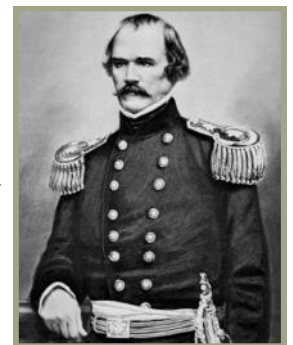
**Gen George McClellan**

4. George McClellan was only 15 when he entered West Point.

A studious child, McClellan made the decision to enter military service at age 15 and was accepted to West Point despite being several months shy of the age requirement of 16. McClellan ranked second in his class upon graduation from West Point in 1846.

5. General A.S. Johnston was the highest ranking officer to be killed in the war (at Shiloh).

He was reappointed to the U.S. Army in 1849 and joined the Confederacy at the start of the Civil War in 1861. Johnston was appointed a full general and served in the war's Western Theater as commander of all Confederate troops between Texas and the Appalachian Mountains. Following a string of Confederate losses in early 1862, Johnston engaged Union forces at the Battle of Shiloh (April 6-7, 1862). The battle ended in a Union victory and Johnston was mortally wounded. He died at the age of 59.



**General Albert Sidney Johnston**



*After the end of the Civil War whatever happened to...?*

## Confederate Major General Joseph Wheeler

In the years after the war, Wheeler married Daniella Jones Sherrod, a widow whom he had met while fighting in northern Alabama. The couple would have seven children. He became a planter and lawyer in Alabama. Elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in a hotly contested race in 1880, Wheeler served most of the term only to have the results of the election overturned. His opponent, Col. William M. Lowe, a fiery leader of the Independent Democrats, took over the seat but died soon after. Wheeler returned to Congress in 1885 to replace Lowe and served there until 1900.

With the outbreak of the [Spanish-American War](#) in 1898, Wheeler volunteered his services to President William McKinley. Accepting, McKinley appointed him a major general of volunteers. Taking command of the cavalry division in Major General William Shafter's V Corps, Wheeler's force included Lieutenant Colonel Theodore Roosevelt's famed "Rough Riders."

Arriving in Cuba, Wheeler scouted ahead of Shafter's main force and engaged the Spanish at Las Guasimas on June 24. Though his troops took the brunt of the fighting, they forced the enemy to continue their retreat towards Santiago. Falling ill, Wheeler missed the opening parts of the [Battle of San Juan Hill](#), but rushed to the scene when the fighting began to take command. Wheeler led his division through the Siege of Santiago and served on the peace commission after the city's fall.

## Later Life

Returning from Cuba, Wheeler was dispatched to the Philippines for service in the Philippine-American War. Arriving in August 1899, he led a brigade in Brigadier General Arthur MacArthur's division until early 1900. During this time, Wheeler was mustered out of the volunteer service and commissioned as a brigadier general in the regular army.



**Brig Gen Joseph Wheeler**

Returning home, he was given an appointment as a brigadier general in the US Army and placed in command of the Department of the Lakes. He remained in this post until his retirement on September 10, 1900. Retiring to New York, Wheeler died on January 25, 1906 after a protracted illness. In recognition of his service in the Spanish-American and Philippine-American Wars, he was buried at Arlington National Cemetery.



**Maj Gen Joseph Wheeler**



**Rep Joseph Wheeler**



**Joseph Wheeler and family - 1896**



## Civil War Phrases

**Greyhound** ~ A Union soldiers' term for a member of any of the fast-moving Confederate infantry regiments from Texas.

**Gunboat** ~ A slang term for a broad, clumsy army shoe. It reminded soldiers of the awkward-looking gunboats of the time.

**Handcuffed Volunteer** ~ A derisive term for any one of the low-quality Union replacements late in the war, largely substitutes and bounty jumpers, often brought up under guard.

**Headquarters in the Saddle** ~ A catchphrase created when Major General John Pope took command of the Union's Army of Virginia in 1862 and he said his headquarters would be "in the saddle."

*From Civil War Wordbook by Darryl Lyman*

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## CAPE FEAR CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

PO Box 15750

Wilmington, NC 28408

You can find us on the Web! [Cfcwrt.org](http://Cfcwrt.org)

Visit us on Facebook: [CFCWRT](#)

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](#)

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APRIL 2021

# THE RUNNER



VOLUME 3 ISSUE 4



## April Presentation on Blockade Running

Our April presentation will be “*Lifeline of the Confederacy*” by Stephen R. Wise, the recognized expert on blockade running in the Civil War.

Stephen R. Wise is the director of the Parris Island Museum and the Cultural Resources Manager for the Marine Corps Recruit Depot at Parris Island, S.C. A native of Toledo, Ohio, he received his bachelor’s degree from Wittenberg University, his master’s from Bowling Green State University and his doctorate in history from the University of South Carolina at Columbia. In addition to his duties aboard MCRD Parris Island, he is also an adjunct professor at the University of South Carolina at Beaufort.



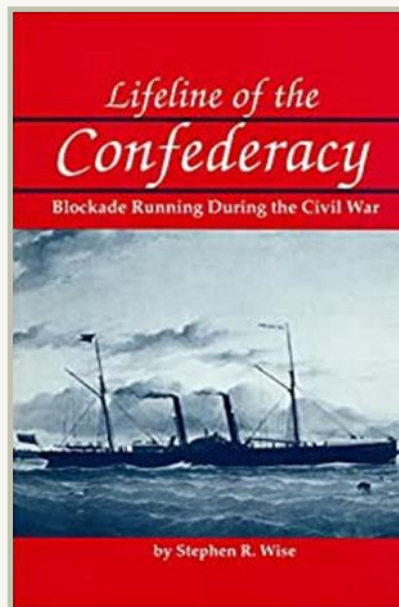
Stephen R. Wise

He is the author of *Gate of Hell: Campaign for Charleston Harbor 1863*, and *Lifeline of the Confederacy: Blockade Running During the Civil War*. Both scholarly books were published by the University of South Carolina press.

The “Journal of Southern History” wrote of *Lifeline* that “No previous work has offered a comprehensive and analytical look at this topic until now.” The History Book Club said “no overall and encompassing work on this exciting episode in Civil War history has come forth until now.”

Wilmington became the last and most vital link in the supply line that brought ordnance, medical supplies, manufactured war materiel and other necessary items to the Confederate war effort, most notably the Army of Northern Virginia. If you ever had any questions about blockade running, this is your opportunity to learn from the expert.

Tune in on Zoom at 7 p.m. on April 10 to hear Steve Wise on “The Lifeline of the Confederacy.”



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

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**April Meeting**  
 Thursday, April 8, 2021 7:00 P. M.

Zoom Meeting

Email from Bruce Patterson will be sent prior to Event

Speaker: **Dr. Stephen Wise**  
 Topic: **Blockade Running**

### *Biographer of Lincoln's Cabinet Members to Preview Newest Book on Salmon Chase*



**Walter Stahr**

Volumes have been written about Abraham Lincoln's conduct of the Civil War and all of them, to some degree, attempt to analyze the potentially explosive mixture of personalities, personal histories, political leanings, ambition and abilities that comprised his cabinet. Cabinet members were the tools Lincoln worked with on the political front, and they were powerful but dangerous, prone to detonate if not handled properly.

Most of those volumes, however, fail to analyze the men of that "Team of Rivals" in full and satisfactory detail. Walter Stahr is in the process of remedying that situation. His 2012 biography of William Henry Seward, Lincoln's Secretary of State, tells an illuminating American story of "Lincoln's Indispensable Man" (the subtitle of Stahr's biography).

Doris Kearns Goodwin, author of the Pulitzer Prize winning *Team of Rivals*, says, "This magnificent biography finally provides what William Henry Seward so justly deserves—a full, terrific and complex portrait of his endlessly fascinating life."

Five years later, suggesting the care and scholarly rigor with which Stahr writes, he published *Stanton: Lincoln's War Secretary*.

Amanda Foreman, author of *A World on Fire: Britain's Crucial Role in the American Civil War*, wrote: "Walter Stahr's *Stanton* offers a masterly account of one of the great characters of the Civil War. The Secretary of War from 1862-1865 was irascible, autocratic, and vengeful, but also steadfast, punctilious, and practical. This fascinating biography reveals how such a complex and unlikely figure came to play such a vital role at the country's hour of peril."

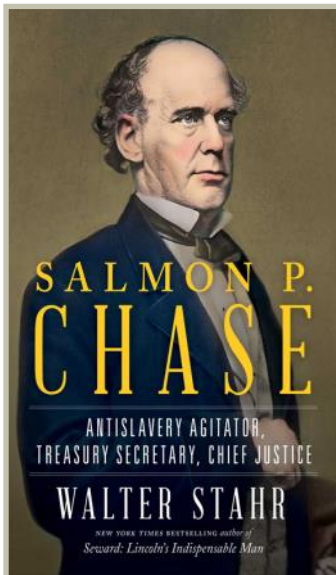
And now, soon to be published, comes, *Salmon P. Chase: Antislavery Agitator, Treasury Secretary, Chief Justice*. Salmon Chase was among the most influential Americans of his century. Chase was governor of Ohio, an outspoken U.S. senator, and nationally renowned defense attorney for fugitives escaping slavery. He played a key role in the establishment of the Republican Party. Without Chase's groundwork, Lincoln could never have been elected president in 1860, states Stahr's publisher, Simon and Schuster.

Tapped by Lincoln as his Secretary of the Treasury, Chase not only brilliantly funded the Civil War effort—marketing bonds directly to the public when northern banks balked—but also modernized the country's financial institutions, pushing legislation through Congress to create the first national bank and a single national currency. Once considered a rival for the presidency in 1864, he would soon find himself appointed by Lincoln to lead the Supreme Court, where he continued his advocacy for black rights during the first decade of Reconstruction.

"Drawing on previously overlooked sources, Walter Stahr sheds new light on this complex and fascinating political figure, as well as on the pivotal events of the Civil War and its aftermath. *Salmon P. Chase* tells the story of a man at the center of the fight for racial justice in America," the publisher writes.

Walter Stahr was born in Cambridge, Massachusetts, in 1957, grew up in Arcadia, California, and went away for high school, to the Phillips Exeter Academy in New Hampshire. Then it was back west, to Stanford University, then back east, to Harvard, where he studied law and public policy.

After graduating from Harvard Law School in 1982, Stahr worked in international law for several years, including a posting to Hong Kong. He then spent time working in the Securi-



## *Biographer of Lincoln's Cabinet Members to Preview Newest Book on Salmon Chase, cont.*

ties and Exchange Commission before returning to international law on behalf of investment companies.

In 2008, he and his family, including two children, moved to Exeter, New Hampshire, where he began working on his Civil War biographies while his wife taught mathematics. In 2014 they once again moved to southern California, and we are lucky to be able to bring Walter Stahr to our audience via Zoom.

Walter Stahr is a very accomplished and entertaining speaker, as you can see from the videos posted on his [website](#).

I've read both his biographies on Seward and Stanton and I look forward to reading Chase.

Join us on the evening of **May 13** for a Zoom presentation by Walter Stahr on "Chase and Lincoln."

## *The Cavalry in the Gettysburg Campaign ~ An Overlooked Aspect of the Battle*

A dedicated audience of Cape Fear Civil War Round Table members and friends tuned in to Zoom on Thursday evening, March, 11, to hear Brad Gottfried discuss the "Cavalry in the Gettysburg Campaign." Thanks to Ed Gibson, the presentation went off flawlessly. The bad news is that we are still prevented from meeting in person as we normally do, but the good news is that we're mastering the virtual technology.

Brad moved quickly and surely through the long, difficult and complex campaign that saw the Confederate cavalry of J.E.B. Stuart face off against the Union cavalry of Alfred Pleasanton. From Brandy Station on June 9, 1863, the largest cavalry battle ever fought in North America, to Falling Waters on July 14, 1863—the denouement of the Gettysburg campaign—we followed the campaign in a series of dozens of maps that added immeasurably to understanding the complexity of the campaign.

The presentation was based on Dr. Gottfried's latest in his series of atlases, *The Cavalry in the Gettysburg Campaign*. For information about the book, check out the [publisher's page](#).

Or, go to [Brad Gottfried's website](#) and order it directly from the author. Let him know that you learned about the book through our round table, and you'll get an autographed copy.

Brad's presentation ended with an in-depth discussion of the battles around Falling Waters as Lee's Army of Northern Virginia, encumbered with huge wagon trains, thousands of wounded, and depleted regiments, barely eluded destruction as the Union cavalry moved to pin them against the high waters of the Potomac. A lively Q&A followed.



**Brad Gottfried**



## *Joannes Wyllie of the Steamer Ad-Vance ~ by John F. Messner*

A Scottish blockade runner of the American Civil War

- ◆ The untold story of Joannes Wyllie, son of a gardener of Fife, one of the most successful blockade runners of the Civil War
- ◆ Features his life of adventure and action; he was once declared dead, survived shipwrecks and shark attack, and successfully commanded ships across the globe
- ◆ The most comprehensive history of the Ad-Vance is provided, from departing Glasgow until capture off the Carolina coast
- ◆ Outlines the impact of the Civil War on Scottish mariners, ship-building and ship owners

*In association with Glasgow Museums*

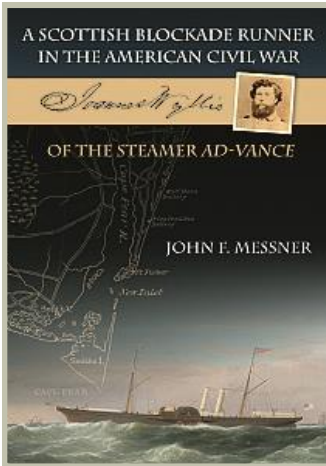
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Order in the US from NBN Books, [www.nbnbooks.com](http://www.nbnbooks.com) ~ available in the US in August 2021

Born in 1828 near Kelso in the Scottish Borders, Wyllie went to sea as an apprentice seaman in 1852 and quickly rose through the ranks. By 1862 he had gained his masters certificate in Liverpool, and there he took command of his first vessel, the Bonita. He sailed for Nassau, then a booming port involved in running contraband through the Union blockade of the Confederate States, at that time fighting in the American Civil War. Sailors from Britain rushed to man these vessels as great fortunes could be made if a successful run was made into a Confederate port.

Two agents of the State of North Carolina, Thomas Crossan and John White, were travelling to Britain on the orders of Governor Zebulon Vance to purchase ships to run the blockade. This set Wyllie's career as a blockade runner on course. White and Crossan arranged the purchase of the Clyde-built paddle steamer Lord Clyde and, just five months after docking in Liverpool as commander of the Bonita, Wyllie took command of the Lord Clyde, renamed the Ad-Vance.

Two more commands of blockade runners followed; he was captured again and then evaded the American authorities through an ingenious, and at sometimes unbelievable, escape to Scotland. The role that Wyllie played during the Civil War is explored in depth and reveals that he was a constant face, and force, in the crew of the steamer with his actions and abilities being greatly appreciated by both crew and owners alike.

The most comprehensive history of the Ad-Vance is provided, from the day she left Glasgow until her capture off the Carolina coast. Many fascinating contemporary passenger diaries, personal recollections from crew, letters and telegrams between Wyllie and Governor Vance, official records of the war and newspaper reports are included.



## *Park Day at Fort Fisher State Historic Site*

**When:** Saturday, April 10th at 8:30am

**Where:** 1610 Fort Fisher Blvd South  
Kure Beach, NC

For more info contact: [John Moseley](#)

### **Event Details**

#### Meeting Place

Visitor Center parking lot

#### Planned Activities

This year's activities focus on painting the numerous artillery guns and carriages around the site. Groups will be needed to assist in cleaning brush, leaves, and debris from various locations on-site; picking up trash, weeding, and trimming bushes in front of the Visitor's Center; and placing cedar chips around the Museum's Walk of Honor.

#### Planned Low-Impact Activities

Cleaning exhibit cases

#### History or Educational Activities

Tour of the site and a musket demonstration

#### Should I bring any tools or supplies?

Work gloves, sunscreen, insect repellent, and a rake (If you have one).

No rain date.



## *Online Presentations*

### **CWRT Congress - [All sessions start at 7pm Eastern](#)**

April 7th - Gene Salecker: Disaster on the Mississippi

April 14th - Robert Girardi: The Murder of "Bull" Nelson

April 21st - Lisa Samia - Nameless & Faceless Women of the Civil War

April 28th - Robert E May - Southern Jews, Slavery's Expansion South & the Coming Civil War



***Arming the Confederacy: Virginia's Mineral Contributions to the Confederate War Effort***  
by Robert C. Whisonant



The American Civil War is often seen as the first truly industrialized total war, one that consumed enormous amounts of human and material resources. But the two opponents were not evenly matched; the North had a preponderant share of raw materials, manufacturing ability, and population. On the eve of battle in April 1861, most of the mines, forges, and foundries in America were located in Union states. Some 90 per cent of the manufacturing capacity resided there—their factories made 97 per cent of the firearms, 94 per cent of the cloth, 93 per cent of the pig iron, and over 90 per cent of the boots and shoes. The disparity in the capability to make items necessary to the conduct of hostilities rested primarily on the North's possession of more mineral riches, most particularly iron and coal, the foundation of heavy industry.

Within the Confederacy, Virginia had long been the foremost mineral producer. The greatest concentration of this natural wealth lay in the mountainous southwestern quarter of the state where large deposits of saltpeter, lead, salt, iron, and coal had been exploited for over a century. In addition, mines in the region yielded some copper, zinc, gold, and silver from time to time. To be sure, other parts of the South had mineral resources, notably Alabama with important iron and coal operations; none, however, rivaled the richness and variety of the troves in Southwest Virginia. This did not go unnoticed by Federal strategists intent on bringing down the Confederate war machine.

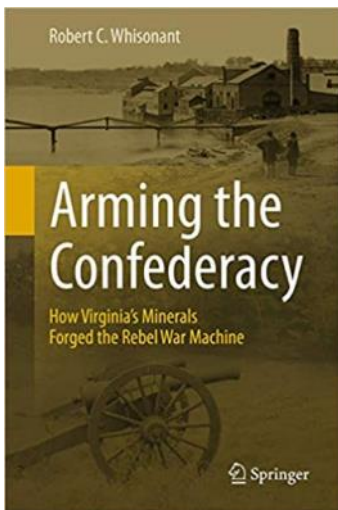
### Part I ~ Saltpeter

One of the natural resources most crucial to waging war in the Civil War era was an organic substance called saltpeter, known more commonly to the Confederates as niter. Potassium nitrate refined from niter provided the explosive power in the black gunpowder then used by the world's armies and navies. Each powder grain had 75 per cent nitrate, 15 per cent charcoal, and 10 per cent sulfur. Niter had been mined in the United States since the earliest days of settlement, yet by 1860 most was imported, owing to decreased need in the long antebellum years of peace. The Confederacy continued to import saltpeter and gunpowder throughout the struggle, but the ever-tightening Union blockade of Southern ports soon proved the need for a stable home-grown niter and powder industry.

Once the opening shots thundered at Fort Sumter, the South acted quickly to ensure a steady supply of niter for the new powder mills being built. In April 1862, the Richmond government passed legislation to establish a Niter Corps within the Ordnance Department. A year later the government made the Niter Corps an independent agency and renamed it the Niter and Mining Bureau. This action enlarged the Bureau's staff while handing it the responsibility for acquiring not just nitrates but also iron, copper, lead, coal, and zinc. An extremely able manager, Colonel Isaac Munroe St. John, headed the Bureau for the war's duration. Despite increasing labor shortages and Federal capture of geographic areas harboring the saltpeter resources, St. John managed to expand niter production almost to the end of fighting.

The South had three domestic niter sources: cave sediments, the most plentiful; "dirt" under old buildings such as outhouses, barns, and stables; and nitriaries, or artificial niter beds. Caverns in the limestone belts of the Appalachian Mountains held immense volumes of high quality niter. This saltpeter is not primarily due to bat guano, as is commonly believed, but in fact occurs when underground waters dissolve nitrate in deciduous forest soils, then carry it into caverns where the nitrate precipitates in the cave sediments. The conditions of soil, wa-

*(Continued on page 7)*





***Arming the Confederacy: Virginia's Mineral Contributions to the Confederate War Effort***  
by Robert C. Whisonant

ter, and temperature necessary to generate the resource are best developed in the southeastern United States. Consequently, the mountain states of the old Confederacy had most of the niter caves in North America, from which excellent gunpowder, as good as any that could be imported, was derived.

To make that powder, impurities had to be removed from the raw niter. The first steps usually took place at the extraction site where workmen placed the saltpeter in tubs or barrels, then mixed it with water and potassium salts obtained by soaking wood ashes. Next came boiling in cast iron kettles until the crystals of potassium nitrate appeared. The ultimate destination of this crudely processed niter was the gunpowder mill where further refining by washing and boiling took place. Mill workers added sulfur and charcoal to the enriched nitrate, making the resultant compound highly explosive. Final processing dampened the mixture and pressed it into solid cakes. Vibrating wire screens separated the grains into different sizes – smaller ones for muskets and pistols and bigger ones for cannon.

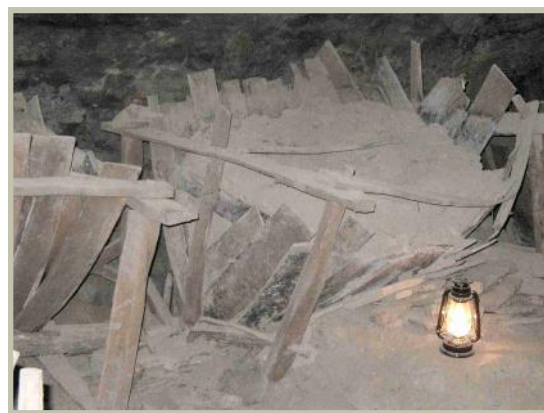
Early in the war, nitrieries composed of a variety of human, animal, and vegetable waste were set up, usually near major cities. Workmen tended these “nitrate gardens” assiduously, wetting them down with urine from time to time, then turning the decomposing compost over to generate thin layers of saltpeter. The war years saw at least 13 nitrieries established, including some near Richmond; at Selma and Mobile, Alabama; at Charleston, South Carolina; and at Savannah and Macon, Georgia. Although a reliable source, the artificial beds needed months of cultivation before generating usable quantities of niter. Ultimately, most had not had enough time to yield significant nitrate crops before the close of combat in 1865.

Caves contributed the bulk of the Confederate domestic niter supply. Virginia, with an abundance of saltpeter caverns in the western highlands, led all other states by providing nearly 30 per cent of the total. The dispersed nature of the cave installations and their location in remote sections kept them relatively safe from Union raiders. With a dependable internal supply of niter and ongoing (albeit limited) importation, gunpowder shortages were generally not a problem for Rebel armies. In fact, when peace came, the Augusta Powder Works alone had 70,000 pounds on hand. The United States Artillery School used the leftover Augusta powder for gunnery practice at Fortress Monroe owing to its superb quality.

*Next month's  
issue will share  
Part II ~ Lead.*



**Organ Cave, Virginia during the Civil War**



**Saltpeter Vats ~ By USG -  
National Park Service**

*Explore Military Leadership of the Civil War*

Join The National Museum of the US Army, Civil War Week examines Civil War military leadership through a series of virtual events including presentations by top historians, a curator discussion of select Museum artifacts, and educational activities.



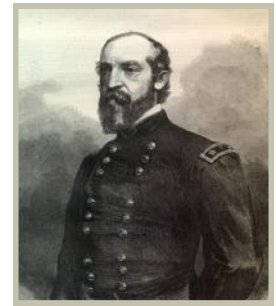
Choose what interests you and register to attend one, or all, of the scheduled events. All events are **virtual, FREE and open to the public.** [Click on title for registration link.](#)

**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

**Monday, April 5, 2021**

**History Talk – “Meade: The Price of Victory” 7:00 – 8:00 pm (EDT)**

John Selby of Roanoke College examines Union general George Meade. Meade’s performance during his two-year tenure as commander of the Army of the Potomac was overshadowed by his successor: Ulysses S. Grant. Selby characterizes Meade as a more active, thoughtful, and enterprising commander than has been assumed, bringing him into focus as one of the war’s more effective Union generals. A member of the faculty of Roanoke College since 1986, Selby is well-known in the Roanoke Valley for the history tours he leads for students and adults.

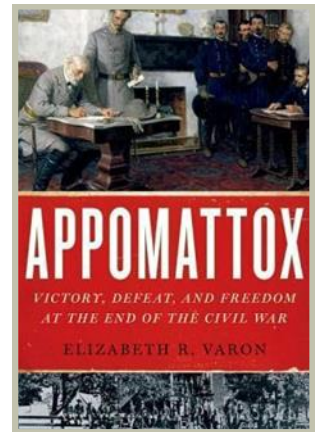


General George Mead

**Tuesday, April 6, 2021**

**History Talk – “U.S. Grant at Appomattox: Ending the Union’s War of Deliverance” 7:00 – 8:00 pm (EDT)**

Elizabeth Varon of the University of Virginia discusses the Civil War’s last eastern campaign. Varon argues that the theme of deliverance was essential in mobilizing a Unionist coalition of Northerners and anti-Confederate Southerners. Interweaving military and social history, she offers a new perspective on a major battle. Varon is the author of several books including *“Appomattox: Victory, Defeat and Freedom at the End of the Civil War”* (2013), which received several awards and was named one of Civil War Monitor’s Best Books of 2014.



**Battle Brief – “Battle of the Wilderness” 12:00 – 1:00 pm (EDT)**

Take a look at the hard-fought Battle of the Wilderness in early May 1864 – the first face-off between generals Grant and Lee in war-torn Virginia.

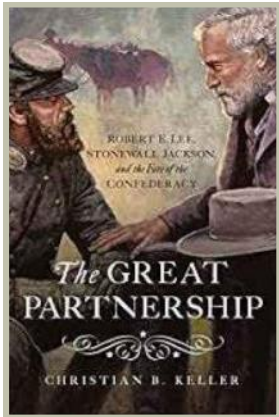
**Wednesday, April 7, 2021**

**Field Trip – “The Soldier’s Load” 10:00 – 10:45 am (EDT)**

Join a Museum educator to explore the gear, weapons, and personal items that made up a Civil War Soldier’s Load. Tens of thousands of Soldiers endured hardships and challenges to carry out the Army’s military mission to preserve the Union. The items Soldiers carried into the field were invaluable to performing their duty. During this field trip, students will engage with the Army’s history through artifacts, primary sources, and Soldiers’ Stories.

Program content appropriate for participants 4th grade through adult.

*Explore Military Leadership of the Civil War, cont.*



**History Talk – [“Robert E. Lee, Stonewall Jackson, and Confederate Strategy in the East, 1862-1863”](#) 7:00 to 8:00 pm (EDT)**

Christian B. Keller, author of *“The Great Partnership: Robert E. Lee, Stonewall Jackson, and the Fate of the Confederacy,”* examines the Confederate leadership in the bloody conflict’s eastern theater with a discussion of the world-renowned, audacious generals Lee and Jackson, and their aggressive campaigns in Virginia and Maryland. Keller’s current research focuses on Confederate strategies and examining why the Confederacy failed. Keller is the Dwight D. Eisenhower Chair of National Security and a professor of history in the Department of National Security and Strategy at the United States Army War College in Carlisle, Pa.

**[Thursday, April 8, 2021](#)**

**[Teacher Workshop – “Using the Lessons of Civil War Leaders in the Classroom”](#)  
4:00 – 5:00 pm (EDT)**

Leadership is at the core of the United States Army. To be successful, leaders must inspire and influence others to accomplish the goal. In this virtual workshop, Museum educators explore the importance of personal courage, humility and trust in shaping a leader; and examine the influence of leadership on larger organizational success and failure. Museum Educators share online resources, artifact spotlights, Soldier stories and primary sources and discuss teaching Civil War history through the lens of leadership. Participants are encouraged to ask questions and share ideas for integrating leadership themes into curriculum.

**History Talk – [“The Military Career of Ambrose Burnside”](#) 7:00 – 8:00 pm (EDT)**

National Park Service historian Frank O’Reilly of the Fredericksburg-Spotsylvania National Military Parks looks at Maj. Gen. Ambrose Burnside, the Union commander at the Battle of Fredericksburg. As a Union Army general in the American Civil War, Burnside conducted successful campaigns in North Carolina and East Tennessee but suffered defeats at the Battle of Fredericksburg and Battle of the Crater. O’Reilly examines an officer who’s fair and trusting nature set him up to be a scapegoat for military disaster. O’Reilly is the author of *“The Fredericksburg Campaign: Winter War on the Rappahannock,”* which received a 2003 nomination for the Pulitzer Prize in Letters.



Major General  
Ambrose Burnside

**[Friday, April 9, 2021](#)**

**[Gallery Talk – “Preserving the Nation”](#) 12:15 – 12:45 pm (EDT)**

Chief Curator, Paul Morando shares select artifacts on display in the Museum’s “Preserving the Nation Gallery”, which includes Civil War exhibits. This tour highlights interesting artifacts from the Museum’s collection as well as individual Soldier stories from the Civil War era – revealing themes of personal courage and leadership from throughout the Army’s ranks. This livestream event includes opportunities for audience questions.



*After the end of the Civil War whatever happened to...?*

## Union Major General George Gordon Meade

Meade remained in the U.S. Army after the end of the Civil War and served as the commanding officer of the Division of the Atlantic, headquartered in Pennsylvania. In 1868 Meade briefly served in Atlanta as the governor of the Third Military District, a temporary government that controlled Georgia, Alabama and Florida during Reconstruction. As commander of the 3rd Military District in the south, Meade was noted for his firm justice, which helped to make the Reconstruction period following the war less painful.

After the war, he returned to Philadelphia and his native state as Military commander taking up residence in Philadelphia while engaged in many civic activities, including founding Fairmount Park, the Lincoln Institution for the orphans of veterans, and supporting many cultural institutions.

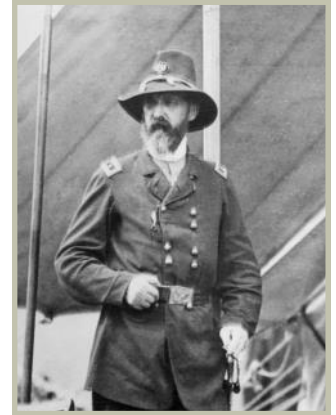
Having long suffered from complications caused by his war wounds, Meade died from the complications of his battle wound in 1872 at the age of 56, while still on active duty in the army, mourned by the entire nation. He was buried with great pomp and ceremony in Historic Laurel Hill Cemetery in his hometown of Philadelphia.

**Nickname:** Old Snapping Turtle

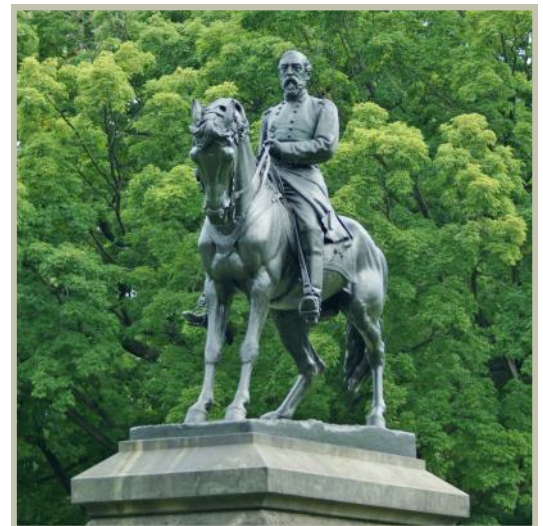
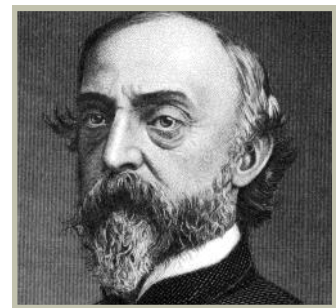
### Legacy:

There are statues memorializing Meade throughout the United States, including statues at Gettysburg National Military Park, the George Gordon Meade Memorial statue by Charles Grafly, in Washington DC, and one atop the Smith Memorial Arch in Fairmount Park in Philadelphia by Daniel Chester French. The United States Army's Fort George G. Meade in Fort Meade, Maryland, is named for him, as are Meade County, Kansas, and Meade County, South Dakota. The Old Baldy Civil War Round Table in Philadelphia is named in honor of Meade's horse during the war. In World War II, the United States liberty ship SS George G. Meade was named in his honor.

One-thousand-dollar Treasury notes, also called Coin notes, of the Series 1890 and 1891, feature portraits of Meade on the obverse. The 1890 Series note is called the Grand Watermelon Note by collectors, because the large zeroes on the reverse resemble the pattern on a watermelon.



**Maj Gen George Meade**



**Major General George Gordon Meade**  
~ Fairmont Park

## Civil War Phrases

**French leave** ~ An unauthorized furlough. The term was often used in the expressions *to take a French* and *to take French leave*. The expression came from the eighteenth century French custom of going away from a social gathering without bothering to take leave of the host or hostess: *French leave* was recorded in this social sense as early as 1771.

**Fresh fish** ~ A new recruit in the service or a new prisoner in a prisoner-of-war camp.

**Ghost** ~ A white horse.

**Gopher** ~ A playful nickname soldiers gave each other because each man spent so much of his time digging, or huddled up in, a *gopher hole*.

to **Grab a root** ~ To eat.

*From Civil War Wordbook by Darryl Lyman*

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## CAPE FEAR CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

PO Box 15750

Wilmington, NC 28408

You can find us on the Web! [Cfcwrt.org](http://Cfcwrt.org)

Visit us on Facebook: [CFCWRT](#)

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.

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MARCH 2021

# THE RUNNER



VOLUME 3 ISSUE 3



## *The Maps of the Cavalry in the Gettysburg Campaign*

March 11th will bring us a Zoom presentation on the “Maps of the Cavalry in the Gettysburg Campaign” by Bradley M. Gottfried.

Brad Gottfried is the holder of a Ph.D. in Zoology who capped a successful career in higher education with the post of president of the College of Southern Maryland, a multi-campus community college in the historic Maryland counties south and east of Washington, D.C.

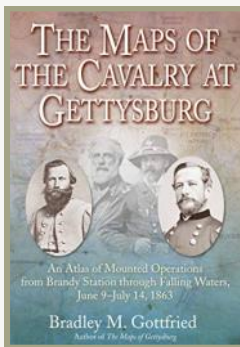
Brad is the author of more than a dozen Civil War history books dating back more than 20 years, including an innovative series of six books based on maps, with two more nearing completion. Brad has focused on the Eastern Theater.



The topic of his presentation on March 11th is the cavalry in the Gettysburg campaign, from the pivotal battle of Brandy Station, the largest cavalry battle ever to occur in North America, on June 9, 1863, to July 14, 1863, with short discussions about the prelude to Brandy Station and the denouement of the Gettysburg campaign once the Army of Northern Virginia regained Confederate territory in Virginia and the Army of the Potomac moved to maintain contact.

In the Gettysburg Campaign, the Cavalry Corps of the Army of the Potomac grew to a strength of about 12,000 troopers. Major General J.E.B. Stuart’s Cavalry Division of the Army of Northern Virginia numbered about 6,400. These two commands, spent most of that five-week period in the saddle, fighting more than a dozen major battles or engagements, marching well over 200 miles, and incurring thousands of casualties in combat that was often fierce, fast-moving and short-lived .

Was the cavalry important? Stuart successfully fended off the efforts of his counterpart, Brigadier General Alfred Pleasanton, to open up the passes of the Blue Ridge Mountains to learn the movements of Lee’s infantry, and the maps and commentary in the book clearly show how well the Union cavalry fought and how poorly their commanders used them, sending in squadrons and regiments piecemeal when a coordinated, massed attack might easily have overwhelmed their opponents.



Finally closing up to the Army of Northern Virginia, Stuart’s troopers drove hard to threaten the Union rear but the Union cavalry stopped them and threatened Lee’s right flank as well.

This will be an enlightening and interesting presentation. Tune in!

### **March Meeting**

Thursday, March 11, 2021  
7:00 P. M.

Zoom Meeting

Email from Bruce Patterson will be sent prior to Event

Speaker: **Brad Gottfried**  
Topic: **Maps of the Cavalry in the Gettysburg Campaign**



### **INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

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## *April Presentation on Blockade Running*

COVID has caused another change to our schedule but the good news is that our April presentation will be “*Lifeline of the Confederacy*” by Stephen R. Wise, the recognized expert on blockade running in the Civil War.

Stephen R. Wise is the director of the Parris Island Museum and the Cultural Resources Manager for the Marine Corps Recruit Depot at Parris Island, S.C. A native of Toledo, Ohio, he received his bachelor’s degree from Wittenberg University, his master’s from Bowling Green State University and his doctorate in history from the University of South Carolina at Columbia. In addition to his duties aboard MCRD Parris Island, he is also an adjunct professor at the University of South Carolina at Beaufort.

He is the author of *Gate of Hell: Campaign for Charleston Harbor 1863*, and *Lifeline of the Confederacy: Blockade Running During the Civil War*. Both scholarly books were published by the University of South Carolina press.

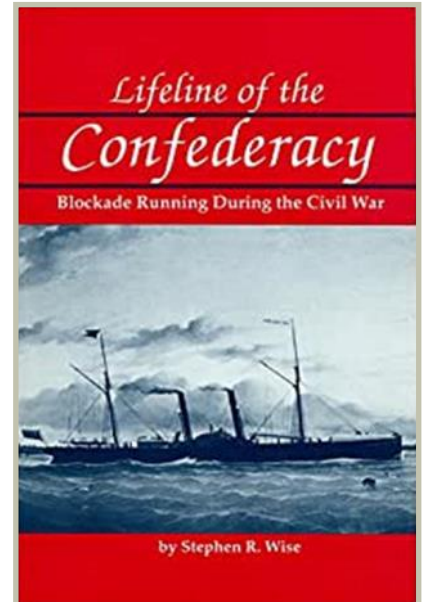
The “Journal of Southern History” wrote of *Lifeline* that “No previous work has offered a comprehensive and analytical look at this topic until now.” The History Book Club said “no overall and encompassing work on this exciting episode in Civil War history has come forth until now.”

Wilmington became the last and most vital link in the supply line that brought ordnance, medical supplies, manufactured war materiel and other necessary items to the Confederate war effort, most notably the Army of Northern Virginia. If you ever had any questions about blockade running, this is your opportunity to learn from the expert.

Tune in on Zoom at 7 p.m. on April 10 to hear Steve Wise on “The Lifeline of the Confederacy.”



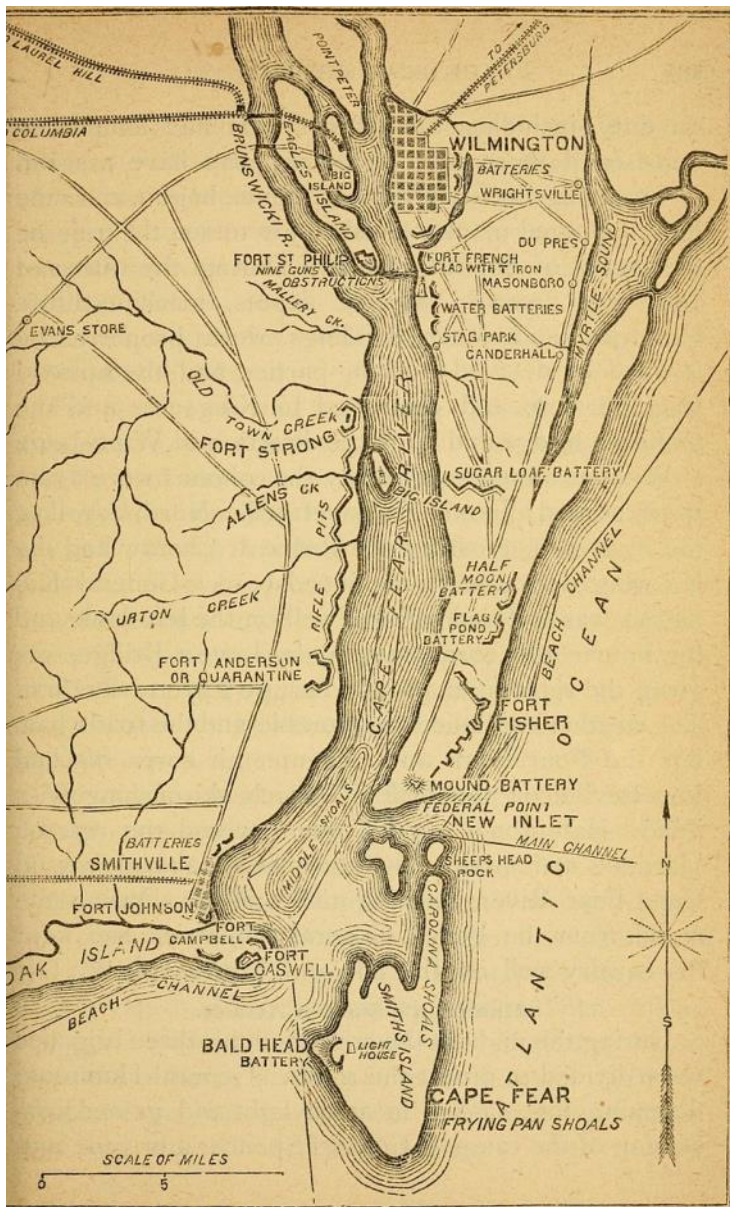
Stephen R. Wise



## Cape Fear Civil War Round Table Upcoming Events

**May 13th**      **Ray Flowers** (Interpreter Fort Fisher Historical Site), Blockade Runners

North Carolina's principal seaport could not have been better suited for running the blockade. The town was safely out of range of any Federal bombardment from the ocean, and its close proximity to the major transshipment points for incoming European goods was ideal. Nassau in the Bahamas was 570 miles away, while Bermuda was 674 miles due east of Wilmington. Transatlantic merchantmen ferried goods earmarked for the Confederacy to these and other neutral ports. Here the materials were off-loaded onto sleek, shallow draft steamers for the last leg of the journey: the dash through the Federal blockade lines and into the Cape Fear River, under protection of Fort Fisher's formidable defensive works. Having safely delivered their cargoes the runners then returned through the blockade to the transshipment points, usually bearing Southern export items such as cotton, naval stores or lumber.



The Federal blockade consisted of three main lines: farthest line was the cruiser line: whose ships patrolled the ocean with a sharp lookout for incoming vessels headed for Cape Fear, the middle line, followed by a line of "bar tenders" just off the shoal waters of Cape Fear. The navy's lighter vessels ventured in as close to the river inlets as they dared, especially at night. Blockaders close within range of Confederate shore batteries were sure to draw hostile fire. As the war progressed the blockade became more and more effective, but the navy could not meet the challenge of stopping all shipping trade helpful to the Confederate cause. The danger of tackling blockade runners under the guns of Fort Fisher, the largest earthen fort in the Confederacy, was the key to the river defense system below Wilmington.

For more information go to the [CFCWRT website](#).





*Book Review ~ Without Warning: The Saga of Gettysburg, A Reluctant Union Hero, and the Men He Inspired ~ by Terry C. Pierce*

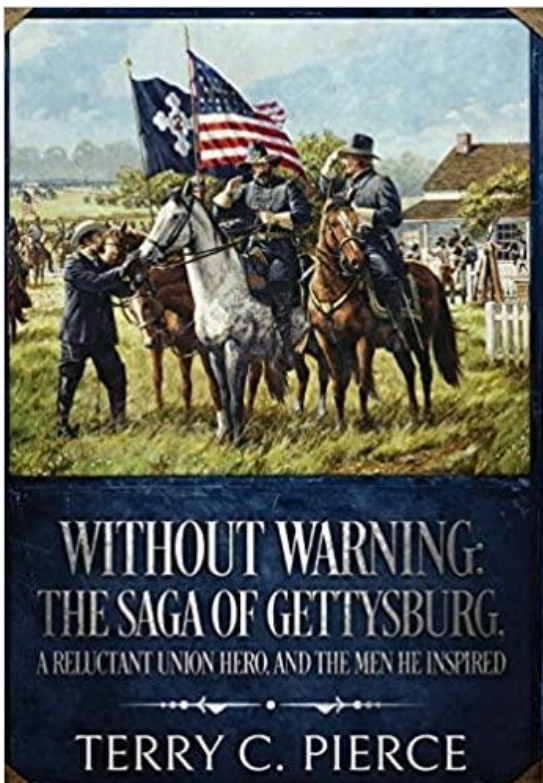
Between plans and their execution rage the winds of war. The winds of chance. The winds of choice. The winds of political ambition and human error--and human schemes.

The winds of war grow dark around General George Meade, appointed to command the Army of the Potomac just three days before a brewing battle against Robert E. Lee, charismatic leader of the Confederate forces. No one--not even the outgoing commander--seems to know where Lee's army is, except that they are somewhere on Northern soil, possibly pushing toward a decisive battle deep in the heart of the Union.

Bound by duty to take a position he did not seek and does not want, Meade reluctantly accepts Lincoln's appointment, and overnight, the fate of nearly 100,000 Union soldiers is in his hands.

Meade is a planner--a quiet, capable engineer whose commitment to modesty and restraint is second only to his commitment to honor, duty, and country. While the winds of war swirl around him, he struggles to concoct a battle plan without even the most basic information, in order to defeat an enemy he cannot find, on ground he has not yet seen. Thwarted by insufficient military intelligence, and betrayed by the machinations of an unscrupulous general with dreams of glory, Meade knows it will take all his skill and the heroism of his troops to best the formidable and hitherto undefeated Lee. The fate of the Republic itself hangs in the balance.

*Without Warning* is the gripping saga of the Battle of Gettysburg, the Union patriots who fought it, and the man who led them. It scrutinizes the role character plays in leadership and the challenge of the unexpected. Built firmly upon the annals of history, this epic historical novel brings to vivid life seven unforgettable days in the lives and trials of a Union general and his men as they brave the winds of war to save the United States of America.





## *History of Cape Fear Civil War Round Table*

The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table (CFCWRT) was established in 1994 and first met at the University of North Carolina, Wilmington (UNCW). In October 1994, the first speaker was Chris Fonvielle, who later joined the faculty of UNCW. Professor Fonvielle, now retired, is the premier historian of the Lower Cape Fear from Colonial times through the Civil War. Our first president was George Slaton who led the organization until the year 2000.



**Chris Fonvielle speaks at dedication of Joseph Ryder Lewis Park in Carolina Beach.**

Following George Slaton, Professor Fonvielle led the CFCWRT from 2000 through 2006. The meeting site changed from UNCW to St. John’s Episcopal Church and then to St. Andrew’s on the Sound Episcopal Church. Under the leadership of David Norris (2006-10) and Bob Cooke (2010 to 2018), the organization grew steadily and many nationally known speakers and authors spoke to the group as well as accomplished local historians.

From 1997 through 2005 the organization featured tours to locations such as Richmond and its vicinity, Sharpsburg, Md., and Spotsylvania County, Va. From 2006 through 2011 tours were shortened to locations in North Carolina that could be reached within a day rather than requiring overnight travel. Tours were discontinued in 2012 because of a lack of sufficient interest.

The CFCWRT is actively involved in supporting Fort Fisher and Fort Anderson, the NC Historical Sites in the area, as well as the NC Maritime Museum in Southport. We provided a substantial donation in 2020 that facilitated the establishment of the Joseph Ryder Lewis, Jr. historical park in Carolina Beach. The park preserves a portion of the “Sugar Loaf Line,” a defensive fortification that ran from an arm of Masonboro Sound to the Sugar Loaf dune on the Cape Fear River.



**David Norris leads round table discussion**

In addition to nationally known speakers, the round table regularly features speakers from local state historical sites and the Latimer House, the museum of the Lower Cape Fear Historical Society, in Wilmington.

Beginning in 2018, the Round Table has presented a summer program featuring a seminar-style round table discussion on a specific topic such as the failure of Confederate forces to attack the Union landing force before its assault on Fort Fisher. We have also featured tours of local sites for the general public and a members

*(Continued on page 6)*

## *History of Cape Fear Civil War Round Table, cont.*

forum in which members present short programs (approximately 15 minutes) on specific topics of their choosing.

The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table (CFCWRT) 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 the conflict.

The CFCWRT meets the second Thursday of each month beginning at 6:30 p.m. In addition to our monthly newsletter, *The Runner*, we host a website at <http://cfcwrt.org/>, and a Facebook page. The newsletter is also distributed via email.

Bill Jayne  
President, Cape Fear Civil War Round Table



Bob Cooke leads tour of Oakdale Cemetery



## *Online Presentations*

### **CWRT Congress - [All sessions start at 7pm Eastern](#)**

**March 10th - Michael Gorman: Gaines' Mill, The Most Important Battle You've Never Heard About.**

**March 11th - Daniel Davis: Hurricane from the Heavens**

**March 17th - Ronald S. Coddington: Faces of Civil War Nurses**

**March 24th - Jerry Payn as Enos Foreman: 1863 A Year in Review**

**March 31st - Kristopher D. White: The Battle of Chancellorsville, Lee's Greatest Victory or Lee's Greatest Defeat?**

### **American Battlefield Trust**

#### **[Eyes of War: Modern Combat Photography](#)**

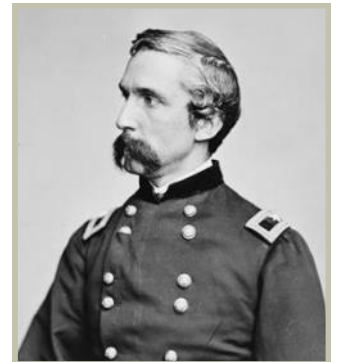
Walk Antietam with Documentary Photographer James Nachtwey



*After the end of the Civil War whatever happened to...?*

## Union Brigadier General Joshua L. Chamberlain

After the war, Chamberlain returned to Maine and was elected to four terms as Maine's governor, a post he held until 1870. During his tenure, he encouraged the state to ratify the 14th Amendment (which made all freedmen and women citizens of the United States). He also played a key role in the first years of the Maine College of Agriculture and the Mechanic Arts, which later became the University of Maine in Orono.



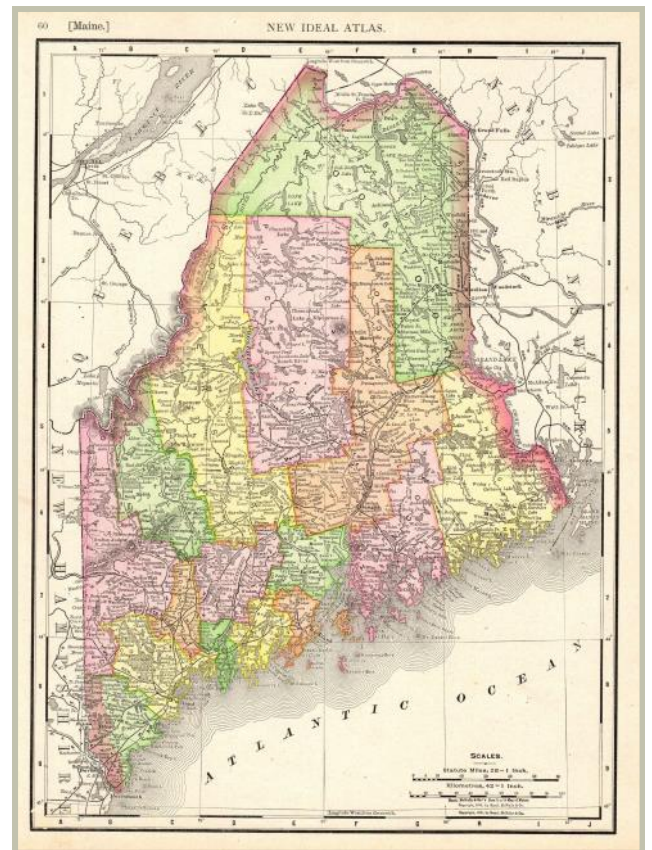
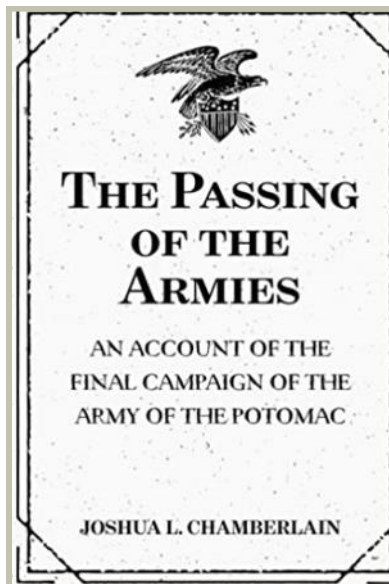
**BG Joshua Chamberlain**



**Gov. Joshua Chamberlain**

Following his governorship, Chamberlain served as president of Bowdoin College and during his tenure made some controversial changes. He began by adding science and engineering courses to the classical curriculum, but the school reverted to its original program one year later.

Chamberlain left his post at Bowdoin in 1883 and moved to Portland, Maine, where he served as surveyor of the port and began investing in Florida real estate. Chamberlain also began writing about his Civil War experiences, including the posthumously published memoir of *Appomattox: The Passing of the Armies*. His wife, Fanny, died in 1905; Joshua Chamberlain died on February 24, 1914, at the age of 85.



**1892 Map of Maine**

## Civil War Phrases

**Dictator:** A nickname for the heavy thirteen-inch sea-coast mortar mounted on a railroad flatcar and used by the Federals at the siege of Petersburg, Virginia, in 1864.

*Aka Petersburg Express.*

**Double Note:** A piece of paper money with different issues printed on the two sides. Common in the South because of the paper shortage.

**Eight-Day Man:** A contemptuous term for someone who joined the army for only a brief period.

**First-call Men:** Men who responded to the initial plea for Union soldiers and volunteered for three years' service in 1861.

**Foot Cavalry:** Stonewall Jackson's infantrymen. So called because of their legendary swiftness afoot.

*From Civil War Wordbook by Darryl Lyman*

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*[Savas Beatie](#)*



## *Lee's Pyrrhic Victory at Chancellorsville*

Wilmington's Cape Fear Civil War Round Table invites you to attend a virtual lecture by JoAnna M. McDonald, Ph.D., on the topic of "Chancellorsville: A Pyrrhic Victory." The lecture, via Zoom, will be presented on Thursday, February 11, 2021, at 7 p.m. JoAnna, a member of our council, is a contributor to the Emerging Civil War blog. She will look at the casualties suffered by the Army of Northern Virginia at Chancellorsville, especially at the level of field grade and general grade officers. How did those losses affect the Army at Gettysburg? Almost all Civil War buffs know the story of Stonewall Jackson's loss at Chancellorsville and how that may have affected the performance of his vaunted II Corps at Gettysburg, but that wasn't the entire story.



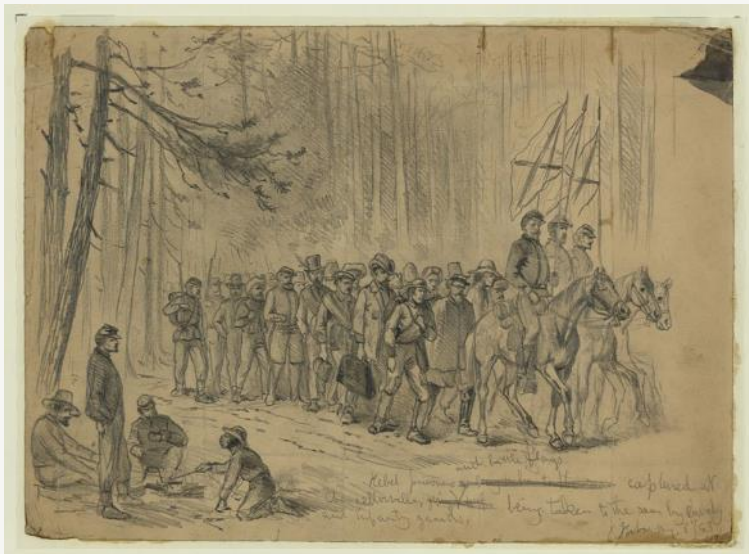
JoAnna M. McDonald, Ph.D., is a historian, writer, and public speaker. Author of eleven books on the Civil War and WWII, as well as numerous journal and newsletter articles regarding U.S. Marine Corps history, JoAnna's next book is *R. E. Lee's Grand Strategy & Strategic Leadership: Caught in a Paradoxical Paradigm*.

**February Meeting**  
 Thursday, February 11, 2021 - 7:00 P. M.

Zoom Meeting

Email from Bruce Patterson will be sent prior to Event

Speaker: **JoAnna McDonald**  
 Topic: **Lee's Pyrrhic Victory at Chancellorsville**



**"Rebel prisoners and battle flags captured at Chancellorsville being taken to the rear by cavalry and infantry guards."**  
 Edwin Forbes, May 3, 1863. Drawing. Library of Congress.

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## *The Maps of the Cavalry in the Gettysburg Campaign*

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Perhaps one may be forgiven, however, for thinking his real interest is Civil War history. Brad is the author of more than a dozen Civil War history books dating back more than 20 years, including an innovative series of six books based on maps, with two more nearing completion. Brad has focused on the Eastern Theater.

The topic of his presentation on March 11th is the cavalry in the Gettysburg campaign, from the pivotal battle of Brandy Station, the largest cavalry battle ever to occur in North America, on June 9, 1863, to July 14, 1863, with short discussions about the prelude to Brandy Station and the denouement of the Gettysburg campaign once the Army of Northern Virginia regained Confederate territory in Virginia and the Army of the Potomac moved to maintain contact.

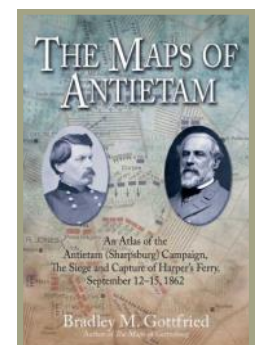
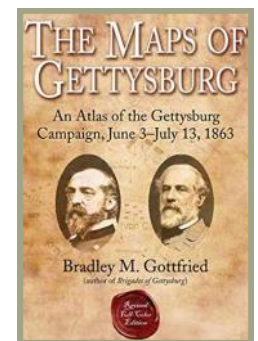
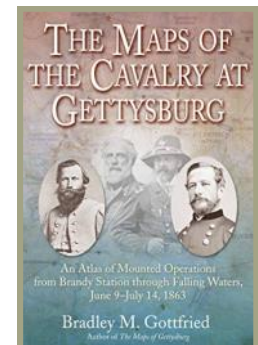
Brad’s map books follow an original format of text on the left hand side of each page spread and a map or two on the right hand side. The text is keyed to the maps with circled numbers. There are 82, full-color maps with great detail down to the location of stone-walls, fences, wood lots, tilled fields and minor creek beds, that were important to the movement of cavalry on a Civil War battlefield. The scale is usually very large, often less than 500 yards to the inch, and—hold on to your hat—the orientation is not always with north pointing toward the top of the page.

The change in orientation can lead to a little confusion at first but once the reader becomes accustomed to the change in convention, the value becomes obvious. Fitting the relevant action to a page setting sometimes poses a difficult choice between omitting important items or minimizing the scale to fit everything in. When the scale gets smaller—say ten miles to the inch—one is unable to include important detail like fences, houses, barns, etc. So, Brad’s innovative solution was to sometimes change the convention so that north is to the left, instead of up, or even to the right.

Dr. Gottfried, also an Antietam Battlefield Guide and a Gettysburg Town Guide, explains that “The idea for this series [of map-based books] came about when I was seeking a better way to visualize, understand, and appreciate the Battle of Gettysburg and other major campaigns of the Civil War.”

In the case of the Cavalry in the Gettysburg Campaign, I would venture to say that the maps are indispensable and go a long way to understanding the importance of both the Union and Confederate cavalry arms and appreciating the experience of the leaders and troopers of those units.

Overshadowed by the vast size and protracted violence of Civil War infantry and artillery engagements (one thinks of unrelenting battle at the “Mule Shoe” during the Spotsylvania campaign, where 20 hours of close combat cost roughly 17,000 casualties), the importance and value of the mounted arm is often seen as merely ancillary and, somehow dilettantish.



(Continued on page 3)

*The Maps of the Cavalry in the Gettysburg Campaign (cont.)*

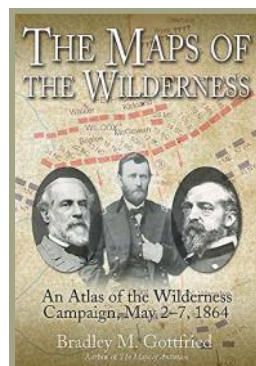
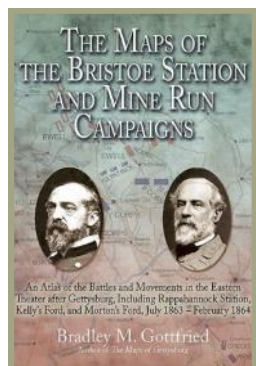
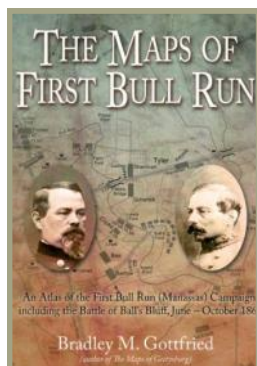
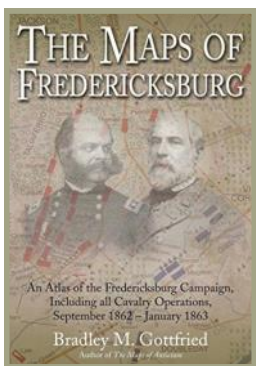
In the five or so weeks of the Gettysburg Campaign, the Cavalry Corps of the Army of the Potomac grew to a strength of about 12,000 troopers. Major General J.E.B. Stuart's Cavalry Division of the Army of Northern Virginia numbered about 6,400. These two commands, spent most of that five-week period in the saddle, fighting more than a dozen major battles or engagements, marching well over 200 miles, and incurring thousands of casualties in combat that was often fierce, fast-moving and short-lived in the case of mounted combat or drawn-out dangerous dismounted combat with high stakes, including the possibility of an entire unit being cut off or captured when suddenly faced with enemy reinforcements.

Was the cavalry important? Stuart successfully fended off the efforts of his counterpart, Brigadier General Alfred Pleasanton, to open up the passes of the Blue Ridge Mountains to learn the movements of Lee's infantry, and the maps and commentary in the book clearly show how well the Union cavalry fought and how poorly their commanders used them, sending in squadrons and regiments piecemeal when a coordinated, massed attack might easily have overwhelmed their opponents.

Then, the folly of Stuart's circuitous ride around the Army of the Potomac becomes clearer than ever. Worn out by constant riding, the Confederate cavalry was kept away from the Army of Northern Virginia leaving Lee bereft of intelligence about Union movements. Taking advantage of the freedom to operate, Brigadier General John Buford's Union division cut off the Confederate infantry and on July 1 made a stand on McPherson's Ridge south of the town of Gettysburg that was obviously one of the keys to the ultimate Union victory.

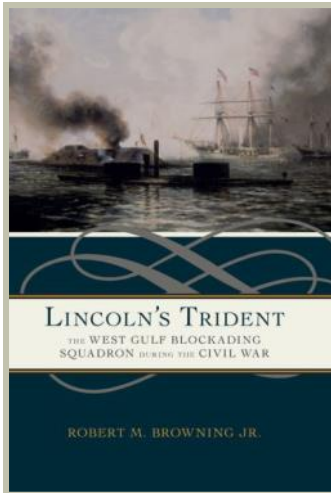
Finally closing up to the Army of Northern Virginia, Stuart's troopers drove hard to threaten the Union rear but the Union cavalry stopped them and threatened Lee's right flank as well.

This will be an enlightening and interesting presentation. Tune in!





## Cape Fear Civil War Round Table Upcoming Events

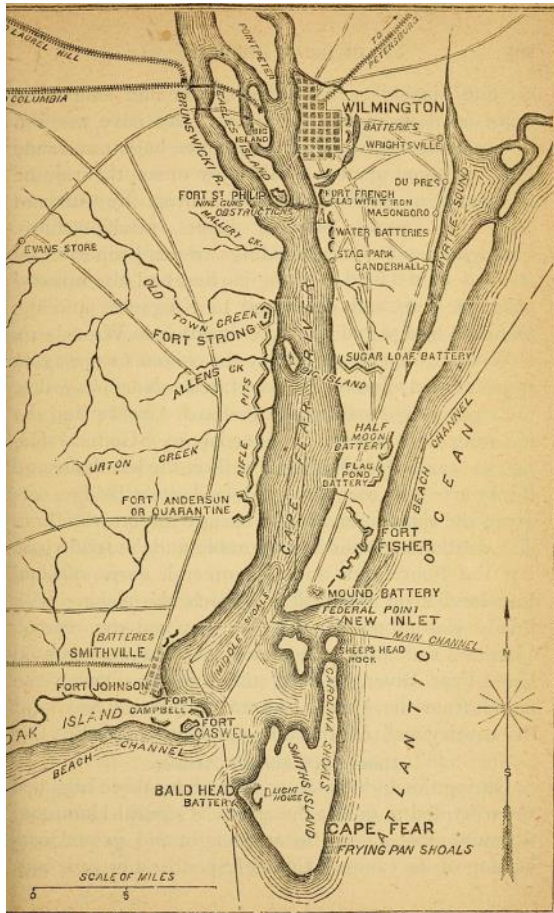


**April 8th**      **Bob Browning** (Author), Blockading Squadrons

Dr. Browning earned his Ph.D. at the University of Alabama and embarked on his history career, working as a park superintendent at the Battleship Texas. In 1989, he began work as a historian with the U.S. Coast Guard and two years later became the Coast Guard's chief historian, retiring from government service in 2015. He is the author of six books and more than four dozen articles relating to the Coast Guard, the Civil War, and U.S. naval and maritime history.

**May 13th**      **Ray Flowers** (Interpreter Fort Fisher Historical Site), Blockade Runners

North Carolina's principal seaport could not have been better suited for running the blockade. The town was safely out of range of any Federal bombardment from the ocean, and its close proximity to the major transshipment points for incoming European goods was ideal. Nassau in the Bahamas was 570 miles away, while Bermuda was 674 miles due east of Wilmington. Transatlantic merchantmen ferried goods earmarked for the Confederacy to these and other neutral ports. Here the materials were off-loaded onto sleek, shallow draft steamers for the last leg of the journey: the dash through the Federal blockade lines and into the Cape Fear River, under protection of Fort Fisher's formidable defensive works. Having safely delivered their cargoes the runners then returned through the blockade to the transshipment points, usually bearing Southern export items such as cotton, naval stores or lumber.



The Federal blockade consisted of three main lines: farthest line was the cruiser line: whose ships patrolled the ocean with a sharp lookout for incoming vessels headed for Cape Fear, the middle line, followed by a line of "bar tenders" just off the shoal waters of Cape Fear. The navy's lighter vessels ventured in as close to the river inlets as they dared, especially at night. Blockaders close within range of Confederate shore batteries were sure to draw hostile fire. As the war progressed the blockade became more and more effective, but the navy could not meet the challenge of stopping all shipping trade helpful to the Confederate cause. The danger of tackling blockade runners under the guns of Fort Fisher, the largest earthen fort in the Confederacy, was the key to the river defense system below Wilmington.

For more information go to the [CFCWRT website](http://www.cfcwrt.com).



*CFCWRT Member News*

***Wreaths Across America***

Our CWRT supported the Wilmington Community campaign to place a Christmas Wreath on every grave in the Wilmington National Cemetery as we have done for the past several years. This international effort is organized and promoted by Wreaths Across America.

We will, once again, support the community effort for during the months of October and November (although contributions, in \$15 increments are accepted year long).

The theme of the 2021 Christmas Wreath campaign is: Live Up To Their Legacy. The theme was suggested by Army Chief of Staff General James McConville in an interview by Chris Wallace.



***Civil War Philatelic Society***

The Confederate Stamp Alliance recently announced that, by an overwhelming majority, the alliance would change its name to the Civil War Philatelic Society and that their quarterly journal will become the Civil War Philatelist.

The change was made for a myriad of reasons, among them being a recognition of today's reality, a chance to save the alliance from a dwindling membership and advertisers plus the opportunity to broaden membership and philatelic interest.

To that end, if any Cape Fear CWRT member is interested in Civil War era philatelic matters, especially Confederate, please contact Bruce Patterson for an opportunity that includes free philatelic material, journals and supplies. I would also be pleased to work with any youth who has a fledgling interest in this fascinating hobby.



*Trivia Question*

In 1864 while Phil Sheridan was burning the Shenandoah Valley I led an unsuccessful campaign that left a good number of my wounded behind to a terrible fate. Two months later another Gen. led a successful campaign that defeated my foe. Who am I?

Answer in on page 7

## Ryder Lewis Jr. Civil War Park Dedication

February 11, 2021 2:00 PM

A committee of historians and citizens dedicated to our local history, along with the staff of the Town of Carolina Beach have completed the preservation and development of the Joseph Ryder Lewis Jr., Civil War Park located around the remnants of the fortifications of the “Sugar Loaf Line of Defense.

This project was made possible by the Town of Carolina Beach, The Federal Point Historic Preservation Society and its volunteers, along with the following contributors: the Joseph Ryder Lewis Jr, Family; staff from the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, Fort Fisher and Underwater Archaeology Branch; Brunswick Civil War Round Table; **Cape Fear Civil War Round Table**; Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Foundation, Milford, Ohio; the Island Gazette; Dr. Chris E. Fonvielle Jr.; Daniel Ray Norris/ Slapdash Publishing; and SEPI Engineering and Construction.


*The information sign below (placed in the kiosk at the entrance to the park) was made possible by a donation from the **Cape Fear Civil War Round Table**.*

# Joseph Ryder Lewis Jr. Civil War Park

Welcome to the Joseph Ryder Lewis Jr. Civil War Park. Mr. Lewis (1926-2010) was a Carolina Beach resident, U.S. Army veteran, and member of the Federal Point Historic Preservation Society. Keenly interested in Cape Fear history, he donated 12 acres that included Confederate earthworks of the so-called “Sugar Loaf lines” to the Town of Carolina Beach for a public Civil War park.

The Sugar Loaf lines served as auxiliary defenses to Fort Fisher 4 ½ miles to the south. They also helped guard Wilmington, North Carolina, the South’s main seaport for maritime trade with Europe, and by late 1864 the Confederacy’s most important city.

Confederate commerce vessels, called blockade-runners, smuggled vital military supplies for General Robert E. Lee’s forces in Virginia, as well as goods for civilians, through the U.S. Navy’s blockade of Southern seaports. Great Britain became the Confederacy’s major trading partner.



*Blockade-runner Colonel Lamb*

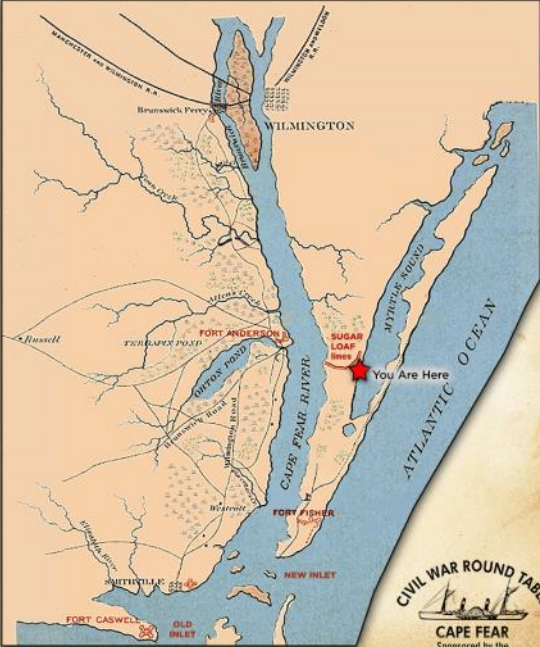
To protect the Confederacy’s “life preserving” business, engineers built a vast network of forts and batteries at the mouth of the Cape Fear River and along the beaches and river

shores in both New Hanover and Brunswick Counties. Fort Fisher, which guarded the northern entryway into the river at New Inlet, became the strongest and best armed seacoast fortification in North America.


As Union forces prepared to attack Fort Fisher in the autumn of 1864, Maj. Gen. W.H.C. Whiting, commander of the Department of the Cape Fear, expanded existing defenses to meet the serious threat. He selected a “strong position” on Federal Point, stretching from the headwaters of Myrtle Grove Sound (modern Carolina Beach canal) to Sugar Loaf Hill on the east bank of the Cape Fear River, for an extensive line of fieldworks. They would play an important role in the Wilmington Campaign, 1864-1865.

The Joseph Ryder Lewis, Jr. Civil War Park was made possible by the Town of Carolina Beach, the Federal Point Historic Preservation Society, and the following contributors:  
 Brunswick Civil War Round Table  
 Cape Fear Civil War Round Table  
 [Carolina Beach] *Island Gazette*  
 Dr. Chris E. Fonvielle Jr.  
 Paul Laird  
 Joseph Ryder Lewis Jr. family  
 Daniel Ray Norris, SlapDash Publishing  
 SEPI Engineering and Construction  
 Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Charitable Foundation, Milford, Ohio  
 Volunteers from the N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources  
 Volunteers from the Federal Point Historic Preservation Society  
 Volunteers from the Fort Fisher State Historic Site and Underwater Archaeology Branch

For additional information contact:  
**Federal Point Historic Preservation Society**  
 1121-A North Lake Park Boulevard  
 Carolina Beach, NC 28428  
 (910) 438-0502  
 rebecca@federal-point-history.org



*Map to accompany the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies in the War of the Rebellion*



**CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE**  
**CAPE FEAR**  
 Sponsored by the  
 Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

### *Online Presentations*

#### **CWRT Congress - [All sessions start at 7pm Eastern](#)**

March 2nd - Daniel Davis: **Toward a Fateful Crossroads**

March 3rd - Lee Ann Rose as Mary Todd Lincoln: **My Image, My War**

March 10th - David Goetz: **Ever the Gray Ghost**

March 24th - Jerry Payn as Enos Foreman: **1863 A Year in Review**

#### **American Battlefield Trust**

[Chancellorsville Virtual Tour](#) - Kris White, Dan Davis, and Chris Mackowski

#### **The American Civil War Museum**

[When Georgia Howled: Sherman on the March](#)

-For 37 weeks in 1864, General Sherman made Georgia his battleground. Georgia Public Broadcasting and the Atlanta History Center have partnered to produce the gripping new documentary "When Georgia Howled: Sherman on the March," It was 37 weeks that would determine the fate of a nation.

### *Trivia Answer*

Brigadier General Stephen G. Burbridge led the Union forces to defeat at the First Battle of Saltville on October 2, 1864. It is estimated that about 50 members of his command, left behind following Burbridge's retreat, were murdered by Confederate troops in what became known as the Saltville Massacre. Federal troops commanded by George Stoneman (including Burbridge) destroyed the salt works following the Second Battle of Saltville (December 20 - 21, 1864). Saltville was in southwestern Virginia.

### *Confederate Railroad Tidbits*

- § Port Hudson, Louisiana received an unusual bit of support from the Clinton & Port Hudson RR during the siege of that place in 1863. Union cannon fire destroyed the mill that was grinding the garrison's corn. The replacement was one of the railroad's locomotives, attached to the milling machine.
- § The Clinton & Port Hudson RR was so old and poorly maintained that it was said to run a tri-weekly schedule -- one week it would go down to Port Hudson and the next week it would try weakly to get back.
- § A Company of boys, about 40 strong, was formed at Columbus, Ga. to guard the bridge at West Point, Ga. Their Captain was Walter Gordon, a brother of Major General John B. Gordon. Not a member of the company was over 16 years old.

These are from the website [Confederate Railroads](#) by David L. Bright. The information is quite extensive. There are posted well over 19,900 transcriptions of the railroad issues-related documents and more are being added every day. Check it out!

## *CSS Virginia - "The Rebel Monster"*

*CSS Virginia* was the first steam-powered ironclad warship of the Confederate States Navy, built during the first year of the Civil War; she was constructed as a casemate ironclad using the raised and cut down original lower hull and steam engines of the scuttled *USS Merrimack*. *Virginia* was one of the participants in the Battle of Hampton Roads, opposing the Union's *USS Monitor* in March 1862.

### *Development*

**Type and class:** Casemate Ironclad Ram with Steam Powered Screw Propulsion

**Misidentified As:** the "*Merrimack*", or the "*Merrimac*"

**Ships in Class:** One

**Keel laid:** 1855 as *USS Merrimack*

**Acquisition:** Seized by the Confederates in April 1861 as part of the abandoned Gosport Navy Yard

**Salvaged From:** the sunken, burned hulk, and machinery of the *USS Merrimack*

**Raised:** May 30, 1861 and put in drydock

**Authorized:** June 23, 1861 by the Confederate States Secretary of the Navy, Steven R. Mallory

**Designers:**

Lieutenant John M. Brooke, C.S. Navy (primary designer, responsible for iron plating design and heavy ordnance)

Naval Constructor John Luke Porter (given overall responsibility for the conversion to an ironclad)

Chief Engineer William Price Williamson (responsible for the ship's machinery)

**Reconstruction Cost:** \$172,523.00 as appropriated by the Confederate Congress

**Overseeing Salvage and Reconstruction:** Flag Officer French Forrest, Commander of the Gosport Naval Shipyard, C.S. Navy

### *Career*

**Commissioned:** February 17, 1862 as *CSS Virginia*

**Launched:** March 8, 1862

**Operator:** Confederate States Navy

**Roles:** Blockade Breaking, Blue Water Operations, Fleet Support, Hunter, Direct-Attack, Specialized / Utility

**Length of Service:** 64 days

(From date of Launch, to date Scuttled. Includes 25 days of repairs and upgrades completed in dry dock, March / April 1862)

**Commanding Officers:**

Flag Officer: Franklin Buchanan - February 24 to March 8, 1862

He was wounded by shrapnel on first day of the Battle of Hampton Roads

The Executive Officer: Lieutenant Catesby ap Roger Jones - March 9th

A temporary command for second day of the Battle of Hampton Roads, including the duel with *USS Monitor*

Flag Officer: Josiah Tattnall - March 25 until May 11

(Continued on page 9)

## *CSS Virginia - "The Rebel Monster", cont.*

He ordered the ship destroyed to keep it out of Union hands.

**Complement:** 320 officers and men

**Victories:** 2 Ships Sunk or Destroyed, 3 Ships Damaged or Run Aground, 3 Un-named Transports Destroyed

*USS Cumberland* - Sunk after Ramming, Shelling, March 8

Three Union Transports Destroyed, March 8

*USS Congress* - Run Aground, Shelled, Surrendered, Destroyed by Fire, March 8

*USS Minnesota* - Run Aground, Damaged by Shot, March 8 & 9

*USS St. Lawrence* - Damaged by Shot, March 8

*USS Dragon* - Severely Damaged by Shot, March 9

**Sorties:** 5

March 8 - Maiden Voyage. Engagement with *USS Cumberland* and *USS Congress* at Hampton Roads

March 9 - Engagement with *USS Monitor* at Hampton Roads

April 11 - The *Virginia* enters Hampton Roads. Federal transports flee the harbor to the protection of Fort Monroe. *USS Monitor* stays in the channel but does not accept the *Virginia's* challenge.

May 8 - *CSS Virginia* steams down the Elizabeth River from Gosport Navy Yard to contest the Navy's advance and stays out of Hampton Roads hoping to engage *USS Monitor*.

May 11 - Attempting to escape up the James River, after Gosport is reclaimed by the Union Army, the *Virginia* can't be made light enough to travel as far as planned up the shallow part of the river. Trapped, with no escape, the ship was scuttled, and fired, causing a great explosion, destroying the ship.

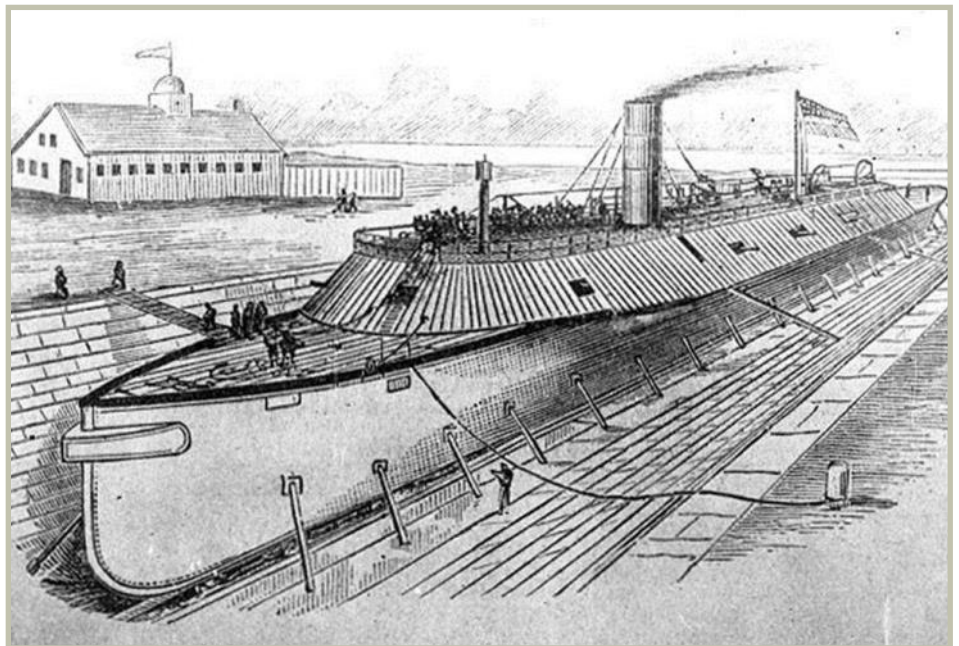
**Fate:**

Scuttled and destroyed by fire/explosion to prevent capture by Union Forces near Craney Island, Virginia on May 11, 1862.

**Current Disposition:**

The wreck of the *Virginia* was largely removed in sections between 1866 and 1876.

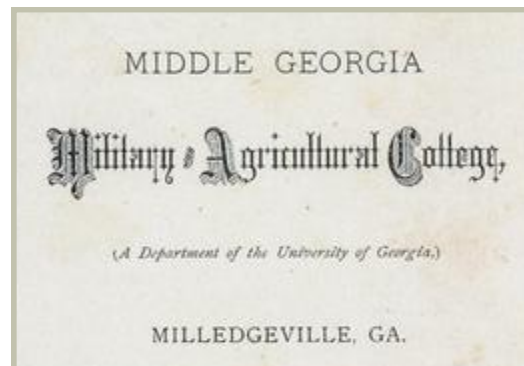
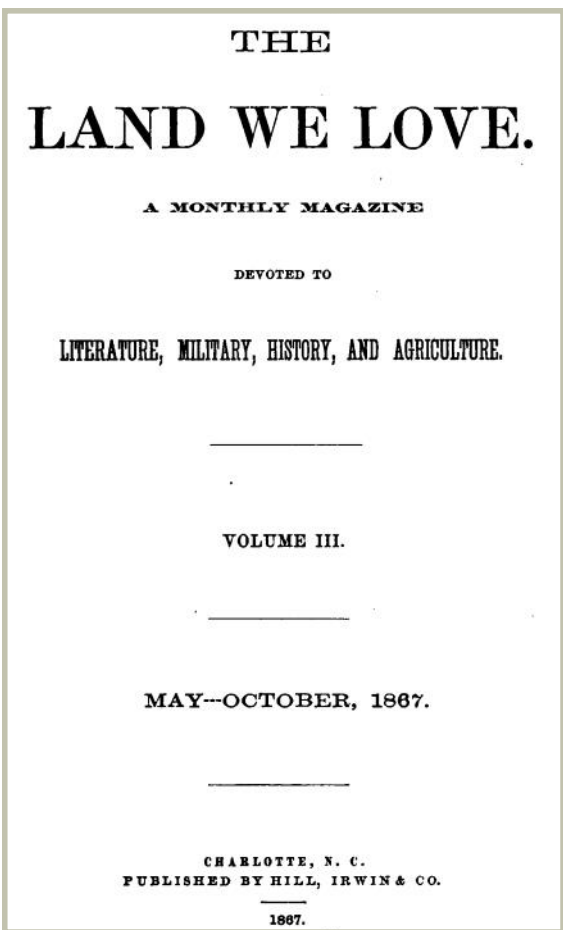
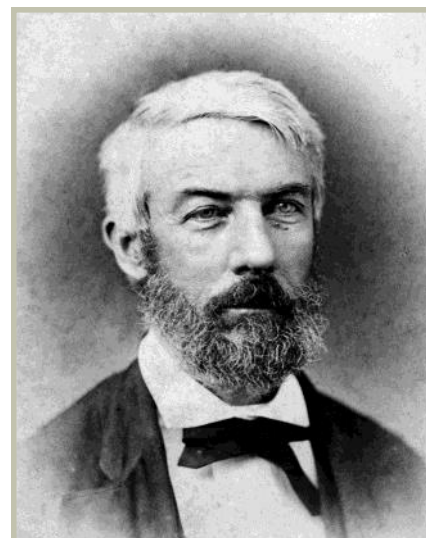
The anchor and propeller shaft of the *Virginia* can be seen at the *American Civil War Museum* in Richmond, Virginia.



*After the end of the Civil War whatever happened to...?*

**Major General Daniel Harvey Hill**

After the war, Hill founded a magazine entitled [The Land We Love](#), which included coverage of literature, history, and agriculture. He edited the journal from 1866 to 1869. From 1877 to 1884 Hill served as the first president of the University of Arkansas. (Known as Arkansas Industrial University prior to 1899.) In 1885 he became president of the Military and Agricultural College of Milledgeville in Georgia. (Currently known as Georgia Military College.) He held the post until August 1889, when, due to failing health, he resigned and returned to Charlotte, North Carolina, where he died on September 24, 1889. Hill is buried in the Davidson College Cemetery.



*“There was a nuisance in the service known as the army correspondent.”*  
 D. H Hill

## Civil War Phrases

- Buffalo:** A North Carolinian who favored the Union.
- Camp canard** A false report widely believed among the soldiers in a camp.
- Cartridge class:** A group, often a ladies organization, engaged in making cartridges for soldiers.
- Coal torpedo:** An explosive device that was machined to look like a lump of coal, blackened, and placed into an enemy coal bin so that it would be shoveled into a furnace, where it would explode.
- Comin' with a bone in her teeth:** An expression often used to describe a vessel moving briskly through the water, with white foam at the prow.
- Cotton clad:** A vessel protected, or "armored," with cotton bales. The term was often used as an adjective, as in "cotton-clad steamboats."
- Critter company:** A cavalry company.

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**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](#)

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## CAPE FEAR CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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JANUARY 2021

# THE RUNNER



VOLUME 3 ISSUE 1



## *Confederate Sequestration Act - Rodney Steward*

The Confederate Act of Sequestration was passed on Aug. 30, 1861. The Confederate law was inspired by the Union's First Confiscation Act of Aug. 6, 1861, which laid the legal groundwork for Northern forces to confiscate Southerners' private property being used to aid the rebellion. The Sequestration Act's silence on nearly all interpretative matters placed the awesome responsibility of defining the terms "loyal Confederate" and "alien enemy" entirely in the hands of local sequestration officials. Judges wielded unprecedented power. This led to massive corruption with no recourse for those unjustly accused of being "enemy aliens" and no restitution for them.



Rodney J. Steward is an assistant professor of History at the University of South Carolina Salkehatchie. Rodney does research in Cultural History. His current project is a book-length manuscript titled "*An Illegal Violence: The Story of Confederate Sequestration*," which is currently under contract for publication with Louisiana State University Press.

## *Victory from the Jaws of Defeat - The Battle of Cedar Creek*

On December 10th, 29 members and 5 visitors attended the Zoom presentation on The Battle of Cedar Creek.

Bill Jayne, Cape Fear Civil War Round Table president, presented a captivating session revealing the various facets at play leading up to the battle.

He first set the stage with an introduction to the geography of the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia where the battle took place on October 19, 1864. The scene of humiliating Union defeats in previous campaigns, General Robert E. Lee attempted to once again affect the course of the war by sending a force into the strategic valley. The stakes had never been higher as the Army of the Potomac closed in on Petersburg and Richmond and the pending U.S. Presidential election offered the chance to oust a president determined to win a military victory over the rebellious Confederate states.

Lee sent Gen. Jubal Early to the valley with the mission of protecting the Confederate breadbasket, and threatening Maryland and Washington, DC, in order to compel Grant to weaken his force besieging the Confederate capital.

Early succeeded spectacularly and Grant reacted by sending the redoubtable VI Corps and much of his cavalry north to defend Washington. Finally, he transferred Maj. Gen. Philip Sheridan north with the mission to destroy Early's Army of the Valley and also clear the valley of anything valuable to the enemy: "If a crow flies over the valley, it will have to bring its own supplies."

### **January Meeting**

Thursday, January 14, 2021 - 7:00 P. M.

Hybrid Meeting

Email from Bruce Patterson will be sent prior to Event

Speaker: **Rodney Steward**  
Topic: **Confederate Sequestration**



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*Victory from the Jaws of Defeat - The Battle of Cedar Creek (cont.)*

Marshaling all the Union forces in the region, Sheridan turned Early back and administered stinging defeats at Third Winchester, Fisher's Hill and Tom's Brook in September and October.

Sheridan felt that Early had been defeated and traveled to Washington to plan his next steps. He even started to draw down his troops by sending the VI Corps back to Grant before changing his mind and returning them to the Army of the Shenandoah. Posted in a strong position at Cedar Creek near Middletown, the Union Army did not have an inkling of an attack coming on its left due to Early's weakness and the geographic obstacles.

Yet, outnumbered more than two to one, Early gambled on a complex surprise attack. In this plan, largely the work of Confederate General John B. Gordon, the initial attack made the most of Early's strengths by hurling his best divisions in a surprising dawn attack aimed at the Union left, the area that seemed to be most secure because of the geographic obstacles posed by Cedar Creek, the North Fork of the Shenandoah River and Massanutten Mountain.

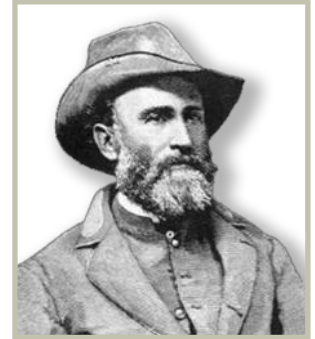
First Kershaw's division (about 3,000) waded across the creek predawn and hit Thoburn's division (c. 1,700 men) which held an isolated position, separated from the rest of the Union VIII Corps. The one-sided attack produced about 600 casualties. A few minutes after Kershaw, three gray divisions under Gordon emerged from the fog and hit the rest of the VIII Corps in the flank and rear. They had surprise and overwhelming numbers to their advantage. They overwhelmed Hayes, and flanked Kitching and his Provisional Division (6th NY Heavy, miscellaneous troops). The entire Confederate II Corps under Gordon was assaulting, more than 6,500 troops. They were coming not from the southwest (where Kershaw vs. Thoburn occurred) but from the southeast. Hayes and Kitching were unable to hold.

Gen. Horatio G. Wright, Union VI Corps commander and acting commander of the Army in Sheridan's absence personally led a counter attack across a ravine. Wright intended to slow the Confederate advance. Confederate Brigadier General Gabriel C. Wharton's division was now advancing up the Valley Pike along with Kershaw's division and the Corps under Gordon. Brig. Gen. William Emory, CO of the Union XIX Corps, had a division (Grover's) up and ready for a planned recon on the 19th so they were better prepared to defend themselves.

A brigade under Col. Stephen Thomas of Vermont was ordered to move east of the Valley Pike to try to slow Gordon's advance. The great weight of the Confederate assault fragmented Thomas's command which held for about 30 minutes. 8th Vermont lost 106 out of 159 including 13 of 16 officers. Confederate staff officer Jed Hotchkiss: "Such a display of heroic fortitude...worthy of the highest praise." Thomas received the MOH. 75th NY and others in Grover's 2nd Division reversed their trenches to oppose the Confederates coming at them from the east. The 156th NY Mountain Legion, faced east, defended the colors in hand-to-hand fighting but by 7:30, they retreated. 156th had 92 casualties at Cedar Creek.

In spite of the desperate valor of the scattered Union commands, Early's juggernaut rolled on through the town of Middletown and finally halted around 10 a.m. Gordon urged Early to continue the attack but Early felt his own command was too disorganized to continue.

In Winchester, about 12 miles to the north, Sheridan awoke and learned of artillery fire at Cedar Creek and soon mounted up. His adjutant, Forsyth, rode ahead and learned of the



**Gen Jubal Early**



**Maj Gen Phillip Sheridan**



*Victory from the Jaws of Defeat - The Battle of Cedar Creek (cont.)*

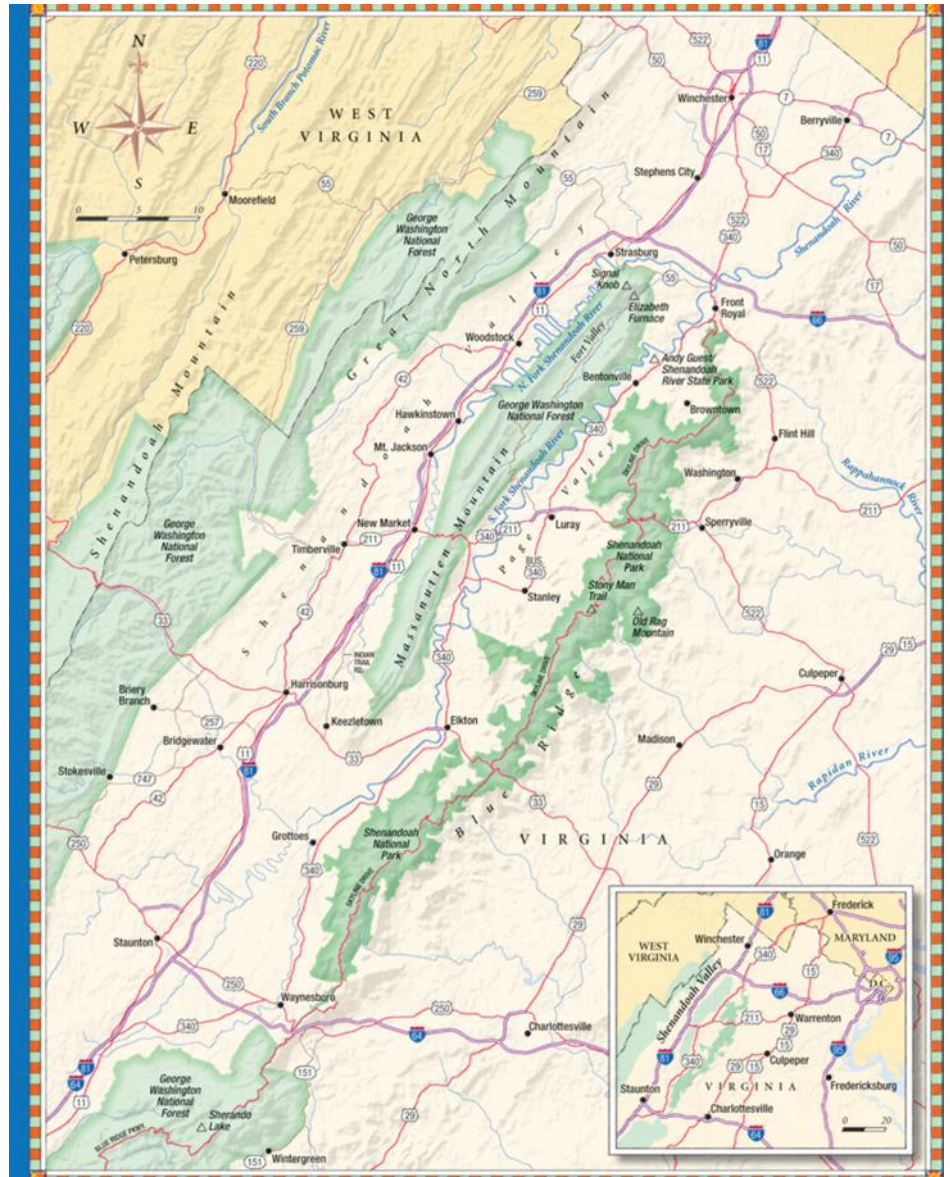
surprise. Spurring his famous horse, Rienzi, Sheridan arrived at the battle line around 10 a.m., just about the time of the halt. Forsyth recommended Sheridan troop the line and it greatly inspired the troops. He told them they would be back in their camps by nightfall.

As the lull continued through mid-day, Sheridan and his commanders prepared to turn the tables on Early, rather than retreat. When it came around three in the afternoon, the counterattack was crushing. Early tried to spread his line too thin, creating a gap on his left. Fighting was hard on the right and center. On the right, North Carolina's Major General Stephen D. Ramseur was mortally wounded and Massachusetts blue blood Charles Russell Lowell, commanding a cavalry brigade was killed.

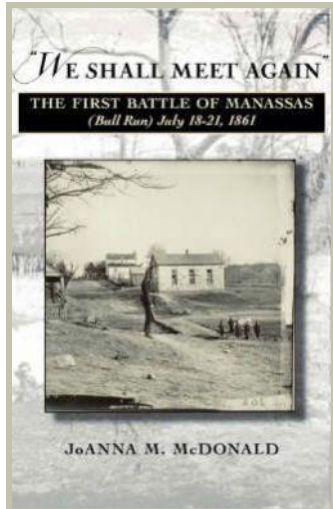
On the left, Custer's cavalry division pushed Rosser and then saw the Confederate line in some confusion and drove to get behind them and cut off their retreat—a rout ensued that virtually destroyed the Army of the Valley.

Custer was driving Rosser across the creek to his right but saw the CSA infantry line wavering to his left. He hesitated, but only for a moment; then without waiting for orders, he made the decision that any cavalry commander worth his salt should have made. Leaving Pennington with three regiments to maintain pressure on Rosser, he reeled the rest of the division into column and *'moved to the left at a gallop.'*

Sheridan's victory at Cedar Creek extinguished any hope of further Confederate offensives in the Valley, and was one of the Union victories in late 1864 that helped ensure President Abraham Lincoln's reelection that November.



## Cape Fear Civil War Round Table Upcoming Events



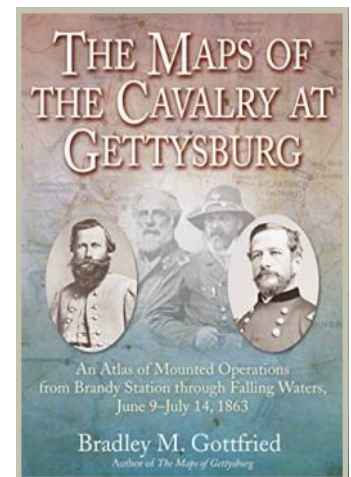
### February 11th JoAnna McDonald (Author), Lee's Pyrrhic Victory at Chancellorsville

JoAnna, a member of our council, is a contributor to the Emerging Civil War blog. She will look at the casualties suffered by the Army of Northern Virginia at Chancellorsville, especially at the level of field grade and general grade officers. How did those losses affect the Army at Gettysburg? Almost all Civil War buffs know the story of Stonewall Jackson's loss at Chancellorsville and how that may have affected the performance of his vaunted II Corps at Gettysburg, but that wasn't the entire story.

JoAnna M. McDonald, Ph.D., is a historian, writer, and public speaker. Author of eleven books on the Civil War and WWII, as well as numerous journal and newsletter articles regarding U.S. Marine Corps history, JoAnna's next book is *R. E. Lee's Grand Strategy & Strategic Leadership: Caught in a Paradoxical Paradigm*.

### March 11th Brad Gottfried (Author), Cavalry in the Gettysburg Campaign

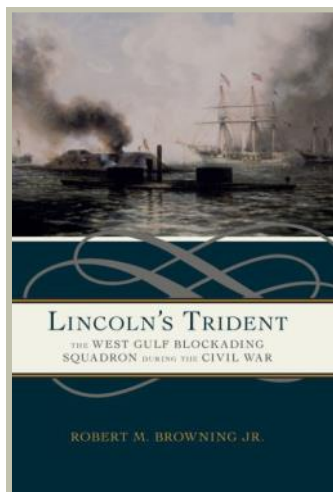
Dr. Bradley M. Gottfried holds a Ph.D. in Zoology from Miami University. Brad, who is recently retired, worked in higher education for more than four decades. He also serves as a board member of the Central Virginia Battlefield Trust. He is hard at work on two projects: *The Maps of Petersburg and Appomattox* and the story of the creation and consecration of the Gettysburg National Cemetery that will be published as part of the Emerging Civil War Series. An avid Civil War historian, Dr. Gottfried is the author of eleven books, including; *Brigades of Gettysburg* (2002) and five previous Savas Beatie Military Atlas Titles (*First Bull Run, Antietam, Gettysburg, Bristoe Station/Mine Run, and Wilderness*). Brad and his wife recently published a history of the Point Lookout Civil War Prisoner of War Camp for Confederates. He is currently finalizing (with Theodore P. Savas) *The Gettysburg Campaign Encyclopedia*.



### April 8th Bob Browning (Author), Blockading Squadrons

Dr. Browning earned his Ph.D. at the University of Alabama and embarked on his history career, working as a park superintendent at the Battleship Texas. In 1989, he began work as a historian with the U.S. Coast Guard and two years later became the Coast Guard's chief historian, retiring from government service in 2015. He is the author of six books and more than four dozen articles relating to the Coast Guard, the Civil War, and U.S. naval and maritime history.

For more information go to the [CFCWRT website](http://CFCWRT.com).



LINCOLN'S TRIDENT  
THE WEST GULF BLOCKADING  
SQUADRON DURING THE CIVIL WAR

ROBERT M. BROWNING JR.

*Round Table Officer Marks Milestone by Bill Jayne*

**Bruce E. Patterson**, the secretary-treasurer of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table recently led the way in marking a major milestone and we would be remiss if we failed to recognize him for his great leadership, support, guidance and assistance.

Born on December 13, 1930, Bruce marked his 90th birthday with a family get-together facilitated by Zoom, a technology that even Dick Tracy couldn't have imagined in 1930 (actually, the comic strip detective with his wrist radio, etc., didn't make his debut until 1931).

Bruce's work on behalf of our round table is very important and very much appreciated. In addition to his duties as secretary and treasurer, he is the key liaison with our speakers, facilitating their visits to Wilmington or, for the past several months, their remote presentations. He is also a key volunteer for several other endeavors including the Southeast North Carolina Military Officers Association, the Remembering our Military Heroes group, Wreaths Across America, the N.C. Military Historical Society and the Wilmington Philatelic Society.

Originally from New York City, Bruce grew up in a small town in Western Massachusetts and joined the U.S. Army in 1948 after graduating from high school. He graduated from Officers Candidate School in 1951 and was commissioned in the Field Artillery, which was fitting since his father was a Coast Artilleryman who served in France in World War I.

Bruce also counts Civil War veterans among his ancestors and perhaps that helps account, in part, for his interest and expertise in history.

Bruce went on to a distinguished career in the Army, retiring as a Colonel in 1979. He was inducted into the Hall of Fame of the OCS Alumni Organization. He holds an MBA from George Washington University and is a graduate of the Command and General Staff College, the Armed Forces Staff College and the Army War College.

I consider myself very lucky to count Bruce as a friend, mentor and key member of our Round Table team. Best wishes, Bruce, and many thanks.



**Col Bruce E Patterson,  
US Army**



**Bruce Patterson  
Father, Brother,  
Uncle, Friend,  
Beloved Community  
member**



*Trivia Question*

I am the wife of a Major General in the Confederate Army. I was not married to my husband at the time of the war. I was my husband's 2nd wife and so I am not buried with my husband, but I am buried in a very prominent Cemetery. Many people may not realize I am buried there as none of my children by the General are buried at this cemetery. A huge hint if you want to find my grave, I am at site 1936 in this prominent D.C. Area Cemetery. Who am I and who was my famous husband?

Answer on Page 7



## *Robley Dunglison (Fighting Bob) Evans*

**Fort Fisher** kept North Carolina's port of Wilmington open to blockade-runners supplying necessary goods to Confederate armies inland. By 1865, the supply line through Wilmington was the last remaining supply route open. When Ft. Fisher fell after a massive Federal amphibious assault on **January 15, 1865**, its defeat helped seal the fate of the Confederacy.

This year is the **156th** anniversary of that assault.

Evans made what may have been the single most incredible shot in American military history, killing a sharpshooter with a single pistol bullet after that man shot him four times with a rifle. He was the only US Naval officer invalided out of the service for supposedly incurable wounds subsequently reinstated. Evans was the only Admiral afloat in any of the world's navies who had killed buffalo from horseback, been shot through and through by an Indian arrow, and ridden a Pony Express horse through Brigham Young's flowerbed.

Born on August 18, 1846 in Floyd County, Virginia, Evans' dream was to attend the US Naval Academy in Annapolis. All spaces were filled except for the one reserved for the Utah Territory, and its candidate had to be a resident. So, in 1859, 13-year-old Evans became the youngest member of a five-man, one boy, wagon train, headed for Salt Lake City. Evans' party crossed the Great Plains, hunting buffalo and antelope as they went. He learned to ride up alongside buffalo bulls at a gallop, killing them with diagonal heart-lung shots, killing them with a Colt's repeating rifle. Northwest of Fort Laramie, the party was surrounded by hostile Indians. They made a fighting retreat to Fort Laramie. Later while trying a different route, the group was attacked again. Young Evans was wounded when an arrow passed through his left ankle but survived the attack. After many adventures out west, Evans returned to the East Coast and entered the Naval Academy.

In the Spring of 1861 came the outbreak of the Civil War. In October 1863 and barely 17 years old, he was promoted to Acting Ensign and detailed to the steamer USS Powhatan, pulling blockade duty until January 1865. In the fourth year of the Civil War during the battle to subdue Fort Fisher, Evans assembled a 62-man assault team, all Powhatan volunteers, as part of a 2,000 men Naval force. The sailors were armed with pistols (.36 caliber Navy guns) and cutlasses. The night before the attack, rifle pits had been dug for the Marines. The Leathernecks were supposed to go to ground, providing covering fire for the sailors as they charged through them towards the Rebel stronghold. Unfortunately, the Federal plan did not go as intended. The naval force slogged through the sand more than 1,200 yards over the exposed beach, suffering casualties from the very accurate rifle long before the fort's defenders came within range of their pistols.

From more than 100 yards away Evans took careful aim on Colonel Lamb, Confederate second-in-command. Just as he fired a Rebel sniper shot him sideways through the chest, spinning him around and causing him to miss his shot. Evans disregarded the pain and continued on towards the gap blasted in the wooden palisade by the naval bombardment. He now realized one particular Confederate marksman was shooting repeatedly at him. At just 100 yards distance he was hit a second time. Evans was one of only eight men out of the more than 2,000 who successfully penetrated the wooden palisade. All eight inside the palisade had been shot and any not dead yet were now in what amounted to a known distance (35 yard) shooting gallery. Evans was shot a third time, through the right knee. In the fourth shot, the Rebel completely took off Evan's right toe. Enraged by what seemed to be the personal assault, Evans aimed at his assailant. "My bullet went a little high, striking the poor chap in the throat and passing out the back of his neck. He pitched over the parapet and rolled down near me, where he lay dead."

A Marine from the Powhatan named Wasmouth rescued Robley Evans from his exposed position inside the palisade by carrying him to a pit carved out by a navy shell about fifty yards outside the fort. As Wasmouth lowered Evans into the shelter a Confederate bullet severed the good Samaritan's jugular vein, and he dropped at the ocean's edge and there bled to death. Fate smiled somewhat more favorably on Ensign Evans.



**Ensign Robley D. Evans**

*(Continued on page 7)*

*Robley Dunglison (Fighting Bob) Evans (cont.)*

When a signal torch signaled to the fleet that the fort had fallen to Union forces, “Ensign Robley Evans, now evacuated from the beach, was lying on the deck of the USS Nereus with other wounded seamen when the missiles began streaking through the night. Finally in a hospital before going to sleep he hid his revolver under his pillow. Drifting in and out of consciousness, he overheard the surgeon in charge tell his assistants “Take both legs in the morning.” When the doctors came the next day and he could not talk them out of their intentions, out came his pistol. His .36 Navy pistol saved his legs. After much pain and suffering he taught himself to walk again and came back into active duty. He survived the battle but his leg wounds left him with a severe limp for the rest of his life.

Over the next 30 years he sailed the seven seas and advanced in rank: 1901 Rear Admiral, 1902 Commander of the Asiatic Fleet, 1905 Command of the Atlantic Fleet, and 1907 Commander of the Great White Fleet for the first half of its round-the-world voyage. Among the junior officers serving in Evans’ Great White Fleet were the Ensigns William F. Halsey, Husband E. Kimmel, and Harold Stark, and the very young Midshipman Raymond Spruance. All four would become admirals in their own right and follow Evans’ example.



Rear Admiral Robley D. Evans, USN

*Trivia Answer*

**Mary Eliza Dickson Pillow**, Maj Gen **Gideon J. Pillow**'s second wife.

...Mrs. Mary E. Pillow is the daughter of Louisiana planter Michael and Hannah Palmer Dixon. Before she was out of her teens Miss Dixon became the wife of John Trigg, a wealthy young resident of Memphis, who died soon after the war.

In 1874 she married Major General Gideon J. Pillow, who had been predeceased by his first wife Mary Martin Pillow in 1869. Gideon was born in 1806 and Eliza was born in 1846. They had four children (one which died in infancy). He died of the yellow fever in 1878, leaving his widow with three children and only slender means with which to keep them.

He was a brigadier general in the Confederate army but a major general in the Tennessee militia. Pillow was a Major General of Tennessee troops in the Mexican War.

Eliza Pillow moved to Washington, D.C., to be near the federal courts to pursue claims for cotton that her first husband had lost during the Civil War. While crossing Constitution Avenue, near the Capital building in Washington, she was struck by a streetcar and died soon after. She was initially interred in a small private cemetery, but arrangements were made by her daughter Laura (daughter by her first husband), for reinterment in Arlington National Cemetery as the wife of a General.

*Online Presentations***Raleigh Civil War Roundtable**

1/11 **Leonard J. Fullenkamp** - Ulysses Grant: The making of a General

**CWRT Congress - All sessions start at 7pm Eastern**

1/20 **John Fazio** - [Battle of The Alabama and Kearsarge](#)

Historian John C. Fazio tells the story of the only major battle between ocean-going vessels in the Civil War. John A. Winslow and Raphael Semmes had become best friends while serving together aboard the USS Cumberland and the USS Raritan during the Mexican War. During the Civil War, however, Semmes captained the CSS Sumter and the CSS Alabama and became the scourge of federal commercial shipping, sinking or capturing 85 merchantmen and one union warship in a three-year period. As captain of the USS Kearsarge, Winslow pursued his former friend and the Alabama for 14 months before cornering him off the coast of Cherbourg, France, where the two ships fought to the death, June 19, 1864. Winslow's and Semmes' last view of each other, and the action taken by Winslow in consequence of it, is the stuff of legend.

1/27 **Judkin Browning & Timothy Silver** - [The Environment & the Civil War](#)

Environmental factors such as topography and weather powerfully shaped the outcomes of battles and campaigns, and the war could not have been fought without the horses, cattle, and other animals that were essential to both armies. Judkin Browning and Timothy Silver weave a far richer story, combining military and environmental history to forge a comprehensive new narrative of the war's significance and impact. As they reveal, the conflict created a new disease environment by fostering the spread of microbes among vulnerable soldiers, civilians, and animals; led to largescale modifications of the landscape across several states; sparked new thinking about the human relationship to the natural world; and demanded a reckoning with disability and death on an ecological scale.

**The Mariners' Museum and Park - Virtual Civil War Lecture**

1/8 **John V. Quarstein** - [John Worden and the USS Montauk](#)

Once Commander John Lorimer Worden had recovered from wounds received during the Battle of Hampton Roads, he was detailed to command the Passaic-class monitor USS Montauk. The Worden and his ship arrived in Port Royal Sound, South Carolina. Admiral Du Pont ordered Worden to bombard Fort McAllister, Georgia. This mission was to test the striking power of XV-inch Dahlgren guns against earthworks, as well as to understand these new ironclads' shot-proof abilities. On February 28, 1863, Worden was able to destroy the former commerce raider CSS Nashville (Rattlesnake). However, while heading back down the Ogeechee River, Montauk struck a torpedo. Only Worden's quick actions saved the ship from sinking.

**Emerging Civil War YouTube Channel**

**Howard Holzer** - [The Presidents Versus The Press](#)

Emerging Civil War's Chris Mackowski talks with renowned Lincoln scholar Harold Holzer about Holzer's new book "The Presidents vs. The Press: The Endless Battle Between the White House and the Media, from the Founding Fathers to Fake News."



*Finding Missouri Governor and Union Brigadier General Thomas C. Fletcher in Hillsboro by Kristen Pawlak*

For many history buffs and road trippers, rural Jefferson County, Missouri is usually not very high – or maybe not at all – on the Civil War bucket list of sites to see. Sitting due south of St. Louis is the county seat, Hillsboro, where one of Missouri’s most influential Civil War and Reconstruction governors had his antebellum home.

Bvt. Brigadier General and Missouri Governor Thomas C. Fletcher was actually born in Jefferson County, specifically the town of Herculaneum. The first county seat of Jefferson County (until the 1830s), Herculaneum was known for its lead mining and production, as well as its proximity to St. Louis, which is what most likely drew Fletcher’s parents to immigrate there from Maryland prior to his birth in 1827. His family was well-off financially, having owned several slaves, and allowed him to receive an education and pursue a career in law.

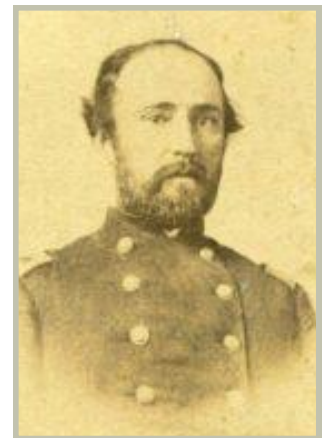
Fletcher was quite politically active early in his adult life and career. At the age of 22, he became Circuit Clerk in Jefferson County; and after seven years of clerk service, Fletcher was admitted to the bar. It was while he served as the Circuit Clerk in Jefferson County’s seat of Hillsboro that he lived in this quaint home. Unlike his parents and upbringing in a slave-owning household, he became a Republican and abolitionist in the mid-1850s. Fletcher’s loyalty to the Republican Party and county greatly shaped the rest of his career and life.

A love of Union, freedom, and equality, as well as having a distinguished political career, led Fletcher to become a delegate to the Republican National Convention in 1860. When the Civil War broke out, two of his brothers – Perry and Charles – both enlisted in the 6th Missouri Infantry. In an accident at the St. Louis Arsenal in June 1861, Sgt. Perry Fletcher died. Two years later in October 1862, Fletcher enlisted and became Colonel of the 31st Missouri Infantry. At the Battle of Chickasaw Bayou during the Vicksburg Campaign, he was captured by Confederate forces and imprisoned at the infamous Libby Prison until the spring of 1863. Though he was able to command troops in the field with the Army of the Tennessee, Fletcher was forced to return to Jefferson County in early 1864 due to lingering illness.

By the early fall of 1864, as Maj. Gen. Sterling Price’s Army of Missouri advanced into Missouri, a recovered Fletcher organized the 47th Missouri Infantry. Part of the Union garrison at Fort Davidson, Fletcher and the 47th Missouri were heavily involved in the Battle of Pilot Knob on September 27, 1864. Though forced to withdraw from Fort Davidson after repeated Confederate attacks, the battle itself was a major factor into why Price did not attack the vital Union city of St. Louis. Additionally, the political aspirations of Fletcher



Located in Hillsboro, Missouri is the 1850s home of Missouri Governor and Civil War veteran Thomas C. Fletcher. Courtesy of Kristen Pawlak.



Col. Thomas C. Fletcher in his Federal uniform. Courtesy of Wilson’s Creek National Battlefield.

(Continued on page 10)

*Finding Missouri Governor and Union Brigadier General Thomas C. Fletcher in Hillsboro by Kristen Pawlak, (cont.)*

and the garrison's overall commander Thomas Ewing contributed to the Federals' decision to stay at Fort Davidson and fight it out against Price. Fletcher's involvement in the battle, which certainly contributed to Union victory in the overall campaign, led to his promotion to brevet brigadier general.

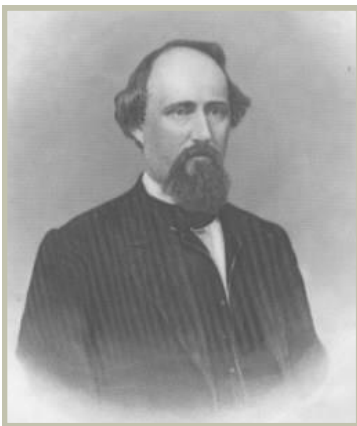
Just two months after commanding troops in the field at Pilot Knob, Fletcher won a decisive victory over Democrat Thomas Price in the Missouri gubernatorial election of 1864. A border state, Missouri was immune to the Emancipation Proclamation, allowing slavery in her borders due to her loyalty to the Union. With his strong abolitionist beliefs, Fletcher was determined to end slavery.

On January 11, 1865, he helped lead Missouri and the General Assembly to formally abolish slavery in the state. That day at the Missouri State Capitol, Fletcher addressed the state with a public endorsement of abolition: "In the lightning's chirography the fact is written ere this over the whole land – Missouri is Free! ... Forever be this day celebrated by our people." Just twenty days later, Congress passed the Thirteenth Amendment, abolishing slavery nationwide. Fletcher holds a special legacy in Missouri as helping lead the charge to end slavery in this divided border state.

Serving from 1865 to 1869, Fletcher oversaw Missouri's tumultuous post-war era. Unlike the states in the former Confederate South, Missouri was not under Congressional Reconstruction. However, it faced fierce division between Republican wings and what a post-war Missouri would look like. Fletcher's administration addressed issues regarding state railroad debt, education reform, post-war violence, Native American rights and the Constitutionality of test oaths.

After his governorship, Fletcher returned to the practice of law, first in St. Louis then in Washington, DC. He ran for U.S. Congress in 1880, but lost. He passed away at the age of 72 in Washington, DC and was interred at St. Louis' famous Bellefontaine Cemetery.

As Missouri's first Republican and first native-born son to serve as Missouri Governor, Fletcher is a remarkable figure in Missouri, Civil War, and Reconstruction history. Leading the fight for abolition in Missouri and leading the state through some of its most chaotic years, he should be remembered more often. Next time you are in the St. Louis area, make sure a visit to Fletcher's modest, unassuming, but beautifully-preserved home in Hillsboro is on the list.



Fletcher's portrait as Governor of Missouri. Courtesy of the City of Herculaneum.



*After the end of the Civil War whatever happened to...?*

### Confederate General Pierre G. T. Beauregard

Beauregard pursued a position in the Brazilian Army in 1865, but declined the Brazilians' offer. He claimed that the positive attitude of President Johnson toward the South swayed his decision. "I prefer to live here, poor and forgotten, than to be endowed with honor and riches in a foreign country." He also declined offers to take command of the armies of Romania and Egypt.

He was active in the Reform Party, an association of conservative New Orleans businessmen, which spoke in favor of civil rights and voting for former slaves, hoping to form alliances between African-Americans and Democrats to vote out the Radical Republicans in the state legislature.

Beauregard's first employment following the war was in October 1865 as chief engineer and general superintendent of the New Orleans, Jackson and Great Northern Railroad. In 1866 he was promoted to president, a position he retained until 1870, when he was ousted in a hostile takeover. This job overlapped with that of president of the New Orleans and Carrollton Street Railway (1866–1876), where he invented a system of cable-powered street railway cars. Once again, Beauregard made a financial success of the company, but was fired by stockholders who wished to take direct management of the company.

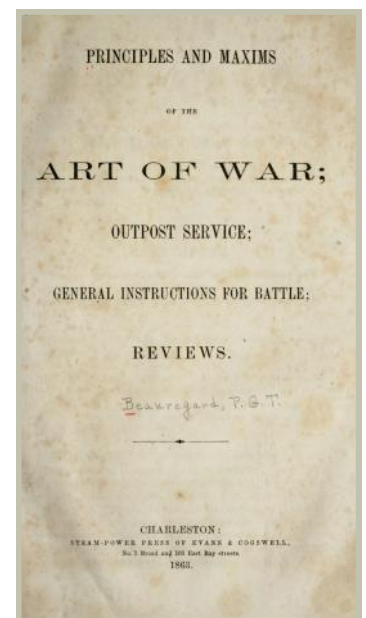
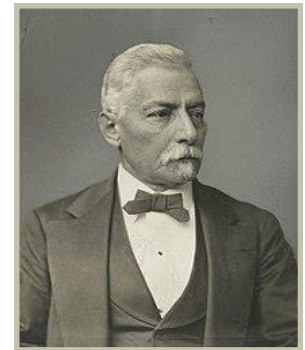
In 1869 he demonstrated a cable car and was issued U.S. Patent 97,343.

After the loss of these two railway executive positions, Beauregard spent time briefly at a variety of companies and civil engineering pursuits, but his personal wealth became assured when he was recruited as a supervisor of the Louisiana State Lottery Company in 1877. He and former Confederate general Jubal Early presided over lottery drawings and made numerous public appearances, lending the effort some respectability. For 15 years the two generals served in these positions, but the public became opposed to government-sponsored gambling and the lottery was closed down by the legislature.

Beauregard's military writings include *Principles and Maxims of the Art of War* (1863), *Report on the Defense of Charleston*, and *A Commentary on the Campaign and Battle of Manassas* (1891). He was the uncredited co-author of his friend Alfred Roman's *The Military Operations of General Beauregard in the War Between the States* (1884). He contributed the article "The Battle of Bull Run" to *Century Illustrated Monthly Magazine* in November 1884. During these years, Beauregard and Davis published a series of bitter accusations and counter-accusations retrospectively blaming each other for the Confederate defeat.

Beauregard served as adjutant general for the Louisiana state militia, 1879–88. In 1888, he was elected as commissioner of public works in New Orleans. When John Bell Hood and his wife died in 1879, leaving ten destitute orphans, Beauregard used his influence to get Hood's memoirs published, with all proceeds going to the children. He was appointed by the governor of Virginia to be the grand marshal of the festivities associated with the laying of the cornerstone of Robert E. Lee's statue in Richmond. But when Jefferson Davis died in 1889, Beauregard refused the honor of heading the funeral procession, saying "We have always been enemies. I cannot pretend I am sorry he is gone. I am no hypocrite."

Beauregard died in his sleep in New Orleans on February 20, 1893. He was 74.



## Civil War Phrases

**All in three years:** A Union Soldiers' expression meaning "all the same to the average soldier," whose term of service, among users of the phrase, was scheduled for three years. Typically uttered when something went wrong.

**Artificial oysters:** A Southern dish consisting of grated corn mixed with eggs and butter, rolled in batter, and fried in a pan.

**Barrel drill:** A punishment in which a soldier had to stand on a barrel for a specified length of time, sometimes while holding a stick of wood or wearing a placard labeling the offender, such as "Thief."

**B.C.:** A marking on containers of hardtack, probably standing for *Brigade Commissary* but interpreted by soldiers, poking fun at the apparent age of the crackers, as *Before Christ*.

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**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](#)

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# THE RUNNER



DECEMBER 2020



VOLUME 2 ISSUE 12

## *The Battle of Cedar Creek*

### **The Battle of Cedar Creek - Hybrid Presentation by Bill Jayne**

Originally scheduled as a classic round table discussion for our June meeting, then postponed to August, it's now the end of the absurd year of 2020 and we find that the COVID 19, novel coronavirus phenomenon is still with us and we haven't yet heard much about the Battle of Cedar Creek. We're still unable to hold a normal meeting in the auditorium style arrangement of the Harbor Church sanctuary because the Governor of North Carolina has limited meetings like ours to a limit of ten attendees.

Given these facts, we're going to hold a "hybrid" presentation before a small, live audience at Harbor Church AND Zoom the presentation to those who want to tune in online.

Bill Jayne, who was planning to lead the round table discussion, will instead deliver a presentation with slides, etc., and take questions after the presentation. Following is a quick reminder about the topic.

The battle took place on October 19, 1864, in the Shenandoah Valley between the powerful Federal Army of the Shenandoah led by Maj. Gen. Philip Sheridan, and the much less powerful Confederate Army of the Valley led by Lt. Gen. Jubal Early. An audacious surprise attack by the Confederates drove the Union forces back with great losses but led by Sheridan the Army of the Shenandoah recovered and delivered a counterattack that destroyed the Army of the Valley and ended Confederate presence in the valley.

The powerful and fascinating personalities who guided and moved this dramatic battle are central to analysis of the battle. Union General Philip Sheridan, was an 1853 graduate of West Point from Ohio. An Irish Catholic, he was an undersized and very aggressive leader who rose to the pinnacle of his profession as the commanding general of the U.S. Army in the 1880s. Grant sent Maj. Gen. Sheridan to the Shenandoah Valley as commander of the newly consolidated Middle Division of the Army. Known as the Army of the Shenandoah, Sheridan brought unified, focused command to a large, extremely powerful force of three infantry corps plus a provisional division and a superbly equipped cavalry corps of more than 8,000 men. He commanded a total force of about 31,600 effectives at Cedar Creek, including 1,856 artillerymen serving 90 guns.

Much older than Sheridan, Lt. Gen. Jubal Early, graduated West Point in 1837. He was a Virginia native connected to many of the most prominent FFVs (First Families of Virginia). He left the Army after brief service in the Seminole War and then studied law and rose to political prominence in Virginia. He volunteered for the state militia in the War with Mexico but his unit arrived in Mexico too late to see combat. His aggressive style of leadership brought him to the attention of Robert E. Lee and he soon rose through the command structure as attrition removed leaders such as Thomas J. Jackson

*(Continued on page 2)*

***December meeting***  
Thursday, December 10,  
2020 - 7:00 P. M.

Hybrid Meeting

Email from Bruce Patterson  
will be sent prior to Event

Speaker: Bill Jayne  
Topic: Battle of Cedar Creek



### **INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

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## *The Battle of Cedar Creek, cont.*

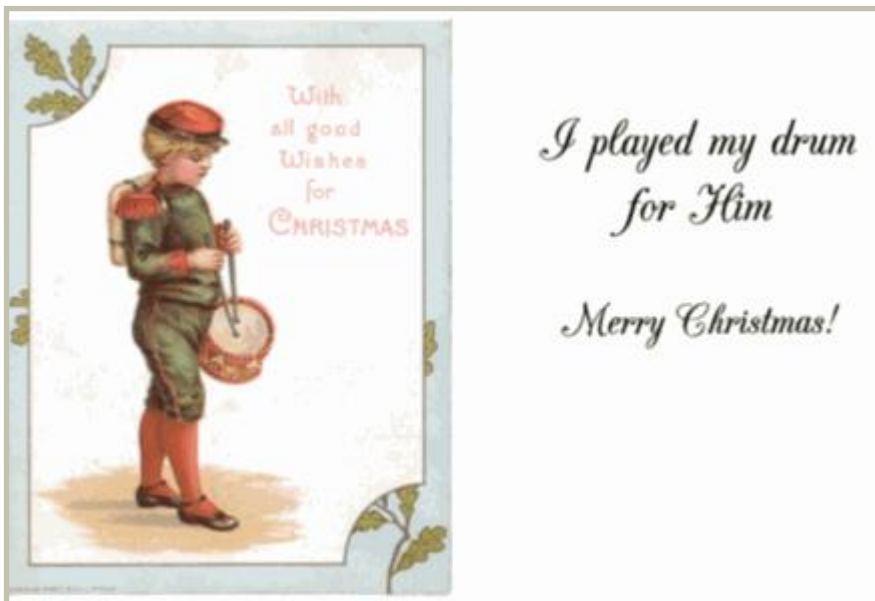
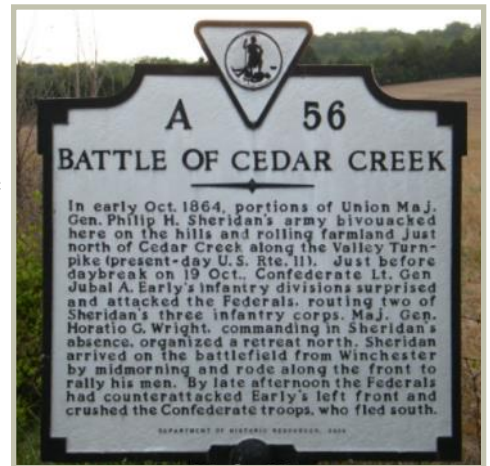
and Richard S. Ewell. By 1864, Lt. Gen. Early commanded the “Army of the Valley,” composed primarily of the redoubtable II Corps of the Army of Northern Virginia. Estimates vary but his strength was approximately 21,000 at Cedar Creek including 5,300 cavalry and 1,100 artillerymen serving more than 40 guns. Some estimate Confederate strength as low as 12,780. The National Park Service estimates the size of the Army of the Valley as “14,000-15,000 men.”

Some other personalities are also of great interest and importance to the conduct of the battle. On the Confederate side, Maj. Gen. John B. Gordon of Georgia was crucial. Maj. Gen. Horatio Wright played an important role in Sheridan’s army but many other generals such as Crook, Geary, and Custer added to the complexity of the engagement. Col. Rutherford B. Hayes (yes, that Rutherford B. Hayes who later became president of the United States) commanded a brigade caught up in the initial surprise of the Confederate assault.

The weather also played a role in the battle. Typical of autumn in the Shenandoah Valley, the weather was generally dry with warm days and cool nights. However, the battlefield is enveloped by the Shenandoah River and Cedar Creek and overshadowed by the imposing land form of Masanutten Mountain. In the crucial hours around dawn on October 19, 1864, fog prevailed over much of the battlefield.

The distinctive geography of the valley was, of course, an important factor in the battle as was, as always, politics. The U.S. presidential election of 1864 was just a few weeks away and although Lincoln had pulled ahead of his rival former general George B. McClellan, a Federal defeat in the valley would have been received as terrible news in the north and might have threatened Lincoln’s reelection.

Tune in on December 10, or contact Bill Jayne or Bruce Patterson about attending in person.



*CFCWRT News*

***Wreaths Across America***

The Wreaths Across America wreath purchasing effort, conducted by the Round Table and joined by the Wilmington Chapter, NCMHS and the Wilmington Philatelic Society was highly successful with a total of 76 wreaths being purchased for the Wilmington National Cemetery, thus exceeding our unit goal in this very unusual year.

The wreath laying ceremony, scheduled for Saturday, 19 December is usually an open event, however this year it is by reservation only and all slots have been filled as of this writing.

The Wilmington Philatelic Society has prepared a cachet for the event with a cancellation specifically designed for Saturday, 19 December. (example to the left) Instructions for obtaining the cachet will be provided prior to the 19th and will remain in effect for the following 30 calendar days, by mail, from the main Post Office. We expect final instructions from the Wilmington Postmaster by 10 December.

Our thanks for all who took part in this years efforts.



***Cape Fear Civil War Round Table Upcoming Events***

**2020**

December 10th **Bill Jayne**, The Battle of Cedar Creek

This will be a hybrid meeting with a limited attendance (10) and a ZOOM presentation for those who can't attend in person or prefer an online venue. Details will be sent prior to the meeting.

**2021**

January 14th **Rodney Steward** (Author), Confederate Sequestration Act

February 11th **Kenneth Rutherford** (Author), Mine Warfare and the Civil War

For more information go to the [CFCWRT website](http://www.cfcwrt.com).



**Ed Gibson**

***CFCWRT Zoom Presentations***

A special thanks to our Zoom Master, **Ed Gibson**. He has embraced this duty which has allowed us to continue our monthly presentations in spite of gathering restrictions due to Covid-19.

*Thank you*

*November's Presentation: Lt. Frank Hoge by Andrew Dupstadt*

**November's Presentation on the Interesting Story of a Young Confederate Naval Officer**



**Lt. Francis Lyell Hoge**

On November 12, Andrew Dupstadt, historic sites specialist for the State of NC, delivered to our round table an extremely interesting and quick-paced presentation about Confederate Navy Lt. Francis Lyell “Frank” Hoge. We’re proud to note that Andrew, who is also treasurer of the North Carolina Military Historical Society, is a member of our round table.

While researching the taking of the *USS Underwriter*, a Union gunboat posted near the city of New Bern, N.C., Andrew learned that descendants of Lt. Hoge still held numerous letters, orders, commissions and artifacts belonging to the young officer.

Francis Lyell Hoge, known as “Frank,” was born in Moundsville, Virginia, in January 1841. Moundsville is a small city on the Ohio River in what is today the state of West Virginia.

Andrew traveled to West Virginia to meet with Mr. Laurence Evans II, Frank Lyell’s descendant who owned the papers and artifacts.

Appointed to the U.S. Naval Academy in 1856, Frank wrote many letters home, especially to his siblings, about day-to-day life in the new academy in Annapolis, Md. He wrote of being awakened by cannon fire and drum rolls but he quickly became accustomed to academy life and even comfortable as a young “acting midshipman” who enjoyed Sunday down time lounging in slippers while sitting in an easy chair reading letters from home.

Upon graduation he was assigned to the *USS Susquehanna*, a large side-wheel frigate in the Mediterranean Squadron. He received excellent reviews from his commanding officer, Captain George Nicholas Hollins, Sr., born in Baltimore, he was a citizen of Florida who considered himself a southerner. Captain Hollins resigned his U.S. Navy commission in 1861 and escaped to the south. He held many posts in the Confederate Navy, including command of the Wilmington, N.C., naval station. He died in 1878 in Baltimore.

Young Frank Lyell, although born in the most northwestern part of what is now the state of West Virginia, near Pittsburgh, PA, chose to side with the



**Shadowbox of Lt. Hoge Artifacts**



(Continued on page 5)



*November's Presentation: Lt. Frank Hoge by Andrew Dupstadt, cont.*

Confederacy and compiled an outstanding record in the fighting on the sounds and rivers of eastern North Carolina.

The youthful officer proved his mettle in several difficult engagements, including a cutting out expedition on the Rappahannock River in Virginia and survived a near fatal wound in August 1863. He served under the command of Colonel John Taylor Wood, the grandson of President Zachary Taylor, and was recommended for promotion.



**Lt. Hoge's Sword**

Recovered from his wound thanks in part to the solicitous care of a Virginia surgeon and his family (he wrote glowingly of the doctor's daughters who helped nurse him back to health), Col. Wood picked him to play a pivotal role in the famous expedition to attempt to commandeer the *USS Underwriter* off New Bern. The expedition comprised 33 officers and 220 men in 12 boats and two large launches, each of which carried a 12-pounder howitzer. The "joint services" expedition included men from all over the south, soldiers, sailors and Marines. Hoge, based in Wilmington, was in charge of much of the logistical preparation for the expedition. Such expeditions were exceedingly dangerous in the 19th Century and young Hoge was the first to board the enemy vessel.

Although much of the crew of the *Underwriter* was ashore and the raiders outnumbered the Union tars, fighting was fierce and chaotic. The Confederates prevailed but steam in the ship's boilers was low and it became clear that they would not be able to sail the boat away and outfit it for Confederate service. Under fire from Union forts on shore, it was decided to burn the ship to deny it to the Federal forces. Hoge was chosen for the extremely dangerous mission of firing the ship and boarded it twice while under fire to make sure the fires would take hold and destroy the ship. He was successful and the Confederates retreated back up the Neuse River to Kinston.

At Kinston, Hoge became the executive officer of the formidable *CSS Neuse*, the Confederate ironclad under construction in the river. The ship, of course, took a great deal of time to be built and properly outfitted because of shortages of iron, machinery, and other essential materials. In March of 1865 it helped cover the movements of Confederate Army divisions under Generals Robert Hoke and D.H. Hill in the battle of Wyse's Forks prior to Bentonville and then was scuttled.

At the end of the war, Hoge was paroled but fearing retribution, he travelled to Halifax, Nova Scotia, in Canada where he worked with other Confederate officers including Col. John Taylor Wood to retrieve his fortunes.

Eventually he returned home to his family in West Virginia and ultimately became the city engineer of Moundsville where his most notable achievement was the building of an important bridge that still exists in the old town on the Ohio River. He died in 1901, a bachelor, who was always known as an "able and true officer."

Andrew's presentation engendered a number of interested questions from viewers eager to learn more about this interesting story. Perhaps ZOOM has a future after all!



**Francis L.**  
 Son of  
**Isaac & R M Hoge**  
 1841 - 1901

## *My father served under both Lee and Grant*

In the August 1961 issue of Civil War Times, Mabel Tidball, daughter of Captain John C. Tidball, a very fine and oft-overlooked Army of the Potomac artilleryman wrote a letter to the editor.

How interesting to have the daughter of a prominent Civil war officer reading about her father in the Civil War Times a century after his exploits, Mabel was so pleased to have found her father's photo on the cover of the June 1961 issue that she decided to write in and share some details about his life.

Tidball was an 1848 graduate of West Point, making a career in the military and was seemingly at every major eastern battlefield during the Civil War. He earned five commissions, rising to the rank of Brevet Major General of Volunteers. He published a heavy artillery tactics textbook. Served as the third Commander (Governor) of the Department of Alaska. Even still Tidball is one of those unsung heroes of the Civil War.

Mabel was born in 1875 to Tidball's second wife, the daughter of Major General Napoleon J.T. Dana. That essentially makes Mabel Tidball akin to Civil War royalty in 1961. She would live to just a few days short of her 99th birthday, passing away in 1974! We aren't so far removed from the Civil War.

In her letter to the editor, Mabel identifies each soldier posed in the most recognizable of Tidball wartime photos, taken at Fair Oaks on July 1, 1862. She even points out the out-of-focus soldier in the back as her father's orderly, holding Tidball's horse, which was killed later in the war.

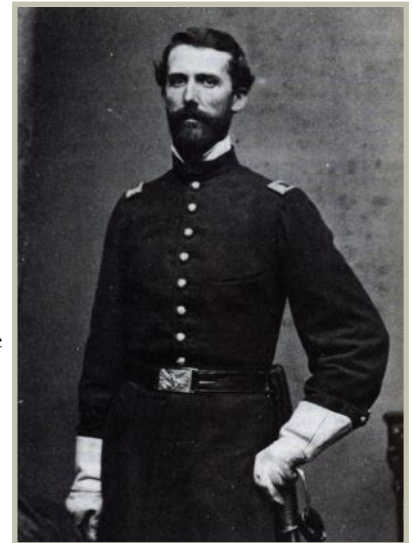
"My father, J.C. Tidball, was Virginia-born, same as Robt. E. Lee, and had served under both Lee and Grant."

In October 1859 Tidball was in command of Battery B, 2nd U.S. Artillery at Fort Monroe. With news of John Brown's Raid at Harpers Ferry, President Buchanan ordered a detachment of Marines under the command of Colonel Robert E. Lee to proceed to the ferry and quell the uprising. Buchanan likewise ordered three companies of artillery to the scene, among them Battery B. Tidball made it as far as Baltimore before learning that the raid had been suppressed, and was ordered back to Fort Monroe.

On arriving back at the fort, the guns were immediately turned around and again ordered to Harpers Ferry with orders to garrison there as a deterrent to any further violence. Tidball would recall...

*"When we arrived, the men were quartered in vacant warehouses or any buildings where space could be found for them, while officers took up their abodes wherever they could find room, chiefly in office rooms of the shops amid the whirl of machinery and the grime and dust of work going on. The armory was in full operation, turning out muskets, rifles, pistols and swords to its utmost capacity..."*

Tidball's guns would remain at Harpers Ferry until December 1859. And who was in command at the ferry during that period, you ask? Colonel Robert E. Lee. Tidball would later write of Lee during this period...



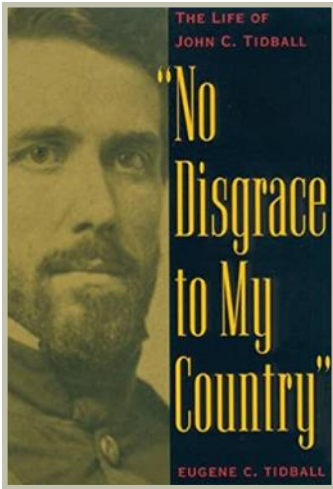
**Captain John C. Tidball, 1861**  
(USMA Archives)



**Tidball (center) at Fair Oaks,**  
**July 1, 1862 (LOC)**



*My father served under both Lee and Grant, cont.*



*“He was then in the prime of mature manhood, being fifty-two years of age. With a fine masculine figure, perfect in every proportion, he had a handsome, manly face. Altogether he was a perfect specimen of manhood. The dignity of his bearing, devoid as it was of all arrogance or affectation, arrested the attention of all who came within its influence. The affability of his manners made him approachable and agreeable under all conditions. He was exceedingly punctilious in points of etiquette, and I well recall that although we officers were quartered around in the buildings in the most inconvenient places, he took special pains to seek us all out and make a friendly call upon each one. His pleasing manners put everyone at ease, and his conversation was gentle and mild. Although scrupulously particular in dress and personal neatness, he had none of the airs of foppishness about him.”*

At Harpers Ferry Lee would institute daily dress parades on the armory grounds, instilling pride in the artillery and infantry troops there. On being ordered back to Fort Monroe that December, Tidball was seated next to Lee on the train out of Harpers Ferry. He would later recall their conversation as *“most charming, and little then did I then think that within less than five years he would be marching his Rebel hosts over this region for the purpose of dismembering the union which he had for so many years honorably served.”*

Alfred Pleasanton said of him that Tidball was *“performing the duties of (a) general officer with only the rank of captain, and I most urgently recommend that (he) be promoted to the rank of Brigadier General. The Artillery arm requires organization in the higher grades. There are no general officers who by their service are so much entitled to this distinction as Captain Tidball.”*

## Online Presentations

### Raleigh Civil War Roundtable

- ◆ December 14th Zoom Meeting: [Michael Brantley Galvanized - The Odyssey of a Reluctant Carolina Confederate](#)

This book details the extraordinary tale of Michael’s great-great-grandfather, Wright Stephen Batchelor, a North Carolina farmer who fought for both sides in the Civil War, spent time in a horrific POW camp, walked halfway across the continent, and later became a Radical Republican before being involved in a bizarre murder.

### CWRT Congress

All presentations are at 7pm ET. [Click this link to register.](#)

- ◆ December 11th: Living historian Curt Fields tells about the Battles of Chattanooga.
- ◆ December 16th: Cory Pfarr will analyze the historiography of General James Longstreet at Gettysburg.
- ◆ December 18th: Living historian Curt Fields tells of his being promoted as Lieutenant General.



## Civil War Definitions

**Abatis:** (pronounced ab-uh-tee, ab-uh-tis, uh-bat-ee, or uh-bat-is) A line of trees, chopped down and placed with their branches facing the enemy, used to strengthen fortifications.

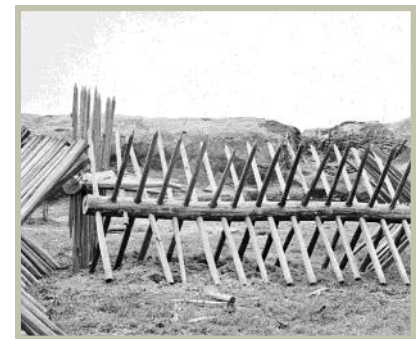


**Abatis**



**Breastworks:** Barriers which were about breast-high and protected soldiers from enemy fire.

**Chevaux-de-Frise:** (pronounced sheh-VOH-de-freez) A defensive obstacle constructed by using a long horizontal beam pierced with diagonal rows of sharpened spikes. When several cheval-de-frise (singular, pronounced she-VAL-de-freez) were bolted together they created an effective barrier for roads and fortifications.



**Chevaux-de-Frise**

**Copperhead:** Term for a Northerner who opposed the war effort

**Nom-de-guerre:** (pronounced nahm-duh-gair) Literally, in French this means “war name”. A nom-de-guerre is a nickname earned in battle, such as “Stonewall” Jackson or “Fighting Joe” Hooker.

**“Peculiar Institution”:** Another term for slavery in the South.

**“Infernal Machine”:** A term of contempt for torpedoes (either the land or the water variety). This term was also used to describe the Confederate vessel H.L. Hunley- the first successful submarine.

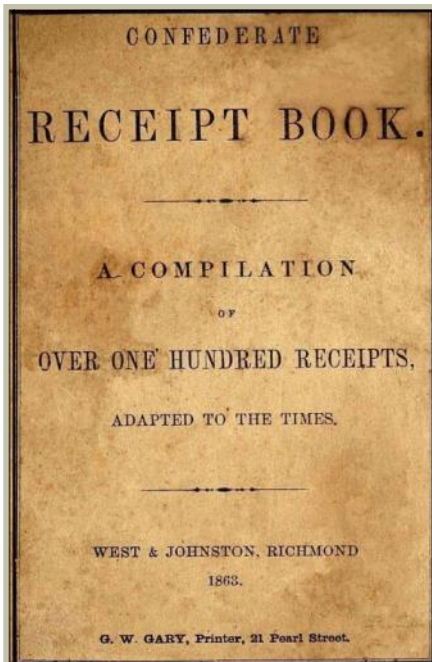


Santa Claus by Thomas Nast

He is generally credited with creating our version of Santa as a jolly old man with white hair and beard during the Civil War.



## *Confederate Receipt Book*



### **Tough Meat**

Those whose teeth are not strong enough to masticate hard beef should cut their steaks the day before using into slices about two inches thick, rub over them a small quantity of soda, wash off next morning, cut them into suitable thickness, and cook according to fancy. The same process will answer for any description of tough meat.

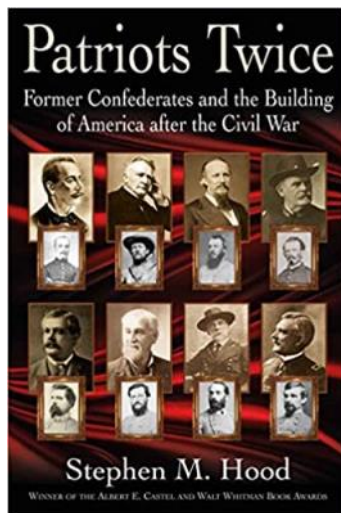
### **Blackberry Wine**

Measure your berries and bruise them; to every gallon add one quart of boiling water, let the mixture stand twenty-four hours, stirring occasionally, then strain off the liquor into a cask; to every gallon add two pounds of sugar, cork tight, and let it stand till following October, and you will have wine ready for use without any further straining or boiling, that will make lips smack as they never smacked under similar influence before.

### **To Keep Arms and Polished Metal from Rust**

Dissolve one ounce of camphor in two pounds of hog's lard, observing to take off the scum, then mix as much black lead as will give the mixture an iron color. Fire arms & polished metal rubbed over with this mixture, left twenty-four hours, and then dried with a linen cloth, will keep clean for many months.

## *Book Review: Patriots Twice by Tim Winstead*



If you are a trivia buff, PATRIOTS TWICE is a great read and resource. I find myself jumping all over the book reading about different people. Sam (author Stephen M. "Sam" Hood ) follows so many individuals who made lasting contributions to this nation before, during and after the war..... This book is a most welcome addition to my library.

Henry Thompson Douglas was my favorite newly identified Confederate. As an engineer myself, Henry's service during the war greatly interested me. The fact that a Confederate became chief engineer of the B&O Railroad, after the damage the B&O endured during the war by various Confederate units, was an outstanding achievement. To me, Henry's position signified two things: 1) He was technically competent and 2) Henry had to have had a great skill with both the written and spoken word.

As with all of Sam's books, I feel his delight with the discovery of "stories" which reflect on the personalities, great and small, who shaped the United States during this incredible period in our history.

Tim Winstead  
Cape Fear Civil War Round Table  
Wilmington, North Carolina

*After the end of the Civil War whatever happened to...?*

He received the Medal of Honor on July 23, 1892. As Colonel of the 61st NY, Nelson Miles received the MOH for his valor in covering the Union retreat to the Chancellor House after Stonewall Jackson's famous flank attack. Miles was wounded twice in the action. By the end of the war, he was a Brigadier General commanding a division in the II Corps in the Appomattox Campaign.

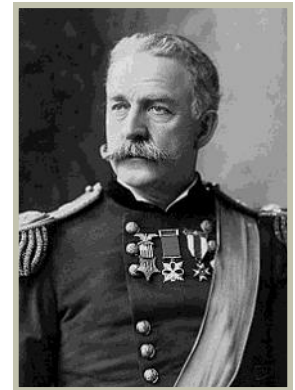
Miles played a leading role in nearly all of the U.S. Army's campaigns against the American Indian tribes of the Great Plains. In the winter of 1877, he drove his troops on a forced march across eastern Montana to intercept the Nez Perce band led by Chief Joseph after the Nez Perce War. For the rest of his career, Miles would quarrel with General Oliver O. Howard over credit for Joseph's capture.

He was named Commanding General of the United States Army in 1895, a post he held during the Spanish American War. He rose to the leadership of the Army even though he wasn't a professional soldier and entered the service as a volunteer at the beginning of the Civil War.

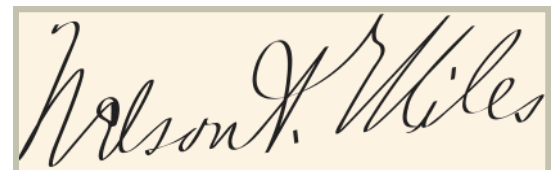
To show that he was still physically able to command, on July 14, 1903, less than a month before his 64th birthday, General Miles rode the 90 miles from Fort Sill to Fort Reno, Oklahoma, in eight hours' riding time (10 hrs. 20 mins total), in temperatures between 90 and 100 °F (32 and 38 °C). The distance was covered on a relay of horses stationed at 10-mile intervals; the first 30 miles were covered in 2 hours, 25 minutes. This was the longest horseback ride ever made by a commanding general of the army.

Miles nevertheless retired from the army in 1903 upon reaching the mandatory retirement age of 64. Upon his retirement, the office of Commanding General of the United States Army was abolished by an Act of Congress and the Army Chief of Staff system was introduced.

Miles died in 1925 at the age of 85 from a heart attack. Nelson was one of the last surviving general officers who served during the Civil War on either side. He is buried at Arlington National Cemetery in the Miles Mausoleum. It is one of only two mausoleums within the confines of the cemetery.



**Nelson A. Miles**



**Medal of Honor Citation**

Rank and Organization:

Colonel, 61st New York Infantry.  
 Place and date: At Chancellorsville, Va., May 3, 1863.  
 Entered service at: Roxbury, Mass.  
 Birth: Westminster, Mass.  
 Date of issue: July 23, 1892.

Citation:

Distinguished gallantry while holding with his command an advanced position against repeated assaults by a strong force of the enemy; was severely wounded.



## Quotes

### Philip Sheridan

“I have never in my life taken a command into battle and had the slightest desire to come our alive unless I won.”

### John B. Gordon

“General Lee, this is no place for you. These men behind you are Georgians and Virginians. They have never failed you and will not fail you. Will you boys?”

### Jubal Early

“The People of the United States will find that under the pretense of saving the life of the nation and upholding the old flag, they have surrendered their own liberties into the hands of that worst of all tyrants, a body of senseless fanatics.”

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**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](#)

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## CAPE FEAR CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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NOVEMBER 2020

# THE RUNNER



VOLUME 2 ISSUE 11



## *Lions of the Dan: Best of Men in the Worst of Times*

At our last meeting, via Zoom, J. Kenneth Brandau, author of “Lions of the Dan”, presented a “brigade history” of Brigadier General Lewis Armistead’s brigade made famous by its role in “Pickett’s Charge” on July 3, 1863. The strength of the brigade before the charge was reported as 1,950 men. A total of 1,191 were reported as casualties, including 643 who were missing or captured.

Ken Brandau, a native of Richmond and a retired scientist, has lived almost his entire life in the state of Virginia, and he contends that a Virginia-centric narrative of the events of the climactic engagement of the Battle of Gettysburg has upstaged the efforts of North Carolina units in the charge.

Most of the five regiments in Armistead’s brigade were from southside Virginia, a region that had more in common with North Carolina than it did with the more aristocratic culture of Tidewater and James River Virginia. Danville, on the Dan River, was the only town of any consequence in the region and because of the southeastward flowing rivers, commerce and cultural interaction was directed toward North Carolina.

Armistead, a former regular officer in the U.S. Army, began the war as the colonel of the 57th Virginia, a regiment raised in southside Virginia. He was born in New Bern, N.C., but raised in Upperville, Virginia, in the beautiful piedmont country of Northern Virginia, and he always considered himself a Virginian. He was a member of a distinguished military family that included the commander of Ft. McHenry at the time of the British attack that led Francis Scott Key to pen the words to the “Star Spangled Banner.” He left West Point under a cloud and many authorities believe that the primary cause was his boisterous behavior including breaking a plate over Jubal Early’s head in a mess hall fracas.

Nonetheless, he became an officer during the Seminole Wars and was recognized for bravery in the war with Mexico. He served on the frontier and was part of the notable cadre of officers serving in Los Angeles at the outbreak of the Civil War, a cadre that included Albert Sidney Johnston and Winfield Scott Hancock.

Armistead’s 57th Infantry was sent to the Virginia-North Carolina border in 1862 when Burnside led the Union’s successful invasion of North Carolina’s sound country. Too late to blunt the Union campaign, the regiment was quickly sent to the Peninsula to oppose McClellan’s drive on Richmond. The regiment was brigaded with two other Virginia regiments and a Georgia unit but played no significant role in the siege of Yorktown. On April 1, 1862, Armistead was promoted to Brigadier General and given command of a brigade comprising the 9th, 14th, 38th, 53rd and 57th Virginia infantry regiments.

Retreating with the rest of Joseph Johnston’s command, they fought at Seven Pines and were involved in a “friendly fire” incident that contributed to heavy

*(Continued on page 2)*

### **November meeting**

Thursday, November 10,  
2020 - 7:00 P. M.

ZOOM Meeting

Email from Bruce Patterson  
will be sent prior to Event

Speaker: Andrew Dupstadt  
Topic: Lt. Francis Hoge  
See page 3.



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*Lions of the Dan, cont.*

casualties in the 38th Virginia. With the wounding of General Johnston, General Robert E. Lee was given command of the Confederate army defending Richmond and he promptly launched the intense series of battles that became known as the “Seven Days.”

Armistead’s brigade fought at Glendale and was heavily engaged at Malvern Hill when confused communications resulted in an attack that Lee attempted to call off. The 57th Virginia broke under Union artillery fire and Armistead may have left the battlefield prematurely. The brigade was seen as somewhat unreliable after that.

As McClellan retreated and the Union brought General John Pope east to command another army to threaten Richmond, Lee boldly ignored McClellan and turned to attack Pope. This movement resulted in the huge and bloody battle of Second Manassas, or Bull Run. Outnumbered but with a combat strength of about 55,000 men, Lee kept Armistead’s brigade in reserve, the only Confederate brigade not engaged in the battle.

In one of the most incredible feats of all of military history, Lee’s recently named Army of Northern Virginia, left the killing fields of Manassas and turned north to invade Maryland. Battles ensued at South Mountain, Harper’s Ferry and, then culminated in the bloodiest day in American history at Sharpsburg, or Antietam. Imagine the Confederate legions who fought with Jackson in the Valley or Magruder and Johnston on the Peninsula, then faced McClellan in the Seven Days, tangled with Pope at Second Manassas, and, in September they face McClellan again at Antietam.

Once more, however, Armistead and his brigade are held back somewhat, acting as provost guard to help control straggling on the march into Maryland. The brigade sees action in the West Wood and around the Dunker Church but emerges from the Battle of Antietam with the smallest casualty list in the Army of Northern Virginia. Armistead is wounded in the arm but is able to rejoin his brigade relatively quickly.

In November of 1862 the brigade is placed in the division of Major General George Pickett. They defend a position in the middle of the line at Fredericksburg and are, once again, comparatively lightly engaged.

The rest of the winter was passed in foraging and containment of Union forces in southeastern Virginia and, although called back to the army for the battle of Chancellorsville in May of 1863, the brigade doesn’t arrive in time to play a role in the battle.

So, as the great dramatic point of the war approaches, this brigade has been present at most of the great battles of the Eastern Theater but with the exception of Malvern Hill, it has not been greatly tested and, still, there is some question about the soundness of the unit.

As the Battle of Gettysburg unfolds, Pickett’s division arrives late on July 2 and thus is one of the most fit for battle on July 3. Armistead’s brigade is placed behind the other two brigades in Pickett’s division—Garnett’s and Kemper’s. Trimble’s and Pettigrew’s divisions, bitterly engaged on the previous days and weakened in strength, were on the left.

The divisions on the left had less distance to cover and Pickett’s fresh division on the right needed to march further to bring its weight to bear as the Army of Northern Virginia attempted to overwhelm the Union defenders in what appeared to be a vulnerable salient on Cemetery Hill.

As the Confederates converged toward the “copse of trees,” Union artillery assailed them on both sides and the understrength 8th Ohio, orphaned from the other regiments in its

*(Continued on page 4)*

Our October program was a presentation by **Ken Brandau**, discussing his award-winning book, **Lions of the Dan**, the story of the Armistead Brigade during the full course of the Civil War. His power point presentation was via Zoom and viewed by some 24 members.

We are in receipt of his kind acknowledgement which reads in part:

*The Cape Fear Civil War Roundtable is an excellent audience. I appreciate everyone’s kind attentions, the generous honorarium, and regret having to forgo the personal contact of an actual meeting.*

*Stay Blessed!*

*Ken Brandau*



**Ken Brandau**

*CFCWRT November Presentation: Lt. Francis Hoge*

“An Able and True Officer”



Lt. Francis “Frank” Hoge

Because of ongoing COVID 19 restrictions, a change has been made for our November program. On November 12, **Andrew Duppstadt**, historic sites specialist for the State of NC, will tell us about **Lt. Francis Lyell “Frank” Hoge**, a U.S. Naval Academy graduate who chose to side with the Confederacy and compiled an outstanding record in the fighting on the sounds and rivers of eastern North Carolina.

Andrew had been scheduled to present this program in December but has agreed to make the presentation a month earlier. It will be presented via Zoom.

Francis Lyell Hoge, known as “Frank,” was born in Moundsville, Virginia, in January 1841. Moundsville is a small city on the Ohio River in what is today the state of West Virginia.

Appointed to the U.S. Naval Academy in 1856 as an “acting midshipman,” he graduated in 1860 and became a “passed midshipman” in the U.S. Navy. When war came, however, he resigned his U.S. commission and accepted a commission in the Confederate States Navy.

The youthful officer proved his mettle in several difficult engagements and survived a near fatal wound in 1863.

He took part in the famous expedition led by Col. John Taylor Wood to attempt to sink the *USS Underwriter* off New Bern. Such expeditions were exceedingly dangerous in the 19th Century and young Hoge was the first to board the enemy vessel. Be sure to tune in and hear the rest of this exciting story.

Andrew Duppstadt, a member of our round table, is a BA and MA graduate in history at UNCW. He is stationed at the CSS Neuse historic site in Kinston and is also an adjunct history instructor at UNC Pembroke.



Andrew Duppstadt

*Cape Fear Civil War Round Table Upcoming Events*

**2020**

December 10th **Bill Jayne**, The Battle of Cedar Creek

This will be a hybrid meeting with a limited attendance (25) and a ZOOM presentation for those who can’t attend in person or prefer an online venue. Details will be sent prior to the meeting.

**2021**

January 14th **Rodney Steward** (Author), Confederate Sequestration Act

February 11th **Kenneth Rutherford** (Author), Mine Warfare and the Civil War

For more information go to the [CFCWRT website](#).



*Lions of the Dan, cont.*

brigade, held its post in front of the main Union line on the left of the attacking Confederates. They hit Brockenbrough's Brigade, the left-most brigade under Brigadier General James Pettigrew's command, in the flank and that Virginia unit broke under the combined effect of the Union artillery and the Ohio rifle fire. It was the beginning of the end for the attack.

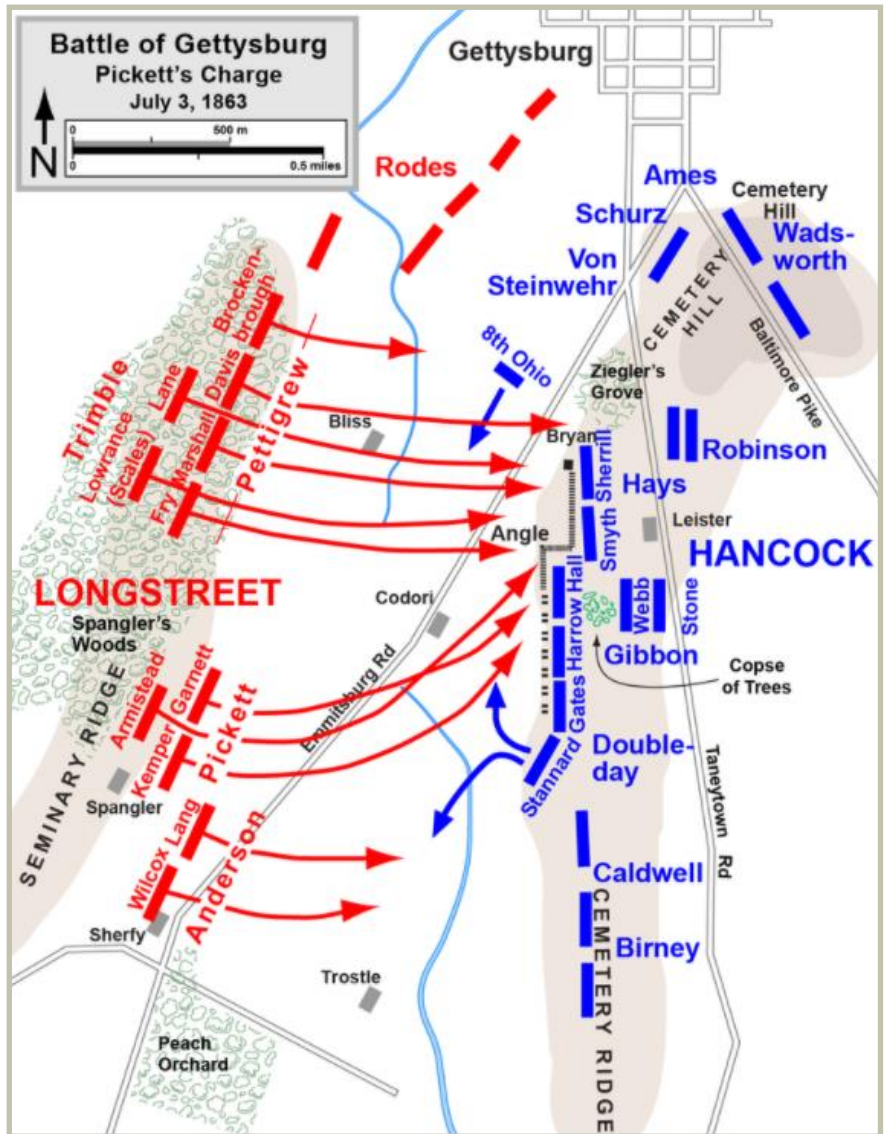
Mr. Brandau notes that as Armistead's brigade approached the objective, the troops to his left, under Pettigrew, had already been repulsed. The 26th and 55th North Carolina regiments under Pettigrew are credited with making the farthest advance of the attack but pressure from Union infantry to their front and left, as well as the powerful artillery, forced them back.

The Virginians of Armistead's brigade breached the stone wall of the Union center and as General Armistead fell with a mortal wound, the survivors surrendered or attempted to retreat. Ultimately, the flag of the 38th Virginia, Armistead's leftmost regiment, was captured by the 8th Ohio, still assailing the Confederate left, along the Emmitsburg Road.

Ken Brandau explicates the significance of these events based on letters and reports that have been overlooked. He states: "transcripts of two letters from Capt. John A. Herndon Co. D, 38th Virginia (both letters are in the Gregory A. Coco Research Collection at Gettysburg National Military Park) describe being a mere '30 paces' from the works when forced to refuse their flank. (The need for this, of course, could have only happened if Pickett had arrived after Pettigrew and Trimble had already been repulsed. It is apparent then, since Fry [Archer's Brigade in Pettigrew's Division] was the brigade of direction, it was Pickett who was late and failed to support, not the other way around.)"

The official report of Major Joseph R. Cabell of the 38th Virginia also provides similar information. Major Cabell was in command of the entire brigade in the retreat from the Union line because he was the only field grade officer who returned uninjured. Ken Brandau found his report in the American Civil War Museum (formerly the Museum of the Confederacy) in Richmond.

Major Cabell writes that Col. E.C. Edmonds, commander of the regiment was killed by fire from the left flank as the regiment advanced to about "30 paces" from the Union field



Map of Pickett's Charge of the American Civil War.

Drawn by Hal Jespersen. (Wikimedia Commons)

### *Lions of the Dan, cont.*

works. Lt. Colonel Powhatan B. Whittle, grievously wounded at Malvern Hill, attempted to rally the regiment but was also shot down, leaving Major Cabell in command. He writes: "I attempted to change the front of my left companies" but found that such a movement was impracticable. He notes that scattered Confederates coming up from the right rear never made it and "seeing all the troops giving away on my right I supposed the order to retire had been given and re-ordered the remnant of the Regiment."

In an email message, Ken Brandau writes: "Bottom line, Virginia's 'Lost Cause' narratives have always unfairly upstaged the contributions of Pettigrew and Trimble at Gettysburg. In like fashion, Virginia 'history' does equal disservice to her many real heroes like Edmonds, Whittle, Cabell, etc. by perpetuating Gettysburg fantasies of Armistead and Pickett. Neither Pickett, nor Armistead had careers which withstand scrutiny outside the context of Gettysburg."

The southside Virginians of Armistead's brigade soldiered on in North Carolina and Tidewater Virginia before helping to stop Ben Butler's thrust into Bermuda Hundred in 1864 and then in the trenches of Petersburg.

In 1865 the brigade was once again in the midst of controversy as the division, while Pickett was absent at a shad bake, was defeated at the pivotal battle of Five Forks, forcing the evacuation of the Petersburg and Richmond defenses. Pickett was rebuked by Lee after that and never regained Lee's regard.

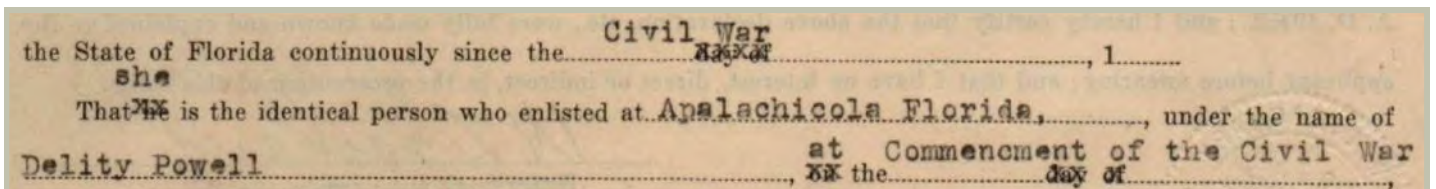
Mr. Brandau summarized his saga with the opinion that the "Lions of the Dan" were among the "best of men in the worst of times."



*Pickett's Charge by Paul Philippoteaux 1893*

*Delity Powell Kelly: A Child in a Confederate Camp by Sheritta Bitikofer*

In January of 1930, a new soldier's pension application was submitted in the state of Florida. While at first glance, this was nothing unusual for the time. Soldiers were growing older and desired compensation for their sacrifice to the Southern cause for independence. However, this application was special and marked up in unusual places. Instances where the word "he" were typed – referring to the applicant – had been crossed out and changed to "she." The veteran, Delilah "Delity" Powell Kelly, born June 4th, 1851, was not looking for a widow's pension. She was looking for a soldier's pension for her services as a young nurse in the Confederacy.



*Excerpt from Delity Powell Pension Application (Floridamemory.com)*

When the Confederacy's call for troops reached Apalachicola, Florida, Delity's father, Edward Powell, answered that call. He enlisted in Milton's Light Artillery under the command of Joseph L. Dunham. He became one of the 136 privates to help man and operate six guns – three 12-pounder brass rifles and three 12-pounder howitzers. Delity's mother, Nancy Elizabeth Powell, followed the artillery regiment as a laundress and nurse for the unit, taking their only daughter along with them. According to Delity's own account, she was given a uniform trimmed in red to denote that she belonged to her father's artillery regiment

Imagine being a child at places like Camp Dunham near Jacksonville. You are miles away from your home and friends, among strangers and doing chores night and day to make sure everything within the camp ran smoothly. Instead of having tea parties with her friends, she gave water from her canteen to dying men. Instead of trotting off to the schoolhouse every morning, Delity followed the camp doctors as they made their morning rounds. We know that she was literate, and she might have practiced her reading skills by deciphering the labels on the medicine bottles. She would not be helping to make bread for her small family, but for an entire camp of hungry artillerymen. Dresses and petticoats in the laundry were replaced by filthy socks and fetid uniforms as she and her mother did the laundry for the unit. Instead of tying ribbons in her hair, she tied off bandages over bleeding or gangrenous wounds. Her formative childhood years were spent listening to the groans of the wounded, the boom of artillery cannon, and the muttered prayers lifted up by the weary souls that wanted this war to end.



Her father wasn't the only man of Delity's family to join the war. Five of her uncles also enlisted. Benjamin Powell, who was very close in age to Delity according to his records, enlisted with Milton's Light Artillery as well, and later gave a notarized testimony to her services as a nurse and laundress for the company. John, James, and William Powell also

*(Continued on page 7)*

*Delity Powell Kelly: A Child in a Confederate Camp, cont.*

enlisted with their older brother in March of 1861 into the same regiment. Another uncle by the name of Elijah did not enlist in the artillery regiment, and instead joined the infantry in August of 1861, mustering in with the Fourth Florida Infantry. Elijah went on to serve the Confederacy far away from his home and family.

Milton's Light Artillery remained in the deep South during the war. Delity's first taste of war came at St. Johns Bluff near Jacksonville in October of 1862. But this was not the last time she witnessed how devastating the war could be.

In the spring of 1863, the Milton Light Artillery was split into two companies. Company A remained under the command of Captain Dunham, while the newly promoted Captain Henry Abell was given Company B. The Powells followed Abell into this newly formed company, which made the muster rolls a little confusing. In many instances, men were listed under both companies. Delity's own headstone indicated that she served within Company A, but under Abell's command.

In the winter of that same year, bad news filtered its way to Camp Dunham near Gainesville. Edward's brother, fighting in Tennessee, had been captured at Missionary Ridge during the battles around Chattanooga. Elijah Powell's name would show on the first prisoner roster at the newly formed Rock Island Prison. Worse than that, Elijah had been wounded in the battle in which he was captured. He was shot in the right leg just below the knee, as well as at the corner of his eye. This eventually led to total blindness in that eye. The tragedy of war had finally made its way to Delity's personal circle.

Their greatest test of valor and perseverance came in February of 1864 at the battle of Olustee, the largest battle of the Civil War to take place on Florida soil. Delity and her mother made themselves useful at Lake City Hospital, fifteen miles from the battlefield.

The hardship of war would hit home one more time for Delity when Edward became wounded in the battle. Milton's Artillery had lost five of its guns to a band of raiding Federals at Baldwin, so Company B under Captain Abell was attached to the First Georgia Regulars. A shell fragment struck Edward's leg, and though the wound wasn't serious enough to warrant an amputation, the injury would give him trouble in his later years. According to his pension application statement, the knee that was injured during the battle had caused some type of permanent swelling, making this knee noticeably larger than the other. This made it difficult to work in the labor industry after the war.

Jacksonville became occupied by the Union army in February of 1864 – prior to the battle at Olustee – and the artillery unit went on to serve in several smaller engagements, including the skirmish at Cedar Key in March of 1864, the battle at Horse Landing in May, and then the battle at Gainesville in August of that same year.

Elijah was not the only one to become imprisoned during the war. According to Delity in her pension application – backed by the testimony of Benjamin Powell – she and her moth-

(Continued on page 8)

*Delity Powell Kelly: A Child in a Confederate Camp, cont.*

er were captured not once, but twice in the course of their service. One of these occurrences took place in Baldwin, Florida and for a month and fourteen days, Delity and her mother were kept prisoner by the Federals. It was likely that this didn't give them a break from their usual duties, as nurses and laundresses were in high demand on both sides. Delity and her mother managed a daring escape from captivity by jumping out the window of their prison – presumably a local home or hospital – and made their way back to Camp Dunham to reunite with Edward.

The Confederacy surrendered in April of 1865 and the South was thrown into the era of Reconstruction. Both companies of the Milton Light Artillery were included with the May 10th surrender between Major General Samuel Jones commanding the Department of South Carolina, Florida, and South Georgia, and Brigadier General Edward Moody McCook at Tallahassee, Florida, the same day that Jefferson Davis was captured in Irwinsville, Georgia. Veterans of the war came home to rebuild their lives – including Elijah who had survived Rock Island for two years. Delity, now almost 14 years old, moved to Pensacola, Florida with her family. Edward and Nancy had three more children and Edward supported his family as a fisherman, which was familiar work for him, since he worked as a sailor with his father in Apalachicola. Delity grew up, occasionally putting her nursing skills to good use as she helped to take care of her younger siblings. Those who knew Delity in her final years described her as a deeply religious woman. This could have been due to her experiences in the war or by her father's elevation to the position of an elder in the Church of Latter Day Saints within a decade after the war. Edward officiated the marriage between his nephew Benjamin and fiancé, Savine Milstead in 1878.

In January of 1871, Delity married James Kelly, an illiterate carpenter from Santa Rosa County. They had four children and by the 1930s, they had all started families of their own, leaving Delity and James with an empty nest. By then, both were too old to work. Whether under the encouragement of her family or her own gumption, Delity decided to do something that no other woman had succeeded in doing in the state of Florida.

In January of 1930, she first submitted her application for a soldier's pension. It seemed like a simple process. She was to give her testimony of service, backed by two or more others who could confirm her story, then sign her name at the bottom of the page.

Three other veterans who worked closely with Milton's Light Artillery gave their signed testimonies to Delity's services, saying that they indeed saw her in the red-trimmed artillery uniform and watched her give aid to the wounded. One of these witnesses was her uncle, Benjamin Powell. The other was a former cavalry private by the name of Joseph Strickland, who was living with his son's family at the time when he testified to Delity's service. Private Strickland had been with the Fifteenth Confederate Cavalry post-September 1863 and operated in Alabama for most of that time, but prior to that he had enlisted with the Third Florida Battalion, also known as the "Magnolia Dragoons", who worked closely with other Florida units like Milton's Light Artillery. Strickland also vouched for Benjamin's service



*Delity Powell Kelly*

## *Delity Powell Kelly: A Child in a Confederate Camp, cont.*

when he applied for a pension some years earlier, mentioning Elijah in the same affidavit. In fact, looking into all of the pension records for Delity's uncles reveals that they all vouched for one another's service when they individually applied, or when their widows applied for compensation.

Delity Powell Kelly was awarded her pension rights, becoming the only woman in the state of Florida to receive a soldier's pension for services rendered during the Civil War. Every year until her death, she was given \$480. According to the records and pension approval, she was to be issued her pension "at the same rate and in the same manner that other pensioners are paid."



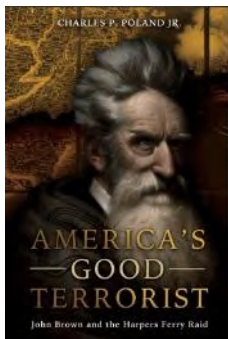
October 31st, 1939, at the age of 88, Delity passed away. Initially buried in an unmarked grave, it took almost fifty years before her story would be uncovered by her descendants. She was reinterred in the 1980s in Saint Michael's Cemetery in Pensacola, Florida, and given a proper grave marker that forever proclaims her services to the Confederate cause as a nurse.

All too often, we take for granted that the Civil War didn't solely affect the adults who enlisted or volunteered their services. The lives of every American were touched by the conflict. Children, young and impressionable, became casualties of the war, either in a physical or psychological sense. Delity's story reminds us that the war was no respecter of age or gender. At the tender age of ten years old, she had to shoulder a weight that not many grownups could handle today. It's by this resilience and bravery that she deserves to be remembered and honored for sacrificing her childhood.

## *Recently Published*

### *America's Good Terrorist*

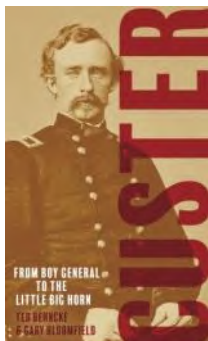
John Brown and the Harpers Ferry Raid  
Charles P Poland jr



This new biography covers Brown's background and the context to his decision to carry out the raid, a detailed narrative of the raid and its consequences for both those involved and America; and an exploration of the changing characterization of Brown since his death.

### *Custer*

From the Civil War's Boy General to the Battle of the Little Bighorn  
Ted Behncke, Gary Bloomfield



The theme of the book is not so much new historical information but the depth of his character development and lesser-known influences of his life. *Custer* draws together these elements in a succinct and accessible read.

Use this Casemate Publisher's code **CFCWRT** for a 35% discount for CFCWRT members!



*Online Presentations*

**Emerging Civil War on C-SPAN**

♦ **Mark Maloy - [Fort Sumter](#)**

Check out “The First Shots of the Civil War,” which recounts the tale of Charleston and Fort Sumter in the opening days of the war.

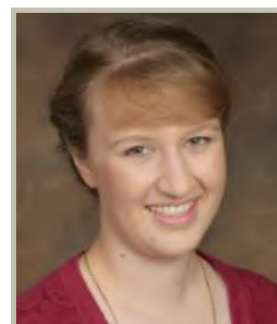
Located in Charleston harbor, Fort Sumter was still held by Union forces in April 1861, despite South Carolina’s secession in 1860. National Park Service historian Mark Maloy described the events of April 12, 1861, when Confederate guns around the harbor opened fire on Fort Sumter. This talk was part of a symposium on “The War in the East” hosted by the “Emerging Civil War” blog.



**Mark Maloy**

♦ **Sarah Kay Bierle - [1862 Confederate Raid on Chambersburg](#)**

In October 1862, Confederate cavalry under General J.E.B. Stuart pressed into Maryland and Pennsylvania—including the town of Chambersburg—to raid for horses and other supplies. “Emerging Civil War” blog managing editor Sarah Kay Bierle talked about this first major Confederate movement north of the Mason-Dixon Line and the Union response. This talk was part of a symposium on “The War in the East” hosted by the “Emerging Civil War” blog.



**Sarah Kay Bierle**

**CWRT Congress**

**November Speakers**

♦ **[November 4th at 7pm](#)**

**Chuck Veit - On the Verge of the Great War**

This talk will reveal how our war was perceived by foreign nations. Their involvement went way beyond France and England and Russia to include Belgium, Austria, Italy, Spain, Prussia and even the Vatican. Their heads of state--and most especially Pope Pius IX--were absolute death on our Republic. Pius actually went so far as to provide a letter to Jeff Davis that his officers could use to try to stem Irish enlistment in the Union Army, pronouncing republicanism anathema.

You will learn how Britain and France feared that had they intervened, and the South suddenly was again able to supply cotton, they feared Davis would demand gold at the new higher price--and drain their exchequers. So, they needed the war to continue and, best to hope for, wind down slowly, with both sides returned to a prewar balance. You’ll learn how Russia, not an ally of America, used our ports for their navy as a threat against France and Britain so as to suppress the Prussian revolution. Finally, you’ll learn that the American Civil War spawned revolutions and reform in Europe.



**Chuck Veit**

♦ **[November 11th at 7pm](#)**

**Chris Kolakowski - The Grand Army of the Republic**

This talk will discuss the creation and activities of the first organized veterans’ group, the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR). Much has been said about their tireless advocacy for veteran rights and benefits, yet the history of the GAR has largely been lost. Chris Kolakowski brings that history to life as he tells how it was formed, its mission, its membership, racial integration, the many GAR posts that existed throughout America and the rich legacy inherited by the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.



**Chris Kolakowski**

*(Continued on page 11)*

## Online Presentations, cont.



Lisa G. Samia

♦ [November 18th at 7pm](#)

### Lisa G. Samia - So Runs the World Away

This will be an in-depth look into the lives of John Wilkes Booth and his older sister Asia Booth Clarke, from the time of their teenage years and into their early adulthood. After their father's death in 1852, a bond of sympathy and mutual devotion between John and Asia grew in the years spent at Tudor Hall. Here she writes they were "lonely together." Asia's insights were gathered from her memoir written in 1874 - John Wilkes Booth "A Sister's Memoir." This is the single most important document in the complex life of John Wilkes Booth. What were the prophetic words said to Asia by John on her wedding day? What did John mean when on their last visit together he said, "God Bless you, sister mine. Take care of yourself, and try to be happy"? What happened to Asia after the assassination? "So runs the world away" are the last words in her memoir taken from Hamlet, Act 3, Scene 2, What is she saying? Mindful that it is never just words on a page.

## CFCWRT News

With our first live presentation in December, Early Bird dues will cease on 30 November and thus revert to the regular annual dues of \$30.

A word about Wreaths Across America. As of this 10/30, we are half way towards meeting our goal of 60 wreaths. Recall please that you may send your check to CFCWRT, PO Box 15750, Wilmington, NC 29408 or you may go to the [Wreaths Across America](#) website and purchase a wreath, in \$15 increments, by credit card. Due to Covid, the planned wreath laying ceremony will not be held but the wreaths will be delivered early for distribution to graves on 17, 18 & 19 December. Details will follow.

## Civil War Medical Myth

*There was no anesthesia. Amputations were always performed while men were conscious.*

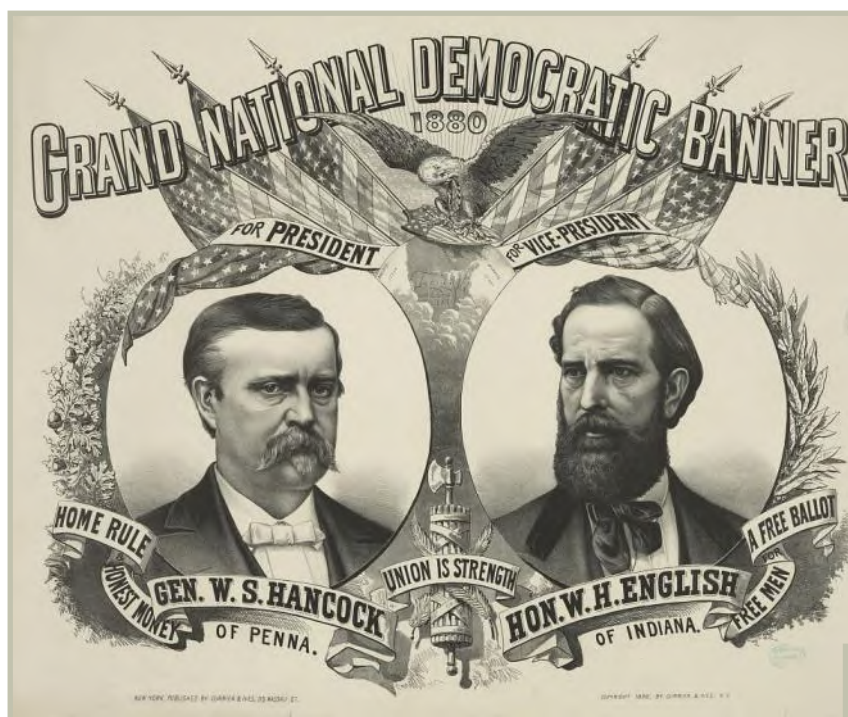
Case studies included in the Medical and Surgical History of the War of the Rebellion indicate that 95% of all amputations executed by Union surgeons were performed under anesthesia. When chloroform or ether were not available, operations were sometimes postponed, rather than subject the wounded to inhumane amputation without the benefit of anesthesia. As for Confederate surgeons, in an address delivered before the Southern Surgical and Gynaecological Association, Nashville, Tenn., November 13, 1889, Dr. Hunter Holmes McGuire reported "...in the corps to which I was attached (2nd Corps ANV), chloroform was given over 28,000 times..." In a piece called "Confederate Medical Service" Dr. Deering J. Roberts expanded: "Many Confederate surgeons reported that at no time did they fail in having an adequate supply of the three most important drugs, quinine, morphia, and chloroform."



*After the end of the Civil War whatever happened to...?*

**General Winfield Scott Hancock**

Called the most “conspicuous” of all Union Commanders by General U. S. Grant, remained a regular army general until 1886. He was nominated for the presidency in 1880, losing to James A. Garfield by a small margin of votes. Died at Governors Island, New York February 9, 1886.



Hancock’s portrait adorns U.S. currency on the \$2 Silver Certificate series of 1886. Approximately 1,500 to 2,500 of these bills survive today in numismatic collections. Hancock’s bill is ranked number 73 on a list of “100 Greatest American Currency Notes”.



## *Union Army was a Multicultural Force*

One-third of the soldiers who fought for the Union Army were immigrants, and nearly one in 10 was African American.

The Union Army was a multicultural force—even a multinational one.

We often hear about Irish soldiers (7.5 percent of the army), but the Union's ranks included even more Germans (10 percent), who marched off in regiments such as the Steuben Volunteers. Other immigrant soldiers were French, Italian, Polish, English and Scottish. In fact, one in four regiments contained a majority of foreigners.

Blacks were permitted to join the Union Army in 1863, and some scholars believe this infusion of soldiers may have turned the tide of the war.

## *Sponsors*



SPECIALIZING IN REGIONAL AMERICAN SEAFOOD, SIGNATURE DISHES, HAND CUT FISH, STEAKS AND CHICKEN ALONG WITH FRESHLY MADE DESSERTS. WE PRIDE OURSELVES IN USING THE FRESHEST POSSIBLE INGREDIENTS AND PREPARING THEM WITH LOVE.

**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](#)

## *Steering Committee—Officers*

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## CAPE FEAR CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

PO Box 15750

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# QUEENSBORO

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# Best Western PLUS



# THE RUNNER



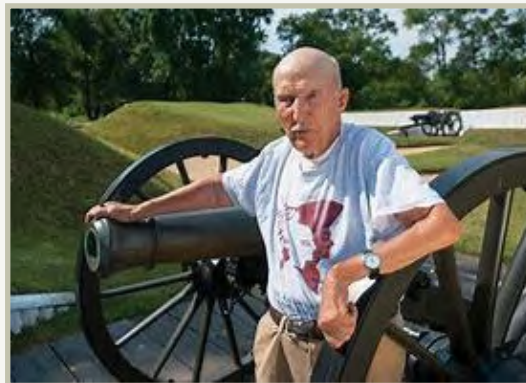
OCTOBER 2020

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 10



## *Edwin (Ed) Bearss, June 1923 - September 2020*

We mourn the loss of Ed Bearss, who at the age of 97, passed away last month. Ed was, perhaps, the greatest Civil War historian of our age. He spent the war years with the USMC, became chief historian with the National Park Service and influenced generations of historians, many of whom are members of this and other Civil War Round Tables. His booming voice will be missed but perhaps even more significant was his boundless energy and enthusiasm for our discipline. Many of our number, especially in the Lower Cape Fear, will miss his friendship, his leadership and wise council. Rest in Peace Sir !



For those of you who may not have had the pleasure of attending an event with Ed, there are many [YouTube videos by Ed Bearss](#) - all well worth watching. Here are a few:

[Sacred Trust Talks](#)

[Arlington Virginia's role in the Civil War](#)

[Fort Sumter and the start of the Civil War](#)

[Paducah and the Western Waterways](#)

[Battle of the Wilderness](#)

[General Meade's role at The Battle of Gettysburg](#)

[Ed Bearss' life lessons and historical recollections](#)

**October meeting**  
Thursday, October 8,  
2020 - 7:00 P. M.

ZOOM Meeting

Email from Bruce Patterson will be sent prior to Event

Speaker: J. Ken Brandau  
Topic: Lions of the Dan



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## *CFCWRT Announces Christmas Wreath Drive*

As in years past, the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table will support the **Wreaths Across America** effort to cover **every veteran's grave** in the Wilmington National Cemetery, with a Christmas Wreath. Our effort will run from 1 October, 2020 until 15 November. Wreaths will be delivered for distribution on **Saturday 19 December**. We, along with other community organizations have a goal of some 5,172 wreaths, thus covering all veteran's graves.

This year, due to meeting limitations, we will be totally dependent upon our membership to remit funds by mail. The process is simple. Please submit your contribution, in \$15 increments, by check, payable to CFCWRT, c/o PO Box 15750, Wilmington, NC 28408.

Should you prefer to donate by credit card, please go directly to the WAA web site and navigate to Wilmington National Cemetery and donate through our CWRT (NC0240P). Should you desire to donate to another cemetery, go to the WAA web site and select your location, donating through your favorite (listed) organization. Sponsoring organizations, such as our CFCWRT, will receive \$5 for each wreath purchased.

Folks, this has been a difficult year. What better way to complete the annual cycle than by honoring the memory of those veterans who experienced difficult years, many more difficult than this one.





## *CFCWRT October Meeting*



**J. Ken Brandau**

Due to the continuing situation with regard to the Covid19 "thing", we have effected a change to our scheduled speakers. Ken Rutherford who speaks on Civil War Mines & Torpedoes, will now make his presentation in February and our February speaker, J. Ken Brandau, will make a Zoom presentation of his book, *Lions of the Dan* on October 8th.

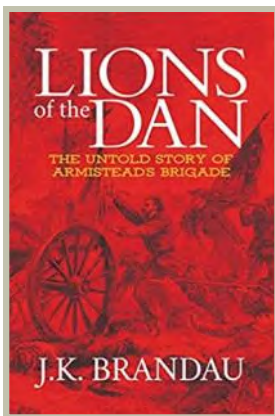
*Lions of the Dan*, is the previously untold story of Armistead's Brigade and chronicles those men of Pickett's Charge over the full course of the Civil War. Time honored celebrations of Armistead and Pickett focus narrowly on those moments at Gettysburg yet primary sources declare the untold story of the best of men caught up in the worst of times. *Lions of the Dan* refutes the Lost Cause myths surrounding Armistead and Pickett. J. Ken Brandau, for the first time, widens the aperture to introduce real heroes and amazing deeds.

Mr. Brandau was born in Richmond, VA and grew up on Richmond's Southside. This Son of the South, graduated from Old Dominion with a B.S in Chemistry and spent a career with the Newport News Shipbuilding Co.

He has written several books and journals reflecting his love of history, especially Civil War history. His meticulous research and dramatic writing style make for an enjoyable read and in the case of a Zoom presentation, makes for dramatic viewing.

Time and place are Thursday, 8 October (our usual meeting date) beginning at 7:00 PM. Zoom Master Ed Gibson will begin receiving your calls at 6:45 (1845). President Bill Jayne will begin the broadcast with remarks and speaker introduction, promptly at 7:00 PM. Details, complete with registration numbers and link will be provided a day (or so) prior to the presentation.

Our initial experience with a Zoom presentation (September - Dwight Hughes) was superb but missed by far too many members. We will, I'm sure, do better in October.



## *Cape Fear Civil War Round Table Upcoming Events*

### **2020**

November 12th **Betty Vaughn**, A 19th Century Christmas Celebration

December 10th **Andrew Duppstadt**, Lt. Francis Lyell Hoge, CSN (CSS Patrick Henry)

### **2021**

January 14th **Rodney Steward**, Confederate Sequestration Act

February 11th **Kenneth Rutherford** (Author), Mine Warfare and the Civil War

For more information go to the [CFCWRT website](#).



## Benjamin Huger 1805 - 1877

Benjamin Huger (November 22, 1805 - December 7, 1877) was a career U.S. Army ordnance officer and a Confederate general in the American Civil War.

Huger was born in Charleston, South Carolina. His grandfather, also named Benjamin Huger, was a patriot in the American Revolution, killed at Charleston during the British occupation. Huger graduated from the U.S. Military Academy in 1825 and was commissioned a second lieutenant in the 3rd U.S. Artillery. He served as a topographical engineer until 1828, then took a leave of absence to visit Europe. Upon his return, he became an ordnance officer and spent the majority of his career at that occupation. He commanded Fortress Monroe arsenal for twelve years, and was a member of the U.S. Army Ordnance Board for seven.

In the Mexican-American War, Huger was chief of ordnance on the staff of Winfield Scott, and received brevets to major, lieutenant colonel, and colonel, for gallant and meritorious conduct at Vera Cruz, Molino del Rey, and Chapultepec. In 1852 he was presented a sword by South Carolina in recognition of the honor his career had cast upon his native state. After this war he served on the board that prepared a system of artillery instruction for the army, and was in command of the armories at Harpers Ferry, Charleston, and Pikesville, Maryland

At the start of the Civil War, he was commissioned colonel of artillery in the Confederate States Army. On May 23, 1861, he was assigned to command the Department of Norfolk, with defensive responsibilities for North Carolina and southern Virginia. By October 7, 1861, he achieved the rank of major general. In May of 1862, when Union troops were approaching, Huger ordered the destruction of the Norfolk works and naval yard at Portsmouth. He dismantled the CSS Virginia ironclad and evacuated the area. While in command of Roanoke Island, he failed to reinforce his position, and his command had to surrender to the Union expeditionary force. Although the Confederate Congress investigated Huger's part in this defeat, Confederate President Jefferson Davis assigned him to division command under Gen. Joseph E. Johnston in the Army of Northern Virginia.

Huger led his division at Seven Pines and in several of the Seven Days Battles (now under the command of Robert E. Lee). He was criticized for his lackluster leadership in battles such as White Oak Swamp and Malvern Hill. Lee relieved of him duty on July 12, 1862, part of his wider purge of generals who did not meet Lee's expectations for aggressive tendencies in battle.

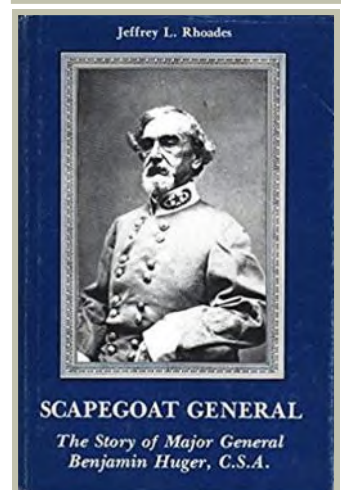
Following combat service on the Virginia Peninsula, Huger was assigned to be Assistant Inspector General of artillery and ordnance for the Confederate Army, and in 1863 was appointed Chief of Ordnance for the Trans-Mississippi Department. After the war, he was a farmer in North Carolina and Virginia, finally returning in poor health to his home in South Carolina.

Huger died in Charleston in 1877 and is buried in Greenmount Cemetery, Baltimore, Maryland. He was memorialized when the U.S. Army constructed "Battery Huger" inside the historic walls of Fort Sumter for the Spanish-American War.



Gen. Benjamin Huger CSA

For further reading about General Huger, check out *Scapegoat General* by Jeffrey L. Rhodes.





## *Did you know? Confederate Flags*

P. G. T. Beauregard served as adjutant general for the Louisiana state militia, 1879–88. In 1888, he was elected as commissioner of public works in New Orleans. When John Bell Hood and his wife died in 1879, leaving ten destitute orphans, Beauregard used his influence to get Hood's memoirs published, with all proceeds going to the children.

### **Did you know?**

Confederate Brigadier General J.E.B. Stuart was known for his larger-than-life behavior both in and out of combat.

After one raid on Union forces in northern Virginia in which he claimed over 150 horses and mules, Stuart personally sent a gloating telegraph message to the U.S. Army's quartermaster general mocking him about the lost supplies.



**Confederate Flag known as Stars and Bars**



**Confederate Battle Flag**

Confederate General P.G.T. Beauregard was instrumental in creating the battle flag that has come to be synonymous with the Confederacy. Following the First Battle of Bull Run in 1861, he approved a new flag design for the Army of Northern Virginia after recognizing that the original Confederate flag—known as the “Stars and Bars”—looked too similar to the U.S. flag when seen in the confusion of battle.

## *Online Presentations*

### [Civil War Round Table Congress](#)

[Oct 8th 7pm Eastern - David Dixon - Radical Warrior](#)

*Radical Warrior: August Willich's Journey from German Revolutionary to Union General* (University of Tennessee Press 2020) is the biography of a Prussian army officer who renounced his nobility and joined in the failed European revolutions of 1848. He emigrated to America, edited a daily labor newspaper in Cincinnati, and became one of the most accomplished generals in the Union Army. This story sheds new light on the contributions of 200,000 German-Americans who fought for the Union in the Civil War.

[Oct 14th 7pm Eastern - Len Riedel Interview - Blue and Gray Education Society](#)

[Oct 15th 7pm Eastern - Garry Adelman - Photo Extravaganza](#)

During this event, he will use then-and-now techniques and examine photographic details buried deep inside the images to tell the story of the Civil War in a format you aren't likely to experience anywhere else. He will also work to bust myths about period photos and will labor to convince viewers that photographers of the past were way ahead of us in many ways.

## ***Dues Reminder***

### **Members:**

September is our normal dues renewal month and although the Steering Committee extended the Early Bird period, dues, in the amount of \$25, are still due.

Realize please that the Round Table continues to have expenses (speaker honorariums, post office box, zoom and internet expenses etc.) and without raffles and silent auctions, we have no income other than dues and your generosity.

Our thanks to those of you who have renewed for this new year (Sept 2020-Aug 2021).

Please make payments to CFCWRT, c/o PO Box 15750, Wilmington, NC 29408.

## *Battle of Carnifex Ferry - September 10, 1861*

The Battle of Carnifex Ferry took place in the opening months of the Civil War at Nicholas County, Virginia (now West Virginia). The Union Army, under the direction of Brig. Gen. William S. Rosecrans sought to stop the advancing Confederate Army, under the direction of Gen. John B. Floyd. The battle took place near Summersville at an important crossing of the Gauley River and resulted in a strategic Union victory. The battle was an impetus to the movement that helped portions of Western Virginia break away to become the 35<sup>th</sup> state of West Virginia. Two future U.S. presidents, Rutherford B. Hayes, and William McKinley were among the soldiers who fought at Carnifex Ferry.



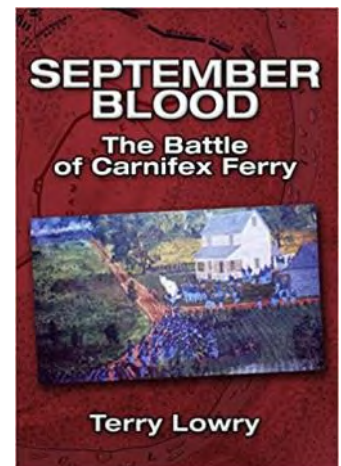
**Patterson Home**

Events leading up to the Battle of Carnifex Ferry had been unfolding for weeks. Confederate troops had advanced into the Kanawha Valley and launched an attack at Kessler's Cross Lanes (just over a mile from the ferry crossing) on August 26<sup>th</sup>. Proceeding to Carnifex Ferry, they drove Henry Patterson and his family from their farmhouse which overlooked the Gauley River. Some 2000 Confederate forces then set up a defensive position on the Patterson farm and along the steep cliffs overlooking the ferry.

In order to take control of the area, Rosecrans assembled a large army of 7,000 to push the Confederates southward. As the Federals advanced, the leading brigade encountered Floyd's pickets about 3:30 p.m. on the afternoon of September 10<sup>th</sup> at the ferry.

Rutherford B. Hayes, 38, and William McKinley, 18, both served in the Ohio 23<sup>rd</sup> Infantry. For many soldiers in the Ohio 23<sup>rd</sup>, this was their first battle experience (the unit mustered in just three months earlier). During the battle, the 23<sup>rd</sup> found themselves caught in a friendly fire incident while trying to flank the Confederate line. In the confusion and fleeting daylight, they started firing on their own men, killing two and wounding 30. The Patterson home was also caught in the crossfire from both armies and riddled with bullets. The structure still stands today at the Carnifex Ferry Battlefield State Park.

*(Continued on page 7)*



For further reading about the Battle of Carnifex Ferry, check out *September Blood: The Battle of Carnifex Ferry* by Terry Lowry.

## Battle of Carnifex Ferry - September 10, 1861, cont.



Fighting continued until dark, at which point the Confederates withdrew and the Union soldiers settled in for the night, prepared to resume the battle at daylight. During the night, Floyd, realizing that he was outnumbered and facing heavy Union artillery, decided to retreat his army across the ferry to the south side of the Gauley River and continue eastward to Meadow Bluff near Lewisburg. The Federals, exhausted from their march to Carnifex Ferry and the ensuing battle and facing adverse weather, decided against pursuit.

The conflict resulted in Union losses of 17 dead and 141 wounded. Confederate losses totaled 30 wounded with an unknown number of deaths. The Battle of Carnifex Ferry allowed the Federals to secure the Kanawha Valley and its tributaries which gave protection to those who favored secession from Virginia. Six weeks after the battle, residents of areas controlled by Union forces voted to form their own state, and in 1863, West Virginia joined the Union.



## Embalming

As a result of these desires—to maintain familial control over the final resting place and, if possible, to have one last look before the body vanished—a new form of treating the dead appeared on the social scene, and paved the way for the birth of an entirely modern funeral industry.

Undertakers who contracted with Northern families began to experiment with innovative means to preserve bodies that had to be shipped long distances on train cars, often during the hot summer months.

The revolutionary practice that emerged in this context, embalming, provided both the military and Northern communities with a scientific, sanitary, and sensible way to move bodies across the land.

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Vice President: [Greg Willett](#) (910) 777-3935  
Sec/Treas: [Bruce Patterson](#) (910) 794-8905

Membership: [Linda Lashley](#)  
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Refreshments: [John Moore](#)

## CAPE FEAR CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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EMBROIDERED AND PRINTED APPAREL





# THE RUNNER



SEPTEMBER 2020

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 9



## *After the War*

The Covid 19 pandemic has changed the fabric of this nation as well as the world. This is not the first time our nation has faced such a complete and drastic change. There have been many events that affected our nation but none as profoundly as the Civil War.

The Civil War had a greater impact on American society and the polity than any other event in the country's history. It was also the most traumatic experience endured by any generation of Americans. At least 620,000 soldiers lost their lives in the Civil War, 2 percent of the American population in 1861. More American soldiers became casualties at the Battle of Gettysburg than in the Revolutionary War and War of 1812 combined. For every three soldiers killed in battle, five more died of disease. Approximately one in four soldiers that went to war never returned home. It is estimated that one in three Southern households lost at least one family member. Thirty percent of Southern men between the ages of 24 and 35 died in the war. At the outset of the war, neither army had mechanisms in place to handle the amount of death that the nation was about to experience. There were no national cemeteries, no burial details, and no messengers of loss. The largest human catastrophe in American history, the Civil War forced the young nation to confront death and destruction in a way that has not been equaled before or since.

The long war was over, but for the victors the peace was marred by the assassination of Abraham Lincoln, the greatest figure of the war. The ex-Confederate states, after enduring the unsuccessful attempts of Reconstruction to impose a new society on the South, were readmitted to the Union, which had been saved and in which slavery was now abolished. The Civil War brought death to more Americans than did any other war, including World War II. Photographs by Mathew B. Brady and others reveal some of the horror behind the statistics. The war cost untold billions. It established many of the patterns, especially a strong central government, that are now taken for granted in American national life. Virtually every battlefield, with its graves, is either a national or a state park. Monuments commemorating Civil War figures and events are conspicuous in almost all sizable Northern towns and are even more numerous in the upper South.

Recruitment was highly localized throughout the war. Regiments of approximately one thousand men, the building block of the armies, would often be raised from the population of a few adjacent counties. Soldiers went to war with their neighbors and their kin. The nature of recruitment meant that a

*(Continued on page 2)*

**September meeting**  
Thursday, September 10,  
2020 - 7:00 P. M.

ZOOM Meeting

Email from Bruce Patterson  
will be sent prior to Event

Speaker: **Dwight Hughes**  
**(Author)**

Topic: **CSS Shenandoah**



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## *After the War, cont.*

battlefield disaster could wreak havoc on the home community.

The 26th North Carolina, hailing from seven counties in the western part of the state, suffered 714 casualties out of 800 men during the Battle of Gettysburg. The 24th Michigan squared off against the 26th North Carolina at Gettysburg and lost 362 out of 496 men. Nearly the entire student body of Ole Miss--135 out 139--enlisted in Company A of the 11th Mississippi. Company A, also known as the "University Greys" suffered 100% casualties in Pickett's Charge. Eighteen members of the Christian family of Christiansburg, Virginia were killed during the war. One in thirteen surviving Civil War soldiers returned home missing one or more limbs. Pre-war jobs on farms or in factories became impossible or nearly so. This led to a rise in awareness of veterans' needs as well as increased responsibility and social power for women. For many, however, there was no solution. Tens of thousands of families slipped into destitution. The fabric of this nation was forever changed.

After the War was over and the Peace begun, all the major forces of the Confederate States of America had surrendered, and President Davis was in prison. The people now were asking in massive chorus-what next? There must be a blending of the way of life of 1860 and the new ways of 1865. What would the new United States be like? The headlines of battles appeared no more, the bulletin boards with their chilling casualty lists had ceased.

## *CFCWRT September Meeting*

Our Thursday, September 10th meeting will take place via Zoom. About a week before that date, you will receive an email that includes a Zoom invitation for the CFCWRT meeting and a link to use for joining the meeting. Those of you that are already using Zoom for business or club or family meetings will be ready to go.

If you have not used Zoom before, you will need to download the [Zoom app](#) to the device you want to use. That device can be your smart phone, tablet, laptop or desktop computer. To download the app, use the internet on your device to go to [zoom.com](#), and then follow the instructions to perform the download. You should try to download the app now or at least several days before the meeting to avoid last minute issues and delays.

## *Online Presentations*

Chris Mackowski gave a Zoom presentation on "Grant's Last Battle," based on his book of the same name, to the Bull Run Civil War Roundtable. The roundtable recorded the presentation, which can be [viewed here](#).

Chris also did a video battlefield tour of Chancellorsville based on Stephen Crane's Red Badge of Courage as part of a virtual fund-raiser sponsored by Central Virginia Battlefields Trust (CVBT). You can see a preview of the tour on the [ECW YouTube page](#).

Excerpts for this article from:

The Civil War: Day by Day, An Almanac 1861-1865 by E. B. Long

American Battlefield Trust: Civil War Casualties

"In every battle there comes a time when both sides consider themselves beaten. Then he who continues the attack wins."

This quote by Ulysses Grant, general-in-chief of Federal forces, signifies the grand tactic of Continuous Contact.

*HR 7608 Appropriations Act, 2021*

House Resolution 7608 passed in the House and was sent to the Senate on July 24, 2020. It was sent to the Appropriations Committee. Buried in this resolution is a section that authorizes the removal of Confederate commemorative works.

**Title IV - General Provisions**

Sec. 442. Notwithstanding any other provision of law or policy to the contrary, within 180 days of enactment of this Act, the National Park Service shall remove from display all physical Confederate commemorative works, such as statues, monuments, sculptures, memorials, and plaques, as defined by NPS, Management Policies 2006, §9.6.1.

As a member of a Civil War Round Table, who's purpose is to promote, educate, and further stimulate interest in, and discussion of all aspects of the Civil War period, it seems unfitting to remove these items from national battlefields without further discussion and input from the American people. This is our history. These battlefields are in fact cemeteries for both Federal and Confederate soldiers. Historian Bernard DeVoto has stated that the Civil War is the crux of our history.

Our CFCWRT member Dale Lear contacted Senator Tom Tillis and received a response. Mr. Tillis shared that HR 7608 was opposed by 7 Democrats, 1 Independent, and every Republican.

Additionally, on June 10, 2020, Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) offered an amendment during the Senate Armed Services Committee (SASC) mark-up for the Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21) National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) which would direct the Department of Defense (DoD) to rename all DoD assets, including military installations, within 3 years if they were originally named after a Confederate figure.

He indicated that a thoughtful and constructive process that included input from local constituents' and consideration of historical context when it comes to replacing names, symbols or statues on public lands and in our national parks.

Of interest on this topic, June 20, 2020, President Trump signed an executive order Protecting American Monuments, Memorials, and Statues and Combating Recent Criminal Violence (EO). The EO holds any person accountable if they destroy federal property, damage monuments, memorials, or statues. Individuals that are arrested and found guilty may receive up to 10 years of prison under section 1361 Title 18, United States Code. Additionally, localities and states who fail to prevent anarchists from damaging property may have their federal grants withheld.

During Sherman's March to the Sea, the Union soldiers would heat up rail road ties and then bend them around tree trunks. They were nicknamed "Sherman's neckties".

The purpose of this was to prevent the Confederates from reusing the railroad ties to rebuild the railroad.



## *Ed Bearss Donations*

Ted Kunstling, President of the Raleigh CWRT, hopes you will consider the opportunity for your Civil War Round Table joining the North Carolina and Raleigh CWRTs in contributing to preserve additional land at Bentonville Battlefield Historic Site in honor of a man who has been so special to us, Ed Bearss. Ed has been incredibly supportive of Civil War Round Tables in North Carolina for over a decade, visiting our groups every January, supporting our efforts. Ed recently celebrated his 97th birthday on June 26. While his health no longer allows him to conduct his annual “Carolina Campaign,” his interest and enthusiasm remain unabated.

So far, over \$3,700 has been raised for this purpose from the NC and Raleigh CWRTs and from individual friends of Ed Bearss. We hope that your CWRT and individual members might join us in both honoring our friend and achieving recognition for your CWRT.

The money will be used when private property in the battlefield comes up for purchase. Checks may be made out to American Battlefield Trust (designated for Ed Bearss Bentonville Recognition) and mail to:

Tom Moore

Principal Philanthropic Advisor, American  
Battlefield Trust

1156 15th Street NW, Suite 900  
Washington, DC 20005

In Missouri at the beginning of the Civil War, volunteer Unionist Home Guard regiments were formed with the blessing of Federal authorities to oppose neutralist Governor Claiborne Jackson's state militia and his intention to discourage Missouri enlistments into Federal service.

Brigadier General Nathaniel Lyon was given authority by the War Department to organize the Home Guard on June 11, 1861.

By late 1861 most of the Home Guard regiments had been disbanded. They were replaced by a smaller Six-month Militia under state rather than Federal control. This too was disbanded in January 1862, to be replaced by the Missouri State Militia (almost entirely cavalry.)

## *Difference between State Troops, Home Guards, Militia, and Reserves*

**State troops** were commissioned and paid for by the state.

**Home Guards** were very informal groups of men who band together to fight insurgents and bandits, which were quite common in both Union border States and in Confederate States. They were either pro Confederate or Union.

**Militia** generally were not paid (some exceptions to the rule) and were under the control of the Governor of a state. The quality of training and equipment was quite variable.

The Missouri State Militia was the only federally funded full time Militia unit that mostly fought guerrillas but did fight as conventional Cavalry at the battles of Prairie Grove in Arkansas and during Confederate General Price's invasion of Missouri. Service in a Missouri militia was mandatory .

The United States did not have a reserve system as we know it today. The **National Guard** didn't evolve until decades later. King Fredrick the Great of Prussia invented the concept of modern military reserves decades before the American Civil War but the US didn't adopt reserves until well after the war.



## Mourning Rituals

Wartime convention decreed that a woman mourn her child's death for one year, a brother's death for six months, and a husband's death for two and a half years. She progressed through prescribed stages of heavy, full, and half mourning, with gradually loosening requirements of dress and behavior.

Mary Todd Lincoln remained in deep mourning for more than a year after her son Willie's death, dressing in black veils, black crepe and black jewelry. Flora Stuart, the widow of Confederate General J.E.B. Stuart, remained in heavy mourning for 59 years after the 1864 death of her husband, wearing black until she died in 1923.

By contrast, a widower was expected to mourn for only three months, simply by displaying black crepe on his hat or armband.

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 Raffle Master: [Ed Gibson](#)  
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AUGUST 2020

# THE RUNNER



VOLUME 2 ISSUE 8



*This Day in the War - August 5, 1864 - Battle of Mobile Bay*

“I’m going into Mobile Bay in the morning if ‘God is my leader’ as I hope he is....” wrote Admiral Farragut to his wife August 4th. In the morning his Union fleet of 18 ships including four monitors entered Mobile Bay, passing between the fearsome forts guarding the three-mile channel. Admiral Farragut had desired to launch the long-delayed attack since resuming command of his squadron in January. In addition to the staunchly armed Forts Gaines and Morgan were three small gunboats and the formidable *CSS Tennessee*, said to be the most powerful ironclad afloat. Furthermore, only a narrow passage in the harbor channel remained unblocked by obstructions and torpedoes or mines. Farragut had his four ironclad monitors in the starboard column led by *Tecumseh* and 14 wooden ships in the port column, with *Brooklyn* in the lead and *Hartford* as flag. At 5:30 am the fleet moved in, and Fort Morgan opened on *Brooklyn* shortly after 7 am. Action became general between the Yankee navy and Fort Morgan.

The Confederate fleet joined in. *USS Tecumseh* headed for *CSS Tennessee*. Then one or more torpedoes exploded under her. In seconds *Tecumseh* went down prow first, two hundred yards from the enemy. Shortly after this Admiral Farragut in the port rigging of *Hartford*, is said to have shouted, **“Damn the torpedoes, full speed ahead.”** Regardless of just what he said, that is what the fleet did. There were anxious moments as *Hartford* took the van. However, the rest of the fleet passed the forts with minor loss. Three Federals rammed the sluggish *Tennessee* by midmorning. The Union monitors opened and *Tennessee*, rather vulnerable despite her armor, went out of control. Confederate Admiral Franklin Buchanan suffered a broken leg. At 10 am, after heavy pounding, *Tennessee* surrendered.

Admiral Farragut had again proved that ships could handle forts. Closing Mobile as a confederate port set the stage for land operations against the city.

Reference - E.B. Long with Barbara Long. *The Civil War Day by Day - An Almanac 1861-1864*, Garden City, NY; Doubleday 1971

This is a very brief description of this event. For additional reading these books tell the story:

**West Wind, Flood Tide: The Battle of Mobile Bay** by Jack Friend

**Farragut at Mobile Bay** by Henry Cabot Lodge and Theodore Roosevelt - Audio book narrated by Glenn Hascall

**The Battle of Mobile Bay and the Captures of Forts Powell, Gaines and Morgan** by Foxhall Alexander Parker

**The Last Siege: The Mobile Campaign Alabama, 1865** by Paul Brueske

Our August meeting has been cancelled. We hope to see you in September.



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## *Civil War Cannons relocated to Fort Fisher*



A 32-pounder Naval Cannon located on the grounds of the North Carolina State Capitol. Cast in 1848, captured at Norfolk in 1861, and converted to a 6 inch rifle for use at Fort Caswell. (Photo courtesy of Daderot via Wikimedia Commons)

Two Civil War cannons that flanked a Confederate monument on the Union Square grounds in Raleigh since 1902 now have a new home at Fort Fisher.

The naval cannons were removed with the 1895 monument on the orders of Gov. Roy Cooper last week after they were vandalized.

On Sunday afternoon, they were situated next to the fort's earthen mounds in full public view. Michele Walker, spokeswoman for the N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (NCDNCR), which oversees Fort Fisher and all state historic sites, said they will remain on display because they are from the same era as those already on display at the historic site.

Fort Fisher was a Confederate fort during the Civil War. It is having a \$23 million renovation of its visitors center and grounds.



## *Ed Bearss, A Tribute*

The Blue and Gray Education Society is advocating for the Congressional Gold Medal for Ed Bearss. This award for people whose contributions to America and the world elevate them above their peers. Ed Bearss would be one of those people. He personifies all it is too be an American, Duty, Honor, and Country over 53 years of service. He has an unbroken string of more than 65 years as an educator whose students included Presidents, senior government officials and citizens from all walks of like. For more than seven decades he was the architect of our Public history, crafting the boundaries of new national parks and guiding America's historians, members of Congress and Administrations through landmark preservation studies that established national priorities for preservation of land that is the basis of the 30 year old American Battlefield Protection Program.

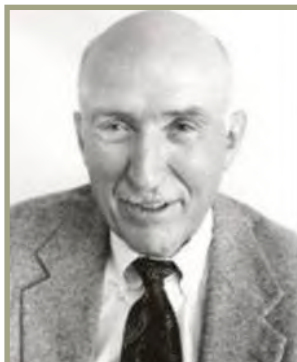
Ed Bearss is a soon to be 98 year old disabled combat wounded WW II veteran and Marine who is Chief Historian Emeritus of the National Park Service. He enlisted in the Marines April 28, 1942 at the age of 18. As part of the 3rd Marine Raider Battalion, he had a brief stint on Guadalcanal. Later reassigned to the 7th Regiment, First Marine Division, he was part of the landing force at Cape Gloucester on December 26, 1943. On January 2, 1944 he was hit and wounded 4 times by enemy machine gun fire while crossing Suicide Creek. After 8 months in a body cast and 18 additional months of convalescence, Corporal Bearss was discharged in March 1946.

After securing a degree from Georgetown University in 1949, Bearss went to work for the Naval Hydrographic Office and then back to school earning a masters degree at Indiana University in 1955. Ed started work on a doctorate but suffering a shortage of funds he returned to the work force in the Office of the Chief of Military History. He was subsequently granted two honorary doctorates. In September 1955 he entered the National Park Service as historian at Vicksburg, Mississippi.

Bearss quickly advanced to regional historian in 1958 and blessed with what many believed to be a photographic memory, Bearss' work and exceptional speaking abilities put him on the road traveling as many as 270 days a years. He became the point man for the Civil War Centennial (1961-1965) drawing boundaries for new parks at Wilson's Creek, Missouri and Pea Ridge, Arkansas. He found forgotten fortifications at Grand Gulf, Mississippi and located the *USS Cairo*, a Union ironclad that struck a min and sank in the Yazoo River in December 1962. It was raised through the singular efforts of Bearss who, when the public funding was unavailable, went on the gameshow "The \$64,000 Challenge" and won \$20,000 to match a donation. The gunboat, the only one of its kind from that era, was raised in October 1964, is now restored, and on display at Vicksburg, NMP.



Edwin Bearss  
as a young Marine



The best leaders collect information widely, listen to everybody, and then decide by themselves.

— Ed Bearss —

(Continued on page 4)

*Ed Bearss, A Tribute, cont.*

Bearss served as the NPS Historian in charge of 19th and 20th century sites. With the expansion of the parks, Bearss' expertise became the foundation of that growth and the sites became an exhaustive "who and what?" across the country to include a dozen states, Guam, and numerous other sites were crafted through his expertise and research. His work on Presidential sites included Eisenhower Farm, Herbert Hoover, William Howard Taft, US Grant and Jimmy Carter. This work was capped by his integral role working directly with President Lyndon Johnson to establish and incorporate the LBJ Ranch into the NPS. Bearss enjoyed a lifelong friendship with LBJ and Lady Bird. He was named Chief Historian of the NPS in 1981 and held the position for more than 14 years.

It was said of Bearss that he knew not only every battle and battlefield, but every facet of it. During his 14 years at NPS he helped craft National Park Policy. He was the driving force in the battlefield preservation studies commencing with the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission Report. His encyclopedic memory ran herd on a collection of the nation's finest academic and public historians producing the national guidance on preserving battlefields and establishing priorities and core, essential areas that needed protection. The resulting American Battlefield Trust Protection Program has matched more than \$300,000,000 in land acquisition and preservation . Other organizations launched from Bearss' work are Blue and Fray Education Society, American Battlefield Trust, Save Historic Antietam Foundation, and Central Virginia Battlegrounds Trust. They form the heart of tax payer supported efforts at preservation saving the national budget millions of dollars in land acquisition funds annually.

Upon retiring in 1995 he stepped up his game continuing to advocate for historic preservation and conducting thousands of tours and lecture over the next 23 years for all manner of organizations, companies, and non profits. He was the most popular historian for Smithsonian Associates, History America Tours, and National Geographic. He literally raised millions of dollars for the preservation of America's treasures.

He was the recipient of The Purple Heart, Department of Interior Distinguished Service Award 1983, American Battlefield Trust Edwin Bearss Award for Preservation Leadership, NPS Edwin Bearss Fellowship Award, and numerous other awards. Bearss received the Honorary Licensed Battlefield Guide from the Association of Licensed Battlefield Guides at Gettysburg. He was the only person ever granted a guide badge without passing the testing and examination requirements.

Dr. Bearss has published literally hundreds of articles in all manner of scholarly and public documents, essay compendiums and other public educational forums. He has published more than 20 full length books.



These are his most popular titles:

*Receding the Tide: Vicksburg and Gettysburg, The Campaigns that Changed the Civil War*

*Fields of Honor, Pivotal Battles in the Civil War*

*Smithsonian's Great Battles and Battlefields of the Civil War*

*The Campaign for Vicksburg in three volumes*

*The Battle of Compens*

*Hardluck Ironclad, The Sinking and Salvage of the Cairo*

*Decision in Mississippi*

If you would like to support this effort, please contact your Congressional Representative and tell them you support [HR 7385](#).

Click on the link above to read the resolution.

*Member News***To the Members & Friends of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table:**

Bill Jayne, our CWRT President, has prepared a short (4 min) video announcement related to several issues, including our scheduled 13 August meeting and the Fall schedule for your viewing edification and enjoyment.

Simply click on this [YouTube link](#) and you have Bill in your office, on your iPad or cell-phone. As always, we welcome your questions and or suggestions.

**Membership News & Dues**

We are approaching September and the beginning of a new Round Table season. It is also membership renewal time.

The Steering Committee has, in past years, declared the month of August as an Early Bird month, a month in which you could renew you individual or family membership for \$25 as opposed to the regular rate of \$30. Due to the unusual nature of this year however, the Early Bird rate of \$25 (individual or family) rate will apply until the evening of our first meeting, which we hope will be 10 September.

Should we be unable to hold a September meeting, then the \$25 rate will be honored until 8 October although we fully expect to be able to hold regular meetings, in the usual place, with health protocols in place as per our published schedule.

We have a full slate of speakers on tap, each coming some distance (see July edition of The Runner). The Round Table pays their travel expenses as well as their meals and lodging while in Wilmington. Your dues, plus the revenue from the raffle and/or auction are necessary in order to bring speakers to our meetings. Other expenses such as refreshments, Post Office Box rental, Internet registration, printing and sundry supplies add to our annual budget. You and your dues are critical to our program.

Please mail your check, (CFCWRT) to PO Box 15750, Wilmington, NC 29408 at your convenience. Those who joined in March or later will receive an email exempting them from this dues request.

My personal thanks to all.

Bruce Patterson  
Treasurer - Membership

***Fridays with Grant***

The CWRT Congress proudly presents Fridays with U. S. Grant. Dr. Curt Fields, the preeminent Grant living historian tells the Grant story in his own words. To register for a virtual seat, click [this link](#). All sessions are at 7pm Eastern

*August 7th*

Letters from Grant

*August 14th*

Getting into The War

*August 21st*

Fort Donelson to Shiloh

*August 28th*

Appomattox Surrender



## *Jacob Rohrbach Inn - Summer Lecture Series*

The Jacob Rohrbach Inn in Sharpsburg, Maryland, hosts an annual summer lecture series, and this year has not been an exception. Just recently, they have started the option of gathering safely in person for the outdoor presentations, but for those of us who are far away or not ready to attend a gathering, there is an online option for some of the 2020 presentations via the [Inn's Facebook Page](#).

We've been featuring some online "weekender" options during the pandemic and this one seems like a great option for learning some in-depth Antietam history (while enjoying the comfort of your air-conditioning).

Here's what's been featured so far and there are links to the videos that have been released on Facebook:

June 3 – Gordon Dammann – "The Wounding of Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr"

June 10 – Brad Gottfried – "Lee Invades the North: A Comparison of 1862 & 1863"

June 17 – Darin Wipperman – "Immortal Respect: Col. Henry Post and the 2nd U.S. Sharpshooters in the Antietam Campaign"

June 24 – Alann Schimdt – "The Dunker Church"

July 1 – Jim Rosebrock – "Goodbye Captain" Artillery at the Burnside Bridge and Final Attack

July 8 – Sharon Murray – "The Long Gray Line of '54"

July 15 – Richard P. D'Ambrisi – "Baseball in the Civil War"

July 22 – Laura Marfut – "Longstreet's Attack on French's Right."

July 29 – Nigel Wainwright – "The Civil War and The World"

And here's what's coming up in the next few weeks if you want to mark your calendar to watch for online content or take a little drive to attend in-person: (Check the Inn's Facebook page since the schedule and location is subject to change)

Aug 5 – Matt Borders – "The Loudoun Valley Campaign of 1862: McClellan's Final Advance"

Aug 12 – Justin Mayhue – "Small Arms Weapons at Antietam"

Aug 19 – Alex Rossino – "A Very Personal Fight: Robert E. Lee's Role on the Field at Sharpsburg, September 17, 1862"

Aug 26 – John Schildt – "The 'What Ifs' of the Maryland Campaign"

**Note:** These outdoors programs will be held at the Jacob Rohrbach Inn on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. Even though those programs are outdoors, attending guests are to wear face coverings and to social distance as much as possible. Additional program details are [available here](#).



## *Virtual History*

### **American Battlefield Trust**

Here is a sample of their digital resources

- ◆ Animated Maps - See the entire Civil War unfold, from Fort Sumter to Appomattox and beyond.
  - ◇ Shiloh
  - ◇ Vicksburg
  - ◇ Gettysburg
  - ◇ Antietam
- ◆ Virtual Tours - Experience the Civil War like never before and tour the battlefields in panoramic view. Jump from battlefield to battlefield using virtual tours that offer historic detail on battle highlights and points of interest, compelling photography, lively video, in-depth articles and more.
- ◆ Battle App™ Guide - While GPS-enabled to help lead you around in person, our [Battle App™ guides](#) for iOS and Android devices can be accessed from anywhere in the world to bring you “onto the field” with leading historians.

### **Ed Bearss - [YouTube videos](#)**

- ◆ Ed Bearss on the Western Theater of the Civil War
- ◆ Ed Bearss on the Civil War
- ◆ Ed Bearss on JEB Stuart at Gettysburg - Part I & Part II
- ◆ Ed Bearss on Arlington Virginia in the Civil War
- ◆ Battle of the Wilderness with Ed Bearss
- ◆ Battle of Gettysburg - Ed Bearss on General Meade
- ◆ The Battles of South Mountain Maryland during the Civil War

These are just a few of the many available.

## *Wreaths Across America - July Virtual Concert*

This past month, Wreaths Across America transitioned their annual concert into their first ever Virtual Concert. It is still available for viewing - watch on [this link](#).

*“During our Giving in July Virtual Concert I talked a lot about the need to polish our patriotism. And the more I think about this, the more it resonates with me. During difficult times it can be hard to see the good, and I personally feel that it is what we are experiencing right now in this country. It’s time for people to come together to unite in their communities and find common ground. I hope Wreaths Across America’s mission to Remember the fallen, Honor those that served and their families, and Teach the next generation the value of freedom can be one of these unifiers. I can guarantee you that National Wreaths Across America Day is going to happen this December, so please join us in the mission and get involved in your community today! Let’s work together to polish our patriotism and let it shine.”*

**#AmericaProud #AmericaStrong**

**- Karen Worcester, Executive Director, Wreaths Across America**

“Some people tried to hurt us to protect themselves, their family and communities...This was one of the consequences of civil war. People stopped trusting each other, and every stranger became an enemy. Even people who knew you became extremely careful about how they related or spoke to you.”

**– Ishmael Beah,  
A Long Way Gone:  
Memoirs of a Boy  
Soldier**



## *Wreaths Across America*

**National Wreath Day is Saturday  
December 19, 2020**

The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table will attempt to repeat the goal of our prior two years purchases of 60 (or more) wreaths during October & November.



## *Sponsors*



SPECIALIZING IN REGIONAL AMERICAN SEA-FOOD, SIGNATURE DISHES, HAND CUT FISH, STEAKS AND CHICKEN ALONG WITH FRESHLY MADE DESSERTS. WE PRIDE OURSELVES IN USING THE FRESHEST POSSIBLE INGREDIENTS AND PREPARING THEM WITH LOVE.

**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](#)

## *Steering Committee—Officers*

President: [Bill Jayne](#) (910) 386-9203  
Vice President: [Greg Willett](#) (910) 777-3935  
Sec./Treas: [Bruce Patterson](#) (910) 794-8905

Membership: [Linda Lashley](#)  
Tours/Trips: [Dale Lear](#)  
Runner Editor: [Sherry Hewitt](#)  
Raffle Master: [Ed Gibson](#)  
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Refreshments: [John Moore](#)

## **CAPE FEAR CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE**

PO Box 15750

Wilmington, NC 28408

You can find us on the Web! [Cfcwrt.org](#)

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# QUEENSBORO

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# Best Western PLUS



# THE RUNNER



JULY 2020

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 7



## *The Blockade Runner - Modern Greece by Bill Jayne*

Blockade running was truly the lifeline of the Confederate States of America. When the southern states attempted to secede from the United States and establish an independent nation, they relied on the economic importance of cotton to influence the industrial countries of Europe, particularly Great Britain and France, to recognize the nascent republic and use their diplomatic power to persuade the United States to allow the southern states to exercise their independence.

In the year between September 1860 and August 1861, more than 3.3 million bales of American cotton were exported across the seas. Well more than half of that amount, about 1.8 million bales shipped from the port of New Orleans. Yet, the Confederate States of America had no navy and did not possess a plan for conveying their cotton to Europe. According to Stephen R. Wise, author of *Lifeline of the Confederacy: Blockade Running During the Civil War*, there were only 11 ocean-going steamships in the south in 1861, and four of them were either old or quite small. Obviously, those ships could not be expected to transport 3.3 million bales of cotton. And, then there was the small matter of a blockade by the U.S. Navy.

Federal authorities were well aware of southern intentions regarding the cotton trade and on April 19, 1861, four days after Fort Sumter was fired upon, President Lincoln issued a proclamation establishing a blockade of southern ports. The U.S. Navy did not have enough capable ships to enforce a blockade of southern ports but they had enough to make a credible threat and they quickly acquired more ships to make the blockade an issue for foreign powers, especially Great Britain, an island nation dependent on maritime trade for its economic well-being.

The Confederacy quickly turned to the expedient of blockade running to export cotton and, it was hoped, import ordnance, ammunition, medicine, other war materiel and consumer goods. Yet, there was little effort to regulate this vital trade. If the Confederacy were to succeed, it needed to control blockade running. At the beginning of the war, however, a patchwork quilt of private ships owned by various companies and a few state-owned ships sought to maintain this essential lifeline.

Although the government of Great Britain was loath to challenge the Union blockade, recognizing that their own viability was dependent on a consistent application of maritime law, many private parties in England and Scotland saw opportunity in running the blockade and decided to make the attempt.

One Englishman who got involved in the blockade running business was Zachariah C. Pearson of Hull, a major port in Yorkshire, northeast of London. Born in 1821, Pearson was a successful shipping owner who had become a captain at 21 and owned his first ship at the age of 25. President of the firm

Our July 9th member roundtable has been cancelled due to the recent Executive Order by Governor Cooper.



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## THE RUNNER



### *The Blockade Runner - Modern Greece by Bill Jayne, cont.*



Zachariah C. Pearson

of Pearson, Coleman and Company, he traded extensively with Baltic ports and also with Australia and New Zealand. He was also the mayor of Hull.

In 1862 two major cotton mills closed down in Hull and Pearson, probably motivated by the wish to reopen the mills for the good of the city, as well as the potential for profit, began dealing with Captain Caleb Huse of the Confederate States Army Ordnance Bureau. Huse had been sent to England in April 1861 and began acquiring ordnance and other materiel needed by the Confederate States Army to ship to southern ports.

In the spring of 1862 six ships of Pearson's fleet headed for the south. The results were disastrous. Stephen Wise notes that almost 300 steam ships tested the blockade during the war and "out of approximately 1,300 attempts, over 1,000 were successful." However, "the average lifetime of a blockade runner was just over four runs, or two round trips. Some 136 were captured and another 85 destroyed."

The *Modern Greece* was built by Richardson Company at Stockton-on-Tees, England in 1859. Originally owned by Stefanos Xenos, a Greek trader and writer, the ship was 210 feet long, with a beam of 29 feet but a draft of 17 feet, relatively deep for blockade running. She was an iron-hulled screw-driven ship used primarily in the trade with Baltic ports before being acquired by Pearson.

According to Keith Palmer, author of a blog about the blockade runners built at Stockton, England, the cargo of the *Modern Greece* on its maiden attempt at blockade running, was one of "the most valuable cargoes ever bound for the Southern Confederacy." Onboard were rifled cannons, four brass smoothbore cannons, 7,000 Enfield rifled muskets, 1,000 tons of gunpowder and, additional military and civilian goods.

She sailed on April 28, 1862, with a registered destination of Tampico, Mexico, but U.S. officials were aware of her cargo and the likelihood it was intended for the south. The U.S. State Department alerted the Navy Department.

The U.S.S. *Cambridge* spotted the *Modern Greece* at 4:15 a.m. on June 27, near land and about three miles north of Fort Fisher. The *Cambridge* and the U.S.S. *Stars and Stripes* opened fire. Although the guns of the fort tried to protect the blockade runner, the U.S. ships hit her nine times and she ran aground. The crew abandoned the ship and finally the guns of the fort sank the ship in about 40 feet of water. According to Palmer, the Confederates salvaged six 12-pounder Whitworth rifled guns, 500 stands of arms and other supplies.



Modern Greece

In 1962, 100 years later, a storm uncovered the wreckage of the *Modern Greece* and divers began archaeological investigation bringing approximately 11,500 artifacts ashore for conservation and, ultimately, interpretation. The investigation of the *Modern Greece* and its cargo led to the establishment of the Underwater Archaeology Branch of the N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, one of the first programs of its kind in the United States.

Not only was Pearson's *Modern Greece* sunk on its first voyage, with its most valuable cargo, but the company lost six others that were captured on their first try. Among those lost were the *Stettin* and the *Patras* captured by the U.S.S. *Bienville* off the coast of South Carolina on May 4 and May 27, 1862. The *Circassian* was captured by the U.S.S. *Somerset* in the Gulf of Mexico on May 4, 1862.

*The Blockade Runner - Modern Greece by Bill Jayne, cont.*

Pearson's company went bankrupt and his attempt to re-open the mills of Hull left his reputation as well as his finances in ruins. Ultimately, he regained much of his wealth and his reputation was restored largely because of his philanthropy.

The saga of Mayor Pearson didn't end with the sinking of the *Modern Greece* and the capture of his other ships in 1862, however. Ordnance Bureau officer Captain Huse bought three ships on behalf of the Confederate States Army, the *Cornubia* (see [Runner](#), February 2019), the *Eugenie*, and the *Merrimack* (not to be confused with the U.S.S. *Merrimack* that became the C.S.S. *Virginia*).

The *Merrimack* was owned by Pearson and Company and laden with another extremely valuable cargo, including three Blakely guns. The fast side-wheeler, well-suited to blockade running, arrived in Bermuda on September 5, 1862, but Pearson had declared bankruptcy while she was at sea. "Southern agents," according to Wise, "were unable to separate their cargo from the impounded steamer and, as a result, Huse found it necessary to purchase the vessel and her cargo for £7,000. Once in the hands of the Confederacy, the *Merrimack* was made ready for sea and on April 13, 1863, under the command of S.G. Porter, ran into Wilmington. The three Blakely guns, each capable of firing a 170-pound projectile, were divided up, one going to Vicksburg and the remaining two being kept for the defense of Wilmington. One was placed at Fort Fisher at New Inlet while the other was positioned at Fort Caswell at Old Inlet."

*Upcoming Events*

**Cedar Creek Battlefield Foundation sponsors the 156th Annual Reenactment of the Battle of Cedar Creek, October 17-18, 2020**

The CCBF, sponsors of this reenactment, the largest and most prominent in the country, is now accepting reenactor registration. Regular registration is \$30 from June 1st to August 31st. On September 1st the price goes up to \$35. Those wishing to register should go to the CCBF's website, [www.ccbf.us](http://www.ccbf.us), and print out the registration form. Send the completed form and a check for funds in the appropriate amount to CCBF at PO Box 229, Middletown VA 22645.

In the event that pandemic conditions force cancellation of the event, all registration fees will be refunded upon request.

*Selected Online Works by Civil War Era African American Women*

Society for Women and the Civil War (SWCW) member Lavonda Kay Broadnax, Digital Reference Specialist at the Library of Congress, has compiled a web guide to the historic full text of works, now available in digital format with free and open access, written by and about African American women who lived during the U.S. Civil War.

Access the guide here: <https://www.loc.gov/rr/program/bib/aacivilwarwomen/>

*This was a special year in that the days of the week fell with the calendar in the same way they did in 1863. July 1, 2 and 3 were on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.*



## CFCWRT Upcoming Speakers

The COVID pandemic has created chaos and uncertainty for our round table and the entire country. We haven't been able to meet since March and there's no certainty we will be able to meet in August. Up until 2018, we did not normally meet during the summer months of June, July and August but in 2018 we instituted a summer program relying on members of the round table to put together interesting programs and tours.

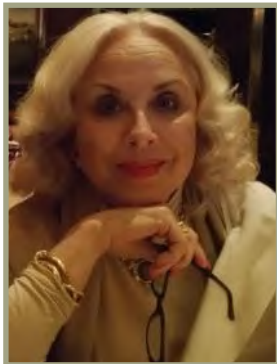
The summer program worked very well in 2018 and 2019 but this year the summer program has been displaced by restrictions on public meetings.

The good news is that we have a great lineup of speakers scheduled for the program year beginning in September 2020 and running through May 2021. While the program has a distinct nautical flavor, in keeping with the fact that the war here in the Lower Cape Fear was largely a nautical conflict, there is a great deal of variety. Following is a quick summary of what to look forward to.



**SEPTEMBER:** Dwight Hughes is a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy who served 20 years in the Navy as a surface warfare officer, including a tour with riverine forces in Vietnam, service for which he received the Purple Heart. He is an author and a public historian and speaker allied with the Emerging Civil War group, blogging often on their website about nautical subjects. He is the author of *A Confederate Biography: The Cruise of the CSS Shenandoah*, published by the Naval Institute Press in 2015, and he will tell us about the saga of that determined crew and their stalwart ship.

**OCTOBER:** Ken Rutherford is a professor of Political Science at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia. He was a Peace Corps volunteer in Africa and co-founded the Landmine Survivors Network. While working on behalf of refugees with a non-governmental organization in Somalia, his vehicle detonated a land mine resulting in the amputation of one leg. His other leg was amputated several years later. His most recent book is *America's Buried History: Landmines in the Civil War*, published in April 2020 by noted Civil War publisher, Savas Beattie. Ken will tell us about the development and use of land mines, or torpedoes, in the Civil War.



**NOVEMBER:** Betty Vaughn will present a program about the origins of mid-19th Century Christmas traditions which would have been observed during the Civil War and are still familiar to us today. She is highly recommended by the Raleigh Civil War Round Table. A native of Kinston, she is an artist and author of several historical fiction Civil War novels. She's the former department chair and art instructor at Enloe Magnet High School in Raleigh, NC, and following 32 years of teaching, launched a career as an author. She loves to travel and led study tours of Europe for many years. History, art, and books are a lifelong passion. Both as a teacher of advanced placement art history and as a writer, Mrs. Vaughn brings the story of the past alive through the people who lived it.

## CFCWRT Upcoming Speakers, cont.

**DECEMBER:** Andrew Duppstadt, historic sites specialist for the State of NC, will tell us about Lt. Francis Lyell “Frank” Hoge, a U.S. Naval Academy graduate who chose to side with the Confederacy and compiled an outstanding record in the fighting on the sounds and rivers of eastern North Carolina. He took part in the famous expedition led by Col. John Taylor Wood to attempt to sink the *USS Underwriter* off New Bern. Such expeditions were exceedingly dangerous in the 19th Century and young Hoge was the first to board the enemy vessel. Andrew is a BA and MA graduate in history at UNCW. He is stationed at the CSS Neuse historic site in Kinston and is also an adjunct history instructor at UNC Pembroke.



**JANUARY:** Rodney Steward is an assistant professor of history at the University of South Carolina, Salkehatchie. His works have appeared in the Virginia Magazine of History and Biography, Encyclopedia of North Carolina, and North Carolina Historical Review. He’s the author of *David Schenck and the Contours of Confederate Identity*, based on his Ph.D. dissertation at Auburn University, the book was published by the University of Tennessee press in 2012. Schenck was a North Carolina lawyer and avid secessionist who became a “receiver” under the terms of the Act of Sequestration, a law that allowed the Confederate government to seize the property of disloyal residents of the south. Schenck’s extensive diaries have often been cited in historical works. Professor Steward will fill us in on this little known but important facet of the Confederate experience.



## Edward Black, Child Soldier

Born in 1853, Edward (William) Black was the youngest known child soldier to have served during the Civil War. Joining the 21st Indiana Infantry in 1861, aged 8, Edward served as a drummer in that regiment. Sent home after a few months, Edward returned, this time with his father, and was reenlisted in the regiment as a drummer boy.

Edward travelled the continent as the 21st Indiana’s drummer. He served in the regiment as it garrisoned Baltimore, accompanied it on an expedition to the Eastern Shore, thence to Newport News, Virginia, before getting shipped to serve in the Dept. of the Gulf, where the young lad’s unit fought in Louisiana as part of the campaign that resulted in the Union’s seizure of New Orleans from the South.

In 1862, young Edward was captured by Confederates during the Battle of Baton Rouge and imprisoned in Ship Island, but regained his liberty when federal troops overtook his captors and freed the Union prisoners.

Discharged in September of 1862, Edward reenlisted in February of 1863 with his old unit, which in the interval between his discharge and reenlistment had been converted from infantry to artillery, and reconstituted as the 1st Indiana Heavy Artillery regiment. He would serve with the 1st Indiana Heavy Artillery, as that regiment was kept busy, until war’s end, seeing active duty in Berwick Bay, conducting operations in Western Louisiana, participating in the advance on and subsequent siege of Port Hudson, joining the Sabine Pass Expedition, before finally settling in for garrison duty, first at New Orleans, and then at Baton Rouge.



Edward Black

(Continued on page 9)

*Captain John Robert Guynes - Confederate Officer*

This is an interesting and obscure story about Confederate Captain John Robert Guynes. He was born in Copiah County, Mississippi, in 1825. In 1847 during the Mexican-American War he enlisted in Anderson's Battalion of Mississippi Rifles which spent most of the war garrisoned in Tampico, Mexico, and saw no action. In 1850 he married and apparently became a successful lawyer. By 1860, according to the census, they were living in Polk County, Texas, and in March 1862 he volunteered and was made captain of a local company of Texas infantry.

Here is a newspaper account of Guynes' execution for Court Martial in the **Camden News**, Camden, Arkansas on October 15, 1864:

***Interesting bit of History is Uncovered***

*A bit of Civil War history never published is the story of the execution of Captain John Guynes, Company F 23rd Texas Infantry, recited by Captain S. B. Lide, Company B, 33rd Arkansas, one of the few surviving Confederate Veterans who witnessed his death. Guynes was sentenced to death by a court martial on the charge of inciting insurrection. His execution took place in October 1864.*

*A brilliant young lawyer and a leader in his section of Texas, where his family had been famous for several generations, Guynes enlisted in the Southern Army. He was engaged in a number of battles and skirmishes, all west of the Mississippi River. Early in 1864, while his regiment was stationed at a point near the Mississippi in Arkansas, an order came directing the regiment to join General Hood's forces in Tennessee. Guynes immediately objected. He declared that his company had enlisted for service in defense of the State of Texas only; that he would fight only in Texas or to protect her borders; that it was unlawful to order the Texans across the Mississippi.*

*Guynes was arrested while making a speech to his company, urging them to refuse to obey the order. A court martial was hastily organized. Guynes was charged with inciting to insurrection. Trying his own cause before the court. Guynes cited the Constitution of the Confederate States and the laws of Texas in support of his position. His speech is said to have been a masterpiece of logic and eloquence. The court found him guilty as charged, and sentenced him to death.*

*Captain Lide declared that the whole South can boast no braver officer than Guynes. Believing himself right in principle, he preferred to face death than to submit to what he considered tyranny. His execution was delayed for many months and his friends sought clemency for him; but President Davis refused the pardon after thoroughly reviewing the case.*

*Guynes was brought to Camden, Arkansas, for execution. Seated on a plank coffin in an open wagon, he was carried to the bank of the Ouachita River. The officer in charge offered to bind his eyes with a black handkerchief, but Guynes refused. He faced the twelve executioners holding 10 loaded guns, without a tremor. Head erect, hands clasped behind him, ten bullets pierced his heart.*

The above account has a few errors. Guynes and his family were originally from Mississippi and he was in the 22nd rather than the 23rd Texas Infantry.

Guynes helped organize his own local company originally called Capt. James A Scruggs' Company of Hubbard's Regiment Texas Infantry. The company was incorporated into the 22nd Texas Infantry in late 1862.



Captain John Robert Guynes - Confederate Officer, cont.

October 14th, 1864  
 Court Martial Verdict for  
 Captain John Guynes

HEAD QUARTERS DIST. ARK'S.,  
 CAMDEN, 14th October, 1864, }

GENERAL ORDERS, {  
 No. 58. }

I. At a General Court Martial convened at the Division camp of Major General Forney, by virtue of Special Order No.—Paragraph VI. from the Head Quarters, and of which Col. T. R. Bonner is President, were argued and tried:

Captain John Guynes, Co. "F," 22nd Regiment Texas, Vol. Infantry, Waul's Brigade, Walker's Division, P. A. C. S.

CHARGE 1st.—*Persuading soldiers to desert.*  
 SPECIFICATION.—Omitted.

CHARGE 2d.—*Advising soldiers to desert.*  
 SPECIFICATION.—Omitted.

To which Charges and Specifications the accused pleaded as follows:

Of the Specification of 1st Charge,	Not Guilty.
Of the 1st Charge,	Not Guilty.
Of the Specification of 2d Charge,	Not Guilty.
Of the 2d Charge,	Not Guilty.

II. FINDING AND SENTENCE OF THE COURT.

The Court having maturely considered the evidence adduced, find the accused Capt. John Guynes, Co. "F," 22d Reg't Texas Infantry, Waul's Brigade, Walker's Division, P. A. C. S., as follows:

Of the Specification of 1st Charge,	Guilty.
Of the 1st Charge,	Guilty.
Of the Specification of 2d Charge,	Guilty.
Of the 2d Charge,	Guilty.

The Court do therefore sentence the said Capt. John Guynes, 22d Texas Infantry, to be shot to death with musketry, two-thirds of the Court concurring in the sentence.

The proceedings in the foregoing case having been laid before the Maj. Gen. Commanding, for his action, the following orders are made thereon:

The findings and sentence and the proceedings of the General Court Martial of which Col. T. R. Bonner, 22d Reg't Texas Infantry, is President, in the case of Capt. John Guynes, Co. "F," 22d Reg't Texas Infantry, are approved and confirmed.

The recommendation to mercy by the members of the Court, on the ground that Capt. Guynes is over conscientious, and has before his trial borne a good character, cannot be regarded. The crime of desertion is so frequent, so heinous and so destructive to the best interest of our cause that officers who do not use their efforts to prevent it, deserve to die ignominiously. How can a private soldier be, with propriety, punished with death when convicted of a capital offence, if officers, forgetful of their high calling, when guilty of the same offence are allowed to go unpunished? This cannot be!

Captain John Guynes of Co. "F," 22nd Regiment Texas Infantry, will be executed in accordance with the sentence of the General Court Martial, of which Col. T. R. Bonner is President, on the 15th Oct., 1864 at four o'clock P. M.

The sentence will be carried into effect under the direction of Maj. Gen'l. Forney, Commanding the Division to which Captain John Guynes belongs, at such place as Maj. Gen. Forney, may select, and in the presence of as many of the troops of the Army as can be conveniently assembled.

This order will be read twice at the head of every Regiment, Battalion and unattached Co., in this District, and the fact reported to these Head Quarters.

By command of  
 MAJ-GEN. MAGRUMER.  
 EDKIND P. TURNER,  
 A. A. Gen.



*Captain John Robert Guynes - Confederate Officer, cont.*

Other accounts of his execution:

Joseph Palmer Blessington (1841-1898) of the 16th Texas Infantry in his 1875 book states:

*“On the evening of the 16th, we witnessed the melancholy performance of shooting Captain John Guynes, Company F, 22nd Texas Infantry. He was accused of encouraging his men to desert, when we were expected to cross the Mississippi River. He was a man of about 50 years old, and very much admired by his men, and well liked by the officers of his brigade. Every effort was made to have him reprieved, but all without avail.”*

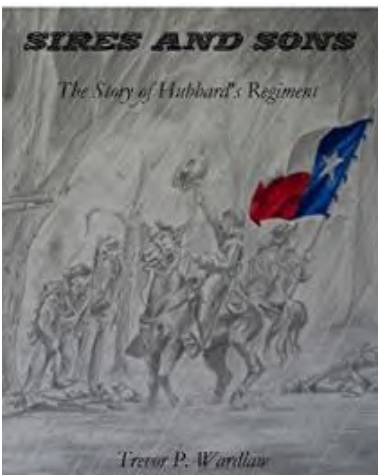
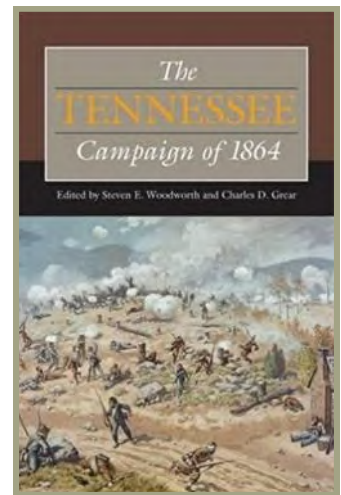
Silas T. Grisamore (1825-1897) of the 18th Louisiana:

*“It was during our encampment here that a Texas captain was court martialed and found guilty of mutiny when an attempt had been made to cross the Mississippi River. Gen. Magruder ordered the whole of the four divisions out on the plain above the town to witness his execution.”*

Excerpt from the book *The Tennessee Campaign of 1864* describing how many Texans including Guynes resisted crossing the Mississippi in 1864 and many did desert:

*“Even before the campaign, Texans in the Trans-Mississippi, with the exception of young unmarried men, refused to serve east of the Mississippi River. Confederate president Jefferson Davis continually asked Edmund Kirby Smith, commander of the Trans-Mississippi Department, for more men to fight in the Cis-Mississippi (Cis means same side). Smith refused the request stating that it was physically impossible. He needed them to defend the territory they still held, and more importantly, that the men did not want to cross. In one instance the Confederate army ordered the execution of Captain John Guynes of the 22nd Texas Infantry for encouraging his men to desert instead of crossing the Mississippi. Saddened by the death of the officer, Simmons angrily remarked, “That is what the orders to cross the Mississippi have done.” Captain Manuel Yturri of the 3rd Texas Infantry also wrote of Guynes’ execution and reinforced Simmons’ (John of the 22nd Texas Infantry) comments when he wrote home that “I’ll be very happy if we don’t go to the other side of the Mississippi River because this order has caused more than two hundred desertions in the [Walker’s] division from what I have been told, but they have captured more than a hundred. . . But I do believe that if we’re going to the other side [of the Mississippi] many more will desert.” Though the exact number of deserted Texans is unknown, overall from September 7, 1864, to January 31, 1865, 2,207 Confederates deserted their ranks and swore an oath of allegiance to the Union in the Nashville region. Weeks later the flood of deserters continued and many were taken to Nashville as prisoners of war, bringing the final report up to 4,045.*

*The campaigns of Walker’s Texas division - containing a complete record of the campaigns in Texas, Louisiana, and Arkansas including the Federal’s report of the battles, names of the officers of the division, diary of marches, camp scenery, anecdotes, etc.*



**Sires and Sons - The Story of Hubbard’s Regiments by Trevor Wardlaw**

From the unbridled lands of East Texas, tenacious men with diverse backgrounds came together to form the Twenty-Second Texas Infantry. Also known as Hubbard’s regiment, families synonymous with the Texas Revolution joined the ranks of politicians, attorneys, farmers, and teachers. Many championed Southern values whereas some campaigned for Northern agendas. Yet, most were Texan by choice and they sought to defend their homes. The regiment’s stories of triumph and sorrow intertwined with American history as the men drudged across the unforgiving lands west of the Mississippi River. They fought in the bloody encounters of Fort DeRussy, Mansfield, Pleasant Hill, and Jenkins’ Ferry as life-threatening diseases complicated their service. Their ambitious marches forever tied them to the story of Texas during the Civil War.

Trevor Wardlaw created a virtual cemetery dedicated to [The 22nd Texas Infantry](#).

## *Edward Black, Child Soldier, cont.*

During that extensive service, the young boy was wounded more than once. In one instance, when he was 12 years old, he was grievously injured when an exploding shell shattered his left hand and arm. Edward's injuries earned him the unfortunate distinction of being the youngest Civil War soldier injured on active duty.

At war's end, Edward and his unit remained in the vicinity of Baton Rouge as garrison troops, until January of 1866, when the 1st Indiana Heavy Artillery was finally mustered out, and its personnel were discharged.

Edward Black never fully recovered from injuries he received during the war, nor from the mental trauma of what he had been exposed to at such a tender age. He died in 1872, aged 17, and was buried in Indianapolis. His drum was passed on down his family over the generations, before it was finally gifted to the Children's Museum of Indianapolis. There, it remains on display to this day as one of the museum's most prized and popular exhibits.

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**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](#)

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## **CAPE FEAR CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE**

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# QUEENSBORO

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JUNE 2020

# THE RUNNER



VOLUME 2 ISSUE 6



## *Last Person to Receive a Civil War Pension Dies*

Irene Triplett, the last person receiving a pension from the U.S. Civil War, has died at the age of 90.

Ms. Triplett's father, Mose Triplett, started fighting in the war for the Confederacy when he was just 16 years old. Pvt. Triplett enlisted in the 53rd North Carolina Infantry Regiment in May 1862, then transferred to the 26th North Carolina Infantry Regiment early the following year, according to Confederate records. He fell ill as his regiment marched north toward Gettysburg and remained behind in a Virginia military hospital.



Irene Triplett

Our June 11th round table discussion—Battle of Cedar Creek, has been canceled due to the pandemic. It is re-scheduled for August 14th, 2020.

He ran away from the hospital, records show, while his unit suffered devastating losses at Gettysburg. Of the 800 men in the 26th North Carolina, 734 were killed, wounded or captured in the battle Pvt. Triplett missed. After he recovered from his illness, he deserted the Confederate Army, made his way to Tennessee in 1864 and enlisted in a Union regiment, the 3rd North Carolina Mounted Infantry. Known as Kirk's Raiders, the 3rd North Carolina carried out a campaign of sabotage against Confederate targets in eastern Tennessee and western North Carolina. The unit was named after Tennessee-born commander Col. George Washington Kirk. It might seem bizarre, but it actually wasn't uncommon for soldiers to switch sides mid-war during the Civil War.

After Triplett's first wife, Mary, passed away he married Elida Hall in 1924. Elida was 50 years his junior. She was 34 when Irene was born in 1930; he was 83. Such an age difference wasn't rare, especially later, during the Great

Depression, when Civil War veterans found themselves with both a pension and a growing need for care.

Pvt. Triplett died in 1938, days after attending a reunion of Civil War veterans, attended by President Franklin Roosevelt, on the fields of Gettysburg.



*Civil War veteran, Mose Triplett (second from the right), pictured with wife Mary, granddaughter Oma Walker and greatgrandchildren Blanche and Gurney Walker. Circa 1890*



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

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### *Last Person to Receive a Civil War Pension Dies, cont.*

Mose Triplett put in enough time with the Union Army to earn a pension, so the government sent him a check for \$73.13 every month until his death in 1938 at the age of 92. After that, the pension check went to his widow, Elida, and upon her death, to his only surviving child, Irene. Irene received a pension check from government for her father's service--- and yes, the amount of each check was still \$73.13. When Irene died, the government officially stop issuing pension checks for the Civil War, which ended 154 years ago.

Both mother and daughter suffered from mental disabilities. Irene Triplett recalled a tough childhood isolated in the North Carolina mountains, beaten by teachers at school and parents at home.

“I didn’t care for neither one of them, to tell you the truth about it,” she told The Wall Street Journal in 2014. “I wanted to get away from both of them. I wanted to get me a house and crawl in it all by myself.”

Ms. Triplett and her mother lived for years in the Wilkes County poorhouse. Irene later moved through a number of care homes, her costs covered by Medicaid and her tiny VA pension.

She saw little of her relatives. But a pair of Civil War buffs visited and sent her money to spend on Dr Pepper and chewing tobacco, a habit she picked up in the first grade.

“She’s a part of history,” said Dennis St. Andrew, one of Irene’s supporters and a past commander of the North Carolina Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. “You’re talking to somebody whose father was in the Civil War, which is mind-bending.” She was the last of what the North Carolina Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War call true sons and daughters of Civil War soldiers.



*All About War Horses by Bruce Patterson*

Strangely, we Civil War Historians (or Civil War Historians want-a-be's) seem to have a fascination about the horses that accompanied many of the key generals on the battlefield.

**General Philip Sheridan's mount Rienzi** (named after a town in Mississippi) was Sheridan's primary mount for over three years, through 45 engagements and 19 major battles. Following Sheridan's victory at Cedar Creek, Rienzi was renamed Winchester.



Rienzi was a Morgan Trotter—16 hands tall. Rienzi was presented to General Sheridan by the officers of the 2nd Michigan Calvary in 1862. Winchester was even present at Appomattox Courthouse in April 1865 for the official surrender of the Confederate Army. Despite being wounded in battle several times, Winchester lived to be almost 20 years old. He died October 1878.

**General Stonewall Jackson's mount was named Little Sorrel.** The horse was described as undersized and dumpy but was Jackson's favorite mount because he (Jackson) appreciated this chunky charger's toughness, smooth gait and intelligence. Little Sorrel was eleven years old when Jackson was mortally wounded at Chancellorsville.



Little Sorrel was a Morgan Trotter, known for their endurance as well as being quick and agile. He was 15 hands tall. Originally purchased for his wife, Jackson found the animal's gait so pleasing he remarked, "A seat on him is like being rocked in a cradle." He decided to keep the horse for himself.

The War Horses of both Generals Grant and Lee demand more complete descriptions. Both were magnificent animals, both survived years of combat. Both were revered by the public to the point where both appeared to have "bobbed tails" because civilians (mostly ladies) continually cut off small portions of the tails as souvenirs.

*(Continued on page 4)*



## THE RUNNER

*All About War Horses by Bruce Patterson, cont.*

**General Lee rode an American Saddlebred named Traveller.** Traveller was a gray gelding that Lee purchased in 1862 for \$200. Traveler stood 16 hands (64") and had been named Jeff Davis before Lee purchased him. Perfectly proportioned, it was said that he would inspire the poet and the artist. Traveller responded to every wish of his rider and seemed to understand the long night marches, the heat, hunger, thirst and danger through which he passed with Lee aboard. Traveller was to accompany Lee to Lexington and was to be Lee's favorite mount until he was put down, in 1871, after developing tetanus from stepping on a nail.



Traveller was a horse of great stamina and was usually a good horse in battle because he was difficult to frighten. Sometimes he became nervous and spirited. At the Second Battle of Bull Run, while General Lee was at the front reconnoitering, dismounted and holding Traveller by the bridle, the horse became frightened at some movement of the enemy and, plunging, pulled Lee down on a stump, breaking both of his hands. Lee went through the remainder of that campaign chiefly in an ambulance. When he rode on horseback, a courier rode in front leading his horse.

**General Grant's favorite mount was named Cincinnati,** aka Cincinnatus. Before the battle of Chattanooga, Grant rode several horses and seemed to not have a favorite. Following Chattanooga, he was given the gift of a Thoroughbred, a chestnut stallion that stood at 17 hands (68"). Cincinnati soon became Grant's favorite. Grant, an avid and skilled horseman, was heard to say that is he was "the finest horse he had ever seen". In quietude, this horse seemed gentle and spiritless but battle sounds stirred him with enthusiasm. Grant rode Cincinnati throughout the Overland Campaign and seldom allowed anyone else to ride him, the exception being President Lincoln, who rode Cincinnati daily during his (Lincoln's) visit to City Point. This magnificent horse was at Appomattox and finally died of old age on a farm of an old friend of Grant's in Maryland in 1878.



Many casts and statues of Grant depict him riding Cincinnati, and in fact very few others were allowed to even mount the famous horse. The only 2 people ever to ride Cincinnati other than Grant himself were a boyhood friend Admiral Daniel Ammen and President Abraham Lincoln.

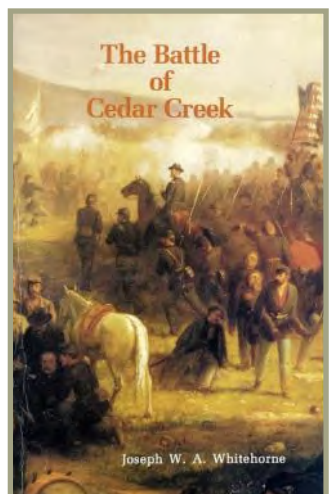
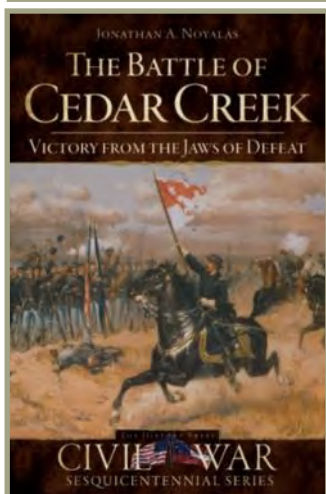
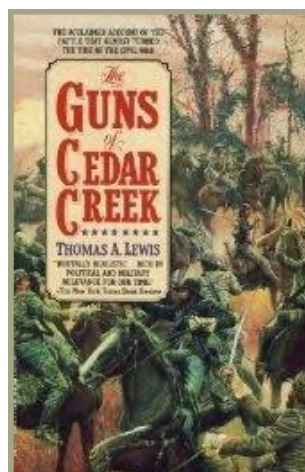
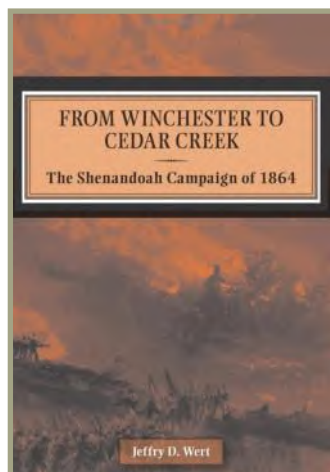
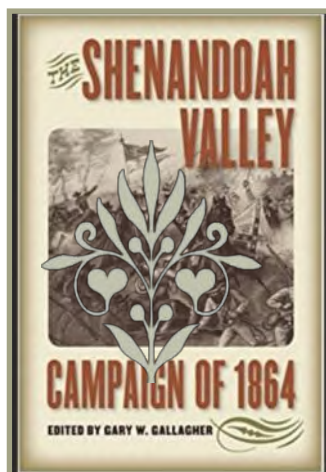
Three of these four mounts were either stuffed or "re-framed" and are viewed by tourists and historians at the Smithsonian (Winchester) and Lexington, VA (Traveller & Little Sorrel). Cincinnati was buried on that farm in Maryland. War horses all.

## *Battle of Cedar Creek*

The round table discussion on the Battle of Cedar Creek has been postponed until August 13th because of the Coronavirus pandemic. It's hoped that by August we will be able to hold the discussion in a seminar style, classroom arrangement rather than the auditorium style arrangement of the Harbor Church sanctuary.

The good news is that there's more time for you, our members, to read up on this fascinating battle in which either "victory was snatched from the jaws of defeat," or "defeat was snatched from the jaws of victory," depending on your perspective.

Here are a few books to give you some detail. **The Shenandoah Valley Campaign of 1864**, edited by the renowned historian Gary W. Gallagher, is an excellent thematic overview of the context of the Battle of Cedar Creek and includes two very enlightening chapters on Cedar Creek itself. A very important chapter by Joseph T. Glatthaar looks at the campaign through the lens of General U.S. Grant's strategy. **From Winchester to Cedar Creek** by Jeffrey D. Wert is a more straightforward, chronological battle history that provides much useful information about the three Confederate defeats that occurred before the Battle of Cedar Creek. **The Guns of Cedar Creek** by Thomas A. Lewis is a battle history that focuses more on Cedar Creek. **The Battle of Cedar Creek** by Jonathan A. Noyalas is a more recent battle history prepared for the Civil War Sesquicentennial Series. A book I have found very useful is a self-guided tour of the battlefield by Col. Joseph W. A. Whitehorne, U.S. Army (ret.).



(Continued on page 6)

## *Battle of Cedar Creek, cont.*

The powerful and fascinating personalities who guided and moved this dramatic battle are worth reading about either in their own memoirs, biographies or anthologized writings in books like **Battles and Leaders**. Their personalities are central to analysis of the battle. Union General Philip Sheridan, was an 1853 graduate of West Point from Ohio. An Irish Catholic, he was an under-sized and very aggressive leader who rose to the pinnacle of his profession as the commanding general of the U.S. Army in the 1880s. Grant sent Maj. Gen. Sheridan to the Shenandoah Valley as commander of the newly consolidated Middle Division of the Army. Known as the Army of the Shenandoah, Sheridan brought unified, focused command to a large, extremely powerful force of three infantry corps plus a provisional division and a superbly equipped cavalry corps of more than 8,000 men. He commanded a total force of about 31,600 effectives at Cedar Creek, including 1,856 artillerymen serving 90 guns, according to Col. Whitehorne.



General Gordon at Signal Knob reconnoitering the Union lines.

Much older than Sheridan, Lt. Gen. Jubal Early, graduated West Point in 1837. He was a Virginia native connected to many of the most prominent FFVs (First Families of Virginia). He left the Army after brief service in the Seminole War and then studied law and rose to political prominence in Virginia. He volunteered for the state militia in the War with Mexico but his unit arrived in Mexico too late to see combat. His aggressive style of leadership brought him to the attention of Robert E. Lee and he soon rose through the command structure as attrition removed leaders such as Thomas J. Jackson and Richard S. Ewell. By 1864, Lt. Gen. Early commanded the “Army of the Valley,” composed primarily of the redoubtable II Corps of the Army of Northern Virginia. Col. Whitehorne estimates his strength as approximately 21,000 at Cedar Creek including 5,300 cavalry and 1,100 artillerymen serving more than 40 guns. He notes, however, that some estimate Confederate strength as low as 12,780. The National Park Service estimates the size of the Army of the Valley as “14,000-15,000 men.”

Some other personalities are also of great interest and importance to the conduct of the battle. On the Confederate side, Maj. Gen. John B. Gordon of Georgia was crucial. Maj. Gen. Horatio Wright played an important role in Sheridan’s army but many other generals such as Crook, Geary, and Custer added to the complexity of the engagement. Col. Rutherford B. Hayes (yes, that Rutherford B. Hayes who later became president of the United States) commanded a brigade caught up in the initial surprise of the Confederate assault.



The weather also played a role in the battle. Typical of autumn in the Shenandoah Valley, the weather was generally dry with warm days and cool nights. However, the battlefield is enveloped by the Shenandoah River and Cedar Creek and overshadowed by the imposing land form of Masanutten Mountain. In the crucial hours around dawn on October 19, 1864, fog prevailed over much of the battlefield.

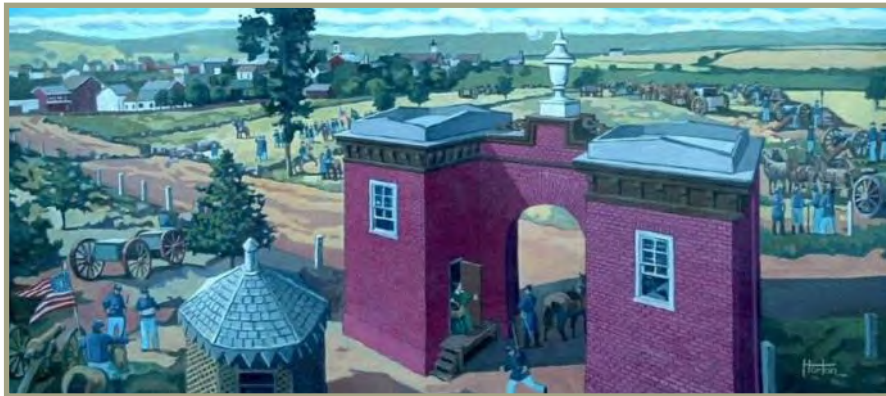
Contemporary photograph of the view of the Shenandoah Valley from Signal Knob. This is the view General Gordon would have seen.



### *Silent Auction*

The 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.

A great example of the items being offered is a print by Jim Horton, a member of our round table. Jim is an outstanding artist who specializes in historical subjects and exhibits locally often. The item is a limited edition 24" by 10" giclée print of the Gate at Cemetery Hill in Gettysburg signed by the artist. Contact Ed Gibson to put in your bid.



### *Online Civil War Presentations*

#### **The History Channel - Civil War**

As the [Civil War](#) rages on, the formidable Confederate army cannot match the Union's mastery of technology; railroads, supply lines and the telegram become new weapons in a modern war. A 44-minute video about the Union's mastery of technology.

#### **Central Virginia Battlefield Trust - At Ease**

At the beginning of April 2020, they launched a new, interactive program called "[At Ease](#)." It is free to join. You'll get a weekly email on Thursday with a one-question survey about a historical topic, the results and fun facts related to the previous week's survey discussion, and a short video with some history, battlefield views, or other surprises.

#### **Civil War Round Table Congress**

Free online lecture series. All lectures start at 7:00 EDT. Registration is required. Donations accepted.

June 8th - Interview with Savas Beatie with **Ted Savas**

June 9th - Raising the White Flag with **David Silkenat**

June 11th - The Battle of Drewry's Bluff with **John V. Quarstein**

June 15th - Longstreet's East Tennessee Campaign with **Ed Lowe**

June 16th - The Presidency of Ulysses S. Grant with **Paul Kahan**

June 18th - The Tale Untwisted: George McClellan and the Discovery of Lee's Lost Orders with **Gene Thorp**

## *J. Ryder Lewis Civil War Park - Sugar Loaf Earthworks*

We, Cape Fear Civil War Round Table, are funding one of the interpretive panels for the Sugar Loaf Earthworks preservation in J. Ryder Lewis Civil War Park. The panel will include our logo and give credit to The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table. Please consider making a donation to the round table to help offset the cost of this project. Thanks.

## *Member News*

### ***CFCWRT Upcoming Events***

**July 9, 2020**                      ***Members Forum*** Jim Gannon (Moderator)

#### **David Jordan - To Play the Star-Spangled Banner**

- ◆ CFCWRT member David is our Round Table's Drummer Boy.

#### **JoAnna McDonald - "Be not afraid" Panic, cowardice and courage among Civil War soldiers**

- ◆ JoAnna M. McDonald, Ph.D., is a historian, writer, blogger and public speaker. She is featured on the Emerging Civil War web site and the author of eleven books on the Civil War and WWII, as well as numerous journal and newsletter articles regarding U.S. Marine Corps history. JoAnna's next book is *R. E. Lee's Grand Strategy & Strategic Leadership: Caught in a Paradoxical Paradigm*.

#### **Jim Horton - "Forgotten Soldier" - My discovery of a civil war ancestor and his regiments, and my search to find him.**

- ◆ Jim Horton is a professional artist who paints Civil War, as well as other, themes. Jim was a member of the Pittsburgh, Pa. Civil War Round table before moving to Wilmington.

#### **Tom Christianson - "Firepower and Mobility" The impact of mounted infantry with repeating rifles at Chickamauga**

- ◆ Lt. Col. Tom Christianson, U. S. A. (Retired) taught history at West Point and at the Army Command and General Staff College. He has participated in the "staff rides" for military leadership classes studying the battles and battlefields of the Civil War.

#### **Lance Bevins - Infantry Brigades and Regiments of the Army of Northern Virginia: July 1-3 1863**

- ◆ Lance Bevins is a 1963 graduate of VMI and retired Major of Marines. Lance has spent the greater part of his life in NC and lived in Wilmington since 1983.

**August 13, 2020**                      ***Battle of Cedar Creek*** Bill Jayne (Moderator)

**September 10, 2020**                      ***Dwight Hughes*** (Author): CSS Shenandoah

## *Civil War Organizations*

### [Civil War Round Table Congress:](#)

The mission of the CWRT Congress is to provide new and existing Civil War Round Tables with time-tested tools to help them expand their membership, reduce operating costs, have effective governance structures, develop meaningful partnerships and raise sufficient funds for quality programs and historic preservation. These elements should assist CWRTs to become sustainable organizations and to avoid actions that could damage their integrity, effectiveness and efficiency.

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# THE RUNNER



MAY 2020

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 5



## *The McLehany Brothers in the 46th Mississippi Infantry*

*by Sherry Hewitt*

This is the story of my relatives who fought in the 46th Mississippi Infantry during the Civil War. John M. McLehany and his wife, Betsy, settled in Simpson County, Mississippi around 1825. Three of their sons were William (1827), Rowland (1838), and James (1842). They were my great-great-grandmother's brothers.

***William (35), Rowland (24), and James (20) enlisted in the 46th Mississippi Infantry, Company H.***

6th Mississippi Infantry (Balfour's)

Companies A-E assembled at Meridian in April, 1862, and the battalion composed of five companies was organized April 19th. J. W. Balfour, was elected commanding officer, and J. W. Jones, Company E, as Major. On May 18 the battalion was ordered to Vicksburg, where it was on duty at Smede's Point during the bombardment of May 10 to July 27, 1862, under the command of Gen. M. L. Smith, who had charge of the river defenses. The battalion suffered much from sickness and want of drinking water, and many died. The returns of July showed 17 officers and 161 men present for duty.

***Rowland McLehany enlisted April 4, 1862.***

46th Mississippi Infantry Regiment was organized during the fall of 1862 by adding five companies to the five-company 6th (Balfour's) Mississippi Infantry Battalion. In February, 1863, it totaled 407 effectives and served in S.D. Lee's Provisional Division and then Baldwin's Brigade in the Department of Mississippi and East Louisiana. COMPANIES OF THE 46TH MS INFANTRY:

- Company A -- Gaines Invincibles (raised in Wayne County, MS)
- Company B -- Covington Rebels (raised in Covington County, MS)
- Company C -- Yazoo Pickets (raised in Yazoo County, MS)
- Company D -- Rankin Farmers (raised in Rankin County, MS)
- Company E -- Jeff Davis Rebels (raised in Warren & Yazoo Counties, MS)
- Company F -- Lauderdale Rifles (raised in Lauderdale County, MS)
- Company G -- Singleton Guards (raised in Smith County, MS)
- Company H -- Raleigh Farmers/Rangers (raised in Smith County, MS)
- Company I -- Southern Rights (raised in Newton County, MS)
- Company K -- Kemper Guards/Mississippi Rangers (raised in Kemper County, MS)

The original companies had been on duty at Vicksburg from May to December, 1862. The order designating the command as the Forty-sixth Regiment was received December 2, 1862. On December 21 the regiment was reviewed by President Davis and Gen. Joseph E. Johnston. On the 27th they were ordered to north of the city at Chickasaw Bayou, where General Sherman was

Our May 14th meeting featuring **Douglas Waller** has been canceled due to the Coronavirus pandemic.



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*The McLehany Brothers in the 46th Mississippi Infantry, cont.*



46th Mississippi  
Infantry Battle Flag

attempting to gain a position. Three companies, Hart's, Sublett's and Rea's, had been on picket duty along Chickasaw Bayou three weeks before the battle. The Forty-sixth was mentioned by General Pemberton as one of the commands entitled to the highest distinction in the defeat of Sherman by Gen. S. D. Lee's command at Chickasaw Bayou, December, 26-29, 1862. At Blake's levee, on the 28th, General Lee reported the demonstration of the enemy, in force, with artillery, was handsomely held in check by Colonel Withers, with the Forty-sixth Regiment and Johnston's section of artillery. Nine companies were in this fight, under Lieutenant-Colonel Easterling, and rendered service of great value. Casualties, 1 wounded.

***The one wounded was Rowland McLehany. He would succumb to his injuries on February 5, 1863. He is buried at Soldiers' Rest Cemetery in Vicksburg. Rowland left behind a wife and two children. William enlisted February 13, 1863.***

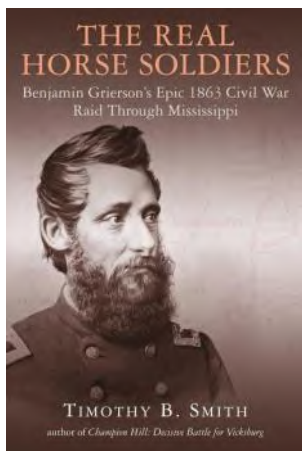
Along the levee Withers reported the Federal advance was held in check all day long by the Forty-sixth Mississippi, Lieutenant Johnston's section and Bowman's Battery. Paul Hamilton, Adjutant General of the brigade, was killed on the 29th.

Col. C. W. Sears took command of the 46th on January 31. About this time the regiment was about 400 effectives. As a battalion the regiment had been a part of the command of Gen. Martin Luther Smith, commanding at Vicksburg. After the arrival of Gen. S. D. Lee, it formed part of his brigade, with three Louisiana Regiments. February 20, 1863, Brig. Gen. W. E. Baldwin was assigned to command of a brigade, including the Fourth and Forty-sixth Mississippi, Seventeenth and Thirty-first Louisiana, Wofford's and Drew's Batteries and Haynes' and Smythe's Companies. On March 25 the regiment started to the lower Deer Creek region, in Issaquena County, and after some time at or near Haynes' landing on the Yazoo, returned to Vicksburg April 16.

The regiment, with the brigade, marched over 100 miles from April 29 to May 4, Vicksburg to Port Gibson and returning, and was engaged in battle with the advance of Grant's army on the Rodney road, before Port Gibson, May 1. In this action the Forty-sixth was posted as reserve and in support of a battery, but later was put in position to make a charge. General Baldwin, however, withdrew the order due to the evident great strength of the enemy in front. Subsequently four companies reinforced the line of the Seventeenth Louisiana, the regiment of Baldwin's Brigade that was most seriously engaged. Casualties for the brigade was: 60 killed and wounded.

After the return to Vicksburg the brigade was posted at or near Hall's ferry. On May 15, they moved to Mount Alban. General Baldwin was commander of the forces on the Big Black River. On the 16th the Forty-sixth advanced to Bovina. That night news came of the disaster at Baker's Creek, after which the brigade was advanced to the Big Black bridge, to cover the crossing of troops. Baldwin's Brigade brought up the rear on the march to Vicksburg, and on the 18th, occupied the outer line of works north of the city where they sustained and repulsed an assault, and then were withdrawn to the inner line to a position where the brigade right was near the Riddle house. Colonel Sears commanded the regiment through the siege "and merited," said Baldwin, "favorable notice."

On Independence Day Vicksburg, Mississippi was surrendered formally by Confederates under Pemberton to the Federals under Grant. About 29,000 soldiers laid down their arms and marched out of the city.



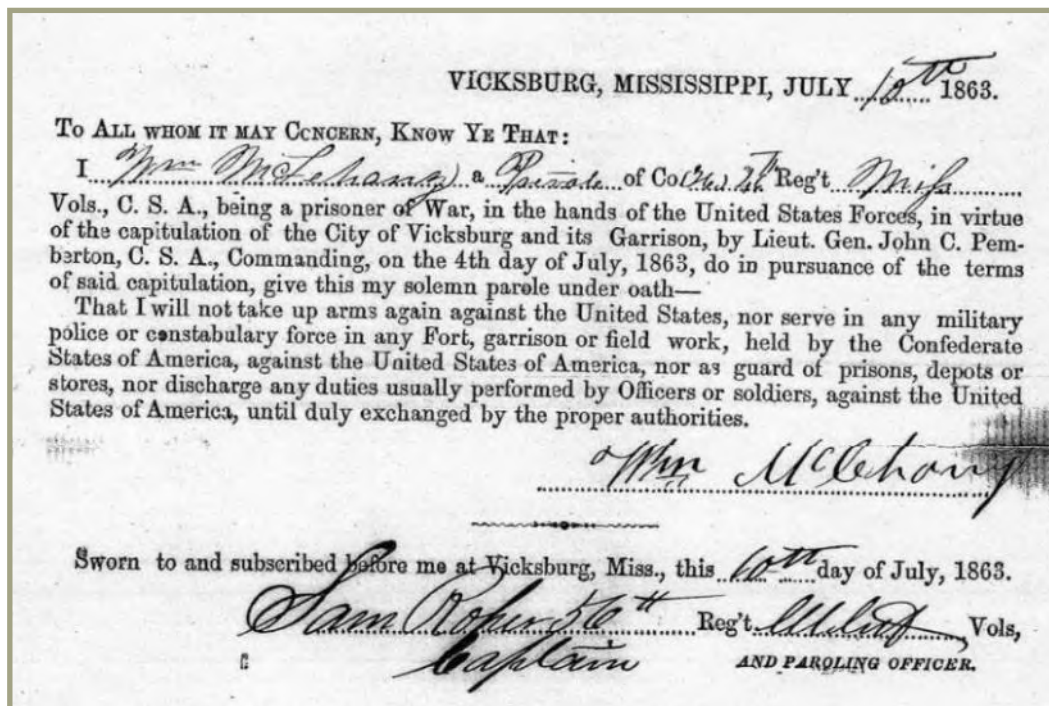
*(Continued on page 3)*

*The McLehany Brothers in the 46th Mississippi Infantry, cont.*

Of the surrender General Baldwin wrote: "My command marched over the trenches and stacked their arms with the greatest reluctance, conscious of their ability to hold the position assigned them for an indefinite period of time. During the whole siege the entire command had exhibited the highest degree of patience, fortitude and courage, bearing deprivations of sufficient food, constant duty in the trenches under a broiling sun by day and heavy fatigue and picket duty at night, without a murmur, willing to bear any hardships, confident in sustaining the brunt of any assault, in the hope of anticipated relief and ultimate triumph. The command was daily aroused and under arms at 3:30 A.M., to guard against surprise, and nightly our pickets were in advance of our defenses and nearly contiguous to the sentinels of the enemy. The loss in killed and wounded was severe."

The order for march of the division from Vicksburg at 4 P.M., July 11, 1863, on the Baldwin's Ferry road, was as follows: 1, Baldwin's Brigade; 2, Shoup's Brigade; 3, Vaughn's Brigade; 3, Harris' State troops; the division under the command of Gen. Shoup, Gen. Smith remaining at Vicksburg to fulfill the capitulations. The regimental colors, originally the flag of the Gaines Invincibles, were brought out by Captain Sublett, wrapped around his body under his shirt. The paroled men were furloughed for sixty days, to report at Enterprise.

***James and William McLehany were among the paroled Confederate soldiers. James returned to the 46th, William did not. Vicksburg was about 50 miles from their homes in Simpson County.***



*William McLehany, when released in the prisoner exchange at Vicksburg and returned home.*

*He and his family (wife and 6 children) relocated to Kentucky before 1865.*

*By 1872 the family (including 2 children born after the Civil War) had moved to Arkansas.*

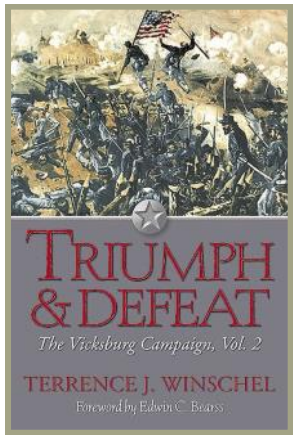
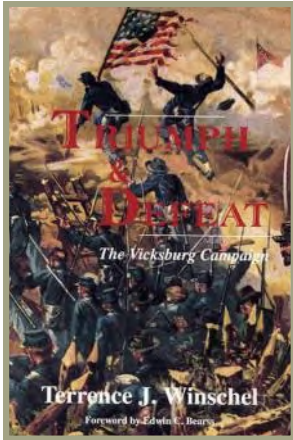
*William lived to the ripe old age of 80, passing on Christmas Day in 1907.*

After the prisoner exchange the 46th was assigned to General Baldwin's, Tucker's, and Sears' Brigade. Baldwin's Brigade, at Enterprise, November 20, included, exchanged, and armed, 2,279; the regiments being the Fourth, Thirty-fifth, Thirty-ninth, Fortieth and Forty-sixth.

General Johnston was ordered to send the brigade to reinforce Bragg at Missionary Ridge. On November 2, but the brigade did not receive marching orders until the 21st. They arrived at Dalton, Ga., too late for the battle of November 25, and were then ordered to Resaca, and

*(Continued on page 4)*

The McLehany Brothers in the 46th Mississippi Infantry, cont.



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**Roll of Prisoners of War Captured**

NO.	NAMES - in alphabetical order.	RANK.	REGIMENT.	CO.	WHERE CAPTURED.	WHEN CAPTURED.
316	D. J. Stille	1st Lieut	46 <sup>th</sup> Miss Inf	A	Vicksburg	July 27/63
317	H. L. Bralcher	2nd	"	"	"	"
318	B. D. Harrison	3rd	"	"	"	"
319	H. H. Jolly	Sergeant	"	"	"	"
320	L. F. Campbell	4th Supt	"	"	"	"
321	D. J. Stille	2nd	"	"	"	"
338	C. W. Nair	"	"	"	"	"
339	J. P. Lane	"	"	"	"	"
340	V. H. Barber	"	"	"	"	"
341	R. H. McLehany	"	"	"	"	"
342	C. W. Nair	"	"	"	"	"
343	J. S. Miller	"	"	"	"	"
344	J. H. Owens	"	"	"	"	"
345	J. J. Parnell	"	"	"	"	"
346	D. J. McRoy	"	"	"	"	"
347	P. M. Pugh	"	"	"	"	"
348	R. H. McLehany	"	"	"	"	"

Sugar Valley. They were listed as part of W. H. T. Walker's Division, Hardee's Corps. The brigade was returned to General Polk January 15-16, and sent to General Maury at Mobile. Maury sent them to Meridian on February 7. Polk sent them to Meridian to aid S.D. Lee in meeting Sherman's raid, but Polk immediately ordered them back to Mobile. The experience was discouraging to the men. The regiment did not contain more than 146 men on its return to Maury. General Baldwin was killed by accident February 19. Colonel Sears was promoted Brigadier-General to succeed Baldwin. This resulted in a disorganization of the brigade. It was reorganized to include the Fourth, Thirty-fifth, Thirty-sixth, Thirty-ninth and Forty-sixth Regiments and Seventh Battalion.

The brigade was moved to Pollard, Ala., in April to Selma, and early in May to Anniston, whence they moved to Adairsville, Ga., joining the army of General Johnston just after the battle of Resaca. With the smaller brigades of Cockrell's Missourians and Ector's Texans and North Carolinians, they were under the division command of Gen. S. G. French, a Mississippian, one of the four divisions of Lieutenant General Leonidas Polk's Army of Mississippi. After Polk's death on June 14, they were assigned to Lieutenant General A. P. Stewart's Corps, Army of Tennessee. *From that time until September 6, they were every day but one under fire.*

In the early part of the Atlanta campaign the companies were commanded as follows:

- |                          |                         |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| A Capt. N. Pace          | F Capt. T. Wiggins      |
| B Lieut. J. S. Duckworth | G Capt. D. D. Heslip    |
| C Lieut. W. L. Stanford  | H Lieut. David Anderson |
| D Capt. James Boswick    | I Capt. T. Burgess      |
| E Lieut. Smith           | K Capt. D. C. Durham    |

*Triumph & Defeat*  
*The Vicksburg Campaign,*  
*Vol. 1 & 2*  
 By Terrence Winschel  
 Savas Beatie Publishing

*The McLehany Brothers in the 46th Mississippi Infantry, cont.*

D.C. Chamberlain was Acting Adjutant. The casualties of the regiment were:

- Cassville - 4 wounded
- New Hope Church - 3 killed, 6 wounded, 1 missing
- Latimer House - 1 killed, 1 wounded, 1 missing
- Kenesaw Mountain - 9 killed, 26 wounded, 20 missing
- Smyrna - 5 wounded
- Chattahoochee - 2 killed, 4 wounded, 3 missing
- in front of Atlanta - 7 killed, 25 wounded, 7 missing
- Lovejoy's Station - 1 killed, 2 wounded

The casualties named in front of Atlanta occurred August 4, when the Forty-sixth, under Colonel Clark, constituting the main picket line of the brigade, charged the enemy and drove him back, regaining their position against heavy force, and taking 21 prisoners. "The gallantry of the Forty-sixth was highly commended in this affair," wrote General Sears. Colonel Clark occupied the ditches with his regiment and 120 of the dismounted cavalry, in all 420, the night of August 2, and his advanced videttes were driven in August 4. In his charge Clark was supported by another Mississippi regiment. On August 27 the regiment joined in the reconnaissance to the Chattahoochee River, and in the night of September 1 they marched out of Atlanta as the rear guard, the final fighting of the campaign being at Lovejoy's, September 2-6.

***James McLehany was captured in Atlanta and sent to Camp Douglas. He died there January 2, 1865. He left behind a wife and child. He is buried in Oak Woods Cemetery at Confederate Mound in Chicago.***

General Hood advanced the army northward of Atlanta late in September. Stewart's Corps moved to Lost Mountain, October 2, and tore up the railroad near Big Shanty, after which French's Division marched on the night of the 4th to fill the cut at Allatoona. This place was defended by three redoubts and a star fort on the ridge at opposite sides of the cut. French attacked and a bloody struggle followed for three or four hours. General French reported: "Among the killed from Sears' Brigade is Col. W. H. Clark, Forty-sixth Mississippi. He fell in the advance near the enemy's works with the battle-flag in his hands. He was an excellent and gallant officer." Three officers of the regiment were killed, 1 wounded, 4 missing. Total of the regiment, 18 killed, 26 wounded, 56 missing.

After this, Stewart's Corps destroyed the railroad between Resaca and Dalton. French's Division captured the blockhouse at Tilton, October 13, and next was in battle at Decatur, Ala., October 26-29, moving thence to Tuscumbia.

They crossed the Tennessee River, November 20, marched against Schofield's Federal command at Columbia, and on November 29 moved with Stewart's Corps toward Spring Hill, Tennessee. Following the Federal troops to Franklin, on the Harpeth River, Stewart's Corps attacked about four in the evening, November 30, on the right of the Confederate line, French's Division on the left of the corps next to Cheatham's Corps. The first line was carried, but to reach the second line of works, Sears' Brigade was exposed to a destructive crossfire of artillery. Maj. T. D. Magee, commanding the Forty-sixth, was among the wounded before the works were reached. Some were able to reach the ditch in front of the works, where they remained until next morning, when the Federal troops were withdrawn. Among these "foremost of the forlorn hope," was the remainder of the Forty-sixth: 33 men; 8 of which were wounded.



Confederate Mound  
Photo by Ian Devine





## *The McLehany Brothers in the 46th Mississippi Infantry, cont.*

The casualties of Sears' Brigade were said to be 30 killed, 168 wounded, 35 missing. The remnant marched to Nashville. Some were detached with Bate's Division to support Forrest in the siege of Murfreesboro, and were in battle at Overall's Creek, December 4, and before Murfreesboro December 7. December 9 the brigade number of effective troops was 210 men. Marching back to Nashville over icy roads, many barefooted, they fought in Walthall's line, December 15-16. Walthall's remnants of two divisions were almost surrounded before they gave way.

"Brigadier General Sears, late in the day, lost a leg, and subsequently fell into the enemy's hands." (A. P. Stewart). "A solid shot passed through his horse and struck him just below the knee; the lower part of his leg was amputated. It was found impracticable to bring him out, so he was left near Pulaski. Captain Henderson and Lieut. Harper were both very badly wounded and left in the enemy's hands. I was slightly wounded in the foot by a shell." (E. T. Freeman, of French's staff). Walthall's command crossed the Tennessee River, December 26, and marched to Tupelo, Mississippi. Lieut. R. N. Rea writes "My shoes fell from my feet between Franklin and Columbia, and I was forced to march all the way down to Tupelo, a distance of about three hundred miles, barefooted, in a constant snowstorm and sleet the like of which I never saw before or since."

Major Freeman wrote, January 10: "The whole army cannot muster 5,000 effective men. Great numbers are going home every day, many nevermore to return, I fear. Nine-tenths of the men and line officers are barefooted." W.P. Chambers wrote, in his journal, January 15: "The regiment numbers about 150 men, about half of whom are barefooted. All are ragged and dirty and covered with vermin. There are, perhaps, twenty guns, but not a single cartridge box in the regiment. The men are jovial enough regarding their condition, but when one speaks of the prosecution of the war they are entirely despondent, being entirely convinced that the Confederacy is gone. Captain Heslip, of Company E, is in command of the regiment. Major Nelson, of the Fourth, commands the brigade, which is attached to Walthall's Division. I do not think there is a stand of colors in the brigade." January 19 Captain Hart assumed command of the regiment.

French's Division was ordered to report to General Maury at Mobile, February 1, 1865. The return of March 10 showed Sears' Brigade commanded by Col. Thomas X. Adair, the Forty-sixth Regiment commanded by Capt. J. A. Barwick. General Steele, commanding the Union expedition from Pensacola, reported that on April 1 an outpost four and a half miles in front of Blakely was carried by assault and the battle flag of the Forty-sixth Mississippi and 74 prisoners taken. This was about half the regiment. When Fort Blakely was captured, April 9, 1865, another portion of the regiment became prisoners of war. They were taken to Ship Island and paroled in May. Another portion escaped and about twenty-five represented the regiment at Cuba Station, Ala. May 4, 1865, when the Confederate Department of Alabama, Mississippi, and East Louisiana under General Richard Taylor, surrendered to Union forces.

[http://www.mississippiscv.org/MS\\_Units/46th\\_MS\\_INF.htm](http://www.mississippiscv.org/MS_Units/46th_MS_INF.htm)



*This article was excerpted from:*

*Authorities:  
Register of Officers, History of Regiment by W. P. Chambers, notes by Robert Bowman and R. N. Rea.*

*from Dunbar Rowland's "Military History of Mississippi, 1803-1898"; company listing courtesy of H. Grady Howell's "For Dixie Land, I'll Take My Stand"*



## Book Review ~ *Lincoln's Spies* by Bill Jayne

It's very disappointing that the pandemic has prevented us from hearing Douglas Waller's presentation on Union military intelligence operations in the Civil War. We do, however, have his book, *Lincoln's Spies*, available and I highly recommend it.

Waller is a former correspondent for *Newsweek* and *Time* who has specialized in the subject of military intelligence. He's the author of six books including *Wild Bill Donovan*, the story of the legendary chef of the WW II Office of Strategic Services, the forerunner of the CIA.

*Lincoln's Spies* is enlightening and highly readable. Focusing primarily on the Eastern Theater and the Army of the Potomac, Waller tells the story through the lens of the Civil War careers of four individuals.

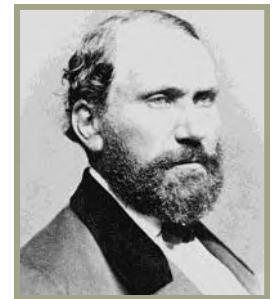
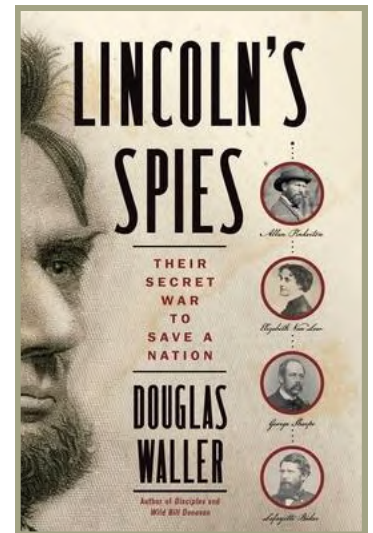
First, of course, is Allan Pinkerton, the humorless Scottish immigrant who seems to have virtually invented the trade of private detective. And, I mean, **private**. Ultimately, this would prove to be his undoing. Next is Lafayette Baker, a bit of a soldier of fortune who was wildly independent and, ultimately unreliable. Elizabeth Van Lew was a Richmond "spinster," who was devoted to the Union and parlayed her great intelligence and privileged background into the creation of a spy network deeply embedded within the capital of the Confederacy. Finally, there's volunteer Union officer George Sharpe, a highly educated lawyer from Upstate New York who through hard work and insight pioneered the mechanics of "all-source" intelligence within the Army of the Potomac, but not without enduring a bit of a learning curve.

Pinkerton worked as a cooper, a deputy sheriff and, ultimately, the head of a private investigating company that specialized in protecting railroads. He helped spirit President-Elect Abraham Lincoln into Washington past hostile elements in Baltimore and provided service to Major General George B. McClellan in Ohio and West Virginia early in the war. He wildly overestimated the numbers of McClellan's Confederate adversaries and when McClellan was relieved as commander of the Army of the Potomac after Antietam, Pinkerton went back to Chicago and took his files with him, rather than allowing them to be used by McClellan's successor Ambrose Burnside.

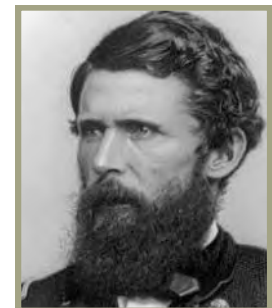
Waller sums up: "Pinkerton and his detectives proved to be effective at the cloak-and-dagger work of catching Confederate spies and uncovering plots against the U.S. government. But neither he nor the men and women in his force had the military training or experience needed to effectively collect and evaluate intelligence on an enemy army. They were amateurs at war."

Pinkerton had no sense of the perishability of military intelligence, especially estimates of the enemy order of battle and he always seemed to see himself and his operation as being under contract to McClellan personally, rather than contributing to the mission of the Army and the preservation of the union.

Lafayette C. Baker is described as a "poorly educated and aimless drifter who had been roaming the country for nearly two decades." Baker had a slight experience in military and law enforcement affairs as a vigilante in California but it seems that his primary qualification for a high-level job in Civil War Washington was the fact that he read a biography of the French security chief Eugène François Vidocq on the long trip from California to New York just before the war broke out. Renting a room at the Willard Hotel, the fast-talking Baker met a sitting and a former congressman who agreed to introduce him to General Winfield Scott, holding court in a nearby room. In a rather offhand way, Scott hired him as a spy and then seemed to forget about him.



*Allan Pinkerton*



*Lafayette Baker*

*Book Review ~ Lincoln's Spies by Bill Jayne, cont.*

He became something of a secret service type, who was often successful at uncovering Confederate spies, crooked contractors and those who manipulated the Union enlistment programs with bogus recruits and pocketed bonus money. The trouble was, Baker wasn't above taking a bit of graft here and there and throwing his weight around to imprison innocent people who might not play along.



*George Sharpe*

George Sharpe took a different route but, paradoxically perhaps, he was never as well-known as Pinkerton or Baker. Born in 1826 in the historic Hudson River town of Kingston, 91 miles north of New York City, Sharpe was a brilliant student who graduated from Rutgers University, studied law at Yale, passed the bar at 21 and spent four years in Europe, ultimately working at the U.S. legations in Vienna and Rome and becoming highly proficient in French and Italian. He married into a wealthy and influential family and became Captain of Co. B of the 20th N.Y. State Militia, the "Ulster Guard," a 90-day unit called up in April 1861.

I must admit to taking a special interest in Sharpe from the first because I grew up in Ulster County, N.Y., just a few miles south of Kingston on the majestic Hudson River. The 20th N.Y. State Militia spent time in the Washington area but the unit was disbanded in 90 days and many of its troops became the 80th N.Y., like many Civil War regiments, the original members were jealous of the earlier designation and the 80th was often referred to as the 20th.

Sharpe left the service, however, he rejoined when a new regiment was formed in the Hudson Valley, the 120th N.Y., often called the "Ulster Regiment." So, we have the 20th and the 80th, both known as the Ulster Guard, and the 120th known as the Ulster Regiment. Later in the war a third regiment of infantry, the 156th, was raised and it was known as the "Mountain Legion," because the Catskill Mountains dominated much of the area.

Sharpe was named Colonel of the 120th and took the regiment south in time to man some of the defenses of Washington as the campaigns of Second Manassas and Antietam took place. By late fall of 1862, the regiment was with the Army of the Potomac under Burnside in the Fredericksburg campaign.

When Lincoln relieved McClellan after Antietam, Pinkerton, remember, took his bat and ball and went home to Chicago, leaving Burnside clueless about the intelligence work that had been done. Pinkerton abetted McClellan's efforts to acquire more troops and Waller goes so far as to say that between them they "cooked the books." Nevertheless, Burnside was left with no intelligence apparatus for his headquarters and, unfortunately, showed little interest in the subject.

Sharpe and his 120th acquitted themselves well in the fighting around the Slaughter Pen Farm, south of the city of Fredericksburg, but it was an unusual event during the battle that brought him to the attention of the higher command. The 55th N.Y., originally commanded by Regis De Trobriand, was composed primarily of French speaking soldiers. Language difficulties threatened the Union line as the 55th's officers were unable to follow some of the commands they received. Sharpe intervened and using his superb French skills, quickly righted the situation.

When Major General Joseph Hooker took command of the Army in the early part of 1863, he brought a keen interest in military intelligence and an appreciation for the importance of the discipline. He had even ridden in one of Thaddeus Lowe's balloons to learn something about the potential of the technology. Hooker wanted a French text on espionage translated into English and called Col. Sharpe to his headquarters to see if he could do the job. Sharpe did it quickly and Hooker followed up that assignment with an order to Sharpe to provide him with a plan for an Army level "secret service." Sharpe complied and Hooker offered him a job as "spymaster," as Waller described the post. Officially, he was the deputy provost marshal general of the Army of the Potomac, serving under Marsena Patrick. He was also the head of a new Bureau of Military Information.



*Book Review ~ Lincoln's Spies by Bill Jayne, cont.*

Sharpe was reluctant to leave his regiment but he had been suffering from lung problems, perhaps pneumonia, for some time, and ultimately accepted Hooker's offer. He learned quickly and using his own experience in the field he graded, sorted and consolidated reports from all sources—cavalry scouts, infantry pickets, Union sympathizers, deserters, intercepts of telegraph and other enemy communications—and swiftly brought the reports to the attention of higher command.

There were mistakes and failures along the way, but from early 1863 to the end of the war, the military intelligence operations of the Union armies in the Eastern Theater became more and more effective. One major failure was somewhat ironic. At the same time Grant determined to move the Army of the Potomac across James River to threaten Petersburg, Lee decided to send Early and the II Corps of the Army of the Northern Virginia west into the Shenandoah Valley and ultimately to threaten Washington. Grant's move surprised Lee and Lee's move went undetected by Sharpe. Each army stole a march on the other.

Elizabeth Van Lew operated an increasingly effective espionage network within Richmond, using her mansion on Church Hill and her privileged position within the social hierarchy of the city to escape detection and arrest. She was born in 1818 to parents who were originally from the north but had lived most of their lives in Richmond. Her father, of Dutch stock, owned several hardware stores in the city. Eliza was horrified by beatings of slaves that she observed on city streets and when she was sent to Philadelphia for school, her anti-slavery outlook was strengthened even more.

When she returned to Richmond, she was very much a part of Richmond society but never married. When her father died in 1843, the young woman used her inheritance to buy and sell properties, becoming even wealthier. In the 1840s and 50s, Eliza and her mother, Elizabeth, Waller writes, "largely lived double lives—conforming outwardly to the South's social conventions, while privately taking steps to subvert them, like secretly freeing blacks." By 1861, she was writing letters to officials in Washington about economic conditions in Richmond and the movement of militia units in the capital. When Virginia seceded, she stopped using the mails and began using a network of trusted friends to carry her notes to Washington.

Throughout the war she provided information and observations and also aided Union prisoners. By the later stages of the war, Sharpe and his Bureau of Military Information were making increased use of these reports without the long delays of information being sent clandestinely from Richmond to Washington and then back to the army at City Point.

*Lincoln's Spies* is an eye-opening account of a part of the war that has seldom been considered in all the voluminous literature of the conflict. Moreover, it's written in a fast-paced, clear manner enlivened by accounts of interesting, unusual personalities. Summing up, Waller writes: "What role did intelligence play in this conflict? More than was acknowledged at the time. Northern and southern civilian leaders largely neglected the gathering of political and economic intelligence because they knew the other's politics, geography, and economic wherewithal. Each side's generals had been classmates in the same military academies and had fought together. They often showed disinterest in strategic and tactical intelligence believing they could already foresee how an adversary they had known for years would react on the battlefield. But the work of Lincoln's spies—even his inept ones like Pinkerton, his corrupt ones like Baker, and particularly his best ones like Sharpe and Van Lew—made a difference."



*Elizabeth Van Lew*

***Lincoln's Spies:  
Their Secret War to  
Save a Nation***

by Douglas Waller,  
was published by Simon  
& Schuster in 2019.

At 594 pages, it includes 14 pages of enlightening photographs, a large bibliography and a useful index.

## *Trivia Questions*

1. Which type of artillery shot contains multiple iron balls which create a shotgun effect when fired?
2. Lack of this resource greatly influenced the movements of the Union and Confederate forces leading up the Battle of Perryville.

Answers on page 11

## *Online Civil War Presentations*

### **The Mariners' Museum and Park**

Live with John V Quarstein, Author, historian and director emeritus of the USS Monitor Center. From his home, John will give 15-minute presentations about these Civil War topics:

- ◆ May 15, at 2 p.m. (EDT) Fort Fisher: The Gibraltar of the South
- ◆ May 29 at 2 p.m. (EDT) The CSS Albemarle

Details and links to each lecture are available at [MarinersMuseum.org/LIVE](http://MarinersMuseum.org/LIVE).

Viewers are welcome to send him any comments or questions during the presentation and John will answer them following his talk. Live lecture videos are free, but an account may be required to submit questions or comments.

### **Woodman Museum**

[Woodman Lecture Series](#): Paul Timmerman presents The Dover Company, 11th New Hampshire Volunteer Infantry, Company K

### **American Battlefield Trust**

The [American Battlefield Trust video collection](#) includes hundreds of videos covering a wide range of topics. You can learn more about specific battles and battlefields where the Trust has saved land or explore a key topic in four minutes or less by watching one of our Civil War In4 videos. Whether you're a lifelong student of history or a novice learner, these videos will give you an interesting window into our shared past.

### **Civil War Round Table Congress**

The CWRT Congress proudly presents a series of Civil War lectures by speakers who were nominated by CWRTs as their 5-Star speakers. These lectures are both entertaining and inspiring. To register for a virtual seat, click the link below. We will see you in the lecture hall!!

[Lecture Series](#) Live on Zoom.US (Registration is required)

- ◇ May 11th, 7:00pm EDT In Memory of Self & Comrades with Michael K. Shaffer
- ◇ May 13th, 7:00pm EDT Three Views of Gettysburg with Bruce Mowday
- ◇ May 19th, 7:00pm EDT Did Forrest Make a Difference with John Scales
- ◇ May 21st, 7:00pm EDT Black Experience in Civil War Georgia with David Dixon



## *Member News*

### *CFCWRT Upcoming Events*

- June 11, 2020**      ***Battle of Cedar Creek, VA*** Bill Jayne, Moderator  
**July 9, 2020**      ***Members Forum*** Jim Gannon (Moderator)  
**August 13, 2020**      ***TBD***

## *Trivia Answers*

1. Cannister - a metal can the size of the cannon-bore and filled with multiple iron balls, each 1 1/8th inch in diameter, creating a shotgun effect. Generally used to repel advancing infantry.
2. Water - In the Summer and Fall of 1862, East Kentucky was suffering from an extensive drought. Water had become a scarce resource. The area around Perryville had a number of streams and rivers of great value to the parched soldiers and horses of both North and South.

## *This Month in History ~ May 1865*

It was over. And with the end so much had happened, armies surrendered, a President assassinated, another fleeing the conquerors. The shooting had almost ceased and there was a momentary vacuum everywhere. People began to pick up the pieces, not sure how to put them back together. Two Confederate armies remained, but negotiations were under way for surrender of the primary force left east of the Mississippi and there was confusion, along with a very slight, desperate hope, in the Trans-Mississippi Confederacy of E. Kirby Smith. But most Southern soldiers were going home, bitter, relieved, some of them glad. Many had no homes to go to and began looking westward, or even abroad. In Washington the Radicals were pressuring President Johnson to pursue a vindictive policy. Indications were that the new President would attempt to carry out, in his own way, the policies of the martyred Lincoln.

The Civil War Day by Day: An Almanac 1861-1865  
By E. B. Long with Barbara Long  
1971 Doubleday Press



## *Civil War Dictionary*

**Aide-de-Camp:** A soldier who was appointed by an officer to be his confidential assistant. The aide wrote and delivered orders and held a position of responsibility which required him to know troop positions and where officer quarters were located. The aide-de-camp was an officer by virtue of his position and he took orders from his commander only.

**Barbette:** Raised platform or mound allowing an artillery piece to be fired over a fortification's walls without exposing the gun crew to enemy fire.

**Defeat in Detail:** Defeating a military force unit by unit. This occurred when units were unable to support one another, often because of distance.

## *Sponsors*



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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](mailto:Sherry.Hewitt@cfcwrt.org). 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](http://www.cfcwrt.org/membership)

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APRIL 2020

# THE RUNNER



VOLUME 2 ISSUE 4



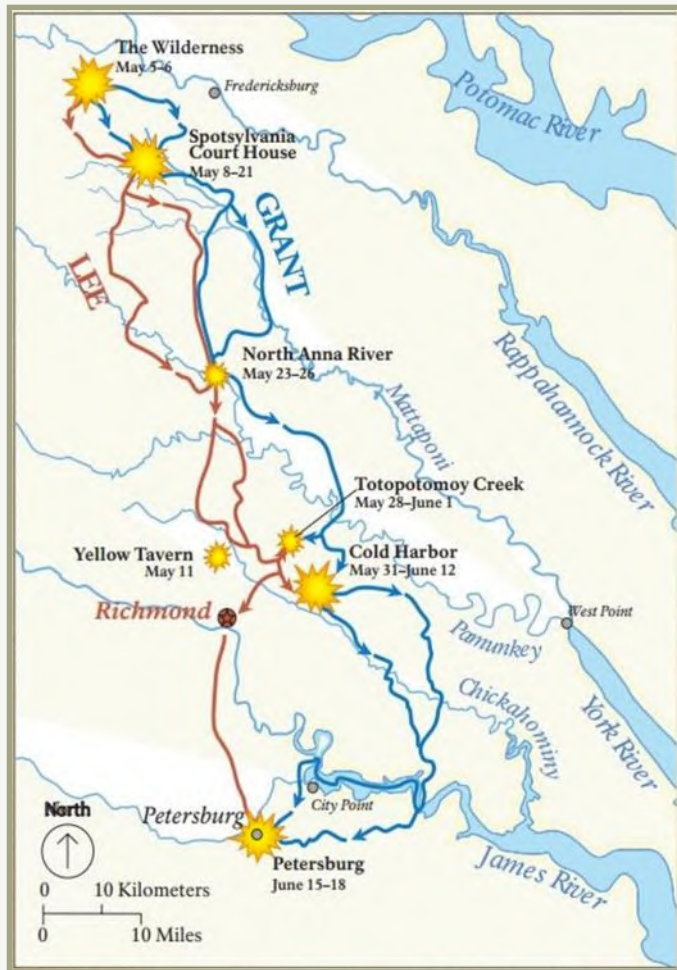
## June Round Table Discussion - "Victory from the Jaws of Defeat"

As part of our expanded summer program, the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table will host a true "round table" discussion about the battle of Cedar Creek in October 1864.

The fall of 1864 was, of course, a pivotal time of political decision making. In the United States, the National Union Party of Abraham Lincoln ran against the Democratic Party standard bearer, former Union General George B. McClellan.

The summer of 1864 was a terrible time of trial for the North. Grant drove the Union armies of the east to Petersburg and Richmond, inflicting terrible losses on the Army of Northern Virginia but absorbing astronomical casualties himself.

Our April 9th meeting featuring Bill Brown on Governor Vance has been canceled due to the Coronavirus pandemic.



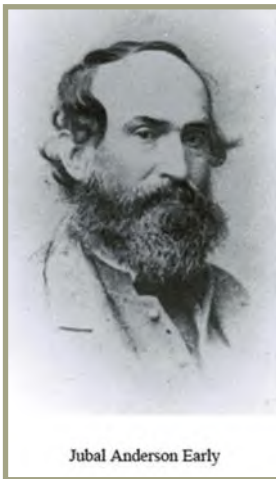
### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

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## June Round Table Discussion - "Victory from the Jaws of Defeat", cont.



Sherman drove the Confederate Army of Tennessee back onto the defenses of Atlanta but the pace of advance seemed glacial and a decisive victory still much in doubt.

Close to home for Lincoln and the political leaders of the north, a small but ferocious army under Confederate Lieutenant General Jubal Early arrived at the gates of the Federal City itself like some reincarnation of the "barbarians" assaulting Rome as the empire decayed.

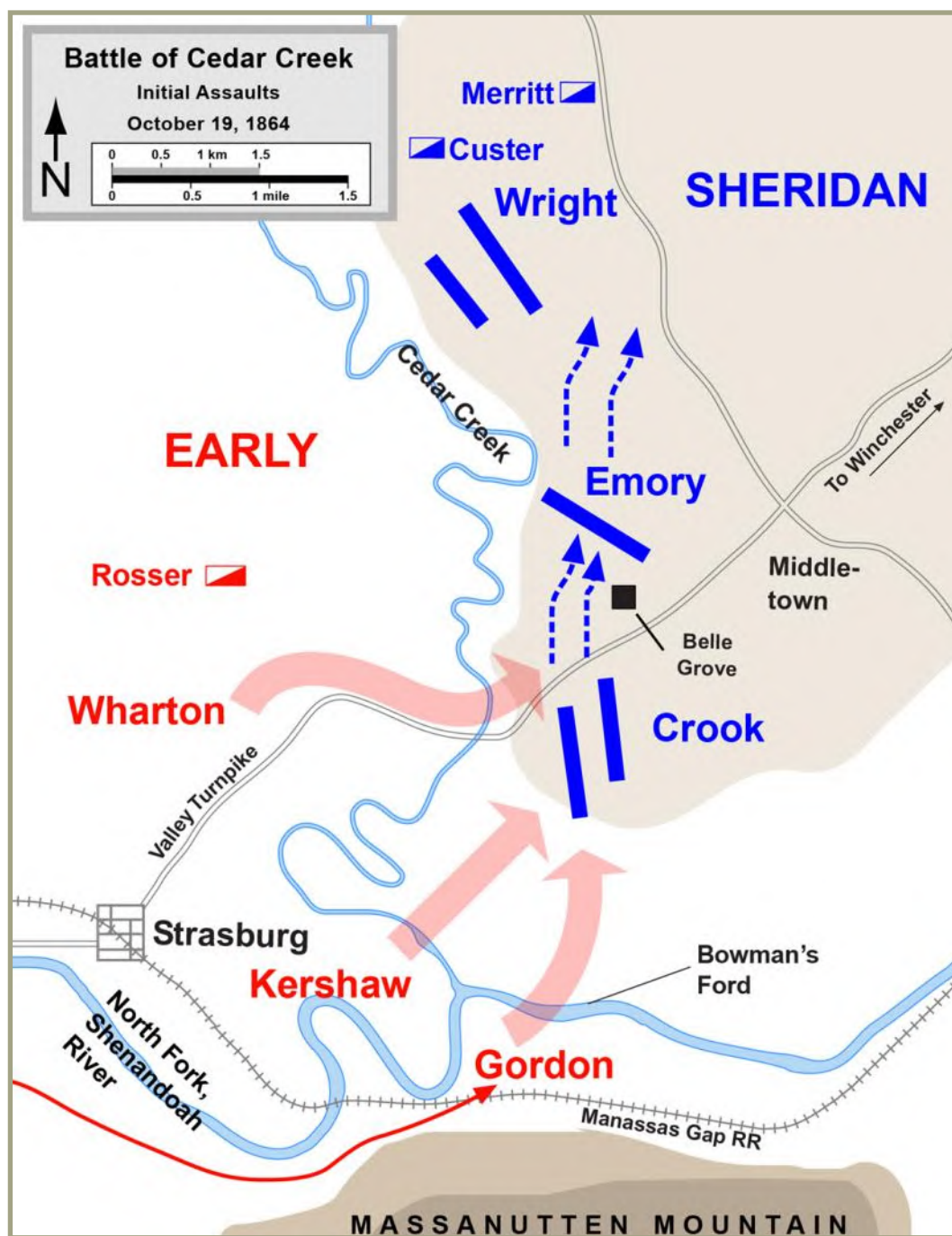


In August Lincoln received some political visitors to the White House to discuss the upcoming election and they ventured the opinion that the sitting president would lose the election. Lincoln responded, "You think I don't know I am going to be beaten, but I do and unless some great change takes place badly beaten."

Finally, the tide turned. Farragut damned the torpedoes and closed Mobile Bay, Sherman cut the Confederate supply line and drove the Army of Tennessee out of Atlanta, and Grant detailed Major General Philip Sheridan to the Shenandoah Valley to dispose of Early's Army of the Valley.

*June Round Table Discussion - "Victory from the Jaws of Defeat", cont.*

Sheridan won resounding victories at Winchester and Fisher's Hill and by October all seemed well. On October 16, Sheridan departed the valley heading for Washington City and a conference, leaving his army of about 31,000 men under the command of Maj. Gen. Horatio Wright, commander of the stalwart VI Corps. Camped on the north side of Cedar Creek, a tributary of the North Fork of the Shenandoah, the situation seemed secure.

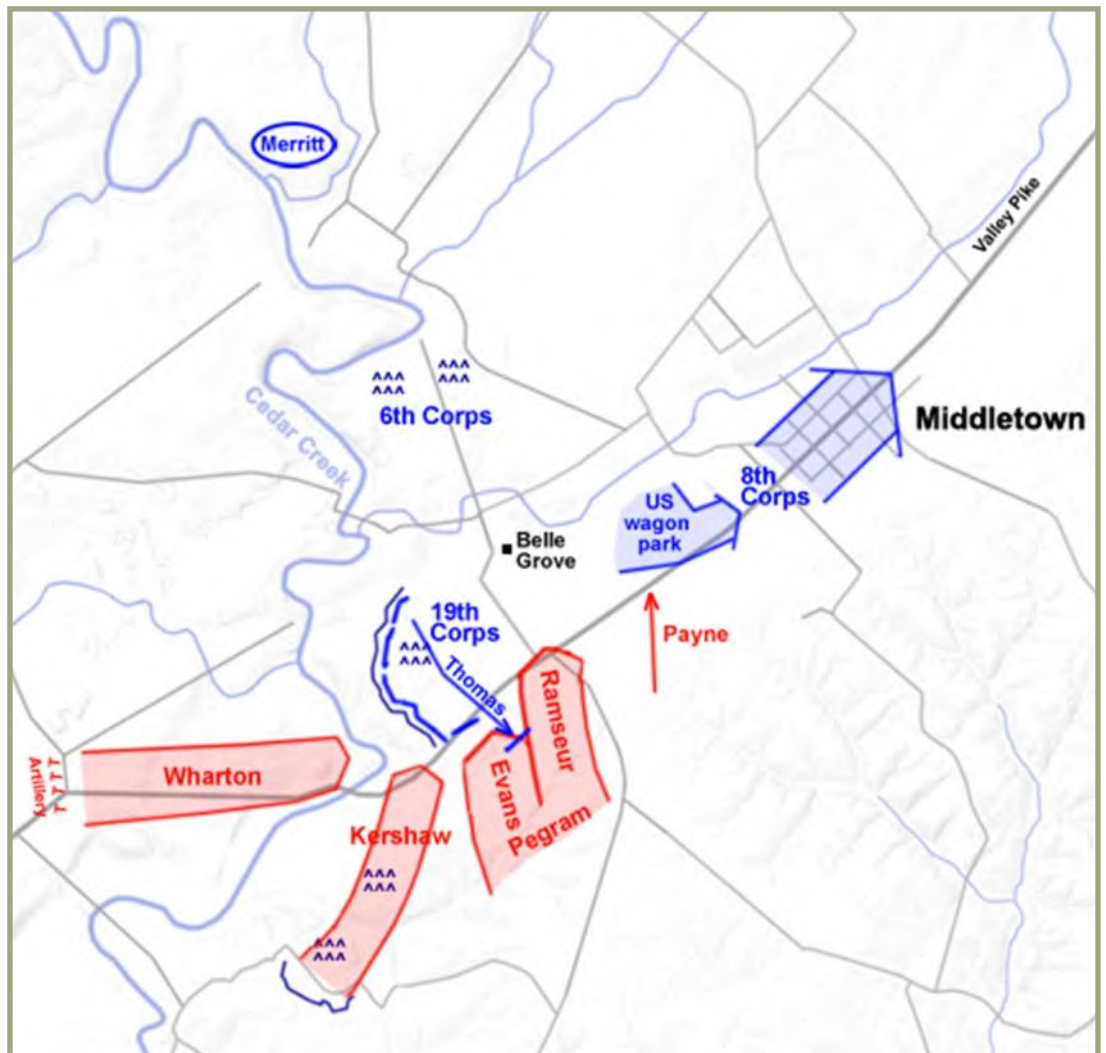


*June Round Table Discussion - "Victory from the Jaws of Defeat", cont.*

Gen. Early's army of about 21,000 was south of the creek but connected to Richmond by good roads and rail. The Union intercepted a Confederate message suggesting that Gen. Robert E. Lee was about to send reinforcements to Early. It was a planted message and very unlikely, but, even so, Sheridan cautioned Wright to look carefully to his defenses. Sheridan also ordered the very powerful Union Cavalry Corps back to Cedar Creek.

With a deep creek to their front and an even more forbidding river gorge to their left (east), the Union put their strongest forces on the right (west) and middle, blocking the Valley Pike running north to south.

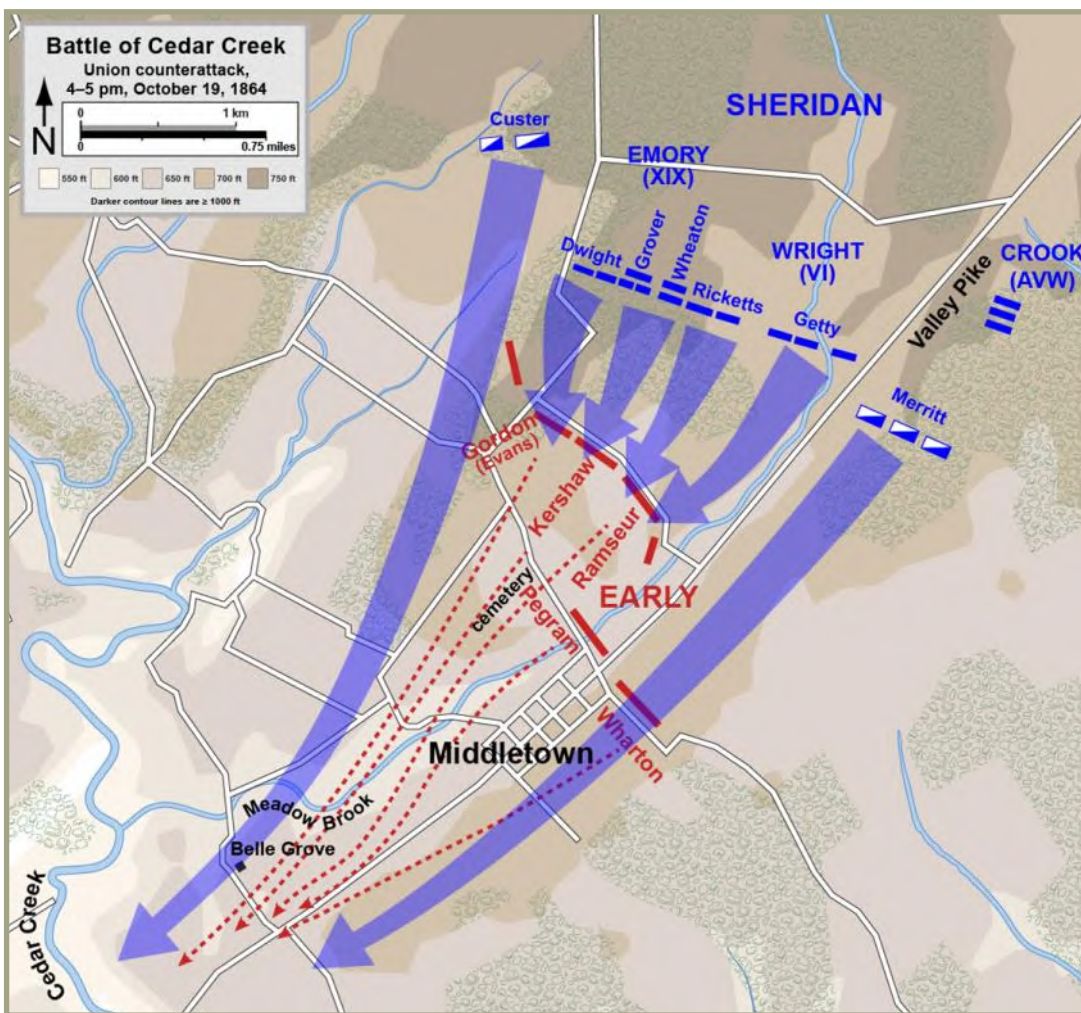
The relative weakness of the Union left, gave Early an opportunity to mount a risky surprise attack. At dawn on October 19, 1864, Kershaw's Confederate division crossed the creek at a ford to attack the Union left. Another division crossed the Valley Pike bridge and added its weight to the surprise attack and then, Maj. Gen. John B. Gordon's division, after crossing the Shenandoah at a ford, attacked the left flank and rear of the Union forces.



*June Round Table Discussion - "Victory from the Jaws of Defeat", cont.*

The initial assaults were spectacularly successful for the Confederates and although Union troops fought doggedly in spots, the army gave ground for miles, fighting at Belle Grove Plantation, around the village of Middletown and by afternoon, the Confederate attack ran out of steam.

In a famous ride on his famous horse, Rienzi, Sheridan turned back from Winchester and hurried to the battlefield. He helped rally the Union forces and then planned a counterattack that proved crushingly successful.



The discussion will focus on the Confederate pause in the afternoon. Gen. Gordon urged Early to continue the assault against the stalwart Union VI Corps, but Early seemed confident they would retire. Writing later, Early seemed to say that Confederate troops, stopping to pillage Union camps, led to disorganization and weakness that prevented further attacks.

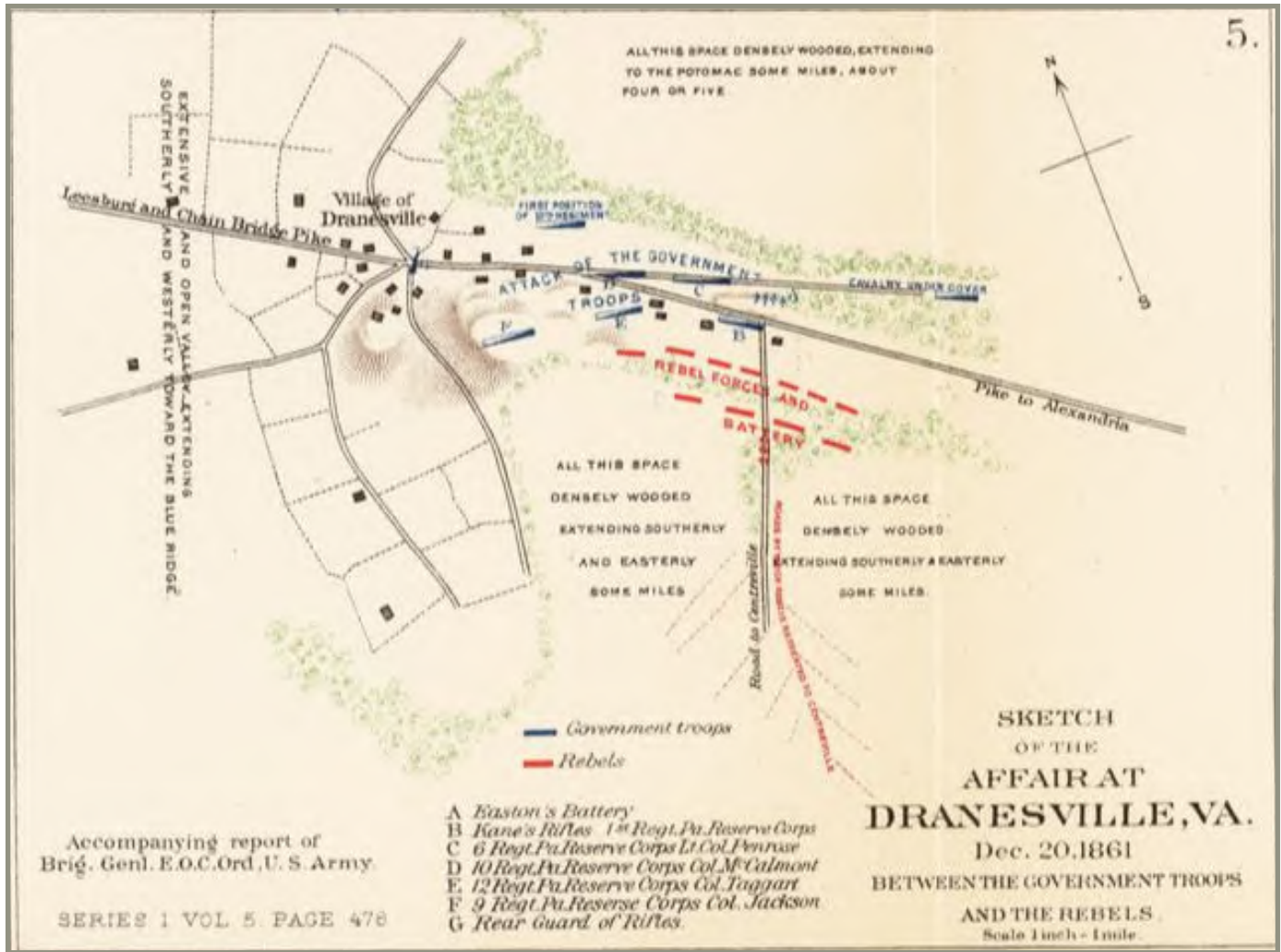
More will be forthcoming, but there is plenty of time to read about the battle and form your opinions so you can participate in the discussion on June 14.

*Dranesville Battlefield Treasure Hunt*

Treasure Hunter Makes Rare Finds on “Cleaned-Out” Field

Dave Mork, a loyal former member of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table moved back to Northern Virginia some time ago but has continued his efforts as a “treasure hunter,” or Civil War relic hunter.

On December 20, 1861, Brigadier General E.O.C. Ord led a mixed brigade of Pennsylvania infantry, cavalry and artillery west along the Leesburg Pike (modern-day Virginia Route 7) to probe Confederate positions and to forage for supplies. At Dranesville, where Georgetown Pike met the Leesburg Pike in western Fairfax County, Ord encountered a similar Confederate force commanded by then Brigadier General J.E.B. Stuart. The engagement resulted in 71 Union casualties and 230 Confederate, with the Confederates withdrawing in the afternoon. After the Union disasters at nearby Balls Bluff and Manassas, this relatively small engagement served as a morale boost to U.S. forces.



Map of Dranesville Battle that accompanied General Ord’s report

(Continued on page 7)

## *Dranesville Battlefield Treasure Hunt, cont.*

As Dave reports, “The Original Dranesville Battlefield is the entire area from Dranesville Road to the south side of Route 7, to where Reston Parkway is today. Most of the engagement was on the south side of Route 7 around the intersection of routes 193 and 7. Most of the area has been developed with housing on the actual encampment area. You used to be able to see the earthworks that were there but most had been filled in with trash over the past 100+ years. Along with four other ‘treasure hunters’, I spent nearly every Saturday for five or six years searching that area and the finds were everywhere! ... At the time I belonged



**Toe Plates**  
(to protect boots  
or shoes)

to the Loudoun County Historical Preservation Society, but they disbanded about four years ago. Our late President Tom advised us to go on the north side of Route 7 as that is where the encampment and earthworks were and he had given the area a good going over back in the 1970s. He informed us that we would not find a lot as they had given the area a good ‘clean-out’! Well all I can say is that I would love to find a few more ‘cleaned out’ areas like that one! Most of the bullets that we found were .54 cal Sharps, both manufactured and field cast varieties...other bullets that were recovered at the Dranesville site included .58 cal round ball, .58 cal 3 groove, .577 cal three groove, .36 and .44 cal Remington pistol bullets, .36 and .44 cal Colt bullets, as well as a few .69 cal Musketoon bullets. The .58 cal round balls were found primarily on the south side of the road where the Confederate line was.”

One of Dave’s treasure hunting partners, Wayne, is the descendant of a Union Soldier who served in the Pennsylvania Bucktails’, a regiment that was at the Dranesville battle. Dave continues: “We were searching the Dranesville Battlefield, and my buddy Wayne was lucky enough to find a dropped .69 cal Musketoon bullet. The Bucktails were using .69 cal rifles so we are guessing that this was a bullet from one of the Bucktails soldiers. We do not think it was one of Wayne’s GGGGrandfather’s bullets but it most likely was from one of his fellow soldiers. My total take on this site was well over 600 bullets, lots of Union buttons; including General Service, General Staff Officer, and several marked with ‘A’, ‘C’, ‘D’, and ‘I’, as everyone shared this encampment. Confederate buttons were also recovered at this site as the Confederate troops oftentimes controlled the site. One of my favorites is a Confederate script “I” (for infantry) button. I found a group of three South Carolina Palmetto cuff buttons with a piece of uniform still attached. We all dug our share of coins as well. I found my first Three Cent coin here and it was an 1854. Indian Head Cents were also found but interestingly we also found Flying Eagle Cents from 1857 and 1858. We were able to locate where the Blacksmith did his work as the horseshoes were all in a large group along with cut off ends from the metal stock used to make the shoes. We also found a folding knife, spoon, and fork which was the precursor of the Swiss Army Knife! I can’t even begin to tell you of all the finds that we made in this area. The sad thing is the property was developed and now has a bunch of McMansions on the site. It was good while it lasted!”



**Confederate Script**  
“I” Button  
(infantry)

Dave also found the remnants of a water filter on the site. Dave notes: “It was dug out of the Dranesville Encampment site (now a housing development). “We dug a lot of great items out of that site before it was all dozed and built into a bunch of Mc Mansions! So much history has been lost due to development.”

## *Dranesville Battlefield Treasure Hunt, cont.*

Civil War water filters are little known but this very informative account is from Henry Steele Commager's *The Blue and the Gray*. On page 286, Commager quotes from *Hardtack and Coffee* by John D. Billings. Billings writes: "I still have in my possession the remnants of a water filter in which I invested after enlistment. There was a metallic mouth-piece at one end of a small gutta-percha tube, which latter was about 15 inches long. At the other end of the tube was a suction-chamber, an inch long by a half-inch in diameter, with the end perforated, and containing a piece of bocking as a filterer. Midway of the tubing was an air-chamber. The tubing long since dried and crumbled away from the metal. It is possible that I used this instrument half a dozen times, though I do not recall a single instance, and on breaking camp just before the Gettysburg Campaign, I sent it with some other effects, northward.



**Water Filterer**

"I remember another filterer, somewhat simpler. It consisted of the same kind of mouth-piece with rubber tubing attached to a small conical piece of pumice stone, through which the water was filtered. Neither of these was ever of any practical value."

Lots still to learn about the Civil War before all the remaining sites are bulldozed flat!

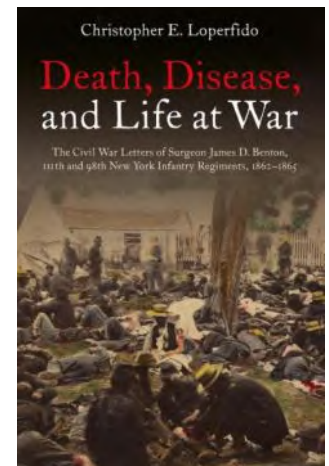
## *Civil War Letters of Surgeon James D. Benton*

### **Death, Disease, and Life at War: The Civil War Letters of Surgeon James D. Benton, 111th and 98th New York Infantry Regiments, 1862-1865**

Union surgeon James Dana Benton witnessed firsthand the suffering and death brought about by the ghastly wounds, infections, and diseases that wreaked havoc to both the Union and Confederate armies. A native of New York, Dr. Benton penned a series of letters throughout the war to his family relating his experiences with the 111th New York Infantry as an assistant surgeon, and later with the 98th New York as surgeon. His unique correspondence, together with insights from author Chris Loperfido, coalesce to produce *Death, Disease, and Life at War: The Civil War Letters of Surgeon James D. Benton, 111th and 98th New York Infantry Regiments, 1862-1865*.

Dr. Benton was present for some of the war's most gruesome and important battles, including Gettysburg, Cold Harbor, and the siege of Petersburg. He was also present at Harpers Ferry, Second Battle of Auburn, Battle of Morton's Ford, and Abraham Lincoln's second Inaugural address. His pen offers an insightful and honest look into what everyday life was like for the surgeons who tirelessly worked to save the men who risked their lives for the preservation of the nation.

Loperfido's *Death, Disease, and Life at War* should be read by every student of the Civil War to better understand and come to grips with what awaited the wounded and the medical teams once the generals were finished with their work.



*Wilmington Yellow Fever Outbreak - 1862*

Throughout the Civil War, the North Carolina Piedmont served as a haven for Confederate refugees, as thousands fled war zones to the relative safety of the Southern interior. Many came from Virginia or from northeastern North Carolina, which had been occupied by Union forces under General Ambrose Burnside in early 1862. By the summer of 1862, the influx of refugees had caused rampant overcrowding. Even Varina Davis, wife of Confederate president Jefferson Davis, had difficulty finding housing when she fled Richmond for Raleigh during the Peninsula Campaign.

In August 1862, a yellow fever outbreak in Wilmington compounded the refugee crisis in central North Carolina, as its residents fled the city for the interior. Although Wilmington's most prominent and wealthy residents had already left during Burnside's invasion, at least nine thousand residents remained when yellow fever arrived aboard the blockade runner *Kate*, carrying "bacon and other supplies" from Nassau. According to the *Wilmington Journal*, more than half of the city's population left for the North Carolina interior during the epidemic. Of the 4,000 who remained, 650 died of the disease. In his diary, Wilmington resident Nicholas Schenck described "a panic to get away – citizens and family – going in all directions ... Everybody – who could get away – left town." Another Wilmington resident noted in September 1862 that "The fever is much worse here and getting worse every hour. ... Everyone that can get off are leaving." When Schenck briefly visited at the height of the epidemic, he was shocked "to find almost a deserted town....every house on Front Street – closed and shut-up – did not meet or see a soul." William Calder, a Confederate soldier from Wilmington stationed in his hometown, wrote to his mother that "The physicians advise families to leave town, and all who can are doing so."

Many inland communities worried that refugees would bring yellow fever with them. How yellow fever spread remained a mystery, and medical authorities debated whether it could be contracted from infected patients. When Nicolas Schenck fled the city for Warsaw, NC, some sixty miles to the north, he found "every hotel quarantined against us – coming from Wilmington."

In a September 1862 meeting, Fayetteville's mayor and city council declared that "yellow fever exists in the town of Wilmington in a most malignant form, and a general apprehension having seized upon the inhabitants of this town that the disease may be communicated by continued intercourse between the two places." To prevent its spread, they ordered that "all intercourse between the town of Wilmington and Fayetteville be and is hereby suspended," requiring that refugees from Wilmington remain outside of the city limits and imposing a forty-eight-hour quarantine and medical inspection for all vessels that had passed through Wilmington. Recently elected North Carolina governor Zebulon Vance also worried that refugees would bring yellow fever to the interior. In a letter to his wife, Vance warned her that "The yellow fever is raging so at Wilmington that some fears are entertained it may spread. The fugitives have already carried it to Fayetteville & there is one case reported here [Raleigh], though it is supposed it will hardly be communicated in that way." Vance warned his wife, then in far western Buncombe County, not to come to Raleigh until later in the year, when winter cold would lessen the risk.

News of the deaths in Wilmington reached refugees who had fled the city. Along with many others fleeing, the Cronley family settled in Laurinburg, more than one hundred miles to the west. Safe from both the direct effects of the war and the disease, they nonetheless experienced the epidemic vicariously, as "Every day the train brought the small-sized bulletin con-

(Continued on page 10)





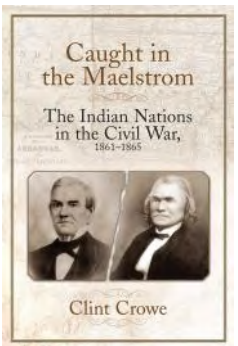
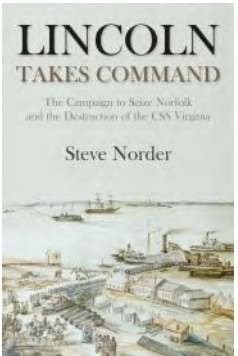
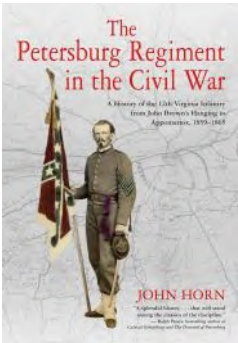
*Wilmington Yellow Fever Outbreak - 1862, cont.*

taining little but the list of the sick and the dead, and always among the latter the name of some familiar face that should never be seen among us again.” Eliza Hill, a refugee from Wilmington who had fled during Burnside’s invasion, contrasted her new home in Chapel Hill with the news she received daily from the coast, writing in her diary that “Everything looks so bright & cheerful today that I can scarcely realize the melancholy truth, that hundreds are down in my native town with yellow fever...[By] last accounts, Wilmington was said to be one vast Hospital.”

The Wilmington yellow fever epidemic proved to be only one of many ways in which disease shaped the contours of refugee life during the Civil War.

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Thank you for your support of independent publishing during this difficult season.

## *Member News*

### **CFCWRT Upcoming Events**

- May 14, 2020      *Douglas Waller* (Author) - Lincoln's Spies (Note: Hopefully the Coronavirus rules will allow this event to take place.)
- June 11, 2020      *Battle of Cedar Creek, VA* Bill Jayne, Moderator

### **What is your favorite Civil War treasure?**

Please share your favorite Civil War treasure with us by sending a picture of your treasure or display along with a small paragraph about it. You can submit your info to the editor - [Sherry Hewitt](#).

### **New Member - Welcome!**

Leland (Lee) Bujalski

### **Wanted: Interviewers**

Would you be interested in interviewing an author for The Runner? The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table is looking for members who would be interested in interviewing a Civil War author for an article for The Runner. Please contact the editor - [Sherry Hewitt](#).

## *Trivia Questions*

1. What southern slave stole a Confederate military ship?
2. Who was know as the Calico Colonel?
3. What future Union general discovered a Confederate deception during the Battle of Gaines' Mill?

Answers on page 12

### **The Draft Act of 1863**

In the North the Draft Act of 1863 resulted in four different enrollments: July, 1863; March, 1864; July, 1864; and December 1864. These drafts resulted in a total of 249,259 men being held to service. Of this total some 87,724 paid commutation to be relieved of service, which brought in \$26,366,316.78. There were actually 162,535 men raised by the draft. Of this total only 46,347 men were held to service, 116,118 furnished substitutes. Thus the draft provided only about 6 percent of the total Federal enlistments in the Army. Nevertheless the draft's main effect seems to have been to stimulate enlistments of volunteers who made up the great bulk of the manpower.



## *Upcoming Events*

*Most upcoming events have been cancelled, postponed, or rescheduled due to the Coronavirus pandemic.*

### 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.

For 2020, we are excited to feature leading Civil War scholars, Harold Holzer, Catherine Clinton, Brian Wills, Jeffrey 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.



#### **From the Civil War Institute:**

We are currently monitoring the current **Coronavirus** outbreak closely. As of this time, Gettysburg College's Camps & Conferences office and the Civil War Institute plan on holding the June 2020 CWI conference as scheduled. Should local or national conditions change dramatically, we will re-evaluate and will be in touch with all registered attendees immediately. In the event that conditions warrant a cancellation of the conference, we will be sure to update this website accordingly ([link above](#)), and all registered attendees will be granted a full refund of their registration fees.

## *Trivia Answers*

1. **Robert Smalls** freed himself, his crew, and their families from slavery on May 13, 1862, by commandeering a Confederate transport ship, the CSS Planter, in Charleston harbor, and sailing it from Confederate-controlled waters to the U.S. blockade.
2. **Mary Ann Bickerdyke**, also known as General Grant's "Calico Colonel", was a hospital administrator for Union soldiers during the Civil War and a lifelong advocate for veterans. She was responsible for establishing 300 field hospitals during the war.
3. During the run-up to the Battle of Gaines' Mill, **Samuel Zook** got behind enemy lines and found that Confederate Maj. Gen. John B. Magruder was conducting an elaborate deception, making it appear that he had significantly more troops than he actually had.

## Online Civil War Games

Looking for something to do while self-isolating during the pandemic? Check out these online Civil War games.

[John Tiller Software's wargame series Civil War Battles](#) contains 14 different campaigns. These are just a few:

[Campaign Chickamauga](#)

[Campaign Atlanta](#)

[Campaign Gettysburg](#)

[Campaign Petersburg](#)

[Campaign Vicksburg](#)

Each battle is a separate game available for purchase.

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## CAPE FEAR CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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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.

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



MARCH 2020

# THE RUNNER



VOLUME 2 ISSUE 3



## *The Greatest Battle in the Western Theater*

**Everard H. Smith, Ph.D.**, will discuss the pivotal battles of Chickamauga and Chattanooga in the fall of 1863. Dr. Earl H. Hess, author of *The Civil War in the West*, pronounced Chickamauga as “the greatest battle in the western theater” of the Civil War. In spite of the size of the forces involved and the great strategic value of the sites, the battles are relatively little known. Dr. Smith, a native of Washington, D.C., received his B.A. from Yale and a Ph.D. in history from UNC Chapel Hill. He has been a resident of North Carolina for more than 45 years and has lived in Wilmington since 1991 when he joined the staff of UNCW. He later became a senior networking analyst for the N.C. Department of Information Technology. A highly acclaimed local speaker, Dr. Smith specializes in the history of the Civil War and World War II. He is a former member of the Wilmington Historic Preservation Commission and past chairman of the City Advisory Board of the Hannah Block Historic USO building. He is also a specialist in Shakespeare and has been the stage manager for several productions of the Cape Fear Shakespeare, Ltd., which presents the annual summer Shakespeare festival at Greenfield Lake.

Why are the battles little known? For one thing, the topography of the battlefields is very complicated. William Glenn Robertson, retired from the staff



*Snodgrass House, headquarters of General Thomas,  
“The Rock of Chickamauga” 1902*

### NEXT PRESENTATION

- ◆ Thursday, March 12th
- ◆ **Dr. E. V. Smith:** Chickamauga
- ◆ 6:30 Social 7:00 Meeting
- ◆ Harbor UMC  
4853 Masonboro Loop  
Wilmington



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(Continued on page 2)

### *The Greatest Battle in the Western Theater, cont.*

of the US Army Command and General Staff College at Ft. Leavenworth, KS, wrote that at Chickamauga “the woods limited maximum visibility to 150 yards...and made it almost impossible to control linear battle formations. Similarly, the terrain provided few fields of fire to the armies’ artillerymen.” Additionally, both commanders were ultimately relieved and came down through history as failures.

General Braxton Bragg, who would later preside over the fall of Wilmington in 1865, commanded the Confederate Army of Tennessee. Maneuvered out of Chattanooga and into nearby northwestern Georgia, he gathered reinforcements and struck the Union Army of the Cumberland commanded by Major General William S. Rosecrans.

The Battle of Chickamauga on September 18-20, 1863, resulted in more than 34,000 casualties to the two armies and saw the Union forces nearly destroyed. Yet a little more than a month later, a reinforced Union army now led by Major General Ulysses S. Grant, routed Bragg’s forces and pushed them back into north Georgia opening the road to Atlanta.



BATTLE OF CHICKAMAUGA.

*Lithograph showing Confederate attack at Chickamauga 1890*

*Richmond Bread Riot - Presented by Bert Dunkerly*

On the mild evening of February 13, more than 40 members of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table assembled at Harbor Church in Wilmington to learn about the Richmond Bread Riot, declared the “largest antiwar demonstration in the Confederacy.”

Historian, author and National Park Service Ranger **Bert Dunkerly** presented a fact-filled, illuminating story of the home front in the Civil War. A ranger at Richmond National Battlefield Park, Bert mapped the route of the riot and showed “then-and-now” photographs of the important sites, such as stores looted by the rioters.

Setting the stage, we learned that Richmond’s population had ballooned from about 38,000 residents in 1861 to an estimated 100,000 in 1863. Soldiers, bureaucrats, industrial workers, refugees all poured into the Confederate capital and, yet, the police force numbered 26 officers.

Bacon rose from about 12 cents a pound to \$1. Coffee skyrocketed from 12 cents a pound to \$5. The Confederate government tried to control the prices charged to the government but merchants charged civilians whatever the market would bear. Bad winter weather, conscription, and unsafe working conditions all contributed to a situation in which people were unable to buy essential food, clothing, and fuel.

This powder keg erupted in the spring of 1863. Mary Jackson, a produce seller at the 1st Market had called a meeting the previous night and dissatisfied residents assembled at George Washington’s statue on April 3, 1863. Moving from the statue to the nearby Governor’s Mansion, the group sought a meeting with Governor John Letcher. He ignored them and they then headed toward the stores and markets of old Richmond.

Confederate diarist John Jones estimated the crowd at more than 1,000 and it grew during the day as they marched through downtown Richmond, breaking into stores and taking whatever they wanted. A jewelry store was looted as well as other stores selling necessary items such as shoes. Many were armed, and police and militia sent to try to restore control could only arrest those who separated themselves from the crowd.

At Cary and 14th Street, Mayor Joseph Mayo called on the rioters to disperse. He was ignored. Observers described the marchers—mostly women—as acting with “terrible earnestness.” Some called them “Amazonian.”

Confederate President Jefferson Davis, accompanied by Gov. Letcher, stopped them at around 15th and Main and gave them five minutes to disperse or be fired upon by the militia.

The crowd then dispersed and 43 women and 25 men were arrested. According to our speaker, neighbors turned in neighbors and many were sent to the penitentiary. The incident illustrated the class and ethnic divisions in the society of Richmond, as many well-to-do observers seemed to feel that the rioters were not really affected by the inflation and lack of food stuffs. Some described the rioters as “Irish and Yankee hags.”



*Bert Dunkerly engaging members of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table*

In 1863, women took to the streets in order to protest a lack of resources - including flour and bread - in the capital of the Confederacy.

During the Civil War, Southerners were generally capable of producing enough food; however, distributing the resources could become extremely difficult.

The government tried to send as much food as possible to the soldiers. When battles raged in Virginia, local sources for grain were quickly exhausted.

## *Richmond Bread Riot - Presented by Bert Dunkerly, cont.*



The Mobile Bread Riot was spurred by drastic food shortages during the Civil War. Mobile, Mobile County, September 4, 1863

Similar riots occurred in other southern cities, including Salisbury, N.C. After the riots, the government took some steps to set up a system of relief for the families of soldiers and to reduce food prices.

The story was largely untold in the years after the war but the newspaper accounts, court documents and personal accounts ensured that the events would not be lost to history.

### *Collapse of the Southern Economy*

Inflation spiraled into a situation of hyperinflation, in which the value of the Confederate dollar dropped rapidly, sometimes even from hour to hour.

Meanwhile, because of drought conditions, food became scarce in some areas. In 1863, things got so bad that a group of Virginians, many of them women, looted the Confederate capital in the **Richmond Bread Riots**, searching for food and taking out their frustration on their government.

## *Trivia Questions*



1. Who was the first black war correspondent?
2. Who was the youngest general in the Civil War?
3. How many times was Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr. wounded during the Civil War?
4. Which US Senator had sons fighting on both sides of the war?
5. Which battle took place at the "River of Death"?

Answers on page 9

### **MARCH 11, 1862**

IN RICHMOND, PRESIDENT DAVIS REFUSED TO ACCEPT THE REPORTS OF BRIGADIER GENERALS FLOYD AND PILLOW, WHO FLED FORT DONELSON BEFORE THE SURRENDER. BOTH OFFICERS WERE RELIEVED FROM COMMAND.



## September 20, 1863 - Battle of Chickamauga, Second Day

Except from *The Civil War Day-by-Day, An Almanac 1861-1865* by E. B. Long

Daybreak on this fall Sunday in the Georgia woods was supposed to see the Confederate drive renewed from the right, commanded by Polk. Then other divisions were to join in. There was no attack until about 9:30am, when Breckenridge's division moved forward. The Union left under Thomas fell back, but held at the breastworks. Neither side gained or lost much from the heavy Confederate attacks until shortly before noon. Longstreet came in opposite the Federal Center, to find that by a blunder of orders Thomas J. Wood's Union division had been pulled out and left a gap in the Northern line. Longstreet hit, driving two divisions away, thus cutting the Federal line and causing a major portion of it to flee in considerable disorder. Rosecrans, McCook, and Crittenden were caught up in the retreat toward Chattanooga. Only Thomas' corps, aided by a few units, remained.

Thomas managed to form a new line on a rounded eminence know as Snodgrass Hill. Here the Federals held through the afternoon, repelling assault after assault. Thomas' men and fragments of other units joined later by Gordon Granger's reserve, fought a great defensive battle which later earned for Thomas his famous nickname "Rock of Chickamauga." For a while it seemed as if Confederates would take the hill, so furious and desperate were the charges. However, there were not enough Confederate reinforcements. They fought until night, when, obeying orders, Thomas withdrew toward Rossville and the mountain gaps that led to Chattanooga. Splendid as the Union defensive was, the battle was a great Confederate tactical victory.

The estimated figures are:

	Federal Effectives	Confederates
	58,000	66,000
Killed	1,657	2,312
Wounded	9,756	14,674
Missing	4,757	1,468
Total Casualties	16,170	18,454

The casualty rate on both sides was about 28 percent. A dispatch from General Rosecrans increased President Lincoln's anxiety for further details.



### Thomas J. Wood

Thomas John Wood was a career United States Army officer. He served in the Mexican–American War and as a Union general during the American Civil War. During the Mexican–American War, Wood served on the staff of General Zachary Taylor, and later joined the 2nd Dragoons.

Born: Sept. 25, 1823 Munfordville, KY  
 Died: Feb. 26, 1906 Dayton, OH

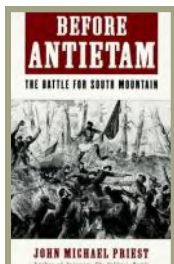
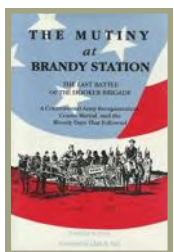
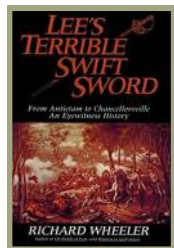
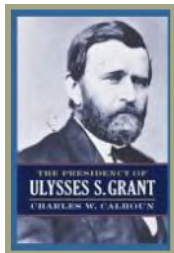
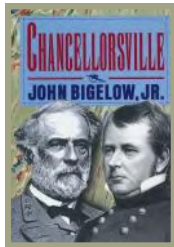
Education: US Military Academy  
 Buried: West Point Cemetery, West Point, NY

## Member News

### CFCWRT Upcoming Events

- April 9, 2020      *William Brown* - Wartime N C Governor Zebulon Vance  
 May 14, 2020      *Douglas Waller* (Author) - Lincoln's Spies  
 June 11, 2020      *Battle of Cedar Creek, VA* Bill Jayne, Moderator

### March Raffle Winners



- Chancellorsville* - Ed Gibson  
*U. S. Grant* - Jim Gannon  
*Lee's Terrible Swift Sword* - Braxton Williams  
*The Mutiny at Brandy Station* - Jim Horton  
*Before Antietam* - Jim Wagner

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!**

Thomas (Tom) Christianson, Kure Beach, spent several military tours, followed by a civilian career with DOD, as a historian and frequent battlefield tour director. Welcome Aboard !

**MARCH 14, 1862**

IN WASHINGTON, MR. LINCOLN TRIED TO EXPLAIN THAT COMPENSATED EMANCIPATION OF THE SLAVES "WOULD NOT BE HALF AS ONEROUS, AS WOULD BE AN EQUAL SUM, RAISED NOW, FOR THE INDEFINITE PROSECUTION OF THE WAR."

## Member News, cont.

### **The 155th Anniversary of the Fall of Fort Anderson**

Winter of 1865. The Gibraltar of the South, Fort Fisher, had just fallen to Union forces. The end of the Civil War was in sight. Before the break of dawn on February 19, 1865, Confederate troops were forced to evacuate the last major defensive fortification on the lower Cape Fear, Fort Anderson.

CFCWRT Members attending the 155th anniversary of the fall of Fort Anderson on February 22nd.



Bryan Hovey participated all weekend as a Confederate Ambulance Driver



Ed Gibson was at the Information Tent for the *Sons of Union Veterans* and Linda Lashley helped with the *United Daughters of the Confederacy* Information Table. Linda, also, had an ancestor in the western part of the state who fought in the Union army.

### **Check it out**

American Battlefield Trust

[Civil War 1864 - Virtual Reality Experience - Full Version on YouTube](#)

12 minutes

## Upcoming Events

### March 14, 2020 [Hoop Skirts and Gun Powder](#)

Museum of the Cape Fear (Fayetteville): Saturday, 2:00PM, 2nd floor at the Arsenal Exhibit

March is Women's History Month. It is also the month where a lot of history happened at the



United States Arsenal  
at Fayetteville

Fayetteville Arsenal. In combining both observances, the Museum of the Cape Fear, is pleased to present for a second consecutive year Hoop Skirts and Gunpowder: A Woman of the Fayetteville Arsenal. Admission is free.

*Hoop Skirts and Gunpowder: A Woman of the Fayetteville Arsenal* is one-of-a-kind, one-woman show by Lee Ann Rose of Williamsburg, VA. The presentation will include describing what women did in the arsenals, the jobs women performed in the Civil War, and comparisons between the freedoms and dangers arsenal workers had with the continued responsibility of domestic life. Was the danger worth this new experience of working outside the home, which allowed her a little more independence? Hear from one of the women who took to the arsenal's work and away from her domestic life.

### April 4, 2020 [Reconstruction Symposium](#)

Enjoy three lectures, a panel discussion, and lunch in beautiful Southport, NC. Registration required. **Dr. Angie Zombek** (UNC - Wilmington), *Competing Visions of the Post-War World: Military Reconstruction and Southern Resistance in North Carolina*. **Dr. Adam Dombey** (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*. [NC Maritime Museum at Southport](#), 204 E. Moore St. Southport, NC 28461

### 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.

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.

For 2020, we are excited to feature leading Civil War scholars, Harold Holzer, Catherine Clinton, Brian Wills, Jeffrey 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.





## Trivia Answers



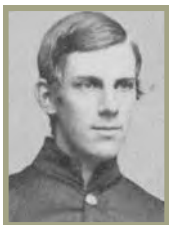
Thomas Morris Chester

1. Thomas Morris Chester was offered the opportunity by the Philadelphia Press in August 1864 to serve as a reporter on the frontlines, focusing especially on black troops, he took the assignment immediately. He was the first African American to serve as a war correspondent for a major daily newspaper. What was probably uppermost in his mind was the chance to tell a large white audience the truth about black men in combat. And he wasn't about to let that opportunity slip by. Assigned to the frontlines, Chester spent most of his time with the Army of the James, which had large numbers of black troops, fighting near the cities of Petersburg and the Confederate capital, Richmond. His numerous dispatches covered in detail the clashes between both armies, the extraordinary bravery of the Union soldiers, white and black, and the names of the men killed and wounded.



Galusha Pennypacker

2. Galusha Pennypacker is to this day the youngest person to hold the rank of Brigadier General in the US Army. During the Second Battle of Fort Fisher at Wilmington, North Carolina, on January 15, 1865, Colonel Pennypacker was severely wounded while crossing enemy lines. In spite of his wounds, he continued to lead his men in a charge over a traverse, captured the fort and planted the colors of the 97th Pennsylvania Infantry Regiment in the Confederate compound. For gallantry in the face of the enemy, he was awarded the Medal of Honor. After convalescing, he was promoted to Brigadier General at age 20, making him the youngest officer to hold the rank of general in the US Army to this day. For his war service, he was brevetted Major General US Army on March 13, 1865.



Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr.

3. Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr., a future justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, was wounded three times during the Civil War at Ball's Bluff, Antietam, and Chancellorsville. Holmes graduated from Harvard College in 1861, but the most formative influence on his life was his service in the Civil War. Serving for two years in the 20th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, Holmes was shot just above the heart at Ball's Bluff and then in the neck at Antietam; sick with dysentery, he missed the fighting at Fredericksburg, where his unit suffered calamitous losses. At the battle known as the Second Fredericksburg, he was shot again, this time in the foot. After recuperating for eight months at home, he took a position in the Sixth Corps and witnessed the unspeakable carnage of the campaign known as the Wilderness, where the losses averaged, he calculated, about 3,000 a day. Discharged in 1864, he was forever changed. He was seriously wounded three times, experiences that led him to develop a harsh, unsentimental view of life as endless conflict, with an individual's destiny in the hands of an almost whimsical Fate.

4. Senator John J. Crittenden of Kentucky had two sons who became major generals during the Civil War--one for the North and one for the South. One of Crittenden's sons, George B. Crittenden, became a general in the Confederate Army. Another son, Thomas Leonidas Crittenden, became a general in the Union Army.

5. The Battle of Chickamauga, fought on September 18-20, 1863, was the most significant Union defeat in the Western Theater, and involved the second-highest number of casualties after the Battle of Gettysburg. In popular histories, it is often said that Chickamauga is a Cherokee word meaning "river of death".



## Books

*The Real Horse Soldiers* Benjamin Grierson's Epic  
1863 Civil War raid through Mississippi

Author: Timothy B. Smith

*The Petersburg Regiment in the Civil War* A history of  
the 12th Virginia Infantry from John Brown's  
hanging to Appomattox, 1859-1865

Author: John Horn



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AND PREPARING THEM WITH LOVE.

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## CAPE FEAR CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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# THE RUNNER



FEBRUARY 2020

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)*

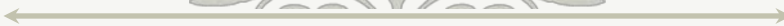
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## *Bert Dunkerly: The Richmond Bread Riots, cont.*



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/](http://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."





### 155<sup>th</sup> 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.*

*155<sup>th</sup> 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.*

### *155<sup>th</sup> 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.



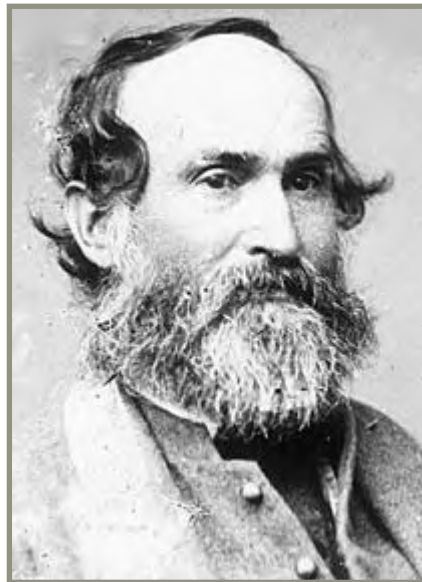
*Book Summary ~**Lieutenant General Jubal Anderson Early C.S.A.**Autobiographical Sketch and Narrative of the War between the States*

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***



“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

- 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."

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.

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](mailto:ljimgannon@gmail.com) if you would like to make a presentation.

Photos from our 2019 Members Forum

“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



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?

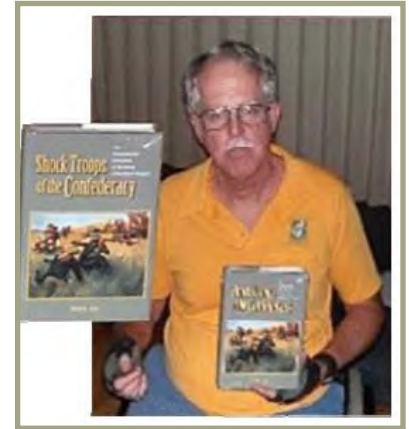
Answers on Page 11



## *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.



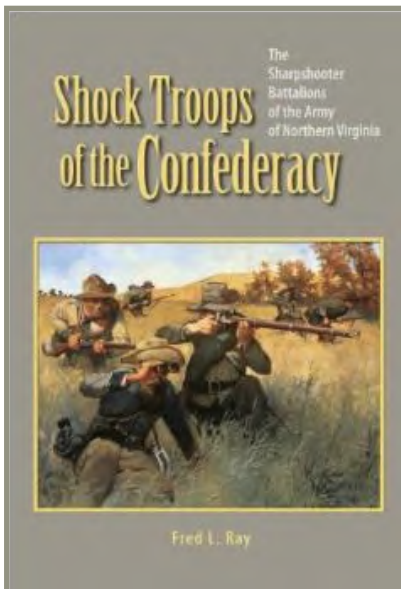
Mr. Ray also described some of the weapons used by the marksmen: the Whitworth (caliber .451, weight almost 10 lbs.), Enfield (cal. .577, weight 9½ lbs.) and several target rifles (English match rifles used mainly by Union troops) weighing anywhere from 25 to 60 pounds. In an accuracy test conducted 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](http://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.

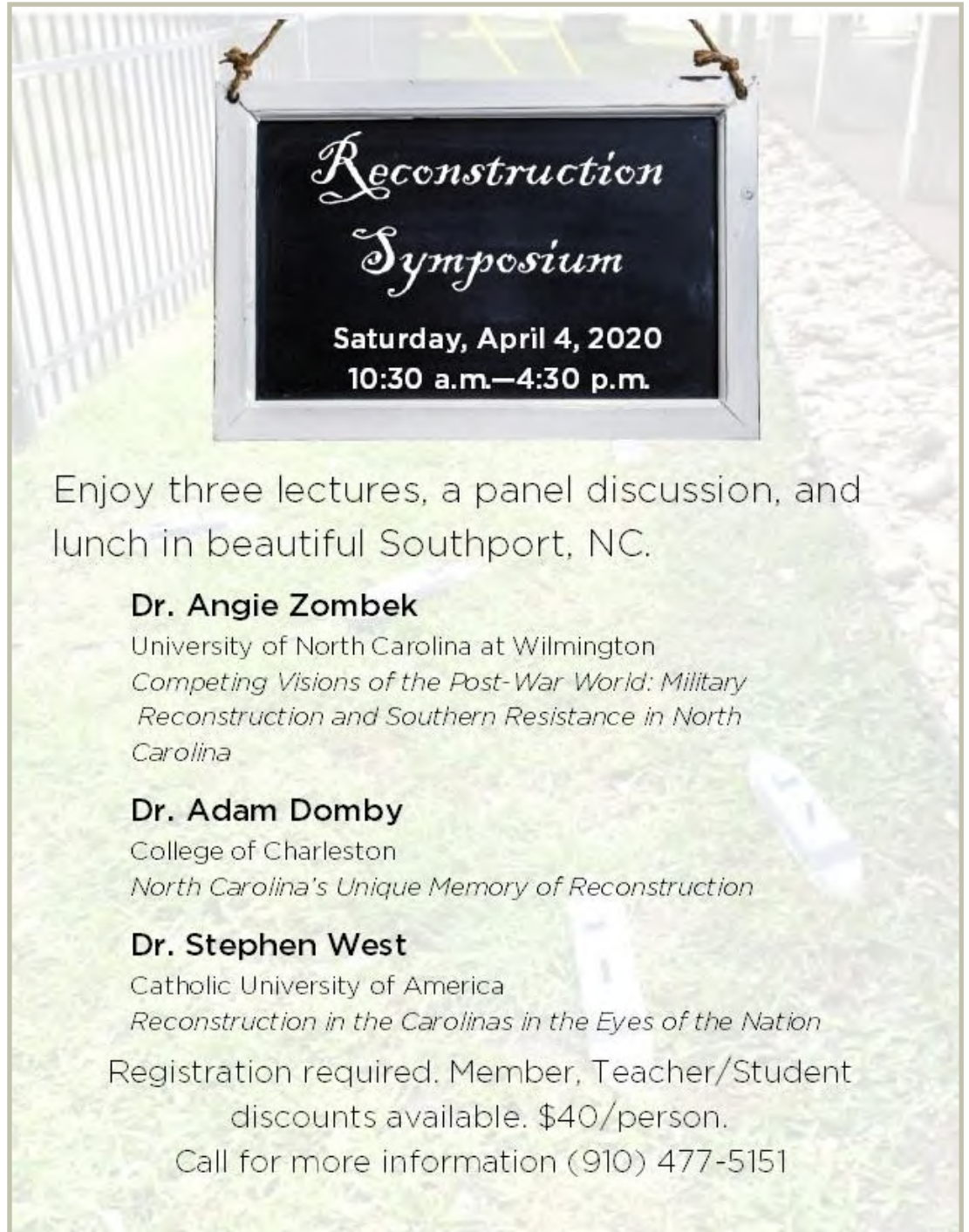
For 2020, we are excited to feature leading Civil War scholars, Harold Holzer, Catherine Clinton, Brian Wills, Jeffrey Wert, Carol Reardon, and Scott Hartwig within our lineup of more than 40 distinguished speakers and tour guides. The conference will feature a wide range of topics, including POW prison 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 Dombey**

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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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](#)

## Steering Committee—Officers

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Vice President: [Greg Willett](#) (910) 777-3935

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Raffle Master: [Ed Gibson](#)

Webmaster: [Richard Buggeln](#)

Refreshments: [John Moore](#)

## CAPE FEAR CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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# THE RUNNER



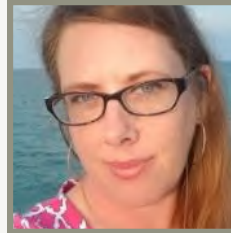
JANUARY 2020



VOLUME 2 ISSUE 1

## *Becky Sawyer: The Letters of Sidney Stockbridge, aboard the USS Pawtuxet, James River, April 1865*

Becky Sawyer, interpreter and collections manger at the Fort Fisher State Historic Site, will speak about a trove of long lost letters written by a mariner aboard a U.S. Navy ship in the last days of the war.



A native of the St. Louis, Missouri, area, Becky earned a Masters degree in public history from UNCW. She is also a highly accomplished reenactor who researches costumes from the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries to enrich the experience of history.

Over the course of the past three years, with the assistance of Rick Morrison, Becky and other staff of the Fort Fisher State Historic Site have been transcribing letters belonging to Sidney Stockbridge who served as a clerk on the *USS Pawtuxet* in the second battle of Fort Fisher in January 1865. These letters are on loan from Joe Stockbridge of Surry, Maine, the great nephew of Sidney Stockbridge.

After the fall of Wilmington on 22 February 1865, the *USS Pawtuxet*, proceeded to Beaufort NC, the Union base for the North Atlantic Blockading Squadron. Once ready for more sea service, the *Pawtuxet*, transferred to the James River Squadron in Virginia.

By March 18, 1865, the James River Squadron comprised at least 42 war ships, including several monitors and other ironclads. With the Union's final push towards destruction of the Army of Northern Virginia, Stockbridge writes about daily life on the James River including seeing the hustle and bustle of City Point, the obscure spot where the Appomattox River joins with the James River about 30 miles below Richmond.

As the headquarters of the combined Union force, City Point was one of the busiest seaports in the world in 1865. Grant had somewhere in the neighborhood of 150,000 well fed and well equipped troops in the vicinity to oppose Lee's rapidly dwindling army of about 55,000 poorly equipped and under nourished soldiers.

The culminating Civil War campaigns in the Eastern Theater are seen as titanic clashes of great armies led by the preeminent generals of the war: Lieutenant General Ulysses S. Grant of the U.S. Army and the Confederate paladin, Lieutenant General Robert E. Lee. Without a doubt, land forces dominated the Overland Campaign, the Siege of Petersburg and the Appomattox Campaign, but maritime forces were crucial to victory.

U.S. Navy dominance of the sea lanes and inland waterways allowed Grant to continually move his forces around the right (eastern) flank of Lee's army.

### NEXT PRESENTATION

- ◆ Thursday, Jan. 9th
- ◆ **Becky Sawyer:** The Letters of Sidney Stockbridge, aboard the USS Pawtuxet
- ◆ 6:30 Social 7:00 Meeting
- ◆ Harbor UMC  
4853 Masonboro Loop  
Wilmington



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

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<i>USS Pawtuxet</i>	3
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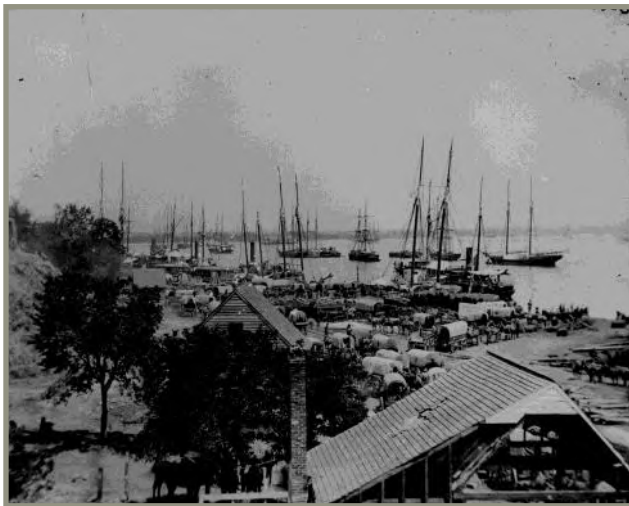
## *Becky Sawyer: The Letters of Sidney Stockbridge, aboard the USS Pawtuxet, James River, April 1865, cont.*



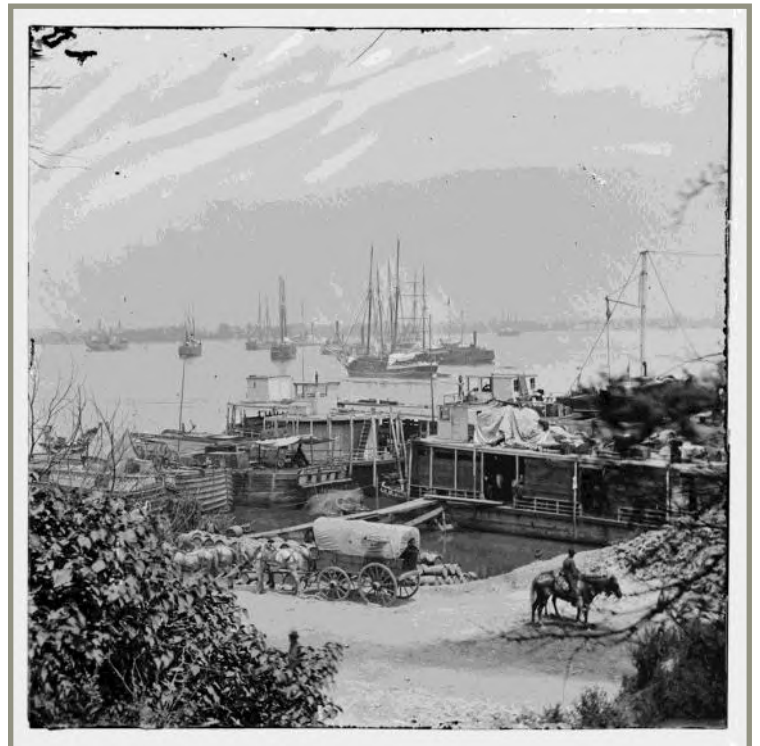
SIDNEY STOCKBRIDGE

Vast quantities of supplies and huge numbers of reinforcements moved safely and reliably aboard ships from both northern ports and southern bases like Beaufort, NC, and Port Royal, SC. Conversely, the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia was totally dependent on land transportation for its supplies and reinforcements and those routes were subject to interdiction and damage.

Once again, Clerk Stockbridge had a front row seat for historic events. He participates in the end of the war in a very personal way. He writes about the fall of Richmond and his friendship with a southern belle, but the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln fills him with dread.



CITY POINT, VIRGINIA



## *Trivia Questions*

1. Trivia question related to the mid-December, 1864, Battle of Nashville: Confederate troops were being force marched north into Tennessee over frozen ground without adequate footwear or food. Rations had dwindled to a few grains of meal or kernels of corn per day.  
Upon reaching the vicinity of Nashville they began to search for food. One Texas soldier related to his family, that "*over in the valley we spotted a tree laden with fruit*" and indeed they had. What was the fruit?
2. Who said "I will be in my coffin before I fight under your command!"

## *The USS Pawtuxet*

USS Pawtuxet, named after a river in Rhode Island was a side wheel steamer launched by the Portsmouth Navy Yard on 19 March 1864. She was delivered to the Navy at New York City on 18 May 1864. She was commissioned on 26 August 1864, with Comdr. J. H. Spotts commanding.

Following commissioning, Pawtuxet was ordered to the Grand Banks to join the quest for the Confederate raider Tallahassee, but before she could get underway Tallahassee had returned safely to Wilmington. Pawtuxet was then ordered south to join the North Atlantic Blockading Squadron. Joining the 3rd Division in October she was ordered to cruise off the Carolina coast, primarily between Capes Lookout and Fear. At the end of December she bombarded the defenses at Wilmington in support of the first assault against Fort Fisher. Returning on 13 January 1865, she again turned her guns on that fort;

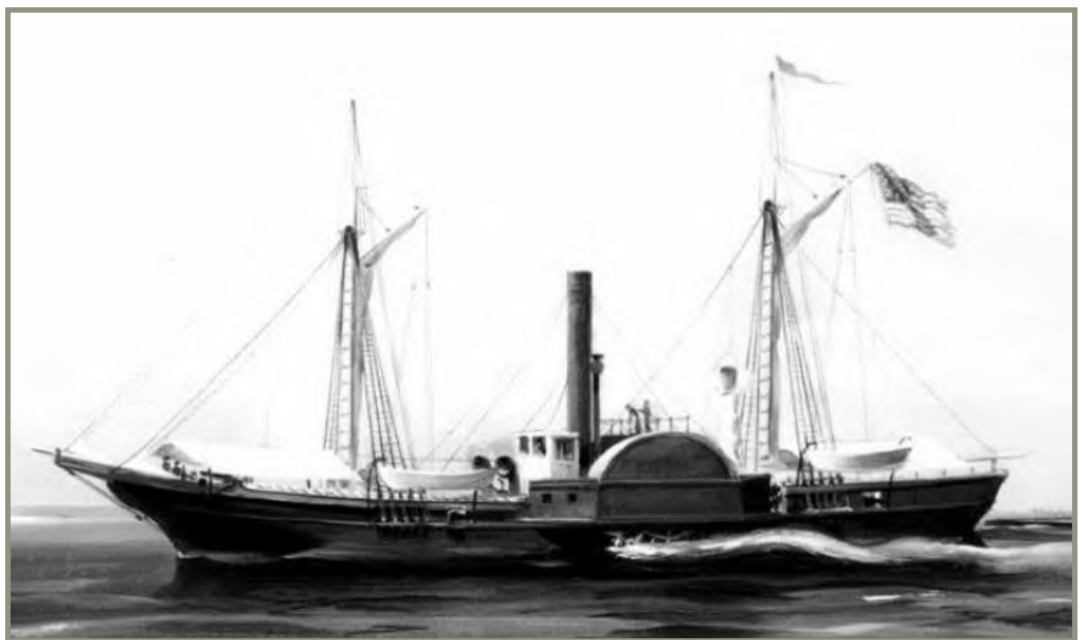
sent men and boats to participate in the successful assault on the 15th; then resumed blockade duties. Shifted to the Virginia coast in April, she was decommissioned at New York on 15 June 1865, and was sold on 15 October 1867.

### General Characteristics

Type:	Paddle steamer
Tonnage:	974 long tons
Length:	205 ft
Beam:	35 ft
Draft:	9 ft 3in
Depth of hold:	11 ft 6in
Speed:	14 knots (16 mph)

### Armament:

- 2 x 100-pounder Parrott rifles
- 4 x 9 in Dahlgren smoothbores
- 2 20-pounder Parrott rifles
- 2 x 24-pounder howitzers



USS PAWTUXET

## Upcoming Events

### January 18-19, 2020 [The 155th Commemoration of the Second Battle of Fort Fisher](#)

This two-day, family-friendly event will commemorate the 155th anniversary of the second battle of Fort Fisher. The program will feature a tactical battle scenario (1 pm Sat and 10 am Sun) with hundreds of reenactors in period uniforms. It will also include living history demonstrations, musket demonstrations, artillery firings, period music, guided tours, and special guest speakers to educate and entertain. While the program is free and open to the public, donations are appreciated.

### January 23, 2020 [Civil War and Reconstruction Quiz Bowl](#)

Kick off the new year with Fayetteville's Museum of the Cape Fear's 19th annual Civil War Quiz Bowl. Contestants test their knowledge of trivia, tactics and history as they are assailed with questions covering all aspects of the War Between the States. The questions will challenge the most avid Civil War buff. Contestants of all ages welcome. Prizes will be awarded for both the adult and student (16 and under) winners. Registration will be accepted until 15 spaces are filled. You can register at the door or call the Museum of the Cape Fear and sign up ahead of time. The Civil War Quiz Bowl is open to the public, with plenty of room for friends, family and spectators. Event starts at 7pm.

### 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. Saturday and Sunday 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.



## New Books

*Such Anxious Hours: Wisconsin Women's Voices from the Civil War* by [Jo Ann Daly Carr](#) *Such Anxious Hours* features letters and diaries of eight Wisconsin women during the Civil War.

*To My Best Girl: Courage, Honor, and Love in the Civil War: The Inspiring Life Stories of Rufus Daves and Mary Gates* by [Steve Magnusen](#) This is the extraordinary true story of a citizen soldier and the girl he loves, as both become embroiled in the cauldron of our nation's Civil War.

## Trivia Answers

1. They had spotted a frost bitten persimmon tree laden with fruit. Texan Milton Cox was to later state "*as I look back over my whole life, never have I tasted any food that would compare to these persimmons*".
2. Nathan Bedford Forrest stated these words to Major General Joseph Wheeler on the night of February 3rd, 1863 during a bout of recrimination in the wake of a failed attack on the Union garrison at Dover, Tennessee.

## 155<sup>th</sup> Anniversary “Last Grand Charge of the Army of Tennessee”

### Bentonville Battlefield Tours

#### Reserve a Date

February 8, February 22, and March 6, 2020

Tours begins at 9:00 a.m..



As part of the 155th Anniversary of the 1865 Carolinas Campaign, Wade Sokolosky, noted author and historian of the campaign, will lead a special tour in commemoration of the historic “Last Grand Charge of the Army of Tennessee” at the Battle of Bentonville.

Come follow in the footsteps of the army as we explore the Bentonville battlefield examining critical aspects of the Army of Tennessee’s role in the battle: its movement to the Carolinas, organization and command, the final charge, and its failure south of the Goldsboro Road. Highlighting the tour is a detailed examination of the wonderfully preserved trenches dug by the army during the battle, parts of which are normally restricted to the public.

Cost is \$15 per person, a portion of which goes directly to Bentonville battlefield preservation. Tour is limited to 25 participants. To maximize time on the battlefield, participants will need to bring their lunch. A cooler will be on hand to keep drinks and food items. Please wear comfortable walking shoes and seasonal wear.

For information on how to reserve your spot contact Wade Sokolosky at (252) 646-5553 or email at [sokolosky1@aol.com](mailto:sokolosky1@aol.com)







## *Member News*

### **CFCWRT Upcoming Events**

February 13th            *Bert Dunkerly*: The Richmond Bread Riots  
March 12th                *Dr. E. V. Smith*: Chickamauga

### **Book Raffle**

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 Members - Welcome!**

Mike and Priscilla O'Brian  
Mary Margaret McEachern and Rob Dillow  
Raymond Rogers.

### **Wreaths Across America**

*Wreaths Across America* placed over 2.2 million wreaths on veterans graves throughout the United States and several overseas (European) locations on Saturday, 14 December, 2019.

As each wreath was placed at the head stone, the name of the fallen was said aloud, thus assuring that the veteran so honored, will not be forgotten.

The 2020 Wreaths Across America Day is Saturday, December 19th.

*Thank you for your participation!*

### **Silent Auction**

The 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.

A great example of the items being offered is a print by Jim Horton, a member of our round table. Jim is an outstanding artist who specializes in historical subjects and exhibits locally often. The item is a limited edition 24" by 10" giclée print of the Gate at Cemetery Hill in Gettysburg signed by the artist.

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.



## Links

### [History of the American Civil War](#)

To present the history of the Civil War accurately and in a compelling way which honors all Americans.

### [Civil War - Richmond](#)

An online research project designed to collect documents, photographs, and maps pertaining to Richmond, Virginia, during the Civil War.

### [Civil War - Brooklyn](#)

This website explores Brooklyn during the Civil War by presenting primary source documents — photographs, letters, newspaper articles, illustrations, and more — that show what life was like during this period.

## Sponsors



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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](#)

## Steering Committee—Officers

President: [Bill Jayne](#) (910) 386-9203  
Vice President: [Greg Willett](#) (910) 777-3935  
Sec/Treas: [Bruce Patterson](#) (910) 794-8905

Membership: [Linda Lashley](#)  
Tours/Trips: [Dale Lear](#)  
Runner Editor: [Sherry Hewitt](#)  
Raffle Master: [Ed Gibson](#)  
Webmaster: [Richard Buggeln](#)  
Refreshments: [John Moore](#)

## CAPE FEAR CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

PO Box 15750

Wilmington, NC 28408

You can find us on the Web! [Cfcwrt.org](#)

Visit us on Facebook: [CFCWRT](#)



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# THE RUNNER



DECEMBER 2019



VOLUME 1 ISSUE 11

*Lori Sanderlin - Finding Post-War Confederate Sailor, Captain H. S. Lebby, Blockade Runner and Privateer*



The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table invites you to a presentation on the mystery of Henry Sterling Lebby, a South Carolinian hailed by no less an authority than James Sprunt as one of those “celebrated men of nerve and experience” who captained blockade runners in the last year of the Civil War.

The ships they captained, like Lebby’s *Little Hattie*, were expressly built to run the increasingly tight Federal blockade. *Little Hattie* was built in Scotland and ran the blockade at least four times, once to Charleston, S.C., and three times at Wilmington. In fact, *Little Hattie* made her last run into Wilmington on December 23, 1864, just ahead of the *USS Louisiana*, the frivolous “powder ship” that was supposed to destroy Ft. Fisher by means of an off-shore explosion. The only effect of the blast was to wake the garrison of the fort in the middle of the night.

Born on James Island, Charleston, S.C., in 1829, Captain Lebby had a “celebrated” career as a Confederate sea captain but ended up at Sailors’ Snug Harbor (SSH) in Staten Island, N.Y., in his last years. The wealthy

*(Continued on page 2)*

*Janet Croon: The War Outside My Window, Diary of LeRoy Wiley Gresham, 1860-1865*

Jan Croon, editor of *The War Outside My Window*, presented a riveting account of the Civil War home front through the eyes of a unique and affecting observer. The book is subtitled “The Civil War Diary of LeRoy Wiley Gresham, 1860-65” and it’s billed as “A remarkable account of the collapse of the Old South and the final years of a privileged, but afflicted life.” It’s all that and much more.

Bruce Patterson, our Round Table’s secretary, treasurer and *éminence grise*, put it well. In an email to Ms. Croon, he wrote: “Meeting LeRoy last evening was an unexpected pleasure. I had expected another Civil War tale, as seen from the window of a Macon homestead. Instead, I was introduced to a young, afflicted, Southern teen-aged boy with gifts far beyond his physical limitations. In short, your presentation and the tale you wove was a testament to youthful ambition, Southern education, perseverance and the Christian faith LeRoy displayed until his passing. Your obvious love of this young man was infectious.”

*(Continued on page 3)*

## NEXT PRESENTATION

- ◆ Thursday, Dec. 12th
- ◆ **Lori Sanderlin - Southport Maritime Museum Manager**
- ◆ 6:30 Social 7:00 Meeting
- ◆ Cape Fear Museum  
814 Market Street  
Williston Auditorium -  
Second Floor



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

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## *Lori Sanderlin - Finding Post-War Confederate Sailor, Captain H. S. Lebby, Blockade Runner and Privateer , cont.*

New York City family of Revolutionary War patriot Captain Robert Richard Randall dedicated the proceeds of the sale of Randall Manor, several acres of land in lower Manhattan, to endow the home for “worn out and decrepit sailors” on Staten Island.

So, how did the celebrated blockade running captain end up in a home for “worn out and decrepit sailors” in New York City? His application for residence at the home described him as a widower and a merchant sailor.

Lori Sanderlin, Manager of the North Carolina Maritime Museum in Southport, will unravel this fascinating mystery for us. Ms. Sanderlin is a native of Wilmington and a graduate of UNCW. She earned a masters in Maritime Studies from State University of New York Maritime College located in Bronx, N.Y. While conducting research from the admissions logs at Sailors’ Snug Harbor, New York, she found the name of Henry Sterling Lebby. Not only was Lebby not just a “merchant sailor,” he was married to Susan Anne Witter, also of James Island, S.C.

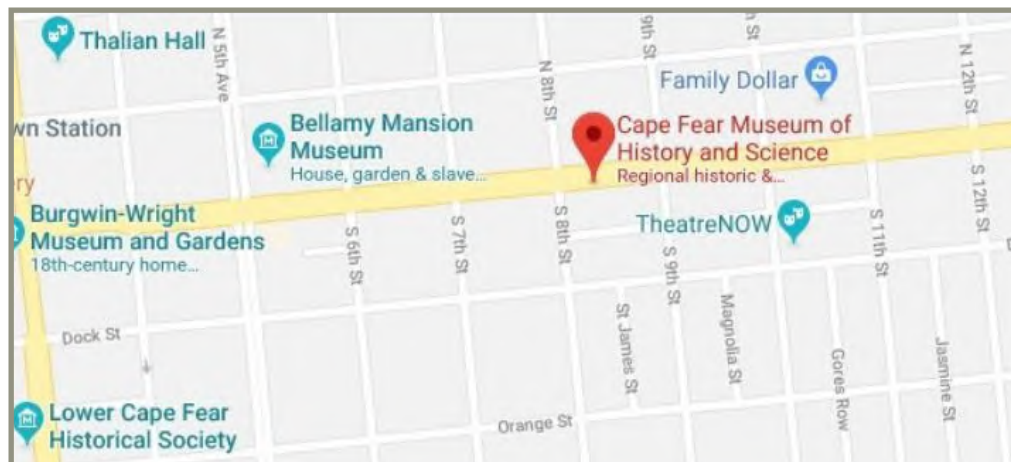
The presentation takes place at the Cape Fear Museum at 814 Market Street on Thursday evening, December 12. We begin at 6:30 p.m. with a chance to mingle and then the meeting starts at 7:00 p.m.



Aged sailors at the Sailors’ Snug Harbor on Staten Island, N.Y., late 1800s. Residents were known as “snugs.”



Aerial rendering of Sailors’ Snug Harbor on Staten Island, NY. The campus is now on the National Register of Historic Places and houses the maritime museum and other cultural venues.

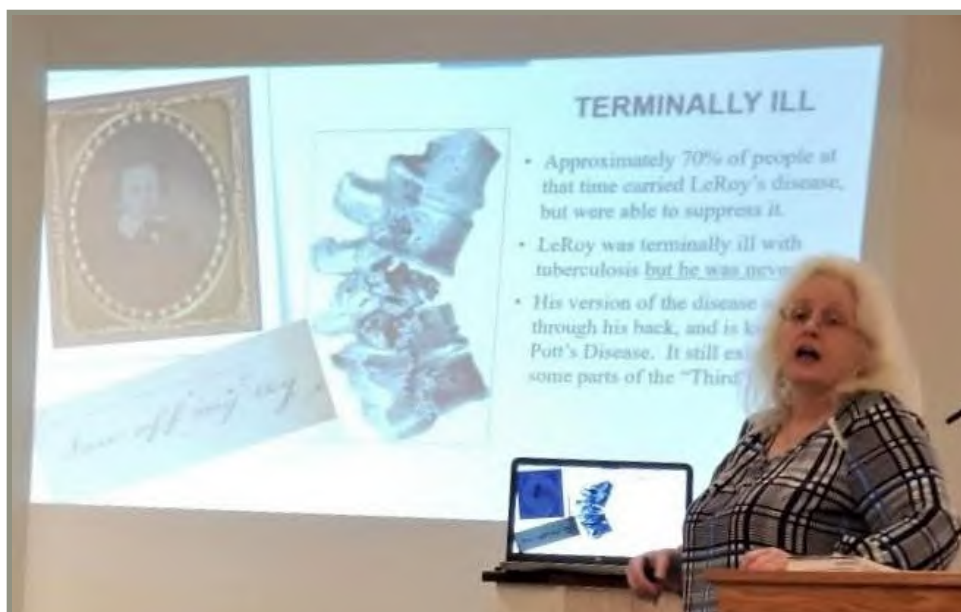
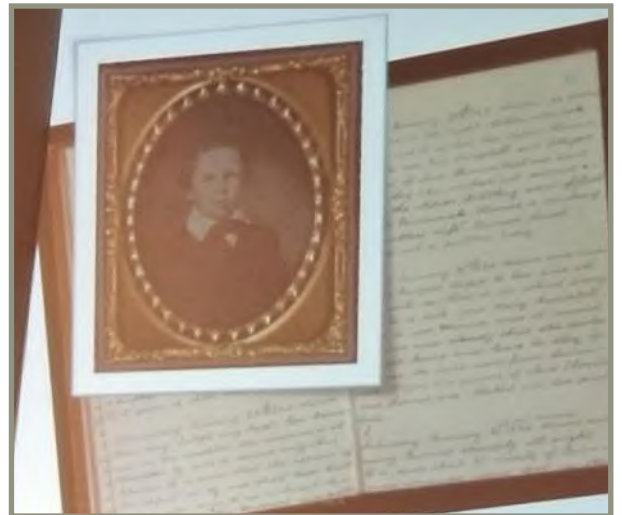


*Janet Croon: The War Outside My Window,  
Diary of LeRoy Wiley Gresham, 1860-1865, cont.*

We heard LeRoy's story of how a teenaged boy afflicted with a harrowing, painful and incurable illness, read and learned everything he could about the war from an imposing mansion in Macon, Georgia, where young Confederate officers, Union prisoners, notable cultural leaders young friends, aged family members and slaves come and go with news and acute observations. By January 1864 LeRoy had become such an astute observer that he noted "I think the Yankees have, in Wilmington, struck the weakest and one of the most important points in the Country and if they are as pertinacious as they were at Charleston, they will take it." The news that the Union was mounting an attack on Wilmington was false, but LeRoy's observations were very accurate.

And we also learned much about how such a book is made. LeRoy's seven diaries had been safely, but obscurely, stored at the Library of Congress (LOC). A show at the Library featured the diaries and a *Washington Post* story about the show lit the fuse of Jan Croon's interest.

A gifted investigator and genealogical authority, Ms. Croon convinced Civil War publisher Ted Savas that there was a great story in young LeRoy's diaries. She went to work and not only prepared the diaries for publication but filled in the gaps, made the connections, clarified the many references to family members and generally made the book a fascinating wartime artifact but also a three-dimensional portrait of a remarkable person.



*Running the Blockade - Little Hattie's Last Trip to Charleston*

Running the blockade. [from the Richmond times Feb. 21, 1897.] Daring Exploits at Charleston in war times. Some lucky vessels that made their way through the Federal Fleets repeatedly without Detection.

The steamer *Little Hattie*, Captain H. S. Leppy, was the last runner in or out of Charleston. She was a small vessel, Clyde built, furnished with powerful engines, and she made more trips than any other vessel engaged in the business.

On several occasions she brought such munitions of war which the Confederacy was in pressing need of, and at least three battles were fought with munitions for which the Confederates had waited, and which she landed safely in their hands.

Plot after plot was formed at Nassau to get hold of the *Hattie*, but none of them were successful. She slipped in and out like a phantom, taking the most desperate risks, and being attended by quite extraordinary good luck.

The last entrance of the *Hattie* into Charleston occurred one night in February, 1865. The Confederacy was then in extremis, and the Federal fleet off Charleston, numbered eighteen or twenty sail.

It was a starlight night, and at an early hour, the *Hattie* crept forward among the fleet. She had been freshly painted a blue-white, her fire made no smoke, and not a light was permitted to shine on board. With her engines moving slowly, she let the wind drive her forward. There were eight or ten vessels outside the bar, and as many within. Those outside were successfully passed without an alarm being raised. The *Hattie* ran within 300 feet of two different blockaders without her presence being detected. To the naked eye of the lookouts she must have seemed a hazy mist moving slowly along.

The little steamer was quietly approaching the inner line of blockaders, when a sudden fire was opened on her from a gunboat not 200 feet distant, and the air at the same time was filled with rockets to announce the runner's presence.

At that time the Federals had the whole of Morris Island, and Fort Sumter had been so battered to pieces that monitors took up their stations almost in pistol shot of it.

As soon as the *Hattie* was discovered, all steam was put on and she was headed straight for the channel. She ran a terrible gauntlet of shot and shell for ten minutes, but escaped untouched.

Then came the real peril. Just below Sumter, in the narrowest part of the channel, the *Hattie* encountered two barge-loads of men stationed there on picket.

Her extraordinary speed saved her from being boarded, but the volleys fired after her wounded two or three men and cut three fingers off the hand of the pilot holding the spokes of the wheel.

Two hundred yards ahead lay a monitor, and she at once opened fire and kept her guns going as long as the *Hattie* could be seen, but not a missile struck, and she arrived safely at her wharf.

This was marvelous, considering that the steamer ran so close that she could hear the orders given on the monitor.

Charleston was being bombarded, many of the business houses closed, and all could see that the end was drawing near. The *Hattie* was in as much danger lying at the wharf, as she would

(Continued on page 5)



### *Running the Blockade - Little Hattie's Last Trip to Charleston, cont.*

be outside, and a cargo was made up for her as quickly as possible, and she was made ready for her last trip.

Just before dark the sentinels on Fort Sumter counted twenty-six Federal blockaders off Charleston harbor, and yet the *Hattie* coolly made her preparations to run out. Just before midnight, with a starlight night and smooth sea, the lucky little craft picked her way through all that fleet without being hailed or a gun fired, and she was lying at Nassau when the news of Lee's surrender was received.

Excerpts from [\*Southern Historical Society Papers, Volume 24\*](#)  
By Reverend J. William Jones, Ed.

### *Running the Blockade - One of the Last Trips to Wilmington*

“*Little Hattie* was built by James and George Thomson on the Clyde, she was a schooner-rigged iron paddle steamer. She was launched in March 1864, and purchased by the Importing & Exporting Company of Georgia. *Little Hattie* sailed under three masters, Capt. Jessé De Horsey, Capt. Collier, and Capt. H. S. Leiby, CSN. In all she ran the blockade some ten times, into Wilmington and Charleston. Consul Allen at Bermuda refers to her as being chased on one occasion. She was in Bermuda on 19th July 1864, when Consul Allen believed that she was involved in some scheme to release Confederate prisoners from captivity. This plan did not come to fruition. She was once more at Bermuda in late October, but left for Wilmington on the 25th. Mary F. Sanders, in a talk to the Ladies Memorial Association of Wilmington, spoke of watching her arrival:

*I sprang to my feet, caught up the powerful field glasses...stepped out on the roof of the porch facing the ocean and looked. Sure enough it was the Little Hattie, and to my horror, I saw a figure on the paddle-box, whom I knew to be Dan [Daniel Stevenson, the signal officer] with flag in hand signaling to the Fort....Onward dashed the frail little craft with eight United States steamers following close in her wake, pouring a relentless iron hail after her. When she came near the Fort, the thirteen ships stationed off the mouth of Cape Fear joined in the fray, but He who marks the sparrow's fall, covered her with His hand, and not one of the death-bearing messengers touched the little boat.....For nearly an hour I stood on the roof watching the exciting race, and when the Little Hattie came near enough to discern features, I recognized Captain Leiby with his trumpet, Lt. Clancey with his spyglass, and Dan, still standing on the paddle box with his flag, having served its purpose, resting idly in his hand; and thus, at 10 o'clock that cloudless October morning was accomplished one of the only two successful trips of a blockade-runner made by daylight.*

By early 1865, now very well known to the federal authorities, the *Hattie* transferred her base to Havana, where she saw out the war.”

Excerpt from [\*British Blockade Runners in the American Civil War\*](#)  
By Joseph McKenna



## *Member News*

### **CFCWRT Upcoming Events**

- January 9, 2020      *Beckey Sawyer*: The Letters of Sidney Stockbridge, aboard the USS Pawtuxet, James River, April 1865
- February 13th      *Bert Dunkerly*: The Richmond Bread Riots

### **November Raffle Winners**



- A Shower of Stars - Harry Clements  
Gettysburg - Gail Clements (holding one of John Bolger's books)  
The Civil War Papers of George B. McClellan - John Bolger  
Battle of Bull Run - John Bolger  
Blue & Gray - Bill Jayne  
Mathew Brady's Illustrated History of the Civil War - Bob Cooke  
American Battlefield Trust 2020 Calendar - Joe George  
Before Antietam - 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.

### **Wreaths Across America**

**December 14** - Wreaths Across America, Wilmington National Cemetery, Ceremony and Wreath laying will be held, at the Cemetery (2500 block, Market Street) at noon.

We, the CFCWRT, played a significant role in raising funds to cover the graves in our National Cemetery (with some extras donated to Oakdale). The ceremony and wreath laying is impressive. Attend if able and your schedule permits.

*(continued on page 7)*





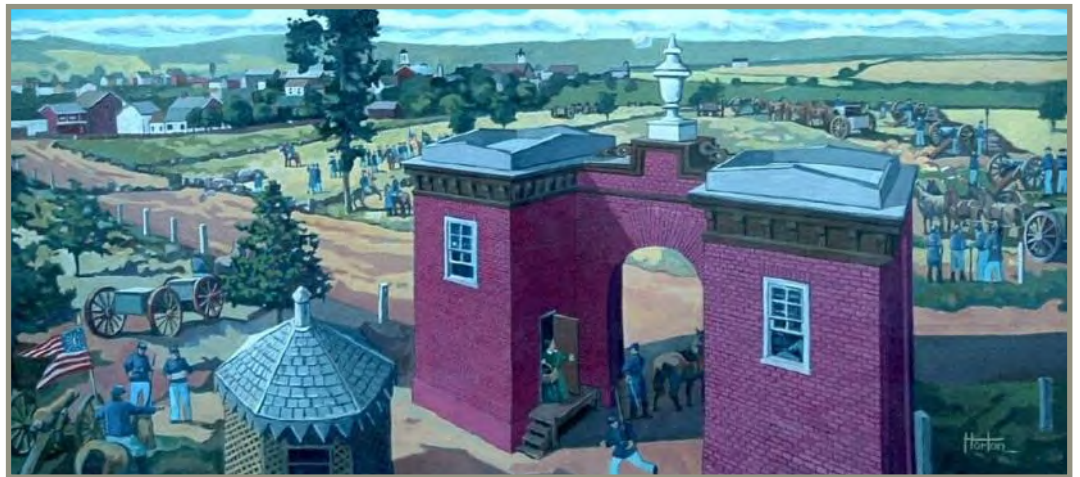
## Member News, cont.

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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.



Gate at Cemetery Hill in Gettysburg

By Jim Horton

### Civil War Ironclads

Ironclads, or wooden warships protected from gunfire, were nontraditional, in that they incorporated technical advances that were not wholly acceptable to traditional naval architects, particularly when they did not accept traditional hull design and armament. Both the French and English Navy utilized an ironclad design as early as the mid-1850's but the concept was not acceptable on these shores until the Civil War.

Interestingly enough, the first Ironclads used in the Civil War were not US Naval vessels, but rather were US Army Ironclads for use in the western river campaigns. It was Army Quartermaster General Montgomery Meigs, who on 2 July 1861, first authorized their purchase while the Navy did not deploy an ironclad until March, 1862, when the first Monitor (a Swedish design concept, built in New York) engaged the CSS Virginia at Hampton Roads, VA.

Needless to say, the Ironclads quickly became acceptable, but that is another story.

USS Mound City



Photo # NH 72806 USS Mound City on the Western Rivers during the Civil War

*Sugar Loaf Line Historical Park*

Our past president Chris Fonvielle has been leading the charge for the establishment of the J. Ryder Lewis Civil War Park in Carolina Beach. The site is about 3.5 acres on the east side of Route 421, Lake Park Blvd., between the highway and the harbor area, near the Publix market. The site preserves Civil War earthworks that were part of the Sugar Loaf line established around the fall of Ft. Fisher.

There was fighting along the line manned by Hoke’s Confederates and the Union decided to outflank the position by advancing on the other side of the river. We have been contacted by a group called the Sugar Loaf Earthworks Preservation Group—closely allied with the Federal Point Historic Preservation Society—and asked to fund one of the interpretative panels that will be installed in the new park. We have agreed to do that.

**Prof. Chris Fonvielle explains the background of the “Sugar Loaf Line”:** *As Union forces prepared to attack Wilmington by way of Fort Fisher in the autumn of 1864, Major General W.H.C. Whiting, commander of the District of the Cape Fear, expanded existing defenses to meet the threat. He selected in part a “strong position” stretching from the sound (modern Carolina Beach canal) to Sugar Loaf hill on the Cape Fear River, for an extensive line of earthworks. Sugar Loaf itself was a natural sand dune that stood 50 feet in height on the riverbank. Whiting planned to place a battery of artillery on the summit of the hill.*

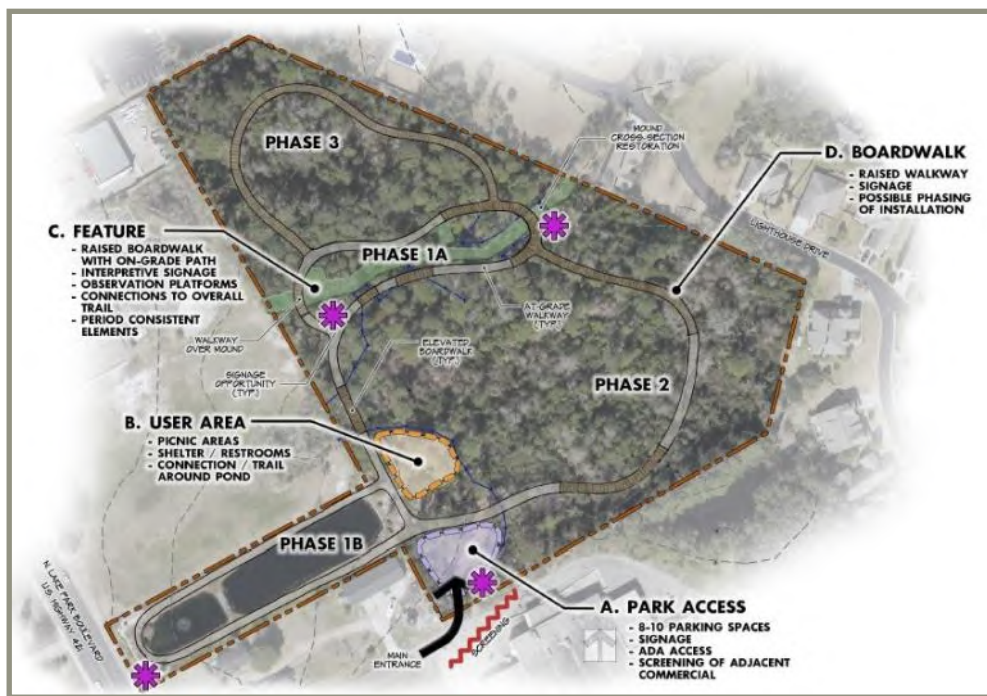
*Acting on General Whiting's orders, Colonel William Lamb, commandant at Fort Fisher, began constructing an “entrenched camp” at Sugar Loaf “so as to keep up communication after the arrival of the enemy, between the fort” and Sugar Loaf. The work probably commenced in early October 1864. On October 28, 1864, Whiting turned over the project to Captain Francis T. Hawks of Company A, 2nd Confederate States Engineers.*

*By December 1864, the earthen fieldworks of the Sugar Loaf lines ran for more than one mile from the sound to the river. Confederate forces continually strengthened them in the winter of 1864-1865.*

\*\*\*\*\*

*Much of the earthworks that comprised the Sugar Loaf defenses are in a remarkable state of preservation, despite the fact that they were made almost entirely of sand. However, they are also difficult to access because of their remote location inside Carolina Beach State Park or because they are on private property. The Joseph Ryder Lewis Jr. Civil War Park will both remedy public inaccessibility to a section of the Sugar Loaf defenses and promote heritage tourism on Pleasure Island.*

The interpretative panel we are funding will include our logo and give due credit to the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table. These panels are to be much like those at Ft. Fisher. Please consider making a donation to the round table to help offset the cost of this project. Thanks.



## Trivia Questions

1. Who was the only man who fought for the confederacy, was captured and released to join the union army, and then transferred to serve as a sailor on the USS Minnesota?
2. I was born on April 14, 1822, in Guyandotte, Virginia (now West Virginia). I graduated from the United States Military Academy in 1842. I accepted a commission as an ordnance officer. I fought in the Mexican war supporting Scott's siege train and fought with distinction in the Battle of Cerro Gordo and the siege of Puebla, Mexico. After the war, I worked at numerous sites as an ordnance officer. I was commissioned to write a new ordnance manual. It was 600 pages and it was the essential guide to ordnance officers in the Civil War. I hold eight patents including one for a rifle with an innovative rolling breech-block. I was voted into the ordnance hall of fame in 2008.

One of my more obscure accomplishments can be found today just off modern day Route 30 just west of Gettysburg. While I don't believe in lucky numbers, number 233 brought me ordnance fame at Gettysburg.

Who am I and what is my tie to an alleged Battle of Gettysburg fact?

3. The three Confederate Navy vessels Charleston, Fredericksburg and Georgia were purchased with funds raised by which organization and by what nickname were these ships often referred to?

Answers on Page 9

## Books

### *Civil War Library Liquidation Sale - Central New Jersey CWRT*

Regrettably it has become necessary to close our Civil War Library & Research Center, located at 94 Green Street, Woodbridge, New Jersey. For over 20 years it has served the Civil War community and the members of our Civil War Round Table as a wonderful source of research and reading. Unfortunately the cost of maintaining it, along with a drop in use by the membership and public, has led to the decision to close it. All of the 2000+ books in the collection are available for purchase. Hardcover books can be purchased at \$3 per book, or 4 hardcover books for \$10. Paperback books can be purchased for \$1 per book. There is no limit to the amount of books a person can purchase.



The Library will be open on Saturdays, beginning November 9, 2019, from 10am-2pm for people to stop by and make your purchases. If Saturday does not work, arrangements can be made for the Library to be opened at a more convenient time by calling any of the following to set up a time:

Mike (732) 738-8411  
Tom (908) 486-2554  
Jay (732) 396-4320

**NOTE:** This information is being shared as a courtesy. It is unknown if they are willing to ship books. Please call any of the numbers above for further information if you are interested in purchasing.

### Trivia Answers

1. Henry Morton Stanley emigrated to the United States in 1859 at age 18. Stanley reluctantly joined in the American Civil War, first enrolling in the Confederate States Army's 6th Arkansas Infantry Regiment and fighting in the Battle of Shiloh in 1862. After being taken prisoner at Shiloh, he was recruited at Camp Douglas, Illinois, by its commander Colonel James A. Mulligan as a "Galvanized Yankee." He joined the Union Army on 4 June 1862 but was discharged 18 days later because of severe illness. After recovering, he served on several merchant ships before joining the US Navy in July 1864. He became a record keeper on board the USS Minnesota, which led him into freelance journalism. Stanley and a junior colleague jumped ship on 10 February 1865 in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, in search of greater adventures. Stanley was possibly the only man to serve in the Confederate Army, the Union Army, and the Union Navy. (This is the same Henry Morton Stanley of "Dr. Livingston, I presume" fame!)



Henry Morton Stanley

2. Theodore Thadeaus Sobibski Laidley  
3-inch Ordnance Rifle, Model of 1861, No. 233, one of four 3-inch ordnance guns displayed at the four corners of the pedestal of the Buford statue along Route 30. Laidley's initials are on the gun as Army Inspector

3. Ladies Gunboat Association and Ladies Gunboats (aka Petticoat Gunboats).  
While the Confederacy was at a distinct disadvantage when it came to producing all things military, one thing it had in abundance was enthusiasm for the new ironclad ships. Among the most zealous disciples of this mania for ironclads were the women. All across the Confederacy patriotic ladies formed associations with names like Ladies Gunboat Funds, Ladies Gunboat Associations, and Ladies Defense Associations.



Theodore T.S. Laidley

The first of these appeared in New Orleans in late 1861, then spread to Mobile, Charleston, and elsewhere. By the summer of 1862, they were scattered all across the south. On March 1, 1862, the Charleston Daily Courier printed a letter from a woman in Summerville, SC, suggesting that the paper open a list of contributions and enclosed a dollar. The paper endorsed the proposal and within a week more than a \$1,000 was donated. On March 14th, the Columbus Enquirer reported, we see in the Charleston papers a young lady has started a subscription to build a gunboat at Charleston. We propose that her example should be followed in Georgia. On March 17th, the Richmond Dispatch appealed for funds to build a gunboat in Virginia and mentioned the ladies in South Carolina and Georgia who were already raising funds. Newspapers throughout the south began printing lists of contributors and the amounts various organizations had collected. Soon rivalries developed among the communities. The Sandersville Central Georgian declared in an article, "The ladies of Savannah have collected \$3,600.00, what will the ladies of Washington County do?"

The ladies engaged in a variety of activities to raise money. They would solicit jewelry, chi-

(Continued on page 11)

## *Trivia Answers, cont.*



CSS Charleston



CSS Fredericksburg



CSS Georgia

na sets, silverware, watches, vases, musical boxes, and books to be raffled off. They had Gunboat Fairs to raise funds. Mrs. Mary Chestnut of Charleston wrote in her famous diary that she gave the girls a string of pearls to be raffled off at the Gunboat Fair. On April 14, 1862, she wrote, Our Fair is in full blast. We keep a restaurant. On the 15th she wrote \$2,000 was made at the Fair.

The total amount raised may never be known but it had to be a considerable sum. The Charleston gunboat fund raised \$30,000. The Ladies Defense Association in Richmond raised nearly that amount. Three ironclads, the Charleston, the Fredericksburg, and Georgia were called Ladies Gunboats or as one critic derisively called them “petticoat gunboats”.

## *Upcoming Events*

### **January 18-19, 2020**     [The 155th Commemoration of the Second Battle of Fort Fisher](#)

This two-day, family-friendly event will commemorate the 155th anniversary of the second battle of Fort Fisher. The program will feature a tactical battle scenario (1 pm Sat and 10 am Sun) with hundreds of reenactors in period uniforms. It will also include living history demonstrations, musket demonstrations, artillery firings, period music, guided tours, and special guest speakers to educate and entertain. While the program is free and open to the public, donations are appreciated.

### **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. Saturday and Sunday 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.



### **Excerpt from Lee by Clifford Downey**

“He reverted to his simple jokes in camp and to his familiar turn of humor when he revealed to Senator Hill that he was not insensitive to the newspaper criticism.

“We made a great mistake in the beginning of our struggle,” Lee said in apparent seriousness to Hill, “and I fear, in spite of all we can do, it will prove to be a fatal mistake. We appointed all our worst generals to command our armies and all our best generals to edit newspapers.” Then he explained that he made campaign plans that seemed perfect, but the actual battles developed defects, and , he said “I occasionally wondered why I did not see some of the defects in advance. When it was all over I found by reading a newspaper that these best editor-generals saw all the defects plainly from the start. Unfortunately, they did not communicate their knowledge to me until it was too late.”

## Links

### [Gettysburg Address](#)

It's been 156 years since President Lincoln delivered one of the most famous speeches in history. In case you haven't already taken a moment to remember this speech, here is a recorded version.

### [Glossary of Civil War Terms](#)

Improve your Civil War vocabulary with our collection of relevant words & definitions.

### [Civil War Battle Maps](#)

View the principal battles and their location on the map. Clicking on a battle in the map or the list provides more detail on the battles that occurred in that State or Territory.

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## CAPE FEAR CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

PO Box 15750

Wilmington, NC 28408

You can find us on the Web! [Cfcwrt.org](http://Cfcwrt.org)

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



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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](#)



# THE RUNNER



NOVEMBER 2019

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 10



## *Janet Croon: The War Outside My Window, Diary of LeRoy Wiley Gresham, 1860-1865*

Your Cape Fear Civil War Round Table has scheduled an outstanding program for Thursday, November 14. Curt Schluep, Amazon's book review editor, has named *The War Outside My Window* one of the three best books of 2018.

Janet Croon, Editor, brings to life the spirit and character of a young, privileged, white teenager as he is witnessing the demise of his world even as his body slowly fails him. *The War Outside My Window* gives readers a very detailed look at how the war impacted daily life in Macon. LeRoy Wiley Gresham was born in 1847 to an affluent family in Macon, Georgia. After a horrific leg injury left him an invalid, the educated, inquisitive, perceptive, and exceptionally witty 12-year-old began keeping a diary in 1860 – just as secession and the Civil War began to tear the country apart. He tells us how people got war news and how they made sense of it all, be it from newspapers, telegraph, official reports, letters from soldiers in the fighting, or rumor; he soon learns to be skeptical. LeRoy talks about the hardships that his wealthy family is facing, with the full realization that there are others who are not as fortunate. He worries about their welfare as well, especially when horses and crops are requisitioned. He tells us what happened during Sherman's advance, when Macon was suddenly not as safe as it once was. She annotates his biographical outline with helpful footnotes and brings his story to life.

## *Living History - Civil War Reenacting*

These reenactors did a thought-provoking and informative presentation for our members.

<u>John Winecoff</u>	Officers
<u>Will Murray</u>	Regular Troops
<u>David Jordan</u>	Drummer Boy

John Winecoff, a member of the Round Table's steering committee, and a longtime member of the Cape Fear Living History Society, shared some of his 30+ years of experience reenacting with the audience. He advised anyone interested in starting reenacting should plan to do so slowly because of the high cost of uniforms, weapons, and accouterments. It takes study and dedication, too. When a reenactor talks about a fellow reenactor "going modern," it indicates that someone has broken character since good reenactors hew as closely as they can to period dress, mannerisms, language, and action. They are an extremely dedicated group of individuals. In the movie Gettysburg, producers heavily depended on reenactors to teach what day to day life in the war was really like. John also mentioned that there are numerous reenactors that produce various period items for use by other reenactors. This includes products from period foods (including actual Hardtack) to actually hand sewing histori-

(Continued on page 2)

## NEXT PRESENTATION

- ◆ Thursday, Nov. 14th
- ◆ **Janet Croon: The War from my Window**
- ◆ 6:30 Social 7:00 Meeting
- ◆ Harbor UMC  
4853 Masonboro Loop  
Wilmington



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

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## *Living History - Civil War Reenacting, cont.*



Will Murray, David Jordan,  
and John Winecoff  
Civil War Reenactors

cally accurate uniforms. When you consider that thousands participate in these endeavors, the dedication to their “hobby” is awe inspiring.

### Facts:

The 26<sup>th</sup> NC infantry regiment suffered approximately 588 casualties out of 820 men engaged at Gettysburg, a casualty rate that’s often cited as the highest regimental rate suffered by a Confederate regiment in the entire war.

Rank insignia for each army was different. In the Union army, two or more stars indicated a general officer, while all Confederate generals wore an insignia of three stars enclosed within a wreath.

Groups: Artillery, Cavalry, and Infantry

Numbering of NC infantry regiments: There were both state-organized regiments and volunteer regiments numbered 1st through 10th early in the war. The 1st through the 10th volunteers were later renumbered. For example, the 8th NC Volunteers from New Hanover County were re-designated the 18th NC and served in the NC brigade commanded by Col. Branch and then Col. Lane. The “NC State Troops” were organized by the state government and recruits came from throughout the state.

Uniform Identification Bars/Stripes

State sponsored – 2 bars/stripes

Volunteers – 1 bar/stripe

Cavalry: North – mounts were provided

South – provided their own mounts

Sharps Carbines were popular with cavalry troops on both sides. The Sharps company was headquartered in Hartford, Connecticut, and their weapons were used by many Union cavalry regiments. In many cases, the weapons were bought privately and issued to volunteer regiments. A factory in Richmond, Virginia, manufactured a “knock-off” Sharps Carbine for southern cavalymen.



David Jordan explaining  
the Drummer uniform

**David Jordan** presented in uniform and gave us an exemplary session on Drummer Boys. Drummer Boys were the radio of the Army. Boys were enlisted at 8 to 12 years old. When they reached 16, they were enlisted in the infantry. There were 3 ranks in the Drum Corps: Drummer, Sergeant, and Major. The Drum Corps consisted of 12 drummers and 18 fifes. Towards the end of the war, for the Confederacy, it was more likely to be 5 drummers and 2 fifes. David played several tattoos for the presentation. Their uniform consisted of:

Jefferson Boots

Jacket, these got lighter due to weather

Haversack, for personal belongings

Wooden canteen

Drum, made of wood (any but Maple which destroyed the drum head)

Drum Sash

Hat

*(Continued on page 3)*



## *Living History - Civil War Reenacting, cont.*



Will Murray demonstrating how the blanket roll was worn so it did not impede the soldiers ability to access his powder or cartridges, or fire his weapon.

Musicians Swords, these generally were only carried by Federal musicians

They played reveille, breakfast call, morning colors, end of the day retreat, etc. When time to travel they played a “packing song”. Cavalry also had fifes and buglers. Each Company had a drummer and a fife. During battle drummers were at the rear and served as stretcher bearers. There are 3 books of drumming music, which is written upside down compared to today’s music. During battles they played Forward March, About Face, etc. Tunes played by Northern drummers tended to be more complicated since they had better equipment.

On the march musicians were at the head of the columns. They averaged one death per battle and, sadly, were often targeted. Fifers were generally older and their tunes more complicated.

**Will Murray** gave us the nitty gritty on the regular army troops. He appeared wearing a North Carolina troop uniform. NC totally outfitted its troops by order of Governor Vance. NC Shell Jackets came at the end of the war.

Clothing was made of “Slave” cloth. It was a combination of wool and denim, durable and inexpensive. It was called Slave cloth because it was generally worn by slaves. It was cotton lined, had state seal buttons, “mule ear” pockets and a button fly. Button holes in those days were handsewn as there were no machines that did button holes then. Shirts were made of pillow ticking. Soldiers also wore cotton long underwear tied at the waist and ankles. (Northern uniforms were made of wool.)

Jefferson boots (brogans had no left or right – they conformed to whichever foot you wore them on) were laced up.

Hats – Slouch hats were worn since they kept the rain and sun off the soldiers. Kepi hats did neither and were traded out early by troops.

Belts were used to carry a cap box, bayonet socket, and cartridge box which held 40 rounds)

Bayonets - were used for cooking, as a hook for dragging bodies off the battleground, candle holders, etc. [Less than 1% of the battlefield deaths were due to bayonets.]

Haversack to carry personal items such as plate, cup, papers, etc.

Wooden canteens

Blanket Roll that included a half tent (also used as a poncho), ground cloth, and a blanket with personal items tucked in it.

1853 Enfield (English made rifle)

Troops were trained to load and drilled repetitively. They were taught 9 points to load. A good shooter could load and fire 3 rounds a minute!



John Winecuff in Federal Uniform briefing the citizenry of Wilmington

Next was a period briefing of Wilmington citizens by a Confederate Officer (John Winecuff) accompanied by a Confederate Soldier (Will Murray). This was a step back in time for a glimpse of life during the Civil War. This was followed by a briefing from a Union Officer and Soldier.

A variety of uniforms, weapons, and accoutrements were available for close up inspection. Overall it was an excellent presentation!

## *Veterans Day*

### **Civil War Veterans**

For 90 years after the last shot of the American Civil War was fired, the men who had fought for the Union and the Confederacy, respectively, continued to meet.

For the North, the **Grand Army of the Republic** (GAR) brought together Union soldiers, referred to as "veterans of the late unpleasantness." Starting in 1866, only one year after the war's close, and ending with the death of 109-year-old Albert Woolson in 1956, the GAR boasted 490,000 members at its peak in 1890. With one single exception, the GAR was a male body. That exception was Sarah Emma Edmonds, who was admitted to the GAR in 1897. Sarah had fought in the 2nd Michigan Infantry disguised as a man named "Franklin Thompson," from 1861 to 1863. She died in 1898.

For the South, the **United Confederate Veterans** (UCV) was inaugurated in 1889. Local Confederate veteran associations proliferated after the war. At the movement's peak, more than 1,500 such groups were listed in the UCV. The UCV's stated purpose was to promote "social, literary, historical and benevolent" aims. During the 1890s, around 30,000 veterans and 50,000 further guests were present at the annual UCV reunion. But in 1950, at the final reunion, a lone UCV member was present: 98-year-old James Moore of Alabama.

Estimates range up to 700,000 deaths in the Civil War including those who died in battle, deaths due to sickness and disease and civilian losses. The number is approximately two percent of the total US population at the time. If two percent of the current US population were to die in a war, the number would be 6.5 million. (Civil War deaths far, far exceeded all the deaths in previous wars. The number of deaths from the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, early Indian wars, and the Mexican War was less than 10,000.)

### **Modern Day Veterans**

As of 2017 there were 18.2 million veterans.

#### **World War II - 497,777**

(16 million served)

#### **Korean War - 2.25 million**

(5.7 million served)

#### **Vietnam War - 774,000**

(2.5 million served)

#### **Global War against Terrorism**

5.5 million have served or are serving

#### **To all our veterans:**

With gratitude for your service to America on Veterans Day and always. Thinking of you on Veterans Day, and thanking you for all you did for our country. Veterans Day is a good time to remember that our freedom isn't guaranteed. Those who live in freedom will always be grateful to those who helped preserve it. To those who secure our way of life... **thank you!**

## *CFCWRT Upcoming events*

**December 12th**      *Lori Sandlin*, Mgr. Southport Maritime Museum - Finding Post-War Confederate Sailor, Captain H. S. Leppy, Blockade Runner and Privateer

**NOTE:** *Our December meeting will be at the Cape Fear Museum.*

**January 9, 2020**      *Beckey Sawyer*: The Letters of Sidney Stockbridge, aboard the USS Pawtuxet, James River, April 1865

**February 13th**      *Bert Dunkerly*: The Richmond Bread Riots

## *Raffle Winners*

### October Raffle Winners



**Last Full Measure - Joe George**

**Smoke at Dawn - John Monroe**

**A Shower of Stars - Ed Gibson**

**Black Soldiers - John Bolger**

**The Civil War - Bill Jayne**

**Battle of Crater - Sherry Hewitt**

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.

**Reminder:** Annual dues for your Cape Fear CWRT membership were due the first of September. If you **have not** already renewed your annual membership, please do so by mailing your \$30 check to: CFCWRT, PO Box 15750, Wilmington, NC 29408. To the 52 of you who have already paid, we thank you. We promise another great year of Civil War dialog with like-minded friends.

## Member News

Cape Fear CWRT friend and guest speaker, Andrew Dupstadt, writes in the Fall, 2019 (Vol 7, No. 2) issue of **Civil War Navy**, about the officers who took part in successful Confederate action against the USS Underwriter (early 1864, before New Bern on the lower Neuse River) becoming the nucleus of the crew of the ill fated CSS Neuse. Specifically, Dupstadt writes of the heroic Lieutenant Francis Lyell Hoge in an article derived in a large part from the papers and memorabilia of Hoge, who had previously served, with distinction, aboard the CSS Patrick Henry.



CSS PATRICK HENRY

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Be sure to extend a warm welcome to our new members when you see them!

**Christine Grazer**

**Ralph Gevinson**

**Calvin McGowan**

**Katherine Schultz**

**John Weiss**

*Do you have a favorite Civil War regiment, regimental flag? Which one and Why? Just let The Runner Editor know and we will profile it in a future issue.*

## Upcoming Events

**December 7, 2019**      [A Civil War Christmas At Bentonville Battlefield](#)

Celebrate a Civil War Christmas during this Holiday open house event. Visitors can enjoy cookies and cider while listening to period music. Members from the 27th NC Co. D will demonstrate how soldiers spent their holidays.

**March 21, 2020**      [155th Bentonville Anniversary Reenactment](#)

Bentonville Battlefield State Historic Site is the largest state historic site in North Carolina, and they host the largest reenactment event in the state every five years. Visitors will learn that the Battle of Bentonville of March 19-21, 1865 was the last major Confederate offensive of the war as General Joseph Johnston fought the advancing troops of General Sherman's march across the south.



## *This Day in Civil War History - November 15, 1864*

One hundred and fifty-five years ago, Major General William T. Sherman begins marching his 60,000-man army eastward towards the Atlantic coast. He instructed his soldiers to “forage liberally” on the country and to inflict maximum damage to all those resources that helped to sustain the Confederate war effort. His strategic goal was summed up to Lt. General U.S. Grant: “If we can march a well-appointed army right through his [the enemy’s] territory, it is a demonstration to the world, foreign and domestic, that we have a power which Davis can not resist...there are thousands of people abroad and in the South who will reason thus: If the North can march an army right through the South, it is proof positive that the North can prevail.”

### QUOTE:

“SAVANNAH GEORGIA  
DECEMBER 22, 1864

TO HIS EXCELLENCY  
PRESIDENT LINCOLN,  
WASHINGTON, D.C.:

I BEG TO PRESENT YOU  
AS A CHRISTMAS-GIFT  
THE CITY OF SAVAN-  
NAH, WITH ONE HUN-  
DRED AND FIFTY HEAVY  
GUNS AND PLENTY OF  
AMMUNITION, ALSO  
ABOUT TWENTY-FIVE  
THOUSAND BALES OF  
COTTON.

W.T. SHERMAN, MAJOR  
-GENERAL “

Sherman believed that the Confederacy derived its strength not from its fighting forces but from the material and moral support of sympathetic Southern whites. Factories, farms and railroads provided Confederate troops with the things they needed, he reasoned; and if he could destroy those things, the Confederate war effort would collapse. Meanwhile, his troops could undermine Southern morale by making life so unpleasant for Georgia’s civilians that they would demand an end to the war.

To that end, Sherman’s troops marched south toward Savannah in two wings, about 30 miles apart. On November 22, 3,500 Confederate cavalry started a skirmish with the Union soldiers at Griswoldville, but that ended so badly—650 Confederate soldiers were killed or wounded, compared to 62 Yankee casualties—that Southern troops initiated no more battles. Instead, they fled South ahead of Sherman’s troops, wreaking their own havoc as they went: They wrecked bridges, chopped down trees and burned barns filled with provisions before the Union army could reach them.

The Union soldiers were just as unsparing. They raided farms and plantations, stealing and slaughtering cows, chickens, turkeys, sheep and hogs and taking as much other food—especially bread and potatoes—as they could carry. (These groups of foraging soldiers were nicknamed “bummers,” and they burned whatever they could not carry.)

About three weeks after they left Atlanta Sherman’s troops arrived in Savannah on December 21, 1864. The city was undefended when they got there. (The 10,000 Confederates who were supposed to be guarding it had already fled.) Sherman presented the city of Savannah and its 25,000 bales of cotton to President Lincoln as a Christmas gift. Early in February 1865, Sherman and his men left Savannah and repeated their march through Georgia as they built bridges, forded streams swollen with winter rains, “foraged liberally” and destroyed resources as they converged on Columbia. Retreating Confederates set fire to bales of cotton and Union troops destroyed military supplies but failed to control the fires, leaving South Carolina’s capital in ruins.

**Note:** Sherman and his army only feinted toward Charleston, they bypassed the city, continuing north toward NC.

### *1st Louisiana Special Battalion - Wheat's Tigers*

Screaming at the tops of their lungs as they charged the hapless Yankees, they were a vision straight out of hell. Some of them wore outlandish Turkish-style Zouave uniforms which made them easy targets, but they seemed to care not at all. They descended in a fury, killing without qualm. Above them flew their battalion flag, itself a deliberate mockery of the solemnity of war. On it were embroidered the words "Gentle as a ..." and the image of a lamb. They had been largely recruited from the wharves, gutters and dives of the New Orleans waterfront, and though their official designation was the 1st Louisiana Battalion, they were known and feared by Federals and Rebels alike as the Louisiana Tigers and were as tough and resolute as their combative commander, Major Roberdeau Wheat.

Chatham Roberdeau Wheat, born on April 9, 1826, in Alexandria, Va., studied law at the University of Nashville and then served in the 1st Tennessee Cavalry as a lieutenant during the Mexican War. After the war, he moved to New Orleans, where he began his career as a filibuster—or mercenary—participating in several expeditions to Cuba, Mexico, Nicaragua and Italy, and rising to the rank of general in both the Mexican and Italian armies.

At least some of the men, especially those in Harris' Walker Guards, were also former filibusters who had served with Wheat in Nicaragua back in 1857. They mustered into service in their old filibuster uniforms—off-white cotton drill trousers, white canvas leggings, red flannel battle shirts and broad-brimmed, low-crowned straw hats. Once enlisted, the men also wrote provocative slogans—such as 'Lincoln's Life or a Tiger's Death,' 'Tiger by Nature' or 'Tiger in Search of Abe'—on their hat bands."

By the time Wheat died, his Tigers had been drastically reduced in number, from an initial enrollment of 500 to fewer than 100 men. On Aug. 9, 1862, the battalion was disbanded by special order and its remaining troops reassigned to other Louisiana regiments. They had always fought with distinction and often just for the love of fighting. Perhaps the most accurate memorial to the Louisiana Tigers, and to Wheat himself, was written by Confederate Maj. David Boyd: "Wheat's Battalion was a unique body, representing every grade of society and every kind of man, from the princely gentleman who commanded them down to the thief and cut-throat released from parish prison. ... Such a motley herd of humanity was probably never got together before, and may never be again."

Further reading : This book is available from [Savas Beatie](#)

*The Civil War Memoirs of Captain  
William J. Seymour: Reminiscences of a Louisiana Tiger*

By Terry L. Jones



CHATHAM  
ROBERDEAU  
WHEAT



WHEAT'S TIGER  
TURKISH-STYLE  
ZOUAVE  
UNIFORMS

## Cape Fear Revolutionary War Round Table Annual Dinner

Dear Members and Guests:

Our annual dinner meeting event on Wednesday, December 4th at 6:30PM will be held at Pine Valley Country Club, 500 Pine Valley Dr. We will host keynote speaker **Dr. Chris E. Fonvielle Jr.** giving a PowerPoint presentation (see below). A buffet dinner will be featured, prepared by the excellent on-site chef. Menu follows at the end of this post. **Please read complete post as payment and driving instructions are at the end.**

### ***“With Such Great Alacrity”: The Destruction of Fort Johnston and the Coming of the American Revolution in North Carolina***

*Dr. Chris E. Fonvielle Jr., professor emeritus in the Department of History at UNC Wilmington and vice president of the Cape Fear Revolutionary War Round Table, will discuss the brazen firebombing raid by Patriot forces on British Fort Johnston near the mouth of the Cape Fear River on July 19, 1775. Most historians of the American Revolution in the South recognize the Battle of Moore’s Creek Bridge in late February 1776 as the beginning of the war in North Carolina, but Dr. Fonvielle claims it started at Fort Johnston more than seven months earlier. Led by John Ashe, Cornelius Harnett, and Robert Howe, hundreds of armed Patriot militia burned the only serviceable British fort in North Carolina in an effort to deny Royal Governor Josiah Martin a base of operations from where he planned to launch a military campaign in the southern colonies in 1776. In doing so, however, they destroyed property owned by King George III. What, in the minds of the Patriots, gave them just cause to resort to such a blatant and bellicose course of action? Did they mean to burn Fort Johnston at all, or did they intend for their destructive attack to incite war in North Carolina in a powerful and public display of solidarity with other colonies already in rebellion? What kind of response did the people of the Lower Cape Fear anticipate from the British Government? How did their actions affect the coming of the American Revolution in North Carolina? “A splendid time is guaranteed for all!”*

Dr. Chris E. Fonvielle, Jr.  
 Professor Emeritus, Department of History  
 University of North Carolina Wilmington

Chris E. Fonvielle Jr. is a native Wilmingtonian with a lifelong interest in American Civil War, North Carolina, and Cape Fear history. He attended public schools, including New Hanover High School, class of 1971, where he was the first soccer-style placekicker in North Carolina football history. After receiving his B.A. in anthropology at the University of North Carolina Wilmington, Chris served as the last curator of the Blockade Runners of the Confederacy Museum. He subsequently received his M.A. in American history at East Carolina University, and his Ph.D. from the University of South Carolina. That makes Chris a Wildcat, a Seahawk, a Pirate, and a Gamecock.

After a brief teaching stint at East Carolina University, Dr. Fonvielle returned to his undergraduate alma mater at UNCW in 1996, where he taught courses on the Civil War, Wilmington and the Lower Cape Fear, and Antebellum America. His in-depth research focuses on coastal operations and defenses, and blockade running in southeastern North Carolina during the Civil War. He has published books and articles including *The Wilmington Campaign: Last Rays of*

*(Continued on page 10)*



## *Cape Fear Revolutionary War Round Table Annual Dinner, cont.*

Departing Hope; Wilmington and the Lower Cape Fear: An Illustrated History; Fort Fisher 1865: The Photographs of T.H. O’Sullivan.

In 2014, then-Governor Pat McCrory appointed Dr. Fonvielle to the North Carolina Historical Commission. Upon his retirement from UNC Wilmington in 2018, Chris was presented with the Order of the Long Leaf Pine for distinguished service to the State of North Carolina, signed by incumbent Governor Roy Cooper. He is also a regular tour guide for Wilmington Water Tours, featured guest on “Cape Fear Unearthed” podcasts, and contributor of articles on Cape Fear history for Salt Magazine.

Menu: Buffet serving Sliced Flank Steak with a Red Wine Mushroom Sauce and Sautéed Chicken Breast with a Picatta Sauce, vegetable medley, herb roasted potatoes with onions, salad, tea & coffee, rolls, dessert.

RSVP to Pres. Linda Lashley at (910) 395-0012 and leave message OR email to [LKL8@BELLSOUTH.net](mailto:LKL8@BELLSOUTH.net). Members = \$35 Non-members = \$40 **Please mail a check made out to CFRWRT to Linda Lashley, 2123 Quiet Ln., Wilmington, NC 28409 by Monday, November 23.**

Driving instructions: **Very important** - enter Pine Valley Dr. from S. College Rd. and **NOT FROM SHIPYARD BLVD.** Turn at the Fire Station at the corner of S. College Rd. and Pine Valley Drive. Continue traveling to the end of the street to enter the parking lot. If you turn off of Shipyard Blvd. you will end up behind the tennis courts with no access to the Country Club. We are able to use these private facilities through the generosity of Christine Lamberton, Museum Director Burgwin-Wright House and Gardens.

I hole to see you there! Dr. Fonvielle is always an interesting and exciting speaker. Don’t miss it!

In Friendship,

Linda Lashley, President

Cape Fear Revolutionary War Round Table



## Links

[Civil War Reenactment Headquarters](#) The source for Civil War Reenactment Battles, Reenacting Units and Supplies since 2003.

[The Civil War Home Page](#) Links dedicated to the participants, both North and South, in the great American Civil War 1861 - 1865

[The Valley of the Shadow](#) In this digital archive you may explore thousands of original letters and diaries, newspapers and speeches, census and church records, left by men and women in Augusta County, VA and Franklin County, PA from the beginning of the Civil War to the resurrection period.

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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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## CAPE FEAR CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

PO Box 15750

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# THE RUNNER



OCTOBER 2019

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 9



## *John Winecoff - Civil War Reenacting*

John Winecoff will present a program on Civil War reenacting at the next meeting of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table, Thursday, October 10 at 6:30 p.m. John is president of the Wilmington Chapter of the North Carolina



*John Winecoff (right)*

Military Historical Society and a member of the Steering Committee of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table. John served in the Army for 20 years; 3 in the Regular Army, 17 in the NC Army National Guard. He was a Wilmington Police Officer for 30 years, the last 12.5 as a Mounted teamed with his mount, Jubal Early. John was an original member of the WPD mounted unit.

Becoming interested in the Civil War since an early age, he became a reenactor with the Cape Fear Living History Society in 1983. He has reenacted infantry, cavalry, and artillery soldiers in both the Union and Confederate armies. He has also reenacted Generals Alfred Terry and John Schofield in the Union Army. He

*(Continued on page 2)*

## *John R. Scales - Nathan Bedford Forrest*



*John R. Scales addressing the CFCWRT*

John Scales presented us with an interesting evening of General Nathan Bedford Forrest' wartime activities and how his actions affected the war in the Western Theater.

### **NEXT PRESENTATION**

- ◆ Thursday, Oct. 10th
- ◆ **John Winecoff - Civil War Reenacting**
- ◆ 6:30 Social 7:00 Meeting
- ◆ Harbor UMC  
4853 Masonboro Loop  
Wilmington



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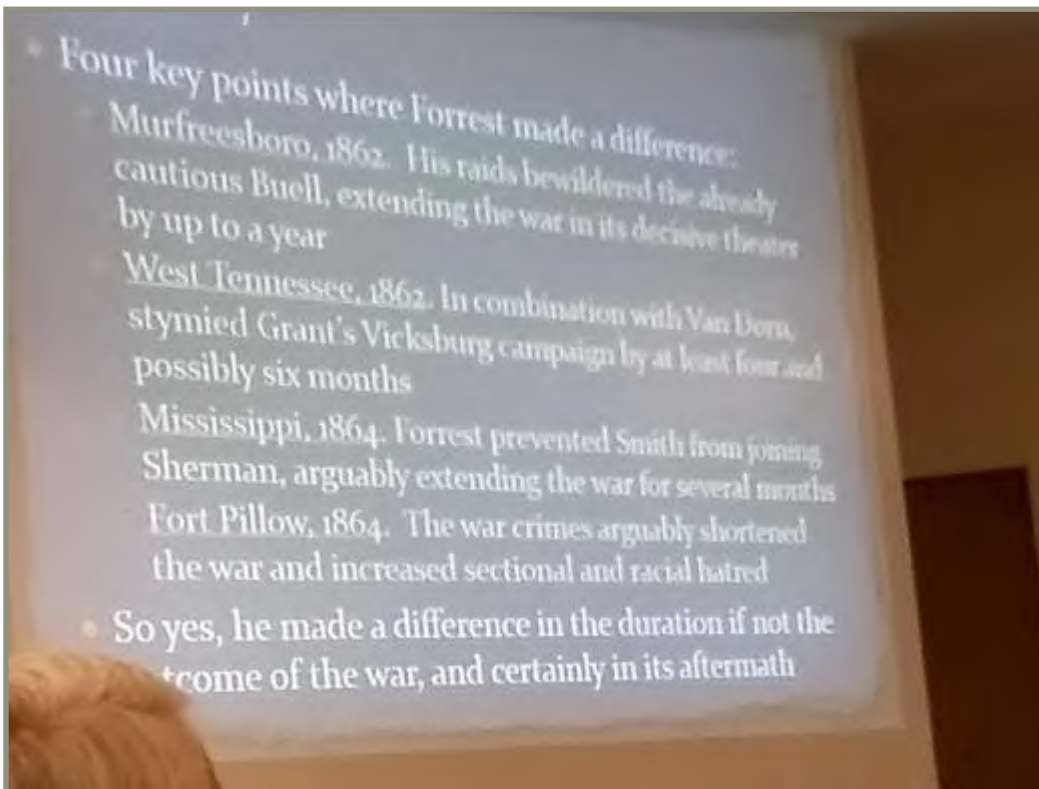
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## *John Winecoff - Civil War Reenacting, cont.*

was able to participate in several 125th anniversaries to include the First Manassas, Shiloh, Cedar Mountain, Gettysburg, Atlanta, and Bentonville. During this time he has acquired many uniforms and equipment. He will display and explain several different uniforms from both armies as well as weapons and accouterments.

This will be an informative and enjoyable learning experience. Don't miss it!

## *John R. Scales - Nathan Bedford Forrest, cont.*



*John Scales - sharing a humorous analogy*



*John Scales & Bruce Patterson, CFCWRT Secy.*



*John Scales signing his book for Bill Hewitt*

## *Secrets of Oakdale Cemetery by Bob Cooke*

### **William Murdoch Parsley (F-3)**

Born in Wilmington in 1840, he enlisted in April 1861 in the 3rd NC and was elected Captain of Co. F. His company was outfitted by his father, Oscar, and William, not yet 21, couldn't sign the contract for the company's equipment. Serving in Jackson's Corps, he fought in the Seven Days Battles in June of 1862 and was wounded at Malvern Hill on July 1, 1862 as Lee sought to prevent the escape of McClellan's Union army. A **Minié** ball entered just below Parsley's left ear and exited at the center of the back of his neck.

Sent home to recover, he married Eliza Nutt and returned to the regiment in September 1862. Upon his return he was promoted to Major, then to Lt. Colonel just before the battle of Chancellorsville. He then fought through the battles of Winchester and at Jordan Springs, was slightly wounded two times, once when a ball hit his coat button and glanced off.

Once again on furlough, he brought home the regimental flag which had been shot to pieces. Unable to repair it, a new one was made and *the old one was passed down and wound up in the collections of the Cape Fear Museum!*

When the 3rd's commander, Col. Thurston was wounded, Parsley assumed command until captured at Spotsylvania's "Bloody Angle". Placed in the Confederate line of fire at Hilton Head, he remained a POW until exchanged in August. Returning to his regiment, the unit remained in the trenches at Petersburg until April 1865. Colonel Parsley was killed on the retreat to Appomattox 3 days before the surrender of Lee's army.

His comrades in arms, Captain John Cowan and Captain James I. Metts, both of the Third North Carolina, would write of him:

"Who ever knew Willie Parsley, that did not love him? We write not the empty words of the mere panegyrist; we speak the words of candid soberness and truth. He so impressed all with whom he came in contact that no one who ever met him ever forgot him. He was the soul of honor. Without fear, he was without reproach."



## *Upcoming Events*

### **October 4-5 - [Shenandoah 1864](#)**

Living historians come together to hold a landmark reenactment to commemorate the 155th anniversary of two of the most important battles fought in the Valley - Third Winchester and Fisher's Hill.

### **October 12th - [Lecture with Angela Zombek: Civil War Military Prisons](#)**

Lecture with Angela Zombek at Federal Point History Center in Carolina Beach features the UNCW history professor talking about her book, *Penitentiaries, Punishment, and Military Prisons*, which includes the notorious Andersonville, and one located in Salisbury, NC.

## *Wreaths Across America*

The Round Table effort to join the community campaign to decorate the graves in our Wilmington National Cemetery (WNC) gets in gear at our October meeting.

With a modest goal of 60 wreaths (Civil War Round Table partnered with NC Military Historical Society) we can meet that goal in one evening.

Wreaths cost \$15 each and are shipped from Maine in time to arrive Wilmington by Saturday, 14 December. A Community-wide service will be held at WNC at noon on the 14th. Round Table members are invited to join in the community wreath laying.

Please make checks payable, in \$15 increments, to CFCWRT, memo line WAA (or wreaths) and join this community effort.



## *CFCWRT Upcoming events*

### **November 14th:**

*Jan Croon* - The War Outside My Window, The Civil War Diaries of LeRoy Wiley Gresham, 1860-1865

### **December 12th:**

*Lori Sandlin*, Mgr. Southport Maritime Museum - Finding Post-War Confederate Sailor, Captain H. S. Lebbly, Blockade Runner and Privateer

NOTE: Our December meeting will be at the Cape Fear Museum.

## *Raffle Winners*

### **September Raffle Winners**



Ordeal by Fire - Mike McDonald

The Confederate Nation - Byron Hovey

Rock of Chickamauga - Jim Horton

Civil War Sourcebook - David Jordan

1400 Days and Generals South/Generals North - Sherry Hewitt

Illustrated History of the Civil War - Joe Steyer

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.



## *Escape from Libby Prison: The Largest Successful Prison Break in the Civil War*

On February 9, 1864, more than 100 Union prisoners tunneled their way to freedom in an audacious escape from Libby Prison in the Confederate capital of Richmond, Virginia. More than half of the prisoners made their way to Union lines while others were recaptured and returned to the confines of Libby.

Libby Prison started as an old food warehouse on Tobacco Row along the James River. Captain Luther Libby, along with his son George W. Libby, leased the three-story brick building where they operated a ship chandlery and grocery business. In 1862, the Confederacy took over the building and turned it into a prison for Union officers. Colonel Thomas E. Rose, a Union officer from the 77th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, was captured during the Battle of Chickamauga and taken to Libby Prison. He found conditions appalling and immediately started plotting his escape. He devised an ambitious plan to dig a tunnel from the cellar of the prison to a tobacco shed that stood just outside the prison walls.



LIBBY PRISON

Rose revealed his plan to a few trusted accomplices and planning got underway. Life inside Libby Prison was miserable. Prisoners were held on the second and third floors of the building. Windows were barred but open, leaving inmates freezing in the winter and insufferably hot in summer. Overcrowding created constant stress and resulted in food shortages. The lack of sanitation led to disease and death. One father whose son was held at Libby prison desperately sought to have supplies delivered to the prison. He wrote, "He has been confined during the whole summer without a change of clothing...and is in a very destitute condition." Desperate for relief, it was not difficult for Rose to find prisoners willing to help with his plot.

Outside of Libby was a canal, and during wet weather, the prison's cellar flooded bringing hundreds of rats scurrying into the building. The putrid air in the cellar kept everyone away and helped it earn the nickname, Rat's Hell. The area was largely avoided by Confederate guards and provided Rose and his associates the perfect place to dig undetected.

Rose accessed Rat's Hell by removing bricks behind an old kitchen stove. He then shimmed down a chimney to the cellar. From there, Rose and his team scraped away at the hard dirt using crude makeshift tools. Much of the digging took place at night in the dark when the exterior was heavily guarded, but conditions inside the prison were somewhat relaxed.

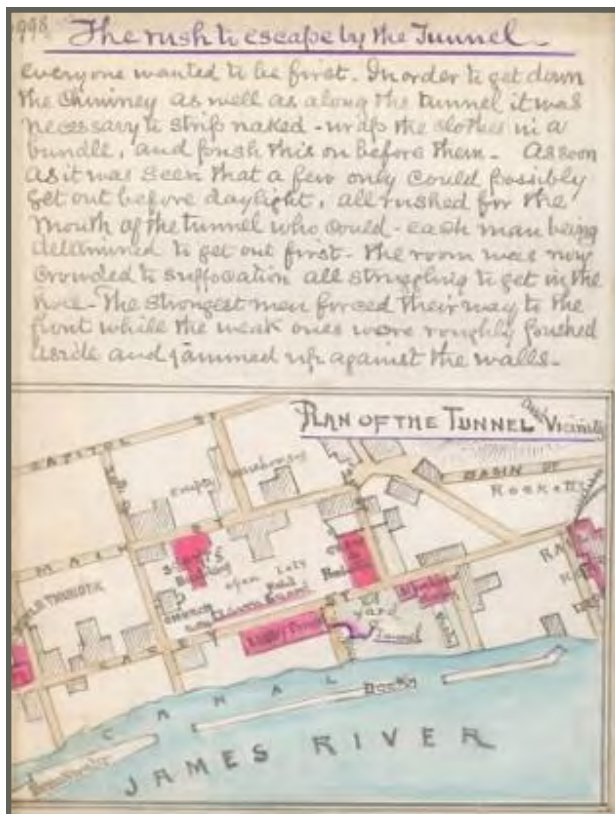
Loads of earth were removed one bucket at a time, by packing an old spittoon with excavated dirt. The vermin-infested cellar, the rats, and the lack of oxygen made the work excruciating.

*(Continued on page 7)*

## THE RUNNER

*Escape from Libby Prison: The Largest Successful Prison Break of the Civil War, cont.*

At one point, after digging a tunnel nearly 60 feet long, the prisoners broke through the surface to find they were off by several feet. Hearing the voices of Confederate guards, the prisoners quickly hid the tunnel and readjusted the approach to the shed.



After weeks of digging, the prisoners managed to clear a tunnel that surfaced in the tobacco shed. One prisoner described the escape, “Everyone wanted to be first. In order to get down the chimney as well as long the tunnel, it was necessary to strip naked – wrap the clothes in a bundle, and push this on before them. As soon as it was seen that only a few could possibly get out before daylight, all rushed for the mouth of the tunnel who could – each man being determined to get out first. The room was now crowded to suffocation all struggling to get in the hole. The strongest men forced their way to the front while the weak ones were more roughly brushed aside and jammed up against the walls.”

The next morning at roll call, Confederate guards were shocked to find 109 prisoners missing, their escape route concealed by the remaining inmates. Of those 109 prisoners that escaped, 59 eventually reached Union lines, 48 were recaptured and two drowned in a river crossing.

*Jenny Ashcraft, Author, The Official Blog of Fold3, Sept. 9, 2019*

### *This Day in Civil War History - October 13, 1864*

Following the fall of Atlanta, Hood moved the Confederate army north toward Chattanooga, threatening Sherman’s supply line. On October 13, Hood seized Tunnel Hill including Dalton and Tilton, Ga. There was considerable skirmishing but Sherman’s main force stayed in Atlanta preparing to abandon his supply line and move cross country to Savannah. In Virginia Early’s Confederates were back on their old line at Fisher’s Hill while Sheridan was at nearby Cedar Creek. A skirmish along Cedar Creek resulted from Confederate probing. In the West action near Mullahla’s Stations, NE; on Elm Creek, TX; and a week of scouting in the Sacramento Mountains, NM Territory, pitted Federals against Indians. Federal troops operated until the 18th from Pine Bluff to Arkansas Post, AR.

Ranger Mosby and his men took up a section of the B & O rail tracks near Kearneysville, west of Harper’s Ferry. They wrecked a passenger train, seized \$173,000 - largely from two army paymasters, and then burned the train.

President Lincoln, still worried about the election despite the recent victories, made an estimate of the electoral vote, giving the “Supposed Copperhead Vote” 114 electoral votes, the “Union Vote” 120. He also was trying to see that as many soldiers as possible got home to vote, figuring he had strong support in the Army.

E.B. Long & Barbara Long. *The Civil War Day by Day - An Almanac 1861-1864* Doubleday 1971



*Civil War Reenactments Were a Thing Even During the Civil War*

Thousands of people participate in Civil War reenactments each year in the United States. They're sharing a tradition of reenactment that stretches back to the years of the war itself.

To herald Christmas 1861, a year when more than 4,000 fighting men had been killed in Civil War battles and the Union was in disarray, groups of citizens got together to fight mock battles simulating the conflicts raging on battlefields elsewhere. Writes Sue Eisenfeld for *The New York Times*, "We tend to think of Civil War reenactment as a modern phenomenon, a way for people in the 20th and 21st centuries to experience a taste of what the conflict was like. But in fact, staged battles began while the war was still underway. Known as 'sham battles,' 'mock battles' or 'mimic battles,' these battles were enacted for a variety of reasons: entertainment, practice, and to demonstrate to civilians back home what happened during the war."

Shams were especially popular during the holidays for entertainment, and they were mostly confined to the North. On December 5, 1861, the *Daily Nashville Patriot* published an article noting "the Yankees are great on shams," she writes. But they were also intended to accustom new soldiers to the pace of the battlefield and help them imagine themselves as fighters, rather than farmers, she writes: "Some places, like Fort Monroe, a Union outpost in Virginia, conducted sham battles daily."

As the *New Georgia Encyclopedia* records, Civil War reenacting was part of a longer tradition of shams fought with blank ammunition by American militias. Before the Civil War, town festivals often featured a pageant with costumed citizens dressing as Revolutionary War figures.

Directly after the war ended, Eisenfeld writes, veterans were commissioned to serve as reenactors of a conflict they themselves had fought in. "On April 21, 1865, the town of Massillon, Ohio, was right back into the business of luring crowds with sham battles as part of a day-long 'jubilation over the recent victory of the Federal armies and the surrender of Lee.'" The pageantry and drama of mock warfare offered great entertainment, even when the consequences of the real thing were so bloody.

Later, when public interest in the war revived in the 1880s, the tradition of the sham battle was revived, and many sham battles were conducted purely as entertainment, the *Encyclopedia* writes. "Although these sham battles were usually not attempts to re-create specific Civil War battles, they were conducted with strong undertones of both sectional pride and national unity."

The idea of reenacting stuck around, but modern Civil War reenactment was truly born in the early 1960s around the time of the war's centennial. The first big reenactment, of the First Battle of Bull Run, also known as First Manassas, took place on July 21-22, 1961.

By Kat Eschner, Author, *Smithsonian.com*



## *New York 115th Infantry Regiment - The Iron Hearted Regiment*

Under the command of Colonel Simeon Sammons, and composed of tough upstaters from the Mohawk Valley and its environs, the regiment was mustered into the service of the United States for three years on August 26, 1862. However, the regiment suffered an ignominious initiation into military service. During the Antietam campaign, and barely two weeks after its August 30, 1862 departure from New York, the regiment was stationed at Harpers Ferry, Virginia. When the town was surrounded by the Confederate Army, it surrendered, along with the remainder of the 12,000 Union garrison.

In December 1863, the regiment was transferred to Barton's Brigade for General Seymour's Florida Expedition. The regiment was anxious to prove itself in battle, and erase the blemish of the Harpers Ferry debacle. The 115th performed well at Olustee, but 296 New Yorkers were killed and wounded during the battle with nearly all the color-guard being shot down.



Private Benjamin Thackrah

During the Florida campaign, Pvt. Benjamin Thackrah of Company H, originally born in Scotland, received the Medal of Honor for actions in April 1864, near Fort Gates, Florida. His citation reads:

"On the morning of April 1, 1864, Private Benjamin Thackrah volunteered to join a party of twenty-five soldiers for an expedition up the river at Fort Gates, Florida, in search of a small enemy picket guard. On reaching the shore in a boat, the party proceeded through the swamps to locate and surround a small house believed to hold the picket guard. The twenty-five volunteers entered the house, surprising the enemy and quickly capturing the entire picket with its arms, horses, and supplies, and then returned through the swamps with their prisoners and placed them on a Union tug boat. For his heroism in this dangerous expedition, Private Thackrah was awarded the Medal of Honor."

The 115th was transferred to the newly formed 24th corps, in Ames' (2nd) division, with which it was ordered to North Carolina. It participated in the capture of Fort Fisher, fighting with Bell's (3rd) brigade, and sustaining a considerable part of its loss there by the explosion of the magazine the day after the fort was taken. Ten men lost their lives in that explosion. Subsequently it was present at Cape Fear, Fort Anderson, and Wilmington, and closed its active service in the campaign of the Carolinas. It was mustered out at Raleigh, NC, under Col. Johnson, June 17, 1865. Out of a total enrollment of 1,196, it lost 7 officers and 132 men; 191 men died of disease and other causes—total deaths, 330. The gallant 115th deserves its place among the three hundred fighting regiments of the war, accorded it by Col. Fox.

Do you have a favorite regimental nickname? Conversely, what was the nickname of your favorite regiment? **Submit your nominations** to the *Runner* Editor.

Further reading - full text for this book is available online thru this link:

[The Iron Hearted Regiment: An Account of the Battles, Marches and Gallant Deeds Performed by the 115th Regiment N Y VOLS.](#)

By James H. Clark, Late First Lieutenant, Company H, 115TH NY Volunteers

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## CAPE FEAR CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

YOU CAN FIND US ON THE WEB! [CFCWRT.ORG](http://CFCWRT.ORG)

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

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### *Links*

[Wikipedia - American Civil War Portal](#) contains a variety of topics but is also in need of additional information, referencing, citations, supporting material, etc. If you are interested in sharing your knowledge or time, visit the [Task Force](#) link to see what you can do.

[Civil War Reenactment Events](#) 2019-2020 schedule of events and solicitations for enactors.

[University of Georgia](#) This library collection includes a variety of important documents and artifacts from the American Civil War.

[Civil War Librarian](#) The Civil War Librarian blog helps Civil War enthusiasts and academics stay current on Civil War news. The author is a Professor at Waynesburg University, Director of Eberly Library, and an adjunct instructor in US history.

### *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.

### *Steering Committee—Officers*

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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](#)

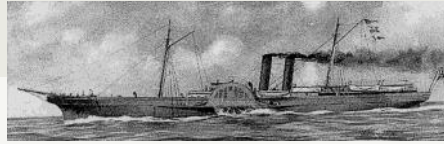


# THE RUNNER



SEPTEMBER 2019

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 8



## *John R. Scales - General Nathan Bedford Forrest*

Nathan Bedford Forrest

The Tennessean was one of the most intriguing and controversial characters to emerge during the Civil War. Books and articles on the man span the gamut from hero worship to condemnation for his involvement with the slaughter at Fort Pillow and later, his association with the Ku Klux Klan. Retired Special Forces Brigadier General John R. Scales plows entirely new ground with *The Battles and Campaigns of General Nathan Bedford Forrest, 1861-1865*, a careful and unique examination of Forrest's wartime activities and how his actions affected the war in the Western Theater..



Scales' study is a meticulous guide to Forrest's campaigns. For example, each action is augmented with detailed driving directions to allow readers to examine his battlefields and the routes his cavalry took during its famous raids. For the first time, students of Forrest's campaigns can follow in his footsteps, experiencing the terrain much the same way he did. Each chapter concludes with a detailed review and assessment of each raid or campaign. Throughout, General Scales relies on his own extensive military background to help evalu-

*(Continued on page 2)*

## *Dave Schultz - General James Longstreet*

*Dave Schultz* - Principles, Policies & Politics of General James Longstreet at Gettysburg

David Shultz (1950) was born in Harrisburg Pennsylvania where his North American ancestral roots date back to the early 1800's. His interest in the American Civil War began in 1958 when as a young boy he discovered five direct ancestors participated as enlisted soldiers, four for the Union, one of the Confederacy. His specific interest and study is the Gettysburg Campaign whereas two direct ancestors were attached to army headquarters, Army of the Potomac. He is the recipient of numerous awards including special citations from the House of Representatives and Common-



*(Continued on page 2)*

### NEXT PRESENTATION

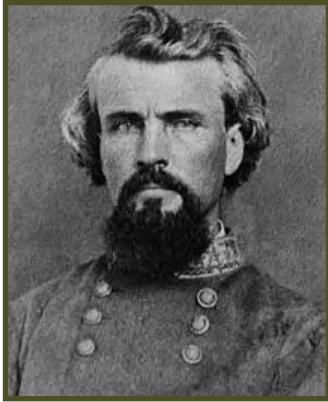
- ◆ Thursday, Sept. 12th
- ◆ John Scales - General Nathan Bedford Forrest
- ◆ 6:30 Social 7:00 Meeting
- ◆ Harbor UMC  
4853 Masonboro Loop  
Wilmington



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## *John R. Scales - General Nathan Bedford Forrest, cont.*



GENERAL NATHAN  
BEDFORD FORREST

ate and explain how and why Forrest grew in command ability and potential as a result of his experiences - or didn't.

The late award-winning author Albert Castel asked two major questions about Nathan Bedford Forrest: "Exactly what impact did Forrest's dazzling raids and victories have upon the overall course of the war?" and "Had Forrest been given a higher command and/or greater opportunities, what would have been the potential outcome as regards the fate of the Confederacy?" *The Battles and Campaigns of General Nathan Bedford Forrest* makes it much easier to answer both.

**John R. Scales** is a retired Special Forces brigadier general with more than three decades of service, including combat tours in Vietnam and Afghanistan. He also has a Ph.D. in engineering and worked in that field after retiring from the military. In addition to receiving five patents for inventions, General Scales had written two previous books: *Sherman Invades Georgia* (Naval Institute Press, 2006) and *A Reluctant Hero's Footsteps* (Westbow Press, 2012). A past president of the Tennessee Valley Civil War Roundtable, he leads Civil War campaign tours in Alabama, Tennessee, and Georgia.

The presentation will take place in the sanctuary of Harbor Church. Enter the front building through the doors marked "Worship Center."

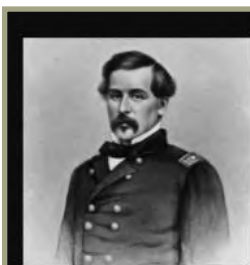
## *Dave Schultz - General James Longstreet, cont.*

wealth of Pennsylvania for Meritorious Public Service for Battlefield Preservation. Having recently retired from his position as a Senior Engineering Technician in the aerospace industry he is currently working on a comprehensive tactical study of the artillery in the Gettysburg Campaign.

## *Trivia Questions*

1. Brigadier General Thomas Francis Meagher led the famed Irish Brigade in the Army of the Potomac. He died in 1867 at the age of 43 and spent most of his adult life outside his birthplace of Ireland. Nonetheless, a grand equestrian statue of him dominates a street in Waterford, Ireland. Why is he commemorated in Ireland?
2. Was the steamship *Granite City* a Union or a Confederate ship?
3. What was the name of Daniel Underhill's horse?

(Continued on page 9)



I now bid farewell to the country of my birth - of my passions - of my death; a country whose misfortunes have invoked my sympathies - whose factions I sought to quell - whose intelligence I prompted to a lofty aim - whose freedom has been my fatal dream.

BRIGADIER GENERAL  
THOMAS FRANCIS MEAGHER

*Upcoming Events*

**September 28th - Free Entrance Day in National Parks**

Participate in recognizing National Public Lands Day by visiting a NPS battlefield, site or park with a waived entry fee!

Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park, Antietam National Battlefield, Vicksburg National Military Park, and Fort Sumter and Fort Moultrie National Historical Park, are a few sites. [Click here for the complete list.](#)

**September 29th - “Before the Civil War” Cruise**

Wilmington Water Tours presents a Before the Civil War Cruise led by local history expert Dr. Chris Fonvielle, who discusses the early explorers, Giovanni de Verrazano being the first to arrive in the area, moving on to the Revolutionary War in the late 1700s, and finishing with the Civil War and the Battle of Wilmington in 1865.

**October 12th - Lecture with Angela Zombek: Civil War Military Prisons**

Lecture with Angela Zombek at Federal Point History Center in Carolina Beach features the UNCW history professor talking about her book, Penitentiaries, Punishment, and Military Prisons, which includes the notorious Andersonville, and one located in Salisbury, NC.

*NC Military Historical Society Symposium -  
The Final Year of the Civil War in North Carolina*



***Save the Date!***

Saturday, May 9, 2020 - 9:00 am-4:00 pm  
Raleigh, NC

NC Military Historical Society Symposium  
“The Final Year of the Civil War in North Carolina”

Charles LeCount, Assistant Director, NC Historical Sites  
North Carolina Junior Reserves in 1865

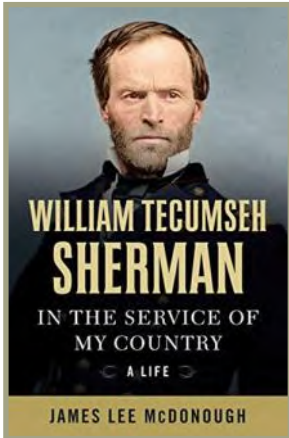
Dr. James K. Bryant, Historian and Author  
US Colored Troops in North Carolina

Ernie Dollar, Historic Interpreter, Somerset Place SHS  
Somerset Place in the New South

Chris Meekins, State Archives of North Carolina  
Presidential Reconstruction in North Carolina



## Cape Fear Civil War Roundtable Fundraiser



We're announcing a new fundraiser to help Cape Fear Civil War Round Table continue to deliver world-class speakers for our monthly meetings. Our dues remain low (\$30 per year) and we offer a year-round program featuring interesting and well-received events through the summer months.

Our summer programs are “locally” produced and cost nothing but we do pay travel expenses for out-of-town speakers during our regular program year from September through May.

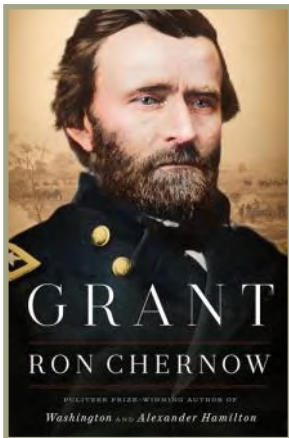
To continue our program at a high level, we will use the silent auction technique to generate bids for special items such as books, art work and memorabilia. Last season, the Round Table benefitted greatly from the generosity of a member who donated a Civil War chess set and another member who submitted a very generous bid for the item. This new fundraising mechanism is in addition to our monthly book raffle.

Many of you will remember that we always auctioned off items at our February dinner meeting as well. We'd like to institute an ongoing effort of this type dedicated solely and entirely to helping to fund our speaker program. Cash contributions are also welcome!

First of all, we ask you—our members—to donate such items to offer as silent auction items. Book series such as *The Civil War: A Narrative* by Shelby Foote, first editions, etc., are most welcome. Limited edition prints are also perfect items for the silent auction.

Currently, we have hardcover, first editions of current biographies of Grant, by Ron Chernow, and Sherman by James L. McDonough. We also have a beautiful lithograph of Confederate reenactors galloping a Napoleon into firing position from the Petersburg National Battlefield group. A nicely framed photograph of the famous North Carolina Gettysburg monument by Gutzon Borglum rounds out our list of items available for bids.

They will be on display at our September 12 meeting. Put in your bid! We will collect bids through the December meeting and announce the winners at the end of the meeting so the timing will be perfect for holiday gifts.



NORTH CAROLINA GETTYSBURG MONUMENT  
BY GUTZON BORGLUM



LITHOGRAPH OF CONFEDERATE REENACTORS  
GALLOPING A NAPOLEON INTO FIRING POSITION  
PETERSBURG NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD GROUP

*Summer Discussion Series: Members Forum*

The Members Forum, led by Jim Gannon, was a foray into Civil War topics that CFCWRT members John Bolger, Bob Cooke, Mark Swanstrom, and John Winecoff are not only passionate about but also very knowledgeable.

John Bolger led off the round of discussions with a well received talk about General Thomas Francis Meagher, Commander of the famed Irish Brigade. John explained Meagher's background as a fighter for Irish independence, subsequent capture and escape from a penal colony, and his migration to America. As a Union officer he recruited Irish immigrants into the New York militia and rose to the rank of general in command of the Irish Brigade of the Army of the Potomac. His hometown of Waterford erected a statue in his honor.



GEN. THOMAS FRANCIS MEAGHER,  
SURROUNDED BY A PORTION  
OF HIS COMMAND.

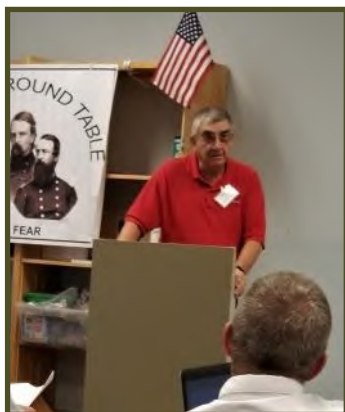
[ARMY OF THE POTOMAC]; EDWARD AND HENRY T. ANTHONY & CO. (AMERICAN, 1862 – 1902); ABOUT 1862 – 1864; ALBUMEN SILVER PRINT; 84.XC.979.1562. GIFT OF WESTON J. AND MARY M. NAEF. [THE J. PAUL GETTY TRUST, GETTY'S OPEN CONTENT PROGRAM.](#)



HARRIS LIGHT CAVALRY FLAG

Bob Cooke provided a glimpse into the life of Private Daniel Underhill as he served in the 2nd NY Cavalry, known as the Harris Light Cavalry. Union Army through original letters from Daniel to his family during the Civil War. Copies of these letters were passed through the audience to provide a first hand glimpse into the life of this serving Civil War soldier.

John Winecoff took us to a very seldom discussed Battle of Sabine Pass and the part the Irish Davis Guard played in that battle. He shared the story of the incredible ability of the Guard to fire 107 shots in 35 minutes, a rate unheard of at that time with heavy artillery. Even though they were greatly outnumbered, they outfought their enemy and drove them back. He told of the valor and courage the Davis Guard displayed that led the grateful citizens of Houston to strike a medal which was presented to the Davis Guard upon their arrival in the city.



JOHN WINECOFF  
DAVIS CO. & THE SABINE PASS BATTLE

Mark Swanstrom's discussion of the Battle of Chickamauga from the standpoint of Civil War battlefield command and the control difficulties. He clearly illustrated the problems with communication orders and rapidly changing situations on the battle field. He brought forth and perfectly illustrated the dilemma faced by the ground commanders even today.



EIGHT-INCH COLUMBIAD  
CANNON USED IN THE  
BATTLE OF SABINE PASS

*(Continued on page 6)*



## *Summer Discussion Series: Members Forum, cont.*



There was great appreciation from the audience for the speakers and the discussions they generated. The majority voiced the opinion for more of this type of presentation in the future.

JOHN BOLGER AND  
JIM GANNON



BILL JAYNE - OPENING THE MEMBERS FORUM DISCUSSION MEETING

## *Fort Fisher - American Battlefield Trust Park Day 2019*

*Calling all volunteers!* On **Saturday, October 5, 2019** (8:30am to noon), Fort Fisher State Historic Site will host Park Day, an annual hands-on event sponsored by the American Battlefield Trust, which brings history enthusiasts together with staff members to help preserve our nation's heritage sites. Fort Fisher welcomes volunteers of all ages and skill levels. This year's activities will include painting the numerous artillery guns and carriages around the site. Groups will also be needed to assist in painting and cleaning up brush, leaves, and debris from around the site. Volunteers are asked to register in advance by calling **910-251-7340** and are asked to assemble in the parking lot by 8:30 am. Tools and gloves will be provided. Volunteers will receive a free Park Day t shirt and lunch provided by the Friends of Fort Fisher, the support group that supports the site and all its programming, and Michelangelo's Pizza and Subs of Carolina Beach, NC.



## *CFCWRT Upcoming events*

### **October 10th:**

*Dave Schultz* - Principles, Policies & Politics of General James Longstreet at Gettysburg

### **November 14th:**

*Jan Croon* - The War Outside My Window, The Civil War Diaries of LeRoy Wiley Gresham, 1860-1865

### **December 12th:**

*Lori Sandlin*, Mgr. Southport Maritime Museum - Finding Post-War Confederate Sailor, Captain H. S. Leiby, Blockade Runner and Privateer

## *Raffle Winners*

### **August Raffle Winners**



These Honored Dead - Jane McDonald

Washington - David Munnickhuysen

A Vast and Fiendish Plot - Jim Gannon

Mary Todd Lincoln - Her Life and Letters - Jim Vaughn

The Civil War - Day by Day and Lee's Last Casualty - Bill Jayne

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.



### *This day in Civil War History - September 16, 1864*

With about 4500 men, Forrest, so greatly feared by the North, began operating against Sherman's communications in northern Alabama and middle Tennessee. His expedition left from Verona, MS, and would continue until mid-October.

Grant and Sheridan conferred at Charles Town, WV. Sheridan had learned that Kershaw's division and other units of Anderson's corps had been sent to Petersburg, thus weakening Early's force. Grant approved Sheridan's proposal to cut Early's supply and retreat lines south of Winchester. Meanwhile, there was a skirmish at Snicker's Gap, Virginia, and about ten days of Union operations near Morganza, LA.

South of the James River Hampton's Confederate cavalry and Federal soldier-herders skirmished at little-known Coggins Point, VA, and around Sycamore Church. Hampton (who started his raid on September 11th) succeeded in bagging some 2,400 cattle, plus 300 prisoners, at the cost of 61 casualties to the Confederates. More fighting ensued on the 17th, but Hampton and his "cowboys" brought the desperately needed animals back to Petersburg.

Reference - E.B. Long with Barbara Long. *The Civil War Day by Day - An Almanac 1861-1864* Garden City, NY; Doubleday 1971

### *Regimental and Other Group Nicknames*

#### **The Orphan Brigade**

At the outbreak of Civil War, Kentucky declared its neutrality. Thus, Confederates couldn't enlist units within its borders. Thousands of Kentuckians went to Tennessee to enlist at Camp Boone and Camp Burnett near Clarksville. These regiments and others raised at Bowling Green, Ky. were organized into the First Kentucky Brigade. The brigade fought at many battles, including Shiloh, Stones River, and the Atlanta and Carolinas campaigns. In September 1864 the regiment of foot soldiers were organized as mounted infantry and continued as such till end of the war. The brigade surrendered at Washington, Georgia on May 6, 1865. They did receive generous parole terms. The mounted units were allowed to keep their horses or mules. Every seventh man was allowed to keep his musket.

After the war, Unit histories and other documents began referring to the unit as the "Orphan Brigade". The origin of name is uncertain but there are several theories.

One theory is the name stems from Kentucky's tenuous political situation. Men had to leave the state to enlist in the Confederacy and, also, it was very hard for soldiers to return home for visits. Being Confederate soldiers they would have been indicted by the Union for treason.

Another theory is that because the unit kept losing commanders, it was an orphan unit. The Unit was originally under Maj. Gen. John C. Breckenridge who was replaced by Brig. Gen. Roger Hanson, who was mortally wounded at the Battle of Stones River. Hanson's replacement was Brig. Gen. Benjamin Hardin Helm who was mortally wounded at the Battle of Chickamauga.

*(Continued on page 10)*



## Trivia Answers



Flag of Ireland

1. Meagher was the son of wealthy, Catholic merchants in Ireland and well educated. Even so, at the height of the Potato Famine and the flight of Irish immigrants to America in the late 1840s, he joined a revolutionary movement in Ireland that advocated violent revolt against their British rulers. Sent as an envoy to France, he was unable to bring back any troops or arms but he brought back the idea for an Irish flag based on the model of the French tricolor. The flag had three vertical bands with the green symbolizing the south of Ireland, orange the north, and the white in between for peace. The rebellion was quickly and violently quashed by the British and Meagher was exiled to Van Diemen's Land, or Tasmania. He escaped and made his way to New York in time to play a prominent role in the Civil War. In 1867, he died in mysterious circumstances on the Missouri River while serving as territorial governor of Montana. Ultimately, however, his idea of a flag became the flag of the Republic of Ireland and that's why he's honored by a statue in his native city of Waterford.



The attack on Sabine Pass,  
September 8, 1863

2. The USS Granite City was a Union gunboat that escaped the destruction of the small fleet at the Battle of Sabine Pass (border of Texas and Louisiana) on September 8, 1863. Although damaged, the Granite City was able to escape the battle that saw Confederate shore batteries destroy the US Ships Sachem, Clifton and Arizona. But, wait! There's more. The sidewheel steamer was built in 1862 by the Archibald Benny company of Dumbarton, Scotland, for use as a blockade runner. Originally named the City of Dundee, the sleek steamer was chased as she cleared Wilmington and captured by the US Navy in the Bahamas in March of 1863. So, the privately owned blockade runner was sold as a prize of war to the US Navy and named the Granite City after a town in southern Illinois. She was assigned to the Gulf Blockading Squadron. Avoiding disaster at Sabine Pass, she continued to work the blockade in the western Gulf of Mexico until she was captured by Confederates at Calcasieu Pass, Louisiana, a little east of Sabine Pass, in April 1864. Once again a blockade runner, she attempted to run out of Galveston and other Texas ports but was run aground and destroyed on the beach on January 20, 1865, near Calcasieu Pass. So, between 1862-65, Granite City was British, Confederate, Union and Confederate again.



Civil War Cavalry Horse Sculpture, National Sporting Library & Museum, Middleburg, VA.

3. Sergeant Daniel Isaac Underhill was a stalwart trooper of the 2nd New York Cavalry who saw much active service with the Army of the Potomac from 1862-65. His letters, owned and discussed by past president Bob Cooke, speak very intelligently of the evolution of the Union cavalry and shed interesting light on many notable events in the life of the Army. Following the "Mud March" in early 1863 (in which he sympathizes with the horses and mules but not the infantry), he tells of being on picket duty close to southern lines and how a Confederate officer admired Sgt. Underhill's horse, "Whisky." Underhill thanked him for the compliment but wryly observed that "Whisky was best admired from a distance."

## *Regimental and Other Group Nicknames, cont.*

The most popular theory is that John C. Breckenridge gave the unit its name. Riding with the brigade's survivors at Stone's River, Breckenridge now the division commander, lamented the bloody results of a charge he had opposed. According to legend, he said upon seeing his former troops and learning of the loss of Hanson, "My poor orphans".

However, they came by their nickname they were a very brave and proud unit of the CSA.

Do you have a favorite regimental nickname? Conversely, what was the nickname of your favorite regiment? **Submit your nominations** to the *Runner* Editor.



## *Civil War Battle Flags*

The stories involving Civil War battle flags is what makes them so interesting. Here is a story of the brave men who carried one Union battle flag during the Battle of Gettysburg:

*"...carried by Color-Bearer Abel G. Peck, a tall, straight, handsome man, and as brave a soldier as ever gave up his life for his country.*

*He was instantly killed almost at the beginning of the famous charge of the Iron Brigade. The flag was then seized by Private Thomas B. Ballou, who was desperately wounded immediately after, and died a few weeks later. The flag was then carried by Private August Ernst, who was instantly killed. Corporal Andrew Wagner then took the colors and carried them until shot through the breast, from the effects of which he died about a year after the close of the war.*

*When Corporal Wagner fell, Colonel Henry A. Morrill took the flag, and gallantly attempted to rally the few survivors of the regiment. But Private William Kelly insisted on carrying it, saying to Colonel Morrill, "You shall not carry the flag while I am alive." The gallant fellow held it aloft and almost instantly fell, shot through the heart. Private L. Spaulding then took the flag from the hands of Kelly, and carried it until he was himself badly wounded. Colonel Morrill again seized the flag, and was soon after shot in the head and carried from the field.*

*After the fall of Colonel Morrill, the flag was carried by a soldier whose name has never been ascertained. He was seen by Captain Edwards — who was now in command of the regiment — lying upon the ground badly wounded, grasping the flag in his hands. Captain Edwards took the flag from him and carried it himself until the few men left of the regiment fell back and reached Culp's Hill. Captain Edwards is the only man who is known to have carried the flag that day, who was not killed or wounded."*

The dedication of the southern soldiers to their Confederate battle flags was no less impressive. At the Battle of Antietam, the 1st Texas Infantry followed their flag into the carnage of the Cornfield. Leading their advance was, of course, their regimental battle flag. Color-bearers fell one after the other, and by the end of the day, the 1st Texas had lost nine color-bears. Worse still, the flag was left behind in the Cornfield, but the loss of the flag was minimal compared to the fact that the regiment left more than eighty percent of the 227 men who went into the battle in the Cornfield with their flag. After the battle, a Union soldier found the lost

(Continued on page 11)

## *Petersburg Engineering: 30 Miles of Hell*

Would you like a hands-on opportunity to historically restore Civil War defenses while camping on original battle grounds? Check the link below for particulars.

*If anyone is looking for an alternative to Cedar Creek or for something to do in October of this year the NPS at Petersburg National Park has granted my group permission to restore, rebuild, and improve the defenses located at Auto Tour Stop #3: "Confederate Battery #9" as part of our immersive interpretive program this year. "[Petersburg Engineering: 30 miles of Hell](#)". **October 18, 19 & 20, 2019***

*As of now the sandbags in place are made of nylon, which we plan to replace with proper burlap, and the forward firing trench is in great need of repair due to erosion and neglect.*

*We see this as a great opportunity to not only camp on the original battle ground, but to also assist the NPS, specifically one battlefield in need of volunteer assistance.*

*Accurate late war Federal impressions, period rations and period tools; shovels, picks, axes, mattocks and saws are a must. We want to be correct in every aspect.*

*We have permission to camp in the main redoubt, the forward trench, in the woods or in the structures on site.*

*Registration is free. All we require is name, contact info and what tools you are able to bring.*

*Please send all inquiries and questions to [tommarellom@gmail.com](mailto:tommarellom@gmail.com) for any interest or questions.*



## *Civil War Battle Flags, cont.*

flag of the 1st Texas, and he said that, "...thirteen men lay dead within touch of it and the body of one of the dead lay stretched across it."

Without a doubt, no symbol from the war better represents the courage and sacrifice of the men who fought, than the Civil War battle flags they fought under.



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## CAPE FEAR CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

YOU CAN FIND US ON THE WEB! [CFCWRT.ORG](http://CFCWRT.ORG)

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

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### *Links*

[Writer Philip Gerard Relives the Civil War](#) - A writer revisits the personal challenges, successes, and doubts in discovering and documenting NC's role in the Civil War.

[Emerging Civil War YouTube Channel](#) - provides fresh prospective of the Civil War by videos.

[The Civil War Today](#) - 150 years after the start of the American Civil War, HISTORY presents The Civil War Today, an award-winning app created exclusively for the iPad. You can experience the war as it unfolded, one day at a time, with daily updates that let you live the events in "real-time" over the course of four years.

[American Battlefield Trust Mobile Apps](#) - Includes visitor guides and battle examinations to help you unlock American history — on the battlefield or at home. All of their GPS-enabled mobile apps can be downloaded for free from the App Store and Google Play for use on your mobile devices.

### *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.

### *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.

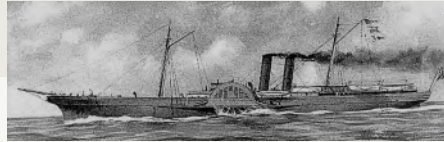
Click here for membership information: [Membership Application](#)



# THE RUNNER



AUGUST 2019



VOLUME 1 ISSUE 7

## *Summer Discussion Series: Members Forum*

Jim Gannon will lead a “Members Forum” presentation in August as part of our summer discussion series. This innovative program will feature short presentations by chapter members discussing topics of particular interest to them. It will take place Thursday, August 8, at 6:30 p.m. in Room 226 of Harbor Church. Enter at the door marked Lighthouse East near the rear of the building. This is the classroom where we met in June. Presenters and topics are:

**Bob Cooke - A Soldier of the Harris Light Calvary**

*The unpublished letters of Daniel Underhill*

**John Bolger - Fighting for the Union and Fighting for Ireland**

*General Thomas Francis Meagher*

**John Winecoff - The Davis Company and the Battle of Sabine Pass**

*How a few men drove off an army*

**Mark Swanstrom - Chickamauga Mix-ups**

*What happens when a commander doesn't use his own chain of command?*

## *John R. Scales - General Nathan Bedford Forrest*

On September 12th, we will welcome John Scales, author of *The Battles and Campaigns of Confederate General Nathan Bedford Forrest 1861-1865*. John Scales is a retired US Army Special Forces brigadier general with more than 3 decades of service, including combat tours in Vietnam and Afghanistan. He also has a Ph.D. in engineering and worked in that field after retiring from the military.

Recently published by Savas-Beatie, the book focuses on the question, “How did Forrest the civilian come to be Forrest, one of the more feared cavalry commanders in the Confederate Army,” in the words of Kevin Pawlak in his review of the book for *Emerging Civil War*.

Lieutenant General Nathan Bedford Forrest was born in 1821 in rural western Tennessee and ultimately became a wealthy planter and businessman in northern Mississippi. He had no formal education but learned to read and write. There have been numerous books and articles concerning General Forrest but rather than attempting to add to the list of biographies of this most intriguing character, John Scales presents a narrative of his campaigns and battles. The presentation, then, becomes a military history and critique of Forrest’s leadership style and tactical expertise. Anyone interested in the history of Forrest’s military career and seeking to understand how he was able to be so successful, will appreciate this presentation.

The presentation will take place in the sanctuary of Harbor Church. Enter the front building through the doors marked “Worship Center.”

## NEXT PRESENTATION

- ◆ Thursday, August 8th
- ◆ **Summer Discussion Series: Members Forum**
- ◆ 6:30 Social 7:00 Meeting
- ◆ Harbor UMC  
4853 Masonboro Loop  
Wilmington



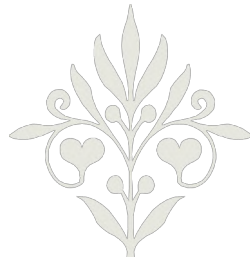
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*Tour of Oakdale Cemetery by Bob Cooke & Ed Gibson*

Thanks to members **Bob Cooke** and **Ed Gibson** who once again led an interesting tour of Oakdale Cemetery with particular focus on Confederate figures buried at the historic cemetery.



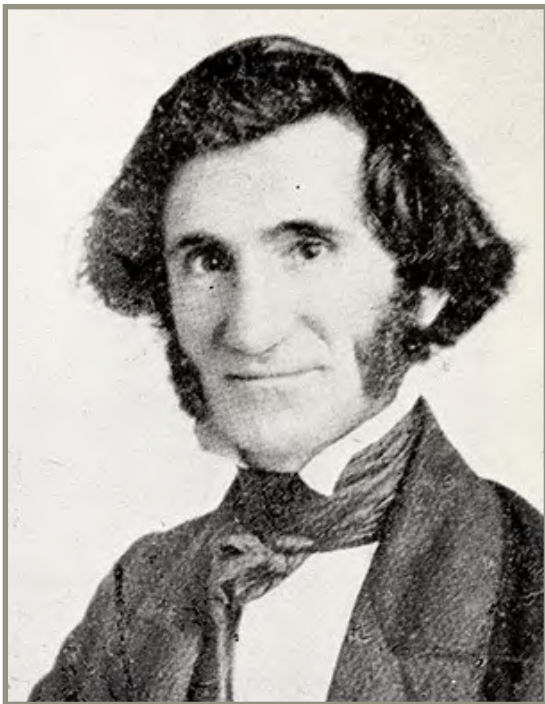
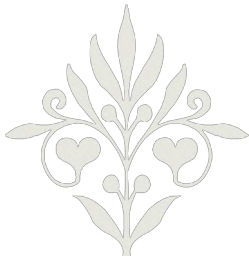
*Secrets of Oakdale Cemetery by Bob Cooke*

**Dr. Solomon Sampson Satchwell (O-41)**

Solomon Sampson Satchwell, 26 October 1821 to 9 November, 1892, was born in little Washington (Beaufort County), N.C., attended Wake Forest (1839-1841) and then studied at New York University where he received his MD in 1850. He continued studying in New York for another 18 months before returning to southeastern N.C. to begin his practice. He's buried in Section O, plot 41, in Oakdale Cemetery in Wilmington, N.C.

Follow this link for a detailed map of historic Oakdale Cemetery <http://www.oakdalecemetery.org/historic-section/>

Early in his career, Dr. Satchwell investigated the diseases prevalent in SENC and pinpointed malaria as the leading cause of death. Dr. Satchwell was a strong believer in the hygienic theory- fresh air, sunshine, proper sanitation, good food and "a minimum of drugs." He also believed in the miasma theory as did most practitioners of that era, as the cause of malaria. In error, in 1852 he delivered a rebuttal against a doctor who did not think that "rotting vegetation, heat and moisture" were the causes of malaria. Of course, there was a connection because mosquitoes bred in the swampy "miasma" environment but almost no medical practitioners or scientists connected the disease to the insect.



DR. SOLOMON SAMPSON SATCHWELL

A well known and respected doctor, he was involved with many medical societies and was co-editor of the N.C. Medical Journal. In 1860, he studied in France at the Sorbonne and returned in the summer of 1861 after a convoluted journey back to N.C. He later said of this trip that he had arrived in New York but found it impossible to travel south because of the outbreak of war. Traveling via Louisville, Kentucky, he finally arrived in North Carolina. He reported that "nowhere in Europe, not even in Russia, is the espionage so annoying nor the searches of persons so officious as they are now in the North".

With North Carolina's secession from the Union, he joined the Confederate cause, and served with the 25th NC with the rank of Surgeon (Major). While with the regiment, one story told of Dr. Satchwell concerns a time when his men became "infested with malaria." Satchwell recommended a draft of whiskey for the afflicted and the malady soon became chronic. He cured this by giving the men a little something extra with the whiskey. This way he said, "They had the pleasure of tasting their whiskey twice, going and coming!"

He resigned from the regiment early in 1862 and was appointed the surgeon-in-charge of General Hospital #2 in Wilson, N.C. The hospital, formerly the "female institute" was large with many outbuildings. The hospital was said to be a model of efficiency: "a place for everything and everything in its place" according to a recovered soldier, "Cleanliness and discipline are strictly observed and enforced.... The inmates are cared for with the utmost

kindness, by the generous, patriotic and skillful surgeon in charge." One medical inspector rated his hospital as the best in the Confederacy.

When war ended, he located his practice in Rocky Point and Burgaw and in the 1870s, lobbied the state legislature to create a new county from the northern portion of New Hanover County. Thus, Pender County was born in 1875. Satchwell was known as an excellent orator and was often called upon to speak to various groups.

## *Secrets of Oakdale Cemetery by Bob Cooke (cont.)*



In 1872, while serving on the Board of Examiners, he presented the credentials of Dr. Susan Dimock, the first female native of the state to receive an MD. She was born in 1847 to a distinguished New England family that had migrated to North Carolina. As a youngster, she had lived across the street from Satchwell in Washington and he took an interest in her and even brought her with him as he made house calls. She had to attend medical schools in Switzerland and Paris because no medical school in the U.S. would accept her. There was still much resistance from the medical community to admit a female and the AMA warned of the dangers of “entrusting life to the weak, unstable feminine intelligence.” She was admitted as an honorary member to the NC Medical Society, but never practiced in NC, but went to Boston and practiced there for a time. Her N.C. Medical Society admission was “honorary” because she was in Europe at the time. Tragically she was lost at sea in 1875 off the coast of England. After her death, one doctor said that he had always been opposed to women doctors, until he had met Susan Dimock. The UNC School of Medicine has named one of their Advisory Colleges after Dr. Susan Dimock.

By 1892 Dr. Satchwell was appointed superintendent of public health for Pender County but died of typhoid that November. He had been treating patients with that disease and was so sick himself, he had to be lifted in and out of his carriage when he called upon them.

His tombstone was placed at Oakdale in the 1930s and was one of the first Federal grave markers placed to recognize Confederate veterans. The Confederate markers with the pointed top were first authorized in 1906 for Confederates buried in U.S. cemeteries. In 1929 the stones were also authorized for use in private cemeteries such as Oakdale. A further change in 1930 authorized the inscription of the Confederate “cross of honor” based on a commemorative medal created by the United Daughters of the Confederacy in 1898 to honor Confederate veterans. The symbol is a “cross pattée,” or “footed” cross. In Burgaw, there is a street named for him as well as a historical marker near his home.

### *Trivia Questions*

1. Where was John Newland Maffitt born?
2. In how many wars did John Lucas Cantwell serve?
3. Did Robert G. Rankin have a “peaceful” war?

*(Continued on page 6)*



*Wreaths Across America*

**National Wreaths Across America Day is less than 150 days away!**

Join more than two million of your fellow Americans on Saturday, 14 December, 2019 and help remember the fallen, honor them and their families while teaching the next generation the value of freedom.

The Round Table Campaign, coordinated with the Wilmington Chapter, NC Military Historical Society will begin on 12 September with a goal of **covering Every grave in the Wilmington National Cemetery with a balsam wreath** (Christmas Wreath).

**Everyone plays a part. Remember, Honor, Teach.** We did it last year, even with the interference of Hurricane Florence.

“THOSE WHO  
HAVE LONG  
ENJOYED SUCH  
PRIVILEGES AS WE  
ENJOY FORGET IN  
TIME THAT MEN  
HAVE DIED TO WIN  
THEM. “

FRANKLIN  
ROOSEVELT

“IT IS FOOLISH  
AND WRONG TO  
MOURN THE MEN  
WHO DIED.  
RATHER WE  
SHOULD THANK  
GOD SUCH MEN  
LIVED.”

GEORGE  
PATTON



*Fort Fisher 2019 Summer **Beat the Heat** Lecture Series*

**Aug 3 - Harry Taylor: Timothy O’Sullivan and the Photographing of Fort Fisher**

**Aug 10 - Jim Steele: The Battle of Rivers Bridge**

All lectures occur on Saturday at 2:00 pm in the Spencer Theater at Fort Fisher. Lectures are free and open to the public. Please call the site at (910) 251-7340 to reserve a seat.

Fort Fisher State Historic Site  
1610 Fort Fisher Blvd South  
Kure Beach, NC 28449

<https://historicsites.nc.gov/events>

## CFCWRT Upcoming events

### September 12th:

*John R. Scales* - The Battles and Campaigns of Confederate General Nathan Bedford Forrest

### October 10th:

*Dave Schultz* - Principles, Policies & Politics of General James Longstreet at Gettysburg

### November 14th:

*Jan Croon* - The War Outside My Window, The Civil War Diaries of LeRoy Wiley Gresham, 1860-1865

### December 12th:

*Lori Sandlin*, Mgr. Southport Maritime Museum - Finding Post-War Confederate Sailor, Captain H. S. Leiby, Blockade Runner and Privateer

## Raffle Winners

A raffle was not held in July.

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.

## Trivia Answers



1. Maffitt was a consummate sailor who served aboard the *USS Constitution* on several cruises, commanded the Confederate raider *CSS Florida* and was a successful blockade runner. The son of Irish Protestant immigrants to the United States, he was born at sea in 1819 and he styled himself “a son of old Neptune.” In retirement, he lived on his farm in Wrightsville Beach and died in 1886. He’s buried in Section N, Lot 25, Oakdale Cemetery.
2. Born in Charleston, S.C., in 1828, Cantwell served in the Palmetto Rifles in the Mexican War and was wounded three times. In the Civil War he led the 30<sup>th</sup> NC Militia in its precipitate occupation of Forts Caswell and Johnston before NC seceded from the Union. Then he was elected Colonel of the 51<sup>st</sup> NC but soon resigned and enlisted in the 3<sup>rd</sup> NC. He served as a captain in the 3<sup>rd</sup> NC and was captured at Spotsylvania Court House. Some sources say that at the age of 70 he volunteered to serve in the militia in 1898 during the war with Spain but never saw service. He died in 1909. He’s buried in Section D, Lot 95, Oakdale Cemetery.
3. Prior to the outbreak of war, Robert G. Rankin, born in 1817, was a leader in military preparedness in Wilmington. When war broke out he became a quartermaster stationed in Wilmington and later commanded Company A of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, NC Heavy Artillery. The unit experienced a relatively “quiet” war, serving primarily at locations along the Cape Fear but when the Union joint Army-Navy force attacked the region in 1865, Captain Rankin and his unit saw hard service in the defense of Wilmington and then retreated to Bentonville where the remnant of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion suffered grievous losses. James Sprunt reports that “every officer except two was killed, wounded, or captured. Captain Rankin was among the killed stricken by eight balls.” Captain Rankin was wounded on March 20, 1865. He’s buried in Section E, Lot 9, Oakdale.

## *Interesting Regiment Names by Bruce Patterson*

During the Civil War, regiments for both the North and South usually picked up "nicknames" by which they became known.

The **46th New York Infantry Regiment** for example, became known as the ***Continental Guard; Perry's Saints*** thus reflecting the origin of the regiment when the War Department authorized Colonel James H. Perry to recruit a regiment of Infantry in Brooklyn in July 1861.

My own Great Grandfather was recruited into and served with the **6th New York Heavy Artillery Regiment**, known as the ***Anthony Wayne Guard***. The regiment was raised in New York's Westchester, Putnam, and Rockland counties. Anthony Wayne, though born in Pennsylvania, became a Revolutionary War hero in that area.

Do you have a favorite regimental nickname? Conversely, what was the nickname of your favorite regiment? **Submit your nominations** to the *Runner* Editor.



## *Dave Mork - Civil War Relic Hunting by Bill Jayne*

Dave Mork, a stalwart member of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table, always eager and willing to lend a hand, has moved back to Northern Virginia to be close to family but he sends his greetings to all of his fellow Civil War history pals. We'll certainly miss Dave but we wish him the best.

Dave is a very active and very expert relic hunter, using his metal detector to find pieces of history that have held their secrets underground for more than 150 years. He notes that relic hunting in Northern Virginia is much better than it is in the Lower Cape Fear.

Dave reports that Berryville, Virginia, is one of his favorite search sites. In early September 1864, Maj. Gen. Philip Sheridan's Union Army of the Shenandoah reached Berryville, about 11 miles east of Winchester, as they marched in pursuit of Lt. Gen. Jubal Early's Confederate Army of the Valley. The armies clashed when Maj. Gen. Joseph B. Kershaw's Confederate division attacked Brig. Gen. George Crook's Union corps on September 3. General Early brought up the rest of his army planning to attack in the morning, but finding the Union position too strong, he withdrew to Winchester. Losses were roughly equal and total casualties were about 600.

Dave says the southwest corner of the map on the next page is the exact area that "my friends and I have been searching for the past seven or eight years! The lower left part of the map is where we concentrated our time and Wow, what we have found is staggering to say the least! Our group of five has pulled nine US belt buckles and a US Saddle Shield out of there... We have a lot of canon shell fragments, fuse adapters, friction primers, parts of bayonets, gun tools and parts, and a boot pistol, buttons from seven or eight different states, a West Point Cadet uniform, several different military schools, and even a few from High Schools."



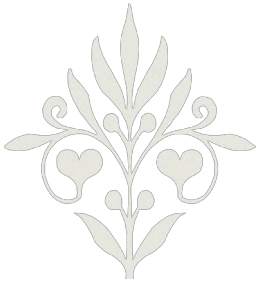
Dave Mork - Civil War Relic Hunting by Bill Jayne (cont.)



(Continued on page 9)

## *Dave Mork - Civil War Relic Hunting by Bill Jayne (cont.)*

He explains, “In the picture you will see part of the nose of an exploded canon shell (upper Left) to the right is a iron key hole escutcheon, a fired .577 Enfield, a .31 caliber pistol bullet, second row a small piece of canon shell frag, a small piece of camp lead, new quarter, six .31 caliber round balls, the brass frame from a belt buckle, and a piece of pottery.”

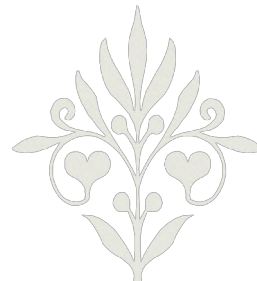


DAVE'S FINDS FROM ONE DAY  
MAY 27, 2019



Here's a great find. It's a saddle shield with “11½ In.” and “SEAT” **engraved on it**. Dave says that when Confederate soldiers or southern civilians acquired Union equipment such as a saddle, they would often remove anything that identified the article as Union property.

As Dave says, “You never know what you will find until you dig it out of the ground!”





## *Civil War Round Table Congress*

[The Civil War Round Table Congress](#) was started three years ago by leaders from the Brunswick, Philadelphia, Puget Sound, Scottsdale Round Tables, and a writer for the Civil War News. Their purpose is to share ideas about how to turn around the decline in Round Table attendance. They do this by having speakers talk about proven methods for recruitment/retention, effective governance, unique ways for fundraising and social media.

The 2019 CWRT Congress is open to all CWRT members. This year's congress will be held in **St. Louis on September 20-22**. Previous successful events were held in Centerville, VA and Harrisburg, PA. *All CWRT members are encouraged to attend!*

The 2019 program consists of speakers, breakout sessions and networking.

Special activities

- Friday Night Reception, tour of Missouri CW Museum and presentation about Ulysses Grant
- Saturday programs listed below as well as catered meals and featured speakers.
- Sunday tours of Jefferson Barracks, National Cemetery, and US Grant Historic Site.

## *2019 CWRT Congress Program Schedule*

8:00	Registration & Check-In	CWRT of St. Louis
8:20	Welcome	Flag Ceremony Mark Trout
		Opening Remarks
		Museum Logistics, etc.
8:35	Master of Ceremonies	Staff Introductions Chris Mackowski
		Attendee Introductions
9:00	Organizing CWRTs For Success	Jay Jorgenson
10:00	Growing SCWRT	Dr. John Bamberl
11:00	Marketing 101	Chris Mackowski
12:20	Breakout Sessions #1 (3 Topics)	
1:30	5 Minute Reports	Breakout Leaders
2:00	Trivia Contest	Chris Mackowski
2:30	Breakout Sessions #2 (3 Topics)	
3:40	5 Minute Reports	Breakout Leaders
4:10	CWRT Observations & Challenges	Mike Movius
5:00	Program end & Networking	
6:00	Dinner	
6:50	After Dinner Speaker and Q&A	Jim Erwin
8:00	Congress concludes	

Breaks at 9:50, 10:50, 1:50, and 4:00.

Lunch at 11:50-12:20



2019 CWRT Congress



2019 CWRT CONGRESS

September 20 - 22, 2019
St. Louis, Missouri

FRIDAY

September 20, 2019
4:00pm - 8:00pm

Reception at the Missouri Civil War Museum includes:

Special tour of the Museum
Presentation by Curt Fields, Ulysses S. Grant

SPEAKERS:

- Dr. John Bamberl Scottsdale CWRT
Matt Borowick Civil War News
Jay Jorgensen R.E. Lee CWRT
Dr. Chris Mackowski Emerging CW
Mike Movius Puget Sound CWRT

SATURDAY

September 21, 2019
8:00am - 5:00pm

All-day CWRT Congress program with catered breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

Learn techniques for:

- Recruitment & Retention
Effective Governance
Preservation Support
Proven Fundraising
Social Media Marketing

SUNDAY

September 22, 2019
9:00am - 2:00pm

Guided tours through historic Jefferson Barracks, National Cemetery, and Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site (White Haven).

Provide your own transportation



SPONSORS:



LOCATION:

Missouri Civil War Museum
1918 Building

222 Worth Rd.
St. Louis, Missouri 63125
314-845-1861
mcwm.org

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## CAPE FEAR CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

YOU CAN FIND US ON THE WEB! [CFCWRT.ORG](http://CFCWRT.ORG)

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

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### *Links*

#### Civil War on YouTube

[ECW YouTube](#) - Providing fresh perspectives on America's defining event—by video! Click the **Subscribe** button to be notified of new content.

[Chicago CWRT](#)

[Milwaukee CWRT](#)

#### [1928-1934 Recollections of the Civil War](#)

Collection of interviews/meetings with elderly veterans and others who lived through the United States Civil War. These films were taken with early Movietone sound cameras from 1928-1934. Condensed/worked on footage and sound.

### *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.

### *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](#)

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[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](#)

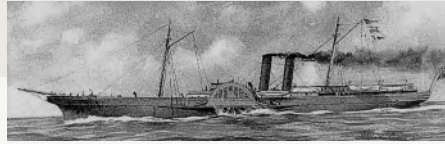


JULY 2019

# THE RUNNER



VOLUME 1 ISSUE 6



## *CFCWRT July Event - Tour of Oakdale Cemetery*

The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table (CFCWRT) July event focuses on Oakdale Cemetery's military history.

Most Wilmingtonians know Oakdale Cemetery as a peaceful landscape of majestic trees, quiet paths rolling over gentle slopes, flowering bushes and picturesque monuments. Chartered in 1852, it is also a treasure trove of history.

Oakdale is the first "rural cemetery" in the state of North Carolina. During the 19th Century, the Rural Cemetery Movement emerged as an alternative to crowded church graveyards. Oakdale exemplifies this movement. In the spirit of the Romantic era, the rural cemetery was meant for the living as well as departed loved ones—just like Oakdale today.

The CFCWRT will present a special military history tour of Oakdale on Sunday morning, July 14th, beginning at 9:30 am. Learn about Civil War generals buried at Oakdale, the mound memorializing more than 300 unknown soldiers, the bold female spy who perished in the surf during the Civil War and many more.

The tour will focus on Civil War era figures. You will learn about victims of the yellow fever epidemic of 1862 and Union soldiers originally buried on the grounds, as well as many others.

*(Continued on page 2)*

## *The Charleston Campaign of 1863*

Opening the summer program of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table, more than 30 members and guests attended a seminar-style discussion about the Union campaign to close Charleston harbor and take the city in 1863.

President Bill Jayne introduced the topic and led the discussion as it focused on the high-stakes ironclad attack on the harbor in April and then the grueling summer campaign on Morris Island that besieged Battery Wagner after a costly repulse in July.

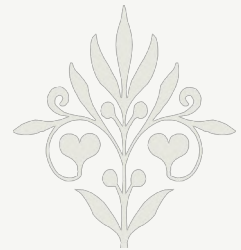
Ultimately, the Union's efforts choked off blockade running but not only failed to take the city where the Civil War began, but failed to take either Fort Sumter or Fort Moultrie, the major forts guarding the entrance to the harbor. The city was, in effect, besieged for the remainder of the war but it didn't fall into Union hands until February 18, 1865, when Confederate forces abandoned the city.

Discussion focused on the ironclad attack, the technology of the monitors that spearheaded the attack, the Confederate defense and the difficulty of conducting joint Army-Navy operations in the Civil War.

*(Continued on page 2)*

### NEXT PRESENTATION

- ◆ Sunday, 07-14-19  
**Oakdale Cemetery Tour**
- ◆ 9:30 AM
- ◆ Oakdale Cemetery  
520 N 15th Street  
Wilmington



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

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### *CFCWRT July Event - Tour of Oakdale Cemetery, cont.*

The tour will last for up to two hours, so dress appropriately for the weather and make sure to bring water.

Your experienced guides are members of the CFCWRT steering committee: Past President **Bob Cooke**, author of *Wild, Wicked Wartime Wilmington*, and **Ed Gibson**, commander of the Major General Thomas H. Ruger Camp #1 of the Sons of Union Veterans.

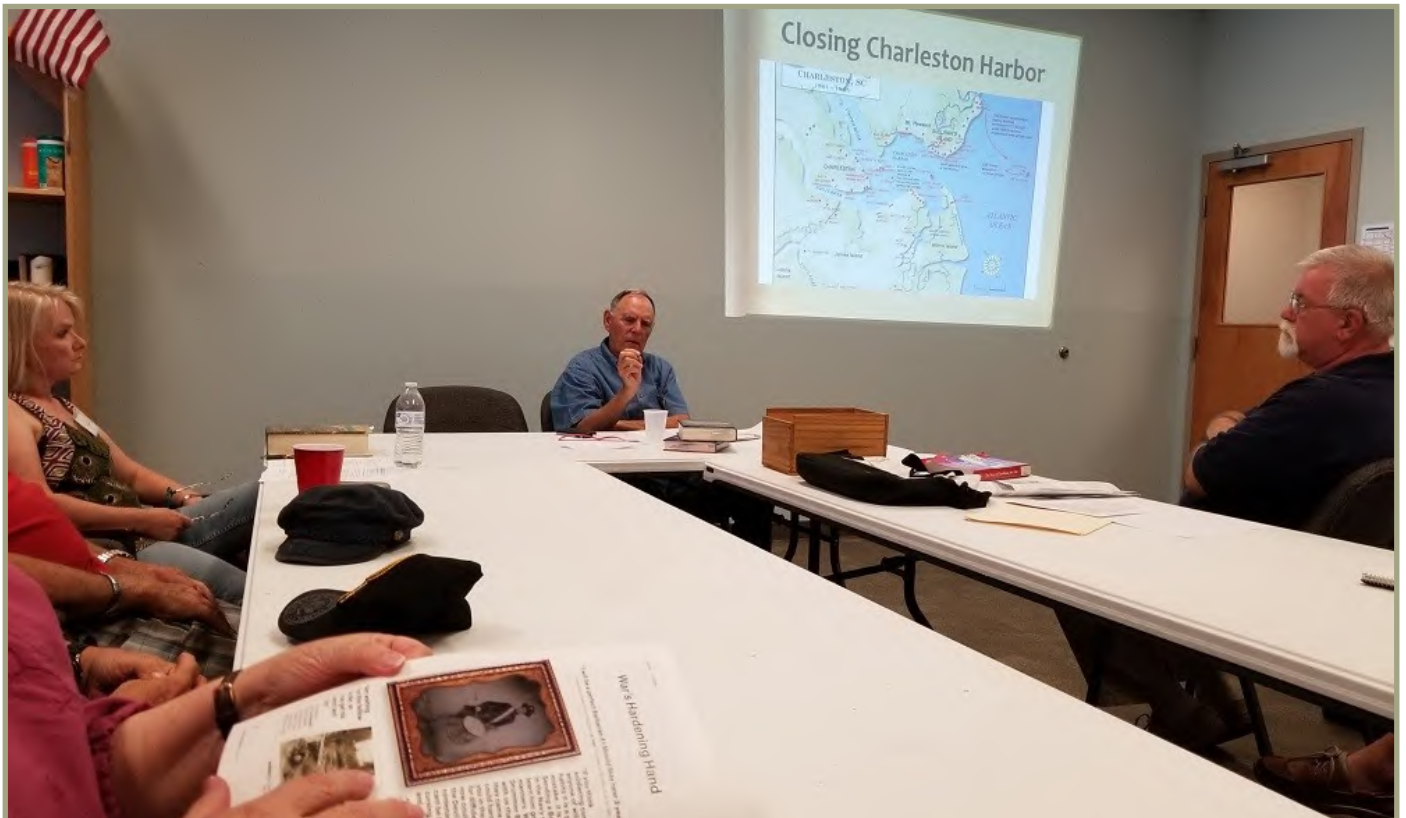
The tour is free to CFCWRT members and non-members will be charged \$5 that can be applied toward membership in the Round Table.

Meet at the entrance to Oakdale at 520 N. 15th St.

### *The Charleston Campaign of 1863, cont.*

A majority of those in attendance participated in the discussion and special recognition goes to Ed Gibson, Lance Bevins, John Moore and JoAnna McDonald who delved into specific subjects and helped focus the discussion.

Wally Rueckel and Jim Johnson of the Brunswick Civil War Round Table were welcome guests who participated in the discussion.



CFCWRT JUNE ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION - THE CHARLESTON CAMPAIGN OF 1863



## CFCWRT August Member Forum

### A Soldier of the Harris Light Calvary

*The unpublished letters of Daniel Underhill*

Bob Cooke

### Fighting for the Union and Fighting for Ireland

*General Thomas Francis Meagher*

John Bolger

### The Davis Company and the Battle of Sabine Pass

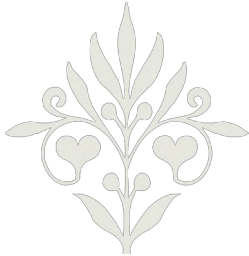
*How a few men drove off an army*

John Winecoff

### Chickamauga Mix-ups

*What happens when a commander doesn't use his own chain of command?*

Mark Swanstrom



## Blockade Runner Chicora

One of the curious difficulties of researching Civil War maritime history is the fact that ships often changed their names. A blockade runner captured by the U.S. Navy might be refitted to become a blockader. The blockade runner *Advance*, partially owned by the state of North Carolina, was built in Great Britain as the *Lord Clyde*. She became the *Advance* when she arrived in Confederate waters and made 17 successful round trips through the blockade until she was captured coming out of Wilmington on September 10, 1864. She was then purchased from the prize court and taken into the U.S. Navy as the *Frolic*. To make matters worse, U.S. records sometimes referred to the blockade runner as the *A.D. Vance* and the *Ad-Vance*.

The case of “Chicora” may be even more confusing. Let’s start with the idea that it is an American Indian name. In 1521 Spanish slavers operating along the Carolina coast captured an Indian man along the shore of Winyah Bay, around modern Georgetown, S.C. They named him Francisco de Chicora, probably getting the name from his efforts to name his tribe or the place he was from. So, the name “Chicora” passed into South Carolina history as the name for Indians that lived in that area north of Charleston.

As the war developed, blockade running became very profitable and private companies were formed. One such was the Chicora Importing and Exporting Company of South Carolina. Incorporated in December 1863, the firm actually began operations in September 1862 under the leadership of wealthy Charleston merchants and bankers, including Theodore Wagner, a partner of George Trenholm at John Fraser and Company. Trenholm was the most influential of the blockade running businessmen and later became Confederate Treasury Secretary.

Yes, the Chicora Importing and Exporting Company eventually owned a blockade runner named the *Chicora*, but wait a minute. There was another *Chicora*. The CSS (Confederate States Ship) *Chicora* was an ironclad ram built in Charleston to help defend the harbor. Two ships were built around the same time, the *Chicora* and the *Palmetto State*. Officially a Richmond class ram, the *Chicora* was built in 1862 with \$300,000 in funds appropriated by the

(Continued on page 6)

THE EXPORTS OF COTTON FROM THE SOUTH FELL BY NEARLY 95 PERCENT BY THE END OF THE WAR DUE TO THE UNION BLOCKADE.

THE UNION NAVY CAPTURED OR DESTROYED AROUND 1,500 BLOCKADE RUNNER SHIPS DURING THE COURSE OF THE CIVIL WAR.

## CFCWRT Upcoming events

### September 12th:

*John R. Scales* - The Battles and Campaigns of Confederate General Nathan Bedford Forrest

### October 10th:

*Dave Schultz* - Principles, Policies & Politics of General James Longstreet at Gettysburg

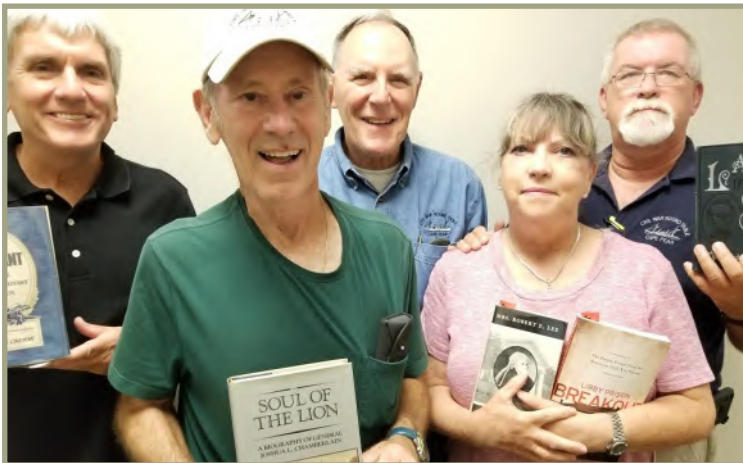
### November 14th:

*Jan Croon* - The War Outside My Window, The Civil War Diaries of LeRoy Wiley Gresham, 1860-1865

### December 12th:

*Lori Sandlin*, Mgr. Southport Maritime Museum - Finding Post-War Confederate Sailor, Captain H. S. Leiby, Blockade Runner and Privateer

## Raffle - June Winners



Jim Horton - US Grant

John Bolger - Soul of the Lion

Bill Jayne - Great Photographers of the Civil War

Linda Lashley - Mrs. Robert E. Lee & Libby Prison Breakout

Ed Gibson - Abe Lincoln's Stories

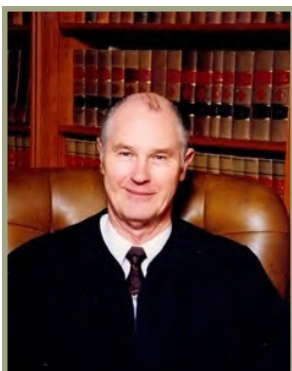
If you have books, prints, or other items that you would like to donate to the raffle, contact Raffle Master [Ed Gibson](#) before our next meeting. The raffle is one of the components which the CFCWRT uses to fund our activities and our speakers. Please take part in our raffle by contributing items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

## Member News - In Remembrance

Some 15 (or so) years ago, **Arthur McGiverin**, then the recently retired Chief Justice of the Iowa Supreme Court, visited his nephew Terry McGiverin, a member of our CFCWRT.

Judge McGiverin, a former President of the Ottumwa, Iowa CWRT was interested in visiting Fort Fisher. Several members of our group joined with Bob Cooke on that tour. Member Tim Winstead, then editor of *Runner*, maintained contact with Judge McGiverin resulting in Judge McGiverin becoming an associate member of the CFCWRT. Judge McGiverin always accompanied his annual dues payment with a note of greeting. He appreciated his association with fellow Civil War enthusiasts and frequently acknowledged a particular issue of *Runner* or Round Table activity.

Retired Iowa Supreme Court Judge **Arthur McGiverin** passed away on June 2nd at the age of 90 in Iowa City, Iowa. His notes of greeting and encouragement to his "adopted CWRT" will be missed.



## *Fort Fisher 2019 Summer **Beat the Heat** Lecture Series*

**July 6** - John Winecoff: **North Carolina's Silent Sentinels**

**July 13** - Dr. Chris Fonvielle: **Running the Blockade: The Technology and the Men of the Lifeline**

**July 20** - Becky Sawyer: **The Federal Point Lighthouse**

**July 27** - Wade Sokolosky: **Tending to the Soldiers: Wilmington's Civil War Hospitals**

**Aug 3** - Harry Taylor: **Timothy O'Sullivan and the Photographing of Fort Fisher**

**Aug 10** - Jim Steele: **The Battle of Rivers Bridge**

All lectures occur on Saturday at 2:00 pm in the Spencer Theater at Fort Fisher. Lectures are free and open to the public. Please call the site at (910) 251-7340 to reserve a seat.

Fort Fisher State Historic Site  
1610 Fort Fisher Blvd South  
Kure Beach, NC 28449

<https://historicsites.nc.gov/events>

### *Trivia Questions*

1. How long was the siege of Charleston?
2. Who was the pilot of the Union ironclad *Keokuk* that sank as a result of damage sustained in the April 7, 1863, naval assault?
3. Was the Requa Battery an artillery weapon?

Answers on Page 9

### *Thousands of Soldiers held Massive Snowball Fights*

One morning in 1864, the Confederate Army woke up to 13 centimeters (5 in) of snow. The men rushed out and fought what may be one of the biggest snowball fights in history.

Up to 20,000 men were involved. The Tennessee and Georgian soldiers divided themselves into two armies, built up arsenals of snowballs, and charged at each other. On Tennessee's side, Colonel Gordon even rode out on horseback, holding up a dirty handkerchief like it was a flag and pelting his men with snow.

Other fights broke out among the Confederate forces. Men lined up, using all their military training, and launched volleys of snowballs at the other side. Some who ran too close to the enemy line were dragged over to have their shirts stuffed with snow.

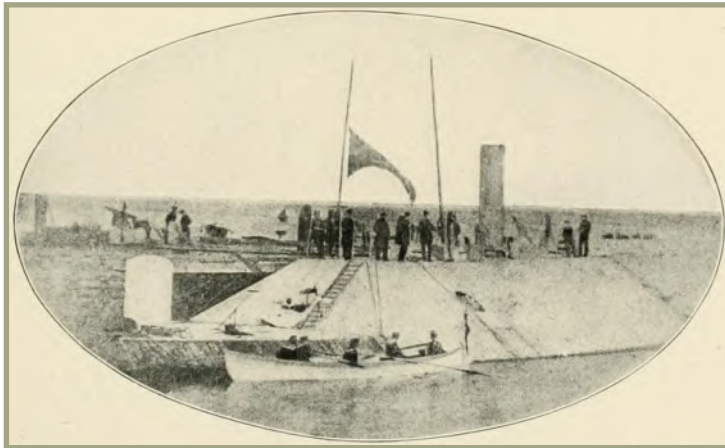
The boys, after all, were young—some only 17 years old. When the snow cleared, they picked up their weapons again and marched for another battle, where more than just a shirt full of snow awaited..

“FROM SMITHVILLE...BOTH BLOCKADING FLEETS COULD BE DISTINCTLY SEEN, AND THE OUTWARD BOUND BLOCKADE-RUNNERS COULD TAKE THEIR CHOICE THROUGH WHICH OF THEM TO RUN THE GAUNTLET...THE UNITED STATES FLEET WERE UNABLE WHOLLY TO STOP BLOCKADE-RUNNING. IT WAS INDEED, IMPOSSIBLE TO DO SO;”

JOHN WILKINSON,  
THE NARRATIVE OF  
A BLOCKADE-  
RUNNER



## Blockade Runner *Chicora*, cont.



CSS CHICORA

State of South Carolina. *Palmetto State* was funded largely by private donations and was called “The Ladies’ Gun-boat.” The *CSS Chicora* was 150 feet long with a 35-foot beam, 14-foot draft and six guns. A single-screw propeller powered by a steam engine drove the plodding ship at about five knots top speed. One story says that a log floating in the tide of Charleston harbor could outrun the *Chicora*.

All the major Confederate harbors had similar ironclads to help defend them and they had little success in offensive operations. On January 31, 1863, however, the *Chicora* and the *Palmetto State* took advantage of the absence of US ironclads blockading Charleston harbor and sortied out to drive away the wooden ships on station. They severely

damaged two ships, including the *USS Keystone State*, a side-wheel paddle steamer. With one paddle wheel disabled, the *Keystone State* steamed in a large circle, but even so, she was able to outrun the *Chicora*. Briefly, the US ships steamed away from the harbor mouth and the two Confederate ironclads returned to their berths within the harbor. Confederate officials proclaimed the blockade broken but by the time foreign consuls went out to observe, the blockading vessels were back on station. Soon, the U.S. Navy made sure that ironclad ships were always close by and the Confederate rams never ventured outside the harbor again.

Now, we get to the blockade runner *Chicora*. The *Chicora* Importing and Exporting Company contracted with William C. Miller and Sons in Liverpool, England, in 1864 to build a vessel that was originally named *Let Her Be*. They also contracted for another ship called *Let Her Rip*. The ships were fast, 211 feet long, 26 feet in the beam with a steel hull and side wheel paddles. As with most blockade runners built in the British Isles, the ships were

renamed when they reached Confederate ports. The *Let Her Be* became the *Chicora* and the *Let Her Rip* became the *Wando*.

The ships were very profitable with *Chicora* making seven successful round trips through the blockade. She started out running from Bermuda to Wilmington and then switched to Charleston in late 1864.

She was also involved in a risky enterprise that might have done much to upset the balance of forces in the summer of 1864 as General U.S. Grant and the Union armies tightened their grip

on Robert E. Lee’s Army of Northern Virginia at Richmond and Petersburg.

In July 1864, the Confederacy transferred about 200 sailors and marines from the Richmond area south to Wilmington where they boarded the *Let Her Be* (not yet re-named *Chicora*) and the *Florie*, another fast blockade runner owned by the Importing and Exporting



STEAMER CHICORA -  
NOTED BLOCKADE  
RUNNER

## *Blockade Runner Chicora, cont.*

Company of Georgia. Mr. Gazaway Bugg Lamar was president of the Georgia company, not Rhett Butler. Sorry.

Anyway, the plan was that the two ships would steam up the coast, run into the Chesapeake Bay and raid the Union prison camp at Point Lookout, Maryland. At Point Lookout they would free the Confederate prisoners held there and bring them back to Wilmington where they could be rehabilitated and outfitted to reinforce Lee's army. The numbers wouldn't have been significant enough to help Lee but, no doubt, a successful raid of that sort would have caused the Union to reallocate ships and other resources to prevent such a thing from occurring again. Unfortunately for the Confederacy, with the two steamers anchored off of Smithville (modern Southport), President Jefferson Davis himself ordered the operation to be halted because it was believed that the Union had learned of the plan.

The blockade runner *Chicora* was never captured or sunk by the Union and her owners, the *Chicora Importing and Exporting Company of South Carolina*, had her brought to Halifax, Nova Scotia, and sold near the end of the war. It helped the southern company pay its bills and end the war on a profitable note. The ship was actually cut in half and bulk-headed so the two halves could float and taken into Lake Ontario where she served as an excursion boat until 1919.

If you're interested in learning more about blockade running, look into *Lifeline of the Confederacy: Blockade Running During the Civil War* by Stephen R. Wise. It's probably the best single source of information about blockade running because most Confederate records were destroyed around the end of the war and Dr. Wise, director of the US Marine Corps museum at Parris Island, exhaustively studied newspaper archives and other private sources to create an objective history of blockade running.

IF YOU'RE  
INTERESTED IN  
LEARNING MORE  
ABOUT BLOCK-  
ADE RUNNING,  
LOOK INTO  
*LIFELINE OF THE  
CONFEDERACY:  
BLOCKADE RUN-  
NING DURING  
THE CIVIL WAR*

BY  
STEPHEN R. WISE



*Medical Innovations of the Civil War***Life-Saving Amputation**

Surgeons frequently treated arm and leg wounds by amputating. The grisly wounds caused by bullets and shrapnel were often contaminated by clothing and other debris. Cleaning such a wound was time-consuming and often ineffective. However, amputation made a complex wound simple. Surgical manuals taught that an amputation should be performed within the first two days following injury. The death rate from these so-called primary amputations was lower than the rate for amputations performed after the wound became infected. Union surgeons performed nearly 30,000 amputations.

Patients undergoing amputation were first anesthetized. A tourniquet was applied above the site of the proposed amputation. The skin and muscle were then cut with amputation knives several inches above the fracture site. The muscles were pulled up to expose the bone. An amputation saw was used to cut through the bone. Once the cut was completed, large arteries were pulled out from the stump tissue with a tenaculum and tied off to prevent bleeding. The skin muscle was then released and the tissue sutured. Two types of amputation were commonly used. A circular amputation involved cutting straight through the skin to the bone and resulted in a stump that was circular in appearance. A flap amputation required the tissue to be cut leaving two flaps of skin that were used to create a stump. Fingers and other small bones were amputated using the smaller metacarpal saw.

Among those saved by the saw was Daniel E. Sickles, the eccentric commander of the 3rd Army Corps. In 1863, at the Battle of Gettysburg, the major general's right leg was shattered by a Confederate shell. Within the hour, the leg was amputated just above the knee. His procedure, publicized in the military press, paved the way for many more. Since the new Army Medical Museum in Washington, D.C., had requested battle-field donations, Sickles sent the limb to them in a box labeled "With the compliments of Major General D.E.S." Sickles visited his leg yearly on the anniversary of its emancipation.

Amputation saved more lives than any other wartime medical procedure by instantly turning complex injuries into simple ones. Battlefield surgeons eventually took no more than six minutes to get each moaning man on the table, apply a handkerchief soaked in chloroform or ether, and make the deep cut. Union surgeons became the most skilled limb hackers in history. Even in deplorable conditions, they lost only about 25 percent of their patients—compared to a 75 percent mortality rate among similarly injured civilians at the time. The techniques invented by wartime surgeons—including cutting as far from the heart as possible and never slicing through joints—became the standard.

"THERE WERE LOYAL WOMEN, AS WELL AS MEN, IN THOSE DAYS WHO DID NOT FEAR THE SHELL OR THE SHOT, WHO CARED FOR THE SICK AND DYING..."

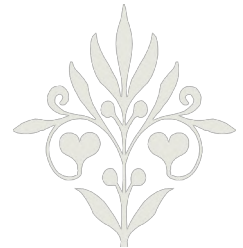
-SUSIE KING TAYLOR, NURSE WITH THE 33RD US COLORED INFANTRY



MAJOR GENERAL DANIEL E. SICKLES WAS PHOTOGRAPHED IN 1865 AT THE ARMY MEDICAL MUSEUM

*Trivia Answers*

1. Some authorities say that the siege began on December 7, 1861, when Union forces seized Port Royal harbor near Beaufort, just south of Charleston. The harbor became the home port of the Union Navy’s South Atlantic Blockading Squadron and the base of the Department of the South for the Army. Most authorities, however, think the siege of Charleston began on July 10, 1863, when Union forces landed on Morris Island and began the drive that resulted in closing off the main channel into Charleston Harbor.
  
2. The pilot was Robert Smalls, the courageous slave who commandeered the CSS Planter in Charleston Harbor on May 13, 1862, and boldly steamed out of the Charleston harbor with his family and friends aboard. Smalls warned the captain of the Keokuk that the currents would make it difficult to steer the ship as it approached Ft. Sumter and the ship was caught close to the fort for about 30 minutes receiving terrible punishment that resulted in its sinking the following day.
  
3. General Quincy Gillmore employed six batteries of Requa guns in the siege of Battery Wagner. They were, in essence, prototype machine guns. Twenty-five rifle barrels were laid next to each other on a table of sorts and loaded with 25 rounds of ammunition from a clip. Fired simultaneously, the 25 rounds were effective in providing cover for Union soldiers digging trenches closer to Battery Wagner. The gun was the invention of Dr. Josephus Requa, a dentist in Rochester, NY, and William Billinghamurst, a gunsmith. It was rejected by General James W. Ripley, Union chief of ordnance, because he thought it would waste ammunition and cause logistical problems.



*Union Army was a Multicultural / Multinational Force*

**One-third of the soldiers who fought for the Union Army were immigrants, and nearly one in 10 was African American.**

The Union Army was a multicultural force—even a multinational one. We often hear about Irish soldiers (7.5 percent of the army), but the Union’s ranks included even more Germans (10 percent), who marched off in regiments such as the Steuben Volunteers. Other immigrant soldiers were French, Italian, Polish, English and Scottish. In fact, one in four regiments contained a majority of foreigners. African Americans were permitted to join the Union Army in 1863, and some scholars believe this infusion of soldiers may have turned the tide of the war.



“...THE XI CORPS OF THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC WAS KNOWN AS "THE DUTCHMAN’S CORPS" BECAUSE IT INCLUDED SO MANY GERMAN IMMIGRANTS, BUT IT BECAME SOMETHING OF A CATCH-ALL CORPS FOR FOREIGN-BORN RECRUITS FROM THROUGHOUT EUROPE AND EVEN THE MIDEAST.”

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## CAPE FEAR CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

YOU CAN FIND US ON THE WEB! [CFCWRT.ORG](http://CFCWRT.ORG)

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

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### *Links*

#### National Archives

[Civil War Records: Basic Research Sources](#)

[Civil War Photos](#)

#### Library of Congress

[Civil War Maps](#)

[Civil War Glass Negatives and Related Prints](#)

#### Civil War Era Newspapers

##### [The Soldiers Journal](#)

Newspaper distributed around Alexandria, VA between February 1864 to February 1865

##### [The Camden Confederate](#)

Newspaper from Camden, South Carolina distributed from November 1861 to February 1865

### *Sponsor*



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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.

### *Steering Committee—Officers*

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

Vice President:

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

Secretary/Treasurer:

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Membership:

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[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](#)

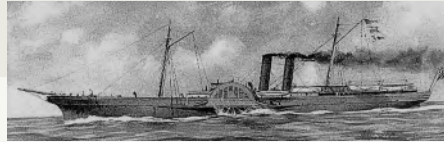


# THE RUNNER



JUNE 2019

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 5



## *June Round Table Discussion A Nearly Forgotten Campaign of 1863*

As part of our expanded summer program, the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table will host a true “round table” discussion about the Charleston campaign of 1863.

Charleston, of course, was the “seat of rebellion.” It was the place where Southern radicals initiated the secession movement and South Carolina militia fired the first shots of the conflict.

By 1863, Charleston remained a potent symbol and was also the most important blockade running port in the Confederacy. Its railroads connected the port to the primary Confederate armies in both Virginia and Tennessee.

*(Continued on page 2)*

## *CFCWRT July Event - Tour of Oakdale Cemetery*

The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table (CFCWRT) July event focuses on Oakdale Cemetery’s military history.

Most Wilmingtonians know Oakdale Cemetery as a peaceful landscape of majestic trees, quiet paths rolling over gentle slopes, flowering bushes and picturesque monuments. Chartered in 1852, it is also a treasure trove of history.

Oakdale is the first “rural cemetery” in the state of North Carolina. During the 19th Century, the Rural Cemetery Movement emerged as an alternative to crowded church graveyards. Oakdale exemplifies this movement. In the spirit of the Romantic era, the rural cemetery was meant for the living as well as departed loved ones—just like Oakdale today.

The CFCWRT will present a special military history tour of Oakdale on Sunday morning, July 14th, beginning at 9:30 am. Learn about Civil War generals buried at Oakdale, the mound memorializing more than 300 unknown soldiers, the bold female spy who perished in the surf during the Civil War and many more.

The tour will focus on Civil War era figures. You will learn about victims of the yellow fever epidemic of 1862 and Union soldiers originally buried on the grounds, as well as many others.

The tour will last for up to two hours, so dress appropriately for the weather and make sure to bring water.

Your experienced guides are members of the CFCWRT steering committee: Past President Bob Cooke, author of *Wild, Wicked Wartime Wilmington*,

*(Continued on page 3)*

### **NEXT PRESENTATION**

- ◆ Thursday, 06-13-19  
**RT Discussion - A Nearly Forgotten Campaign of 1863**
- ◆ 6:30 Social 7:00 Meeting
- ◆ Harbor UMC  
Room 226  
4853 Masonboro Loop Rd.  
Wilmington



### **INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

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## *June Round Table Discussion A Nearly Forgotten Campaign of 1863, cont.*

The summer of 1863 seemed, even at the time, the most fateful of the war. Vicksburg fell and “the father of waters once again goes unvexed to the sea,” and the Army of Northern Virginia reached its “high water mark” at Gettysburg, and then receded. What would have happened if Charleston had fallen in that summer?

The distance from Ft. Moultrie to Ft. Sumter is only 1800 yards. On April 7, 1863, Admiral Samuel F. DuPont took a fleet of nine U.S. Navy ironclads, including seven monitors, into that narrow space and attempted to reduce the forts or run through the gauntlet into the harbor. An effective barrier in the channel and the overwhelming volume of accurate fire from the forts stopped the attempt, although more effective planning and joint Army-Navy operations might have led to success.

South of the harbor entrance, lay a thin barrier island called Morris Island. Much of the island has eroded into the ocean since the Civil War but in 1863 it was the scene of fierce fighting in which the Union army eventually occupied Battery Wagner and other Confederate positions, allowing them to virtually close off the main shipping channel, which ran parallel to the island. Firing from Morris Island, the Union battered Ft. Sumter into a pile of rubble. The famous fort was no longer effective as an artillery platform but, as a lightly manned infantry post, it anchored the obstructions that prevented Union warships from steaming into the harbor. Although the Confederates didn’t abandon the fort until 1865, Charleston was no longer the premier blockade running port in the south. That distinction fell to Wilmington.

The monitor attack in April illustrated the limitations of those revolutionary little ships and led to the relief of Admiral DuPont. His replacement was Admiral John Dahlgren of gun invention fame. He was somewhat more cooperative with General Quincy Gillmore, commander of Union ground forces. The grinding summer campaign on Morris Island—with Battery Wagner at its heart—led to more than 2,318 Union casualties and over 1,000 Confederate losses. Those numbers don’t include substantial losses to illness and disease.

“IN EVERY BATTLE  
THERE COMES A TIME  
WHEN BOTH SIDES  
CONSIDER THEM-  
SELVES BEATEN,  
THEN HE WHO CON-  
TINUES THE ATTACK  
WINS.”

**- Ulysses S. Grant**



LAST YEAR’S ROUND  
TABLE DISCUSSION

The land campaign evolved into something that presaged the trench warfare of World War I. It featured extensive trenches, and regular relief of both Union and Confederate forces

*(Continued on page 3)*

## *June Round Table Discussion A Nearly Forgotten Campaign of 1863, cont.*

on the firing line because duty was so dangerous and trying. Technology came into play, too, as the Union developed a “sap roller” used to protect Union soldiers as they dug trenches perpendicular to the Confederate position. Several Requa Batteries, an early version of the machine gun, also made their appearance along with numerous “torpedoes” or mines.

The discussion will focus on the reasons for the Union failure to achieve total victory. Was it political meddling? Was it an overconfident reliance on new technology? Was it the personality conflicts and poor doctrine that made effective Union joint operations impossible? Was it the skill and tenacity of the Confederate defense, led by General P.G.T. Beauregard?

There is a great deal of good information available online and the books **Success Is All That Was Expected** by Robert M. Browning, Jr., and **Gate of Hell** by Stephen R. Wise are excellent volumes.

“WE TALKED THE MATTER OVER AND COULD HAVE SETTLED THE WAR IN THIRTY MINUTES HAD IT BEEN LEFT TO US.”

– Unknown Confederate Soldier referencing a meeting he had with a Union soldier between the lines.



LAST YEAR'S ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

## *Oakdale Cemetery - CFCWRT July Event, cont.*

and Ed Gibson, commander of the Major General Thomas H. Ruger Camp #1 of the Sons of Union Veterans.

The tour is free to CFCWRT members and non-members will be charged \$5 that can be applied toward membership in the Round Table.

Meet at the entrance to Oakdale at 520 N. 15th St.





## *CFCWRT Upcoming events*

### SUMMER SERIES

**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.

**September:** John R. Scales - The Battles and Campaigns of Confederate General Nathan Bedford Forrest

"IT WOULD  
APPEAR THAT THE  
IRONCLADS ARE  
NOT FORMIDABLE  
MONSTERS AFTER  
ALL."

Major David B.  
Harris, CSA, Chief  
Engineer of the  
District of Georgia

## *Raffle - May Winners*



Jane McDonald - Confederate Women

David Jordan - The Long Surrender

David Munnikhuisen - The Confederate Nation

John Moore - Promise of Glory

Joe Hack

Jim Wagner - April 1865

Al Anderson - Judah P. Benjamin

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

## Member News

### THE CIVIL WAR MONITOR - SUMMER 2019 ISSUE

This issue features Wilmington in the Travels article. It features a series of questions and the responses of a couple of local “experts.” The local experts were **Bill Jayne, President, Cape Fear Civil War Round Table**, and Christine Divoky, Executive Director of Friends of Fort Fisher. With photographs taken by magazine staff, the article spreads across four pages. In addition to Fort Fisher State Historic Site, the article features Oakdale Cemetery, Fort Anderson State Historic Site, the Wilmington Riverwalk, Airlie Gardens, the NC Aquarium, Fort Fisher State Recreation Area, Jungle Rapids, the Cameron Art Museum (and Forks Road battle site), and, as “Best Book,” Chris Fonvielle’s *The Wilmington Campaign*. Several restaurants and lodging establishments are also noted.

Just before the Travels article is a feature called “Salvo” that presents a fantastic lithograph of the fleet bombardment of Ft. Fisher.



On May 18th, CFCWRT members enjoyed a tour of Ft. Fisher by **Dr. Chris Fonvielle**, the former CFCWRT president. The field tour followed a talk by Chris on his book, *Fort Fisher 1865: The Photographs of T. H. O’Sullivan*.



Keith Ward, Linda Lashley, and Debbie Ward



The Fort Fisher Summer Lecture Series will include CFCWRT Member-at-Large **John Winecoff** (July 6th) and prior CFCWRT president **Dr. Chris Fonvielle** (July 13th). You will find the lecture series schedule on Page 6.

“...CONFUSED AND STUNNED, LIKE A DUCK HIT ON THE HEAD.”

LINCOLN REFERRING TO GENERAL ROSECRANS LOSS AT THE BATTLE OF CHICKAMAUGA, ROSECRANS WAS RELIEVED OF COMMAND SHORTLY THEREAFTER.

“THE REBEL ARMY IS NOW THE LEGITIMATE PROPERTY OF THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC.”

-JOSEPH HOOKER SPOKE THESE POMPOUS WORDS SHORTLY BEFORE HE WAS SOUNDLY DEFEATED BY ROBERT E. LEE AT CHANCELLORSVILLE.

## *Fort Fisher 2019 Summer Beat the Heat Lecture Series*

**June 15** - Rick Morrison: The Wilmington Campaign of 1781

**June 22** - Michael Hardy, renowned historian and author of North Carolina in the Civil War

**June 29** - Mark Grim: The Imprisonment and Trial of the Lincoln Conspirators

**July 6** - John Winecoff: North Carolina's Silent Sentinels

**July 13** - Dr. Chris Fonvielle: Blockade Running and Wilmington

**July 20** - Becky Sawyer: Federal Point Lighthouses

**July 27** - Wade Sokolosky: Wilmington's Civil War Hospitals

**Aug 3** - Harry Taylor: Timothy O'Sullivan and the photographing of Fort Fisher

**Aug 10** - Jim Steele: The Battle of Rivers Bridge

All lectures occur on Saturday at 2:00 pm in the Spencer Theater at Fort Fisher. Please call the site at (910) 251-7340 to reserve a seat.

Fort Fisher State Historic Site  
1610 Fort Fisher Blvd South  
Kure Beach, NC 28449

<https://historicsites.nc.gov/events>

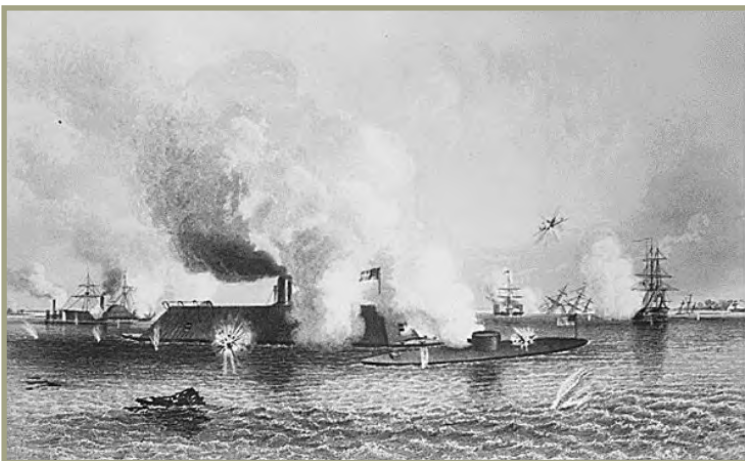
“SENDING ARMIES  
TO MCCLELLAN IS  
LIKE SHOVELING  
FLEAS ACROSS A  
BARNYARD, NOT  
HALF OF THEM GET  
THERE..”

ABRAHAM LINCOLN,  
REFERRING TO  
GENERAL GEORGE  
MCCLELLAN

## *Trivia Questions*

1. How was the town of Havelock, NC, named?
2. What was the Croatan Line”?
3. What did the NC regiments who were defeated at New Bern in March 1862 do over the next six months?

Answers on Page 10



NAVAL ENGAGEMENT IN HAMPTON ROADS.  
MERRIMAC AND MONITOR. MARCH 1862.  
COPY OF PRINT BY J. DAVIES AFTER C. PAR-  
SONS, 1863.

## *Who Will Lift This Flag*

### Carrying on Dr. Richard J. Sommers's Legacy

Civil War and Military Historian, Richard J. Sommers, peacefully passed away Tuesday, May 14, 2019. I knew him for 38 years; he was a neighbor, a mentor, and a friend. His love of history influenced countless students of history. He was indirectly or directly involved in much of the Civil War-Military History literature published in the last four decades. While it is true that "America has lost a great historian," as Ted Alexander noted, we recognize that Dick prepared us for this moment.



Much of Dr. Sommers' life was about keeping the memories of our Civil War forefathers and military studies, in general, relevant in our society. It was an up-hill struggle. Many Americans have little interest in, or knowledge of, history. Less and less civilian universities offer Civil War courses, and even less offer military studies (military history, strategy, and strategic leadership). Dick, however, refused to give up. His passion for learning and sharing that knowledge kept him moving forward. Even when he fell ill, he continued to visit battlefields, lecture, publish articles and books, and encourage others to publish their historical works.

As I reminisced about Dick's legacy, I began to think about the scene in the movie *Glory*. Before the final battle, Colonel Robert Gould Shaw stands before the 54<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts, points to his color-bearer and asks his color-guard, "if this man should fall who will lift the flag and carry on?" I can think of numerous students of history—professional historians and the general public—who will lift the flag and carry on. We will take what he has taught us: emulate his tenacity, his intellectual warrior-ethos, work ethic, and love of history and of Country. We will dedicate ourselves to the unfinished work remaining before us and pass that knowledge on to future generations.

May 20, 2019  
JoAnna M. McDonald, Ph.D. History  
Wilmington, NC

A more complete obituary is available at this link: [Richard Sommers Obituary](#)

A member of our roundtable, JoAnna McDonald, Ph.D., knew Dr. Sommers well and provides this personal tribute. Thank you JoAnna.

Richard J. "Dick" Sommers, Ph.D., a preeminent Civil War historian, passed away in May at the age of 76. He published over 100 books, articles, chapters, entries, and reviews on the Civil War.

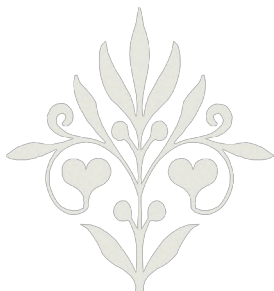
## *Upcoming Events*

### *Fort Fisher*

- ◆ **June 15-16: Confederate Navy Living History Weekend** Living History Program  
[Fort Fisher](#)

### *Southern Pines Civic Club - Rufus Barringer Civil War Round Table*

- ◆ **June 20th: Chris Kolakowski, "Grant Take Command,"** an analysis of Grant assuming command of all the Union armies as Lt. General in 1864, Pinehurst, NC



Civil War from Artist's Point of View

By Jim Horton



My first encounter with the Civil War was from a book called *Great Battles of The Civil War* from Life magazine. It was produced in conjunction with the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the war. I was probably 7 or 8 years old and had never seen anything like this before. It had paintings of battles and pictures of soldiers in blue or grey uniforms with all of their weapons and accoutrements. These paintings created my interest in the Civil War, an interest that has lasted a lifetime.

Civil War art began during the war with the battlefield drawings from the publications of Frank Leslie. Artists such as Alfred Waud and Edwin Forbes were eyewitnesses to the carnage and their drawings were published in Leslie's newspapers as well as *Harper's Weekly* and others. Also, famous artists such as Winslow Homer created detailed oil paintings of the Union army in camp and in drill.

VETERAN

in Leslie's newspapers as well as *Harper's Weekly* and others. Also, famous artists such as Winslow Homer created detailed oil paintings of the Union army in camp and in drill.

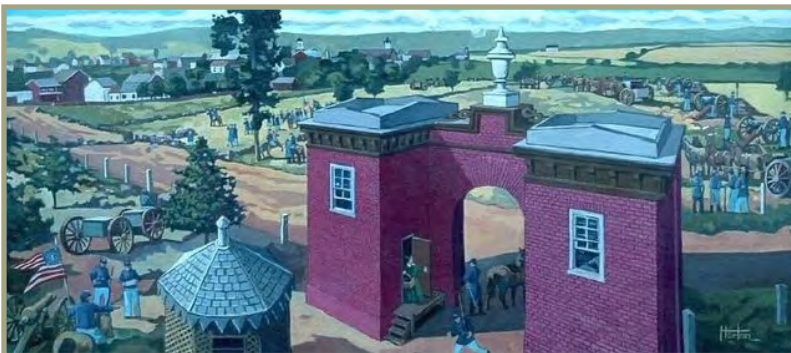
Artists of today are continuing this tradition with very detailed paintings of all aspects of the Civil War and have taken it to a new level. Don Troiani's paintings are meticulously researched and beautifully rendered.



VICKSBURG

His details are accurate to the number of buttons on a jacket. His battlefield scenes make one feel that they are standing in the center of the action. Most of his paintings feature a particular event during a battle and one can learn quite a bit about it by studying the painting. They are also outstanding works of art in color and design

Mort Kunstler paintings are also historically accurate and extremely detailed. Kunstler, as well, paints battle scenes but also makes many of his paintings of non-battle subjects such as parades, weddings, Confederate balls and the like. They are all quite beautiful as works of art as well as educational in their content. I read that Kunstler was a child prodigy and was a skilled artist by the time he was twelve. Civil War enthusiasts are fortunate that he used his great talent to commemorate The Civil War.



Troiani and Kunstler are both tremendous artists. Their prints alone sell for many hundreds of dollars.

CEMETERY HILL

PAINTINGS BY  
JIM HORTON,  
CFCWRT MEMBER

Civil War from Artist's Point of View, cont.

By Jim Horton

Other outstanding Civil War artists include Keith Rocco and Dale Gallon, Gallon is a Gettysburg resident and sticks mostly with Gettysburg scenes. One can learn a lot about various battles and regiments from studying their paintings. And just as those paintings that I saw as a child, they bring all of the events from almost 160 years ago to life.

*Jim was born and raised in Pittsburgh, Pa., and graduated with an Associates Degree from Ivy School of Professional Art. He majored in Illustration and Fine Art. He worked in various fields in graphic arts and technical illustration, which, he says, shaped his "technically oriented style."*

<https://hortonart.net/about>

Medical Innovations of the Civil War

The Anesthesia Inhaler

In 1863, Stonewall Jackson's surgeon recommended the removal of his left arm, which had been badly damaged by friendly fire. When a chloroform-soaked cloth was placed over his nose, the Confederate general, in great pain, muttered, "What an infinite blessing," before going limp.

But such blessings were in short supply. The Confederate Army had a tough time securing enough anesthesia because of the Northern blockade. The standard method of soaking a handkerchief with chloroform wasted the liquid as it evaporated. Dr. Julian John Chisolm solved the dilemma by inventing a 2.5-inch inhaler, the first of its type. Chloroform was dripped through a perforated circle on the side onto a sponge in the interior; as the patient inhaled through tubes, the vapors mixed with air. This new method required only one-eighth of an ounce of chloroform, compared to the old 2-ounce dose. So while Union surgeons knocked out their patients 80,000 times during the war, rebels treated nearly as many with a fraction of the supplies.

**Water Ways**  
 Paintings and Drawings of Land and Sea  
 by James Horton

**June 10 - July 21**  
 Bellamy Mansion Museum

**Artist's Reception**  
 June 28, 2019  
 6 - 8 pm

[www.hortonart.net](http://www.hortonart.net)

[www.bellamymansion.org](http://www.bellamymansion.org)



## Trivia Answers

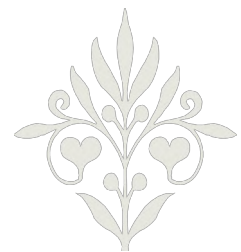
1. Union General Burnside embarked his 11,000 troops around the mouth of Slocum Creek, 12 miles south of New Bern. Today, the area is part of Havelock. The railroad between Morehead City and New Bern needed a stop about half way so the engine could be resupplied with water and fuel, so in 1858 a stop was created and a town grew up around it. The town was named “Havelock” in honor of Sir Henry Havelock-Allan, who received the Victoria Cross for valor during the Indian Mutiny. According to Wikipedia, there are six places named Havelock in the U.S., several in Canada and elsewhere, and an island in the Indian Ocean that looks like a great place to SCUBA dive.
2. Named for the Indian Tribe that lived along the Pamlico and Albemarle Sounds (or the Croatan Sound between Roanoke Island and the mainland), it was a strong defensive line about ten miles below New Bern. The problem was that they didn’t have enough troops to man the line so the defense was moved closer to the city to a line anchored by Ft. Thompson on the Neuse River. Lt. Col. Henry K. Burgwyn of the 26th NC walked the line and determined that they actually needed about 2,000 more men to defend that line.
3. Less than a week after New Bern, the Confederate War Department created the 2nd NC Brigade under command of BG Lawrence O’ Bryan Branch. Branch, the general who had exercised command at New Bern. Four of the regiments at New Bern—the 25th, 28th, 33rd and the 37th—became initial members of the brigade. The 18th NC was in Kinston at the time of the New Bern battle and also became a part of the brigade. The 25th NC was soon transferred to another brigade and the 7th NC, another New Bern unit, was added. So, four of the five regiments in the brigade had fought and been defeated at New Bern while the fifth regiment was nearby in Kinston. In the next six months the brigade became part of Gen. Robert E. Lee’s Army of Northern Virginia and fought in several bloody and significant battles—Hanover Court House, Cedar Mountain, 2nd Manassas, Chantilly and Harper’s Ferry. By September 1862, the brigade was a veteran unit that had proven itself on the battlefield.

THE TOWN WAS NAMED “HAVELOCK” IN HONOR OF SIR HENRY HAVELOCK-ALLAN, WHO RECEIVED THE VICTORIA CROSS FOR VALOR DURING THE INDIAN MUTINY.

## The Other Jefferson Davis

Union General Jefferson Davis shared a name with the Confederate president, a circumstance that didn’t cause as much confusion as might be expected—with one notable exception. During the 1863 Battle of Chickamauga, as darkness fell on Horseshoe Ridge, members of the 21<sup>st</sup> Ohio saw a swarm of men approaching but couldn’t tell if they were friend or foe. Most assumed they were Union reinforcements, but a few feared they were Confederates. As the troops grew closer, one Union soldier called out, “What troops are you?” The collective reply was “Jeff Davis’s troops.” The Ohio soldiers relaxed, believing they meant the Union general. A few moments later, they were staring down the muzzles and bayonets of the 7th Florida. The Ohioans surrendered. The Confederates won the battle.

Archibald Gracie. *The Truth About Chickamauga*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1911



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## CAPE FEAR CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

YOU CAN FIND US ON THE WEB! [CFCWRT.ORG](http://CFCWRT.ORG)

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

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### *Links*

#### [American Civil War Story](#)

A site with stories about various aspects of the Civil War.

#### [Battle Reports from the Official Records](#)

Battle reports from leaders such as Lee, Jackson, Longstreet, McClellan, Burnside and Grant in the Civil War including Shiloh, Gettysburg, Manassas/Bull Run, Fredericksburg and Antietam

#### [Soldiers and Sailors Database](#)

The Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System (CWSS) is a database containing information about the men who served in the Union and Confederate armies during the Civil War. Other information on the site includes histories of Union and Confederate regiments, and selected lists of prisoner-of-war records and cemetery records. (National Park Service)

### *Sponsor*



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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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Vice President:

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

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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.

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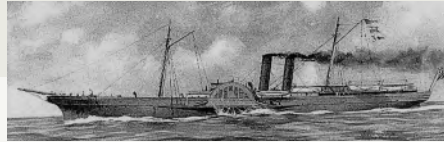




# THE RUNNER



MAY 2019



VOLUME 1 ISSUE 4

## *Brian Kraus - Retribution: Six Months Later*

On May 9th, we will welcome Brian Kraus, an expert on the Civil War, especially in Coastal Carolina. A resident of Morehead City, he's also a reenactor and artist. Brian has regaled our Round Table several times in the past and this time he returns to Wilmington to talk about the *Battle of New Bern* on March 14, 1862, and the *Battle of Sharpsburg* (Antietam) on September 17, 1862. Many of the same units and soldiers improbably faced off at both battles, with wildly different results. The events of the six months between these two battles were momentous ones for the nation and for the soldiers on both sides. Don't miss this presentation, which will be held at Harbor Church on Masonboro Loop.



### NEXT PRESENTATION

- ◆ Thursday, 05-09-19
- ◆ Speaker: **Brian Kraus**  
**Retribution: Six Months Later**
- ◆ 6:30 Social 7:00 Meeting
- ◆ Harbor UMC  
4853 Masonboro Loop Rd.  
Wilmington

## *Chris Fonvielle - The Wilmington Campaign*

With incomparable command of the subject, Chris Fonvielle, professor emeritus of history from UNCW gave our audience at the Cape Fear Museum an enlightening view of the Wilmington Campaign. Moving from the 30,000-foot strategic and political view to the ground level view of the soldiers and sailors at the guns, he kept the audience asking for more.

While Wilmington with its railroad connections and two channels connecting the Cape Fear with the ocean, was by far the most important blockade running port in the south, Charleston, S.C., gathered much more attention from the Federal commanders in Washington. In fact, Charleston, we learned, endured a 587-day siege, the longest in American history. While Charleston was also an important port with excellent rail connections, its political value served to focus the attention of President Lincoln and his military commanders on the "birthplace of the rebellion," while Wilmington continued to ship more cotton and offload more military materiel until the final stages of the war.

A Wilmington native, life-long student of the Civil War, and, in fact, the first speaker in the history of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table, Professor Fonvielle, told the story of the failure of the December 1864 attack on Fort Fisher, including personal details. When the fort's commander, Col. William Lamb, saw that the Federal ships seemed to be concentrating their fire at the flags of the fort, he had flags placed at locations where incoming fire would do the least harm. Young Private Kit Bland courageously shinned up a flagpole without halyards to place a flag at the top of the Mound Battery at the southern end of the sea face. Bland, we learned, took on the dangerous job because fellow Private Noah Bennett, at 198 pounds, was too heavy to climb



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

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(Continued on page 2)

## *Chris Fonvielle - The Wilmington Campaign, cont.*

the flagpole. Another flag near the river drew Union fire that most often overshot the fort and landed harmlessly in the river west of the fort.

The failure of December, however, led to the determination of U.S. Grant to immediately mount a renewed and improved effort that led to complete success in January 1865. The Union fleet learned its lesson and concentrated the fire of 627 guns on the fort's guns. With the fort taken, the port of Wilmington lost its value but continued to tie down a large number of Federal troops as they moved north up both sides of the river. Confederates were still capable of a counter attack that might succeed in retaking the fort and once again opening the port. In fact, Robert E. Lee and Jefferson Davis both argued the importance of a counterattack but General Braxton Bragg simply fell back on Wilmington

and, in fact, at a crucial time after the fall of the fort, travelled back to Richmond for more than a week in order to reorganize his staff in the Confederate capital, a staff that was no longer needed because Bragg was no longer the chief military advisor to President Davis.



CHRIS FONVIELLE



CINDY RICHARDS, CHRIS FONVIELLE,  
LINDA LASHLEY, BRENDA SHADRICK



ED GIBSON, GREG WILLETT, BRUCE PATTERSON, CHRIS  
FONVIELLE, BILL JAYNE, BOB COOKE

## *June Round Table Discussion A Nearly Forgotten Campaign of 1863*

As part of our expanded summer program, the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table will host a true “round table” discussion about the Charleston campaign of 1863.

Charleston, of course, was the “seat of rebellion.” It was the most important city in South Carolina, the state that led the way in secession and the place where the most destructive war in the nation’s history erupted when southern forces fired on Fort Sumter dominating the entrance to the harbor.

By 1863, Charleston remained a potent symbol and was also the most important blockade running port in the Confederacy. Its railroads connected the port to the primary Confederate armies in both Virginia and Tennessee.

The summer of 1863 seemed, even at the time, the most fateful of the war. Vicksburg fell and “the father of waters once again goes unvexed to the sea,” and the Army of Northern Virginia reached its “high water mark” at Gettysburg, and then receded. What would have happened if Charleston had fallen in that summer?

The pictures below were taken from Ft. Moultrie on Sullivan’s Island. The distance to Ft. Sumter is only 1800 yards. (*See map on page 4.*) On April 7, 1863, Admiral Samuel F. DuPont took a fleet of nine U.S. Navy ironclads, including seven monitors, into that narrow space and attempted to reduce the forts or run through the gauntlet into the harbor. An effective barrier in the channel and the overwhelming volume of accurate fire from the forts stopped the attempt, although more effective planning and joint Army-Navy operations might have led to success.



VIEW OF FT. SUMTER  
FROM FT. MOULTRIE

Another picture shows the lighthouse at the southern end of what was then Morris Island. The island has since washed into the ocean but in 1863 it was the scene of fierce fighting in which the Union army eventually reduced Battery Wagner and other Confederate positions, allowing them to virtually close off the main shipping channel, which ran parallel to the island. Firing from Morris Island, the Union battered Ft. Sumter into a pile of rubble. The famous fort was no longer effective as an artillery platform but, as a lightly manned infantry post, it anchored the

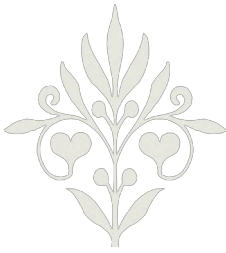


MORRIS ISLAND LIGHTHOUSE

obstructions that prevented Union warships from steaming into the harbor. Although the Confederates didn’t abandon the fort until 1865, Charleston was no longer the premier blockade running port in the south. That distinction fell to Wilmington.

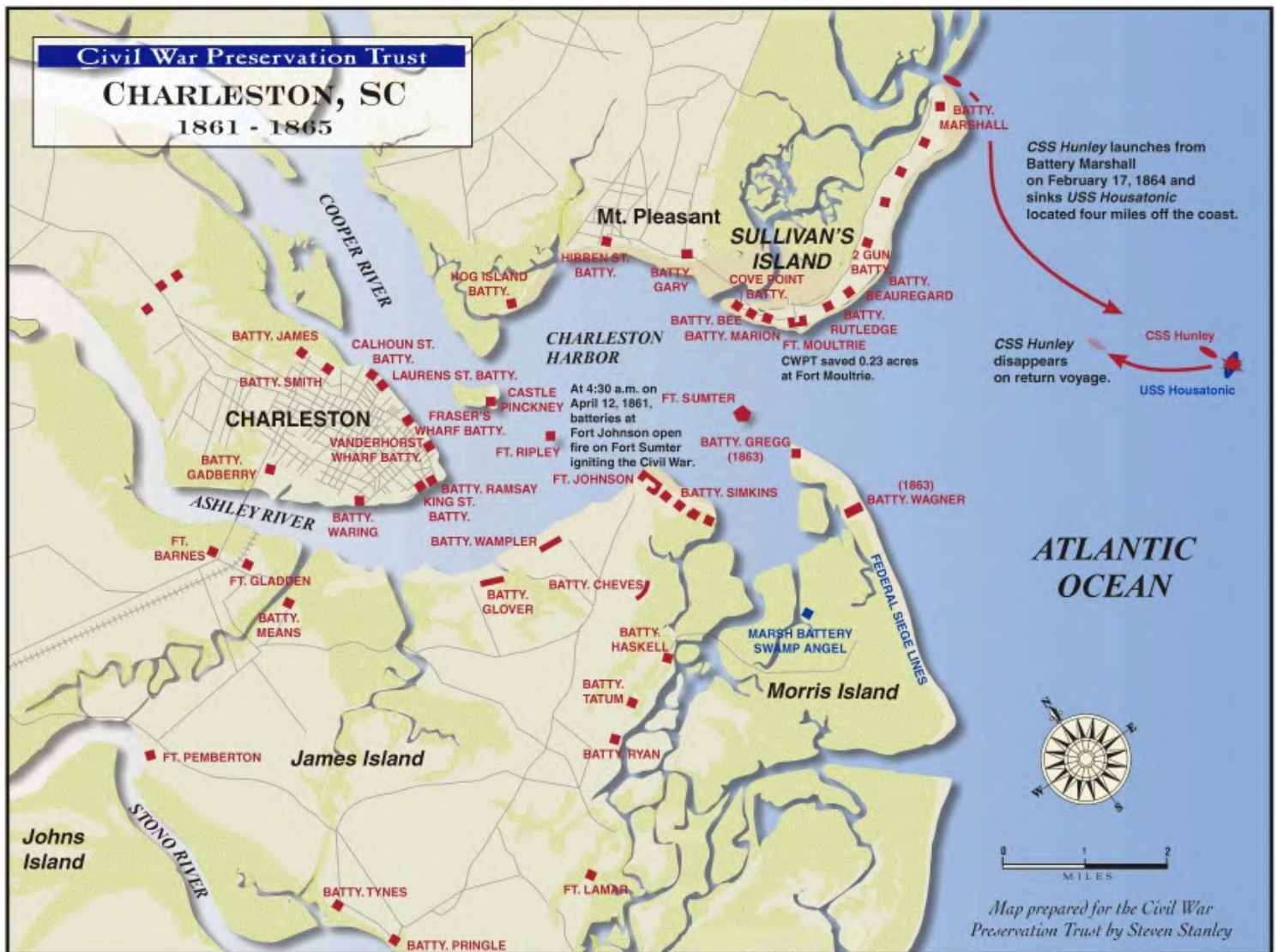
The monitor attack in April illustrated the limitations of those revolutionary little ships and led to the relief

June Round Table Discussion  
A Nearly Forgotten Campaign of 1863, cont.



of Admiral DuPont. His replacement was Admiral John Dahlgren of gun invention fame. He was somewhat more cooperative with General Quincy Gillmore, commander of Union ground forces. The grinding summer campaign on Morris Island—with Battery Wagner at its heart—led to more than 2,318 Union casualties and over 1,000 Confederate losses. Those numbers don't include substantial losses to illness and disease.

(Continued on page 5)

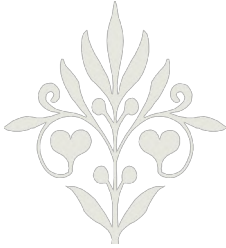


*June Round Table Discussion  
A Nearly Forgotten Campaign of 1863, cont.*

The land campaign evolved into something that presaged the trench warfare of World War I. It featured extensive trenches, and regular relief of both Union and Confederate forces on the firing line because duty was so dangerous and trying. Technology came into play, too, as the Union developed a “sap roller” used to protect Union soldiers as they dug trenches perpendicular to the Confederate position. Several Requa Batteries, an early version of the machine gun, also made their appearance along with numerous “torpedoes” or mines.

The discussion will focus on the reasons for the Union failure to achieve total victory. Was it political meddling? Was it an overconfident reliance on new technology? Was it the personality conflicts and poor doctrine that made effective Union joint operations impossible? Was it the skill and tenacity of the Confederate defense, led by General P.G.T. Beauregard?

More will be forthcoming about the round table but there is a great deal of good information available online and the books **Success Is All That Was Expected** by Robert M. Browning, Jr., and **Gate of Hell** by Stephen R. Wise are excellent volumes.



SECTION OF REQUA BATTERY  
THIRTY-NINTH ILLINOIS  
MORRIS ISLAND, SC 1863



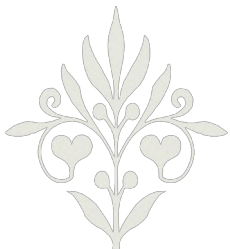
FEDERAL TROOPS EXTEND THEIR  
TRENCHES ON MORRIS ISLAND  
DURING THE SIEGE OF FORT  
WAGNER. A MOVABLE SAP ROLL-  
ER IS USED TO PROTECT THE MEN  
OF THE 1ST NEW YORK ENGI-  
NEERS AS THEY WORK.

*June Round Table Discussion  
A Nearly Forgotten Campaign of 1863, cont.*



THE CONFEDERATE SIGNAL STATION ON MORRIS ISLAND, AFTERWARDS OCCUPIED BY UNION TROOPS. A NUMBER OF SHOT AND SHELL HAVE PASSED THROUGH THE ROOF. THE CONFEDERATES USED THIS AS A BEACON TO SIGNAL THE BLOCKADE RUNNERS.

FROM THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS.



*Writers Wanted - The Runner*

Is there a particular part of the Civil War that interest you to the point you would be willing to share what you've learned? Do you have an opinion about a Civil War battle, campaign, or political shenanigans that you would like to share in *The Runner*? Are you a budding writer, blogger, or Civil War Pundit? If so, please contact [Sherry Hewitt](#), *The Runner* Editor.

## *CFCWRT Upcoming events*

### **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.

## *Trivia Questions*

1. When was New Inlet created? How was it created?
2. Who was "Old Triplicate"?
3. Who played Secretary of the Navy Gideon Welles in Steven Spielberg's movie, "*Lincoln*"?
4. Why did Confederate General Braxton Bragg leave Wilmington after the fall of Fort Fisher?

Answers on Page 9

## *Raffle*

Although a raffle was not held in April, we do expect to hold one in May. 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.

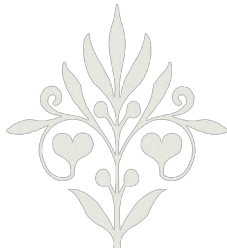
*Ed Bearss - The First Shots in Charleston*

Edwin C. Bearss spoke to the Fort Sumter Civil War Round Table in Charleston on April 24th. For those who might not know, Ed Bearss, Historian Emeritus of the National Park Service, is America's premier Civil War historian. At age 96 Ed is still out doing programs all over the country.

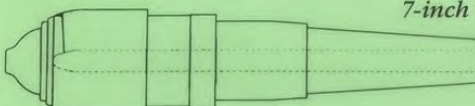
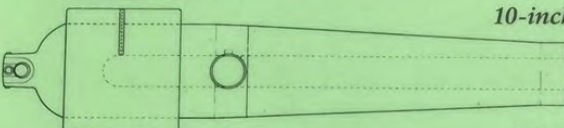
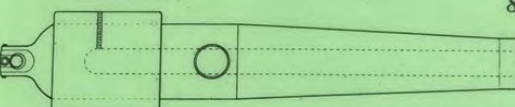
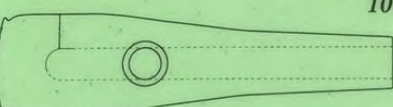
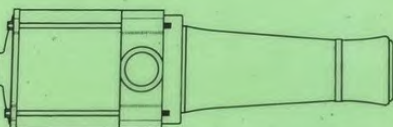

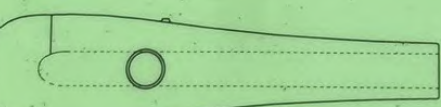
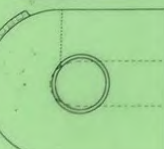
Ed's program was "The First Shots in Charleston." He discussed political as well as military "first shots" and covered the period from the election of Abraham Lincoln on November 6, 1860 to the attack on Fort Sumter on April 12, 1861.



CANNON ROW AT FT. MOULTRIE ON SULLIVAN'S ISLAND



## Cannon Row

	<p><b>7-inch Triple-Banded Brooke</b> 21,290 pounds CS Army Produced: 3 Survivors: 1</p>
	<p><b>10-inch Parrott Rifle</b> 26,900 pounds US Army Produced: 42 Survivors: 13</p>
	<p><b>8-inch Parrott Rifle</b> 16,487 pounds US Army Produced: 178 Survivors: 8</p>
	<p><b>10-inch Confederate Columbiad</b> 13,290 pounds CS Army Produced: 135 Survivors: 18</p>
	<p><b>Modified 10-inch Columbiad</b> 22,000 pounds US Army/CS Army Produced: 149 Survivors: 14*</p>
	<p><b>10-inch Rodman</b> 14,956 pounds US Army Produced: 1,291 Survivors: 98</p>
	<p><b>10-inch Rodman</b> 14,980 pounds US Army Produced: 1,291 Survivors: 98</p>
	<p><b>13-inch Mortar</b> 17,196 pounds US Army Produced: 90 Survivors: 27</p>



## Trivia Answers

1. New Inlet was the northern channel into the Cape Fear River, just below Fort Fisher, that gave blockade runners a second entrance into the river and greatly complicated the Union Navy's mission to stop the runners. It was created in 1761 by a "severe equinoctial storm" that battered the region for four days. It was closed off in the late 19th Century in an effort to keep the river from filling up with silt from the ocean.
2. Admiral Samuel Phillips Lee was named commander of the U.S. North Atlantic Blockading Squadron in September 1862, at the age of 50. He was appointed a midshipman in 1825 and held many important posts in the Navy, yet he was known for his often distracting attention to detail. He was born at Sully Plantation in Fairfax County, Virginia, and he was the grandson of Richard Henry Lee, which made him a distant cousin of Robert E. Lee. He married the daughter of Francis P. Blair, Sr. His brother-in-law, Montgomery Blair, served as Postmaster General in Lincoln's cabinet. When Admiral Lee was asked about his loyalty to the U.S. Navy, he said "When I find the word Virginia in my commission, I will join the Confederacy."
3. Born in Greenwood, S.C., the role of "Father Neptune" was played by actor and polo player Grainger Hines.
4. In late January 1865, after Ft. Fisher had fallen, the Confederate government finally moved to install General Robert E. Lee as general in chief of all Confederate forces. This deprived Bragg of his position as military advisor to President Jefferson Davis, leaving Bragg's staff in Richmond in the precarious position of being without authorized billets. In typically officious and bureaucratic fashion, Bragg and his military secretary, John B. Sale, engineered an order from President Davis to Bragg telling him to come to Richmond. So, on February 10, with the fort fallen, Union ships in the Cape Fear River and Union divisions pressing Confederate defenders on both sides of the river, Bragg left for Richmond to reorganize his staff. He returned on February 21 but by that time the city had fallen. When he returned to the region, he wrote: "I find on arrival, that our forces are driven from the west bank of Cape Fear."

NEW INLET - IT WAS CREATED IN 1761 BY A "SEVERE EQUINOCTIAL STORM" THAT BATTERED THE REGION FOR FOUR DAYS.

## Upcoming Events

### *CSS Neuse Civil War Interpretive Center*

◆ **May 4, Special program, "[Long Arms of the Civil War](#)"**

Learn about the development of Long Arms during the Civil War and how they shaped our modern world in Kinston. 10 am-4 pm. Free.

### *Petersburg National Battlefield*

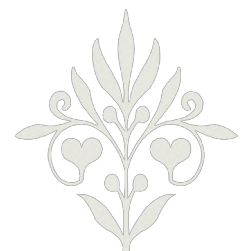
◆ **June 15-16, [The Opening Attacks at Petersburg](#)**

Anniversary living history and walking tours at the Petersburg National Battlefield. 10 am-4 pm. Free with park admission. [nps.gov/pete](https://www.nps.gov/pete)

### *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](#)



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## CAPE FEAR CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

YOU CAN FIND US ON THE WEB! [CFCWRT.ORG](http://CFCWRT.ORG)

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

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### *Links*

#### [The Center for Civil War Photography](#)

Currently, the Center serves as the only clearinghouse for information about Civil War photography on the Internet.

#### [Fort Fisher](#)

Site of Civil War's largest Amphibious (Land and Water) Battle, the remaining portion of the gigantic Fort Fisher earthworks, along with a restored palisade fence, impressive seacoast gun, exhibits, artifacts, and much more.

#### [Medicine in the Civil War](#)

This website covers the following Civil War medical topics: hospitals, transportation, sanitation, anesthesia, amputations, and medications.

### *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.

### *Steering Committee—Officers*

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

Vice President:

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

Secretary/Treasurer:

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

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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](#)

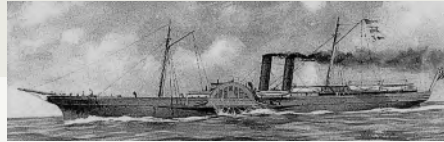


# THE RUNNER



APRIL 2019

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

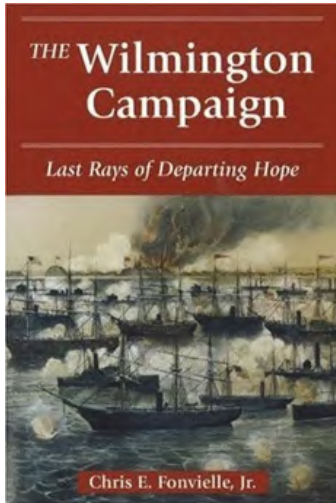
- ◆ Thursday, 04-11-19
- ◆ Speaker: Chris Fonvielle, Jr. Ph.D.
- ◆ 6:30 Social 7:00 Meeting
- ◆ Cape Fear Museum  
814 Market St.  
Williston Auditorium—  
2nd Floor



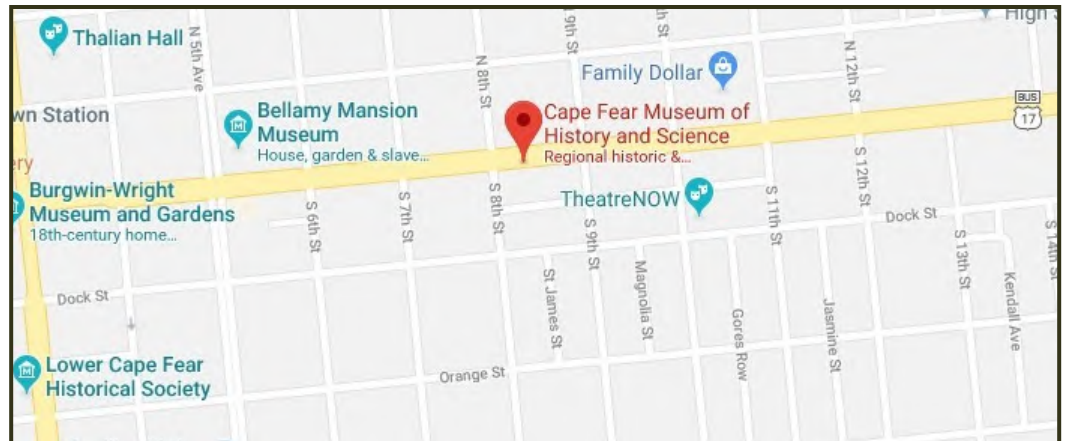
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## *The Wilmington Campaign - cont.*



**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

19<sup>th</sup> 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.

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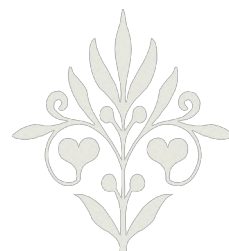
Please contact [Jim Gannon](#) at 910-270 5534 if you would like to make a presentation.

### 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-

**"...HE WAS  
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ARMY."**

**OBSERVERS HAVE REPORTED THAT THE “IMPATIENT REPLY” WAS, “WHEN I NEED ADVICE FROM A JUNIOR OFFICER I GENERALLY ASK 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*.

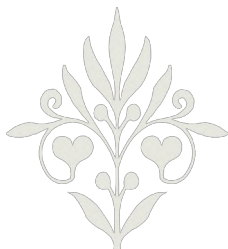
## *Raffle Winners*

### **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 Bears 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!

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## CAPE FEAR CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

YOU CAN FIND US ON THE WEB! [CFCWRT.ORG](http://CFCWRT.ORG)

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

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### *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*



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

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PO Box 15750

Wilmington, NC 28408

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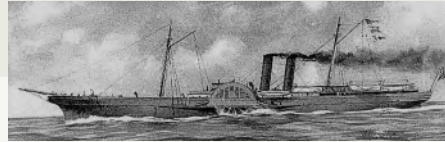


MARCH 2019

# 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 Vizitelly, 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

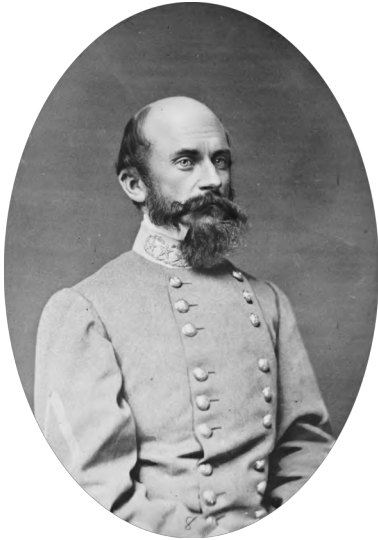


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## *Second Guessing Richard Ewell—cont.*

*(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**

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

*(Continued on page 8)*

Hansa—cont.



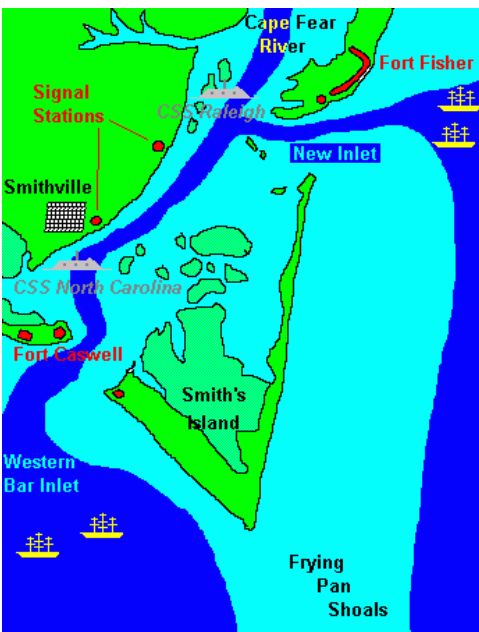
MAP BY MARK A. MOORE

FEDERAL BLOCKADE 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.

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*

(Continued on page 6)

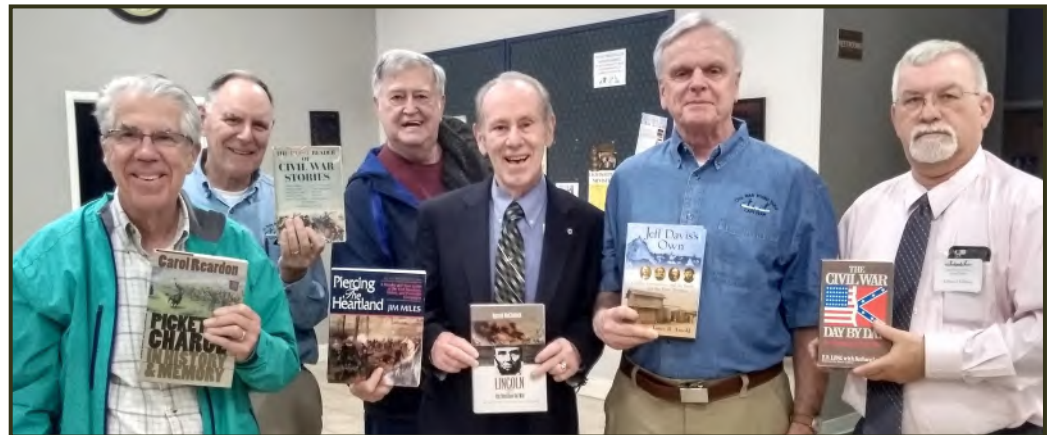
## Member News

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

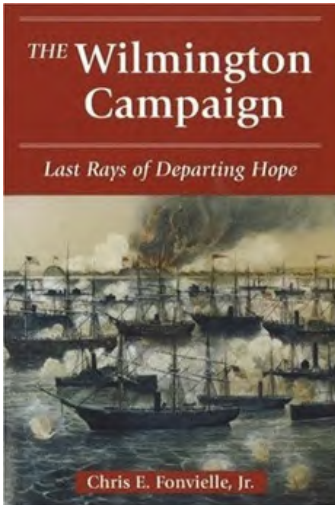
Lincoln & The Decision for War—John Bolger

Jeff Davis's Own—Joe Steyer

The Civil War Day by Day—Ed Gibson

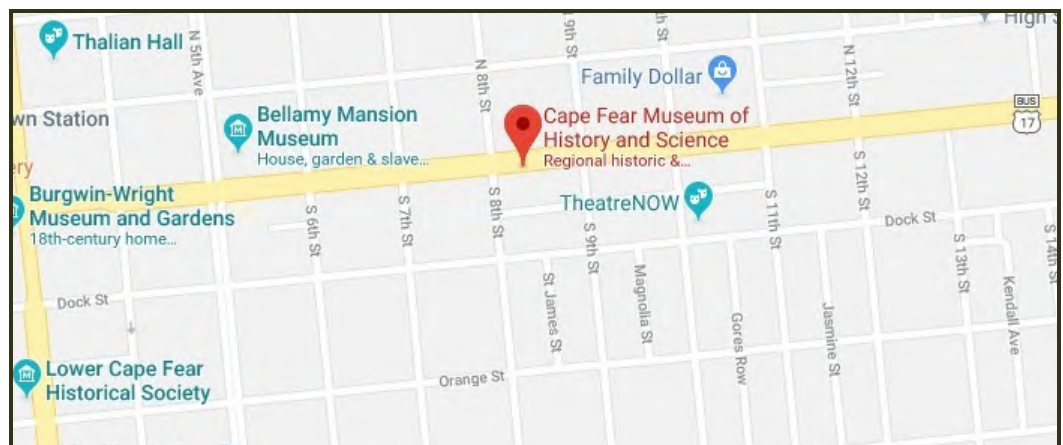
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## Member News



**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.



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".

## 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 starboard 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.

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## CAPE FEAR CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

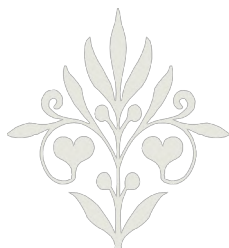
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### *Trivia—Answers*

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*



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Vice President:

[Greg Willett](mailto:Greg.Willett@CFCWRT.org) (910) 777-3935

Secretary/Treasurer:

[Bruce Patterson](mailto:Bruce.Patterson@CFCWRT.org) (910) 794-8905

Membership: [Linda Lashley](mailto:Linda.Lashley@CFCWRT.org)

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Runner Editor/Publicity: [Sherry Hewitt](mailto:Sherry.Hewitt@CFCWRT.org)

Raffle Master: [Ed Gibson](mailto:Ed.Gibson@CFCWRT.org)

Webmaster: [Richard Buggeln](mailto:Richard.Buggeln@CFCWRT.org)

Refreshments: [John Moore](mailto:John.Moore@CFCWRT.org)

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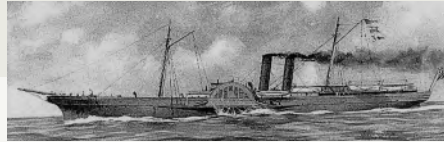


# THE RUNNER



FEBRUARY 2019

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1



## *The Strong Southern Woman*

We know that hundreds of thousands of soldiers died on the terrible battlefields and in the unhealthy camps of the Civil War. While those at home seldom experienced the terrors of combat, their everyday challenges included shortages of food, runaway inflation, marauding soldiers, deserters and guerillas. All these factors contributed to the impact of disease, an ever-present threat in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> Century. In 1862, approximately 650 Wilmingtonians died of yellow fever, a communicable disease brought to the city by the blockade runner *Kate*.

Famed Civil War historian James McPherson estimated that 50,000 civilians died during the war and that the overall mortality rate for the South exceeded that of any country in World War I. The home front was a dangerous place.

Yet, for the most part “the strong southern woman” led those at home in successfully overcoming the challenges. Living Historian Rhonda Florian will

*(Continued on page 5)*

## *Cornubia*

The *Cornubia* was one of the most successful of all Confederate blockade runners. She made about 20 successful runs through the blockade before being captured by US Navy ships *Nippon* and *James Adger* on November 8, 1863. According to *Lifeline of the Confederacy* by Stephen R. Wise, she made 18 successful runs. The Naval History and Heritage Command credits her with 22 successful runs. According to Mr. Wise, almost 300 steamers made about 1,300 attempts to run the Union blockade and approximately 1,000 attempts were successful. The average lifetime of a blockade runner, however, was just a little over four runs, or two round trips. Of the 300 steamers engaged in the risky but profitable enterprise, 136 were captured and 85 destroyed.

The *Cornubia* was built in Cornwall, England, in 1858 as a ferry and packet running along the rugged southwest coast of England. “Cornubia” is a Latinized form of the name “Cornwall.” The builder and owner was Harvey and Son of Hayle, England. She was 190 feet long, a twin sidewheel steamer with a shallow draft of 12 feet, six inches. She was purchased by the Confederacy and primarily ran the blockade between Bermuda and Wilmington, a distance of about 675 miles. She was fast, making about 18 knots, and painted white to make her hard to spot. A typical cargo was 314 bales of cotton, 29 casks of tobacco and two casks of turpentine. That was the cargo reported in the *New York Times* when *Cornubia* arrived in Bermuda on March 22, 1863 out-bound from Wilmington. A “cask” was about 250 gallons and a “bale” of compressed cotton weighed 400 to 500 pounds. Other ships, typically British, transported the cargo to England where it was sold and the money, or

*(Continued on page 2)*

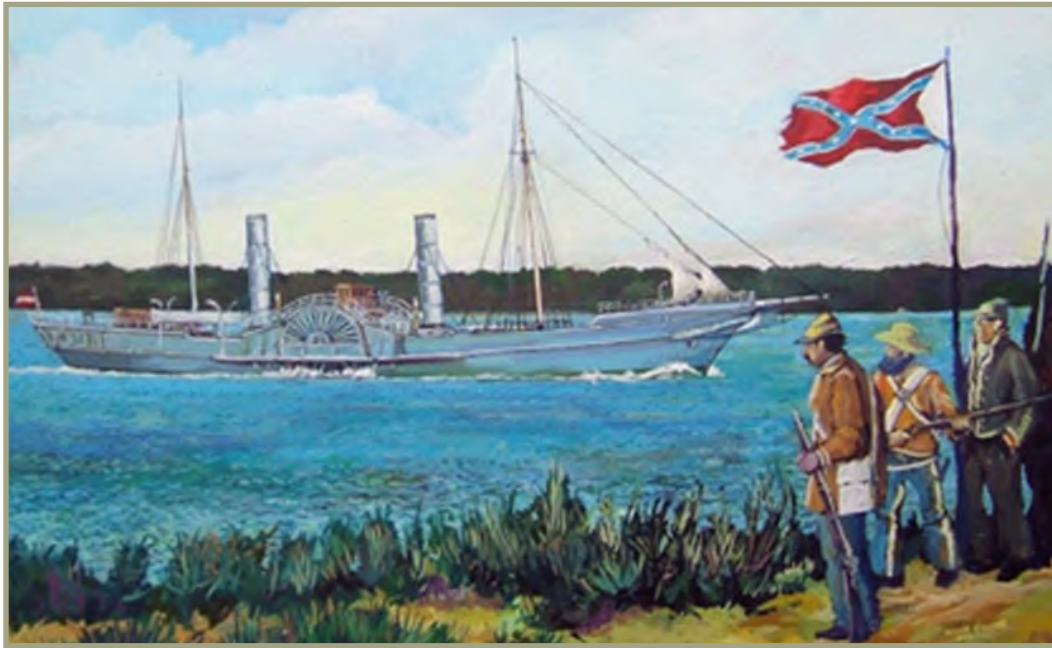
## NEXT PRESENTATION

- ◆ Thursday, 02-14-19
- ◆ Speaker: **Rhonda Florian**
- The Strong Southern Woman: Facing Challenges in her own Back Yard**
- ◆ 6:30 Social 7:00 Meeting
- ◆ Harbor UMC  
4853 Masonboro Loop  
Rd. Wilmington



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

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PAINTING BY CLIVE  
CARTER, FIRST LIGHT  
GALLERY,

*CORNUBIA*  
MOVING UP THE CAPE  
FEAR RIVER.

## *Cornubia—cont.*

credit, was used to acquire weapons, ammunition, medicine and other war materiel for the Confederate war effort. Some blockade runners were owned by the Confederate government, some by the states and some were privately owned. In addition to military supplies, private blockade runners typically brought luxury items and valuable foodstuffs such as coffee and wine back to the Confederacy where it was sold at a huge profit. *Cornubia* was owned by the Confederacy.

According to the U.S. Naval History and Heritage Command, the *Cornubia's* 23rd voyage was disastrous, having repercussions far beyond those stemming from the loss of a precious cargo. Blockader USS *Niphon* gave chase as *Cornubia* sought to run in to Wilmington and Lieutenant Richard H. Gayle, Confederate States Navy, beached his ship at 2:30 a.m., 8 November, 1863. She was beached 11 miles north of New Inlet and out of range of the friendly guns at Ft. Fisher. The captain, carpenter and one seaman remained on board while the officers, crew and passengers escaped to shore. By 3:00 a.m., USS *James Adger* had towed *Cornubia* free on the flood tide still intact and she and the three captives were duly sent to Boston as a prize, along with a bag of water soaked mail that one of her officers had tried to dispose of in the surf.

The *Cornubia* papers quickly became a Rosetta stone to unlock the management secrets of the official Confederate blockade-running program. The most immediate result was a new, tough policy toward British seamen caught challenging the blockade. U.S. District Attorney Richard Henry Dana, Jr., at Boston, was designated to receive a sealed packet of all papers taken in the prize. Transmitting them to Secretary Welles, 26 December, after study, Dana wrote: "We have found in the prize steamer *Cornubia* letters which prove that that steamer, the *R. E. Lee*, and *Ella & Annie* and others of their class are the property of the Confederate Government and that their commanders are in the service of the Confederate Navy Department. This raises the question whether, in like cases, the Government will detain foreign seamen found on board as prisoners of war. The letters also show that they are under or-

(Continued on page 4)

THE *CORNUBIA* PAPERS  
QUICKLY BECAME A  
ROSETTA STONE TO  
UNLOCK THE  
MANAGEMENT SECRETS  
OF THE OFFICIAL  
CONFEDERATE  
BLOCKADE-RUNNING  
PROGRAM.

## Member News

The Raleigh Civil War Round Table honored our own **Dr. Chris Fonvielle**, past president of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table with the annual T. Harry Gattton Award, named for the distinguished former chairman of the NC Historical Commission. Professor Fonvielle is a founding member of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table and served as president from 2000-2006.



Our April meeting features Professor **Chris Fonvielle** speaking about “*The Wilmington Campaign*.” Because of conflicts at Harbor UMC, we’ve decided to move the venue for this meeting (only) to the Cape Fear Museum at 814 Market Street. The room is the Williston Auditorium on the 2nd floor of the museum. The times of the meeting will be the same as normal. Street parking is free and there is a parking lot directly behind the museum.

OUR APRIL  
MEETING FEATURES  
PROFESSOR **CHRIS  
FONVIELLE**  
SPEAKING ABOUT  
“*THE WILMINGTON  
CAMPAIGN*.”

## Raffle

### Raffle Master: Ed Gibson

If you have books, prints, or other items that you would like to donate to the raffle, contact [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.



Getting ready for the raffle

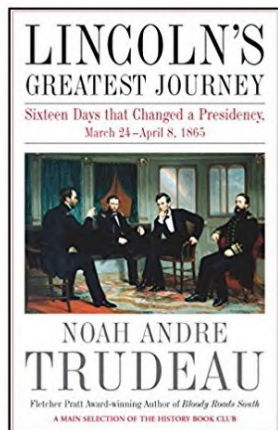
### January Winners:

Chickamauga	Bill Jayne
Stonewall in the Valley	Erik Gray
No Quarter	John Monroe
The Sword of Lincoln	Ed Gibson
Lee’s Young Artillerist	John Bolger
Lee and His Men at Gettysburg - ?	

## Noteworthy

**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. This event will take place Saturday May 4, 2019. This is a Smithsonian Associates event. For those interested, here is the link : [Lincoln in Virginia: A Wartime Journey](#).

Mr. Trudeau did a presentation of this book for CFCWRT in March 2018.



(Continued on page 7)

*Cornubia—cont.*

(Continued from page 2)

ders to conceal these facts while in neutral ports, in order to escape the rules applicable to public vessels of belligerents." Welles endorsed the letter, writing: "The persons captured on the boats mentioned and others in like cases to be detained as prisoners."

Comdr. Thomas H. Patterson, USN, of *James Adger* noted, "Her captain remarked to my executive officer that 'though the *Cornubia* is a small vessel the Confederate Government could better have afforded to lose almost any other vessel.'" He was not referring merely to essential cargo. The papers the captain tried to destroy revealed the operational pattern of the Confederate Army transport service. The ship's Confederate register showed the Secretary of War, "James A. Seddon, of Richmond, Va., is her sole owner." Commanders of these transports were CSN officers who reported to Col. Josiah Gorgas, Chief of Ordnance, CSA, through special War Department Agent J. M. Sexias in Wilmington, N.C.

The Confederacy was buying other ships in addition to the *Cornubia* and the ships were initially commanded by British captains in order to give the appearance of British ownership and conceal their identity as Confederate ships. One British captain advised Confederate Navy Secretary Stephen Mallory: "I would suggest that as fast as the ships are paid for, [Confederate States] Navy officers be put in command as a general rule," adding that such vessels "ought to be kept registered in the names of private individuals, otherwise serious embarrassment may arise, as Lord Russell has stated in the House of Lords that if it could be shown that the steamers trading between the Confederate States and the British Islands were owned by the Confederate States Government, they would be considered as transports and would be forbidden to enter English ports, except under the restrictions imposed upon all men-of-war of the belligerent powers."

Following this pattern, orders and letters from the summer of 1863 from Col. Gorgas to Lt. Gayle, via Agent Sexias, stated: "You [that is, Lt. Gayle] will assume command of the Steamer *Cornubia* relieving Capt. J. M. Burroughs ... (whose contract) terminates on reaching Bermuda... Take immediate steps to change your flag and register under Confederate colors." The intent of the whole system was revealed by the following sentence: "Being in the Confederate service, they [crew members] are entitled to be exchanged as prisoners-of-war."

As the war progressed, the Confederate government realized that it needed to gain more control over blockade running in order to ensure a flow of desperately needed military supplies, including weapons. Typical of the Confederacy's reluctance to exercise centralized control, however, it wasn't until February 1864 that President Jefferson Davis was authorized to exercise control over all foreign commerce. In essence, it was too late by that time, as the Union Navy's blockade had become more and more effective as the war ground on.

After her capture, the *Cornubia* was adapted to US Navy use as a warship and ended the war in far-off Galveston, Texas, where she captured several Confederate ships and assisted in the sinking of the Confederate steamer *Denbigh*. She was sold after the war.

COMDR. THOMAS H. PATTERSON, USN, OF *JAMES ADGER* NOTED, "HER CAPTAIN REMARKED TO MY EXECUTIVE OFFICER THAT 'THOUGH THE *CORNUBIA* IS A SMALL VESSEL THE CONFEDERATE GOVERNMENT COULD BETTER HAVE AFFORDED TO LOSE ALMOST ANY OTHER VESSEL.' "

*Trivia Questions*

Which state is on the state list for the most Civil War Battles? Which State is 2nd on the list? How many battles were fought in each of these states?

Answers on Page 5.

## *The Strong Southern Woman*

(Continued from page 1)

...“THE STRONG SOUTHERN WOMAN” LED THOSE AT HOME IN SUCCESSFULLY OVERCOMING THE CHALLENGES.

appear before our Round Table in authentic period attire to give a slide presentation describing how the war affected the lives of Southern women. Topics covered will be “Patriotism, Nursing the Soldiers, Food Shortages and Starvation, Physical Danger, Refugees, and Smugglers and Spies.”

The presentation features twenty-two Southern women of the period and includes photographs or portraits of thirteen of those women. Sketches from Harper’s Weekly and other photographs are also included in the presentation.



The former Managing Director of Carolinian Shakespeare Festival in New Bern, Ms. Florian will give readings of two period poems during the course of the presentation. She will also dramatize a selection from the diary of Mrs. Mary Rhodes of Alabama and a letter from a farmer’s wife in Nansmond County, Virginia.



Ms. Florian grew up near New Bern and earned a BA degree from Welch College in Nashville, TN, and a MFA in acting from Rutgers University in New Jersey. Her presentation promises to be both educational and enjoyable.

## *Trivia Questions—Answers*

Which state is on the state list for the most Civil War Battles?

Which State is 2nd on the list?

How many battles were fought in each of these states?

For a list, check out this link: [Civil War Battle Summaries by State](#)

**Virginia**

**Tennessee**

**VA—122**

**TN—38**





## Upcoming Events

### *Brunswick Town/Ft. Anderson State Historic Site*

- ◆ **February 16, “Engineering a Fort: The 154th Anniversary of the Fall of Ft. Anderson.”** [Ft. Anderson - 154th Anniversary](#)

### *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](#)

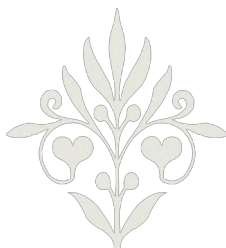
### *North Carolina Museum of History in Raleigh*

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

## THE FALL OF FORT ANDERSON

“WHERE ARE THE BRICKS? THERE’S NO WAY THIS IS A FORT! WHY DID THEY CHOOSE TO MAKE A FORT OUT OF DIRT?!” JOIN US ON FEBRUARY 16TH AND LEARN WHY AS WE MARK THE 154TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FALL OF FORT ANDERSON BY EXPLORING THE INS AND OUTS OF THE CAPE FEAR DEFENSE SYSTEM AND IT’S OPEN GORGE SEACOAST EARTHEN FORTIFICATIONS.

THE EVENT WILL FEATURE LECTURES, ARTILLERY DEMOS, AND HANDS ON ACTIVITIES FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY. ARTILLERY DEMOS TO BE HELD AT 10:30AM, 12:30PM, 2:00PM, AND 3:30PM.



*Noteworthy—cont.*
**The Letters of Sidney Stockbridge, aboard the USS Pawtuxet, off Fort Fisher - January 1865**

Our January presentation was shared in the StarNews Community Affairs page online January 6th and the paper edition on January 7th (Thank you Bill Jayne.) Below is an excerpt from that column:

*Today the seascape off Fort Fisher invokes the beauty of nature and the majesty of the Atlantic Ocean, ever changing but always the same. In January of 1865, however, something unique occurred. Fifty-eight US Navy ships mounting almost 600 guns stood in close to shore on a relatively placid sea pummeling Fort Fisher, the Confederacy's huge earthen fort that was the key to the defense of Wilmington, the last port able to provide desperately needed foreign supplies to Robert E. Lee's embattled army in Virginia. The sounds and sights of the bombardment were monumental and fearsome.*



SIDNEY

STOCKBRIDGE

What was it like from the point of view of a side-wheel steamer in the first line of the task force less than a mile off shore? **Becky Sawyer**, interpreter and collections manager at the Fort Fisher State Historic Site, offers a glimpse of that experience. A native of the St. Louis, Missouri, area, Becky earned a Masters degree in public history from UNCW. She is also a highly accomplished reenactor who researches costumes from the 18th and 19th centuries to enrich the experience of history.

Over the course of the past two years, with the assistance of Rick Morrison, Becky and other staff of the Fort Fisher State Historic Site have been transcribing letters belonging to Sidney Stockbridge who served in the Paymaster's Office on the USS Pawtuxet in the battle of January 1865. These letters are on loan from Joe Stockbridge of Surry, Maine, the great nephew of Sidney Stockbridge.

A highlight of the collection is a letter from the battle dated January 16-18, 1865. It contained valuable information about the torpedoes (mines) at Battery Buchanan, a sketch of the fort from on deck of the USS Pawtuxet and sketches from inside the fort. It also contained gruesome post battle descriptions and the apparent capture of the dog that belonged to Colonel William Lamb, the Confederate commander of the fort. Other letters describe the US Navy's push up the Cape Fear River to capture Fort Anderson and Wilmington.



USS PAWTUXET

## CAPE FEAR CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

YOU CAN FIND US ON THE WEB! [CFCWRT.ORG](http://CFCWRT.ORG)

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

### Books

#### **Real Horse Soldiers: Benjamin Grierson's Epic 1863 Civil War Raid through Mississippi - by Timothy B. Smith**

Benjamin Grierson's Union cavalry thrust through Mississippi is one of the most well-known operations of the Civil War. The last serious study was published more than six decades ago. Since then other accounts have appeared, but none are deeply researched full-length studies of the raid and its more than substantial (and yet often overlooked) results. The publication of Timothy B. Smith's *The Real Horse Soldiers: Benjamin Grierson's Epic 1863 Civil War Raid through Mississippi* rectifies this oversight.

*Published by Savas Beatie, \$32.95 Hardcover.*

### Attention Members!



IF YOU PURCHASED OR HAVE A SHIRT WITH THE CFCWRT LOGO ON IT, PLEASE WEAR IT TO THE NEXT MEETING—WE WILL BE TAKING A PICTURE!

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:	<a href="#">Bill Jayne</a> (910) 386-9203
Vice President:	<a href="#">Greg Willett</a> (910) 777-3935
Secretary/Treasurer:	<a href="#">Bruce Patterson</a> (910) 794-8905
Membership:	<a href="#">Linda Lashley</a>
Tours/Trips:	<a href="#">Dale Lear</a>
Runner Editor/Publicity:	<a href="#">Sherry Hewitt</a>
Raffle Master:	<a href="#">Ed Gibson</a>
Webmaster:	<a href="#">Richard Buggeln</a>
Refreshments:	<a href="#">John Moore</a>

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](#)

# The Runner



## Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Our regular meeting will be held on **Thursday, 12 April 2018** at the Harbor United Methodist Church located at **4853 Masonboro Loop Road, Wilmington, NC**. Come early – the meeting starts promptly at 7:00 p.m. See [cfcwrt.org](http://cfcwrt.org) for details of future speakers and their subjects.

**\*\*\*\*\* April 2018 Program \*\*\*\*\***

### **George Armstrong Custer and the Battle of Little Bighorn**

Join us for what will be a most interesting talk about one of American's most well known soldiers and his epic battle at the Little Bighorn. **Dr. David La Vere**, UNCW Professor of History, will share facts and fiction about the events that led to the June 25, 1876 battle.



Dr. La Vere is an ethnohistorian and the author of seven books on American Indian history. Currently, he teaches and researches on Southeastern Indians, especially those of the Carolinas. In the past, he has written extensively on Southern Plains and Texas Indians.

A native of Louisiana, David received his B.A. and M.A. from Northwestern State University (LA) and his Ph.D. from Texas A&M. David served in the U.S. Marine Corps.

NOTE: Dr. La Vere has periodically taught a seminar on Custer and the Little Bighorn Campaign. I was lucky enough to attend one of his seminars when I attended UNCW in 2007-2010. Dr. La Vere researched deeply and led a seminar that caused his students to investigate who, what, when, where and why at the Little Bighorn.

**Editor**

**\*\*\*\*\* Raffle Winners \*\*\*\*\***

**Raffle Master: Ed Gibson**

If you have books, prints, or other items that you would like to donate to the raffle, contact Ed Gibson ([egibson759@aol.com](mailto:egibson759@aol.com)) before our next meeting. *The raffle is one of the components which the CFCWRT to fund our activities and our speakers.* Please take part in our raffle by contributing items and/or purchasing tickets.



*Lincoln's Greatest Journey*  
*Jefferson Davis – American*  
*Grant Comes East*  
*For Cause and Comrades*  
*American Insurgents*  
*The Making of R.E. Lee*  
*Blockade Runner*

**Jim Gannon**  
**Bill Jayne**  
**Ed Gibson**  
**Joe George**  
**John A. Gill**  
**John Bolger**  
**Henry Wood**

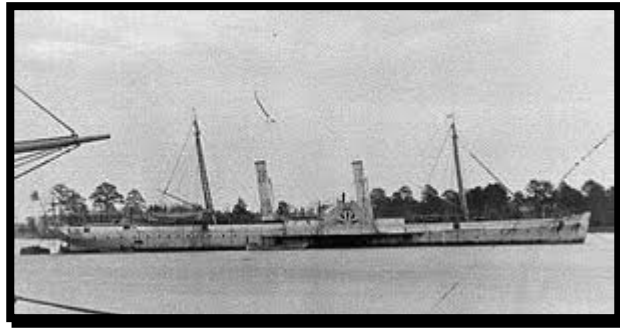
**\*\*\*\*\* Trivia Questions for April 2018 \*\*\*\*\***

**1 – Who was Libby Bacon?**

**2 – Who was Marcus Reno?**

**3 – Who was Frederick Benteen?**

**\*\*\*\*\* Member News & Activities \*\*\*\*\***



**Blockade Runner the *Robert E. Lee***

If you have member news or news about Civil War events that you think would be of interest to CFCWRT membership, send me an email with the details to [tpwinstead@gmail.com](mailto:tpwinstead@gmail.com). Thank you.

**1 – Welcome new members: Chuck Harriman, Bill Booth, Tom Wanich and Bill Bailey.**

**2 - Volunteers needed for Fort Anderson Park Day 2018**

Details: Contact Jim McKee, [jim.mckee@ncdcr.gov](mailto:jim.mckee@ncdcr.gov), (910) 371-6623

**Meeting place:** Visitor Center/Museum

**Meeting time:** 9:00 AM, Saturday, April 21, 2018

**Planned Activities:** Landscaping, Painting, Planting, Trash Removal

**Planned Low-Impact Activities:** indoor cleaning, painting, trash removal

**Bring Tools & Supplies:** gloves, safety glasses

**History or Educational Programs:** AS time allows volunteers will get a chance to take behind the scenes tours and to view artifacts not yet on display.

**Food provided:** Yes, water and snacks

**In the Event of Inclement Weather:** TBD

**3 – A change is coming to the CFCWRT this coming June. Bill Jayne explains:**

***June Program to Feature Round Table Discussion***

The Civil War Round Table movement began in Chicago in 1941 and became very popular during the Civil War Centennial years of 1961-65. The traditional format was a “round table” discussion of a specific topic such as a battle, a book or a personality associated with the war. On June 14, the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table will present a traditional discussion on the Battle of Fort Fisher. Specifically, we will discuss the topic of Hoke’s failure to attack Terry’s force before it was prepared for the assault on Fort Fisher itself.

In essence, the topic would be: "Should Hoke/Bragg Have Attacked the Union Force Before They Assaulted Ft. Fisher?" We will present a PowerPoint with maps, Order of Battle, timeline, and some basic questions. The introductory presentation would be limited to no more than 10 minutes. We will provide a 3- or 4-page basic summary that can be printed out so that all participants are working from "the same sheet of music."

Following the introduction, members of the Round Table would offer comments, opinions, observations limited to about three minutes. This phase of the discussion would be moderated by the discussion leader and limited to about 30 to 40 minutes total, leaving about five minutes for a summary. The total program time would be 45-60 minutes.

If you would like to offer comments, etc., on this topic, please advise Vice President Bill Jayne at [jayne.bill@gmail.com](mailto:jayne.bill@gmail.com). If you'd like to volunteer to be a note taker or timekeeper, please let Bill know as well.

**4 - Check out the [Cape Fear Civil War Round Table facebook page](#).**

Linda Lashley and Bill Jayne have collaborated to simulate continued interest in Civil War history. They post meeting announcements and pictures, trivia articles, and more.

**5 – Thanks to the Management and staff for their assistance in welcoming CFCWRT speakers to Wilmington and the Cape Fear region. Their support and hospitality are most welcome.**



**\*\*\*\*\* March 2018 Program \*\*\*\*\***

**Lincoln's Greatest Journey: Sixteen Days Changed a Presidency,  
March 24 – April 8, 1865**



**Noah Andre Trudeau** explained his research methods as he prepared to write his latest book, *Lincoln's Greatest Journey*. President Lincoln's visit with U. S. Grant at City Point, Virginia shaped the terms given to the surrendering Confederates at the close of the Civil War.

**Editor**

**\*\*\*\*\* Trivia Questions for April 2018 \*\*\*\*\***

**1 – Who was Libby Bacon?** Libby was Custer's wife, his defender and the chief proponent of the Custer myth that grew from the "Last Stand." Libby lived until 1933 and until her last days, she mostly was successful in preventing negative stories about Custer's actions in the West.

Source: *Custer's Trials: A Life on the Frontier of a New America*

**2 – Who was Marcus Reno?** Major Marcus Reno was Custer's senior subordinate on the 1876 Campaign to force Sitting Bull's warriors to return to their reservations. He commanded one of the four wings into which Custer divided his command. A deeply troubled officer with a drinking problem, Reno performed poorly at the Little Bighorn, and was accused of cowardice and drunkenness. Reno's court of inquiry was the closest the army came to an investigation of the battle.

Source: *Custer's Trials: A Life on the Frontier of a New America*

**3 – Who was Frederick Benteen?** Captain Frederick Benteen was one of Custer's subordinates who commanded one wing of Custer's split command. Benteen hated Custer and this hate may have impacted the separated commands to come to Custer's defense on Last Stand Hill.

**\*\*\*\*\* Tour of Fort Fisher \*\*\*\*\***

On March 8, acclaimed Civil War historian Dr. Chris E. Fonvielle Jr., Ph.D., (right in first photo below), a member of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table, presented a special tour of Fort Fisher for noted author Noah Andre Trudeau (left in first photo). Mr. Trudeau gave a talk to the Round Table that evening on "Lincoln's Greatest Journey," his latest book. Group photo in front of Fort Fisher's rampart: left to right: Trudeau, Fonvielle, CFCWRT VP Bill Jayne, Pres. Bob Cooke, Steering Committee Member Mark Swanstrom, and Steering Committee Member Bruce Patterson. Third photo pictures Steering Committee Member Dale Lear, far left.

**Bill Jayne**





# The Runner



## Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Our regular meeting will be held on **Thursday, 8 March 2018** at the Harbor United Methodist Church located at **4853 Masonboro Loop Road, Wilmington, NC**. Come early – the meeting starts promptly at 7:00 p.m. See [cfcwrt.org](http://cfcwrt.org) for details of future speakers and their subjects.

\*\*\*\*\* **March 2018 Program** \*\*\*\*\*

### **Lincoln's Greatest Journey: Sixteen Days Changed a Presidency, March 24 – April 8, 1865**

**Noah Andre Trudeau** will present his well researched book on the sixteen days that Lincoln spent at City Point, Virginia in the company of such notables as U.S. Grant, W.T. Sherman, David Dixon Porter and the Army of the Potomac. During this short period, the end of the war became clearer and the plans for the reunited Union began to form in Lincoln's thoughts.

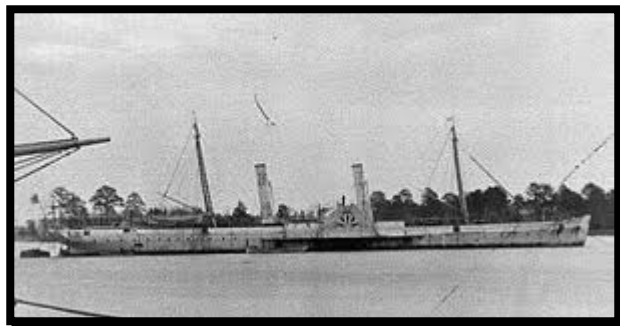


Noah Andre Trudeau attended the State University on New York at Albany where he graduated with a history degree. Trudeau has written numerous Civil War books and received multiple awards for his efforts.

**\*\*\*\*\* Trivia Questions for March 2018 \*\*\*\*\***

**1 – Who did President Lincoln first invite to Ford’s theater to see *Our American Cousin*?**

**\*\*\*\*\* Member News & Activities \*\*\*\*\***



**Blockade Runner the *Robert E. Lee***

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Specifically, we will discuss the topic of Hoke’s failure to attack Terry’s force before it was prepared for the assault on Fort Fisher itself.

In essence, the topic would be: “Should Hoke/Bragg Have Attacked the Union Force Before They Assaulted Ft. Fisher?” We will present a PowerPoint with maps, Order of Battle, timeline, and some basic questions. The introductory presentation would be limited to no more than 10 minutes. We will provide a 3- or 4-page basic summary that can be printed out so that all participants are working from “the same sheet of music.”

Following the introduction, members of the Round Table would offer comments, opinions, observations limited to about three minutes. This phase of the discussion would be moderated by the discussion leader and limited to about 30 to 40 minutes total, leaving about five minutes for a summary. The total program time would be 45-60 minutes.

If you would like to offer comments, etc., on this topic, please advise Vice President Bill Jayne at [jayne.bill@gmail.com](mailto:jayne.bill@gmail.com). If you'd like to volunteer to be a note taker or timekeeper, please let Bill know as well.

2 - Check out the [Cape Fear Civil War Round Table facebook page](#).

Linda Lashley and Bill Jayne have collaborated to simulate continued interest in Civil War history. They post meeting announcements and pictures, trivia articles, and more.

\*\*\*\*\* February 2018 Program \*\*\*\*\*

*From Fields of Fire and Glory: Letters of the Civil War*



**Rod Gragg** entertained attendees at our Dinner Meeting with the stories penned by individual soldiers who shared their Civil War experiences. Rod covered nearly every facet of the life of the Civil War soldier. From entering the service, to enduring the training and battles, to facing wounds and/or sicknesses, to becoming a prisoner of war, to dealing with victory or defeat, and finally to reconciling with a hated foe, Rod's book traced a soldier's journey through the emotions of 1861-1865.

From Rod's book, Chapter 18 "Pa Died Very Easy."

The close association of family and friends in the ranks was unquestionably reassuring for many soldiers, but it also added a very personal element to the risks of war. When Georgia attorney John C. Mounger volunteered for Confederate service, he was followed into the army by his three sons – two of whom served most of the war in their father's regiment. Mounger rose in rank to lieutenant colonel and second-in-command of the 9<sup>TH</sup> Georgia Infantry. In May 1863, Lieutenant Colonel Mounger had the heartrending task of writing his wife

to report the death of their son Terrell, a captain in the 14<sup>TH</sup> Georgia Infantry, who had been mortally wounded at the battle of Chancellorsville.

Less than two months later, Mounger's two surviving soldier sons – John Junior and Tom – had to write their mother a similar letter, reporting the death of their father in the second day's fighting at Gettysburg. A year later, both sons were killed at the battle of the Wilderness.

I think what I learned from Rod's presentation was that the average soldier, Confederate or Union, was very similar in the make-ups.



Rod Gragg addresses the CFCWRT Dinner Guests

Editor

\*\*\*\*\* Trivia Questions for March 2018 \*\*\*\*\*

**1 – Who did President Lincoln first invite to Ford's theater to see *Our American Cousin*? President Lincoln** invited General and Mrs. Julia Grant to attend the play with him and Mrs. Lincoln. Mrs. Grant and Mrs. Lincoln had several disagreeable moments during the Lincolns visit to City Point. They declined the president's invitation. Lincoln then invited Major Henry Rathbone and his fiancée, Clara Harris, to attend the play.

# The Runner



## Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Our Dinner meeting will be held on **Thursday, 8 February 2018** at the Blockade Runner Beach Resort (Nighthawk Room) located at **275 Waynick Blvd, Wrightsville Beach**. Come early – the meeting starts promptly at 6:30 p.m. See **[cfcwrt.org](http://cfcwrt.org)** for details of future speakers and their subjects.

**\*\*\*\*\* February 2018 Program \*\*\*\*\***

### ***From Fields of Fire and Glory: Letters of the Civil War***

**Rod Gragg** will entertain attendees at our Dinner Meeting with the stories penned by individual soldiers sharing their Civil War experiences:

A young soldier, mortally wounded, pens a last letter to his beloved father from the battlefield. That letter, along with 19 others from the Civil War, are reproduced here in facsimile for readers to open, remove, and read, just as the original recipients did. Conveying the personal drama behind the battles of the Civil War with unrivaled verisimilitude, this unusual volume reveals the triumphs, loneliness, fears, and struggles of ordinary men and women facing their role in history, such as a letter from a former slave to his wife, ringing with hope for a future of freedom together.

Rod Gragg is an award-winning Civil War historian who has written a number of books on the subject including *The Civil War Quiz and Fact Book*. He lives in South Carolina.

**\*\*\*\*\* Raffle Winners \*\*\*\*\***

**Raffle Master: Ed Gibson**

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***Stonewall in the Valley  
Battle Cry of Freedom***

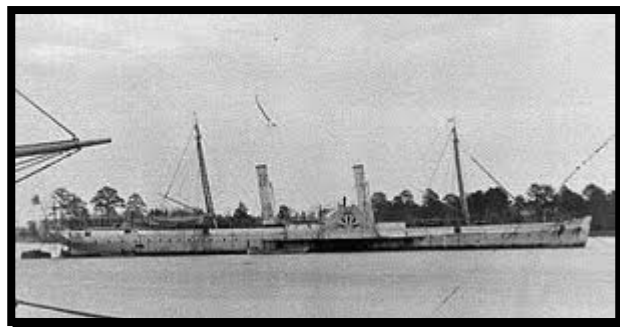
Ed Gibson  
George Holston

*Civil War Blunders*  
*Dahlgren Affair*  
*Him on the One Side and Me on the Other*  
*Brave Men*  
*Failure in the Saddle*  
*Lee Takes Command*  
*Carrying the Flag*  
*Confederate States Navy*  
*Divided Waters*  
*Civil War Day by Day*  
*Stuart's Calvary*  
*Nothing But Victory*

Edward Holston  
 Bill Jayne  
 John Bolger  
 Bob Cooke  
 Joe George  
 Jack McGarrie  
 David Munnikhuysen  
 Jim Wagner  
 Bill Jayne  
 Dale Lear  
 Joe Hack  
 Jim Wagner



\*\*\*\*\* **Member News & Activities** \*\*\*\*\*



**Blockade Runner the *Robert E. Lee***

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**1 – Happy Valentine's Day!!!!!!!**

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Remove the labels and donate bottles to this worthy cause. Please give used bottles to **Linda Lashley** at our next RT meeting.

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The Two Weeks of Fury Symposium will begin with an optional half-day on Friday, Sept. 28, in Kinston. Friday evening will include a key-note lecture at The Barn at [BroadsLab](#). Saturday's tours begin with a rare trip to Monroe's Crossroads battlefield and a guided tour of Civil War Fayetteville and Averasboro. Saturday will wrap with an intimate meet and greet at Bentonville Battlefield featuring heavy hors d'oeuvre and drinks. Sunday will conclude with a guided tour of Bentonville Battlefield.

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Contact (910) 594-0789 [amanda.brantley@ncdcr.gov](mailto:amanda.brantley@ncdcr.gov)

I attended a similar symposium some years ago with many of the same speakers. I highly recommend this event.

**\*\*\*\*\* January 2018 Program \*\*\*\*\***

**Amongst Immortals Raging: Gettysburg’s 3<sup>rd</sup> Day Begins**

**Marshall Conyers** provided those in attendance at our January Meeting with a different look at the Battle of Gettysburg. In Marshall’s own words:



**Pickett’s Charge**





**Marshall Conyers**

Though *Amongst Immortals Raging* is organized almost exclusively around Pickett's attack, it is not actually a tale of war so much as it is an epic journey deep into the hearts and minds of those men who fought there on that bloody bygone day. True, the impending feel of battle does imbue nearly its every written word, yet within its pages too, are all the ordinary emotions of men caught up in that most extraordinary world which is war ... *justice* is there, and *truth* and *mercy* and *friendship*, and even the *innocence* of youth ... all juxtaposed upon the tools of The Reaper's grim and violent trade ... muskets peppering, cannon roaring, bayonets shimmering amidst the raging cataclysm of battle ... and yet, ever resounding over all, one senses that hallowed call to *Duty*, *Honor*, *Country* that set Gray against Blue in a small town in Pennsylvania, then called them forth to arms and to *immortality* under valor's bright and fleeting banner .....

Conyer's presentation of his Iliad-style work was certainly "different" than our traditional treatment of Civil War history; however, that difference was interesting.

**Editor**

**\*\*\*\*\* Grant \*\*\*\*\***

**Bill Jayne** has taken the task to read Ron Chernow's new book about U.S. Grant.

Below Bill shares his thoughts about the first three hundred pages:

*Grant* by Ron Chernow is a massive biography running to almost 1,100 pages when you count the notes, bibliography and index. Yet, it's a fairly easy read...except that it's so heavy the reader can't tackle it in a casual way. Chernow is, primarily a writer with a long career as an author of magazine articles and books. He's best known for his biography of George Washington and the book about Alexander Hamilton that formed the basis of the successful Broadway play.

I'm only about a third of the way through the book but our editor has prevailed upon me to provide a report on my impressions so far. I've just finished the Chattanooga chapters and it's early 1864 and newly minted Lieutenant General Ulysses S. Grant has just arrived in Washington. Grant hasn't yet faced off against Robert E. Lee in the Overland Campaign.

I'm really looking forward to the next sections of the book. I've long felt that Grant was clearly the greatest general of the Civil War and so far this book has only reinforced that opinion. At least since 1932 with the publication of *Grant and Lee* by J.F.C. Fuller, serious students of the Civil War have had to dig below the superficial assessment that Lee was a genius of the military art and Grant a mere butcher who effectively used his numerical and material advantages to vanquish his more talented foe. So, my prejudice shouldn't be viewed as iconoclastic.

Lee was often tactically brilliant and he had a great sense of the weaknesses of his various opponents like McClellan and Hooker. He exploited the defensive advantages of the Army of Northern Virginia and his knowledge of the geography of the theater to a greater degree than any other Confederate general could have, in my opinion. My meaning is illustrated by the fact that the Army of Northern Virginia maintained a working line of communication to its crucial sources of supply until the beginning of 1865 when Ft. Fisher fell and Lee was forced to leave his lines below Petersburg. Lee was always able to fall back on his lines of communication to give himself a tactical advantage or to prevent a truly decisive victory by the Army of the Potomac, and he exploited that time after time.

I don't think he had as great a sense of the political milieu in which he fought and the weakness of his army, however. In a strategic sense, Sharpsburg and Gettysburg were probably mistakes because they not only risked so much of his army's strength (superlative lieutenants, a core of hard-fighting dedicated infantry) but because they turned the tables and put the Army of the Potomac back in a strong defensive position that virtually assured that they would not suffer a decisive defeat. That is, even if defeated, they would fall back on a short line of communication to their base along the Washington-Baltimore-Philadelphia line. Lee made the Army of Northern Virginia so vulnerable that a better general than McClellan might easily have ended the war at Sharpsburg.

Anyway, Chernow's bio makes it clear that Grant combined a clearer sense than Lee of the political milieu. He knew, I think, before almost anyone else that in order to win, the Union must conquer the South. The war would not be won by one big victory. The way he maneuvered and fought his army from Ft. Donelson to Shiloh to Corinth to Vicksburg was superlative. By July of 1863 with the fall of Vicksburg, Grant had amputated a huge source of supplies, manpower and transportation from the Confederate war effort. The territory taken comprised western Kentucky, much of Tennessee, western Mississippi and much of Louisiana.

In accomplishing that end, he made mistakes but didn't lose his nerve and quickly grasped how to make the most of the situation at hand. He controlled the battlefield masterfully at Shiloh and turned defeat into victory where Lee, perhaps trying desperately to grasp the opportunity for a "Waterloo," really lost control and made bad decisions on the second and third days at Gettysburg, for example.

I think Chattanooga is another example of Grant's nimbleness. It's also an example of his professional acumen in realizing that a starving, cold, dirty army was unlikely to be a winning army. He quickly got his army back on its feet while Bragg allowed his army—fresh from a great victory at Chickamauga—to deteriorate and lose its morale even though it held the high ground and dominated the approaches to the city. Chernow often documents how Grant was able to simultaneously consider tactical, logistical and geographical factors and quickly issue clear orders to accomplish his ends.

Finally, I think Chernow's book is a great addition to the literature because it really gives a believable sense of who Grant was as a human being. We know who Lee was, a patrician knight, and there have been illuminating biographies of Jackson and most other Confederate leaders but it's always been very difficult to develop a sense of who Grant was as a general, a political leader and a human being.

One of the reasons Grant has so often been underestimated is because he clearly had problems of human weakness. He was unsuccessful in his civilian endeavors in the 1850's, his family was often an embarrassment and...he did have a drinking problem. Chernow makes a convincing case that Grant's drinking was a kind of alcoholism that

made him terribly susceptible to binge drinking. He often went for long periods of time without taking a drink of any kind, not even a glass of wine with dinner or a “medicinal” dose of brandy or whiskey. Yet, there were times when he was incapacitated by drink but not when actively engaged against the enemy. I think this book will go a long way toward fleshing out Grant’s unusual and puzzling personality.

I look forward to Chernow’s handling of the Overland Campaign and Grant’s role in Reconstruction. Reconstruction is a pivotal period in US history and it’s difficult to unravel all the threads of personality and permutations of policy. The failures and lost opportunities of the period haunt us to this day. I look forward to reading that part of the biography.

**Bill Jayne**

# The Runner



## Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Our next meeting will be held on **Thursday, 11 January 2018** at Harbor United Methodist Church located at **4853 Masonboro Loop Road**. Come early – the meeting starts promptly at 7:00p.m. See **cfwrt.org** for details of future speakers and their subjects.

\*\*\*\*\* January 2018 Program \*\*\*\*\*

### Amongst Immortals Raging: Gettysburg's 3<sup>rd</sup> Day Begins

Of the more than 50,000 books written about the American Civil War, *Amongst Immortals Raging: Gettysburg's Third Day Begins* stands alone as the only Iliad-style work ever written in the high Victorian language of the past, and organized almost exclusively around the attack of July 3, 1863. **Marshall Conyers** speaks with poetic reverence of *all* those men in Blue and Gray who collided there on that rolling Pennsylvania countryside ..... individuals who forged history at the point of a slashing saber, or through the barrel of a smoking musket.

**Marshall Conyers** is a native of Wilson, N.C. He began his working career as a Junior High School science and history teacher (and Basketball and Track coach). He is an avid kayaker and bicyclist. Marshall loves the natural world, and is at his happiest when wandering through the quiet solitude of an old-growth forest with his beloved dog Pal. Marshall is also an amateur anthropologist who possesses a fine collection on Native American artifacts.

#### Amongst Immortals

*All life is lived, all time is done,  
no memory lingers here  
beneath this gentle earth  
so rife with springtime sun.  
We sleep forever and unknowing  
of this hallowed ground we made.  
On battlefields of honor, our youth poured  
out,  
played out in violent days.  
One instant there amongst immortals raging,*

*something darkened out our sun.  
Now all is quiet, so solemn here  
where weathered stones inscribe our names,  
where once our race was run.*

*All life is lived, all time is done.  
We sleep forever now with angels  
who sing of glory and of sacred honor won,  
of life and time that's never done  
as long as one true heart remembers us .....*

*..... this land's most valiant sons.*



NC Monument at Gettysburg



Marshall Conyers

**\*\*\*\*\* Trivia Questions for January 2018 \*\*\*\*\***

**1 – Why was the Third Day at Gettysburg so critical to those who wore the Blue and Gray?**

**2 – Mexican General Santa Anna built strong defensive positions to block Scott’s advance on Mexico City. What actions did the Americans use to attack the defenders?**

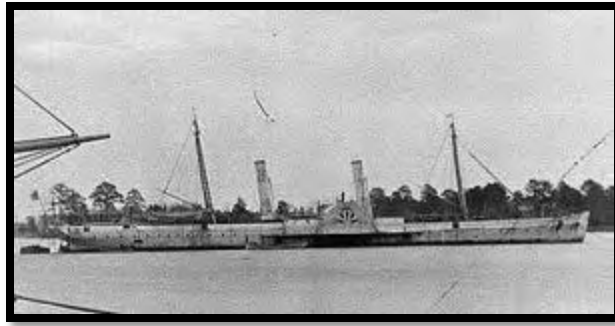
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**Raffle Master: Ed Gibson**

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- |                                     |                |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| <i>Men of God</i>                   | Bill Hewitt    |
| <i>Ewell</i>                        | George Holston |
| <i>I Rode with Stonewall</i>        | Jim Gannon     |
| <i>Fighting for the Confederacy</i> | Jim Gannon     |
| <i>Embattled Rebel</i>              | Bill Jayne     |
| <i>H.L. Hunley</i>                  | Judy Ward      |

**\*\*\*\*\* Member News & Activities \*\*\*\*\***



**Blockade Runner the *Robert E. Lee***

If you have member news or news about Civil War events that you think would be of interest to CFCWRT membership, send me an email with the details to [tpwinstead@gmail.com](mailto:tpwinstead@gmail.com). Thank you.

**1 – Happy New Year!!!!!!!**

**2 - Cape Fear 3** and the **Blockade Runner** Chapters of the United Daughters of the Confederacy will be collecting old medicine/pill bottles for overseas uses in medical missions.

Remove the labels and donate bottles to this worthy cause. Please give used bottles to **Linda Lashley** at our next RT meeting.

**3 – Two Weeks of Fury – Wise’s Fork, Monroe’s Crossroads, Averagesboro, Bentonville - September 28-30, 2018**

The Two Weeks of Fury Symposium will begin with an optional half-day on Friday, Sept. 28, in Kinston. Friday evening will include a key-note lecture at The Barn at [Broadslab](#). Saturday's tours begin with a rare trip to Monroe's Crossroads battlefield and a guided tour of Civil War Fayetteville and Averagesboro. Saturday will wrap with an intimate meet and greet at Bentonville Battlefield featuring heavy hors d'oeuvre and drinks. Sunday will conclude with a guided tour of Bentonville Battlefield.

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I attended a similar symposium some years ago with many of the same speakers. I highly recommend this event.

**4 - Cape Fear Civil War Round Table - Dinner Meeting at 7:00p.m. – February 8, 2018** – Blockade Runner: Wrightsville Beach – Nighthawk Room– Speaker: Rod Gragg, Subject: “Up Close & Personal: Witnesses to the War.” Dinner and Presentation \$35 per attendee: An early & reasonably priced evening that your Valentine will enjoy. Please

put this on your calendar. Contact Bruce Paterson at 910-794-8905 or  
bppatterson@earthlink.net

\*\*\*\*\* **December 2017 Program** \*\*\*\*\*

**Forged in Battle: Mexican War as a Civil War Proving Ground**

**Jeff Bockert** presented an excellent talk about the Mexican War and the impact it had on the soldiers who would face each other during the coming American Civil War.



Zachary Taylor (Old Rough and Ready) and Winfield Scott (Old Fuss and Feathers) were the generals who mentored the untested soldiers. The men who learned and remembered the strengths and weaknesses of their fellow officers would respond well during the coming struggle. R.E. Lee and U.S. Grant remembered. George McClellan did not remember.

**Editor**

\*\*\*\*\* **Trivia Questions for January 2018** \*\*\*\*\*

**1 – Why was the Third Day at Gettysburg so critical to those who wore the Blue and Gray?** At the end of the Day One, the Blue forces had been bloodied; however, through the “reluctance” of Dick Ewell, the Blue held the high ground. The right flank of the Union line held against the savage Confederate attacks. Day Two was as bloodied along the Union left flank, but the 20<sup>th</sup> Maine and others had stopped the attacks of Longstreet and others Confederate forces.

Day Three dawned with decisions that would forever change the history of the United States. Meade held a war counsel to decide whether to stay or flee – they chose to stay and fight. Lee took his own council to extend one more strong push to break the Union center and possibly end the war – Today.

**2 – Mexican General Santa Anna built strong defensive positions to block Scott’s advance on Mexico City. What actions did the Americans use to attack the defenders?** Scott used his engineers (Lee, Johnston, Beauregard and McClellan) to find paths to the rear of the Mexican positions. Once the paths were cleared for troop movements, the Americans launched “flank” attacks.



# The Runner



## Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Our next meeting will be held on **Thursday, 14 December 2017** at Harbor United Methodist Church located at **4853 Masonboro Loop Road**. Come early – the meeting starts promptly at 7:00p.m. See **[cfcwrt.org](http://cfcwrt.org)** for details of future speakers and their subjects.

\*\*\*\*\* December 2017 Program \*\*\*\*\*

### Forged in Battle: Mexican War as a Civil War Proving Ground

**Jeff Bockert** will discuss how training and tactics learned in the Mexican War affected Civil War leaders' decisions and strategies during the Civil War. In addition, Jeff will discuss how tactics and lessons learned sometimes depended on whether one served with General Winfield Scott or General Zachary Taylor while in Mexico.



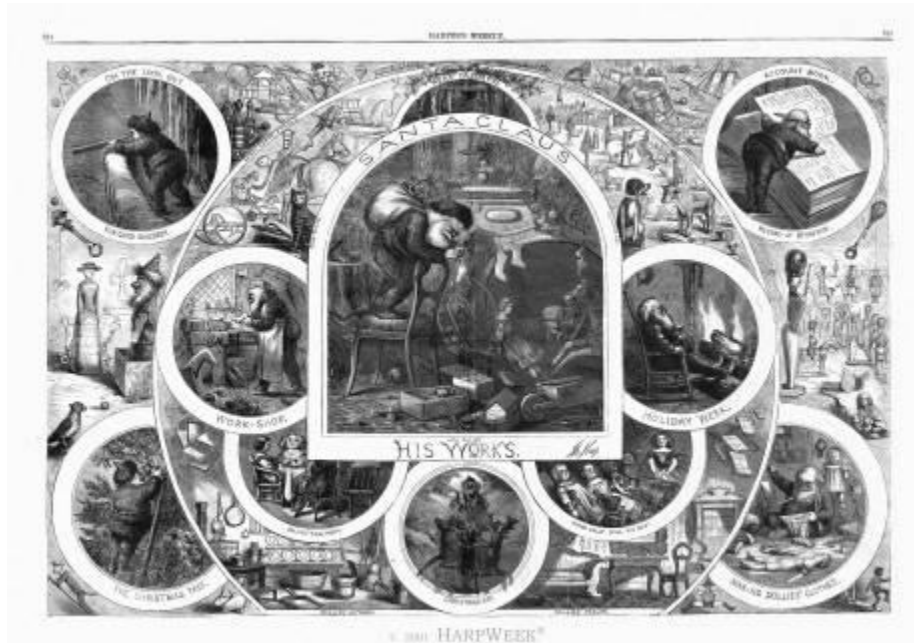
General Scott's Grand Entry into the City of Mexico, September 14<sup>th</sup>, 1847.

Source: <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/resource/pga.05227/> (accessed November 27, 2017).

**Jeffrey Bockert** currently serves as the East Region Supervisor for the North Carolina Division of Historic Sites based in Kinston, North Carolina. He has worked in the historic site and museum field for over twenty years and prior to arriving in Kinston, he served as the Civil War Specialist for the N.C. Department of Natural & Cultural Resources. Jeff's previous work experience includes manager of the President James K. Polk Birthplace, Associate Curator on the Battleship North Carolina and work at the National Archives in Washington, D.C. He is the author of several works on presidential and military history and has published in works such as *White House Studies* and *Public Historian*. Jeff received both his undergraduate degree in American History and his master's degree in European History from UNC-Wilmington.

**\*\*\*\*\* Trivia Questions for December 2017 \*\*\*\*\***

**1 – Which side did Santa Claus favor during the Civil War?**



**2 – Which Civil War general had a song written about his Mexican-American War deeds?**

**3 – Which general commanded both the campaigns to defeat the Mexicans in 1847 and the Confederates in 1861?**

**4 – How did Confederate General Daniel Harvey Hill feel about substitutes and exemptions?**

**5 – Who was J. Summerfield Staples?**

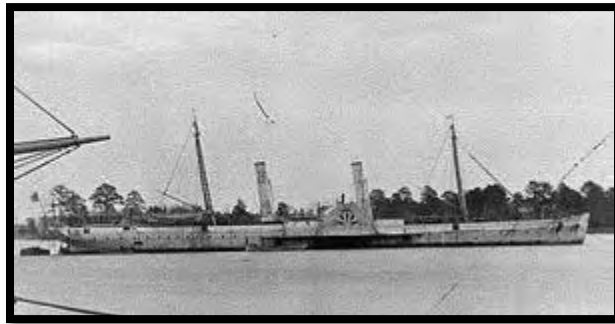
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Woops - To be Posted Next Month -

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### 1 – **Merry Christmas!**

We wish all members and friends of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table a blessed Christmas and New Year.

**2 - Cape Fear 3** and the **Blockade Runner** Chapters of the United Daughters of the Confederacy will be collecting old medicine/pill bottles for overseas uses in medical missions.

Remove the labels and donate bottles to this worthy cause. Please give used bottles to **Linda Lashley** at our next RT meeting.

**3** – If you have plans to do some traveling and want to know about upcoming Civil War events in that area, check out *civilwar.travel*. This site is for 2017 events.

### **4 - December 2, 2017 Bentonville Battlefield**

A Civil War Christmas - Holiday Open House

Saturday, 10 am - 4 pm

Come celebrate a Civil War Christmas during this Holiday Open House event. Costumed interpreters will decorate the kitchen in festive themes using natural materials such as holly, magnolia, fruits, and popcorn strands. Visitors can enjoy cookies and cider while

listening to period music. Costumed military interpreters will be available to discuss how the common soldier spent his time on furlough with friends and family. This event is free, and open to the public.

Source: <http://www.nchistoricsites.org/bentonvi/bentonvi.htm>

**5 - December 9, 2017**

**Fort Fisher State Historic Site**

Victorian Christmas Open House

Saturday, 10 am - 3 pm

Enjoy the delightful sounds of Masonboro Parlor and John Golden, and learn 19th century dance steps as well. A guest presenter will examine "Santa Claus: the Man, the Myth, and the Legend." Also, shop in the museum store while enjoying light refreshments. This event is free, and open to the public.

Open House is sponsored by Fort Fisher Chapter 2325 of the UDC, the Friends of Fort Fisher, New Hanover County, the town of Carolina Beach and the town of Kure Beach.

Linda Lashley

Source: <http://www.nchistoricsites.org/fisher/>

**6 – December 10, 2017**

**Brunswick Town/Fort Anderson**

An 18th Century Christmas

Sunday, 1 - 5:50 pm

Join us once again this holiday season, as we explore how the American colonists celebrated Christmas. Costumed interpreters will provide guided tours of St. Philips Anglican Church on the hour. During the program, you can enjoy Colonial refreshments in the Visitor Center, participate in traditional games, or try your hand at Moravian paper stars and other 18th century crafts. The highlight of the evening will be an authentic period candlelit service in the ruins of St. Philips Church. The service will begin at 5:00pm and will conclude by 5:30pm. Parking for this event will be \$5 per car.

<http://www.nchistoricsites.org/brunwic/brunwic.htm>

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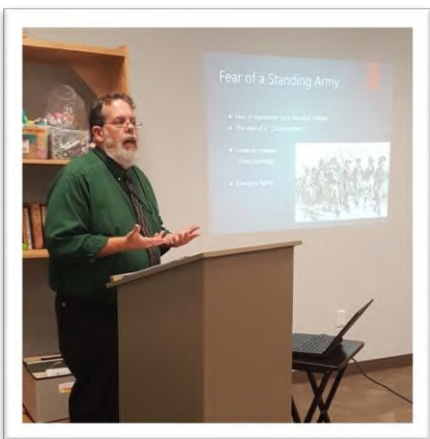
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\*\*\*\*\* November 2017 \*\*\*\*\*

### Confederate Conscription: An Introduction



**William “Bill” Brown** shared the history of North Carolina’s efforts to raise troop levels to resist the invasion of their state and to support the efforts of the Confederate government to effectively counter Lincoln’s strategy to maintain the Union. Among the many subjects covered, Bill discussed the Militia Code of 1861, the effect of exemptions had on troop levels, the North Carolina Line and Volunteer Corps, the Constriction Act of April 1862, Bounty Pay, Substitutes, the Militia Code of 1863, the Home Guard, the Conscription Act of 1864, Robert E. Lee’s General Order No.54 – Amnesty for deserters to return to the ranks without punishment (Governor Zebulon Vance’s proclamation on Order No.54).

**Editor**

Note: Thanks to **Linda Lashley** for her notes on Bill Brown’s presentation. As reflected in her notes: The exemptions in the Conscription Acts almost caused a class war – “A Rich Man’s War, A Poor Man’s Fight.”

\*\*\*\*\* Letters from an Old Soldier \*\*\*\*\*

**William H. Langley** was a member of Co. E, 7<sup>th</sup> Regiment North Carolina Troops. Langley enlisted in Northampton County at age 18, June 10<sup>th</sup>, 1861. He was wounded at Ox Hill, Virginia on September 1, 1862 and at Chancellorsville May 1-4, 1863. Langley was captured at the Wilderness on May 6, 1864. He was confined at Point Lookout, Maryland until transferred to Elmira, New York, August 10, 1864. Langley was released from Elmira, NY on June 12, 1865.

The 7<sup>th</sup> Regiment served under Brigadier General James Lane and the regiment saw some hard fighting, At Chancellorsville, “It is admitted here that Lane’s boys were a bad, quarrelsome set of fellows and too fond of a fight altogether.”

On June 6, 1903 at a tobacco barn in W.H. Langley’s grove about one mile west of Elm City, 39 Confederate veterans assembled for a reunion and barbeque. There was no regular program, but each person was called on to make a few remarks.



**Langley was the man with his arms crossed:** [library.digitalnc.org](http://library.digitalnc.org)

The following letters share Langley’s thoughts on his old comrades and the fellowship they shared.

Letter from W.H. Langley to Editor (P.D.Gold ) of the Wilson Daily Times March 14, 1914

Dear Mr. Gold: Will you please publish this in your paper:

I have been very sick. I have been here in my room what you may say helpless for five weeks and I am an old soldier. I have [given] several dinners to my old soldier

friends, and up to this day there have [sic] not been a single old soldier to see me, but tonight I am feeling some better and if I do live to see the 8<sup>th</sup> day of August which is my 71<sup>st</sup> birthday I am going to continue to be their friend by giving them another dinner. I am here tonight almost helpless, eating out of an old tin plate and a cup which was used in the time of the war. I will be pleased if you will publish this for me and fix it right.

Yours truly,  
W. H. Langley

Elm City, N.C. March 3, 1914

Mr. Gold editorialized;  
We trust that not only the old soldiers who are able to do so but others will visit my good friend who is a good farmer, a good citizen, a valiant soldier and in whose heart is the milk of human kindness. We have always appreciated the friendship of Mr. Langley. He has been ever kind and true to the editor of the Times and many has been the words of encouragement said to us when he came in to pay his subscription or to make a friendly call. Whenever he has given a dinner he has sent a special invitation to the editor, but much to our regret pressure of work has kept us from attending, but now we are going to leave our business and make him a visit and we want you to do the same. –Ed. Times.

Wilson Daily Times, April 30, 1914.

We were honored today by a visit from Mr. W. H. Langley of Elm City. Mr. Langley who has been quite ill for several months, has a host of friends in the community who will rejoice at his recovery. This venerable old man has had a very remarkable career, having been “killed” four times during the civil war and was declared dead twice during his recent illness. Mr. Langley smiled as he told us of the times during the war when, with a bullet hole through his shoulder, neck and abdomen he was carried to the “deadhouse” and prepared for interment. He is now quite lively and is today shaking hands with his many friends in this city.

**Note:** William H. Langley was my Great-Grandfather. He died in 1918, a victim of Spanish influenza.

If you have a Civil War ancestor that you would like to share their experiences, send to me and I will include in a future edition of *The Runner*. [tpwinstead@gmail.com](mailto:tpwinstead@gmail.com).

**Editor**

Source: Editorial, *Wilson Daily Times*, March 14, 1914, April 30, 1914.

\*\*\*\*\* **“keep green the memory”** \*\*\*\*\*

My Great-Grandmother, my Grandmother, and my Mother were members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy. I grew up with knowledge of the organization, its activities and many of its members. I had no knowledge of a similar organization for Union Daughters, nor had I ever thought of the possibility until yesterday (November 21st).

“The National Alliance of the Daughters of Veterans of the United States of America” was incorporated on December 12, 1885, in Massillon, Ohio.

“National Society Daughters of the Union 1861-1865” was founded October 9, 1912 in New York City, New York by Mrs. Frank Crowell.

From what I discovered on-line, these Daughters established organizations to honor Union soldiers and women who served during the war. I thought that idea sounded similar to the UDC goals. Admittedly, I knew little about the activities of these organizations; hence, I emailed both organizations to inquire about their activities after they organized and those activities today.

Hopefully, I will hear back so I can update this subject next month.

### \*\*\*\*\* Trivia Questions for December \*\*\*\*\*

**1 – Which side did Santa Claus favor during the Civil War? Thomas Nast**, a German immigrant and illustrator for the *Harper’s Weekly*, drew his first Santa Claus in 1862.

His first Santa (in the postdated January 3, 1863 issue) is a **small elf distributing Christmas presents to Union soldiers in camp**. **Santa dangles by the neck a comical jumping jack identified in accompanying text as Jefferson Davis, the Confederate president. There was no doubt in Nast’s illustration whose side Santa favors in the war.** Besides the military context, the cartoon is set off from later ones in that the gift giving is for adults, not children (except for the drummer boys). The other two Christmas illustrations of Nast’s published during the Civil War emphasize family scenes, with Santa relegated to the background.

Source: <https://www.archives.gov/> (accessed November 9, 2017).

**2 – Which Civil War general had a song written about his Mexican-American War deeds?** None other than that famous and much loved North Carolinian – **Braxton Bragg**. At the Battle of Buena Vista on February 23, 1847, General Zachary Taylor supposedly told Captain Bragg to give the Mexican troops “a little more grape Captain Bragg.” William J. Lemon wrote the song, “*A Little More Grape Captain Bragg: A National Song*” Lemon dedicated the song to General Taylor, but it was forever linked to the deeds of the young Captain Braxton Bragg.

Source: <https://www.loc.gov/resource/sm1847.430520.0?st=gallery> (accessed November 9, 2017).

**3 – Which general commanded both the campaigns to defeat the Mexicans in 1847 and the Confederates in 1861? General Winfield Scott**, a Virginian, directed the campaign that captured Mexico City and he came up with the strategy that would strangle the Confederacy. Early in the Civil War, Scott offered command of the Union army to one of his staff officers from the Mexican-American War: Robert E. Lee, another Virginian.

Source: <http://www.sonofthesouth.net/mexican-war/mexican-war-generals.htm> (accessed November 9, 2017).



**4 – How did Confederate General Daniel Harvey Hill feel about substitutes and exemptions?** General Hill was well known for his strong views on many issues. His views on furloughs for men serving in his command were classics of his well formed thoughts.

When members of a regimental band requested a furlough, Hill denied their application with a short remark, “Shooters before Tooters.”

Hill’s views on **substitutes** and **exemptions** were clearly declared in furlough request that had been disapproved by one of Hill’s Division commanders. “Approved for the reason that a brave soldier ought to be allowed to go home whenever practicable, else all the children born during the war or within the usual period afterwards will be the offspring of the cowards who remain at home by reason of **substitutes or other exemption.**”

Source: B.A. Botkin, *A Civil War Treasury of Tales, Legends and Folklore* [New York: , Promontory Press, 1960] 332.

**5 – Who was J. Summerfield Staples?** Staples was a 19 year old Pennsylvanian who served as a substitute for Abraham Lincoln. President Lincoln, even though he was overage and exempt, felt he needed to help the war effort; hence, he paid \$300 to hire his substitute.

Source:[http://www.slate.com/blogs/the\\_vault/2013/01/10/abraham\\_lincoln\\_the\\_president\\_paid\\_a\\_substitute\\_to\\_enlist\\_in\\_the\\_union\\_army.html](http://www.slate.com/blogs/the_vault/2013/01/10/abraham_lincoln_the_president_paid_a_substitute_to_enlist_in_the_union_army.html) (accessed November 16, 2017).

# *The Runner*



## **Cape Fear Civil War Round Table**

Our next meeting will be held on **Thursday, 9 November 2017** at Harbor United Methodist Church located at **4853 Masonboro Loop Road**. Come early – the meeting starts promptly at 7:00p.m. See **[cfwrt.org](http://cfwrt.org)** for details of future speakers and their subjects

Please join us at our third meeting of the 2017-2018 Program Year. Visitors are always welcome – **bring a friend**. Each of our speakers strives to enlighten, entertain, and add to our knowledge of Civil War history. This serves our mission of encouraging education and research into that historic conflict.

**\*\*\*\*\* November 2017 Program \*\*\*\*\***

### **Confederate Conscription: An Introduction**

**William “Bill” Brown** will discuss the three Conscription Acts and their impact in the Wilmington area. This meeting will likely result in questions about the Confederacy and its legislative agenda to provide maximum resources to achieve independence.

April 16, 1862 - The Confederate Congress passes the first Conscription Act, making all white males between the ages of eighteen and thirty-five eligible to be drafted into military service. (This is the first such draft in U.S. history.)

September 22, 1862 - President Abraham Lincoln issues the preliminary Emancipation Proclamation.

October 11, 1862 - The Confederate Congress passes the Twenty-Slave Law, creating an exemption to military conscription for the owners of twenty or more slaves.

May 1, 1863 - The Confederate Congress amends the Twenty-Slave Law to apply only to overseers on plantations belonging solely to "a minor, a person of unsound mind, a femme sole [single woman], or a person absent from home in the military or naval service of the Confederacy."

February 17, 1864 - The Confederate Congress changes the requirement of the Twenty-Slave Law to fifteen able-bodied slaves and requires planters with exempted overseers to deliver one

hundred pounds of bacon or its equivalent for every slave to the government and to sell his or her surplus to the government or to soldiers' families at government price



**William Harris Brown** is a native of Winston-Salem, North Carolina. His education includes a Bachelor of Arts degree in History from High Point College in 1984 and a Masters Degree in History from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro in 1987. He has served in the N.C. Office of Archives and History for twenty-six years. His current position is Registrar of the State Archives of North Carolina responsible for accessioning incoming records to the State Archives

Source: [https://www.encyclopediavirginia.org/Twenty-Slave\\_Law#start\\_entry](https://www.encyclopediavirginia.org/Twenty-Slave_Law#start_entry), (accessed Novemeber1, 2017.)

**Editor**

**\*\*\*\*\* Trivia Questions for November 2017 \*\*\*\*\***

**1 – What was a substitute?**

**2 – What were valid exemptions to conscription?**

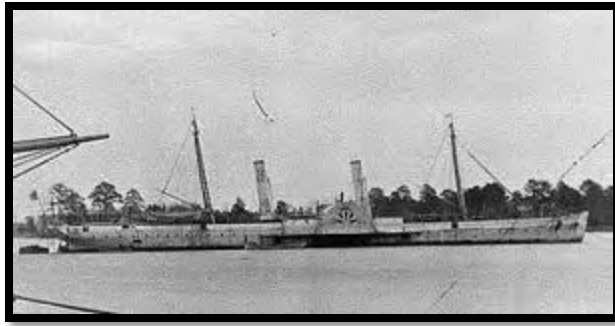
**\*\*\*\*\* Raffle Winners \*\*\*\*\***

**Raffle Master: Ed Gibson**

If you have books, prints, or other items that you would like to donate to the raffle, contact Ed Gibson ([egibson759@aol.com](mailto:egibson759@aol.com)) before our next meeting. ***The raffle is one of the components which allow the CFCWRT to fund our activities and our speakers.*** Please take part in our raffle by contributing items and/or purchasing tickets.

<i>History of the Confederate States Navy</i>	Ed Gibson
<i>Lamson of the Gettysburg: The Civil War Letters</i>	Al Anderson
<i>Battle of Wise's Fork</i>	Bill Jayne
<i>Fighting for the Confederacy</i>	Al Anderson
<i>Seward</i>	Joe Hack
<i>Stonewall in the Valley</i>	Tim Barton

**\*\*\*\*\* Member News & Activities \*\*\*\*\***



**Blockade Runner the *Robert E. Lee***

If you have member news or news about Civil War events that you think would be of interest to CFCWRT membership, send me an email with the details. Thank you.

**1** – If you have plans to do some traveling and want to know about upcoming Civil War events in that area, check out *civilwar.travel*. This site is for 2017 events.

**2 – November 18, 2017**

Free Civil War Saturday

Saturday, 10 am - 4 pm

Location: **Gov. Richard Caswell Memorial**

2612 W. Vernon Avenue, Kinston

The CSS Neuse Civil War Interpretive Center will be providing the public with demonstrations of the many aspects of naval, military and civilian life. Some of which will include: navigation techniques, small arms, artillery, steam engines, rope and knot work, cooking, spinning, weaving, dyeing, Civil War medicine, and 19th century toys and games.

**3 – Two Weeks of Fury – Wise’s Fork, Monroe’s Crossroads, Averasboro, Benntonville  
September 28-30, 2018**

The Two Weeks of Fury Symposium will begin with an optional half-day on Friday, Sept. 28, in Kinston. Friday evening will include a key-note lecture at The Barn at [Broadslab](#). Saturday's tours begin with a rare trip to Monroe's Crossroads battlefield and a guided tour of Civil War Fayetteville and Averasboro. Saturday will wrap with an intimate meet and greet at Bentonville Battlefield featuring heavy hors d'oeuvre and drinks. Sunday will conclude with a guided tour of Bentonville Battlefield.

Only 100 tickets will be sold, with a limit of 25 being sold for the optional Friday, half-day. Tickets include two meals, snacks, water, soda, and Saturday evening hors d'oeuvre and drinks. Your price includes venue admissions and a copy of Mark Moore's *Historical Guide to Bentonville*, an excellent map guidebook of the Carolinas Campaign. The price for the event will be \$350 or \$395 if you include the Kinston trip on Friday afternoon.

Contact (910) 594-0789 [amanda.brantley@ncdcr.gov](mailto:amanda.brantley@ncdcr.gov)

I attended a similar symposium some years ago with many of the same speakers. I highly recommend this event.

**Editor**

\*\*\*\*\* October 2017 \*\*\*\*\*

## A Monumental Mystery: Bentonville Battlefield's Lost Confederate Soldiers

The March 1865 battle of Bentonville resulted in 4,200 casualties. Hundreds were killed while others were taken to field hospitals such as the John Harper home which was commandeered by the U.S. army. Although a Union hospital, fifty-four Confederate soldiers were treated by Federal surgeons in the home. The wounded Confederates were paroled by the Federals and left in the Harper's care after the battle. Twenty-three would die before the last wounded soldier was able to leave. Three of these soldiers were sent home for burial but the graves and even the identities of the twenty remaining soldiers who died in the house had become lost over the years. Confederates that died outright on the battlefield were buried in unmarked graves but it was assumed that the remains of the ones that died in the home received better care. Their exact fates however have been lost to time.



In 1895, a local militia company placed a monument on Harper property to 360 soldiers buried "here." This inscription on the monument has led to the assumption that there is a mass grave near the memorial. In 2007, in conjunction with the History Channel, archaeologists used ground penetrating radar to search for a mass grave. No mass grave was ever found, but approximately twenty individual graves were discovered. This number corresponds with the Harper account, and a recently discovered 1895 photograph showing individual grave markers in the area. In 2011, tombstones were erected in the area for the twenty unknown Confederate soldiers that died in the home. A mass grave has yet to be found, and in all likelihood does not exist.

**Derrick Brown** shared his extensive knowledge of Bentonville battlefield with our membership. Hopefully, a Derrick led tour can be arraigned in the future.

**Editor**

### \*\*\*\*\* Trivia Questions for November \*\*\*\*\*

**1 – What was a substitute?** The April 16, 1862 law allowed an individual subject to conscription to hire a "replacement" – someone who was not normally subject service. This practice led to charges of "a rich man's war, a poor man's fight."

**2 – What were valid exemptions to conscription?** Controversy surrounded what were valid exemptions and what experience what required to claim one. Examples of exemptions included:

national and state government employees, druggists, teachers, ministers, mine workers, industrial workers, and communication/transportation workers.

Source: <https://blogs.loc.gov/law/2012/11/civil-war-conscription-laws/> (accessed November 1, 2017).

**\*\*\*\*\* Thoughts \*\*\*\*\***

Civil War history has received much attention in the last year. News stories have discussed monuments, “The Lost Cause”, treason, honorable men, etc.

I am glad that the CFCWRT tries to secure speakers who provide us with the history as it unfolded.

# *The Runner*



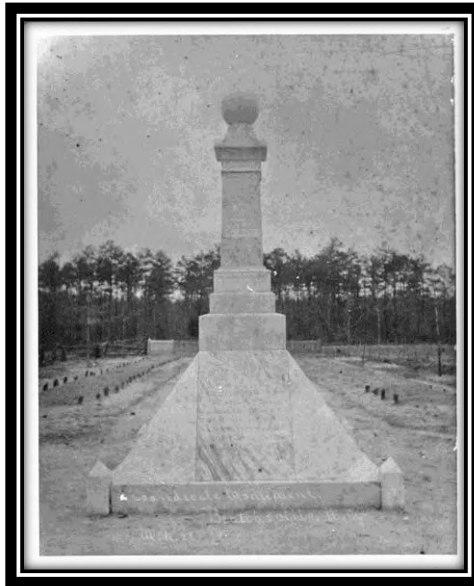
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Please join us at our second meeting of the 2017-2018 Program Year. Visitors are always welcome – **bring a friend**. Each of our speakers strives to enlighten, entertain, and add to our knowledge of Civil War history. This serves our mission of encouraging education and research into that historic conflict.

**\*\*\*\*\* October 2017 Program \*\*\*\*\***

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A Sneads Ferry, NC native, **Derrick Brown** graduated with a BS in history from Western Carolina University in 2003 and earned his MA in history from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington in 2010 (studying under Chris Fonvielle). His master’s thesis, “‘Foster Must Build Forts:’ The Failure of Union Offensive Strategy in Eastern North Carolina, 1862-1863,” focused on the Union occupation of New Bern and eastern North Carolina during the first half of the Civil War.

Derrick has worked at Bentonville Battlefield State Historic Site in Johnston County since 2006, serving as the Assistant Site Manager since 2009. Before starting at Bentonville, Derrick worked part-time at Fort Fisher State Historic Site in Kure Beach. He currently resides in Teachey, in Duplin County, with his wife Erin and daughter Haleigh.

### **Editor**

### **\*\*\*\*\* Trivia Questions for October 2017 \*\*\*\*\***

- 1 – When was the Battle of Bentonville fought and why was it significant?**
- 2 – When was R.E. Lee’s pardon approved?**
- 3 – Robert E. Lee and Mary Anna Randolph Custis marriage was blessed with seven children: three boys and four daughters. What were their fates?**
- 4 – Why are there no known photos of Anne Carter Lee?**

### **\*\*\*\*\* Raffle Winners \*\*\*\*\***

**Raffle Master: Ed Gibson**

If you have books, prints, or other items that you would like to donate to the raffle, contact Ed Gibson ([egibson759@aol.com](mailto:egibson759@aol.com)) before our next meeting. *The raffle is one of the components*



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*Age of Lincoln*

*To Honor these Men*

*Redemption*

*The Man Who Would Not be Washington*

*The Bloody Crucible of Courage*

*Fighting for the Confederacy*

Oliver Acheson

John Bolger

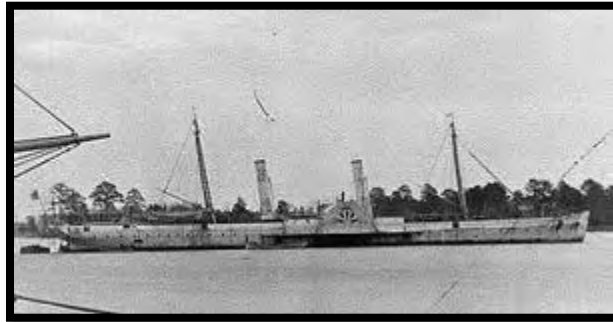
Al Anderson

Mary McLaughlin

Mary McLaughlin

Ed Gibson

\*\*\*\*\* **Member News & Activities** \*\*\*\*\*



**Blockade Runner the Robert E. Lee**

If you have member news or news about Civil War events that you think would be of interest to CFCWRT membership, send me an email with the details. Thank you.

**1 – The CFCWRT initial meeting in our new home!!!!** The September meeting at **Harbor United Methodist Church, 4853 Masonboro Loop Road** was a great success. Approximately 60 members and guests were treated to a most interesting meeting.

**2 –** If you have plans to do some traveling and want to know about upcoming Civil War events in that area, check out *civilwar.travel*. This site is for 2017 events.

**3 -** October 21 - 22: **Port Brunswick Days** Saturday and Sunday, 10 am - 4 pm  
Join us at Brunswick Town/Fort Anderson State Historic Site on October 21 and 22, 2017 for Port Brunswick Day! Living historians, dressed in 18th century attire, will demonstrate what life was once like in this early port town on the lower Cape Fear. Visitors will have the opportunity to try their hand at the militia drill, take a turn in the stocks and pillory, dip their own beeswax candle, and much more. Free and fun for all ages!

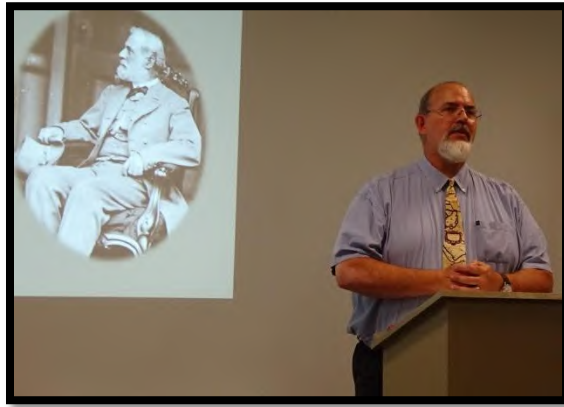
**4- October 28: Fall Festival and Living History:** Saturday, 10 am - 4 pm  
Bring the family and celebrate fall at **Bentonville Battlefield! Activities** include hayrides, carnival games based on 19th century games, corn shucking contest, townball (19th century baseball), and more! Visitors will also learn about 19th century farm life, and the chores that women and children were suddenly responsible to perform. Demonstrations include open hearth cooking, children's games, spinning, sewing, and more.

\*\*\*\*\* September 2017 \*\*\*\*\*

## Lee's Post-War Visit with his Tar Heels

### The Curious Case of Mrs. Fannie White Garlick and Robert E. Lee: The Ring of Truth

Chris Meekins spun an interesting story of Robert E. Lee's visit to North Carolina in the Spring of 1870. Using a newspaper article that appeared in a Weldon paper in the late 1800s as a starting point, Chris painstakingly researched to ascertain whether Mrs. Fannie White Garlick had received a gold ring from General Lee during his visit.



On **October 20, 1862**, Annie Carter Lee, daughter of Robert E. Lee, died in Warren County. She had been ill with typhoid fever while visiting the Jones Springs resort there.

Lee sent both Annie and her sister Agnes to North Carolina in June 1862 when Union troops occupied their home in Arlington, Va. When Annie died it was not possible to take her body back to Arlington, which was then behind enemy lines. The owner of Jones Springs offered to have her body buried in his family cemetery and the Lees accepted.

Zearell Crowder, a Confederate soldier, created the 11-foot tall obelisk that marks her grave to this day. It was dedicated in a ceremony in 1866. The Lee family and the citizens of Warren County paid for the monument, and Robert E. Lee visited the grave in 1870.

In 1994, descendants of the Lee family had Annie's body removed from the Warren County grave and interred with the rest of the family at Washington and Lee Chapel in Virginia.

The obelisk remains in the Jones Family Cemetery located on Annie Lee Road.

Did Chris' research confirm the claims that Fannie recalled from that 1870 Lee visit to his daughter's grave? Had Lee given the two year old Fannie a small gold ring? Not to keep you hanging, but I wish all of you could have heard Chris' story.

Ok, Chris believed that the trail he followed did indeed support Fannie's story.

Source: <https://www.ncdcr.gov/blog/2014/10/20/annie-carter-lee-from-virginia-to-north-carolina-and-back> (accessed September 20, 2017).

**Editor**

## \*\*\*\*\* Trivia Questions for October \*\*\*\*\*

**1 -When was the Battle of Bentonville fought and why was it significant?** The largest Civil War engagement in North Carolina, the Battle of Bentonville took place during *19-21 Mar. 1865* in rural Johnston County. *The encounter was one of the Confederacy's last attempts to defeat the Union army before the South capitulated.* With reports that Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman's 60,000-man army was marching toward Goldsboro in two columns, Gen. Joseph E. Johnston concentrated about 21,000 men near the community of Bentonville. His aim was to defeat the Union left wing before it could be reinforced by the right. Johnston thus hoped to prevent or delay Sherman's junction with Maj. Gen. John M. Schofield's Federal forces at Goldsboro.

When word of the battle reached Sherman late on 19 March, he sent the Union right wing under Maj. Gen. Oliver O. Howard to Slocum's support. Johnston redeployed his lines into a V to prevent being outflanked and to guard his only route of retreat. By 4:00 p.m. on 20 March, most of the Union right wing had reached Bentonville. Johnston was forced to deploy cavalry on his flanks to give the appearance of a strong front. Uncertain of Johnston's strength, Sherman decided against a general attack and instead ordered his subordinates to probe the Confederate defensive line. The Federal commander expected Johnston to retreat under cover of darkness, but dawn the next day revealed that the Confederates still held their entrenchments.

There was more intense skirmishing on 21 March despite the onset of heavy rain. During the afternoon, a Union attack nearly cut off Johnston's line of retreat before being repulsed by a hastily mounted Confederate counterattack. The Rebels thus escaped from Bentonville mainly because Sherman did not launch a general assault. That night the Confederates withdrew, removing as many of the wounded as possible, and returned to Smithfield. Lt. Gen. Wade Hampton's cavalry was ordered to cover the retreat, engaging in lively skirmishing with the Union forces. Total casualties at Bentonville were 1,527 Federals and 2,606 Confederates. After the battle, Sherman resumed the Union march toward Goldsboro, arriving there on 23 March.

Source: <http://www.ncpedia.org/bentonville-battle> (accessed September 20, 2017).

## **2 – When was R.E. Lee's pardon approved?**

On a spring day 140 years ago, Union Gen. Ulysses S. Grant and Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee met face to face in the parlor of Wilmer McLean's house in Appomattox Court House, Virginia. On that historic occasion, April 9, 1865, the two generals formalized the surrender of Lee's Army of Northern Virginia, thus bringing an end to four years of fighting between North and South.

After agreeing upon terms of the surrender, the generals each selected three officers to oversee the surrender and parole of Lee's army. Later that day, Lee and six of his staff signed a document granting their parole.

On May 29, 1865, President Andrew Johnson issued a Proclamation of Amnesty and Pardon to persons who had participated in the rebellion against the United States. There were fourteen excepted classes, though, and members of those classes had to make special application to the President.

Lee sent an application to Grant and wrote to President Johnson on June 13, 1865:

"Being excluded from the provisions of amnesty & pardon contained in the proclamation of the 29th Ulto; I hereby apply for the benefits, & full restoration of all rights & privileges extended to those included in its terms. I graduated at the Mil. Academy at West Point in June 1829. Resigned from the U.S. Army April '61. Was a General in the Confederate Army, & included in the surrender of the Army of N. Va. 9 April '65."

On October 2, 1865, the same day that Lee was inaugurated as president of Washington College in Lexington, Virginia, he signed his Amnesty Oath, thereby complying fully with the provision of Johnson's proclamation. But Lee was not pardoned, nor was his citizenship restored. And the fact that he had submitted an amnesty oath at all was soon lost to history.

More than a hundred years later, in 1970, an archivist at the National Archives discovered Lee's Amnesty Oath among State Department records (reported in *Prologue*, Winter 1970). Apparently Secretary of State William H. Seward had given Lee's application to a friend as a souvenir, and the State Department had pigeonholed the oath.

In 1975, Lee's full rights of citizenship were posthumously restored by a joint congressional resolution effective June 13, 1865.

At the August 5, 1975, signing ceremony, President Gerald R. Ford acknowledged the discovery of Lee's Oath of Allegiance in the National Archives and remarked: "General Lee's character has been an example to succeeding generations, making the restoration of his citizenship an event in which every American can take pride."

Source: <https://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/2005/spring/piece-lee.html> (accessed September 18, 2017).

### **3 – Robert E. Lee and Mary Anna Randolph Custis marriage was blessed with seven children: three boys and four daughters. What were their fates?**

**George Washington Custis Lee** ("Custis" "Boo") 1832-1913 – CSA General in the Army of Northern Virginia

**Mary Custis Lee** ("Daughter") 1835-1918

**William Henry Fitzhugh Lee** ("Rooney") 1837-1891 – CSA General in the ANV.

**Anne Carter Lee** ("Annie") 1839-1862 – Died of typhoid fever at Jones Springs, NC on October 20, 1862.

**Eleanor Agnes Lee** ("Wig" "Agnes") **1841-1873**

**Robert Edward Lee Jr.** (Robertus Sickus") 1843-1914 – Captain in ANV.

**Mildred Childe Lee** ("Precious Life") 1846-1905

**NOTE:** Of the four Lee daughters, none ever married.

Source: Mary P. Coulling, *The Lee Girls* [Winston-Salem, NC: John F. Blair, Publisher, 1987], 201-202.

**4 – Why are there no known photos of Anne Carter Lee?** Annie was borne with a birthmark on her face and as a young child she had an accident when she stuck a scissor point into her eye. She was very self-conscious of how she looked.

Source: Mary P. Coulling, *The Lee Girls* [Winston-Salem, NC: John F. Blair, Publisher, 1987], 11-18.

**\*\*\*\*\* Cogitating \*\*\*\*\***

Some statements are timeless in application, this one, at this time, seems worthy of reflection:

*“Intoxicated with unbroken success,  
we have become too self-sufficient  
to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving  
grace,  
too proud to pray to the God that made us.”*

*Abraham Lincoln  
March 30, 1863*

**Bruce Patterson**

**Note:** The full text of President Lincoln’s Proclamation appointing a National Fast Day can be found at:

Source: <http://www.abrahamlincolnonline.org/lincoln/speeches/fast.htm> (Accessed on September 20, 2017).

Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederate States of America, proclaimed March 27, 1863 as a “Day of fasting, humiliation and prayer.”

Source: nytimes.com (accessed September 20, 2017).

# The Runner



## Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Our next meeting will be held on **Thursday, 14 September 2017** at Harbor United Methodist Church located at **4853 Masonboro Loop Road**. Come early – the meeting starts promptly at 7:00p.m. See **[cfwrt.org](http://cfwrt.org)** for details of future speakers and their subjects

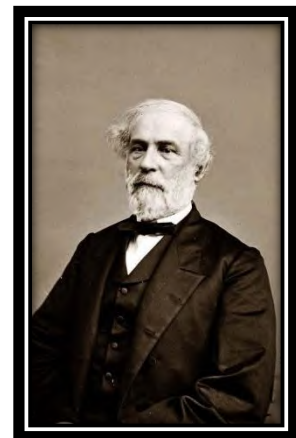
Please join us at our first meeting of the 2017-2018 Program Year. Visitors are always welcome – ***bring a friend***. Each of our speakers strives to enlighten, entertain, and add to our knowledge of Civil War history. This serves our mission of encouraging education and research into that historic conflict.

**\*\*\*\*\* September 2017 Program \*\*\*\*\***

### **Lee's Post-War Visit with his Tar Heels**

Recently much has been made about Lee's post war activities and his elevation to god-like status in the South. **Chris Meekins** will speak to our membership and guests about a supposed event that took place during Lee's 1870 visit to North Carolina. Chris will reveal another side of Lee during his last years.

In 1911, the Semicentennial of the American Civil War brought the war and the people who fought in it to the forefront. State and national events commemorated and celebrated the battles and the soldiers. Memories of the war and connections to battles and great men of the war were told and retold - some memories and celebrations were carved in stone. Amid the return of captured flags and the erecting of monuments, newspapers also ran stories of remembrances and connections to the war and the soldiers.



In an article in The Roanoke News (published in Weldon, N.C.), Mrs. Fannie White Garlic shared her alleged connection with no less a soldier than General Robert E. Lee. Garlic relates that Lee, a purported family friend, gave her a small token of affection (a gold ring) during his stay in NC in 1870. Details in the story, however, give one pause as to whether or not the incidents recounted are true. Come and listen as Chris Meekins unravels what he calls "The

Curious Case of Mrs. Fannie White Garlic and General Robert E. Lee: The Ring of Truth?." We will examine her story and review Lee's time in NC. In the end we will determine if Mrs. Garlic will be remembered for her veracity or her audacity.

**Chris Meekins** holds an MA in History from NCSU. He has worked with the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources for more than 17 years, 13 of those as a Reference Archivist. Chris studies North Carolina History, the Civil War and African American History. He is currently president of the North Carolina Military Historical Society.



**Editor**

**\*\*\*\*\* Trivia Questions for September \*\*\*\*\***

- 1 – What occupation did Robert E. Lee pursue after the war?
- 2 – Which newspaper called for Lee to be trialed for treason? Who defended Lee against those charges of treason?

**\*\*\*\*\* Raffle Winners \*\*\*\*\***

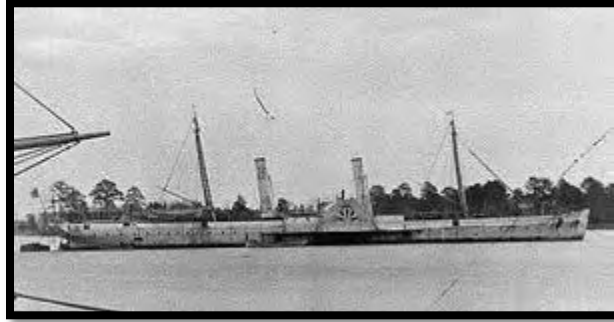
**Raffle Master: Ed Gibson**

If you have books, prints, or other items that you would like to donate to the raffle, contact Ed Gibson ([egibson759@aol.com](mailto:egibson759@aol.com)) before our next meeting. ***The raffle is one of the components which allow the CFCWRT to fund our activities and our speakers.*** Please take part in our raffle by contributing items and/or purchasing tickets.



*Forts and Artillery: Al Anderson*  
*Surviving the Confederacy: Bill Jayne*  
*Framed Print - Returning Home - Joe Hack*  
*Bloody Crucible of Courage: Ed Gibson*  
*Shrouds of Glory: Jim Gannon*  
*Battle of Nashville: Gary Anderson*

\*\*\*\*\* **Member News & Activities** \*\*\*\*\*



**Blockade Runner the *Robert E. Lee***

If you have member news or news about Civil War events that you think would be of interest to CFCWRT membership, send me an email with the details. Thank you.

**1 – The CFCWRT has a new meeting place!!!!** After many years at St. Andrews On-the-Sound Episcopal Church, we have a new home at **Harbor United Methodist Church, 4853 Masonboro Loop Road.**

**2 –** If you have plans to do some traveling and want to know about upcoming Civil War events in that area, check out *civilwar.travel*. This site is for 2017 events.

**3- Bill Jayne** has taken the position as the Vice-President of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table.

Bill retired from the Federal government on December 31, 2010 after more than 30 years of service. He spent most of his career in the National Cemetery Administration (NCA), one of three operating elements of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

From 1990 to 2010, working in public affairs, state cemetery grants and NCA construction management, he had a role in the establishment of more than 50 new veterans cemeteries across the country.

He was born and raised in the Hudson Valley of New York State and graduated from Highland High School in Ulster County in 1964, earning a New York State Regents Scholarship. He enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1966 and served in Vietnam with the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 26<sup>th</sup> Marine Regiment, 3<sup>rd</sup> Marine Division during the Khe Sanh campaign of 1968. He received the Purple Heart and the Presidential Unit Citation and was honorably discharged from the Marine Corps in 1968.

His interest in the Civil War began with Memorial Day parades in the 1950s that stopped at two Civil War memorials in the small village of Highland for wreath-laying ceremonies and

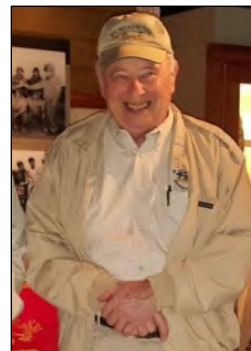


speeches. A high school trip to Gettysburg and reading Lee's Lieutenants one warm summer intensified that interest. Finally, working in the National Cemetery Administration, an arm of the government that was founded as a direct result of the Civil War, deepened that interest.



**4 - Bruce Patterson**, CFCWRT Treasurer, has donated an astounding 6,273 stamps to the United Daughters of the Confederacy. They were acquired from the Wilmington Philatelic Society and will be distributed to the VA Medical Center in Fayetteville, NC. Borders are left on the stamps and are used as hand therapy for the veterans as they use scissors and other hand/eye coordination skills to build stamp collections. Many thanks to Bruce, a retired U.S. Army Colonel, for remembering our Vets.

If you have stamps you would like to contribute, please see Linda Lashley at the Membership Table. You may also donate coupons, which go to the UDC and are sent to the Army Community Service in Ft. Bragg. Any metal drink can tabs are also appreciated, as they are donated to the Ronald McDonald House. **(Linda Lashley)**



**5 -** May 20 found several of our CFCWRT members in Raleigh for the North Carolina Military Historical Society's WW1 Symposium. Attending were Bruce Patterson (manning the Registration Table and not available), Bill Jayne, Cindy Richards, John Winecoff, Linda Lashley and our President Bob Cooke. John set up the monument presentation he and Ed Gibson presented to the Round Table awhile back and Linda attended as a WW1 Army Telephone Operator. **(Linda Lashley)**



\*\*\*\*\* May 2017 \*\*\*\*\*

## The Earth is Weeping: The Epic Story of the Indian Wars for the American West

**Peter Cozzens** shared the findings contained in his latest book. He described the era as “an epoch shrouded in myth.” The Regular Army and the Indian Wars were uniquely affected by mythology: Good versus Evil. From the 1850s until Wounded Knee in the 1890s, the Army was the White Knight seeking to destroy evil – the movie *She Wore a Yellow Ribbon* with John Wayne reflected that view. During the 1970s, the pendulum on who was good and who was evil swung: Dee Brown’s *Bury my Heart at Wounded Knee* and the movie, *Dances with Wolves*, changed the public’s perception to an Army tasked with extermination of the Indians.



Cozzens stated that three myths affected perceptions: 1) The Army was hell-bent on its mission to conquer the West; 2) The U.S. Government official policy called for the extermination of the indigenous people; 3) The Indian tribes were united in their resistance to invasion of their territories. Cozzens proceeded to de-myth these three items one by one.

General William T. Sherman remarked, “We do our duty according to our means.” The Army was tasked to protect a huge area in the West. Sherman blasted his critics for their failure to understand that there were too few troops for such a large job. Congress did not help the Army – they voted to reduce troop levels from 54,000 in 1869 to 25,000 in 1876.

General George Cook did not like his job. Cook thought that the Indians were usually in the right in disputes with the White man. Adding to the territorial tensions and the ability of the Indians to feed their families, buffalo hunters killed millions of buffalo. Cook also acknowledged that when the Indians saw their families starving, they went to war. General John Pope proposed helping the Indians exterminate the buffalo hunters. Pope realized that, “Indians, like white men, are not reconciled to starve peacefully.”

There was no official government policy to exterminate the Indian tribes. Most Army officers desired to Christianize and make farmers of the Indians. President Grant appointed Ely Parker, a Seneca Indian and former staff member, as Commissioner of Indian Affairs. (With the exception of the Lakota Indians and Black Hills gold, Grant desired peace with the Indian tribes.)

The various Indian tribes never united to systematically oppose the Army. Some tribes supported the Army; other tribes fought the Army and intrusion of white settlers until late in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The Army and the U.S. Government did break many promises. An elderly Lakota chief remembered the events that had transpired. “The [government] made us many promises,” he told a white friend, “more than I can remember, but they kept but one; they promise to take our land, and they took it.”

**Editor**

**\*\*\*\*\* Trivia Questions for September \*\*\*\*\***

**1 – What occupation did Robert E. Lee pursue after the war?** Lee became president of Washington College in Lexington, Virginia. As he had done in 1861, Lee remained in Virginia and shared its fate. He wrote to the college trustees that he believed, “it is the duty of every citizen, in the present condition of the Country, to do all in his power to aid in the restoration of peace and harmony.”

Source: vahistorical.org, accessed September 6, 2017.

**2 – Which newspaper called for Lee to be trialed for treason? Who defended Lee against those charges of treason?** *The New York Times* was a major proponent of seeking treason charges against Lee. In a *NYT* editorial on June 4, 1865, “He levied war against the United States more strenuously than any man in the land, and thereby has been specially guilty of the crime of treason, as defined in the Constitution of the United States.” President Andrew Johnson supported charges against the Confederate generals. On June 7, 1865, District Judge John C. Underwood in Norfolk, Virginia, issued indictments against Lee, James Longstreet, Jubal Early and others.

**U.S. Grant** stepped forward to defend Lee and the others. Grant had included a provision in the Appomattox terms of surrender that the conquered could return to their homes and if they abided the terms of their paroles, “not to be disturbed by United States Authority.” Grant interceded with President Johnson. Grant offered to resign his commission **if** the terms of surrender were not honored. In June 1865, U.S. Grant was the most popular man in the United States. Johnson bowed to Grant’s arguments//threats. Fearing public opinion, Johnson soon sent word to Judge Underwood ordering that the proceedings be dropped.

Source: civilwarprofiles.com, accessed on September 6, 2017.

**\*\*\*\*\* National Cemetery Administration \*\*\*\*\***

Bill Jayne prepared the following article to explain the NCA.

**FEDERAL STEWARDSHIP OF THE CONFEDERATE DEAD**

The National Cemetery Administration (NCA) is one of three operating bureaus in the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The Veterans Health Administration manages the

hospitals and clinics and other health programs, and the Veterans Benefits Administration manages programs such as disability compensation, educational benefits and the home loan program.

NCA is much the smallest of the three administrations and it also the newest to VA, having been established in 1973 when most of the national cemeteries were transferred from the Army to VA. Yet, NCA was the first of the three organizations to establish a historian's office and that office has accomplished some very important work.

One of the newest projects to be completed by the NCA History Program is an on-line publication called *Federal Stewardship of Confederate Dead*. The publication is 311 pages long, contains 233 photographs, maps and drawings and 12 illustrations of various Confederate flags. It's an excellent reference work and it can be easily downloaded at <https://www.cem.va.gov/cem/history/index.asp>

The work evolved out of a historic resource study that NCA initiated in 2008 as one of several activities to commemorate the Civil War sesquicentennial. The basic purpose of the project was to compile primary historic information about a significant group of NCA properties—the Confederate cemeteries and memorial sites as well as the Confederate burials within national cemeteries that were established for the burial of Union dead.

A contractor, Labat Environmental, Inc., completed the book project with most of the research accomplished by Joseph E. Brent and Maria Campbell Brent located appropriately enough in the historic border state town of Versailles, Kentucky.

The photographs, maps and diagrams are outstanding. It's easy to put a personal spin on a written statement but a period photograph provides a powerful and objective piece of evidence. The photograph below shows the prisoner of war camp at Camp Morton in Indianapolis during the winter of 1864. A Union Army surgeon wrote a scathing report of the conditions at Camp Morton in October 1863 and a new superintendent was appointed but in spite of adequate supplies of food, good water and wooden barracks, disease was rampant and approximately 1,763 prisoners died at Camp Morton.



Figure 86. Camp Morton prison camp at Indianapolis, winter 1864. The ditch (foreground) was an unnamed creek the prisoners called the "Potomac." Library of Congress.

The study focuses on 18 cemetery facilities with more than 400 burials each. Arlington National Cemetery plays an important role in the study but it's not one of the 18 covered in depth

because Arlington National Cemetery was retained by the Army in 1973 when almost all of the other national cemeteries—and Confederate cemeteries—were transferred to VA.

NCA also tasked the authors of the study with providing answers to some specific questions including the use of individual headstones versus group memorials and verification of the number of Confederate dead interred in each of the sites in the study. NCA also asked the authors to address the question of commemorative activities such as Memorial Day ceremonies and the use of Confederate flags at the sites.

The study is organized into two sections: Part I addresses the “Historic Context” of the Confederate burial sites, specifically trying to answer the questions “how and why some Confederate soldiers came to be interred in national cemeteries and others in private or community cemeteries, and who authorized them.” Part II is a compilation of histories of the individual sites. These are not brief summaries, but rather essays averaging about 10 pages each that cover each site in greater depth than I have seen in any other publication.

Both sections are well footnoted, making this study an extremely valuable research tool. A detailed 25-page bibliography contributes to the research value of this work.

Bill Jayne

# The Runner



## Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

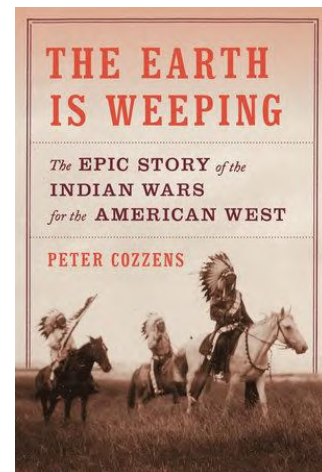
Our next meeting will be held on **Thursday, 11 May** at St. Andrews On-the-Sound Episcopal Church located at 101 Airlie Road. Come early - the meeting starts promptly at 7:30p.m. See [cfwrt.org](http://cfwrt.org) for details of future speakers and their subjects

Please join us at our final meeting of the 2016-2017 Program Year. Visitors are always welcome – **bring a friend**. Each of our speakers strives to enlighten, entertain, and add to our knowledge of Civil War history. This serves our mission of encouraging education and research into that historic conflict.

\*\*\*\*\* **May 2017 Program** \*\*\*\*\*

### **The Earth is Weeping: The Epic Story of the Indian Wars for the American West**

To introduce **Peter Cozzens** and his current book, I choose to begin at the end of his story. His book spans some 467 pages of conflict between numerous characters, both native born warriors and Union officers of Civil War fame. You are familiar with some of the names and events that shaped our history: Red Cloud, Hancock, Sitting Bull, Little Big Horn, Sherman, Crazy Horse, Sheridan, Cochise, Custer, Chief Joseph, Terry, Geronimo, Crook, Wounded Knee Creek, etc. Probably what all of us know about this period involves old movies, television shows, and some early books. Cozzens changes the perception from **accepted myths to established facts**.



One elderly Lakota chief who had witnessed the march of events from the Treaty of Fort Laramie in 1851 to the tragedy at Wounded Knee four decades later saw nothing remarkable in what had transpired. “The [government] made us many promises,” he told a white friend, “more than I can remember, **but they never kept but one; they promise to take our land, and they took it.**”

We will be in for a treat. An amazing chapter in the growth of the United States will be shared with our membership.



Peter Cozzens  
CREDIT: Antonia Feldman-

**Peter Cozzens** is the author or editor of seventeen books on the American Civil War and the American West. Cozzens also recently

retired from a thirty-year career as a Foreign Service Officer, U. S. Department of State. Prior to joining the Foreign Service, he served as a captain in the U. S. Army.

His newest book is *The Earth is Weeping: The Epic Story of the Indian Wars for the American West* (Knopf, 2016) was awarded the \$50,000 Gilder Lehrman Prize for Military History as the best book on military history published in the English-speaking world in 2016. It also was a Smithsonian Top History Book of 2016, and made several other best books of the year lists, to include *Amazon*, *The San Francisco Chronicle*, and *The Seattle Times*, and *Newsday*.

All of Cozzens' books have been selections of the Book of the Month Club, History Book Club, and/or the Military Book Club. Cozzens' *This Terrible Sound: The Battle of Chickamauga* and *The Shipwreck of Their Hopes: The Battles for Chattanooga* were both Main Selections of the History Book Club and were chosen by *Civil War Magazine* as two of the 100 greatest works ever written on the conflict.

Cozzens's *Shenandoah 1862: Stonewall Jackson's Valley Campaign* was a Choice "Outstanding Academic Title" for 2009.

He was a frequent contributor to the *New York Times* "Disunion" series, and he has written for *America's Civil War*, *Civil War Times Illustrated*, *MHQ*, *Cowboys & Indians*, *Smithsonian*, and *BBC World Histories*, among other publications.

In 2002 Cozzens received the American Foreign Service Association's highest award, given annually to one Foreign Service Officer for exemplary moral courage, integrity, and creative dissent. He has also received an Alumni Achievement Award from his alma mater Knox College.

Cozzens is at work on a book tentatively titled *Shooting Star: The Tumultuous Life and Times of Chief Tecumseh*, which also will be published by Alfred A. Knopf.

**Editor**

**\*\*\*\*\* Trivia Questions for May \*\*\*\*\***

1 – Who was considered to be the U.S. Army's greatest Indian fighter?

2 – "The white man never lived who loved an Indian, and no true Indian ever lived that did not hate the white man." Who is attributed with this quote?

3 – The Confederate Salisbury Prison was a “good” facility for prisoners until what event caused the number of prisoners to exceed the facilities ability to efficiently function?

4 – How many prisoners died at Salisbury?

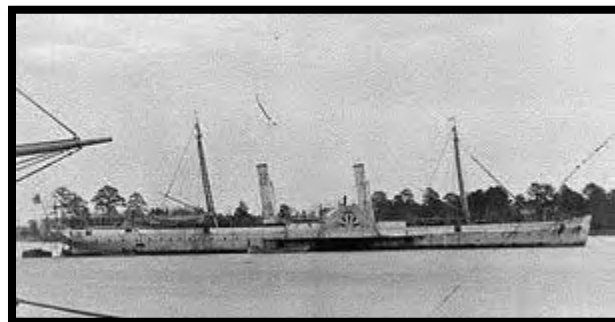
**\*\*\*\*\* Raffle Winners \*\*\*\*\***

**Raffle Master: Ed Gibson**

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**\*\*\*\*\* Member News & Activities \*\*\*\*\***



**Blockade Runner the Robert E. Lee**

If you have member news or news about Civil War events that you think would be of interest to CFCWRT membership, send me an email with the details. Thank you.

1 – If you have plans to do some traveling and want to know about upcoming Civil War events in that area, check out *civilwar.travel*. This site is for 2017 events.



**2 - View from the Homefront** – A symposium presented by the CSS *Neuse* Civil War Interpretive Center and CSS *Neuse* Gunboat Association. Saturday, **June 10, 2017** – 9:45 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. \$15 per person, includes four presentations and admission to the museum (\$10 discount for students and teachers – CEU credit available). Lunch on your own – explore the great options available in downtown Kinston!

Presenters

William H. Brown, Archives Registrar, State Archives of North Carolina  
Michelle Lanier, Director, NC African American Heritage Commission  
Dr. Angela Marritt, Assistant Professor of History, Meredith College  
Dr. Jaime Martinez, Associate Professor of History, UNC-Pembroke

For more info, or to register contact Rachel Kennedy at 92520526-9600 x223 or Rachel.kennedy@ncdcr.gov



**12 pdr. Whitworth Breechloading Rifle**

**\*\*\*\*\* April 2016 \*\*\*\*\***

**Salisbury Prison**



**Baseball during the early days**



**Dr. Gary Freeze**

Dr. Gary Freeze shared the details of the Confederate Salisbury Prison from 1861-1865. The prison was established in 1861 to house approximately 1,000 Union officers until they could be paroled. Salisbury was also used to house 30 dissent Quakers and 300 Virginian Unionist. When Grant stopped prisoner exchanges, the number of prisoners exceeded 10,000 men between August and December 1864. Many prisoners died as conditions became increasingly critical. On November 28, 1864, the prisoners attempted escape that resulted in the death of 3 guards and 16 prisoners. The prison was destroyed during Stoneman's Raid during April 1865.

**\*\*\*\*\* Trivia Questions for May \*\*\*\*\***

1 – Who was considered to be the U.S. Army’s greatest Indian fighter? George Crook.(1828-1890). Crook developed a respect for his Indian opponents. The Lakota chief Red Cloud praised Crook, “[He] never lied to us. His word gave the people hope.”

Source: pbs.org. accessed May 5, 2017.

2 – “The white man never lived who loved an Indian, and no true Indian ever lived that did not hate the white man.” Who is attributed with this quote? Sitting Bull, Hunkpapa Lakota chief and holy man expressed this thought.

Source: *The Earth is Weeping*, Cozzens.

3 – The Confederate Salisbury Prison was a “good” facility for prisoners until what event caused the number of prisoners to exceed the facilities ability to efficiently function? In 1864, U. S. Grant suspended the exchange program that allows captured soldiers to be exchanged.

4 – How many prisoners died at Salisbury? Approximately 5,000 died as a result of the conditions at Salisbury.

# The Runner



## Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

### Meeting location change:

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, 13 April at St. Andrews On-the-Sound Episcopal Church located at 101 Airlie Road.

**NOTE: Due to church services, the RT will meet in the *new fellowship hall*. Please park down the hill behind the fellowship hall.** Come early - the meeting starts promptly at 7:30p.m. See [cfcwrt.org](http://cfcwrt.org) for details of future speakers and their subjects.

Please join us at our fourth meeting of the 2017 Program Year. Visitors are always welcome – ***bring a friend***. Each of our speakers strives to enlighten, entertain, and add to our knowledge of Civil War history. This serves our mission of encouraging education and research into that historic conflict.

\*\*\*\*\* April 2017 Program \*\*\*\*\*

### Salisbury Prison



**Dr. Gary R. Freeze** will present a look at the Confederate prisoner of war camp that was located in Salisbury, North Carolina. The Confederate government will use a former textile mill, Maxwell Chambers mill, as the prison for Union soldiers captured during the course of the war.

The prison will be designed to hold 2,500 men; however, that number will be increased as the battles of 1864 will be fought. As the number of prisoners increased, the prison conditions will deteriorate and result in the deaths of many Union soldiers.



**Dr. Freeze** has taught at Catawba College since 1994 where his specialties have included North Carolina history, the Civil War and the American South. Dr. Freeze received his B.A., M.A. and PH.D. at UNC - Chapel Hill. While studying at UNC, Freeze served as a Teaching Assistant (TA) for imminent state historian, William S. Powell.

**Editor**

**\*\*\*\*\* Trivia Questions for April \*\*\*\*\***

1 – What was the maximum prisoner population at Salisbury? How many prisoners died at the camp during its operation?

2 – Who was Major John Gee?

**\*\*\*\*\* Raffle Winners \*\*\*\*\***

**Raffle Master: Ed Gibson**

If you have books, prints, or other items that you would like to donate to the raffle, contact Ed Gibson ([egibson759@aol.com](mailto:egibson759@aol.com)) before our next meeting. ***The raffle is one of the components which allow the CFCWRT to fund our activities and our speakers.*** Please take part in our raffle by contributing items and/or purchasing tickets.

***Distant Thunder -***

***Bloody Groves -***

***Robert E. Lee -***

***Generals South, Generals North-***

***Champion Hill -***

***Brave Men-***

***Gettysburg -***

***The Dahlgren Affair-***

***Framed Fort Fisher Photographs-***

Tim Barron

Mike Powell

Joe George

Dennis Wynn

Bill Jayne

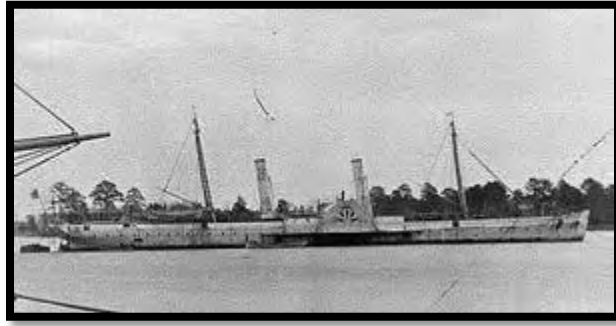
George Holton

Tom Taylor

David Munnikhuisen

Mike Powell

\*\*\*\*\* **Member News & Activities** \*\*\*\*\*



**Blockade Runner the *Robert E. Lee***

If you have member news or news about Civil War events that you think would be of interest to CFCWRT membership, send me an email with the details. Thank you.

**1 – Meeting of the Cape Fear Revolutionary War Round Table with be on April 12<sup>th</sup> at the Bellamy Mansion at 7:00pm.** Speaker: J.D. Lewis.

**2 –** If you have plans to do some traveling and want to know about upcoming Civil War events in that area, check out *civilwar.travel*. This site is for 2017 events.

**3- Cape Fear Civil War Symposium at Fort Caswell, May 5-7, 2017.** Featuring the following speakers: Dr. Robert M. Browning, Jr., Dr. Stephen Wise, Dr. Chris Fonvielle, Col. Wade Sokolosky and Jim McKee. If you want to learn about Cape Fear Civil War history as it relates to Blockade Running, this is the symposium for you. See **fortcaswell.com** for details and registration form.

**4 - View from the Homefront** – A symposium presented by the CSS *Neuse* Civil War Interpretive Center and CSS *Neuse* Gunboat Association. Saturday, **June 10, 2017** – 9:45 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. \$15 per person, includes four presentations and admission to the museum (\$10 discount for students and teachers – CEU credit available). Lunch on your own – explore the great options available in downtown Kinston!

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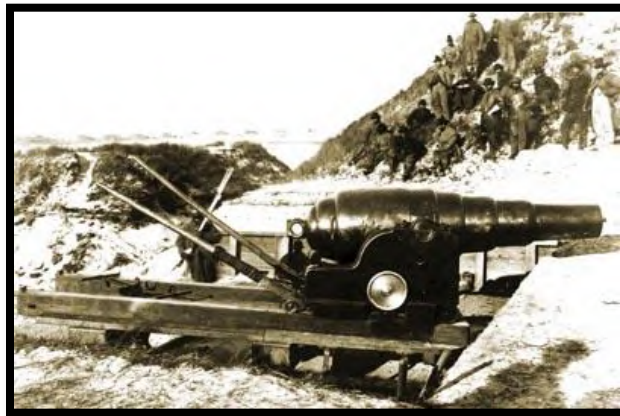


**12 pdr. Whitworth Breechloading Rifle**

**\*\*\*\*\* March 2016 \*\*\*\*\***

### **Guns of the Cape Fear**

**Jim McKee** shared with our membership the story of the heavy guns that were placed in the numerous fortifications that the Confederates occupied to protect the Cape Fear region. Jim provided details about the many types of guns and where they were acquired.



**The Fort Fisher Armstrong gun**

**Editor**

**\*\*\*\*\* Trivia Questions for April \*\*\*\*\***

**1 – What was the maximum prisoner population at Salisbury? How many prisoners died at the camp during its operation?** By October 1864, approximately 10,000 prisoners were confined to this camp. Poor sanitation, poor diet and poor shelter resulted in the deaths of 4,000 or more prisoners.

Source: <http://northcarolinahistory.org/encyclopedia/salisbury-prison-civil-war/>, accessed April 2, 2017.

**2 – Who was Major John Gee?** Gee was the prison warden. In 1866, he was charged with war crimes. Unlike Heinrich Wirz who was hanged for war crimes as warden at Andersonville camp, Gee was acquitted of his crimes.

Source: <http://northcarolinahistory.org/encyclopedia/salisbury-prison-civil-war/>, accessed April 2, 2017.

# *The Runner*



## **Cape Fear Civil War Round Table**

Our next meeting will be held on **Thursday, 9 March** at St. Andrews On-the-Sound Episcopal Church located at 101 Airlie Road. Come early - the meeting starts promptly at 7:30p.m. See [cfwrt.org](http://cfwrt.org) for details of future speakers and their subjects.

Please join us at our third meeting of the 2017 Program Year. Visitors are always welcome – ***bring a friend***. Each of our speakers strives to enlighten, entertain, and add to our knowledge of Civil War history. This serves our mission of encouraging education and research into that historic conflict.

**\*\*\*\*\* March 2017 Program \*\*\*\*\***

### **Guns of the Cape Fear**

**Jim McKee** will share with our membership the story of the heavy guns that were placed in the numerous fortifications that the Confederates occupied to protect the Cape Fear region. Jim will provide details about the many types of guns and where they were acquired.



**The Fort Fisher Armstrong gun**

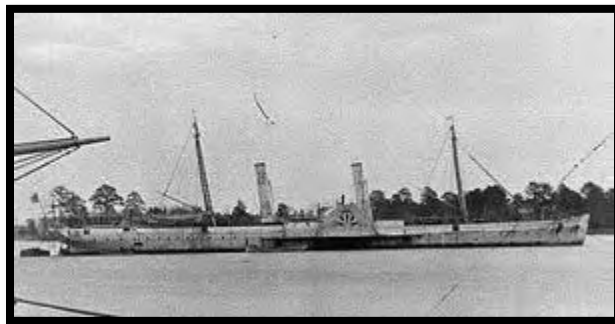
**Jim McKee** is the Site Manager at the Brunswick Town/Fort Anderson State Historic Site and is recognized as “the” expert on Civil War ordinance.

**Editor**

\*\*\*\*\* Trivia Questions for March \*\*\*\*\*

1 – Fort Fisher was the largest fortification protecting the port of Wilmington. Can you name any other Forts or Batteries in this area?

\*\*\*\*\* Member News & Activities \*\*\*\*\*



**Blockade Runner the *Robert E. Lee***

If you have member news or news about Civil War events that you think would be of interest to CFCWRT membership, send me an email with the details. Thank you.

**1 – Bentonville State Historic Site** – March 18 and 19. "**War So Terrible**": Medical Living History Program. Saturday and Sunday, 10 am - 4 pm  
Compare and contrast the treatment received by soldiers during the Civil War with the treatment that our wounded warriors now receive by viewing examples of modern military field hospitals. Then tour the Harper House to learn about Civil War era medicine. These daytime programs will also feature artillery, infantry, and home-front demonstrations throughout both days, and are free.

**2** – If you have plans to do some traveling and want to know about upcoming Civil War events in that area, check out *civilwar.travel*. This site is for 2016-2017 events. Listed below are some events scheduled to take place in **March**.

4 **DC|VA** Bus tour, “Civil War Battles at Kelly’s Ford and Bristoe Station,” a Smithsonian tour with Ed Bearss. Leaves from 550 C St SW, Washington. 7:45 am-7 pm. \$190.smithsonianassociates.org (click Civil War).

4 **VA** Walking tour of Fort Huger, a Confederate fort on the James River, 15080 Talcott Terrace, Isle of Wight County, near Smithfield. 10 am. Free. [historicisleofwight.com](http://historicisleofwight.com)

4 **VA** Talk and walking tour, “Battle of Smithfield,” begins at the Isle of Wight Museum, 103 Main St, Smithfield. 2 pm. Free. <http://www.historicisleofwight.com/events.html>

4 **VA** Bus tour, “The Marks They’ve Left Behind,” Civil War graffiti at Ben Lomond, Blenheim, Brandy Station and others. 8 am-5 pm. \$80/lunch included. 703-367-7872.

4 **MD** Lecture, “Nurse Cornelia Hancock,” at the National Museum of Civil War Medicine in Frederick. 2:30 pm. Free with admission. [civilwarmed.org](http://civilwarmed.org)

4 **SC** Tour and lecture at the the Rivers Bridge State Historic Site near Erhardt. Battlefield tour begins 1:30 pm followed by lecture. \$5. [southcarolinaparks.com/products/10004334](http://southcarolinaparks.com/products/10004334)



4-5 **VA** Living history, talks and more, “Battle of Hampton Roads Weekend,” at the Mariners’ Museum in Newport News. [battleofhamptonroads.com](http://battleofhamptonroads.com)

4-5 **FL** Living history, “Union Garrison,” at Fort Clinch State Park in Fernandina Beach. 9 am-5 pm Saturday, 9 am-noon Sunday. \$8. [floridastateparks.org/park/Fort-Clinch](http://floridastateparks.org/park/Fort-Clinch)

5 **GA** Hike, “Big Kennesaw Mountaintop,” 2-mile guided walk at the Kennesaw Mountain NBP in Kennesaw. 2 pm. Free. [www.nps.gov/kemo](http://www.nps.gov/kemo)

10 **VA** Lecture, “Major James Breathed, He Fought with JEB Stuart,” at the Corr Community Center, 6800 Lucy Corr Blvd, Chesterfield. 7 pm. \$5. [chesterfieldhistory.com](http://chesterfieldhistory.com)

11 **GA** Walking tour, “Shoupade Park & the Unfinished Silver Comet Trail,” includes Civil War River Line sites. Begins at 4770 Oakdale Road, Smyrna. 11 am and 3 pm. [riverline.org](http://riverline.org)

11 **VA** Bus tour, “Howlett Line,” Bermuda Hundred Campaign tour begins at Henricus Historical Park, 251 Henricus Road, Chester. 2-5 pm. \$15. [chesterfieldhistory.com](http://chesterfieldhistory.com)

11 **VA** Sign dedication and tours at Cockpit Point, 18245 Cockpit Point Road, Dumfries. 10 am dedication free; tours at 11 am, 1 and 3 pm are \$20. Reservations: 703-792-4754.

11 **VA** Book talk and tour, *Gunpowder Girls: The True Stories of Three Civil War Tragedies*, at the American Civil War Museum/Historic Tredegar in Richmond. 1 pm talk followed by tour of Brown’s Island. Free with admission. [acwm.org](http://acwm.org). [[Buy book](#)]

11-12 **GA** Living history, camps and programs featuring prisoners and guards at the Andersonville National Historic Site near Andersonville. 10 am-4 pm Saturday, 10 am-3 pm Sunday. Free. [nps.gov/ande](http://nps.gov/ande)

13 **VA** Talk, “Winslow Homer’s Civil War: How a Northern Artist Portrayed the South,” at The Camel, 1621 W Broad St, Richmond. 6:30 pm. Free. [acwm.org](http://acwm.org)

18 **GA** Walking tour, “Shoupade Park & the Unfinished Silver Comet Trail,” includes Civil War River Line sites. Begins 4770 Oakdale Road in Smyrna. 11 am and 3 pm. [riverline.org](http://riverline.org)

18 **GA** Ranger Program, “Reconsidering Braxton Bragg,” at the Chickamauga NMP. 2 pm. Free. [nps.gov/chch](http://nps.gov/chch)

18 **MD** Hike, “The Irish Brigade at Antietam,” at the Antietam National Battlefield in Sharpsburg. 1-3 pm. Free with park admission. [nps.gov/anti](http://nps.gov/anti)

18 **VA** Van tour, “Forward to Richmond: ‘The Stride of a Giant,’” advance of the Union army on the Peninsula to Yorktown. Leaves from Lee Hall in Newport News. 9 am-3 pm. \$45. More info, reservations: 757-888-3371 extension 306.

18 **VA** Lecture, “Photo-modeling USS *Monitor* Artifacts,” at the Mariners’ Museum in Newport News. 2:30 pm. Free with admission. [marinersmuseum.org](http://marinersmuseum.org)

18 **DC** Symposium, “Abraham Lincoln,” at Ford’s Theatre. 9 am-5 pm. Free. Registration, ticket info: [fords.org](http://fords.org)

18-19 **NC** Living history, “War So Terrible,” medical programs at the Bentonville Battlefield State Historic Site near Four Oaks. 9 am-4 pm. Free. [nchistoricsites.org/bentonville](http://nchistoricsites.org/bentonville)

23 VA Lecture and reception, “Whitman & Melville: The War That Did Get Into the Books,” at Historic Tredegar in Richmond. 6-8 pm. \$10. [acwm.org](http://acwm.org)

23 VA “The Fourth of July and the Civil War,” a “Civil War conversation” at the Museum of the Confederacy in Appomattox. 6:30 pm reception, 7 pm talk. \$10/adult. [acwm.org](http://acwm.org)

25 VA “Red, White, Blue & Gray Ball,” dancing and period music at the Melrose Caverns Lodge, 6639 North Valley Pike, Harrisonburg. 6-10 pm. \$20/singles, \$35/couples. Benefits battlefield preservation. [facebook.com/events/368583793532663/](https://facebook.com/events/368583793532663/)

25 VA Walking tour, “Beyond the Battlefield,” Alexandria’s Old Town Civil War sites. Begins at the Lyceum, 201 S Washington St, Alexandria. 10 am. \$20 at door, \$15 advance. [leefendallhouse.org](http://leefendallhouse.org)

31 VA Book talk, *Confederate Waterloo: The Battle of Five Forks*, at the Museum of the Confederacy in Richmond. Noon. Free with admission. [acwm.org](http://acwm.org) [[Buy book](#)]

**3- Cape Fear Civil War Symposium at Fort Caswell, May 5-7, 2017.** Featuring the following speakers: Dr. Robert M. Browning, Jr., Dr. Stephen Wise, Dr. Chris Fonvielle, Col. Wade Sokolosky and Jim McKee. If you want to learn about Cape Fear Civil War history as it relates to Blockade Running, this is the symposium for you. See [fortcaswell.com](http://fortcaswell.com) for details and registration form.

**4 - View from the Homefront** – A symposium presented by the CSS *Neuse* Civil War Interpretive Center and CSS *Neuse* Gunboat Association. Saturday, **June 10, 2017** – 9:45 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. \$15 per person, includes four presentations and admission to the museum (\$10 discount for students and teachers – CEU credit available). Lunch on your own – explore the great options available in downtown Kinston!

#### Presenters

William H. Brown, Archives Registrar, State Archives of North Carolina

Michelle Lanier, Director, NC African American Heritage Commission

Dr. Angela Marritt, Assistant Professor of History, Meredith College

Dr. Jaime Martinez, Associate Professor of History, UNC-Pembroke

For more info, or to register contact Rachel Kennedy at 92520526-9600 x223 or [Rachel.kennedy@ncdcr.gov](mailto:Rachel.kennedy@ncdcr.gov)



**12 pdr. Whitworth Breechloading Rifle**

\*\*\*\*\* February 2016 \*\*\*\*\*

## An Evening with Rose O'Neal Greenhow: Confederate Spy

**Kelly Hinson** turned back the calendar to that early morning when she arrived off Fort Fisher and under the safety of its guns.



Rose at the Annual Dinner Meeting



Captain Ed, Rose and Bob



Editor

\*\*\*\*\* Trivia Questions for March \*\*\*\*\*

1 – Fort Fisher was the largest fortification protecting the port of Wilmington. Can you name any other Forts or Batteries in this area? Fort Anderson, Fort Caswell, Fort Holmes, Fort Pender, Fort Campbell. Battery Gatlin, Battery Anderson, Battery Shaw, Battery Lamb, Battery Meares, Battery Campbell, Battery Lee, Battery Davis, Battery Buchanan

# *The Runner*



## **Cape Fear Civil War Round Table**

Our next meeting will be held on **Thursday, 9 February 2017** at the **Blockade Runner Resort's Nighthawk Room** located at 275 Waynick Blvd, Wrightsville Beach. Come early - the dinner meeting starts promptly at 7:00p.m. See [cfcwrt.org](http://cfcwrt.org) for details of future speakers and their subjects.

Please join us at our second meeting of the 2017 Program Year. Visitors are always welcome – ***bring a friend***. Each of our speakers strives to enlighten, entertain, and add to our knowledge of Civil War history. This serves our mission of encouraging education and research into that historic conflict.

### **\*\*\*\*\* February Program \*\*\*\*\***

#### **An Evening with Rose O'Neal Greenhow: Confederate Spy**

**Rose O'Neal Greenhow** was born in Maryland in 1813, 1814 or 1817. As a teenager, Rose moved from rural Maryland to live in her aunt's Washington D.C. boardinghouse. Rose was thrilled with the interactions with the many notables who called the fashionable boardinghouse their home while Congress was in session.

In 1835, Rose married Dr. Robert Greenhow, a physician and academic who had served in the State Department for over 20 years. Greenhow had served through the administrations of seven presidents. Rose's marriage to Dr. Greenhow gave her the opportunity to become Washington's "hostess with the mostest." She had earlier known John C. Calhoun, former Vice President and Secretary of State, and ardent supporter of the slave-plantation system. Through Greenhow's circle of friends, Rose became acquainted with men such as Martin Van Buren, James Buchanan and Jefferson Davis.

After Dr. Greenhow's accidental death in San Francisco during February 1854, Rose sought to keep and expand her circle of friends among Washington's elite and "want-to-be-elites." These friendships became the basis for Rose's evolution into a source of Union activities after the Civil War began in early 1861. Rose's strong belief in the slave-plantation system that existed in the Southern states influenced her decisions to do all in her power to aid the Southern cause.

Source: Karen Abbott, *Liars, Temptress, Soldiers, Spy: Four Women Undercover in the Civil War*  
**Editor**

**\*\*\*\*\* Trivia Questions for February \*\*\*\*\***

- 1 – How many children did Rose have during her 19 year marriage to Dr. Greenhow?
- 2 – Who did Rose consider to be her mentor and guide to the issue of slavery during the pre-war period?
- 3 – Who did Rose send an encrypted message to that alerted the Confederates of the march of Union troops out of Washington to attack the rebel forces in Northern Virginia?
- 4 – Who was Major E.J. Allen and what was his connect to Rose O’Neal Greenhow?
- 5- Who was 3<sup>rd</sup> Lt. Joseph D. Wilson?
- 6- Where is Rose O’Neal Greenhow buried?

**\*\*\*\*\* The Rose – Femme Fatale \*\*\***



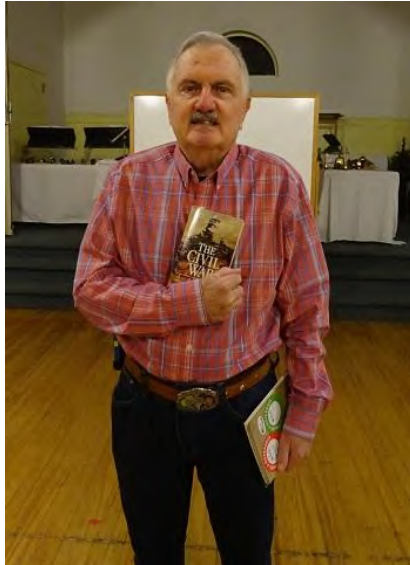
Rose attracted men like bees to a hive. Her admirers included Senators, soldiers – Unionists, Southern sympathizers – abolitionists, Pro-slavery proponents. Rose gathered information that she would use in future events. Abolitionist Republican Senator Henry D. Wilson, chairman of the Military Affairs Committee and future Vice President, was supposedly smitten in spite of Rose’s secessionist proclivities Union Colonel Erasmus Keys described Rose as “one of the most persuasive women that was ever known in Washington.” Senator Stephen Mallory, future Confederate Secretary of the Navy, remarked that Rose “hunted man with that resistless zeal and unflinching instinct . . . . she had a shaft in her quiver for every defense which game might attempt.”

Source: Karen Abbott, *Liars, Temptress, Soldiers, Spy: Four Women Undercover in the Civil Wa*

**\*\*\*\*\* Raffle Winners \*\*\*\*\***

**Raffle Master: Ed Gibson**

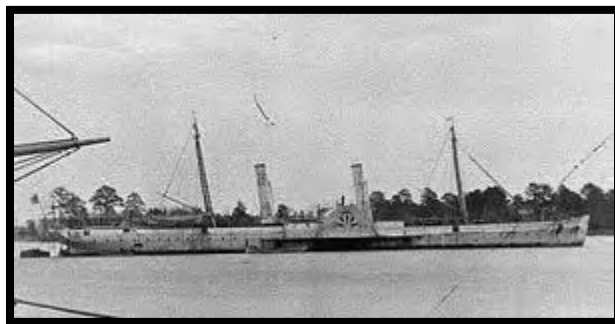
If you have books, prints, or other items that you would like to donate to the raffle, contact Ed Gibson ([egibson759@aol.com](mailto:egibson759@aol.com)) before our next meeting. *The raffle is one of the components which allow the CFCWRT to fund our activities and our speakers.* Please take part in our raffle by contributing items and/or purchasing tickets.



"Everyone was so excited about the books they won, they hurried home to start reading, but we caught the last winner, John Munroe." Linda Lashley

Lee Takes Command - Ed Gibson  
Civil War Soldiers - John Bolger  
Shiloh/Stars in Their Courses - Thomas Newber  
Fields of Fury - Bob Cooke  
Lee & Longstreet at Gettysburg-Walt Bullard  
The Civil War-John Bolger  
Cry Heart -Jim Gannon  
Civil War, A History-John Munroe

**\*\*\*\*\* Member News & Activities \*\*\*\*\***



**Blockade Runner the *Robert E. Lee***

If you have member news or news about Civil War events that you think would be of interest to CFCWRT membership, send me an email with the details. Thank you.

1 – Wishing all members and friends of the CFCWRT a **Happy Valentine's Day!**

2 – If you have plans to do some traveling and want to know upcoming Civil War events in that area, check out *civilwar.travel*. This site is for 2017 events. Listed below are some events scheduled to take place in February.

4 **VA** Lecture, “Unsung Heroes of Civil War Medicine: African American Surgeons,” at the National Museum of Civil War Medicine in Frederick. 2:30 pm. Free with admission. [civilwarmed.org](http://civilwarmed.org)

4 **SC** Tour and lecture at the Rivers Bridge State Historic Site near Erhardt. Battlefield tour begins 1:30 pm followed by lecture. \$5. [southcarolinaparks.com/products/10004334](http://southcarolinaparks.com/products/10004334)

9 **DC** Book talk, *Troubled Refuge: Struggling for Freedom in the Civil War*, at the Clara Barton Missing Soldiers Office Museum in Washington. 6 pm. Free. [clarabartonmuseum.org](http://clarabartonmuseum.org). [[Buy book](#)]

9 **VA** Book discussion, *Two Roads to Sumter*, at the Museum of the Confederacy in Appomattox. Noon. Discussion free. [acwm.org](http://acwm.org). [[Buy book](#)]

11 **MD** Lecture, “Resurrecting Our Heritage: Alexandria’s Contrabands and Freedmen Cemetery Memorial,” at the Surratt House Museum in Clinton. 4 pm. Free. [surrattmuseum.org](http://surrattmuseum.org)

11 **VA** Panel discussion, “Not Your Grandfather’s Civil War,” at Unison Methodist Church, 21148 Unison Road, Middleburg. 2-4 pm. \$15. [mosbyheritagearea.org/events](http://mosbyheritagearea.org/events)

11 **VA** Lecture, “So How Much of the USS *Monitor* Do You Actually Have?” at the Mariners’ Museum in Newport News. 2:30 pm. Free with admission. [marinersmuseum.org](http://marinersmuseum.org)

13 **VA** Talk, “From Yankee Doodle to Dixie: The Importance of Music in Early Virginia,” at the Capital Ale House, 623 E Main St, Richmond. 6:30 pm. Free. [acwm.org](http://acwm.org)

18 DC “Women of Color in the Civil War,” special program at the Nature Center, 5200 Glover Road NW, Rock Creek Park in Washington. Noon. Free. [nps.gov/rocr](https://www.nps.gov/rocr)

18 VA Family Day, “Seizing Freedom,” African Americans in the Civil War, at the Museum of the Confederacy in Appomattox. 11 am-3 pm. Free with admission. [acwm.org](https://www.acwm.org)

18 VA Tour, “This Tide of Wounded,” the Lee-Fendall House as a Civil War hospital. Tour of the house and grounds, 614 Oronoco St, Alexandria, begins 10 am. \$10 at door, \$8 advance. [leefendallhouse.org](https://www.leefendallhouse.org)

18 VA Seminar, annual event at Longwood University in Farmville, featuring talks by notable historians. Free. [nps.gov/apco](https://www.nps.gov/apco)

23 VA “Mark Twain and the Civil War,” a “Civil War conversation” at the Museum of the Confederacy in Appomattox. 6:30 pm reception, 7 pm talk. \$10/adult. [acwm.org](https://www.acwm.org)

25 VA Symposium, “Lightning Rods for Controversy: Civil War Monuments,” at the Library of Virginia, 800 E Broad St, Richmond. 9:30 am-4 pm. \$60/adult. [acwm.org](https://www.acwm.org)

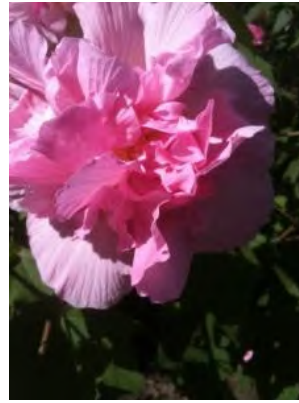
3 - On **Saturday, January 14, 2017**, Fort Fisher hosted a living history program marking the **152nd anniversary of the Second Battle of Fort Fisher**. The CFCWRT had a table to interest attendees of the Fort Fisher event to join us at future RT meetings.



R- Bill Jayne, C- Bob Cooke and L- Tim Winstead greet visitors



4 – Mark your calendar. The **CFCWRT Dinner Meeting** will be held on **9 February, 2017** at the Blockade Runner resort at Wrightsville Beach. **Kelly Hinson** will perform as Confederate spy and diplomat, **Rose O’Neal Greenhow**. **If you saw Kelly as Mrs. Anna “Stonewall” Jackson last February**, you do not want to miss this year’s performance. Dinner at 7:00p.m., silent auction and theatre will be reasonably priced at \$35 per attendee. Make it a Valentine’s Day celebration.



**Confederate Rose**

5- **Cape Fear Civil War Symposium at Fort Caswell, May 5-7, 2017**. Featuring the following speakers: Dr. Robert M. Browning, Jr., Dr. Stephen Wise, Dr. Chris Fonvielle, Col. Wade Sokolosky and Jim McKee. If you want to learn about Cape Fear Civil War history as it relates to Blockade Running, this is the symposium for you. See **fortcaswell.com** for details and registration form.

**\*\*\*\*\* January 2017 \*\*\*\*\***

### **Too Many Contingencies: The Attack on New Bern, 1864**



By early 1862, Union control of eastern North Carolina was centered in New Bern. General John G. Foster had built a system of forts and blockhouses to provide defenses for the area.

Robert E. Lee wanted to retake eastern North Carolina to protect the Wilmington & Weldon Railroad and to secure food for the Army of Northern Virginia. Lee was to release troops for the retaking of New Bern in January 1864. George Pickett, of Gettysburg fame, was to be in command of the four pronged attack. The Confederate Army forces were split into three separate columns: Robert Hoke, Seth Barton and James Dearing commanded these attacking forces. John Taylor Wood commanded naval forces that were to capture a Union gunboat to provide support for the combined attack.

Hoke was to attack from the west, Barton from the south, and Dearing was to attack Fort Anderson on the north side of the Neuse River. Barton and Dearing deemed their area of attack to be too strongly defended to be successfully attacked. Hoke attacked and had some success. Without support from Barton and Dearing, Hoke could not take the town. Wood boarded and took control of the USS *Underwriter*; however, the ship's boiler were out. Wood had to abandon and burn the *Underwriter*.

Pickett did not aggressively push Barton or Dearing to attack their objectives. Pickett saw too many contingencies for further attacks and canceled the last campaign to recapture New Bern..

**Editor**

**\*\*\*\*\* Trivia Questions for February \*\*\*\*\***

**1 – How many children did Rose have during her 19 year marriage to Dr. Greenhow?** Eight children came of their union. By the start of the Civil War, five of these children and their father had passed. Three daughters survived – only eight year old “Little Rose” was still living at home.

Source: Karen Abbott, *Liars, Temptress, Soldiers, Spy: Four Women Undercover in the Civil War*

**2 – Who did Rose consider to be her mentor and guide to the issue of slavery during the pre-war period?** South Carolinian **John C. Calhoun**. Calhoun, along with Henry Clay, Daniel Webster and Andrew Jackson, dominated the American political scene from 1815 until 1850.

Calhoun was responsible for many of the strong beliefs that Rose held dear to her core.

Source: <http://www.history.com/topics/john-c-calhoun>, accessed February 3, 2017.

**3 – Who did Rose send an encrypted message to that alerted the Confederates of the march of Union troops out of Washington to attack the rebel forces in Northern Virginia?**

**General P.G.T. Beauregard** at Manassas received advance notice that Union General Irvin McDowell, with 55,000 troops, was headed toward Beauregard's positions.

Rose's message gave time for the reinforcement of Beauregard's army by Joseph E. Johnston's troops then stationed in the Shenandoah Valley. Rose's timely actions helped the Confederates turn a hard fought Battle of Manassas into a victory for the Southern cause.

Source: Karen Abbott, *Liars, Temptress, Soldiers, Spy: Four Women Undercover in the Civil War*

**4 – Who was Major E.J. Allen and what was his connect to Rose O'Neal Greenhow?** E.J. Allen was the name **Allan Pinkerton** used as head of General George McClellan's private detective service. Famous for his investigations of railroad robberies, Allan Pinkerton, had offered his services to the Lincoln administration to secure knowledge of Confederate movements and their spy networks. Rose O'Neal Greenhow was among his first assignments. Pinkerton's efforts led to Rose's constant surveillance and finally to her imprisonment.

Source: Karen Abbott, *Liars, Temptress, Soldiers, Spy: Four Women Undercover in the Civil War*

5- Who was 3<sup>rd</sup> Lt. Joseph D. Wilson? **Joseph “Fighting Joe” Wilson** served under the command of Raphael Semmes, captain of the *CSS Alabama*, during the famous naval engagement off Cherbourg, France. Wilson had been taken prisoner when the *Alabama* had been sunk during the fight with the *USS Kearsarge*.

James Mason, Confederate diplomat in Britain, suggested to Semmes that if anyone could secure Lt. Wilson’s release, it would be Rose Greenhow.

Rose, who had been sent to Europe at the request of Jefferson Davis, accepted Semmes’ challenge and hurried to the United States Embassy to call upon Charles Francis Adams, U.S. Minister to the Court of S. James. Rose used Semmes’ previous release of 250 Union prisoners as the basis of her request for humane treatment for the Lt. Within four days of her visit to Adams, Wilson was granted his release.

The twenty-two year old Wilson was grateful to his rescuer. Joseph and Rose became companions during Rose’s last days in Britain. Wilson was with Rose aboard the blockade runner *Condor* and in the row boat that tossed Rose to her death in the surf off Fort Fisher in October 1864.

Source: Karen Abbott, *Liars, Temptress, Soldiers, Spy: Four Women Undercover in the Civil War*

6- Where is **Rose O’Neal Greenhow** buried? After a wake in the chapel of Hospital No.4 and a service in St. Thomas of the Apostle church, Rose was laid to rest in Wilmington’s Oakdale Cemetery.

Source: Karen Abbott, *Liars, Temptress, Soldiers, Spy: Four Women Undercover in the Civil War*

# *The Runner*



## **Cape Fear Civil War Round Table**

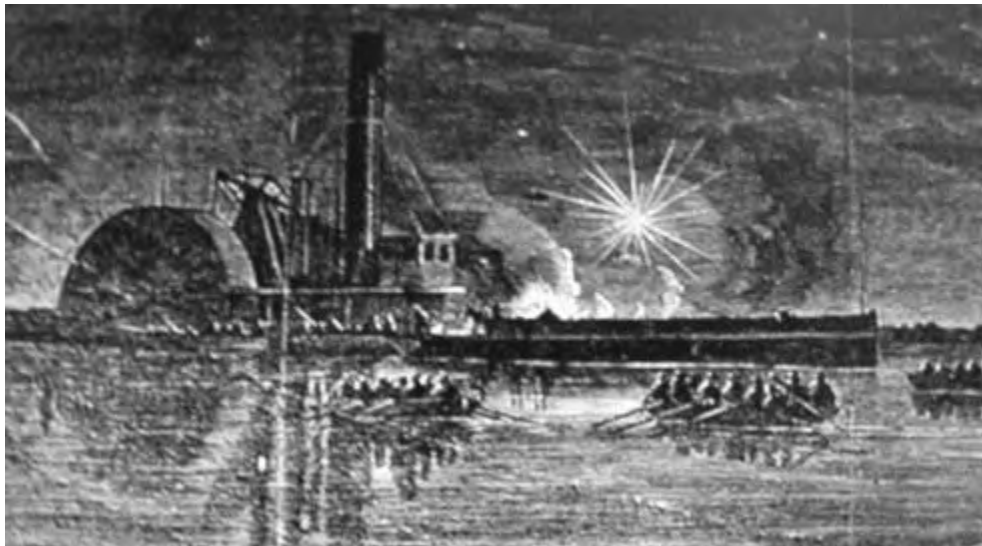
Our next meeting will be held on **Thursday, 12 January 2017** at St. Andrews On-the-Sound Episcopal Church located at 101 Airlie Road. Come early - the meeting starts promptly at 7:30p.m. See [cfewrt.org](http://cfewrt.org) for details of future speakers and their subjects.

Please join us at our first meeting of the 2017 Program Year. Visitors are always welcome – ***bring a friend***. Each of our speakers strives to enlighten, entertain, and add to our knowledge of Civil War history. This serves our mission of encouraging education and research into that historic conflict.

**\*\*\*\*\* January 2017 Program \*\*\*\*\***

### **Too Many Contingencies: The Attack on New Bern, 1864**

**Jeff Bockert** will discuss Pickett and Hoke's February 1864 attack on New Bern with emphasis on the reasons for the attack, the battle plans and tactics, and why the attack failed. Jeff will also cover a few details on the USS *Underwriter* cutting out expedition.



**USS Underwriter**

**Jeffrey L. Bockert** currently serves as the East Region Supervisor for the North Carolina Division of Historic Sites based in Kinston, NC. He has worked in the historic

site and museum field for over twenty years and prior to arriving in Kinston, he served as the Civil War Specialist for N.C. Department of Natural & Cultural Resources. Jeff's previous work experience includes manager of the President James K. Polk Birthplace, Associate Curator on the Battleship North Carolina and work at the National Archives in Washington, DC. Jeff has also worked in education as an instructor at Brunswick Community College and Wingate University. He is the author of several works on presidential and military history and has been published in works such as White House Studies and Public Historian. Jeff received both his undergraduate degree in American History and his master's degree in European History from UNC-Wilmington.

**Editor**

**\*\*\*\*\* Trivia Questions for January \*\*\*\*\***

- 1 – Who proposed the Confederate strike against the Union forces occupying New Berne? Why was February 1864 scheduled for the attack against Union army and navy forces?
- 2 – Who led the Confederate navy's assault on New Bern?
- 3 – While trying to run the blockade on October 1, 1864, Rose O'Neal Greenhow drown when the small boat carrying her and several others capsized in the rough surf off Fort Fisher. Who discovered her body? Who discovered her gold coins?
- 4 – Who built the *CSS Albemarle*?
- 5 – Who sank the *CSS Albemarle*?

**\*\*\*\*\* Raffle Winners \*\*\*\*\***

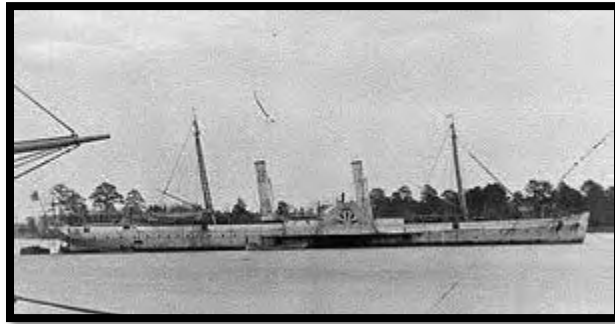
**Raffle Master: Ed Gibson**

If you have books, prints, or other items that you would like to donate to the raffle, contact Ed Gibson ([egibson759@aol.com](mailto:egibson759@aol.com)) before our next meeting. *The raffle is one of the components which allow the CFCWRT to fund our activities and our speakers.* Please take part in our raffle by contributing items and/or purchasing tickets.



1861 -	Cindy Richards
<i>Look Away</i> -	Ed Gibson
<i>Longest Night</i> -	Joe Henson
<i>Grant and Lee</i> -	Andrew Dupstadt
<i>Shiloh</i> -	John J. Bolger
<i>Gallant Mrs. Stonewall</i> -	Cindy Richards
<i>Strange Tales of the Civil War</i> -	Al Anderson

\*\*\*\*\* **Member News & Activities** \*\*\*\*\*



**Blockade Runner the *Robert E. Lee***

If you have member news or news about Civil War events that you think would be of interest to CFCWRT membership, send me an email with the details. Thank you.

1 – Wishing all members and friends of the CFCWRT a Prosperous and **Happy New Year!**

2 – If you have plans to do some traveling and want to know upcoming Civil War events in that area, check out *civilwar.travel*. This site is for 2016-2017 events. Listed below are some events scheduled to take place in January.

1 SC “First Day Hike,” battlefield tour at Rivers Bridge State Historic Site near Erhardt. 10 am. [Free.southcarolinaparks.com/riversbridge](http://Free.southcarolinaparks.com/riversbridge)

7-8 SC Civil War show and sale at the Omar Shrine Temple, 176 Patriot’s Point Road, Mt. Pleasant, near Charleston. 9 am-5 pm Saturday, 9 am-3 pm Sunday. \$10/adult. [Americandiggerevents.com](http://Americandiggerevents.com)

**14 NC 152<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Fort Fisher: *Desperate bravery and brilliant valor* .....**

26 VA Lecture, “‘My Dancing Days Are Over:’ **The Story of Dorsey Pender,**” at the Museum of the Confederacy in Appomattox. 6:30 pm reception, 7 pm lecture. \$10. [www.acwm.org](http://www.acwm.org)

29 KS Lecture, "Kansas Day 156!" at Constitution Hall in Lecompton. 2 pm.

\$3. kshs.org

3 - On **Saturday, January 14, 2017**, Fort Fisher will host its annual living history program marking the **152nd anniversary of the Second Battle of Fort Fisher**. This year's theme, "Desperate bravery and brilliant valor," will focus on the stories of the men who displayed bravery and valor during the afternoon of January 15, 1865.

Throughout the day, re-enactors will bring the fort to life. Harry Taylor, a local photographer, will be using his 1860s wet-plate photography studio to take photographs for visitors. Infantry units will be available to talk with visitors about camp life, garrison duty, conduct the manual of arms and firing demonstrations. Artillery units will conduct drills and firing demonstrations consisting of the Historic Site's Rifled and Banded 32-pound cannon and the Site's bronze 12-pound Napoleon cannon.

In the Spencer Theater, two local historians and authors, **Rod Gragg** and **Richard Triebe**, will be presenting stories of the bravery and valor displayed by men at Fort Fisher. Both authors will be on-site during the day to meet the public and sign copies of their books. Period music will be provided by NC favorites the Huckleberry Brothers Band throughout the day.

The Junior Reserves programming will feature a "School of the Soldier" and a "Secret Codes and Encryption Devices" program. The "School" will be outside and will educate visitors about the life of the Civil War soldier. Inside the museum, "Secret Codes" will help visitors learn about making sure the message gets through your enemy's lines. The program will run from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, will be free, and will be open to the public.

All Fort Fisher programming is made possible with the support of New Hanover County, the Town of Carolina Beach, the Town of Kure Beach, and the Friends of Fort Fisher and its sustaining members.

Source: [http://www.friendsoffortfisher.com/images/Powder\\_Magazine\\_Newsletter--Fall\\_2016.pdf](http://www.friendsoffortfisher.com/images/Powder_Magazine_Newsletter--Fall_2016.pdf) Accessed November 21, 2016.

4 – Mark your calendar. The **CFCWRT Dinner Meeting** will be held on **9 February, 2017** at the Blockade Runner resort at Wrightsville Beach. **Kelly Hinson** will perform as Confederate spy and diplomat, **Rose O'Neal Greenhow**. **If you saw Kelly as Mrs. Anna "Stonewall" Jackson last February**, you do not want to miss this year's performance. Dinner, silent auction and theatre will be reasonably priced at \$35 per attendee.



**Confederate Rose**

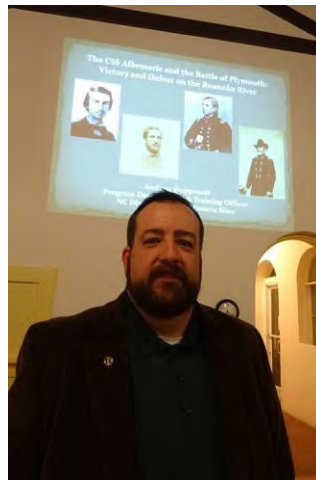
5- **Cape Fear Civil War Symposium at Fort Caswell, May 5-7, 2017**. Featuring the following speakers: Dr. Robert M. Browning, Jr., Dr. Stephen Wise, Dr. Chris Fonvielle,

Col. Wade Sokolosky and Jim McKee. If you want to learn about Cape Fear Civil War history as it relates to Blockade Running, this is the symposium for you. See [fortcaswell.com](http://fortcaswell.com) for details and registration form.

\*\*\*\*\* December 2016 \*\*\*\*\*

## **CSS *Albemarle* and the Battle of Plymouth**

**Andrew Duppstadt** provided details of the history of the Civil War as it played out in Eastern North Carolina. The April 1864 effort to recapture this resource rich area was commanded by North Carolinian, General Robert F. Hoke. Hoke's attack to recapture Plymouth was supported by approximately 10,000 Confederate soldiers and the iron clad CSS *Albemarle*.



**Andrew Duppstadt**

The Confederate actions proved to be the most successful joint army/navy expedition of the war. With the aid of the *Albemarle* and much hard fighting, Hoke forced the surrender of Union General Wessells' command on April 20, 1864. The *Albemarle*, commanded by Cmd. James W. Cooke, fought and defeated the Union ships, *Southfield* and *Miami*; hence, the Confederates gained control of the land and waters around Plymouth.

The *Albemarle* was to fight more of the Union fleet in Albemarle Sound on May 5<sup>th</sup>. The Confederates won a costly victory, but the *Albemarle* was forced to return to Plymouth for extensive repairs. With the damage to the iron clad, Hoke's attempt to retake New Bern was effectively ended.

Andrew continued his story with the final fate of the *Albemarle*.

**Editor**

\*\*\*\*\* Trivia Questions for January \*\*\*\*\*



1 – Who proposed the Confederate strike against the Union forces occupying New Berne? Why was February 1864 scheduled for the attack against Union army and navy forces? Robert E. Lee. The Army of Northern Virginia was short of rations. The Union occupation of Eastern North Carolina deprived the Confederacy of a bountiful breadbasket that could provision the ANV.

The Confederacy was an agricultural nation that could not feed itself. Too many fields were uncultivated. Cotton may have been KING at the beginning of the war, but the general population and the military could not eat cotton.

2 – Who led the Confederate navy's assault on New Bern? My favorite Confederate officer, **John Taylor Wood**, led the navy's assault. Wood was the grandson of former President Zachary Taylor. Was John Taylor Wood the Forrest Gump of his day? Was it mere chance that Wood was at Hampton Roads on March 9, 1862 (CSS *Virginia* vs. USS *Monitor*), 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?

Lieutenant George W. Gift wrote of the February 1864 New Berne expedition:

I was with Wood in his late expedition to New Berne, N.C., which resulted in the cutting-out and destruction of the U.S. gunboat *Underwriter*. It was a bold design and well executed, and Wood deserves much credit. All is due to him and Loyall, as the bulk of the work fell upon the two leading boats. *I am all admiration for Wood. He is modesty personified, conceives boldly and executes with skill and courage.*

Modesty personified was a phrase little used to refer to men who risked all in expeditions to strike at their enemies.

Source: <http://www.cfcwrt.org/John%20Taylor%20Wood.pdf>, accessed November 21, 2016.

3 – While trying to run the blockade on October 1, 1864, Rose O'Neal Greenhow drown when the small boat carrying her and several others capsized in the rough surf off Fort Fisher. Who discovered her body? Who discovered her gold coins? Greenhow was a passenger on the blockade runner *Condor* as she was returning from a diplomatic mission to try to influence England and France to the Southern cause. She carried diplomatic dispatches and, importantly to her, 400 gold sovereigns, the royalties for her memoirs that she intended to donate to a Southern Relief Fund. She kept the coins in a bag secured around her neck.

Greenhow had been imprisoned twice previously by the Federal government. When the *Condor* ran aground trying to avoid the beached blockade runner *Night Hawk*, Greenhow feared capture and the return to prison or a fate much worse. Captain Hewitt twice said no to her pleas to be put ashore. After two crewmen volunteered to row ashore, Hewitt relented. Rose was accompanied by her paramour - Lt. Wilson, Judge Holcombe, the *Condor's* pilot with his puppy and the crewman. The boat capsized. The others and the puppy survived by swimming back to the boat and clinging to the keel.

**Thomas Taylor**, the cargo manager of the wrecked *Night Hawk*, found Greenhow's body on the beach the next morning. Taylor ordered a group of slaves to take Rose's body to Colonel William Lamb's house where Daisy Lamb prepared the body for transport to Wilmington.

**J.J. Prosper For Me D. Doctor Duval Connor**, a Confederate sentry on duty as dawn broke on October 2<sup>nd</sup>, found the coin bag that had been around Rose's neck. The three feet eleven inch tall sentry turned the gold in to his superior's when he discovered who had owned the gold coins.

Source: Karen Abbott, *Liar, Temptress, Soldier, Spy: Four Women Undercover in the Civil War*

**4 – Who built the CSS Albemarle?** Gilbert Elliott, a 19 year old soldier. It's a long story.

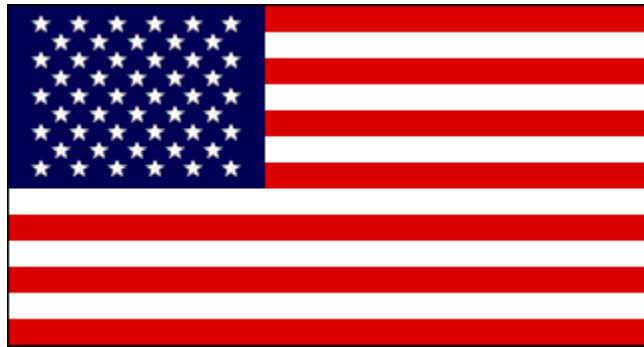
Source: Robert G. Elliott, *Ironclad of the Roanoke: Gilbert Elliott's Albemarle*

**5 – Who sank the CSS Albemarle?** William Baker Cushing, USN.

Source: Robert G. Elliott, *Ironclad of the Roanoke: Gilbert Elliott's Albemarle*

**\*\*\*\*\* Thoughts \*\*\*\*\***

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.



**Editor**

# *The Runner*



## Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Our next meeting will be held on **Thursday, 8 December 2016** at St. Andrews On-the-Sound Episcopal Church located at 101 Airlie Road. Come early - the meeting starts promptly at 7:30p.m. See [cfcwrt.org](http://cfcwrt.org) for details of future speakers and events.

Please join us at our fourth meeting of the 2016-2017 Program Year. Visitors are always welcome – ***bring a friend or two***. Each of our speakers strives to enlighten, entertain, and add to our knowledge of Civil War history. This serves our mission of encouraging education and research into that historic conflict.

\*\*\*\*\* December 2016 Program \*\*\*\*\*

### ***CSS Albemarle and the Battle of Plymouth***

**Andrew Duppstadt** will speak to the CFCWRT about the last attempt to retake eastern North Carolina from Union control. The combined operation by Confederate army and naval units will succeed as one of the last offensive victories for Confederate arms during the Civil War. Andrew will share the remarkable story of the CSS *Albemarle* as well as the stories of some of the most exciting characters who will emerge into the war's history.

Andrew Duppstadt has been a multiple-time speaker to our RT. Historian, re-enactor, speaker and Civil War/Revolutionary War expert, Andrew will speak to the CFRWRT on December 7<sup>th</sup> and to the CFCWRT on December 8<sup>th</sup>.



**Andrew Duppstadt**

**Editor**

\*\*\*\*\* Trivia Questions for December \*\*\*\*\*

- 1 – Where was the CSS *Albemarle* built and who was its chief builder?
- 2- The CSS *Albemarle* was instrumental in the Confederate army's recapture of what town? Who commanded the Confederate army at this victory?
- 3 – Who was a controversial commander of the *Albemarle* who never got to take her against the Union fleet?
- 4 – What was the fate of the *Albemarle*? Who commanded the ironclad on October 28, 1864? Who led the Union efforts to capture or destroy the ironclad?
- 5 – What ban was issued by the mayor of Richmond when the evacuation was ordered on April 2, 1865?

\*\*\*\*\* Raffle Winners \*\*\*\*\*

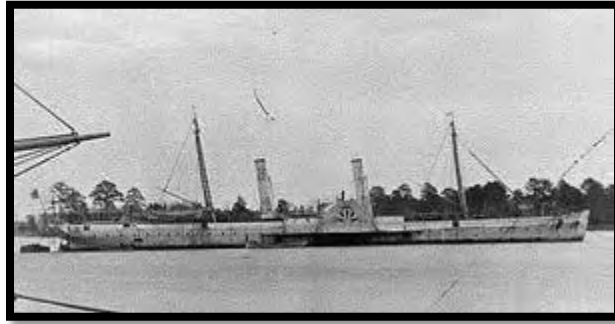
**Raffle Master: Ed Gibson**

If you have books, prints, or other items that you would like to donate to the raffle, contact Ed Gibson ([egibson759@aol.com](mailto:egibson759@aol.com)) before our next meeting. *The raffle is one of the components which allow the CFCWRT to fund our activities and our speakers.* Please take part in our raffle by contributing items and/or purchasing tickets.



*Mrs. Robert E. Lee:* Linda Lashley  
*Campaigning with Grant:* Bill Jayne  
*A Blaze of Glory:* John Monroe III  
*The Civil Wars:* John Bolger  
*Civil War Reader:* John Monroe III  
*To the Sea:* Ed Gibson

\*\*\*\*\* **Member News & Activities** \*\*\*\*\*



**Blockade Runner the *Robert E. Lee***

If you have member news or news about Civil War events that you think would be of interest to CFCWRT membership, send me an email with the details. Thank you.

1 – Wishing all members and friends of the CFCWRT a Family Friendly Thanksgiving and a Merry and Joyous Christmas.

2 – If you have plans to do some traveling and want to know upcoming Civil War events in that area, check out *civilwar.travel*. This site is for 2016-2017 events. Listed below are some events scheduled to take place in December.



**Fredericksburg (VA) citizens view desolation 1862**

9 NC Candlelight tours at Bennett Place State Historic Site in Durham. Every 15 minutes, 6-9 pm. \$3/adult. [nchistoricsites.org/bennett](http://nchistoricsites.org/bennett)

10 GA “A Candlelight Christmas at Liberty Hall,” Victorian traditions at the A.H. Stephens Historic Site near Crawfordville. 6-9 pm. Free with park admission. [gastateparks.org/AHStephens](http://gastateparks.org/AHStephens)

10 DC Tours, “Civil War Washington,” with Ed Bearss. Includes walking tours of Arlington National Cemetery, Lincoln’s Cottage, Lafayette Square and more. 8 am-6 pm. \$200. [smithsonianassociates.org](http://smithsonianassociates.org) (click Civil War).

10 NC Living history, “Christmas in the Piedmont,” with period decoration and refreshments at Bennett Place State Historic Site in Durham. 10 am-4 pm. Free. [nchistoricsites.org/bennett](http://nchistoricsites.org/bennett)

3 – **Wreaths Across America** – An effort to support the placement of a wreath on every grave in the Wilmington National Cemetery. Cost of a wreath is \$15. See [cfcwrt.org](http://cfcwrt.org) or <http://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/#join-us> for additional information.



4 – The **Cape Fear Revolutionary Round Table** will hold its annual End-of-Year Dinner Meeting on **December 7** at 6:30 PM, St. John's Masonic Lodge, 4712 Oriole Dr., Wilmington. The cost will be \$30 for members and \$35 for non-members; the public is invited. The \$5 for non-members and guests may be applied to a new membership (Individual \$25, Student \$15, Family \$50). Dinner will be Angus roast beef with rice and gravy, green beans, salad, pickled beets, hot rolls and vanilla cream pie. Drinks will be tea, sweet and unsweet, coffee and water.

**Andrew Dupstadt**, North Carolina Division of State Historic Sites, will be speaking on colonial North Carolina's Gov. Richard Caswell, hero of the Battle of Moores Creek Bridge and the first sovereign of the state of North Carolina. Caswell was elected as the first Governor of North Carolina and was North Carolina's representative to the Continental Congress.

Please send your check to CFRWRT, 105 S. W. Yacht Drive, Oak Island, NC 28465. The registration deadline is Sunday, December 4th, 2016. For any questions, please reach out to Connie Hendrix at email [hend5678@ec.rr.com](mailto:hend5678@ec.rr.com) or 910-278-6705. We hope you will join us. Linda Lashley

5 – Mark your calendar. The **CFCWRT Dinner Meeting** will be held on **February 9, 2017** at the Blockade Runner resort at Wrightsville Beach. **Kelly Hinson** will perform as Confederate spy and diplomat, **Rose O’Neal Greenhow**. **Additional details** January issue of THE RUNNER.



Confederate rose

6- **Cape Fear Civil War Symposium at Fort Caswell, May 5-7, 2017**. Featuring the following speakers: Dr. Robert M. Browning, Jr., Dr. Stephen Wise, Dr. Chris Fonvielle, Col. Wade Sokolosky and Jim McKee. If you want to learn about Cape Fear Civil War history as it relates to Blockade Running, this is the symposium for you. See **fortcaswell.com** for details and registration form.

\*\*\*\*\* **November 2016** \*\*\*\*\*

### **The Fall of Richmond: April 1865**

**Bert Dunkerly** provided the events in Richmond as they occurred from April 2 - April 4 as the capital of the Confederacy fell to fires, rioters and occupying Union troops.

Grant’s breakthrough at Petersburg on April 2<sup>nd</sup> necessitated Robert E. Lee to inform Jefferson Davis that the evacuation of Richmond needed to begin. Efforts had begun; however, papers, tobacco warehouses, Confederate navy ships, and other materials that could not be moved had to be destroyed. High winds and drunken rioters did the rest.

General Godfrey Weitzel directed Union forces into the city to claim the prize so long desired by the Union government. Lincoln’s visit to the city on April 4<sup>th</sup> allowed Lincoln to witness his victory.



**Editor**

\*\*\*\*\* **Trivia Questions for December** \*\*\*\*\*

1 – **Where was the CSS Albemarle built and who was its chief builder?** The CSS *Albemarle* was built in a corn field along the Roanoke River near Scotland Neck, North Carolina. John Luke Porter, Chief Naval Constructor, C.S. Navy, designed the 152 foot vessel to have a draft of eight feet and a tonnage of 376. It was **Gilbert Elliott**, a 19 year old army officer, who was selected by Confederate Secretary of Navy, Stephen Mallory, to construct the ironclad in an unlikely and difficult location.

Elliot's task was made difficult by shortages of nearly all materials required to construct an ironclad. His accomplishments made fascinating reading as he scraped together workmen and materials to complete work on one of the Confederacy's most successful warships.

Source: *Ironclad of the Roanoke: Gilbert Elliot's Albemarle*, Robert G. Elliott, White Mane Publishing Company, Shippensburg, PA, 1994.

**2 - The CSS *Albemarle* was instrumental in the Confederate army's recapture of what town? Who commanded the Confederate army at this victory?** If you were paying attention, you know that **Plymouth** was the answer to the first question. North Carolinian, **Robert F. Hoke**, commanded the recapture of the Union-held city on April 20, 1864. The *Albemarle* sank one Union ship and drove off another; hence, ensuring the Confederate victory.

Source: *Ironclad of the Roanoke: Gilbert Elliot's Albemarle*, Robert G. Elliott, White Mane Publishing Company, Shippensburg, PA, 1994.

**3 – Who was a controversial commander of the *Albemarle* who never got to take her against the Union fleet? John Newland Maffitt.** Maffitt was controversial because of his aggressiveness in attacking the Union fleet at every opportunity. The Confederate army opposed Maffitt because they desired the *Albemarle* to protect eastern North Carolina against future Union naval expeditions. The army was afraid that losing the ironclad in aggressive actions would result in loss of the waters in all of eastern North Carolina that had been gained with the recapture of Plymouth.

Maffitt was relieved of command of the ram on September 9, 1864. He was ordered to Wilmington to take command of the blockade runner *Owl*.

Source: *Ironclad of the Roanoke: Gilbert Elliot's Albemarle*, Robert G. Elliott, White Mane Publishing Company, Shippensburg, PA, 1994.

**4 – What was the fate of the *Albemarle*? Who commanded the ironclad on October 28, 1864? Who led the Union efforts to capture or destroy the ironclad?** At about 3:00AM on October 28, 1864, a Union launch, commanded by **Lt. William B. Cushing**, successfully exploded a torpedo against the *Albemarle*. The ironclad sank in the shallow waters of the Roanoke River at Plymouth.

**Lt. Alexander F. Warley** was the third and final commander of the *Albemarle*.

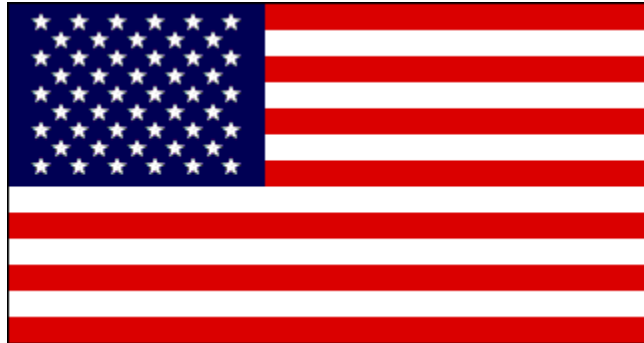
Source: *Ironclad of the Roanoke: Gilbert Elliot's Albemarle*, Robert G. Elliott, White Mane Publishing Company, Shippensburg, PA, 1994.

**5 – What ban was issued by the mayor of Richmond when the evacuation was ordered on April 2, 1865?** Mayor Joseph C. Mayo issued an order to destroy all alcoholic stores in the capital. Mayo ordered this action to prevent potential rioters from being fueled by this stimulant. Mayo's ban was unsuccessful – potential rioters drank the alcohol as it ran to the gutters. And the city burned.



\*\*\*\*\* **Thoughts** \*\*\*\*\*

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.



**Editor**

\*\*\*\*\* **Recommendation** \*\*\*\*\*

I was reading up on the Battle of Plymouth and the CSS *Albemarle* and I went to my library for some reference books. William R. Trotter wrote a trilogy of books about the Civil War in North Carolina. ***Ironclads and Columbiads: The Civil War in North Carolina: The Coast*** provided an abundance of information.

Of special interest to me was: **Appendix B: A Massacre at Plymouth?**

# *The Runner*



## Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Our next meeting will be held on **Thursday, 10 November 2016** at St. Andrews On-the-Sound Episcopal Church located at 101 Airlie Road. Come early - the meeting starts promptly at 7:30p.m. See [cfwrt.org](http://cfwrt.org) for details of future speakers and events.

Please join us at our third meeting of the 2016-2017 Program Year. Visitors are always welcome – **bring a friend or two**. Each of our speakers strives to enlighten, entertain, and add to our knowledge of Civil War history. This serves our mission of encouraging education and research into that historic conflict.

**\*\*\*\*\* November 2016 Program \*\*\*\*\***

### **The Fall of Richmond: April 1865**



**Robert “Bert” Dunkerly** will share the opening paragraphs in the final chapter of the history of the Confederate States of America. This will be a story full of drama, suspense, and controversy. To this day, many historians still disagree on many events during these hectic days. Bert will discuss the evacuation, the fires and the riots that broke out over night, and with the final Union army march into the city. With the visit of President Lincoln on April 4, 1865, the Confederacy will be on its deathbed; President Jefferson Davis will be on the run.



**Bert Dunkerly** is a historian, award-winning author, and speaker who is actively involved in historic preservation and research. He holds a degree in History from St. Vincent College and a Masters in Historic Preservation from Middle Tennessee State University.

He has worked at nine historic sites, written twelve books, including *Redcoats on the Cape Fear*, about the Revolution in Wilmington. His research included archaeology, colonial life, military history, and historic commemoration.

Dunkerly is currently a Park Ranger at Richmond National Battlefield Park. He is past President of the Richmond Civil War Round Table, and serves on the Preservation Commission for the American Revolutionary Round Table – Richmond. He has visited over 400 battlefields and over 900 historic sites worldwide. When not reading or writing, he enjoys hiking, camping, and photography.

**Editor**

**\*\*\*\*\* Trivia Questions for November \*\*\*\*\***

- 1 – On April 4, 1865, Abraham Lincoln visited the city Richmond. Who accompanied Lincoln on his visit?
- 2 – What happened to the Confederate treasury and its gold and silver?
- 3 – Did the Confederate States of America ever receive recognition from any other country?

**\*\*\*\*\* Raffle Winners \*\*\*\*\***

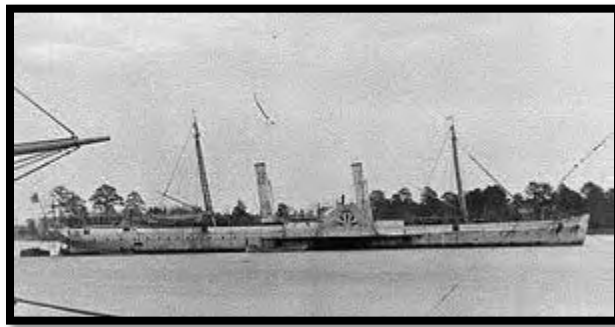
**Raffle Master: Ed Gibson**

If you have books, prints, or other items that you would like to donate to the raffle, contact Ed Gibson ([egibson759@aol.com](mailto:egibson759@aol.com)) before our next meeting. *The raffle is one of the components which allow the CFCWRT to fund our activities and our speakers.* Please take part in our raffle by contributing items and/or purchasing tickets.



*They Met at Gettysburg:* Bill Jayne  
*Grant:* Jim Gannon  
*Civil War Curiosities:* Jim Gannon  
*U.S. Sharpshooters:* Bob Cooke  
*Diary from Dixie:* Al Anderson  
*Soldiers Blue & Gray:* Linda Lashley

\*\*\*\*\* **Member News & Activities** \*\*\*\*\*



**Blockade Runner the *Robert E. Lee***

If you have member news or news about Civil War events that you think would be of interest to CFCWRT membership, send me an email with the details. Thank you.

1 – Welcome to all returning and new members of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table. New members include: **Oliver Acheson, Alfred Anderson, John Branson, Michael & Elizabeth D’Attilio, Red Earley, John Gill, Bill Keifer, Norm Melton, David Mork, and David Munnikhuysen.** Your participation in our meetings and activities make this a continuing learn experience.

2 – If you have plans to do some traveling and want to know upcoming Civil War events in that area, check out *[civilwar.travel](http://civilwar.travel)*. This site is for 2016-2017 events.

NOV 5-6 NC Reenactment, “Battle of Fort Branch,” at the fort site on the Roanoke River near Hamilton. Camps and demonstrations with battles at 1:30 pm each day. Small parking fee goes to fort preservation. [fortbranchcivilwarsite.com](http://fortbranchcivilwarsite.com)



NOV 30 TN Anniversary illumination at Carnton Plantation in Franklin. 10,000 luminaries. Tour is free. [boft.org](http://boft.org)

\*\*\*\*\* October 2016 \*\*\*\*\*

## The Changing Face of the Civil War: Has the War the Keeps on Giving Given Out?



The Chicago Civil War Round Table was founded on December 3, 1940. The speaker at its first meeting was Percival G. Hart and his subject was “Stonewall Jackson’s Valley Campaign.” Founder Ralph G. Newman stated the purpose of the group was to study the Civil War and the Great Emancipator. From that small beginning with sixteen attendees, Civil War Round Table discussion groups expanded to hundreds of groups scattered throughout the United States and around the world.

**Dr. Chris Fonvielle**, past President of the CFCWRT, led a spirited discussion of the current status of Round Tables. Are Round Tables dying or has the general population just lost interest in military history and the leaders of that period? Are younger people just not interested in the war or are they embarrassed by aspects of slavery that defined that period? How should the discussion of our founding fathers and later leaders be judged today? Dr. Fonvielle stated that many of his students seem to define that period with, “Ya’ll lost the war; get over it.”

I was absent from the October meeting, but Linda Lashley provided me with voluminous notes on the many subjects that were discussed. Where will the current focus on race, gender and politics take Round Tables? As always, history will decide.

**Editor**

\*\*\*\*\* Trivia Questions for November \*\*\*\*\*

1 – On April 4, 1865, Abraham Lincoln visited the city Richmond. Who accompanied Lincoln on his visit? Lincoln arrived on the USS *Malvern* accompanied by his son, Tad, and Admiral David Dixon Porter.

Lincoln's assassination, less than a week following Lee's surrender, ensured that the events of the previous week would forever remain mysterious. Hundreds of fanciful, romantic, and second-hand accounts gained traction in the public mind, causing even Lincoln's first historians to throw up their hands in frustration at the lack of similarity in the accounts of his Richmond visit. Over time, the event faded from public memory. Interest returned on April 5, 2003, when the National Park Service unveiled a statue at the Historic Tredegar Iron Works commemorating Lincoln's 1865 visit to Richmond. The life-sized sculpture by Louis Frech features the President and his son Tad, resting on a bench in front of the words "To Bind up the Nation's Wounds" - a phrase taken from Lincoln's second inaugural address.

Source: <https://www.nps.gov/rich/learn/historyculture/lincvisit.htm> (accessed October 31, 2016).

**2 – What happened to the Confederate treasury and its gold and silver?** Who really knows? This is a question that maybe Bert can answer.

**3 – Did the Confederate States of America ever receive recognition from any other country?** The CSA never gained recognition as a legitimate nation from any nation.

One of the most overlooked facts of the American Civil War Era is the sympathy the South gained from Europe's most influential monarch - the pope of Rome.

Pope Pius IX never actually signed any kind of alliance or 'statement of support' with the Confederate States of America, but to those who understand the nuance of papal protocol, what he did do was quite astonishing. He acknowledged President Jefferson Davis as the "Honorable President of the Confederate States of America."

From this we can glean three things about Pope Pius IX...

1. He called Jefferson Davis by the customary title "Honorable."
2. He acknowledged him as president of a nation.
3. In doing so, he (at least on a personal level) effectively recognized the Confederate States of America as a sovereign entity, separate from the United States of America.

Source: [catholicknight.blogspot.com](http://catholicknight.blogspot.com), (accessed 10/31/2016).

#### **\*\*\*\*\* Thoughts \*\*\*\*\***

Many years ago, I attended a company school in Atlanta, Georgia. Among the many attendees was a student from Wisconsin. During an after-hours bull-session, she asked why we Southerners were so preoccupied with the history of that long ago Civil War. I had a simple reply: "Because, we didn't burn your house down." I know that was just too simple an answer. Since the first two Round Tables were founded in Chicago and Milwaukee, others, in addition to us burnout Southerners, must have had an interest in the late unpleasantness also.

There are all kinds of reasons why people are and will continue to have interest in the Civil War. If you interested in history, it is important to you; if you are not interested in history, it will never be important to you.

"Those that fail to learn from history, are doomed to repeat it."  
Winston Churchill

Amen.

**Editor**

**\*\*\*\*\* Recommendation \*\*\*\*\***

Peter Cozzens' *The Earth is Weeping: The Epic Story of the Indian Wars for the American West* has recently been released. Cozzens' book covered the many episodes (1862-1891) that followed the consequence of the American expansion into this vast area.

Of special interest to Civil War enthusiasts, Cozzens follows the careers of many Union officers after the war. Sherman, Sheridan, Crook, Miles, Terry, Gibbon, Custer and many others fill the pages of this book. If you only know of Custer's Last Stand, you have much to learn about these men and their Indian adversaries.

Of special interest to CFCWRT members, Peter Cozzens will be the speaker at our May 2017 meeting.

# *The Runner*



## **Cape Fear Civil War Round Table**

***Special Hurricane Matthew Delayed Issue – November 8, 2016***

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Please join us at our second meeting of the 2016-2017 Program Year. Visitors are always welcome – **bring a friend or two**. Each of our speakers strives to enlighten, entertain, and add to our knowledge of Civil War history. This serves our mission of encouraging education and research into that historic conflict.

**\*\*\*\*\* October 2016 Program \*\*\*\*\***

**The Changing Face of the Civil War: Has the War the Keeps on Giving Given Out?**



**Dr. Chris Fonvielle** will host a Round Table discussion of the past history, current status, and future place for Civil War Round Tables in today's environment. This meeting



will be a little different than our usual “lecture” formats – bring your questions, concerns, or a desired path of Civil War history.

With the completion of the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the American Civil War, many Round Tables have seen a drop in their memberships. Why has interest waned? Has Military History taken a back seat to social history? NOTE: The Brunswick Civil War Round Table represented one BIG exception to declining membership.

**Dr. Fonvielle** is past president of the CFCWRT. He teaches history at the UNCW and is the acknowledged expert on the Civil War in the Cape Fear Region.

**Editor**

**\*\*\*\*\* Trivia Questions for October \*\*\*\*\***

**1 – When and where was the first Civil War Round Table founded?**

**2 – How was Sherman’s Army able to travel so quickly from Savannah to North Carolina?**

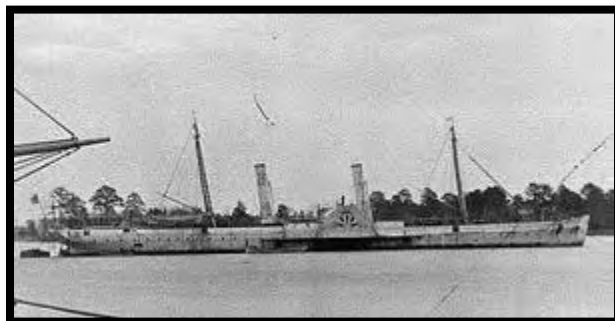
**\*\*\*\*\* Raffle Winners \*\*\*\*\***

**Raffle Master: Ed Gibson**

If you have books, prints, or other items that you would like to donate to the raffle, contact Ed Gibson ([egibson759@aol.com](mailto:egibson759@aol.com)) before our next meeting. *The raffle is one of the components which allow the CFCWRT to fund our activities and our speakers.* Please take part in our raffle by contributing items and/or purchasing tickets.

<i>Portraits of the Civil War</i>	-----	<i>Ed Gibson</i>
<i>Last Full Measure</i>	-----	<i>Joe Hack</i>
<i>American Heritage Civil War</i>	-----	<i>Gary Henderson</i>
<i>The Lost Cause</i>	-----	<i>Jim Gannon</i>
<i>A Shower of Star</i>	-----	<i>Jim Gannon</i>
<i>History of the CS Navy</i>	-----	<i>Richard Buggeln</i>
<i>Touched by Fire</i>	-----	<i>Jack McGarrie</i>

**\*\*\*\*\* Member News & Activities \*\*\*\*\***



## Blockade Runner the *Robert E. Lee*

If you have member news or news about Civil War events that you think would be of interest to CFCWRT membership, send me an email with the details. Thank you.

\*\*\*\*\* September \*\*\*\*\*

### *No Such Army Since the Days of Julius Caesar: Sherman's Carolinas Campaign from Fayetteville to Averasboro*



Sherman



Hardee



Slocum

Wade Sokolsky described the march of Sherman's army into North Carolina. When Sherman cut loose from Savannah to head to Virginia, his engineers and bummers allowed his 66,000 troops to advance 10 to 13 miles per day over an extremely difficult country-side. Sherman's rapid pace presented the Confederates with a difficult situation to consolidate forces to oppose his advance. Wade described what it was like to be "in Sherman's path." Confederate General Hardee left Charleston with 12,000 men – his was a troop of garrison men who averaged 6 miles a day as he raced Sherman to Fayetteville, North Carolina. Hardee arrived first; however, he arrived first but with only 6,500 soldiers



Confederate General Joe Johnston had the difficult task of contesting Sherman's march. Johnston had limited resources and no clear idea exactly where Sherman was headed – Raleigh or Goldsboro. Since Sherman marched his army in two separate wings, Johnston believed if one wing could be delayed on their march he had a chance against

his opponent. Hardee tried to slow Sherman's left wing at Averasboro. Johnston formed his plan for the battle of Bentonville only after Hardee was successful at Averasboro.

**Editor**

**\*\*\*\*\* Trivia Questions for October \*\*\*\*\***

**1 – When and where was the first Civil War Round Table founded?** The Chicago Civil War Round Table was founded on December 3, 1940. The speaker at its first meeting was Percival G. Hart and his subject was “Stonewall Jackson’s Valley Campaign.” Founder Ralph G. Newman stated the purpose of the group was to study the Civil War and the Great Emancipator. From that small beginning with sixteen attendees, Civil War Round Table discussion groups expanded to hundreds of groups scattered throughout the United States and around the world.

**2 – How was Sherman’s Army able to travel so quickly from Savannah to North Carolina?** Sherman’s engineers built bridges over flooded creeks, swamps and rivers at an amazing rate. They lived up to the “No such Army since the days of Caesar.” Also of much assistance, his bummers sucked the country-side dry as the army moved north toward Grant’s army in Virginia.

**\*\*\*\*\* Thoughts \*\*\*\*\***

Do you know anyone who may be interested in joining the CFCWRT? Please invite them to the October meeting.

**Editor**

# *The Runner*



## **Cape Fear Civil War Round Table**

Our next meeting will be held on **Thursday, 8 September 2016** at St. Andrews On-the-Sound Episcopal Church located at 101 Airlie Road. Come early - the meeting starts promptly at 7:30p.m. See [cfewrt.org](http://cfewrt.org) for details of future speakers and events..

Please join us at our first meeting of the 2016-2017 Program Year. Visitors are always welcome – ***bring a friend or two***. Each of our speakers strives to enlighten, entertain, and add to our knowledge of Civil War history. This serves our mission of encouraging education and research into that historic conflict.

**\*\*\*\*\* September 2016 Program \*\*\*\*\***

### ***No Such Army Since the Days of Julius Caesar: Sherman's Carolinas Campaign from Fayetteville to Averasboro***

Join us as **Colonel Wade Sokolosky** (U.S. Army Retired) provides a detailed examination of Union and Confederate actions that lead up to the largest Civil War battle to take place in North Carolina – the Battle of Bentonville. Wade covers these actions as Sherman's 60,000 man army moves against Confederate forces between the period from March 11-16, 1865; from the capture of Fayetteville to the Confederate delaying actions at the Battle of Averasboro.



**Sherman**



**Hardee**



**Slocum**

At Averasboro, Confederate General William J. Hardee's 6,500 man force was to delay the left wing of the Union General Henry W. Slocum to give the Confederates time to gather their scattered forces at Bentonville. Hardee had two objectives for his actions at Averasboro. The first objective was to determine if Sherman's left wing was moving

toward Raleigh or Goldsboro – it was going toward Goldsboro by way of Bentonville. The second objective was to lengthen the distance between the two wings of Sherman’s army so the concentrated Confederate forces at Bentonville could destroy Slocum’s left wing before the Oliver O. Howard’s right wing could come to Slocum’s relief.

Wade was born and grew-up in the coastal town of Beaufort, North Carolina. His interest in the Civil War began early as his Grandmother shared stories about a family member who served at the nearby Fort Macon. Wade graduated from East Carolina University in 1986. Wade entered the U.S. Army and spent 25 years on active duty. His real serious study of Sherman and the Civil War (and especially the Carolinas Campaign) began when he was stationed at Fort Campbell, Kentucky in 1988.



Wade is co-author (with Mark A. Smith) of *No Such Army Since the Days of Julius Caesar: Sherman’s Carolinas Campaign from Fayetteville to Averasboro*, and *To Prepare for Sherman’s Coming: The Battle of Wise’s Forks, March 1865*.

**Editor**

**\*\*\*\*\* Trivia Questions for September \*\*\*\*\***

- 1 – Which units initiated the battle at Averasboro?**
- 2 – Two officers – one Union and one Confederate – lost their boots during this phase of the Carolinas Campaign. Who were they?**
- 3 – Who introduced the first bill to create a “medals of honor?”**



#### 4- Who was the first woman to receive the MOH?

#### \*\*\*\*\* Raffle Winners \*\*\*\*\*

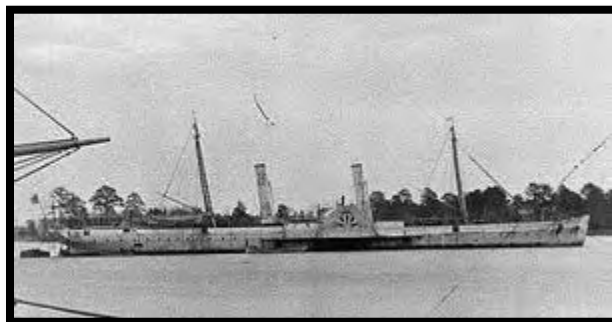
**Raffle Master: Ed Gibson**

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<i>Lee: The Last Years</i> -----	<i>Bruce Patterson</i>
<i>Robert G. Shaw</i> -----	<i>Tim Barton</i>
<i>On A Rising Tide</i> -----	<i>John Moore</i>
<i>The Civil War</i> -----	<i>Joe George</i>
<i>A World on Fire</i> -----	<i>Ed Gibson</i>
<i>The Civil War Dictionary</i> -----	<i>John Gill</i>
<i>Touched by Fire</i> -----	<i>Jack McGarrie</i>

#### \*\*\*\*\* Member News & Activities \*\*\*\*\*



**Blockade Runner the *Robert E. Lee***

If you have member news or news about Civil War events that you think would be of interest to CFCWRT membership, send me an email with the details. Thank you.

1 – During June, **Lance Bevins, Dale Lear** and **Tim Winstead** joined members of Hood’s Texas Brigade Association Re-Activated (HTBAR) on excellent tour of Chickamauga and Chattanooga. While in Tennessee, they also visited the battlefields at Franklin and Murfreesboro.



2 – The **Cape Fear Revolutionary Round Table (CFRWRT)** has announced that their new President for 2016-2017 is Dr. Chris E. Fonvielle Jr. Their kickoff meeting will be in Southport at the Southport Community Center on September 14, 2016, starting at 7:00PM. The speaker will be Mrs. Charin Fink and her topic will be “Ladies of the American Revolution.” \$5.00 for non-members. For additional information or questions, contact Linda Lashley [LKL8@BELLSOUTH.NET](mailto:LKL8@BELLSOUTH.NET) or 910-395-0012.

3 – Jim Gannon reports that “**Skirmishes for Lexington**” will take place in Lexington, South Carolina on September 30 and October 1 & 2. For more information: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~scprnyz/Lexington/MainPage.html>.

\*\*\*\*\* **May 2016** \*\*\*\*\*

### **The Medal of Honor**



John Moseley presented a history of the Medal of Honor from its creation during the Civil War. John shared his research on Fort Fisher and the medal. At Fort Fisher in December 1864 and January 1865, 60 Navy sailors, 9 Army soldiers and 6 marines were recommended for this honor.

**Editor**

\*\*\*\*\* **Trivia Questions for September** \*\*\*\*\*

**1 – Which units initiated the battle at Averasboro?** Cavalry units commanded by Hugh Judson Kilpatrick led Slocum’s left wing as it advanced on the Raleigh Plank Road

from Fayetteville toward Averasboro. Joseph Wheeler's Confederate cavalry resisted the Union advance. This initial fighting began the battle.

**2 – Two officers – one Union and one Confederate – lost their boots during this phase of the Carolinas Campaign. Who were they?** Captain William F. Duncan, Company F, 10<sup>th</sup> Illinois Cavalry was chief of scouts for Slocum's wing of Sherman's army. Duncan was an experienced soldier who had led many exciting raids during Sherman's march through Georgia, South Carolina and into North Carolina. His luck ran out when he encountered Wade Hampton's cavalry in Fayetteville. Duncan lost the skirmish, his coat, and his boots to his foe.

Colonel Alfred M. Rhett was a member of a first family of Charleston, South Carolina. A Harvard graduate who had commanded Confederate garrison troops in Charleston during the entire war. Rhett left the comfort of garrison life when he joined Hardee's force as it abandoned Charleston on Sherman's advance.

Rhett was at Averasboro when he rode his thoroughbred horse into a group he thought to be Confederates. Rhett realized his mistake when one of the group pointed his carbine at Rhett's ear and informed Rhett he was the prisoner of Captain Theo Northrup of Kilpatrick's command. Kilpatrick welcomed Rhett to his mess that evening but Rhett's arrogance made a poor impression on the Union officers. The next morning Kilpatrick received word that some of his men had been captured by the Confederates and had been mistreated. Rhett was relieved of his thoroughbred horse and his fine pair of riding boots. Rhett never got his horse back, but the boots were returned. Rhett's boots were too small for any of his captors; however, the boots caused Rhett considerable discomfort as Kilpatrick forced Rhett to walk the 45 miles to Goldsboro.

Source: Fayetteville Observer, March 4, 1999.

**3 – Who introduced the first bill to create a “medals of honor?”** On December 9, 1861, Iowa Senator James W. Grimes introduced a bill in the U.S. Senate to authorize a special Navy Medal of Honor to promote the efficiency of that service. On February 17, 1862, Massachusetts Senator Henry Wilson introduced a bill for an Army Medal of Honor.

**4- Who was the first woman to receive the MOH?** Dr. Mary Walker.

**\*\*\*\*\* Thoughts \*\*\*\*\***

Do you know anyone who may be interested in joining the CFCWRT? Please invite them to the September meeting.

**Editor**



# The Runner



## Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Our next meeting will be held on **Thursday, 12 May 2016** at St. Andrews On-the-Sound Episcopal Church located at 101 Airlie Road. Come early - the meeting starts promptly at 7:30p.m. See [cfewrt.org](http://cfewrt.org) for details.

Please join us at our final meeting of the 2015-2016 Program Year. Visitors are always welcome – ***bring a friend or two***. Each of our speakers strives to enlighten, entertain, and add to our knowledge of Civil War history. This serves our mission of encouraging education and research into that historic conflict.

**\*\*\*\*\* May 2016 Program \*\*\*\*\***

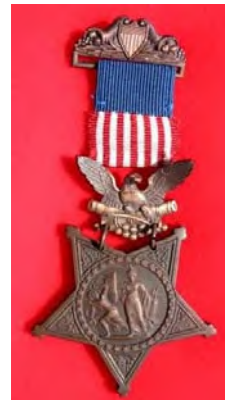
### Fort Fisher's Medal of Honor Recipients

**John Moseley**, Historic Interpreter III at the Fort Fisher Historic Site and Jacksonville, Florida native, will present a history of the Congressional Medal of Honor and especially the 72 men who received the medal for their actions at Fort Fisher during December 1864 & January 1865.

John's summary of his presentation follows:

The Medal of Honor is the highest distinction that can be awarded by the President, in the name of the Congress, to members of the Armed Forces who have distinguished themselves conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of their lives above and beyond the call of duty. It was originally created in July 1861 to recognize the acts of bravery by Union enlisted Navy, Marine Corps, and Army personnel during the Civil War. This was the only award

to be created by the United States government during the war.



The struggle for Fort Fisher saw bravery and sacrifice by men on both sides. To Union sailors, soldiers and marines, the fighting was like none they had experienced in their lives. Between June 23, 1864 and January 15, 1865, 72 men presented the Medal of Honor for their actions going above and beyond the call of duty. Thirty-five percent of all Civil War Medals of Honor presented to the United States Marine Corps were earned on the beaches in front of Fort Fisher.

Over the last 150 years, the Medal of Honor had change in its physical appearance, method of awarding and significance to the military community. In 1990, the United States Congress designated March 25 annually as "National Medal of Honor Day" to recognize the sacrifice of the nearly 3500 individuals who have received our Nation's highest military award. The date was chosen specifically because it was on March 25, 1863 that the first Medals of Honor were presented.

Throughout our State's history, 19 North Carolinians have been recognized for their actions with the Medal of Honor. Even more important, the Cape Fear region is no stranger to Medal of Honor recipients. New Hanover County's four recipients span the wars, both large and small, of the 20th century; one from actions in Mexico in 1914, two from World War 2, and one from the Vietnam War.

John Moseley is the Assistant Site Manager at Fort Fisher State Historic Site. He received his undergraduate degree in History from The Citadel in Charleston, SC in 1989. He then spent the next decade and a half working in the for-profit and non-profit business world. During the 1990s, he spent large amounts of time researching North Carolina's role in the American Revolution and 18<sup>th</sup> century medical and dental history.

In 2003, he was named North Carolina's James Madison Foundation Fellow and spent time in Washington, DC researching and studying the history of the United States Constitution. He returned to college and received his Master's Degree in 2005 from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. He moved to this area in 2006 as a seventh and eighth grade history teacher who focused on US and North Carolina History as well as the US Constitution.

He began working at Fort Fisher in 2011 and is currently in charge of the educational programming for the State Historic Site. Since the summer of 2012, he has been the historian with "Tasting History" where he leads a walking tour of Carolina Beach focusing on the history of Federal Point and sampling local restaurants. Currently, he continues working on Fort Fisher's Medal of Honor recipients and the role of Fort Fisher during World War 2.

**Editor**

**\*\*\*\*\* Trivia Questions for May \*\*\*\*\***

**1 – Who was the general who was awarded a Medal of Honor for being the first to enter Fort Fisher through the stockade and leading assaults on the fort traverses?**

**2 – Name five Northerners who served the Confederacy?**

3 – Name five Southerners who served the Union?

4 - Who was Gutzon Borglum?

5 – What group was responsible for early Confederate and Union memorials?

**\*\*\*\*\* Raffle Winners \*\*\*\*\***

**Raffle Master: Ed Gibson (R)  
Assistant Raffle Master: Dale Lear (L)**



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**Al Anderson, Jim Gannon, John Monroe, Ed Gibson**

*Master of War -----*  
*Gettysburg -----*  
*Locust Alley -----*  
*The Barefoot Brigade -----*  
*Generals South/Generals North -----*  
*The Mighty Scourge -----*  
*The Civil War Almanac -----*  
*The Wolf of the Deep -----*

**John Gill  
Jim Vaugh  
Linda Lashley  
Jim Gannon  
Ed Gibson  
Linda Lashley  
Al Anderson  
Al Anderson**

\*\*\*\*\* **Member News & Activities** \*\*\*\*\*



**Blockade Runner the *Robert E. Lee***

If you have member news or news about Civil War events that you think would be of interest to CFCWRT membership, send me an email with the details. Thank you.

**1** – The CFCWRT welcomes several new members to our ranks: **Alfred T. Anderson**, **Michael & Elizabeth D’Attilio**, **John A. Gill**, and **David Mork**.

**2**- “**Help Wanted**” - We thought we would send out a notice to the area Civil War Roundtables letting you know that we are **seeking volunteers at Fort Fisher**. We are seeking people interested in history to assist us with giving tours of the fort and to help with group tours, as well as those who have experience in retail to help in the museum store. In the spring, we will also be seeking volunteers to work in the garden. Contact Becky Sawyer ([becky.sawyer@ncdcr.gov](mailto:becky.sawyer@ncdcr.gov)) or John Moseley ([john.moseley@ncdcr.gov](mailto:john.moseley@ncdcr.gov)).

**3** - On April 19, 2016 former Arboretum Curator, Bruce Patterson, led 8 members of the CFCWRT and Kathi Lear (our photographer) on a tour of the New Hanover County Arboretum. Bruce provided many details as we walked along. We paused in the north east corner in the area dedicated to the military (Contemplation Garden & Military Memorial) which includes inscribed pavers. The first inscribed paver we gathered around is dedicated to **Bruce and Patsy Patterson**. Bruce, a retired US Army Colonel, was not aware that a paver dedicated to them had been installed.



At this site, the second inscribed paver pointed out is dedicated to the **CFCWRT**. In fact all of the men present are members of the CFCWRT as well as members of the Wilmington Chapter of the NC Military Historical Society.

A special thank-you goes to **Bob Cooke** for his efforts to arrange for the installation of the pavers to honor Bruce, Patsy and our RT.

## Dale Lear

**4 – The Cape Fear Revolutionary War Round Table (CFRWRT) will meet on June 8, 2016** at St. John's Masonic Lodge (4712 Oriole Drive) at 7:00P.m. The speaker will be **Bob Mullaer**, military historian. Mullaer's presentation will be about the American victory at January 17, 1781 Battle of Cowpens.



**Linda Lashley**

**5 – May Summer Walking Tour at Oakdale Cemetery – May 21, 2016, 10:00AM – 12:00PM.** Historical walking tours of North Carolina's oldest rural cemetery will be given by local historian, **Ed Gibson**. Mr. Gibson will take you on a journey through time and delight you with the history and some interesting tales of those who are interred at Oakdale Cemetery. \*Tour cancelled in event of inclement weather\*  
- See more at: <http://www.wilmingtonandbeaches.com/events-calendar/may-summer-walking-tour-at-oakdale-cemetery/#sthash.LBwYnPx.C.dpuf> Call: 910-762-5682.

**Ed Gibson**

**6 - In Willow Dale Cemetery-Goldsboro** laid the earthly remains of a young man who died far from home, **Jared K. White** of Co. B 8th Texas Calvary, Terry's Texas Rangers. The 19 year old rode 2,000 miles from Austin County, Texas to defend the South and served for 4 years, dying just 3 weeks before Lee surrendered at Appomattox. Temporarily buried on land near where he was killed, Jared was later reinterred in Goldsboro's Confederate Cemetery by members of his family.

sprinkled Texas soil over the grave, placed the state flower of Texas, the Bluebonnet, and raised the Texas flag in grateful recognition of his sacrifice.



On April 9, 2016, White's descendants from Texas and Alabama arranged for a rededication ceremony. CFCWRT member **Linda Lashley** attended in mourning attire and gave a speech. The descendent sisters

**Linda Lashley**

**7 – The 147<sup>th</sup> Confederate Memorial Day** observance was held at Confederate Mound in Oakdale Cemetery on May 1<sup>st</sup>. Member **John Munroe III** placed a live wreath of leaves and flags, on behalf of the CFCWRT. Member **Linda Lashley**, reenacting a widow in mourning, and her brother received the Cross of Military Service medal posthumously awarded to their Dad, Cpl. H. C. Lashley, WW2 combat veteran and Purple Heart recipient.

**Linda Lashley**

\*\*\*\*\* April 2016 \*\*\*\*\*

## **The Silent Sentries: The Civil War**

**John Winecoff** and **Ed Gibson** provided an interesting and thought-provoking study at North Carolina's Civil War memorials. With current controversy about the meaning of these memorials, they gave a look at these monuments, statues, and memorials which honored all North Carolinians who had served during the war. The memorials were located in North Carolina's 100 counties – they honored Confederate, Union, USCT, and militia units and the sacrifices these North Carolinians made for their beliefs.



**John Winecoff & Ed Gibson**

John travelled many miles to visit these sites. He met many interesting people and heard numerous stories that related too much of North Carolina's military history. Ed's computer skills benefitted "telling of the story" via their presentation.

John and Ed, the CFCWRT extend a big thank-you for your efforts to share your feelings and thoughts about a subject that has gained a renewed importance.

**Editor**

### \*\*\*\*\* Trivia Questions for May \*\*\*\*\*

**1 – Who was the general who was awarded a Medal of Honor for being the first to enter Fort Fisher through the stockade and leading assaults on the fort traverses?** Newton Martin Curtis (1835 – 1910). Curtis published *From Bull Run to Chancellorsville* in 1906. Curtis also served as an assistant inspector general of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers.

**2 – Name five Northerners who served the Confederacy?** Josiah Gorgas – Pennsylvania; Bushrod Johnson – Ohio; Samuel Cooper – New York, NOTE: Cooper was highest ranking Confederate General; John Pemberton – Pennsylvania; Daniel Ruggles – Massachusetts.

**3 – Name five Southerners who served the Union?** Robert Anderson – Kentucky, NOTE: Anderson commanded Fort Sumter on April 12, 1861. Anderson owned slaves; George Thomas – Virginia – NOTE: The Rock of Chickamauga; Winfield Scott – Virginia: Admiral David Farragut – Tennessee; John Gibbon – born in Pennsylvania but raised in North Carolina. Gibbon has three brothers who served in the Confederate Army.

**4 - Who was Gutzon Borglum?**

Controversial Sculptor (1867-1941) known for Mount Rushmore in South Dakota; the design of a Confederate Memorial at Stone Mountain, Georgia NOTE: Borglum did not complete this project and fell out with the sponsors; bust of Abraham Lincoln found in the rotunda of the Capital Building; General Phil Sheridan equestrian bronze located in Washington, DC and North Carolina's memorial at Gettysburg.



**5 – What group was responsible for early Confederate and Union memorials?** The Mothers, Wives, Sisters and Daughters were the early mourners.

On the 6th of May 1866, the Ladies' Memorial Association of Petersburg was formed "to devise means to perpetuate their gratitude and admiration for those who died defending homes and loved ones." One of the principal, active members of the Ladies Memorial Association was Miss Nora Fontaine Maury Davidson who had established a school for young women in Petersburg. On June 9, 1865, she took her students with her to Blandford Cemetery and decorated the graves of both Union and Confederate dead with flowers and flags.

**\*\*\*\*\* Thoughts \*\*\*\*\***

I recently read a book *Those Damn Black Hats: The Iron Brigade in the Gettysburg Campaign*. The writer, Lance J. Herdegen, told the story of the men of the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin, 19<sup>th</sup> Indiana, and 24<sup>th</sup> Michigan and their actions during the battle at Gettysburg in July 1863. Herdegen used copies of letters, diaries, newspaper articles, journals, and faded photographs of soldiers in big black hats to tell the story of the westerners who slowed the Confederate advances on July 1<sup>st</sup>.

In a chapter entitled, *Glorious Remembrance*, Herdegen told the efforts made by the veterans of the Iron Brigade to honor their comrades who did not survive the war. The reunions and memorials they funded and dedicated were strikingly similar to those funded and dedicated to units in the defeated Confederacy.

What interested me most about this book was how the Iron Brigade veterans reached out to those survivors of the 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina that they had fought so sharply at Gettysburg. Charles McConnell of the 24<sup>th</sup> Michigan wrote to Colonel A. M. Waddell of Wilmington, North Carolina seeking information about the 26<sup>th</sup> NC. This initial letter led to other veterans being drawn into the correspondence and subsequent meeting between the former foes.



I have a pretty simple view of Civil War memorials, Confederate and Union. I think that all simply honor what those veterans survived during a time of sacrifice. The fact that many memorials were dedicated in the late 1800s and early 1900s was due to the fact that the veterans were growing older and chose to remember their services (and their comrades) as they could still do so.

**Editor**



# *The Runner*



## **Cape Fear Civil War Round Table**

Our next meeting will be held on **Thursday, 14 April 2016** at St. Andrew's On-the-Sound Episcopal Church (101 Airlie Road). Social Hour begins at 7:00 p.m. (with light refreshments), meeting at 7:30.

Please join us at our April meeting as we continue our 2015-2016 Program Year. Visitors are always welcome – ***bring a friend or two.*** Each of our speakers strives to enlighten, entertain, and add to our knowledge of Civil War history. This serves our mission of encouraging education and research into that historic conflict.

**\*\*\*\*\* April 2016 Program \*\*\*\*\***

### **THE SILENT SENTRIES: The Civil War**



**Confederate Soldiers Monument, Oakdale Cemetery, Wilmington**

Our April meeting will be unique for a North Carolina Round Table. It will be the first presentation of a three year project initiated by one of our members, **John Winecoff**, to document military memorials scattered throughout all one hundred counties of this state.

John's reason for undertaking this daunting project follows:

In April 2013, I stopped by a memorial on a little stretch of NC Highway 210 that I had passed many times. It was a small memorial dedicated to a WWII Army Air Force crew that had crashed nearby and had been erected by donations from nearby villages.

Resuming my trip, I reflected on the memorial and what I had learned from it. I wondered what else I had missed by not pausing to view the knowledge these monuments and memorials waited to impart.

They reminded me of Silent Sentries who seemed to guard the honor, the sacrifices, and great deeds these men and women had accomplished but yet were willing to share their stories to anyone willing to listen. A person had only to be willing to listen with their eyes instead of their ears to learn about the military history of a great state.

With these thoughts in mind, I vowed to begin a journey and to visit, document, and share what I learned from these SILENT SENTRIES. Soon I would be joined in the project by another RT member, **Ed Gibson**, who had the job of setting the images I had photographed into pages for the SILENT SENTRIES Binders and developing a power point presentation.

From that day in April 2013, until the official end of the project in December 2015, I visited all 100 counties in North Carolina, listening to and documenting their stories. The work resulted in over 455 pages of more than 560 monument and memorials contained in two volumes of binders.

A large number of this work related to the Civil War - with over 145 pages and 155 monuments and memorials. Ed and I then decided to do a special power point presentation SILENT SENTRIES—The Civil War, which will be presented for the first time to the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table.

Both **John Winecoff** and **Ed Gibson** are native born Tar Heels who share military and law enforcement backgrounds.

#### \*\*\*\*\* Trivia Questions for April \*\*\*\*\*

**1 – Where is the oldest North Carolina Confederate memorial located?**

**2 – Where did General Lee observe the chickens of Maryland roosting as Hood's Texas Brigade marched through the area in September 1862?**

#### \*\*\*\*\* Raffle Winners \*\*\*\*\*

**Raffle Master: Ed Gibson**

If you have books, prints, or other items that you would like to donate to the raffle, contact Ed Gibson ([egibson759@aol.com](mailto:egibson759@aol.com)) before our next meeting. ***The raffle is one of the components which allow the CFCWRT to fund our activities***

*and our speakers.* Please take part in our raffle by contributing items and/or purchasing tickets.



(L-R) Jim, John, Bill, Ed and Bruce

**\*\*\*\*\* April Civil War Events \*\*\*\*\***

**April 2, 1866** – President Andrew Johnson declares the “insurrection” at an end in all Confederate states except Texas.

**April 3, 1865** – Union troops occupy Richmond.

**April 9, 1865** – Robert E. Lee Surrenders at Appomattox (Virginia)

**April 12, 1861** – Confederate open fire on Fort Sumter. The fort surrenders the next day.

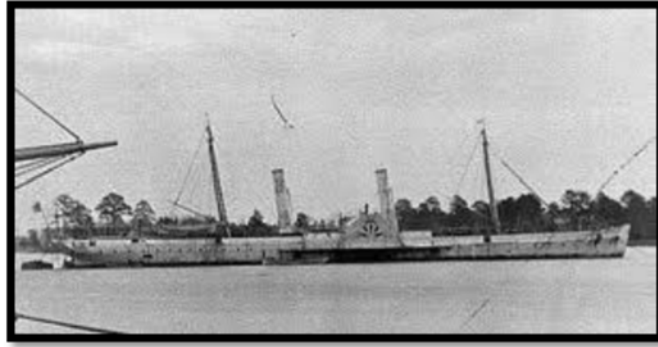
**April 14, 1865** – Abraham Lincoln shot by John Wilkes Booth; dies the next day.

**April 17, 1861** – Virginia convention votes for secession.

**April 18, 1861** – Union forces burn armory at Harper’s Ferry to prevent it from falling into Confederate hands.

**April 21, 1865** – Confederate Col. John S. Mosby disbands his Rangers.

\*\*\*\*\* **Member News & Activities** \*\*\*\*\*



**Blockade Runner the *Robert E. Lee***

If you have member news or news about Civil War events that you think would be of interest to CFCWRT membership, send me an email with the details. Thank you.

**1** – The CFCWRT would like to greet new members **Alfred Anderson, John Gill, Edward Holston, Mark Swanstrom and Roger & Marie Winzinger** to our group. We are excited that you have decided to join us and look forward to studying the Civil War with you. Welcome!

Linda Lashley

**2 – Members at Park Day** - The call went out, and we would like to thank our CFCWRT members who gave up their Saturday on April 2 to assist Ft. Fisher with their annual cleanup day: **Lance Bevins, John Bolger, Dale Lear and Linda Lashley**. The “fabulous four” worked hard to rake the area under the popular oak grove across the street and clear out the dead limbs. The roadside, Battle Acre, the erosion prevention rock area and the gazebos were cleared of trash – just in time for a wedding in the afternoon.

Linda Lashley

\*\*\*\*\* **March Program** \*\*\*\*\*

**The Lighter Side of Johnny Reb: The Role of Humor in the Civil War**

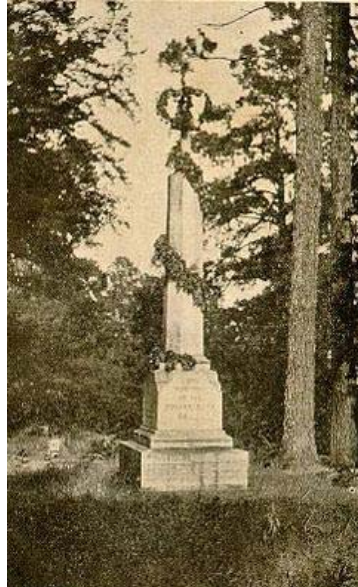


**Keith Hardison** provided examples of how Confederate soldiers used humor as: 1) A diversion from hardships associated with their service. 2) A physiological outlet from the horrors they experienced on the battlefield.

From Keith's presentation, there appeared to be no subject off-limits from the soldier's ridicule: **Leadership** – good and bad, **uniforms** – or lack of them, **food** – or lack of it, **camp life** and **comradeship**.

\*\*\*\*\* Trivia Questions for April \*\*\*\*\*

**1 – Where is the oldest North Carolina Confederate memorial located?** Dedicated on December 30, 1868, the Cumberland County Confederate Monument is located in Fayetteville's Cross Creek Cemetery.



“Nor shall your glory be forgot,  
While Fame her record keeps,  
Or honor points the hallowed spot  
Where valor proudly sleeps.”

“On Fames eternal camping ground  
Their silent Tents are spread.  
Rest on embalmed & sainted dead  
Dear as the blood ye gave.”

**2 – Where did General Lee observe the chickens of Maryland roosting as Hood's Texas Brigade marched through the area in September 1862?** General Lee remarked to General Hood that Maryland's chickens roosted very high in the trees when the Texas Brigade marched through the countryside.

**Update:** What was the significance of the oil lamp at the Dinner Meeting? Kelly Hinson provided her answer to this March Trivia Question:

It (the lamp) set the scene and gives a soft light, taking us back to War times years. The lamp represents the light of General Jackson's life, and then, as the cue that the play is over, when I blow it out, it represents the end of his life.

# *The Runner*



## **Cape Fear Civil War Round Table**

Our next meeting will be held on **Thursday, 10 March 2016** at St. Andrew's On-the-Sound Episcopal Church (101 Airlie Road). Social Hour begins at 7:00 p.m. (with light refreshments), meeting at 7:30.

Please join us at our March meeting as we continue our 2015-2016 Program Year. Visitors are always welcome – **bring a friend or two.** Each of our speakers strives to enlighten, entertain, and add to our knowledge of Civil War history. This serves our mission of encouraging education and research into that historic conflict.

**\*\*\*\*\* March 2016 Program \*\*\*\*\***

### **The Lighter Side of Johnny Reb: The Role of Humor in the Civil War**



**Keith Hardison** joins us to share a seldom discussed facet of Civil War history: Humor that makes fun of disastrous, terrifying or life-threatening circumstances.

Keith is a native of Nashville, Tenn., with family ties in North Carolina that date back almost 300 years. Hardison holds B.A. in history from David Lipscomb University and a M.A. in museum science from Texas Tech University.

For the last 28 years, he has served museums, historic sites and government historical agencies throughout the South. Hardison served as executive director of Beauvoir, The Jefferson Davis Home, from 1986 to 1999, where he funded and constructed the Jefferson Davis Presidential Library and Museum. In 1999 and 2000, he was director of education, interpretation and visitor services for Pamplin Historical Park in Virginia, where he assisted with the opening of the National Museum of the Civil War Soldier. From 2000 to 2006, he was an administrator with the Louisiana State Museum, supervising development and operation of its award-winning, \$23 million Baton Rouge branch. In 2006, he came to Cultural Resources, where he works to preserve, develop and operate of a statewide system of 24 historic sites.

Hardison is a former member of the Mississippi Civil War Battlefields Commission and is active in a number of professional and historical organizations including the American Association for State and Local History, the North Carolina Museums Council, and the North Carolina Historical Society. He is a popular lecturer on Civil War, general history, museum and heritage tourism-related topics.

### \*\*\*\*\* Trivia Questions for March \*\*\*\*\*

1 – When did the term “gallows” humor come into use?

2 – What was the significance of the oil lamp at the Dinner Meeting?

### \*\*\*\*\* Raffle Winners \*\*\*\*\*

#### Raffle Master: Ed Gibson

If you have books, prints, or other items that you would like to donate to the raffle, contact Ed Gibson ([egibson759@aol.com](mailto:egibson759@aol.com)) before our next meeting. *The raffle is one of the components which allow the CFCWRT to fund our activities and our speakers.* Please take part in our raffle by contributing items and/or purchasing tickets.



Raffle Master Ed Gibson



Kelly Hinson – A Winner

Thank you to all that participated in the auction and dinner.

As information: Bruce Patterson has signed up Kelly, as Rose O’Neal Greenhow, and the Blockade Runner Resort for the 2017 CFCWRT Annual Dinner. Mark your calendar, Thursday, February 9, 2017.

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**Blockade Runner the *Robert E. Lee***

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1 – **Al Hines**, long-time CFCWRT Web Master and RT member, has decided to cut back on his many activities. Al had moved to the North Carolina mountains some years ago, but had maintained his ties to our RT. Al had been instrumental in maintaining the high quality of our web site and newsletter, *The Runner*, for many years. His efforts, skills, and counsel will be missed and his past service will be appreciated for a long time.



Thank you, Mr. Hines, for a job well done. The CFCWRT wishes you and your family all the best that mountain living can provide.

Long-time member, **Richard Buggeln**, has assumed the duties of the CFCWRT Web Master. Richard, like Al, had been a Web Master for several web sites, notability: the Tidewater Camellia Club site..



The CFCWRT thanks Richard (and wife, Betty Gail) for stepping up to ensure that our web site will continue to support our mission of encouraging education and research into that historic conflict.

Check out [cfcwrt.org](http://cfcwrt.org) to see what the web site can offer Civil War students and researchers.



## 2 – *Civil War Artillery Thunders once again at Bentonville Battlefield* **March 19-20**

FOUR OAKS, N.C—Said to be the “King of Battle,” artillery played a key role in the 1865 Battle of Bentonville. See the destructive firepower of massed artillery at Bentonville 151<sup>st</sup> anniversary program, “The Ground Trembled Under Our Feet,” March 19 and 20. This year’s program will focus on artillery’s contributions to the battle.

Several artillery pieces from across the state will participate. Members of these crews will demonstrate the operating and firing procedures of cannons commonly used in the Civil War including 6-pounder field guns, 10-pounder Parrott rifles and 3-inch Ordnance Rifles. These guns will demonstrate how batteries would have worked together to deliver concentrated cannon firepower on the battlefield.

In addition to artillery, members from the 4<sup>th</sup> Regiment ANV will demonstrate infantry tactics and drill. Visitors can enjoy viewing a recreated Civil War encampment, and interact with the living historians. Demonstrations will take place throughout the day Saturday and Sunday. Visitors can also take a guided tour of the Harper House, which was used as a field hospital during the battle, and view civilian demonstrations near the Harper House kitchen.

The program will include presentations by Col. (Ret.) **Wade Sokolosky**, author of “To Prepare for Sherman’s Coming,” “The Battle of Wise’s Forks, March 1865” and **Thomas Robertson, Jr.**, editor of “Resisting Sherman, A Confederates Surgeon’s Journal and the Civil War in the Carolinas, 1865.” Sokolosky will present on the battle of Wise’s Forks Saturday at 11 a.m. and Sunday at 1 p.m. Robertson will speak at 1 p.m. Saturday, March 19. Book signings will follow both presentations.

### \*\*\*\*\* February Program \*\*\*\*\*

#### **An Evening with Mrs. Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson: Reflected Glory: Letters to Anna**



The February Dinner Meeting was held at The Blockade Runner Resort and was a decidedly successful event. **Kelly Hinson** was able to convey the essence of a love affair that existed between one of the most recognized soldiers of the Civil War and his wife. The evening was a fitting prelude to the Valentine season.



**Silent Auction Table**



**Dr. Fonvielle, Kelly, and Lance**

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I am still distracted; however, history did repeat itself. My daughter, Laura, delivered a beautiful baby girl on January 30<sup>th</sup> instead of February 14<sup>th</sup>. Caroline Ann Robison, 7# 6oz., arrived at 10:59 p.m. on Saturday nite. Mother and daughter are doing well. As you can see, I also am doing quite well.



**PawPaw & Caroline**

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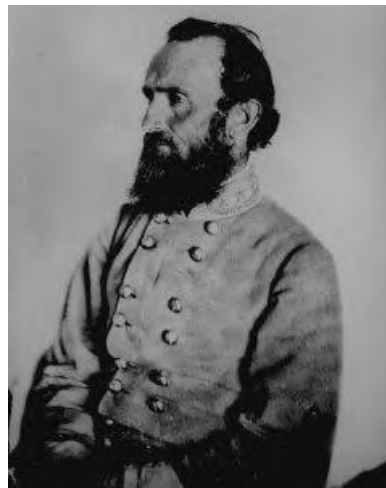
## Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Our next meeting will be held on **Thursday, 4 February 2016** at the Blockade Runner Resort – Nighthawk Room (275 Waynick Blvd, Wrightsville Beach) at 6:30 p.m. Dinner will be at 7:00 followed by “a not to be missed” presentation. \$35/attendee will include dinner and raffle tickets. ***Last chance*** to reserve your place at the dinner table will be **January 31<sup>st</sup>** – contact **Bruce Patterson 910-794-8905**.

Please join us at our February meeting as we continue our 2015-2016 Program Year. Visitors are always welcome – ***bring a friend or two***. Each of our speakers strives to enlighten, entertain, and add to our knowledge of Civil War history. This serves our mission of encouraging education and research into that historic conflict.

**\*\*\*\*\* February 2016 Program \*\*\*\*\***

**An Evening with  
Mrs. Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson:  
Reflected Glory: Letters to Anna**



While some people will find history as nothing more than the boring repetition of dull, cold and little cared-about facts, those members and guests who will be in attendance at our February dinner meeting will be treated to a special performance. **Kelly Hinson** will “share” the personal letters that Stonewall Jackson had written to his wife during the war.



Be forewarned, a tear will appear in many an eye (or at least a lump in several throats). For a while on this Thursday evening, history will become entertainment of the most special nature.

The following is Kelly's description of her one-woman play:

I researched, wrote and perform in first person & full mourning, the story of the beloved General's wife, Anna. Taken entirely from her own factual accounts, as written in her book, *The Memoirs of Stonewall Jackson: by His Wife Mary Anna Jackson*, I recount his views on secession, slavery and the Confederacy. I begin by telling of how they met and married, and the tragedies that shaped both their lives. I tell of their early years together in beautiful Lexington Virginia, where he finally acquired what he most desired in life: a home and family of his own. Then I read selected letters written by Gen. Jackson to his "esposita" during the War, adding Anna's own thoughts to the events he describes. I end with his tragic death, after his wounding by friendly fire, on May 10th, 1863. The play is an hour long and is performed by oil lamp light, enhancing the audience's feeling of stepping back in time to 1864. The War is still raging, the blockade still in effect, and times are hard for the Southern civilians, and even harder for the soldiers. Anna's story is a love story, but also a tragedy in that she is widowed and remains in mourning for the rest of her life. She and General Jackson both believed in "Divine Providence" and that God brought them together, that God brought him to VMI before the War, and that God protected him on the battlefield. The theme of God and his religious views is central to the play.



Image: Until We Meet Again Mort Kunstler, Artist

**Kelly Atkins Hinson** is a 10<sup>th</sup> generation North Carolinian, born in Pinehurst, NC, now residing on her Confederate ancestor's farm in Jackson Springs, NC. She is the proud mother of two little rebels, Tripp, 8 and Shiloh, 6 yrs old. They are often dressed in their 1860's garb and attending living history events alongside their mother. Kelly is a 1994 graduate of nursing school at Sandhills College, but currently is a stay-at-home mom.

**Editor**

\*\*\*\*\* Raffle Winners \*\*\*\*\*

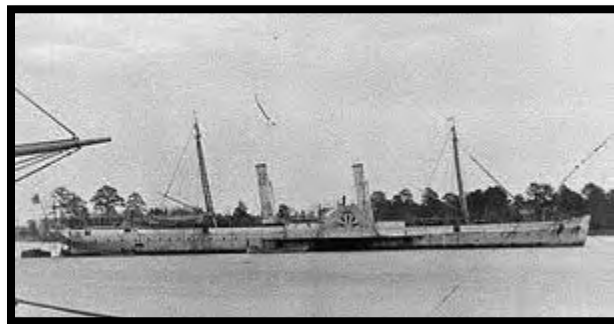
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Book Raffle Winners

\*\*\*\*\* Member News & Activities \*\*\*\*\*



Blockade Runner the *Robert E. Lee*

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1 – “**Help Wanted**” - We thought we would send out a notice to the area Civil War Roundtables letting you know that we are [seeking volunteers at Fort Fisher](#). We are

seeking people interested in history to assist us with giving tours of the fort and to help with group tours, as well as those who have experience in retail to help in the museum store. In the spring, we will also be seeking volunteers to work in the garden. Contact Becky Sawyer ([becky.sawyer@ncdcr.gov](mailto:becky.sawyer@ncdcr.gov)) or John Moseley ([john.moseley@ncdcr.gov](mailto:john.moseley@ncdcr.gov)).

\*\*\*\*\* January 2016 \*\*\*\*\*

**C\$A**  
**Southern Currency**  
**During the**  
**War Between the States**



**David Meisky** gave a most interesting and informative presentation about the currency issued by the Confederate government, state governments, local banks and Union counterfeiters during the 1861-1865 war. What was a subject little covered in most Civil War histories, David made currency a relevant issue that any Civil War student needed to learn about to understand another facet of the war.

\*\*\*\*\* **Thoughts** \*\*\*\*\*

I am a little distracted. This issue of *The Runner* is the shortest that I have ever delivered to our membership..... While several may think this a good thing, my thoughts are with my daughter and her family as she awaits the birth of a daughter on February 14<sup>th</sup>. If history does indeed repeat itself, baby girl will be here before Valentine's Day.



**Laura & Luke**

# The Runner



## Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

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**\*\*\*\*\* January 2016 Program \*\*\*\*\***

### **Everything You wanted to Know about Confederacy Currency: but were Afraid to Ask\***

**David Meisky** will present a program at our January meeting that will share his knowledge of Confederate currency and its history. Per David:

There is an old saying, “save your Confederate money boys...” and many people are aware of Confederate paper money but what is the real story behind these pieces of paper? How much was printed and by who? What was backing this currency? What do the bills look like? There are other stories as well. Did the Confederate States mint their own coins? Were Confederate coins minted in the north? Were Confederate bills printed in the north? Were US coins minted by the Confederacy? Who is Samuel Upham and Winthrop Hilton and how are they connected to Confederate currency? These and a number of

other questions will be answered as I show and explain not only Confederate currency but also state, local, and private issue bills.



A history graduate of George Mason University, **David Meisky** retired from the Fairfax County Public Library. He has re-enacted for a number of years and started appearing as “Extra Billy” Smith in the spring of 2008, after a good deal of study. He has also performed a first person portrayal of Captain David Meade, a Confederate army paymaster, which allowed him to display and discuss his collection of period money. As an infantry private, he has served for a number of years with the Fairfax Rifles, Company D of the 17th Virginia Infantry Regiment.

**Editor**

*\*Owners of period bills are encouraged to bring them to the January meeting where David will provide information about your currency.\**

**\*\*\*\*\* Trivia Questions for January \*\*\*\*\***

- 1** – When did the Confederate government first issue currency?
- 2** - Who were Samuel Upham and Winthrop Hilton and what was their connection to Confederate currency?
- 3** – Where was the initial construction of the C.S.S. *Neuse* and by whom?

**\*\*\*\*\* Raffle Winners \*\*\*\*\***

**Raffle Master: Ed Gibson**

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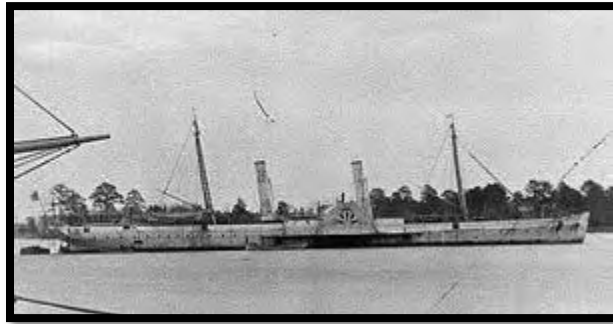
Thank you to everyone who purchased tickets to the book raffle.



*Pickett's Charge: The Last Attack at Gettysburg*  
*Lee's Young Artillerist: William R.J. Pegram*  
*Southern Storm: Sherman's March to the Sea*  
*Grant: A Biography*  
*A Chain of Thunder: A Novel of the Siege of Vicksburg*  
*Images of the Civil War*  
*Last Flag Down*

Marie Winzinger  
Jim Gannon  
Walt Bullard  
Jim Gannon  
Joe George  
John Moore  
Linda Lashley

\*\*\*\*\* **Member News & Activities** \*\*\*\*\*



**Blockade Runner the *Robert E. Lee***

If you have member news or news about Civil War events that you think would be of interest to CFCWRT membership, send me an email with the details. Thank you.

1 – Wishing each of you and your family very **Merry Christmas** and a **Happy New Year!**

2 – *The February Dinner will change date and venue.* The meeting will be on **February 4, 2016** at the **Blockade Runner** in Wrightsville Beach. **Kelly Hinson** will return in: **An Evening with Mrs. Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson.**



Mark your calendar and save this date. The cost is \$35/person (includes meal and a raffle ticket for some excellent Civil War related items). Space is limited to 80 attendees, so get your reservation to Bruce Patterson via mail (**P.O. Box 15750, Wilmington, NC 28408**), phone (**910-794-8905**) or at the next RT meeting. An additional opportunity exists for this meeting: If you want to celebrate an early Valentine's Day, Bruce has negotiated a special rate with the Blockade Runner for that nite – sound-side rooms \$100 or ocean-front rooms \$110.

If you missed Kelly's last visit with our RT, this is your chance to experience how well interpretive history can be performed.



**Fort Fisher**

3 – “**Help Wanted**” - We thought we would send out a notice to the area Civil War Roundtables letting you know that we are **seeking volunteers at Fort Fisher**. We are seeking people interested in history to assist us with giving tours of the fort and to help with group tours, as well as those who have experience in retail to help in the museum store. In the spring, we will also be seeking volunteers to work in the garden. Contact Becky Sawyer ([becky.sawyer@ncdcr.gov](mailto:becky.sawyer@ncdcr.gov)) or John Moseley ([john.moseley@ncdcr.gov](mailto:john.moseley@ncdcr.gov)).

**\*\*\*\*\* December Program \*\*\*\*\***

**I Give Them ‘til Christmas:  
The Hard Luck Career of the CSS *Neuse***

**Andrew Duppstadt** told the story of the C.S.S. *Neuse* from its beginning on October 17, 1862 until it was scuttled by its crew after Kinston fell to the Union army in March 1865. Between those dates, the efforts of the Confederate navy were frustrated by shortages of resources of every type. Andrew then told the story of the *Neuse* from its sinking in 1865 until its initial salvage efforts in 1956 and its display as a NC Historic Site in 1964. He continued the *Neuse* story as its outdoor displays were hit by multiple hurricanes during the 1990s. Hard Luck continued to

follow the *Neuse* until it was moved to its current location in 2012.



Today the C.S.S. *Neuse* rests comfortably in the fully-enclosed Civil War Interpretive Center at 100 North Queen Street in Kinston, NC. At last, the C.S.S. *Neuse* is no longer plagued by hard luck.

The Center is open to the public and is well worth the two hour drive up I-40.

### \*\*\*\*\* Trivia Questions for January \*\*\*\*\*

**1 – When did the Confederate government first issue currency?** Per Dr. Melton McLaurin during his November 12, 2015 presentation, the Confederate government in Montgomery, Alabama issued \$1,000,000 in paper currency in March 1861. By August 1861, the government printers cranked out \$100,000,000. By the war's end, the Confederacy has issued \$1,700,000,000 in paper notes.

Again per Dr. McLaurin, as the Confederates suffered increasing military defeats, the government had no way to support the value of its currency. The typical Confederate citizen lost faith in its notes as inflation destroyed its buying power.

**2 - Who were Samuel Upham and Winthrop Hilton and what was their connection to Confederate currency?** David will tell you much more about these resourceful Yankee businessmen, but for the purpose of this question, they were counterfeiters of Confederate currency.



**3 – Where was the initial construction of the C.S.S. *Neuse* and by whom?** On October 17, 1862, a contract was signed between the Confederate Navy Department and the shipbuilding firm of **Howard & Ellis** to construct an ironclad gunboat. The vessel *Neuse*, as it would later be identified, was one of 26 ironclads constructed and commissioned by the Confederate Government. The hull of the ship was to be turned over to the Navy Department by March 1, 1863, "complete in all respects ready to receive the engine and machinery . . . and fasten iron plating on said vessel."

Work on the *Neuse* was begun shortly after the contract was signed. The building of the ship commenced at **White Hall**, North Carolina (now Seven Springs), on the banks of the Neuse River.





Source: <http://www.nchistoricsites.org/neuse/history.htm> (accessed December 20, 2015).

**\*\*\*\*\* Thoughts \*\*\*\*\***

**Should they stay or should they go?**

New Orleans City Council officials have decided that Confederate memorials in their fair city will be removed. Someone has volunteered \$144,000 to support the city's decision to remove General Lee and other Confederate persons from city locations.

Do you think this was the most important issue facing New Orleans officials?

# The Runner



## Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Our next meeting will be held on **Thursday, 10 December 2015** at St. Andrew's On-the-Sound Episcopal Church (101 Airlie Road). Social Hour begins at 7:00 p.m. (with light refreshments), meeting at 7:30.

Please join us at our December meeting as we continue our 2015-2016 Program Year. Visitors are always welcome – ***bring a friend or two***. Each of our speakers strives to enlighten, entertain, and add to our knowledge of Civil War history. This serves our mission of encouraging education and research into that historic conflict.

**\*\*\*\*\* December 2015 Program \*\*\*\*\***

### **I Give Them 'til Christmas: The Hard Luck Career of the CSS *Neuse***

**Andrew Duppstadt** will share the many frustrations that attended the building, outfitting, and brief career of the Confederate ironclad stationed at Kinston. The building of the *Neuse* will reveal a microcosm of the difficulties experienced throughout the Confederate Navy. In the end, the life of the CSS *Neuse* will be viewed as one long, continual string of bad luck.



Andrew Duppstadt is the Program Development & Training Officer for the North Carolina Division of State Historic Sites. He has a BA in history and an MA in public

history from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. Previously, he has worked at the CSS Neuse State Historic Site, Fort Fisher State Historic Site, Tryon Palace Historic Sites and Gardens, and the Carteret County Historical Society.

Andrew also serves as an Adjunct Instructor of History at UNC-Pembroke, Coastal Carolina Community College, and Craven Community College. He is a founding member and President of a living history group called the Carolina Living History Guild. He is also a member of the Company of Military Historians, the North Carolina Military Historical Society (where is a Board member and Treasurer), and the Southern Historical Association. Andrew resides in Kinston, NC.

**Editor**

**\*\*\*\*\* Trivia Questions for November \*\*\*\*\***

- 1 – Who was responsible for the Confederate efforts to produce ironclad warships?**
- 2 – What major material limited the South’s ability to produce ironclad warships?**
- 3 – What % of the nation’s industrial base was in the southern states in 1860?**
- 4 – Who was Thomas Prentice Kettell?**

**\*\*\*\*\* Raffle Winners \*\*\*\*\***

**Raffle Master: Ed Gibson**

If you have books, prints, or other items that you would like to donate to the raffle, contact Ed Gibson ([egibson759@aol.com](mailto:egibson759@aol.com)) before our next meeting. *The raffle is one of the components which allow the CFCWRT to fund our activities and our speakers.* Please take part in our raffle by contributing items and/or purchasing tickets.

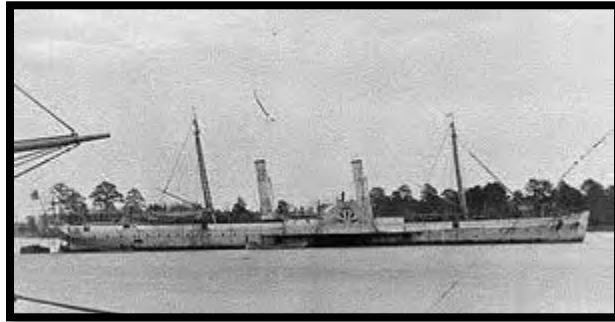


Thank you to everyone who purchased tickets to the book raffle and a special thank you to Mike Budziszewski for sharing from the liquidation of some of his extensive Civil War collection.

*Shattering of the Union*  
*Our Lincoln*  
*Lamson of the Gettysburg*  
*Ulysses S. Grant*  
*Atlas of the Civil War*  
*Irish Brigade*

*Holston*  
*Hodges*  
*Buggein*  
*Cooke*  
*Holston*  
-

\*\*\*\*\* **Member News & Activities** \*\*\*\*\*



**Blockade Runner the Robert E. Lee**

If you have member news or news about Civil War events that you think would be of interest to CFCWRT membership, send me an email with the details. Thank you.

1 – Wishing each of you and your family a **Happy Thanksgiving** and a very **Merry Christmas!**

2 – *The February Dinner will change date and venue.* The meeting will be on **February 4, 2016** at the **Blockade Runner** in Wrightsville Beach. **Kelly Hinson** will return in: **An Evening with Mrs. Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson.**



Mark your calendar and save this date. The cost is \$35/person (includes meal and a raffle ticket for some excellent Civil War related items). Space is limited to 80 attendees, so get your reservation to Bruce Patterson via mail (**P.O. Box 15750, Wilmington, NC 28408**), phone (**910-794-8905**) or at the next RT meeting. An additional opportunity exists for this meeting: If you want to celebrate an early Valentine’s Day, Bruce has negotiated a special rate with the Blockade Runner for that nite – sound-side rooms \$100 or ocean-front rooms \$110.

If you missed Kelly’s last visit with our RT, this is your chance to experience how well interpretive history can be performed.

3 – **Cape Fear Revolutionary War Round Table** – Annual Dinner Meeting, **December 2, 2015**, 6:00PM: Dinner at 6:30, St. Johns Masonic Lodge, 4712 Oriole Drive. Speaker: Lieutenant General John “Gentleman Johnny” Burgoyne (Dr. Bruce M. Venter) Contact **Connie Hendrix at 910-278-6705** for additional information. \$25/Members; \$30 Guests.

4 – **Fort Fisher State Historic Site** events – Saturday, **December 5<sup>th</sup>** – “**We Kept Our Courage Up.**” The site commemorates the first attack with artillery program. Dr. Chris Fonvielle speaks at 12:30 in the auditorium. 10am to 4pm. Tuesday, **December 8<sup>th</sup>** – **Holiday Open House** from 10am to 4pm.



**The 32# cannon will “roar” at 10am, 12noon, 2pm, and 4pm on December 5th**

5 – “**Help Wanted**” - We thought we would send out a notice to the area Civil War Roundtables letting you know that we are **seeking volunteers at Fort Fisher**. We are seeking people interested in history to assist us with giving tours of the fort and to help with group tours, as well as those who have experience in retail to help in the museum store. In the spring, we will also be seeking volunteers to work in the garden. Contact Becky Sawyer ([becky.sawyer@ncdcr.gov](mailto:becky.sawyer@ncdcr.gov)) or John Moseley ([john.moseley@ncdcr.gov](mailto:john.moseley@ncdcr.gov)).

**\*\*\*\*\* November Program \*\*\*\*\***

### **The Confederate Economy**

**Dr. Melton McLaurin** shared an economics lesson about the United States in 1860 and how the Civil War exposed the inherent weaknesses in the South’s agricultural dependent system. Cotton may have been king during the 1850’s, but cotton alone was not the solution to the deficiencies in the South’s efforts to forge a separate nation.

Among the subjects discussed were: credit arrangements for planters, industrial output, food production (North and South), the place of taxes in the creation on infrastructure, specie (gold and silver), land and slavery, Confederate bonds, inflation, raw materials, taxes in kind, and Reconstruction.

“Gone with the Wind” took on a different meaning after Dr. McLaurin’s presentation. The South was poor before the war with much of its wealth concentrated in the hands of a few individuals (and their creditors). With the loss of 9% of its white population during the war, it was poorer still afterwards.



\*\*\*\*\* Trivia Questions for December \*\*\*\*\*

**1 – Who was responsible for the Confederate efforts to produce ironclad warships?**

**Stephen R. Mallory.** In April 1861, the United States became engaged in a civil war which would last for four years. As the Southern states entered the conflict, they were faced with obvious disadvantages in lack of manpower, supplies, and facilities to coordinate an extensive war effort. To offset the Union's advantages in manpower and industry, resourcefulness became a key word in the Confederacy.

When Stephen R. Mallory was appointed Secretary of the Confederate Navy in February 1861, he was convinced that his navy could equalize the superior numbers of the Union navy through the construction and employment of ironclad warships. Mallory had only two months to organize his department before war broke out, and he was faced with the task of creating a navy from virtually nothing. Moreover, the secretary had to constantly substantiate the importance of his new department. Jefferson Davis, a former army officer and President of the Confederate States, expressed little interest in the Navy Department. Mallory, nevertheless, instigated a formidable shipbuilding program, much of it centering around the construction of ironclads.

On assuming his duties, the secretary stressed the importance of these new vessels for the Confederacy. Two months after the war began, Mallory predicted that

Naval engagements between wooden frigates, as they are now built and armed, will prove to be forlorn hopes of the sea, simply contests in which the question, not victory, but of who shall go to the bottom first, is to be decided.

Source: <http://www.nchistoricsites.org/neuse/background.htm> (accessed November 20, 2015).

**2 – What major material limited the South’s ability to produce ironclad warships? Iron.**

As a raw material, iron was not plentiful in the South after the rich ore fields in Tennessee and Kentucky fell into Union control during the early stages of the war. Iron was either not available for the ships or was delayed in transport to the various shipyards. This was because railroad lines were tied up in transporting troops and supplies for the armies. Subsequently, delays in the construction of ironclads became a way of life for individual contractors, a fact painfully demonstrated during construction efforts in North Carolina.

Source: <http://www.nchistoricsites.org/neuse/background.htm> (accessed November 20, 2015).

**3 – What % of the nation’s industrial base was in the southern states in 1860? Per Dr.**

McLaurin’s presentation, the southern states accounted for just 8% of the industrial capacity of the United States. The southern economy was dominated by the agricultural products that were shipped to northern and European manufacturers.

**4 – Who was Thomas Prentice Kettell? A political economist, magazine editor and author**

who in 1856 published *Southern Wealth and Northern Profits, as exhibited in Statistical Facts and Official Figures; showing the Necessity of Union to the Future Prosperity and Welfare of the Republic*. Kettell tried to show the dependence of the sections upon one another – the Southern secessionists and the Northern anti-slavery people took exception with his arguments.

**\*\*\*\*\* Thoughts \*\*\*\*\***

**Should they stay or should they go?**

Should Civil War memorials be removed to only displays in museums or cemeteries? Would that case be limited to only locations in the former Confederate states or would it also apply to all states?

# The Runner



## Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Our next meeting will be held on **Thursday, 12 November 2015** at St. Andrew's On-the-Sound Episcopal Church (101 Airlie Road). Social Hour begins at 7:00 p.m. (with light refreshments), meeting at 7:30.

Please join us at our November meeting as we continue our 2015-2016 Program Year. Visitors are always welcome – ***bring a friend or two***. Each of our speakers strives to enlighten, entertain, and add to our knowledge of Civil War history. This serves our mission of encouraging education and research into that historic conflict.

\*\*\*\*\* November 2015 Program \*\*\*\*\*

### The Confederate Economy

**Dr. Melton McLaurin** will expand on the concepts he began last November when he addressed “Could the South Have Won?” He will focus on the economy that both enabled the South to survive for four years and led the South to eventually succumb to the superior resources of the North. King Cotton, slavery, blockade running, and inflation will figure into the conduct of the four year conflict.

”It’s the economy, stupid!” was as important in 1861-1865 as it is today. Bill Clinton and Abe Lincoln had a better grasp of this fact than did George H. W. Bush and Jeff Davis.

Fayetteville area native Melton Alonza McLaurin received his Ph.D. in American history from the University of South Carolina in 1967 and taught at the University of South Alabama prior to joining the UNCW department of history as chairperson in 1977. From 1996 until 2003 he served as Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, retiring in 2004. He authored or co-authored nine books (*Celia, A Slave; The Marines of Montford Point: America's First Black Marines*) and numerous articles on various aspects of the history of the American South and race relations.



Melton McLaurin



Join the RT at the November meeting to learn about aspects of the Civil War that may have had too little discussion.

**Editor**

**\*\*\*\*\* Trivia Questions for November \*\*\*\*\***

A special thanks to **Joe George** for supplying the trivia questions for this issue of *The Runner*.

**1** – Wilmer McLean was too old to fight in the Civil War. But that did not stop the 47-year-old Virginia farmer and merchant from being involved in two of the most important events of the war. What were they?

**2** - Although not unique to the Civil War, what were “Quaker Guns?”

**3** – This state was a significant supplier to the Confederacy, providing much needed beef, pork, fish, fruit and particularly salt (which kept meat from spoiling). In addition, while other Confederate states recruited more and/or lost more soldiers in total, this Southern state provided the largest percentage (in terms of ratio of soldiers to total residents) of any of the other southern states. Name that state.

**4** – Most of us are familiar with the term 4-F used in classifications given to new military registrants who are not acceptable for service in the Armed Forces due to medical, dental, or other reasons. Most people do not know the term 4-F originated in the Civil War. What did it mean at that time?

**5** – This facility had two observation towers constructed for onlookers. Citizens could pay 15 cents to take a look. Concession stands next to the towers sold peanuts, cakes, and lemonade. What was this facility?

**\*\*\*\*\* Raffle Winners \*\*\*\*\***

**Raffle Master: Ed Gibson**

If you have books, prints, or other items that you would like to donate to the raffle, contact Ed Gibson ([egibson759@aol.com](mailto:egibson759@aol.com)) before our next meeting. *The raffle is one of the components which allow the CFCWRT to fund our activities and our speakers.* Please take part in our raffle by contributing items and/or purchasing tickets.

*Marching Toward Freedom* - Joe George

*Why the South Lost the Civil War* - Linda Lashley

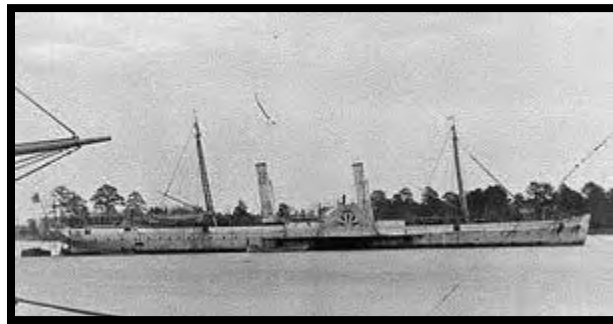
*Maps of the Civil War* - Linda Lashley

*Grants Memoirs* - John Bolger

*Seasons of War* - John Bolger



\*\*\*\*\* **Member News & Activities** \*\*\*\*\*



**Blockade Runner the *Robert E. Lee***

If you have member news or news about Civil War events that you think would be of interest to CFCWRT membership, send me an email with the details. Thank you.

1 – *The February Dinner will change date and venue.* The meeting will be on **February 4, 2016** at the **Blockade Runner** in Wrightsville Beach. **Kelly Hinson** will return in: An Evening with Mrs. Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson.

Mark your calendar and save this date. Additional details about the dinner meeting will be forthcoming in a future issue of *The Runner*.

2 – **Latimer House**, 126 South Third Street (910-762-0492) – Saturday, October 31, Tours at 7:00, 7:30 & 8:00 PM – **In Memoriam** – The Victorian Mourning Program Learn how Victorian-era Americans grieved for their loved ones with exhibits about clothing, customs, food, and more featuring costumed interpreters. Tours of Latimer House may encounter Victorian spirits. Cost \$5 for CFCWRT members.

\*\*\*\*\* October Program \*\*\*\*\*

**A Civil War Challenge**



A great big game of Civil War Jeopardy took place at the October Meeting. **Brian Kraus**, A.K.A. Alex Trebek, took a wide variety of questions from those in attendance.

Among the subjects: **Actions of the 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina at Gettysburg** (decimated in actions against the Iron Brigade and on the third day); **Longest continuous engagement during the war** (During the Battle of Spotsylvania in the Bloody Angle, the opposing forces of Lee and Grant endured approximately 24 hours of fierce hand-to-hand combat); **First land battle of the war** (The Battle of Philippi on June 3, 1861, in what became West Virginia, is credited as the first battle. George B. McClellan claimed the Union victory for his rising star); **Animosities between George McClellan and A.P. Hill** (George and Powell vied for the affections of the same woman and George won Marcy's heart and hand); **Comparison of casualties between USA and CSA officers** (the Southerners probably claimed this Pyrrhic victory by losing a lot of their brother officers – leading from the front); **The relationship between Robert E. Lee and George E. Pickett** ( Their relationship was very cool following Pickett's poor showing at Five Forks during April 1865. After the war, John S. Mosby accompanied Pickett to a visit with Lee in Richmond. After Mosby and Pickett left Lee, Pickett remarked that Lee had had his division massacred at Gettysburg on July 3, 1863 – Mosby, perhaps trying to lift Pickett's spirits, remarked that Lee had made Pickett "immortal"); **Lee's preference: Jackson or Longstreet** (Lee never expressed his personal feelings; however, Lee most often located his HQ near Longstreet's 1<sup>st</sup> Corps camps.



Brian's format opened the floor for comments and thoughts. From the extended length of the meeting, it was apparent that those present had done more than doze through previous Round Table discussions. Lively discussions kept things moving!

Thanks to Brian for leading a spirited meeting and thanks for those present for sharing their knowledge of Civil War history.

Note: Thanks to Lance Blevins for his meeting notes and to Linda Lashley for her meeting photographs.

### \*\*\*\*\* Trivia Questions for November \*\*\*\*\*

**1 – Wilmer McLean was too old to fight in the Civil War. But that did not stop the 47-year-old Virginia farmer and merchant from being involved in two of the most important events of the war. What were they?** The first major battle of the Civil War, the First Battle of Bull Run (First Manassas) took place on McLean's farm, the Yorkshire Plantation. Union artillery fired on his house that was being used as headquarters by Confederate General P.G.T. Beauregard. In the months following the battle, McLean was nearly bankrupt so he packed up his family and moved to what he hoped would be a more peaceful corner of his home state. But the Civil War was not through with Wilmer McLean. Four years later, Grant's Union forces commandeered McLean's house in Appomattox where Lee would surrender to Grant. After the surrender ceremony, Union soldiers ransacked the house leaving little but the structure itself behind. Financially ruined once again, Wilmer was forced to sell the home and find work, as of all things, a federal tax collector. Embittered, he would later claim that the war began in my front yard and ended in my front parlor.

**2 - Although not unique to the Civil War, what were "Quaker Guns?"** "Quaker Guns" were used by both the North and the South. However, due to its shortage of artillery, they were often used by the Confederacy. They were typically large logs, shaped to resemble cannon, painted black and positioned behind fortifications to delay assaults by overwhelmingly superior Union troops. Occasionally, a real gun carriage was placed beneath the log. These were used during the war for deception that a position was strongly held and sometimes, the ruse worked. The name comes from the Religious Society of Friends, or Quakers, who have traditionally held a religious opposition to war and violence.



**3 – This state was a significant supplier to the Confederacy, providing much needed beef, pork, fish, fruit and particularly salt (which kept meat from spoiling). In addition, while other Confederate states recruited more and/or lost more soldiers in total, this Southern**

state provided the largest percentage (in terms of ratio of soldiers to total residents) of any of the other southern states. Name that state. Florida. It was the third state to secede. It was the smallest of the eleven Confederate states with 140,000 residents of whom 60,000 of them were slaves. The 15,000 Floridians who fought in the war was the largest percentage (ratio of soldiers to non-slave residents) of all southern states. Of those 15,000 soldiers, almost 5,000, or one-third, died or were killed as a result of the war – a very disproportionate loss compared to Florida’s sister states. Many more who survived were disabled or had their lives shortened due to health issues directly related to their military service. While very little fighting actually took place on Florida soil, many Confederate troops were deployed to the major theatres of operations in Virginia and in the West. Little press is dedicated to the few battles that occurred in Florida – (Fort Pickens, The Tampa Bay Incident, Battle of Olustee, and the Battle of Natural Bridge. By most measures, none of these battles were extremely pivotal and had little effect on the war’s outcome. However, Floridians participated in many major battles with General Robert E. Lee’s troops in Northern Virginia. There were nearly 500 Florida soldiers who surrendered with General Lee when he surrendered the Army of Northern Virginia at Appomattox Court House.



OK, I got caught up in Joe’s Trivia questions and had to add this to his Florida information: Anyone know who this gentleman was? He became a Confederate brigadier general late in the war. Originally from Greenville, NC, he moved to Florida in 1844.

### **Editor**

**4 – Most of us are familiar with the term 4-F used in classifications given to new military registrants who are not acceptable for service in the Armed Forces due to medical, dental, or other reasons. Most people do not know the term 4-F originated in the Civil War. What did it mean at that time?** It was used to disqualify army recruits who did not have four front teeth. Without four front teeth, soldiers would be unable to tear open gunpowder packages quickly; hence, making them ineffective riflemen, placing himself and his fellow soldiers at greater risk. Molars and premolars in the back of the mouth were not sufficient for the task of opening gunpowder packages. Only the incisors and canine teeth in the front could be used. So 4-F means “lacks Four Front teeth.”

**5 – This facility had two observation towers constructed for onlookers. Citizens could pay 15 cents to take a look. Concession stands next to the towers sold peanuts, cakes, and lemonade. What was this facility?** The Union prison camp at Elmira, NY. The towers

were erected around July 1864 by Elmira citizens. It was said that while the towers might have brought profit to some prison officials, they seem to have inspired humanitarian efforts from Elmira citizens. However, such efforts were often hampered by Federal authorities.

**\*\*\*\*\* Thoughts \*\*\*\*\***

**Should they stay or should they go?**

# The Runner



## Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Our next meeting will be held on **Thursday, 8 October 2015** at St. Andrew's On-the-Sound Episcopal Church (101 Airlie Road). Social Hour begins at 7:00 p.m. (with light refreshments), meeting at 7:30.

Please join us at our October meeting as we continue our 2015-2016 Program Year. Visitors are always welcome – ***bring a friend or two.*** Each of our speakers strives to enlighten, entertain, and add to our knowledge of Civil War history. This serves our mission of encouraging education and research into that historic conflict.

\*\*\*\*\* **October 2015 Program** \*\*\*\*\*

### A Civil War Challenge



The October Program will be a little different: **Brian Kraus** will conduct a Civil War challenge event. He will attempt to answer any questions posed by members of the audience about major events or major personalities of the American Civil War. How this challenge will work: Write your question on a slip of paper and drop into the Question Box when you arrive at our meeting. Brian will provide a short answer on each question posed to test his prodigious knowledge.

**Brian Kraus** is a Pittsburg, Pennsylvania native who attended East Carolina University. He is an artist, historian, teacher, re-enactor and Civil War Tour Guide who has long been fascinated by the history of our Civil War.

Join us on October 8<sup>th</sup> and participate in a reverse JEOPARDY – You get to challenge an “Alex Trebek” to answer a question.

**Editor**

**\*\*\*\*\* Trivia Questions for October \*\*\*\*\***

- 1 – When and why was the Ladies’ Memorial Association of Petersburg formed?**
- 2 – When was the Blandford Church renovated?**
- 3 – Three Confederate generals final resting place is in the Blandford cemetery. Can you recall their names?**

**\*\*\*\*\* Raffle Winners \*\*\*\*\***

**Raffle Master: Ed Gibson**

If you have books, prints, or other items that you would like to donate to the CFCWRT Raffle, Contact Ed Gibson ([egibson759@aol.com](mailto:egibson759@aol.com)) before our next meeting. *The raffle is one of the components which allow the CFRCWRT to fund our activities and our speakers.* Please take part in our raffle by contributing items and/or purchasing tickets.



***THE LAST FULL MEASURE – Linda Lashley***



*BRUCE CATTON'S CIVIL WAR* – Tom Hewitt

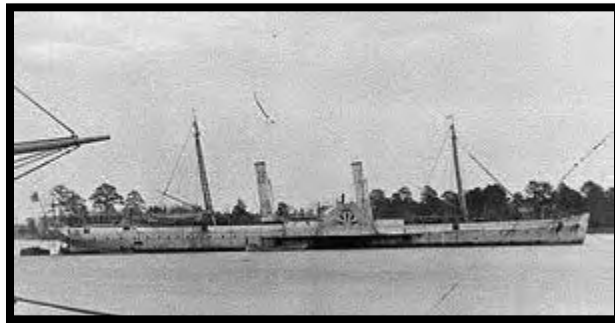
*AGE OF LINCOLN* – Joe Hack

*BATTLE CRY OF FREEDOM* – C Callen

*THE CIVIL WAR* – Jim Vaugh

*WHY THE SOUTH LOST THE CIVIL WAR* – John Parks

\*\*\*\*\* **Member News & Activities** \*\*\*\*\*



**Blockade Runner the *Robert E. Lee***

If you have member news or news about Civil War events that you think would be of interest to CFCWRT membership, send me an email with the details. Thank you.

1 – October 10-11 NC Living history and special programs, “Reunion & Remembrance” at Bennett Place State Historic Site in Durham. Free. [ncdcr.gov/events#!/](http://www.ncdcr.gov/events#!/)

2 – October 20 NC Lecture, “The Wilmington Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1862,” at the NC Maritime Museum in Southport. 7 pm. Free. <http://www.ncdcr.gov/events#!/>

\*\*\*\*\* **September Program** \*\*\*\*\*

**Blandford Church and Cemetery**



**Martha Atkinson** shared the history and purpose of Blandford Church and cemetery.

To experience the memorial and to see the beauty of the Tiffany windows, plan a visit with Martha and her staff at the Blandford Cemetery on 319 South Crater Road in Petersburg, Virginia.

**\*\*\*\*\* Trivia Questions for October \*\*\*\*\***

**1 – When and why was the Ladies’ Memorial Association of Petersburg formed?** On the 6<sup>th</sup> of May 1866, the Ladies’ Memorial Association was formed “to devise means to perpetuate their gratitude and admiration for those who died defending homes and loved ones.” One of the principal, active members of the Ladies Memorial Association was Miss Nora Fontaine Maury Davidson who had established a school for young women in Petersburg. On June 9, 1865, she took her students with her to Blandford Cemetery and decorated the graves of both Union and Confederate dead with flowers and flags.

Source: <http://www.memorialdayorigin.info/lma.html> (accessed September 30, 2015).

**2 – When was the Blandford Church renovated?** In 1901, the Ladies Memorial Association was authorized by the City of Petersburg which owned it to restore and transform the abandoned Episcopal Church in Blandford Cemetery into a memorial to honor the 30,000 Confederate soldiers buried in the cemetery. After raising considerable funds, the ladies had the old church, built in 1735, renovated and decorated with stained glass windows designed and manufactured by William Comfort Tiffany. Mr. Tiffany himself supervised the installation of the windows in the church and donated one window from his own funds. Each window commemorates the Confederate soldiers and sailors who died defending their homes and country. There is one window for each state of the Confederacy plus a window for each of the border states which were sympathetic to the states in secession but for various reasons stayed in the Union. The window donated by Mr. Tiffany completes the memorial. Blandford Church is now owned by the City of Petersburg; and it is open to the public who come from far and wide to see its beauty, calm dignity, and memorials to the fallen dead. Thousands of persons visit the church each year. Petersburg commemorates the National Memorial Day each May 30th and Confederate Memorial day each June 9th.



Source: <http://www.memorialdayorigin.info/lma.html> (accessed September 30, 2015).

**3 – Three Confederate generals final resting place is in the Blandford cemetery. Can you recall their names?** Per Martha Atkinson’s presentation, William Mahone, David Weisiger and Cullen Battle were buried among 30,000 comrades.

## \*\*\*\*\* Memoirs \*\*\*\*\*

Memoirs often make fascinating reading because they share a story of the recollections of one individual about a series of events. Usually that individual is not a trained historian who seeks to validate those events.

General William T. Sherman wrote volume 1 of his *Memoirs* in 1875 – prior to the availability of the *Official Records*. He received many public and private criticisms; hence, in 1885, Sherman revised his work to answer criticisms and to provide additional material. In his preface to the second addition, Sherman made a statement that I thought should be applied when considering all memoirs:

In this free country every man is at perfect liberty to publish his own thoughts and impressions, and **any witness who may differ from me should publish his own version of facts in the truthful narration of which he is interested**. I am publishing my own memoirs, not theirs, and we all know that no three honest witnesses of a simple brawl can agree on all the details. How much more likely will be the difference in a great battle covering a vast space of broken ground, when each division, brigade, regiment, and even company, naturally and honestly believes that it was the focus of the whole affair! Each of them won the battle. None ever lost. That was the fate of the old man who unhappily commanded.

Source: <http://www.gutenberg.org/files/4361/4361-h/4361-h.htm> (accessed October 1, 2015).

## \*\*\*\*\* Thoughts \*\*\*\*\*

**Memorials.** These seem to be a hot topic lately that are getting a lot of press time. I ran across the following while researching the Blandford Church. It is a rather long passage; however, I believe it shares a worthwhile thought about the meaning of our long standing observance practices.

During the Month of March 1868, just three years after the end of the Civil War, Mrs. Mary Simmerson Cunningham Logan, wife of General John A. Logan, Commander in Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic -- the Union Army Veterans Organization -- went to Petersburg. She recounted her visit in her article published in the *Los Angeles Daily Times* dated May 30, 1903, titled MEMORIAL DAY: A NOTED WOMAN'S STORY OF ITS ORIGIN AND GROWTH. According to Mrs. Logan:

*"...it is especially pleasant to know that the ideal of Memorial Day was unwittingly suggested by the devotion of the people of the South to their heroes. In the early spring of 1868 I was one of a party ... to make a pilgrimage to the battlefields of Virginia. Gen. Logan had long been anxious to make a personal inspection of this section of the country over which the great conflict raged in order to enlarge his knowledge of the entire course of the war .... Unfortunately, however, circumstances prevented him accompanying me and he did not see with his own eyes what really prompted the first Decoration Day. It is my pleasure to revert to it and to pay a just tribute to the gentle people whose acts gave me the inspiration that resulted in the Decoration Day of today."* Mrs. Logan talks about the difficulties of getting a guide and transportation, then:

*"But it is not of this that I would speak, but of the incident that gave me the inspiration that resulted in Decoration Day. We were in Petersburg, Virginia, and had taken advantage of the fact to inspect the oldest church there, the bricks of which had been brought from England. There was an old English air all about the venerable structure, and we passed to the building through a churchyard. The weather was balmy and spring-like, and as we passed through the rows of graves I noticed that many of them had been strewn with beautiful blossoms and decorated with small flags of the dead Confederacy. The sentimental idea so enraptured me that I inspected them more closely and discovered that they were every one the graves of soldiers who had died for the Southern cause. The actions seemed to me to be a beautiful tribute to the soldier martyrs and grew upon me while I was returning to Washington. Gen. Logan was at that time the Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, with his headquarters in Washington, and as soon as he met me at the station I told him of the graves of the Southern soldiers in the cemetery at Petersburg. He listened with great interest and then said: 'What a splendid thought! We will have it done all over the country, and the Grand Army shall do it! I will issue the order at once for a national Memorial Day for the decoration of the graves of all those noble fellows who died for their country.' ... He immediately entered into a conference with his several aides with a view of selecting a date that should be kept from year to year. He realized that it must be a time when the whole country was blooming with flowers, and May 30th was finally selected as the best season for the annual observance of the day." Following this discussion, Mrs. Logan goes on to quote essential parts of Grand Army of the Republic General Order No. 11 which was issued on May 5, 1868, designating May 30th "... for the purpose of strewing with flowers or otherwise decorating the graves of the comrades who died in defense of their country in the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village and hamlet churchyard in the land." Mrs. Logan adds a postscript:*

*"Time has shown how well that order has been obeyed, and although the observance of the day has grown as the years have glided into the past and every city and hamlet in the country assists in the noble work, the eyes of the nation are every year centered upon the great national cemetery on the Heights of Arlington where, lying under the emerald lawns and shaded by the great trees, are the bodies in whose honor the day was inaugurated. Nearby the graves of the men who wore the blue are hundreds of mounds that cover all that was mortal of those who wore the gray, and it is one of the most beautiful traits of forgiving humanity that none of them are overlooked on the most sacred day in the American calendar. In Dixie they garland with one hand the mounds above the ashes of the northern soldiers while with the other they strew beautiful blossoms on the graves of their own heroes. We of the north do the same, for they were all heroes, each dying for the cause he thought was right. They gave their all to prove their sincerity, and they all died true Americans whatever their political affiliations may have been...."*

Source: <http://www.memorialdayorigin.info/logan.html> (accessed September 30, 2015).

Thoughts about Mrs. Logan's writings?

# *The Runner*



## **Cape Fear Civil War Round Table**

Our next meeting will be held on **Thursday, 10 September 2015** at St. Andrew's On-the-Sound Episcopal Church (101 Airlie Road). Social Hour begins at 7:00 p.m. (with light refreshments), meeting at 7:30.

Please join us at our September meeting for the beginning of our 2015-2016 Program Year. Visitors are always welcome – ***bring a friend or two.*** Each of our speakers strives to enlighten, entertain, and add to our knowledge of Civil War history. This serves our mission of encouraging education and research into that historic conflict.

**\*\*\*\*\* September 2015 Program \*\*\*\*\***

### **Blandford Church and Cemetery**



**Martha Atkinson**, Site Manager and Education Specialist for the Petersburg Museums, will share a presentation about the Blandford Church and Cemetery.

Erected in 1735 on the highest point in Petersburg, Blandford Church is the oldest structure in the city. Originally built as an Anglican site for worship, it became an Episcopal church after the Revolutionary War and was abandoned for 95 years.

#### **Restoration**

Restored as a Confederate Memorial Chapel by the Ladies Memorial Association of Petersburg in the early 1900s, the church has 15 priceless Louis Comfort Tiffany stained-glass windows, each dedicated to the memory of fallen southern soldiers.



### **Historic Blandford Cemetery**

Still an active burial ground, Blandford Cemetery's oldest marked grave dates to 1702. An incredible collection of 18th, 19th, and 20th century styles of burial and funerary art, tombstones, ironwork, and landscaping are represented throughout the grounds.

### **Decoration Day**

On June 9, 1866, the first Decoration Day service was conducted by the Ladies Memorial Association of Petersburg. This event became the inspiration for the national observance of Memorial Day.

Soldiers from every American conflict, including a British major general and three Confederate generals are buried within the confines of the cemetery..

**Editor**

### **\*\*\*\*\* Trivia Questions for September \*\*\*\*\***

**1 – Between 1904 and 1912, Louis Comfort Tiffany produced fifteen stained-glass windows for the restored chapel. When was the North Carolina window installed?**

**2 – Who chose a subject and theme for each of the states to be represented in the Tiffany windows? What was the cost of each window?**

**3 – On May 4, 1864 and approximately 20 miles downstream from Lee's Army of Northern Virginia, Grant's Army of the Potomac crossed the Rapidan River and entered the tangled forest known as The Wilderness. Which Union cavalry commander was assigned to protect the army's right flank against Confederate efforts to intercept its movements?**

### **\*\*\*\*\* Raffle Winners \*\*\*\*\***

**Raffle Master: Ed Gibson**

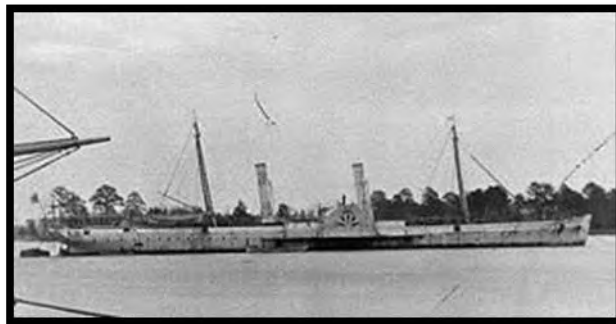
If you have books, prints, or other items that you would like to donate to the CFCWRT Raffle, Contact Ed Gibson ([egibson759@aol.com](mailto:egibson759@aol.com)) before our next meeting. The raffle is one of the components which allow the CFRCWRT to fund our activities and our speakers. Please take part in our raffle by contributing items and/or purchasing tickets.



*Civil War Battlefields*  
*Hoke*  
*Untold Civil War*  
*Shelby Foot Trilogy*  
*Ken Burn's Civil War*  
*Fields of Honor*

- Ed Gibson
- 
- Dennis Wrynn
- Connie Hendrix
- John Moore
- Bill Jayne

\*\*\*\*\* **Member News & Activities** \*\*\*\*\*



**Blockade Runner the *Robert E. Lee***

If you have member news or news about Civil War events that you think would be of interest to CFCWRT membership, send me an email with the details. Thank you.

1 - **John Munroe III** represented the CFCWRT at the Confederate Memorial Service on May 3 by laying a wreath during ceremonies at the Confederate Mound, Oakdale Cemetery. Also present was member Linda Lashley, reenacting in period dress as a "Mourning Lady" and Martha Watson was on the program as UDC District VII Director. The Round Table is always well represented at this yearly commemoration.



2 - Members **Judy Ward, Ed Gibson** (Sons of Union Veterans) and **Linda Lashley** participated in the Bentonville Battlefield 150th Commemoration on May 21. Harper House, used as a Union hospital for Sherman's XIV Army Corps, can be seen in the background. It was occupied by troops from March 19-21, 1865. Approximately 500 Union and 45 Confederate troops were treated there. The family remained at the home during the battle, helping to care for the wounded.



**\*\*\*\*\* May Program \*\*\*\*\***

**Command Conflicts in Grant's Overland Campaign: Ambition and Animosity in the Army of the Potomac**



**Diane and Ned Smith** presented a joint program that discussed the state of Maine's dynamics prior to and during the Civil War and the controversies that evolved around U.S. Grant's command of the Army of the Potomac.

**Editor**

**\*\*\*\*\* Trivia Questions for September \*\*\*\*\***

**1 – Between 1904 and 1912, Louis Comfort Tiffany produced fifteen stained-glass windows for the restored chapel. When was the North Carolina window installed?** The North Carolina window was installed in 1907.

**2 – Who chose a subject and theme for each of the states to be represented in the Tiffany windows? What was the cost of each window?** To facilitate agreement between different states represented in the windows, Louis Comfort Tiffany coordinated the subject and theme for each state. The cost of each state's window was \$385.



**3 – On May 4, 1864 and approximately 20 miles downstream from Lee’s Army of Northern Virginia, Grant’s Army of the Potomac crossed the Rapidan River and entered the tangled forest known as The Wilderness. Which Union cavalry commander was assigned to protect the army’s right flank against Confederate efforts to intercept its movements?** Brigadier General James H. Wilson, Phil Sheridan’s least experienced commander, was assigned to protect the Union flank. Wilson led a tentative probe toward the Confederate position but withdrew before encountering Richard Ewell and A.P. Hill’s commands moving to challenge the Union’s move south. Wilson’s failure allowed the Confederates to launch their dual advance on the Orange Turnpike and the Orange Plank Road toward the unprepared Army of the Potomac.

**\*\*\*\*\* Thoughts \*\*\*\*\***

September 10<sup>th</sup> marks the beginning of a most interesting 2015-2016 Program Year. The topics and speakers range far and wide over Civil War history.

September 10, 2015 - **Martha Atkinson**: Blandford Church and Cemetery

October 8, 2015 - **Brian Kraus**: A Civil War Challenge

November 12, 2015 - **Melton McLaurin**: The Economics of the Confederacy

December 10, 2015 - **Andrew Dupstadt**: The Hard-luck Career of the CSS *Neuse*

January 14, 2016 - **David Meisky**: Confederate Currency

February 11, 2016 - **Kelly Hinson**: An Evening with Mrs. Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson. (This event will be our annual **dinner meeting**.)

March 10, 2016 - **Keith Hardison**: The Lighter Side of Johnny Reb: The Role of Humor in the Civil War

April 14, 2016 - **John Winecoff & Ed Gibson**: North Carolina's Civil War Monuments

May 12, 2016 - **John Moseley**: Fort Fisher's Medal of Honor Recipients

**Editor**

# The Runner



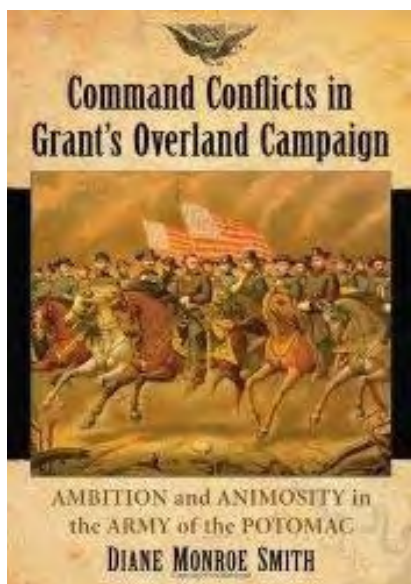
## Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Our next meeting will be held on **Thursday, 14 May 2015** at St. Andrew's On-the-Sound Episcopal Church (101 Airlie Road). Social Hour begins at 7:00 p.m. (with light refreshments), meeting at 7:30.

Please join us at our May meeting. Visitors are always welcome – ***bring a friend or two***. Each of our speakers strives to enlighten, entertain, and add to our knowledge of Civil War history. This serves our mission of encouraging education and research into that historic conflict.

\*\*\*\*\* May 2015 Program \*\*\*\*\*

### Command Conflicts in Grant's Overland Campaign: Ambition and Animosity in the Army of the Potomac

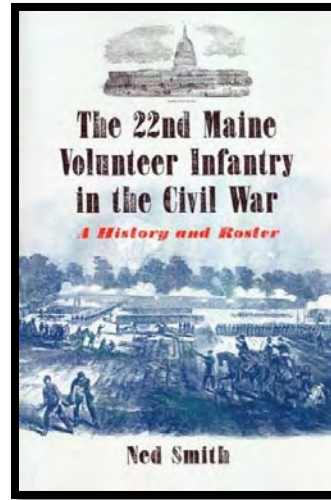
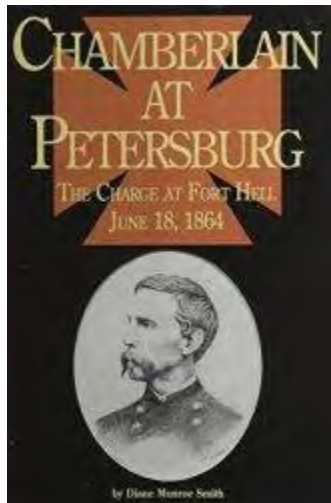
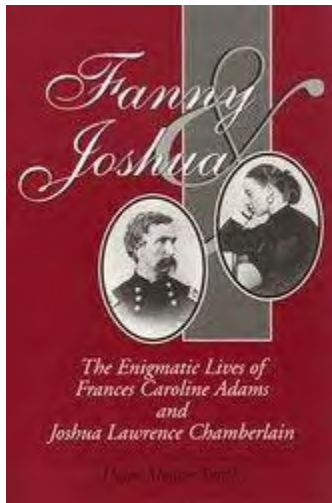


Ned Smith & Diane Monroe Smith

**Diane Monroe Smith** will speak about Lt. General U.S. Grant and his command efforts with the Army of the Potomac. Diane will explain the difference in standards that Grant may have used for officers who had served with him in the western theater and those who had served in with the army in the east.

In Leader-Member Exchange Management Theory, most managers have identified and “Out Group.” For whatever reasons, some subordinates are just not perceived as being as motivated or as energized as those closest to the boss. The theory supposedly helped the boss to modify his/her actions to treat all subordinates in the same manner.

Was Grant influenced by this management theory? Join us on May 14<sup>th</sup>. It should be an interesting presentation. **Ned Smith**, Diane’s husband, will also add to our meeting by discussing a couple of Maine regiments during the Civil War.



**Diane Monroe Smith** and **Ned Smith** are residents of the great State of Maine. They both have a long interest in the Maine’s involvement in the Civil War. Diane has written several books about the “hero” of Little Round Top – Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain. Ned focuses on regimental histories of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Maine Infantry Regiment and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Maine Cavalry.

**Editor**

**\*\*\*\*\* Trivia Questions for April\*\*\*\*\***

**1 – Who were some of the western theater men that Grant brought east in 1864?**



**The thick woods and bramble of the Wilderness**

**2** – What was Grant’s main objective when he became commander of all Union armies in 1864?

**3** – On March 9-10, Grant interviewed Major General George G. Meade, commander of the Army of the Potomac (AoP). Meade had been the victor at Gettysburg, but was unsupported by the Lincoln administration for his perceived “slows” in attacking Lee after that victory.

Why did Grant choose to retain Meade at the head of the AoP?

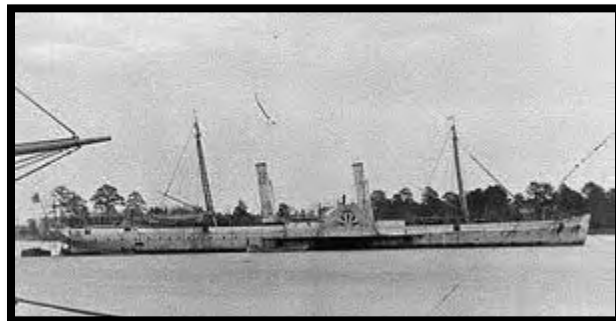
**4** – On June 3<sup>rd</sup> at Cold Harbor, Grant attacked entrenched Confederate forces and was repulsed with many casualties. Why did Grant decide to attack at Cold Harbor?



**Gordon Rhea leading Overland Campaign – June 2014**

**5 – Re-quiz:** At least **twice four times** during the Overland Campaign, Robert E. Lee tried to lead Confederate troops in counterattacks against Union forces. Where did Lee’s actions occur?

**\*\*\*\*\* Member News & Activities \*\*\*\*\***



**Blockade Runner the *Robert E. Lee***

If you have member news or news about Civil War events that you think would be of interest to CFCWRT membership, send me an email with the details. Thank you.

1 - The CFCWRT had a presence at the Lower Cape Fear Coin Show during the annual Azalea Festival. Manning the publicity table the weekend of April 11-12 was a fierce looking Union soldier who looked suspiciously like our **President, Bob Cooke**.



**Bob Cooke**



**Dale Lear**

2 – Long-time member **Dale Lear** was an instrumental part of the Scottish Rite Fish Fry in April, benefiting Rite Care Speech Clinics, which help children with communication problems. After the lunch rush, he was seen chatting up our Round Table, so two big thank “yous” to Dale!

Linda Lashley

3 – Brunswick Civil War Round Table – Speaker: **Will Greene** Topic: “**The New Orleans Campaign.**” Date: **May 5th** 2015 – Registration at 6:30pm at Hatch Auditorium in the NC Baptist Assembly at Caswell Beach. Details at <http://www.brunswickcivilwarroundtable.com/meetings>.

**\*\*\*\*\* April Program \*\*\*\*\***

### **The Overland Campaign: Grant and Lee**

Wow!!!! The entire Overland Campaign presented in one hour. How was that even possible? Simple - Gordon C. Rhea was not only a skilled historian, but a fast-talking trial attorney. We received the benefits of years of experience in both disciplines.

Gordon traced the “cat and mouse” game that Grant and Lee played in Virginia in the spring of 1864. Rhea fairly discussed the strengths and weaknesses of both generals. Lee stopped Grant, but Grant immobilized Lee’s army. Grant won!



**Gordon Rhea**

**Editor**

## \*\*\*\*\* Trivia Questions for May \*\*\*\*\*

**1 – Who were some of the western theater men that Grant brought east in 1864?** Phillip Sheridan, William “Baldy” Smith, Horace Porter, James H. Wilson, and John A. Rawlins came east with Grant. Horatio G. Wright had served in the east and the west, but was considered a Grant man.

If you get a chance, these guys should be “Googled” before our next meeting. Their relationship with Grant will be much talked about during that meeting.

**2 – What was Grant’s main objective when he became commander of all Union armies in 1864?** Per Gordon Rhea, Grant wanted to defeat the Confederate armies and not conquer territory. He wanted to destroy all Confederate armies by attacking each of those armies in coordinated actions that would prevent the Confederates from shifting forces along their interior lines. George Meade, William Sherman, Franz Sigel, Benjamin Butler and Nathaniel Banks were to open campaigns in May 1864.

Grant wanted to bleed the Confederacy. He wanted to use the Union’s superior resources to affect that end.

**3 – On March 9-10, Grant interviewed Major General George G. Meade, commander of the Army of the Potomac (AoP). Meade had been the victor at Gettysburg, but was unsupported by the Lincoln administration for his perceived “slows” in attacking Lee after that victory.**

**Why did Grant choose to retain Meade at the head of the AoP?** During their interview, Meade offered to step aside for a general of Grant’s choosing. Grant knew that the men of the AoP had respect for Meade. Grant was not going to stay in Washington but travel with the army. Grant was to set the strategy and Meade was to implement that strategy.

It did not work out quite like Grant intended. As the Overland Campaign unfolded, Grant did much more than just set strategy.

**4 – On June 3<sup>rd</sup> at Cold Harbor, Grant attacked entrenched Confederate forces and was repulsed with many casualties. Why did Grant decide to attack at Cold Harbor?** After the battles from May 4<sup>th</sup> until June 3<sup>rd</sup>, Grant had been much reinforced and Lee but little. Grant thought the Army of Northern Virginia was weakened to the point that another overwhelming attack would finish Lee’s army.

Grant was to later state that he regretted the last assault at Cold Harbor.

**5 – Re-quiz: At least twice four times during the Overland Campaign, Robert E. Lee tried to lead Confederate troops in counterattacks against Union forces. Where did Lee’s actions occur?** At Tapp’s Field in the Wilderness, Texas troops refused to advance until “Lee to the Rear” was accomplished. At the site of Upton’s attack on the Muleshoe on May 10<sup>th</sup>, North Carolina Brigadier General Robert Johnston’s troops told Lee that they would retake the lost lines if Lee went to the rear. At the Mule Shoe on May 12<sup>th</sup> during the Union Corps attack at Spotsylvania Court House, Lee tried to lead Confederate troops into the counterattack. John B. Gordon’s Georgians and Virginians chanted for Lee to go

to the rear. At short time later, Lee once again tried to lead Brigadier General Nathaniel Harris' Mississippians into the counterattack. Lee told the troops that he would retire only if they promised to drive "those" people from the Confederate works.

Source: [http://encyclopediavirginia.org/media\\_player?mets\\_filename=evm00001417mets.xml](http://encyclopediavirginia.org/media_player?mets_filename=evm00001417mets.xml) (accessed March 23, 2015). Gordon C. Rhea, *The Battles for Spotsylvania Court House and the Road to Yellow Tavern: May 7-12, 1864* [Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1997]171-172, 269-270.

\*\*\*\*\* **Thoughts** \*\*\*\*\*

**Gordon Rhea's** presentation was just plain great!



**Bob & Gordon (new CFCWRT hat**

As we end the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table 2014-2015 Program Year, the members of the Steering Committee should be congratulated for lining-up the speakers who we have heard during this final year of the Sesquicentennial. Also, a special thanks to those speakers: **Richard Triebe, John Waugh, Dr. Melton McLaurin, Emmanuel Dabney, Sam Hood, Dr. Chris Fonvielle, Kelly Hinson, Gordon Rhea, and Diane & Ned Smith.**

**Editor**

# *The Runner*



## **Cape Fear Civil War Round Table**

Our next meeting will be held on **Thursday, 9 April 2015** at St. Andrew's On-the-Sound Episcopal Church (101 Airline Road). Social Hour begins at 7:00 p.m. (with light refreshments), meeting at 7:30.

Please join us at our April meeting. Visitors are always welcome – **bring a friend or two**. Each of our speakers strives to enlighten, entertain, and add to our knowledge of Civil War history. This serves our mission of encouraging education and research into that historic conflict.

**\*\*\*\*\* April 2015 Program \*\*\*\*\***

### **The Overland Campaign: Grant and Lee**



**Gordon C. Rhea** will discuss the generalship of Grant and Lee during the battles of May and June 1864. Rhea will examine the battles at The Wilderness, Spotsylvania Court House, the North Anna River, and Cold Harbor. Grant and Lee will be pitted against one another for the first time during the war. Rhea will follow the generals as they match wits



for forty days of combat that will result in 55,000 Union and 35,000 Confederate casualties.

Gordon Rhea is a skilled litigator who is also a noted Civil War historian. His books about the Overland Campaign are the standard for the history of those conflicts.



Gordon Rhea explains his fascination with the Civil War and his particular interest in the Overland Campaign:

I developed an interest in the Civil War when I was a child. My father was born in 1901, in a small town in southern Tennessee, and the old men sitting around the country store were Confederate veterans. He grew up listening to their stories and passed that interest along to me. When I was growing up, we used to take family trips to places like Gettysburg and Chancellorsville. My father was also an avid reader, and I can recall him reading passages from Freeman’s Lee’s Lieutenants to me in the evening, before putting me to bed. I majored in history as an undergraduate, and also earned a Master’s Degree in history. When I was working with the United States Attorneys Office in Washington, D.C., in the mid-1970’s, I would often drive down to the Wilderness to take my mind off of my cases. That is when I developed an interest in the initial battles between Grant and Lee. I discovered that very little had been written about those battles — judging from the books I could find, the civil war seemed to have culminated at Gettysburg, then ended in the spring of 1865. What happened in between those events had engaged the attention of very few writers. So that is how I got the idea of writing my first book, on the Battle of the Wilderness.

Source: <https://toappomattox.wordpress.com/2011/10/05/interview-with-historian-and-historical-adviser-gordon-c-rhea/> (accessed March 23, 2015).

**Editor**

**\*\*\*\*\* Raffle Winners \*\*\*\*\***

**Raffle Master: Ed Gibson**

If you have books, prints, or other items that you would like to donate to the CFCWRT Raffle, contact Ed Gibson ([egibson759@aol.com](mailto:egibson759@aol.com)) before our next meeting. The raffle is one of the components which allow the CFCWRT to fund our activities and

our speakers. Please take part in our raffles by contributing items to the raffle or purchasing tickets.

*The Civil War Dictionary*  
*Ironclads and Columbiads*  
*The Road to Appomattox*  
*Generals South & Generals North*  
*Major General Robert E. Rodes*  
*Civil War Quiz & Fact Book*

- Charlie Calder  
- Bill Jayne  
- Joseph Hack  
- Joseph Hack  
- Dennis Wrynn (no photo)  
- John L. Poulin



**\*\*\*\*\* Trivia Questions for April\*\*\*\*\***

**1** – As the Battle of The Wilderness reached bloody stalemate, both Grant and Lee considered their next move. Grant was determined to get Lee out of his strong defenses. Lee, bled of his offensive power, thought Grant was going to withdraw to Fredericksburg; however, Lee hedged his bets. What action did Lee take that would prove most advantageous for his army?



**The thick woods and bramble of the Wilderness**

2 – To bring Lee out of his entrenchments and force him to confront Grant’s superior force in more open countryside, Grant ordered his army to begin movement south toward Spotsylvania Court House. What actions by Lee’s army prevented Grant from gaining the advantage on their march?

3 – As the Army of the Potomac marched away from the Wilderness Battlefield, what action did Grant take that drew cheers from his men?

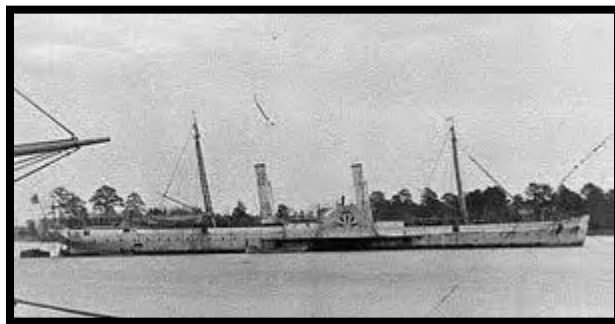
4 – How long did the fighting continue at “Bloody Angle” during the struggle at Spotsylvania Court House?



**Gordon Rhea leading Overland Campaign – June 2014**

5 – At least twice during the Overland Campaign, Robert E. Lee tried to lead Confederate troops in counterattacks against Union forces. Where did Lee’s actions occur?

**\*\*\*\*\* Member News & Activities \*\*\*\*\***



**Blockade Runner the *Robert E. Lee***

If you have member news or news about Civil War events that you think would be of interest to CFCWRT membership, send me an email with the details. Thank you.

1 – Ed Gibson attended the 150<sup>th</sup> reenactment at Bentonville and reported that it was fantastic.

2 – **Bennett Place State Historic Site** is observing the 150<sup>th</sup> observance of “The Dawn of Peace: Surrender at Bennett Place.” April 17 - 26, 2015. For details: <http://www.bennettplacehistoricsite.com/special-events/150th-surrender-anniversary/>

3 – Brunswick Civil War Round Table – Speaker: **Eric J. Wittenberg** Topic: “**Plenty of Blame to go Around: Jeb Stuart’s Controversial Ride to Gettysburg.**” April 7<sup>th</sup> 2015 – Registration at 6:30pm at Hatch Auditorium in the NC Baptist Assembly at Caswell Beach. Details at <http://www.brunswickcivilwarroundtable.com/meetings>.

\*\*\*\*\* **March Program** \*\*\*\*\*

**Reflected Glory: Letters to Anna**

While some people find history as nothing more than the boring repetition of dull, cold and little cared-about facts, those members and guests in attendance at our March meeting were treated to a special performance. As **Kelly Hinson** “read” the letters that Stonewall Jackson had written to his wife, a tear came to many an eye (or at least a lump to several throats). For a while on that Thursday night, history became entertainment.

If you missed the March meeting, do not despair too much. I think Kelly will probably make a return to the CFCWRT as another character from Civil War history.



Kelly Hinson and daughter as Anna & Julia



Anna and some RT members

**Editor**

\*\*\*\*\* **Trivia Questions for April** \*\*\*\*\*

**1 – As the Battle of The Wilderness reached bloody stalemate, both Grant and Lee considered their next move. Grant was determined to get Lee out of his strong defenses. Lee, bled of his offensive power, thought Grant was going to withdraw to Fredericksburg; however, Lee hedged his bets. What action did Lee take that would prove most advantageous for his army?** Lee knew that Grant’s army had been hit hard. Lee also knew that Grant was an aggressive commander and that he may continue the fight by moving south toward Spotsylvania Court House. To counter any Grant move in

that direction, Lee ordered Brigadier General William Pendleton, Chief of ANV Artillery, to construct a trail south from the 1<sup>st</sup> Corps (Anderson) right flank toward Spotsylvania. This rough cut trail, through the dense forest, would shorten the route Richard H. Anderson's 1<sup>st</sup> Corps could take to reach Spotsylvania Court House.

Source: Gordon C. Rhea, *The Battles for Spotsylvania Court House and the Road to Yellow Tavern: May 7-12, 1864* [Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1997], 22-23.

**2 – To bring Lee out of his entrenchments and force him to confront Grant's superior force in more open countryside, Grant ordered his army to begin movement south toward Spotsylvania Court House. What actions by Lee's army prevented Grant from gaining the advantage on their march?** Around 7:00pm on May 7<sup>th</sup>, Lee ordered Richard Anderson to prepare to move Longstreet's 1<sup>st</sup> Corps on Pendleton's trail toward Spotsylvania. Anderson was to move his men a little distance out of their lines until he found a place to rest his weary men. The 1<sup>st</sup> Corps began the move over the rough trail around 10:00pm. Anderson made a decision to continue his march further into the night – his reason was to escape the smoke of the still burning fires in the Wilderness and to also escape the stench of death that hung over the battlefield. Anderson's decision was one of the most fateful of the campaign.

Fitzhugh Lee's cavalry also aided the Confederate cause in blocking Sheridan's efforts to clear the path for Grant's army to march to Spotsylvania Court House.

Source: Gordon C. Rhea, *The Battles for Spotsylvania Court House and the Road to Yellow Tavern: May 7-12, 1864* [Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1997], 28-37.

**3 – As the Army of the Potomac marched away from the Wilderness Battlefield, what action did Grant take that drew cheers from his men?** Grant turned south on the Brock Road. For the first time, the army did not retreat after being roughly handled by Lee's army.

Source: Gordon C. Rhea, *The Battles for Spotsylvania Court House and the Road to Yellow Tavern: May 7-12, 1864* [Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1997], 39.

**4 – How long did the fighting continue at "Bloody Angle" during the struggle at Spotsylvania Court House?** On May 12 – 13, hand-to-hand combat continued for nearly twenty hours as Lee's Army fought for its life in the Mule Shoe.

**5 – At least twice during the Overland Campaign, Robert E. Lee tried to lead Confederate troops in counterattacks against Union forces. Where did Lee's actions occur?** At Tapp's Field in the Wilderness, Texas troops refused to advance until "Lee to the Rear" was accomplished. At the Mule Shoe during the battle at Spotsylvania Court House, Lee again tried to lead Confederate troops into the counterattack. Georgians and Virginians chanted for Lee to go to the rear.

Source: [http://encyclopediavirginia.org/media\\_player?mets\\_filename=evm00001417mets.xml](http://encyclopediavirginia.org/media_player?mets_filename=evm00001417mets.xml) (accessed March 23, 2015).

**\*\*\*\*\* Thoughts \*\*\*\*\***

The March meeting with **Kelly Hinson** was great. History came alive and that is what a Civil War Round Table is about..... to enlighten, to educate, and to add to our knowledge of Civil War history.

**Editor**

# The Runner



## Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Our next meeting will be held on **Thursday, 12 March 2015** at St. Andrew's On-the-Sound Episcopal Church (101 Airlie Road). Social Hour begins at 7:00 p.m. (with light refreshments), meeting at 7:30.

Please join us at our March meeting. Visitors are always welcome – **bring a friend or two**. Each of our speakers strives to enlighten, entertain, and add to our knowledge of Civil War history. This serves our mission of encouraging education and research into that historic conflict.

\*\*\*\*\* **March 2015 Program** \*\*\*\*\*

### Reflected Glory: Letters to Anna



Anna & Julia



Kelly Hinson and daughter as Anna & Julia

Join the CFCWRT as **Kelly Hinson** takes us back into the life of Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson’s widow, Anna Morrison Jackson. The following is Kelly’s description of her one-woman play:

I researched, wrote and perform in first person & full mourning, the story of the beloved General's wife, Anna. Taken entirely from her own factual accounts, as written in her book, *The Memoirs of Stonewall Jackson: by His Wife Mary Anna Jackson*, I recount his views on secession, slavery and the Confederacy. I

begin by telling of how they met and married, and the tragedies that shaped both their lives. I tell of their early years together in beautiful Lexington Virginia, where he finally acquired what he most desired in life: a home and family of his own. Then I read selected letters written by Gen. Jackson to his "esposita" during the War, adding Anna's own thoughts to the events he describes. I end with his tragic death, after his wounding by friendly fire, on May 10th, 1863. The play is an hour long and is performed by oil lamp light, enhancing the audience's feeling of stepping back in time to 1864. The War is still raging, the blockade still in effect, and times are hard for the Southern civilians, and even harder for the soldiers. Anna's story is a love story, but also a tragedy in that she is widowed and remains in mourning for the rest of her life. She and General Jackson both believed in "Divine Providence" and that God brought them together, that God brought him to VMI before the War, and that God protected him on the battlefield. The theme of God and his religious views is central to the play. It is only after his initiating a battle on Sunday, and he writes to Anna of his great regrets over the "fighting on Sunday", that he is wounded. And after, he says he wishes to never have to take the field again.

He [Jackson] wrote in one of his letters that he believed that "...God will, in his own good time and way, give us the victory".

**Kelly Atkins Hinson** is a 10th generation North Carolinian, born in Pinehurst, NC, now residing on her Confederate ancestor's farm in Jackson Springs, NC. She is the proud mother of two little rebels, Tripp, 7 and Shiloh, 5 yrs old. They are often dressed in their 1860's garb and attending living history events alongside their mother. Kelly is a 1994 graduate of nursing school at Sandhills College, but currently is a stay-at-home mom.

Kelly has been very involved in the presentation of Civil War history for quite a while. Some of her involvements are listed below:

I have been an active member of the NC Division United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) since 2004, and currently a member of the Capt. Samuel A. Ashe Chapter, UDC in Raleigh, NC. I often participate in three local Sons of Confederate Veteran Camp's activities; The Moore County Scotch Riflemen Camp, the Sgt. John A. Lisk Camp, and the First, Farthest and Last Camp. I am Matron of Honor of the First, Farthest and Last Camp in Randolph County, NC. I was honored to receive the Dixie Defender award at the 118th Annual SCV Reunion in Vicksburg, Miss., 2013 and as Mrs. Mary Anna Jackson, I was extremely proud to welcome the Sons to the 119th Reunion this past year in Charleston, SC, just as the real Mrs. Jackson did in 1899. I am a member of the Black River Tiger Roses #50 OCR (Order of Confederate Rose) and The Society of the Black Rose NC Division. I am proud to have been voted the Black Rose of the Year 2013, and Rose of the Year 2014, by my peers in the OCR.

I am the Vice President, Secretary and a trustee of the Southern Soldier Remembrance Foundation (SSRF), which endeavors to find descendants of Confederate soldiers and place headstones to mark their final resting places, focusing on Hollywood (8-10,000 unmarked), Oakwood (21,000) and Shockoe Hill (1000) Cemeteries in Richmond Virginia, but assisting in any way to make sure our ancestors graves are marked and their names are written in stone for future generations to never forget their sacrifices.



I am past president and continue as a trustee on the board of the Moore County Historical Association. I am also a board member at Historic Shiloh Church, in Troy NC, where many of my ancestors are buried.

**Editor**

**\*\*\*\*\* Trivia Questions for March \*\*\*\*\***

**1** – Perceptions of Thomas J. Jackson tend to treat him as a socially awkward individual. After the death of his first wife, Eleanor Junkin, during childbirth, Jackson turned his attentions towards Mary Anna Morrison of North Carolina. What did Jackson's two wives have in common?

**2** – What became of Mary Anna Morrison Jackson after the death of Stonewall?

**3** – The *Memoirs of Stonewall Jackson by his widow, Mary Anna Jackson* contained how many pages?

**4** – Who was known as the “Confederate Soldier’s Friend”?

**5** - What was Union strategy after two thirds of coastal North Carolina came under its control by May 1862?

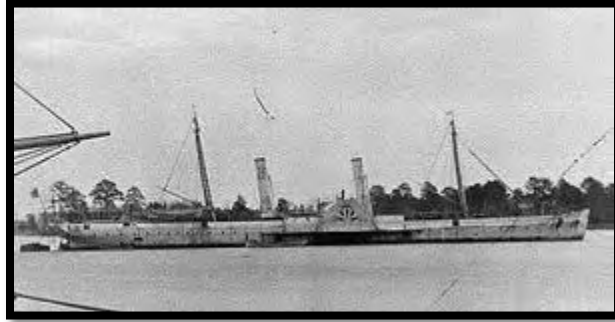
**\*\*\*\*\* Funeral of Major-Gen. W.H.C. Whiting \*\*\*\*\***



The funeral of the late Major-Gen. W.H.C. WHITING of the rebel army, who was captured at Fort Fisher and died at Governor's Island on Friday, took place yesterday at Trinity Church, in the presence of a large assemblage. The coffin, on which were placed beautiful wreaths of immortelles, was placed immediately in front of the chancel. The impressive burial service of the Episcopal Church was conducted by Rev. Dr. DIX and Rev. D. OGILBY. The remains were taken to Greenwood Cemetery, where they will remain in the receiving vault until removed by the family of the late General. On the coffin was a large silver plate, bearing the following inscription: "Maj.-Gen. W.H.C. WHITING, C.S.A., born in the State of Mississippi. Died in Governor's Island, New-York Harbor, March 10, 1865, aged 40 years, 11 months and 18 days." The mother, sister and brother of the deceased were present at the funeral.

Source: Obituary of W.H.C. Whiting, *New York Times*, March 12, 1865, national edition.

\*\*\*\*\* **Member News & Activities** \*\*\*\*\*



**Blockade Runner the *Robert E. Lee***

If you have member news or news about Civil War events that you think would be of interest to CFCWRT membership, send me an email with the details. Thank you.

1 - January 15-16 found members **Judy Ward** and **Linda Lashley** attending the 1st Annual Friends of Ft. Fisher Descendants Reunion at the Carolina Beach Town Recreation Hall. Attendees numbered 164, traveling from all along the eastern seaboard and Texas for lectures, tours, displays and fellowship. Shown with them at Shepherd's Battery is the great-great grandson of Major General William H.C. Whiting, who was wounded in the final assault on Ft. Fisher and taken as a prisoner to Fort Columbus in New York, where he died on March 10, 1865.

Following his exhumation in 1900, his remains were relocated to Oakdale Cemetery in Wilmington.



**Linda Lashley**

2 - The CFCWRT was well represented this year at Cameron Art Museum's Battle of Forks Road Commemoration, February 7-8. The battle was fought on the 20th between retreating Confederates from the Ft. Fisher area and Union soldiers, primarily U.S. Colored Troops, moving toward Wilmington after the capture of the fort. Each year, the skirmish is noted by re-enactments and special programs.

Round Table, and it's benefits. Pictured are Dale Lear, John Winecoff and Bob Cooke, with civilian re-enactor Linda Lashley.



We are fortunate to have a dedicated team of fellows who manned a table and tent, talking to visitors about joining the

3- **March 7, 2015** at 10:00 A.M. – Grand Opening of the **CSS Neuse Civil War Interpretive Center** in Kinston, NC. Opening Ceremony, Ribbon Cutting, Unveiling of Exhibits, Lectures throughout the day, Music by 97<sup>th</sup> Regimental String Band, and Living History Displays and Demonstrations.



**CSS Neuse**



**Hull Remnant**

4 - 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the **Battle of Averasboro** Commemoration, Saturday **March 14, 2015** 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Battlefield tours, speakers, book signings, music, and displays. 3300 Highway 82, Dunn, NC. Additional details: <http://www.averasboro.com/>

5 – 150<sup>th</sup> **Battle of Bentonville** Reenactment, **March 21 & 22, 2015. 5466 Harper House Rd. Four Oaks NC** The event is open to the public. Tickets for Saturday & Sunday's battle reenactments are available for purchase. All other activities, including the Visitors Center, Harper House, encampments, and activities in the tent are free of charge to all visitors. Additional details:

<http://www.fobb.net/Portals/0/150/Spectator%20FAQ%20150.pdf>



6 – Brunswick Civil War Round Table – Speaker: **Theda Perdue** – Atlanta Distinguished Term Professor of Southern Culture at UNC Chapel Hill Topic: **A Tale of Two Tribes: Cherokees and Lumbees in the Civil War.** March 3rd 2015 – Registration at 6:30pm at Hatch Auditorium in the NC Baptist Assembly at Caswell Beach. Details at <http://www.brunswickcivilwarroundtable.com/meetings>.

**\*\*\*\*\* March 1865 \*\*\*\*\***

March 2<sup>nd</sup> - Freedman's Bureau founded for Black Education, 1865

- Confederate General Jubal Early's army is defeated at the battle of Waynesboro VA

March 3<sup>rd</sup> - US Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, & Abandoned Lands established by Lincoln

March 4<sup>th</sup> - Confederate Congress approves final design of "official flag"  
- President Lincoln inaugurated for his 2nd term as US president

March 6<sup>th</sup> - Battle of Natural Bridge, Florida  
- President Lincoln's 2nd Inaugural Ball

March 7<sup>th</sup> - Battles round Kinston NC

March 8<sup>th</sup> - Battle of Kingston, NC (Wilcox's ridge, Wyse Forks)

March 10<sup>th</sup> - Battle of Monroe's Crossroads, NC

March 11<sup>th</sup> - General William T. Sherman's Union forces occupies Fayetteville, NC

March 13<sup>th</sup> - Jefferson Davis signs bill authorizing use of slaves as soldiers  
- US Confederate Congress calls on black slaves for field service

March 16<sup>th</sup> - Battle of Averasboro NC (1,500 casualties). Hardee's troops delayed Slocum's wing of Sherman's army setting the stage for Johnston's surprise at Bentonville.

March 18<sup>th</sup> - Congress of Confederate States of American adjourns for last time

March 19<sup>th</sup> - Battle of Bentonville-Confederates strike Slocum's wing. Last Grand Charge of the Army of Tennessee.



**Goldsboro Rifles Monument**



**Harper House**

March 20<sup>th</sup> - 2nd day of Battle of Bentonville NC

March 21<sup>st</sup> - Battle of Bentonville ends, last Confederate effort to stop Sherman in North Carolina.

March 22<sup>nd</sup> - Wilson's Raid begins to lay waste to the Confederacy in Alabama and Georgia.

March 23<sup>rd</sup> - General Sherman/Cox' troops reach Goldsboro NC

March 25<sup>th</sup> - Battle of Bluff Spring, FL

- Battle of Fort Stedman, VA - in front of Petersburg

- Battle of Mobile, AL (Spanish Fort, Fort Morgan, Fort Blakely)

- SS General Lyon at Cape Hatteras catches fire & sinks, killing 400

March 27<sup>th</sup> - Siege of Spanish Fort, AL-captured by Federals

March 29<sup>th</sup> - Battle of Quaker Road, VA

March 30<sup>th</sup> - Battle at Five Forks Virginia

March 31<sup>st</sup> - Battle of Boydton Plank Road, VA (White Oaks Roads, Dinwiddie C H)

- Wilson defeats Forrest at Montevalla, Alabama

Source: <http://www.historyorb.com/events/date/1865/march>

(Accessed January 30, 2015).

### \*\*\*\*\*February Program \*\*\*\*\*

## **The Forgotten Theater of War: The Civil War in Eastern North Carolina**



**Dr. Chris Fonvielle** told our annual dinner meeting participants about the battles that secured early Union victories in North Carolina. He told us about the naval blockade that initially was so weak that Wilmington developed into “the” blockade running super-star that enabled the Confederacy to continue the war.

Dr. Fonvielle presented a view that the Civil War would have ended earlier if the Union Blockade Strategy Board had continued with its initial efforts that secured a large section of eastern North Carolina. If the Union had pushed to take the port of Wilmington in late 1862, The Wilmington & Weldon Rail Road would have lost its role as a purveyor of supplies to the Army of Northern Virginia – the Lifeline of the Confederacy would not have existed. Union Admiral David Dixon Porter expressed a similar view in some of his writings.

Chris also shared thoughts about the social upheaval that existed in North Carolina during this period. The Union controlled section became a haven for slaves seeking their freedom. The Union became more focused on the influx of those who sought freedom. They were pushed by the efforts of men like Abraham H. Galloway. NOTE: Galloway was born into slavery near Smithville but escaped to the north. He returned south in 1862 and he led efforts to secure freedom and individual rights for former slaves. Galloway took an active part in Republican Reconstruction in the years after the war ended. He served in the North Carolina Senate in 1868 and 1870.

While we heard about the battles, the blockade, and the fall of Fort Fisher, we also heard another part of our history. We heard about some of the people who were involved in shaping our local history.

**Editor**

**\*\*\*\*\* Trivia Questions for March \*\*\*\*\***

**1 – Perceptions of Thomas J. Jackson tend to treat him as a socially awkward individual. After the death of his first wife, Eleanor Junkin, during childbirth, Jackson turned his attentions towards Mary Anna Morrison of North Carolina. What did Jackson’s two wives have in common?** Ellie and Anna both had fathers who were Presbyterian ministers, professors, and college presidents. How a bumpkin from the mountains of western Virginia was able to wed daughters of prominent families can only be explained by a bearing that eluded the general public. Jackson was a loving and devoted husband who found two women who shared his religious beliefs and provided Jackson with a home life that suited his unusual personality.

Source: S.C/ Gwynne, *Rebel Yell: the Violence, Passion, and Redemption of Stonewall Jackson* [New York: Scribner, 2014], 152.

**2 – What became of Mary Anna Morrison Jackson after the death of Stonewall?** After the general's death, Mrs. Jackson returned to her native North Carolina with Julia, who subsequently married William Christian and gave birth to a son and a daughter. Mrs. Jackson, who never remarried and wore widow's weeds for the remainder of her life, took on the task of raising her two grandchildren following Julia's untimely death in her late twenties.

In 1898, Mrs. Jackson organized and became the first president of Stonewall Jackson Chapter #220 of the United Daughters of the Confederacy in Charlotte. Elected president for life, Mrs. Jackson presided over the activities of the chapter until failing health forced her to relinquish her duties. A fixture at reunions of Confederate veterans throughout the South in the years following the war, she remained honorary president of the chapter and an honorary president of General until her death in 1915.

Source: <http://vaudc.org/jackson.html>

**3 – The *Memoirs of Stonewall Jackson by his widow, Mary Anna Jackson* contained how many pages?** 647 pages. There is just something about Stonewall that lends writers to share many stories about General Jackson. James I. Robertson, Jr's *Stonewall Jackson:*

*The Man, The Soldier, The Legend* weighs in at 950 pages. S.C. Gwynne's *Rebel Yell: The Violence, Passion, and Redemption of Stonewall Jackson* weighs in at a slender 672 pages.

**4 – Who was known as the “Confederate Soldier’s Friend”? Miss Mary Ann Buie** collected funds from businesses to support relief efforts for Confederate soldiers and their families. Her collection techniques were sometimes aggressive in nature. When her charitable request to a blockade runner owner was rebuffed, Mary Ann reportedly placed a “jinx” upon the man. Shortly thereafter, the ship owner lost the *Hebe*, *Lynx*, and *Venus* as these ships tried to run the blockade.

**5 - What was Union strategy after two thirds of coastal North Carolina came under its control by May 1862?** While the Union forces made excursions further into North Carolina, they never mounted an effort dedicated to capturing a larger part of the state. Per Dr. Fonvielle’s presentation, this resulted from two causes: 1) the Lincoln administration obsessive fixation on the viper-pit of secession, Charleston. That city endured a 587 day siege by Union forces. 2) The Union controlled area of North Carolina became a haven for slaves seeking their freedom. It also became a haven for many North Carolinians who sought to avoid or escape service in Confederate Army.

\*\*\*\*\* **Thoughts** \*\*\*\*\*

A repeat of last month *Thoughts*..... Make sure you attend as many Civil War events as possible in the coming months, including our March meeting. So many opportunities abound to hear excellent Civil War historians in the Cape Fear region during early 2015. When does one get to listen to historians like **William C. Davis, Craig Symonds, Rod Gragg, Chris Fonvielle, Wade Sokolosky, Eric Wittenberg, Mark Bradley**, and others in such close locations? Only on the Civil War’s 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary –

**Editor**

# The Runner



## Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

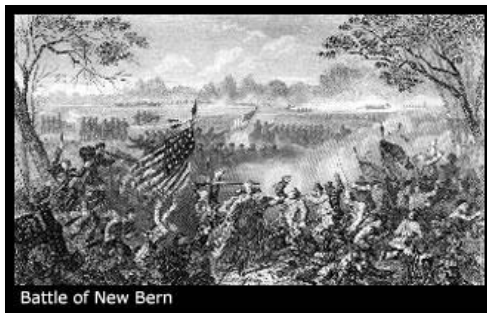
Our next meeting will be held on **Thursday, 12 February** at Madeline Suites on the campus of UNCW. Registration will begin at 6:30, Dinner at 7:00, and Program at 8:00.

Purchase your ticket and join us at our February dinner meeting. Tickets are \$26 each which includes dinner and the program. Secure your place at this event by mailing your check to CFCWRT, PO Box 15750, Wilmington, NC 28408 **prior to 9 February** or by contacting Bruce Patterson (910-794-8905 or [bppatterson@earthlink.net](mailto:bppatterson@earthlink.net)) Guests are most welcome. For additional details, visit [www.cfcwrt.com](http://www.cfcwrt.com).

\*\*\*\*\* February 2015 Dinner Program \*\*\*\*\*

### The Forgotten Theater of War: The Civil War in Eastern North Carolina

**Dr. Chris Fonvielle** will share his insights into the largely ignored history of the Civil War in Eastern North Carolina. Chris will go beyond his normal explanation of the war around Wilmington and explore the impact of the war on the people caught between Union forces in the coastal plain and the Confederate forces that opposed them.



**Chris Fonvielle**, college professor, author, lecturer and past president of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table, is a Wilmington native who is the authority on the Civil War in the Cape Fear region. Dr. Fonvielle's *The Wilmington Campaign: Last Rays of Departing Hope* is the most complete history of war as it relates to Wilmington, Fort Fisher and collapse of Confederate resistance that precipitated the end of the war.



Join the Round Table as we enjoy a good meal and an excellent talk about an interesting period in North Carolina's Civil War history.

**Editor**

**\*\*\*\*\* First and Second Battles of Fort Fisher \*\*\*\*\***

The First Battle of Fort Fisher in December 1864 had ended in a debacle for the Union Army and Navy. General Benjamin Butler and Admiral David Dixon Porter had failed to coordinate their efforts against the last major blockade running port open to the Confederacy. The Union troops that had landed north of the fort had been rescued without serious challenges from Braxton Bragg's troops assembled at Sugar Loaf. Even as the dispirited Union forces returned to their bases, General Grant had begun to formulate a plan that would quickly return Union forces to the Cape Fear. General Bragg, unlike Chase Whiting and William Lamb who feared a quick Union return, ordered that the troops at Sugar Loaf be returned to Wilmington and other locations. Seldom had two generals reached such different conclusions about the same set of events. For Wilmington and Fort Fisher, Grant and Bragg would soon test whether the Union or Confederate conclusions were sound.

On January 6, 1865, a newly appointed Union general, Alfred Terry, and his Union Army transports sailed south from Hampton Roads toward Fort Fisher. Admiral Porter's fleet was delayed by rough seas; however, by 10:00 p.m. January 12, fifty-eight warships and twenty-two army transports began their rendezvous off New Inlet at Fort Fisher. Colonel William Lamb, at the Pulpit in Fort Fisher, saw an increasing number of twinkling lights as they appeared in the dark ocean off the coast. Lamb, having received no warning from headquarters in Wilmington, notified General Bragg of the Union fleet's presence. As Lamb had feared, the Union fleet and army were back.

General Robert Hoke had his entire 6,424 man division in route from Wilmington to Sugar Loaf by steamer and march by 1:00 a.m. on the 13<sup>th</sup>. Colonel Lamb had 800 artillerymen of the 36<sup>th</sup> North Carolina Regiment to defend the fort from the coming assault. The overall Confederate commander, General Bragg, had done little since the December attack to strengthen Fort Fisher with men or equipment.



Hoke reached Sugar Loaf just as the first Union troops came ashore. Kirkland's Brigade and Thomas Lipcomb's 2<sup>nd</sup> South Carolina Cavalry were the initial Confederates

in position to oppose the landing. As the rest of Hoke's division arrived after their march from Wilmington, Hoke entrenched them on Sugar Loaf and deployed only Kirkland's Brigade as skirmishers. Hoke declined to mount an all-out assault against Terry's exposed men because of his concern for the massed guns of the Union Navy and the Myrtle Sound and swamp that intervened between his force and the landing party. Hoke also remembered his assault against Fort Harrison outside Richmond the previous September. For whatever reasons, Hoke only watched the landings proceed and positioned his force to block any Union move north toward Wilmington. Hoke's actions did nothing to relieve the anxiety that Colonel Lamb experienced in the now increasingly isolated Fort Fisher.

By 8:30 a.m. on the 13<sup>th</sup> when Lamb ordered his Cumberland Battery to fire on the *New Ironside*, the fate of the fort was sealed. This first projectile struck the *New Ironside* and fell harmlessly into the ocean. The battle that followed saw heroic struggles by the defenders and the attackers; however, the force brought to bear against Fort Fisher was simply too powerful for the defenders to repulse. By 10:00 p.m. on January 15<sup>th</sup>, General Grant's conclusions about the first Battle of Fort Fisher had proven correct. The Editor of the *Richmond Examiner* had also proven correct, "General Bragg to Wilmington. Goodbye Wilmington."

### Editor

Source: Chris E. Fonvielle, Jr., *The Wilmington Campaign: Last Rays of Departing Hope*, [Campbell, California: Savas Publishing Company, 1997], 129-296.

### \*\*\*\*\* Trivia Questions for February \*\*\*\*\*

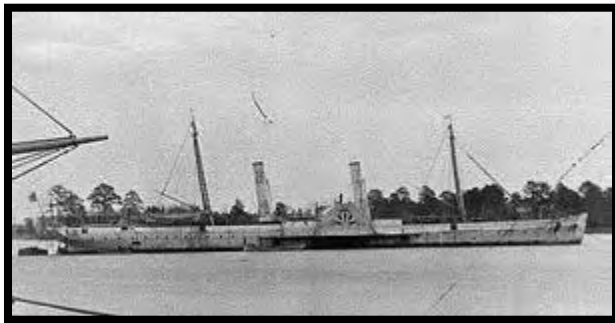
**1 – Among the earliest Union victories during the Civil War, the actions against Confederate positions at Fort Hatteras and Fort Clark in August 1861 committed Union forces to take North Carolina's coastal plain. Why were these earlier actions important?**

**2 – After Burnside's Expedition in 1862 secured much of Eastern North Carolina, why did Union forces fail to mount stronger expeditions against the Wilmington & Weldon Rail Road?**



3 – John Bell Hood was seriously wounded at Gettysburg and later at Chickamauga. He surrendered to Union forces at Natchez, Mississippi on May 31, 1865. What was Hood's fate after the end of the war?

\*\*\*\*\* **Member News & Activities** \*\*\*\*\*



**Blockade Runner the *Robert E. Lee***

If you have member news or news about Civil War events that you think would be of interest to CFCWRT membership, send me an email with the details. Thank you.

1 – The **CFCWRT traditional dinner meeting** will be on Thursday, **12 February, 2015**, in the Madeline Suite, UNCW. Tickets are priced at \$26 each and will be available by mailing your check to the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table, PO Box 15750, Wilmington, NC 28408 **prior to February 9th.**



2 – **February 6-8, 2015:** Blue & Gray Society presents **The Wilmington Campaign:** A Sesquicentennial Appraisal and Tour from Wilmington, NC with Dr. **Chris Fonvielle**

*A Weekend Warrior Tour*

Join us on Friday evening at 6 PM for an introductory lecture and two great days touring the December/January 1864/1865 operations at Fort Fisher, Sugar Loaf and Fort Anderson concluding with the surrender of Wilmington. The trip includes access to private homes and a cemetery walk. This program works well with both our Sherman's March programs in SC and NC. The detailed itinerary and registration information is here: [Wilmington and the Wilmington Campaign](http://www.wilmingtonandthewilmingtoncampaign.org).

Additional details: <http://www.blueandgrayeducation.org/> or 434-432-0596.

3 – Fort Anderson/Brunswick Town State Historic Site – **Last Stand on the West Bank: The 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Fall of Fort Anderson** February 14 and 15. Saturday from 9am to 8pm and Sunday from 9am to 5pm. Additional details at <http://www.nchistoricsites.org/brunswic/brunswic.htm>

4 – February 27 – 28 – Symposium co-hosted by the N.C. Department of Cultural Resources – “**What a Cruel Thing is War: Sacrifice and Legacies**. On February 27<sup>th</sup>, **William C. Davis**, historian and author of more than two dozen Civil War books, will speak at Murrow Hall in Southport at 7:00pm. On February 28<sup>th</sup>, **Craig Symonds**, noted naval historian, will speak at Morton Hall at UNCW at 9:00am.

Registration is \$10 for Friday and \$25 for both dates. Additional details at [www.ncdcr.gov](http://www.ncdcr.gov) (Events) or call the N.C. Department of Cultural Resources at 919-807-7333.

5 – On January 17-18, the CFCWRT had a presence at the Sesquicentennial Commemoration of the Second Battle of Fort Fisher. Member **Judy Ward** is shown visiting **Ed Gibson, Bob Cook, John Winecoff, John Bolger, Tim Winstead** and **Dale Lear** as they manned the display and talked to the visitors about the benefits of membership. (Not pictured were **Joe Hack** and **Bruce Patterson**).

**Linda Lashley**



6 – Brunswick Civil War Round Table – Speaker: **Rod Gragg** Topic: **Johnny Reb in Field and Camp: May Such Sights Never Be Seen Again**. February 4<sup>th</sup> 2015 – Program at 7:00pm at Trinity Methodist Church, Southport. Details at <http://www.brunswickcivilwarroundtable.com/meetings>.

**\*\*\*\*\* February 1865 \*\*\*\*\***

February 1865 saw the first official political meeting between the North and the South when Lincoln met members of the Confederacy to discuss peace. Lincoln rejected what they offered. Throughout the whole of the American Civil War, Lincoln had held the simple belief that America was one nation and that it would remain so.

February 1<sup>st</sup>: Illinois became the first state to ratify the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment.

Sherman continued his advance through South Carolina.

February 3<sup>rd</sup>: Lincoln met the three Confederate representatives (Stephens, Turner and Campbell) on the 'River Queen' in Hampton Roads. Lincoln rejected their peace plan based on an independent south. He told them bluntly that America was one nation and one nation only. Lincoln insisted that the Union had to be restored before anything else was discussed.

February 5<sup>th</sup>: Union troops made further inroads into Confederate defences around Petersburg. If Petersburg fell, Richmond would be the next target. Therefore Petersburg had major significance for both sides in the war. Desertion was a major issue in the Confederate Army and the main cause of desertion was lack of food. Lee's request for more food for the Army of Northern Virginia was met with silence in Richmond. This was more because they had no way of addressing Lee's request more than indifference to the suffering of the soldiers.

February 7<sup>th</sup>: Lee's men drove back Union troops at Boydton Plank Road but by now he only had 46,000 men to defend 37 miles of trenches – about 1200 men per mile.

February 8<sup>th</sup>: Sherman's men continued their policy of destroying empty buildings as they advanced through South Carolina. This resulted in the Confederate general, Wheeler, complaining to Sherman that accommodation was being destroyed. However, Sherman had given orders that no building that was occupied should be destroyed but unoccupied ones should be.

February 9<sup>th</sup>: Jefferson Davis offered an amnesty to anyone who deserted the Confederate Army as long as they returned to their regiment within 30 days.

February 11<sup>th</sup>: Sherman cut off Augusta from Charleston by cutting the Augusta-Georgia railway. One of the Confederates few remaining armies was based in Charleston and it was in danger of being surrounded.

February 14<sup>th</sup>: Jefferson Davis urged the defenders of Charleston to hold until the last possible moment.

February 15<sup>th</sup>: Sherman's army approached Columbia.

February 16<sup>th</sup>: Sherman's troops arrived on the south bank of Columbia and the city was evacuated. Charleston prepared to evacuate.

February 17<sup>th</sup>: Columbia was occupied by Sherman's troops. Most of the city was burned to the ground. Some said the fires were started by retreating Confederate cavalry units but most accept it was men from Sherman's army. Men from Sherman's army were actively pursued by Sherman's provost guard, which would seem to indicate their guilt. Sherman later refused to express his sorrow for the destruction of Columbia. Charleston was also evacuated.

February 18<sup>th</sup>: Charleston surrendered.

February 20<sup>th</sup>: The Confederates House of Representatives passed a bill authorising the use of slaves as soldiers.

Wilmington, the last port that the Confederates possessed, was bombarded by Union forces.

February 21<sup>st</sup>: A sign of the divided opinion within the Confederacy: the Senate postponed a debate on whether the Confederacy should use slaves as soldiers.

The defenders of Wilmington prepared to evacuate the port.

**February 22<sup>nd</sup>: Union troops entered Wilmington.**

Lee began to plan his last campaign.

February 27<sup>th</sup>: Union troops started a major move up the Shenandoah Valley. 10,000 Union cavalry advanced against severely depleted Confederate units.

February 28<sup>th</sup>: One of the Union cavalry divisions in the Shenandoah Valley was commanded by George Armstrong Custer.

Source: <http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/February-1865-civil-war.htm>  
(Accessed January 6, 2015).

**\*\*\*\*\*January Program \*\*\*\*\***

### **John Bell Hood's Tennessee Campaign: In His Own Words**

As he had begun at our January 2014 meeting, **Stephen M. "Sam" Hood** revealed additional details contained in the recently discovered papers of General John Bell Hood. His focus during this meeting was the Tennessee Campaign and General Hood's actions and reasons for making the decisions he followed during the course of that campaign. Using the words and records of the likes of Jefferson Davis, Stephen D. Lee, Alexander P. Stewart, U. S. Grant, and P.G.T. Beauregard, Sam laid out the plan and the need for the Confederate's plunge into Tennessee. Unlike what some historians have written, the need for the Confederate Army of Tennessee to take offensive action was supported by Davis and ranking officers in that army.

If you have interest in this part of Civil War history, Sam's next book, *The Lost Papers of Confederate General John Bell Hood*, will be released during February 2015. As Sam did in *John Bell Hood: The Rise, Fall and Resurrection of a Confederate General*, his new book will likely change perceptions held about General Hood and his place in Civil War history.



**Editor**

**\*\*\*\*\* Trivia Questions for February \*\*\*\*\***

**1 – Among the earliest Union victories during the Civil War, the actions against Confederate positions at Fort Hatteras and Fort Clark in August 1861 committed Union forces to take North Carolina's coastal plain. Why were these earlier actions important?** They helped Union morale and established bases for the Union Navy to stop privateering against Union merchant ships.

**2 – After Burnside's Expedition in 1862 secured much of Eastern North Carolina, why did Union forces fail to mount stronger expeditions against the Wilmington & Weldon Rail Road?** The Wilmington & Weldon became a critical link to supply the Confederate armies in Virginia. Several attempts were made to cut the rail road with quick strike raids; however, major strikes were not attempted by the Union Army.

Why? Join the CFCWRT on February 12<sup>th</sup> as Dr. Fonvielle will explain his thoughts about Eastern North Carolina and its place in Union war planning.

**3 – John Bell Hood was seriously wounded at Gettysburg and later at Chickamauga. He surrendered to Union forces at Natchez, Mississippi on May 31, 1865. What was Hood's fate after the end of the war?** Hood had planned to permanently reside in Texas, but economic necessity made him pursue commercial ventures in a less war-torn New Orleans. A soldier from early in his life, Hood had to seek his livelihood in the business world. After borrowing \$10,000 from friends in his native Kentucky, Hood established J.B. Hood and Co., Cotton Factors and Commission Merchants with partners, John Barelli and Fred Thayer.

On April 30, 1868, Hood married Anna Marie Hennen. Anna, educated in Paris, was a member of a prominent New Orleans family. In the next ten years, John and Anna had eleven children – three sets of twins. Lydia was born in 1869. Oswald, the tenth, was born in 1879.

The cotton business initially struggled and in 1869, Hood took over James Longstreet's insurance business. From 1870 until 1878, the fortunes of both enterprises improved. Hood was successful and devoted himself to his family, to business affairs, and to gatherings for Confederate veterans. Hood, Anna, and their growing family lived in an elegant home in the Garden District and Hood traveled frequently throughout the South.

It was also during this period that Hood became embroiled in conflict with Joseph E. Johnston and other Confederate officers about the causes of Southern failures during the war. Hood's *Advance and Retreat* was published in 1880.

In 1878, the people of New Orleans were exposed to a yellow fever epidemic. Businesses failed as people fled the city. By early 1879, Hood was financially ruined. The yellow fever returned in 1879 and Hood was unable to take his family out of the city to safer environs. Anna Hood died on August 24, 1879, one month after the birth of Oswald. Lydia and Hood followed Anna in death on August 29<sup>th</sup> and August 30<sup>th</sup>.

The surviving ten children were adopted by families throughout the country. Organizations of Confederate veterans, especially the Texans of his old brigade, raised funds for the children's future support and education.

Source: <http://counter.johnbellhood.org/bio-05.htm> (accessed November 27, 2013).

\*\*\*\*\* **Thoughts** \*\*\*\*\*

So many opportunities abound to hear excellent Civil War historians in the Cape Fear region during early 2015. When does one get to listen to historians like **Ed Bearss, Craig Symonds, Rod Gragg, Chris Fonvielle** and others in such close locations? Only on the Civil War's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary – Take the opportunity that is afforded us during the next several months.

**Editor**



# *The Runner*

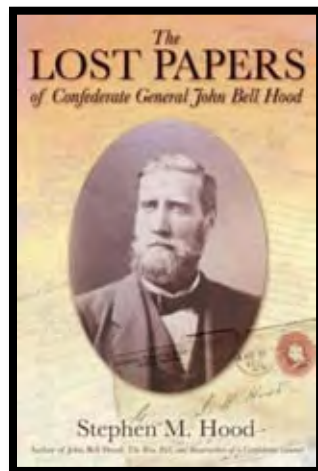


## **Cape Fear Civil War Round Table**

Our next meeting will be held on **Thursday, 8 January** at St. Andrew's On-the-Sound Episcopal Church (101 Airlie Road). Social Hour begins at 7:00 p.m. (with light refreshments), meeting at 7:30. Guests, as always, will be most welcomed.

**\*\*\*\*\* January 2015 Program \*\*\*\*\***

### **John Bell Hood's Tennessee Campaign: In His Own Words**



Historians and other writers have spent considerable ink speculating about Hood's motives, beliefs, and objectives, and the result has not always been flattering or even fully honest. Now, long-believed "lost" firsthand accounts previously unavailable offer insights into the character, personality, and military operations of John Bell Hood the general, husband, and father.

Using these previously thought lost papers, **Stephen "Sam" Hood** will explain the why, when, where, and how of John Bell Hood's Tennessee Campaign.

Stephen M. "Sam" Hood is a graduate of Kentucky Military Institute, Marshall University (Bachelor of Arts, 1976), and a veteran of the United States Marine Corps. A collateral descendent of General John Bell Hood, Sam is a retired industrial construction company owner, past member of the Board of Directors of the Blue Gray Education Society of Chatham, Virginia, and is a past president of the Board of Directors of

Confederate Memorial Hall Foundation in New Orleans. Sam resides in his hometown of Huntington, West Virginia and Myrtle Beach, South Carolina with his wife of thirty-five years, Martha, and is the proud father of two sons: Derek Hood of Lexington, Kentucky, and Taylor Hood of Barboursville, West Virginia.

**Editor**

**\*\*\*\*\* Raffle Winners \*\*\*\*\***

**Raffle Master: Ed Gibson**

If you have books, prints, or other items that you would like to donate to the CFCWRT Raffle, contact Ed Gibson ([egibson759@aol.com](mailto:egibson759@aol.com)) before our next meeting. The raffle is one of the components which allow the CFCWRT to fund our activities and our speakers. Please take part in our raffles by contributing items to the raffle or purchasing tickets.



*A Blaze of Glory ----- Thomas Chilcote*

*The Civil War ----- Tom Taylor*

*Confederate Minds ----- Ed Gibson*

*Bloody Angle ----- Bob Cooke*

*The Privations of a Private ----- Bill Jayne*

*Jeff Davis's Own ----- Dale Lear*

\*\*\*\*\* January 1865 \*\*\*\*\*

The First Battle of Fort Fisher in December 1864 had ended in a debacle for the Union Army and Navy. Admiral David Dixon Porter and General Benjamin Butler had failed to coordinate their efforts against the last major blockade running port open to the Confederacy. The Union troops that had landed north of the fort had been rescued without serious challenges from Braxton Bragg's troops assembled at Sugar Loaf. Even as the dispirited Union forces returned to their bases, General Grant had begun to formulate a plan that would quickly return Union forces to the Cape Fear. General Bragg, unlike Chase Whiting and William Lamb who feared a quick Union return, ordered that the troops at Sugar Loaf be returned to Wilmington and other locations. Seldom had two generals reached such different conclusions about the same set of events. For Wilmington and Fort Fisher, Grant and Bragg would soon test whether the Union or Confederate conclusions were sound.

On January 6, 1865, a newly appointed Union general, Alfred Terry, and his Union Army transports sailed south from Hampton Roads toward Fort Fisher. Admiral Porter's fleet was delayed by rough seas; however, by 10:00 p.m. January 12, fifty-eight warships and twenty-two army transports began their rendezvous off New Inlet at Fort Fisher. Colonel William Lamb, at the Pulpit in Fort Fisher, saw an increasing number of twinkling lights as they appeared in the dark ocean off the coast. Lamb, having received no warning from headquarters in Wilmington, notified General Bragg of the Union fleet's presence. As Lamb had feared, the Union fleet and army were back.

General Robert Hoke had his entire 6,424 man division in route from Wilmington to Sugar Loaf by steamer and march by 1:00 a.m. on the 13<sup>th</sup>. Colonel Lamb had 800 artillerymen of the 36<sup>th</sup> North Carolina Regiment to defend the fort from the coming assault. The overall Confederate commander, General Bragg, had done little since the December attack to strengthen Fort Fisher with men or equipment. Bragg had failed yet once again.

\*\*\*\*\* To be continued in the February issue of *The Runner* \*\*\*\*\*

Editor

\*\*\*\*\* Trivia Questions for January \*\*\*\*\*

- 1 – Confederate General Patrick Cleburne died from wounds received during his gallant but reckless actions at the Battle of Franklin. What led to his actions?**
- 2 – How did Union General John M. Schofield's escape Hood's trap at Spring Hill, Tennessee in November 1864?**
- 3 – How many soldiers were engaged during the 292 day Petersburg Campaign?**
- 4 – Confederate Fort Mahone and Union Fort Sedgwick were located within a few hundred yards of each other along the Jerusalem Plank Road. What names did the soldiers give to these hotly contested fortifications?**

\*\*\*\*\* **Member News & Activities** \*\*\*\*\*



**Blockade Runner the Robert E. Lee**

If you have member news or news about Civil War events that you think would be of interest to CFCWRT membership, send me an email with the details. Thank you.

1 – The CFCWRT welcomes new members: **John Baldwin, Warner Batson, Charles Busby, Robert Jackson, Bill Keiper, Robert Leech, Cindy Richards, Harwin & Jane Smith and Berl Wyatt.**

2 - On **January 17-18, 2015**, Fort Fisher State Historic Site will open North Carolina's official 2015 commemoration of the events that led to the end of the Civil War 150 years ago by hosting **“Nor Shall Your Glory Be Forgotten: the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battle of Fort Fisher.”** Organizers say no other Fort Fisher program to date rivals the scope of what awaits visitors that weekend. Due to anticipated high attendance, visitors are encouraged to arrive early both days. Free public parking will be provided at the Fort Fisher Air Force Recreation Base, just north of the historic site. From there, visitors can take a short stroll to the site or board one of several free shuttles. The site will open at 9 am each day, with activities throughout the day.

At the core of the observance weekend are Saturday and Sunday recreations of the January 1865 Union attacks on Fort Fisher. The battle reenactments will feature hundreds of re-enactors representing Union and Confederate soldiers, sailors, and Marines realistically depicting everything from camp life to battle strategies. Saturday's battle reenactment begins at 1:30 pm, while Sunday's reenactment will begin at 10:30 am. The program will also feature historians, authors, speakers, cannon firings, artillery demonstrations, new exhibits, new interpretive wayside trail markers, and a long list of VIPs and special guests, including renowned historian and battlefield guide **Ed Bearss**, who will serve as keynote speaker at the opening ceremony planned for 11 am Saturday.

3 – The **CFCWRT traditional dinner meeting** will be on Thursday, **12 February, 2015**, in the Madeline Suite, UNCW. Tickets are priced at \$26 each and will be available at our January meeting or by mailing your check to the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table, PO Box 15750, Wilmington, NC 28408. We are most fortunate in having our own **Dr. Chris Fonvielle** as our speaker. Chris will discuss his newest book which addresses the Civil War in Eastern North Carolina *other than the Wilmington Campaign*.

4 – Brunswick Civil War Round Table – Speaker: **Ed Bearss** Topic: The Western and Eastern Theaters. January 7<sup>th</sup> 2015 – 7:00pm at Hatch Auditorium on the grounds of the North Carolina Baptist Assembly on Caswell Beach.

Details at <http://www.brunswickcivilwarroundtable.com/meetings>.

**\*\*\*\*\* January 1865 \*\*\*\*\***

By January 1865 many in the South knew that the war was lost, despite the upbeat stance of Jefferson Davis. The only thing in the South's favour in January was the weather that continued to hinder the North.

January 3<sup>rd</sup>: Sherman readied his men to continue their advance north to challenge Lee.

January 4<sup>th</sup>: Union troops started their second assault on Fort Fisher; 8,000 men were involved.

January 5<sup>th</sup>: Both General Lee and Jefferson Davis continued to be upbeat about the South's military situation. Many others in the Confederacy were a lot more pessimistic about the South's chances. Lincoln gave James W Singleton a Presidential pass to get through Union lines to help facilitate a surrender.

January 6<sup>th</sup>: Davis sent a letter to the Confederacy's Vice-President, Alexander H Stephens, asking for an explanation regarding Stephens alleged association with Georgia's peace movement.

January 9<sup>th</sup>: The Constitutional Convention of Tennessee voted to abolish slavery in the state.

January 11<sup>th</sup>: The Constitutional Convention of Missouri voted to abolish slavery in the state.

A party of 300 Confederate cavalry riding in very poor weather launched a surprise attack on Union positions in Beverley, West Virginia, and captured 600 Union troops.

January 12<sup>th</sup>: Jefferson Davis wrote in a letter to Lincoln that he willing to discuss an end to hostilities but only on the proviso that the South remained independent.

January 13<sup>th</sup>: The North started a major attack on Fort Fisher. The fort was all that protected the port of Wilmington – the only port that the South still had open that could trade with Europe. Troops were landed by the fort and the Union's navy bombarded it from the sea.

January 14<sup>th</sup>: Union ships continued a non-stop bombardment of the fort, which received heavy damage. Guns in the fort had to be trained on both the approaching infantry on land and the ships out at sea. But all of the guns could not be concentrated on one target alone.

January 15<sup>th</sup>: Fort Fisher fell to Union forces. The North lost a total of 1,341 men in the attack (226 killed, 1018 wounded and 57 missing). The South lost 500 men killed and wounded with over 2,000 taken prisoner. Wilmington was no longer able to operate as an overseas port and the South was effectively cut off with regards to external trade.

January 16<sup>th</sup>: Lincoln was made aware that Davis was willing to discuss peace based around the South's independence. He immediately dismissed the idea.

The Confederate Senate appointed General Lee as commander of all the armies of the Confederacy.

January 17<sup>th</sup>: While in Savannah, Sherman issued Field Order Number 15. As his successful army advanced in the South, it attracted many former slaves who followed it in the vanguard. Sherman's order handed to them confiscated or abandoned land along the Georgia coast – a maximum of 40 acres per person. This move ensured that those former slaves who were near Sherman's army were more than willing to help and support it. As the news of what Sherman had done spread, so did the hopes of former slaves still in the South.

January 19<sup>th</sup>: General Lee reluctantly accepted the title of commander-in-chief of the South's Armies. Lee was undoubtedly a highly skilled general but he would have been aware that even a man of his abilities would not have the skill to stop the inevitable – a victory for the North. However a sense of duty compelled him to accept the promotion even if it was a poisoned chalice.

January 20<sup>th</sup>: Sherman's army headed towards South Carolina. However, its advance was severely hampered by heavy rain that made roads all but unusable.

January 21<sup>st</sup>: Sherman's army marched into South Carolina but faced no opposition from Confederate forces.

January 23<sup>rd</sup>: The South lost its ironclads 'Virginia' and 'Richmond'. 'Richmond' ran aground on the James River while 'Virginia' was badly damaged by Union artillery in Fort Parsons.

January 24<sup>th</sup>: Grant agreed to an exchange of prisoners. He did not believe that it would make any difference to the campaign as he felt that the exchanged Southern prisoners would be less than keen to fight and the South was still experiencing major problems with desertion.

January 25<sup>th</sup>: Sherman continued his advance through South Carolina. All his men faced were skirmishes with Confederate troops. There appeared to be no sustained military attempt to stop his advance – or there was a realisation that any attempt was doomed to failure.

January 27<sup>th</sup>: Lee complained to the Confederate government in Richmond that his men were surviving on pitiable rations and that the major cause of desertion was the poor rations. On the same day he sent a letter to the Governor of South Carolina that "the

Confederacy was safe” as long as the civilian population continued to give its support to the troops.

January 28<sup>th</sup>: Davis appointed senior Confederate politicians to hold informal talks with the North – Vice-President Stephens, President of the Senate, R Turner and former US Supreme Court judge John Campbell.

Source: <http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/December -1864-civil-war.htm>  
(Accessed November 26, 2014).

### \*\*\*\*\* December Program \*\*\*\*\*



US Park Service Ranger, **Emmanuel Dabney**, provided a detailed talk about the conditions the Union and Confederate soldiers faced on a daily basis during the long Petersburg campaign. Emmanuel discussed the fortifications, the artillery, the sharpshooters, the rations, medical care, relief efforts for the soldiers, religious services, and morale in the trenches. His description of the conditions that the US Colored troops faced was especially enlightening – from their actions to gain equal pay for their services to their combat at the Crater, theirs was a story of challenges from their own command as well as hostility from the Confederate troops.

**Editor**

### \*\*\*\*\* Trivia Questions for December \*\*\*\*\*

**1 – Confederate General Patrick Cleburne died from wounds received during his gallant but reckless actions at the Battle of Franklin. What led to his actions?** See answer to question 2.

**2 – How did Union General John M. Schofield’s escape Hood’s trap at Spring Hill, Tennessee in November 1864?** Join us at the January 8<sup>th</sup> meeting where Sam Hood will provide the answers to these questions and several others.

The lost papers of John Bell Hood offer more than 200 documents. While each document is a valuable piece of history, some shed important light on some of the war’s lingering mysteries and controversies. For example, several letters from multiple Confederate officers may finally explain the Confederate failure to capture or destroy Schofield’s Union army at Spring Hill, Tennessee, on the night of November 29, 1864. Another letter by Lt. Gen. Stephen D. Lee goes a long way toward explaining

Confederate Maj. Gen. Patrick Cleburne's gallant but reckless conduct that resulted in his death at Franklin. Lee also lodges serious allegations against Confederate Maj. Gen. William Bate. While these and others offer a military perspective of Hood the general, the revealing letters between he and his beloved and devoted wife, Anna, help us better understand Hood the man and husband.

**3 – How many soldiers were engaged during the 292 day Petersburg Campaign?** Per Emmanuel Dabney's presentation, greater than 200,000 Union and Confederate troops were engaged in this long and difficult campaign. Dabney characterized the actions at Petersburg from the words left by one of the participants, "Dig, dig, dig. Boom, boom, boom."

**4 – Confederate Fort Mahone and Union Fort Sedgwick were located within a few hundred yards of each other along the Jerusalem Plank Road. What names did the soldiers give to these hotly contested fortifications?** Fort Mahone was "Fort Damnation" and Fort Sedgwick was "Fort Hell." The forts were so close together that each drew heavy artillery and rifle fire from July 1864 until April 1865.

The sites, especially Fort Sedgwick, were well preserved until bulldozed to make place for a shopping center in 1967.

**\*\*\*\*\* Thoughts \*\*\*\*\***

I have no deep and thought provoking comments for January 2015. I only desire to wish each and every one of you a happy and prosperous new year filled with good health, friends, and worthwhile Civil War studies.

**Editor**



# *The Runner*



## Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Our next meeting will be held on **Thursday, 11 December** at St. Andrew's On-the-Sound Episcopal Church (101 Airlie Road). Social Hour begins at 7:00 p.m. (with light refreshments), meeting at 7:30. Guests, as always, will be most welcomed.

**\*\*\*\*\* December Program \*\*\*\*\***

### **Digging and Dodging: Soldier Life at Petersburg, 1864-1865**

**Emmanuel Dabney**, Park Ranger at the Petersburg National Battlefield, will present the story of soldier's life during the 292 day long Petersburg Campaign. In lieu of battles, Emmanuel will look at the troop's relationship with the earthwork system, the varied use of artillery, sharpshooting, disease, and morale.



**Emmanuel Dabney**



**W. H. McLaurin**

William H. McLaurin of the 18<sup>th</sup> North Carolina Infantry wrote years after the war, "The story of Petersburg will never be written; volumes would be required to contain it, and even those who went through the trying ordeal, can not recall a satisfactory outline of the weird and graphic occurrences of that stormy period." Yet, soldiers (including McLaurin) through letters, diaries, or memoirs attempted to make sense of the hell that was in the trenches before Petersburg.

Emmanuel Dabney is an interpretive ranger at Petersburg National Battlefield. A native of South Side Virginia, he holds a degree in historic preservation from Mary Washington University and a masters degree in history from the University of North Carolina Greensboro.

**Editor**

**\*\*\*\*\* Raffle Winners \*\*\*\*\***

**Raffle Master: Ed Gibson**

If you have books, prints, or other items that you would like to donate to the CFCWRT Raffle, contact Ed Gibson ([egibson759@aol.com](mailto:egibson759@aol.com)) before our next meeting. The raffle is one of the components which allow the CFCWRT to fund our activities and our speakers. Please take part in our raffles by contributing items to the raffle or purchasing tickets.



*Gone for the Soldier, Confederate in the Attic ----- Michael Alban*

*Never Call Retreat, Civil War up Close ----- Tommy Chilcote*

*The Richmond Raid ----- Judy Ward*

*Civil War Dictionary ----- Bob Cooke*

*The Confederate Spirit ----- John Moore*

*True Tales of the South at War ----- Anonymous*

**\*\*\*\*\* December 1864 \*\*\*\*\***

The Confederacy suffered during December 1864. Sherman's "March to the Sea" brought total war to Georgia - the reality of this type warfare would never be forgotten by those who were in the path of this march. The Union victory before the gates of Nashville

witnessed the disintegration of the Confederate Army of Tennessee. Fort Fisher, the last major open port for blockade runners, was attacked on December 25 and would fall to a combined Union navy and army force in early January 1865.

By Christmas 1864, The Confederate States of America had a little over three months to exist. William T. Sherman's pronouncement in December 1864 had come full-circle –

You people speak so lightly of war. You don't know what you are talking about. War is a terrible thing. I know you are a brave, fighting people, but for every day of actual fighting, there are months of marching, exposure and suffering. More men die in war from sickness than are killed in battle. At best war is a frightful loss of life and property, and worst still is the demoralization of the people .....

You mistake, too, the people of the North, They are a peaceable people, but an earnest people and will fight too, and they are not going to let this country be destroyed without a mighty effort to save it.

Besides, where are your men and appliances of war to contend against them? The Northern people not only greatly outnumber the whites at the South, but they are a mechanical people with manufactures of every kind, while you are only agriculturists – a sparse population covering a large extent of territory, and in all history no nation of mere agriculturists ever made successful war against a nation on mechanics.....

The North can make a steam-engine, locomotive or railway car; hardly a yard of cloth or a pair of shoes can you make. You are rushing into war with one of the most powerful, ingeniously mechanical and determined people on earth – right at your doors. You are bound to fail. Only in your spirit and determination are you prepared for war. In all else you are totally unprepared, with a bad cause to start with.

At first you will make headway, but as your limited resources begin to fail, and shut out of the markets of Europe by blockade as you will be, your cause will begin to wane .... If your people would but stop and think, they must see that in the end you will surely fail ....

Sherman held the view that was voiced by Dr. Melton McLaurin during his November presentation to our Round Table, "the South's foolish decision" to leave the Union was doomed from the start of hostilities.

An example that stands out in my memory from past reading: In 1864, the Harvard-Yale Regatta became an annual event ..... the North had been fighting the war with "one hand tied behind its back."

**Editor**

Source: Lloyd Lewis, *Sherman: Fighting Prophet* [New York: Harcourt, Brace and Company, Inc., 1932], 138.

**\*\*\*\*\* Trivia Questions for December \*\*\*\*\***

**1 – How long did the Petersburg Campaign last?**

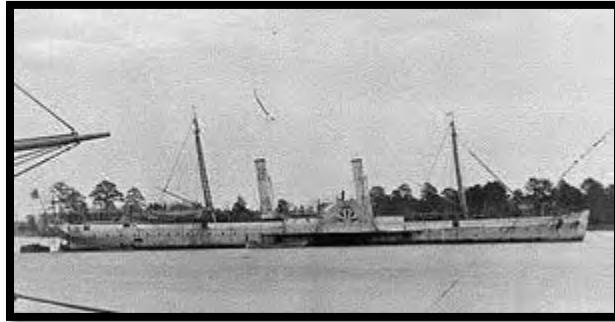
**2 – How many combatants were involved and how many casualties resulted from this extended Petersburg Campaign?**

3 – The Battle of the Crater was one of the well known fights during the Civil War. When did this battle occur?

4 – Per Dr. Melton McLaurin’s November 13<sup>th</sup> presentation, what was the Confederacy’s “only prayer” to gain its independence?

5 – Was King Cotton ever a serious advantage for the cause of Southerner Independence?

\*\*\*\*\* **Member News & Activities** \*\*\*\*\*



**Blockade Runner the *Robert E. Lee***

If you have member news or news about Civil War events that you think would be of interest to CFCWRT membership, send me an email with the details. Thank you.

1 – The Officers and Steering Committee members of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table wish each of you and your families a **Merry Christmas** and prosperous **New Year!** We would also like to thank each of you for your support of the Round Table and its efforts to encourage education and research into that historical conflict.



**2 – December 9<sup>th</sup>: Fort Fisher State Historic Site: Holiday Open House, Thursday. 10 am – 4 pm.**

Enjoy seasonal refreshments, decorations, and entertainment throughout the day, with performances by the Murray Middle School Jazz Band, John Golden as Blockade Runner Captain Roberts, and Dr. John Bennett and Masonboro Parlor presenting period music and dance. Enjoy a 25% discount in the Museum Shop, and join us for our 2014 Musket Raffle Drawing. Admission is free, and open to the public.

**3 – December 14<sup>th</sup>: Brunswick Town/Fort Anderson Historic Site: An 18<sup>th</sup> Century Christmas, Sunday, 1 – 5:30 pm.**

Explore how the American colonists celebrated Christmas. Costumed interpreters will provide guided tours of St. Philips Anglican Church and historic Brunswick on the hour. During the program, you can enjoy Colonial refreshments in the Visitor Center, participate in traditional games, or try your hand at Moravian paper stars and other 18th century crafts. The highlight of

the evening will be an authentic period candlelit service in the ruins of St. Philips Anglican Church. The service will begin at 5:00pm and will conclude by 5:30pm.

4 – **Oakdale Luminary Tour** – November 9<sup>th</sup> – CFCWRT members Linda Lashley, Ed Gibson, Bob Cooke and Tim Winstead took part in this annual event.



**Confederate Mound: Alyssa Fizer, Ty Fizer, Linda Lashley, Tim Winstead**

4 – Brunswick Civil War Round Table – Speaker: One of the most distinguished names in Civil War history, **Dr. James I. Robertson, Jr.** will be our special guest. He is the recipient of every major award given in Civil War history and a lecturer of national acclaim. Topic: *The Untold Civil War*.

Details at <http://www.brunswickcivilwarroundtable.com/meetings>.

#### **\*\*\*\*\* December 1864 \*\*\*\*\***

In December 1864, Sherman continued with his desired plan - an advance on Savannah. He reached the city before Christmas and offered the city to Lincoln as a Christmas gift. Sherman planned to use the rest of December to allow his troops to rest before marching north to link up with Grant in preparation for an all-out attack on Richmond.

December 1<sup>st</sup>: The Union army commanded by Schofield, entrenched itself in Nashville and dominated the Cumberland River.

December 2<sup>nd</sup>: Sherman was halfway to Savannah. His subordinates in Nashville were ordered by Washington to confront and defeat Hood's Army of the Tennessee. However, very poor weather hindered both armies.

December 8<sup>th</sup>: General Grant made it clear that he supported the President's wish that Hood should be attacked immediately by Schofield's men. Either that or he wanted Schofield replaced. The Union commander in Nashville was General Thomas, a subordinate of Schofield. He telegraphed Grant that his cavalry had no horses and that any attack not supported by the cavalry was doomed to failure.

**NOTE:** Schofield was actually subordinate to General Thomas. General Schofield's actions during the battles around Nashville did not support claims that Schofield made after the war. General George H. Thomas, the Rock of Chickamauga, made the Union victory at Nashville possible against Hood's army.

Source: "Schofield and Thomas: Blind Ambition at Nashville";  
[http://generalthomas.com/Schofield\\_and\\_Thomas.htm](http://generalthomas.com/Schofield_and_Thomas.htm) (Accessed November 3, 2014).

**Editor**

December 9<sup>th</sup>: Appalling weather in Nashville made all forms of fighting near impossible. Roads had been reduced to quagmires.

December 10<sup>th</sup>: Sherman's army arrived in Savannah.

December 12<sup>th</sup>: Thomas telegraphed Grant with the information that he would attack Hood as soon as the weather improved.

December 13<sup>th</sup>: In a further blow to the defenders of Savannah, Sherman's men established a route to the sea that would allow the Union Navy to supply his army. Grant appointed Major-General John Logan to replace General Thomas in Nashville.

December 15<sup>th</sup>: Once the weather had cleared Thomas ordered an attack on Hood's army at Nashville. The only thing that saved Hood was the shortened day. Other than failing to finish off Hood's army, the attack was an overwhelming success with 1,000 men taken prisoner.

December 16<sup>th</sup>: Thomas conveys the news to Grant. He followed up the attack with a further massive attack using all the men at his command – 50,000. Hood could only muster 30,000 men. The Army of the Tennessee put up a good defence but defeat was almost inevitable. 4,500 Confederate troops surrendered, 1,500 men were either killed or wounded. 59 out of 156 artillery guns were captured. Hood could only order a retreat for those who survived – a retreat that had to be executed in the dead of winter with minimal supplies.

December 17<sup>th</sup>: Hood's men started their retreat to Columbia.

December 18<sup>th</sup>: Savannah refused to surrender to Sherman.

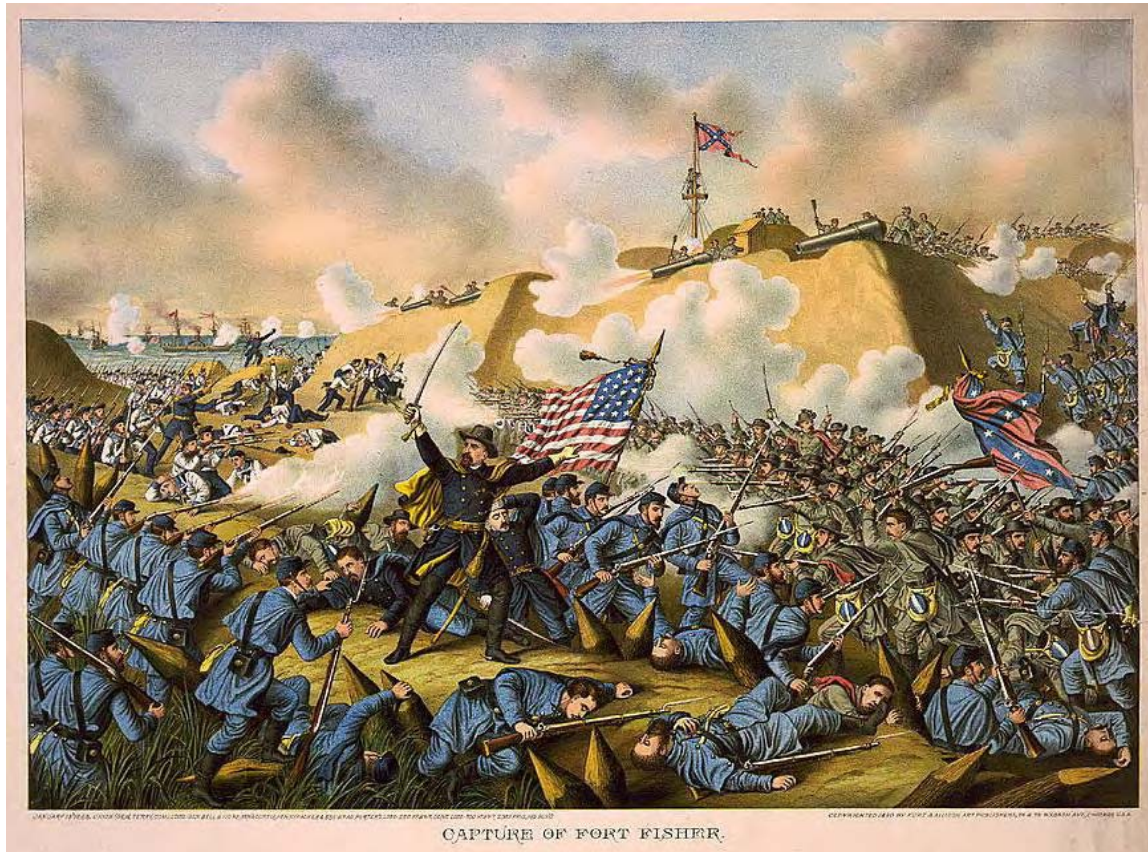
December 19<sup>th</sup>: Such was the confidence of Sherman – and his numerical advantage – that he could afford to send troops to Grant to assist in the attack on Richmond.

December 20<sup>th</sup>: The Confederate force in Savannah left the city. 10,000 men managed to withdraw from the city but they were still facing in the field an army six times larger than them. Savannah fell to Sherman. The Confederates left behind in the city 250 heavy artillery guns and 25,000 bales of cotton.

December 21<sup>st</sup>: Sherman entered Savannah.

December 22<sup>nd</sup>: Sherman telegraphed Lincoln the following: “I beg to present you, as a Christmas gift, the city of Savannah.”

December 24<sup>th</sup>: Union forces started an attack on Fort Fisher in North Carolina. This fort defended the only remaining port open to the Confederacy – Wilmington. The largest Union naval force of 60 warships gathered before the fort to blast it into submission. However, their task was not easy. The design of the fort and the inaccuracy of those bombarding the fort meant that many Union shells fired from the ships simply flew over the fort and into Cape Fear River.



December 25<sup>th</sup>: 6,000 Union troops landed to take Fort Fisher but the fort’s guns were still intact and kept them pinned down. A rumour that Confederate reinforcements were on their way, convinced the commanders on the ground that they should withdraw.

December 26<sup>th</sup>: The Union troops at Fort Fisher were evacuated. Lincoln ordered an investigation as to what went wrong and why what should have been a relatively easy victory turned into a full-scale withdrawal.

December 30<sup>th</sup>: Lincoln proposed to remove General Ben Butler from the command of the Army of the James. It was Butler who commanded the abortive landing at Fort Fisher. Grant also had a very low opinion of Butler’s ability.

December 31<sup>st</sup>: Sherman's army rested in Savannah in preparation for its advance north to support Grant.

Source: <http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/December-1864-civil-war.htm>  
(Accessed November 3, 2014).

**\*\*\*\*\* November Program \*\*\*\*\***

**Could the South Have Won?**



**Dr. Melton McLaurin** presented a most thought-provoking look at the prospects of a Southern victory during its quest for independence. He systematically addressed the differences between the industrialized North and the agrarian South that existed in December 1860. Population, manufacturing capacities, railroad and other transportation systems, religious and educational institutions were among the areas of society which Dr. McLaurin covered in his spirited talk.

An outspoken Southern planter class and an equally rabid abolitionist Northern faction exerted influence beyond their actual numbers during the 1850s and early 1860s. Their influence pushed each section toward a fracture with the protections written into the Constitution that could have prevented an armed conflict.

Whether you agreed with Dr. McLaurin's views or not, his presentation laid out the depth to which slavery had embedded itself into the fabric of the United States.

**Editor**

**\*\*\*\*\* Civil War Ancestors \*\*\*\*\***





Do you know what your ancestors did during the Civil War? Previously, **Bruce Patterson** shared the story of two members of his family.

If you would like to share stories of your kinsman or kinswoman and their lives during or after the Civil War, forward a short article and I will gladly include in *The Runner* so others may learn your family's history.

### \*\*\*\*\* Civil War Ancestors 2 \*\*\*\*\*

**Arthur MacArthur Jr.** rejected an appointment to West Point and insisted that he join the Civil War effort. Judge MacArthur, a Wisconsin lawyer and jurist, arranged a commission as a first lieutenant with the 24<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin for his son. The seventeen year old Arthur saw action at Perryville, Stones River, Chickamauga, and Chattanooga. He was a brevet Colonel at war's end and decided to remain in the army. In 1890, MacArthur received a Medal of Honor for his actions at Missionary Ridge in 1863. General MacArthur fought in the Philippines during the Spanish-American War and would become its governor general during the Filipinos resurrection.

Arthur MacArthur and his now civilian boss, William Howard Taft, had differed on the conduct of the Filipinos resurrection and the creation of a civilian government in the Philippines. MacArthur was returned to the United States where he harbored resentments toward civilian politicians and those he considered as deskbound warriors of the army general staff.

MacArthur and his son, Douglas MacArthur would become the first father-son to receive the Medal of Honor.



Source: <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/macarthur/peopleevents/pandeAMEX107.html>  
(Accessed November 3, 2014).

### \*\*\*\*\* Trivia Questions for December \*\*\*\*\*

**1 – How long did the Petersburg Campaign last?** The Petersburg Campaign began on June 15, 1864 when Confederate troops, commanded by P.G.T. Beauregard, prevented Union troops from taking this important manufacturing and transport hub. The campaign ended on April 2, 1865, when massed Union forces, commanded by U.S. Grant, breached the Confederate defensive trenches. The **292 day campaign** was the longest in United States history.

**Source:** <http://www.civilwar.org/battlefields/petersburg/10-facts-about-the-petersburg.html>  
(Accessed November 23, 2014).

**2 – How many combatants were involved and how many casualties resulted from this extended Petersburg Campaign?** The armies at Petersburg were in almost constant transition, making the determination of troop strength a moving target. In general, Union troop strength exceeded that of the Confederates by nearly two-to-one for most of the campaign. Even at the end of the campaign, on April 2, 1865, Lee evacuated more than 50,000 men out of Richmond and Petersburg, while Grant’s combined armies counted at least 110,000 men by that time. Although precise figures are hard to come by, the best estimates suggest 42,000 Union casualties and 28,000 Confederate casualties, in total.

**Source:** <http://www.civilwar.org/battlefields/petersburg/10-facts-about-the-petersburg.html>  
(Accessed November 23, 2014).

**3 – The Battle of the Crater was one of the well known fights during the Civil War. When did this battle occur?** The 48th Pennsylvania Infantry excavated a 510-foot tunnel beneath a Confederate fort southeast of Petersburg. On July 30, 1864, they packed the galleries with 8,000 pounds of powder and ignited the fuse. The blast created a huge gap in the Confederate line, sending more than 300 South Carolinians to their graves. The attacks that followed failed to match the engineering success. Poor planning, communications, and leadership robbed the Battle of the Crater of its potentially decisive results. Bold Confederate counterattacks repaired the breach, focusing particular bitterness upon the black troops who participated in the assaults. Grant pronounced it “the saddest affair I have witnessed in this war.”

**Source:** <http://www.civilwar.org/battlefields/petersburg/10-facts-about-the-petersburg.html>  
(Accessed November 23, 2014).

**4 – Per Dr. Melton McLaurin’s November 13<sup>th</sup> presentation, what was the Confederacy’s “only prayer” to gain its independence?** Official recognition by the major European powers – Great Britain and France – and their monetary and military support of Confederate cause was needed to secure Southern independence. Charles Francis Adams, Lincoln’s foreign minister in London, was instrumental in thwarting efforts of Confederate diplomats to gain that official recognition.

**5 – Was King Cotton ever a serious advantage for the cause of Southerner Independence?** The initial strategy of the Confederacy was to withhold cotton from the European manufacturers. The thought that this action would create extreme chaos in the British and French economies did not materialize. At the very time the Confederacy needed every credit to purchase weapons and war materials, its own strategy began the ultimate failure of the Southern cause.

Other markets, India and Egypt, developed to replace Southern cotton.

Whether the Southern cause could ever have been successful has been debated since 1865. In a war of attrition, the South was in an extremely poor position to gain independence.

**\*\*\*\*\* Thoughts \*\*\*\*\***

**“That Wasn’t the Way it Happened”**

I remember a Civil War story that I used to hear Irvin S. Cobb tell when he was a newspaper reporter and I was a struggling lawyer in Paducah. It seemed two Confederate veterans were reminiscing about the days during the war when Paducah was being fought over by Northern and Southern forces. “I remember,” one veteran said, “when we pushed those damyankees all the way across the Ohio and up into Illinois!” The other old soldier regretfully corrected him. “I was there, old Friend,” he said, “and I’m afraid that wasn’t the way it happened at all. Those Yankees drove *us* out of Paducah and almost to the Tennessee line.” The first veteran reflected a bit, then sourly remarked, “Another good story ruined by an eyewitness!”

- Alben W. Barkley

I enjoy reading Civil War memoirs; however, I always try to keep in mind that events many years in the past can reshape a story.

What are your thoughts?

Source: Alben W. Barkley, *That Reminds Me* [Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday & Co., Inc., 1954], 35.

# The Runner



## Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Our next meeting will be **Thursday, 13 November** at St. Andrew's On-the-Sound Episcopal Church (101 Airlie Road). Social Hour begins at 7:00 p.m. (with light refreshments), meeting at 7:30.

Please make plans to attend the next meeting of the CFCWRT's continuing 2014-2015 Program Year. Visitors are always welcome – **this year, BRING a friend to join you**. Each of our speakers strives to enlighten, entertain, and add to our knowledge of Civil War history. This serves our mission of encouraging education and research into this seminal event in our nation's past.

**\*\*\*\*\* November Program \*\*\*\*\***

### Could the South Have Won?

**Dr. Melton McLaurin** will present his analysis of the possibilities of the South winning its independence during the American Civil War 1861-1865. Unlike most examinations that focus on the military aspects of the conflict, Dr. McLaurin will concentrate on the Southern society and economy that played critical parts in the final outcome.

Fayetteville native Melton Alonza McLaurin received his Ph.D. in American history from the University of South Carolina in 1967 and taught at the University of South Alabama prior to joining the UNCW department of history as chairperson in 1977. From 1996 until 2003 he served as Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, retiring in 2004. He authored or co-authored nine books (*Celia, A Slave; The Marines of Montford Point: America's First Black Marines*) and numerous articles on various aspects of the history of the American South and race relations.



Melton McLaurin

Join the RT at the November meeting to learn about aspects of the Civil War that may have had too little discussion.

**Editor**

**\*\*\*\*\* Raffle Winners \*\*\*\*\***

**Raffle Master: Ed Gibson**



**Dale Lear & "Jack" Waugh**

*Black Soldiers in Blue ----- Jim Gannon*

*Civil War Tales ----- Thomas E. Taylor*

*They Killed Papa Dead ----- Thomas E. Taylor*

*On the Brink of Civil War ----- Dale Lear*

*General Robert F. Hoke ----- Bill Jayne*

*True Tales of the South at War ----- Ed Gibson*

If you have books, prints, or other items that you would like to donate to the CFCWRT Raffle, contact Ed Gibson ([egibson759@aol.com](mailto:egibson759@aol.com)) before our next meeting. The raffle is one of the components which allow the CFCWRT to fund our activities and our speakers. Please take part in our raffles by contributing items to the raffle or purchasing tickets.

**\*\*\*\*\* September 27, 2014 \*\*\*\*\***

**In Remembrance of Rose O'Neal Greenhowe**

A memorial service was held at Oakdale Cemetery on the afternoon of September 27<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Chris Fonvielle was the keynote speaker for the event. Kelly Hinson played the role of Rose O'Neal Greenhowe. CFCWRT members present at this service included Tom Hodges, Martha Watson, Linda Lashley, and John Munroe.



**Dr. Chris Fonvielle**



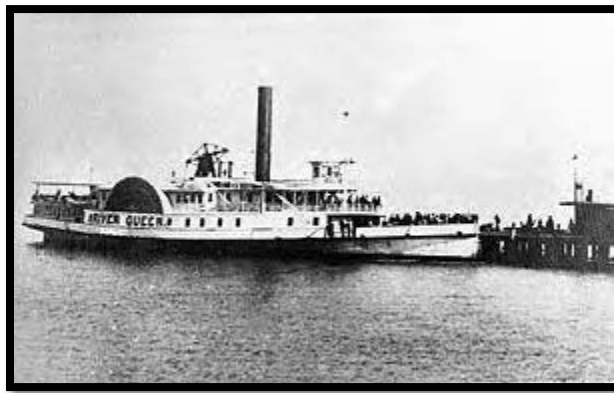
**Tom Hodges & Kelly Hinson**



**John Munroe placing wreath**

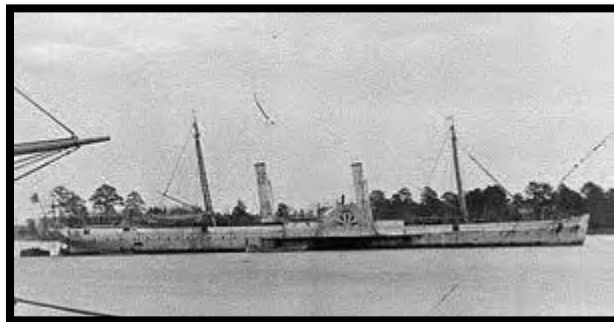
\*\*\*\*\* **Trivia Questions for November** \*\*\*\*\*

- 1 – How did the different regions of the United States compare prior to the Civil War?
- 2 – In 1931, Winston Churchill wrote an essay for a collection, by historians of the day, published in *If or History Rewritten*. Churchill's essay examined the Battle of Gettysburg and it outlined steps which Churchill believed would have enabled Robert E. Lee and his Army of Northern Virginia to gain a victory on that field. Who was the catalyst for a Confederate victory?
- 3 – Jack Waugh called the April 1<sup>st</sup> Battle of Five Forks the “Waterloo of the Confederacy.” Who commanded the Confederate defense at Five Forks and where was he during the critical stage of the battle?
- 4 – What role did the *River Queen* play in the final days of the Civil War?



- 5 – Which unit of the ANV received the attack that broke Lee's line on April 2<sup>nd</sup>?
- 6 – On November 30, Hood's Army of Tennessee attacked John Schofield's army at Franklin, Tennessee. The Confederates suffered a devastating defeat. How many Confederate generals died as a result of wounds received during this battle?

\*\*\*\*\* **Member News & Activities** \*\*\*\*\*



**Blockade Runner the *Robert E. Lee***

If you have member news or news about Civil War events that you think would be of interest to CFCWRT membership, send me an email with the details. Thank you.

1 – Patsy Patterson, wife of longtime RT member Bruce Patterson, passed on October 11, 2014. Our thoughts and prayers are with Bruce and his family as they mourn the loss of a special wife, mother, grandmother and friend.

**2 – Fort Anderson/Brunswick Town – November 1, 2014, Saturday, 10am – 4pm.**

Living historians, dressed in 18th century attire, will demonstrate what life was once like in this early port town on the lower Cape Fear. Visitors will have the opportunity to try their hand at the militia drill, visit with the colonial dentist, take a turn in the stocks and pillory, dip their own beeswax candle, and much more! Admission is free, and open to the public.

**3 - FRIENDS OF OAKDALE CEMETERY LUMINARY EVENT - Sunday November 9, 2014**

**FOURTH ANNUAL LUMINARY TOUR -**

*Come join us for this extremely popular and unique event!! This year's luminary tour theme will be the American Civil War as it is the fourth year of the Sesquicentennial commemoration of that conflict. It is estimated that about 1,000 Confederate Veterans are buried throughout Oakdale Cemetery. Over 600 luminaries will line the route as you visit the site of six different distinguished Confederates. Refreshments will be served. \$10.00 for everyone. Tours will be at 6:30, 6:45, and 7:00 p.m. This tour sells out quickly so get your tickets early at cemetery office. Call 910 762 5682 for more information. Tours are cancelled in the event of inclement weather.*



**4 – Brunswick Civil War Round Table – “The Election of 1864” November 4, 2014, 7:00PM.**

This month’s speaker is Davis Gerleman, Ph.D., Assistant Editor of “Papers of Abraham Lincoln,” and a researcher in residence at the National Archives in Washington, D.C. additional details at <http://www.brunswickcivilwarroundtable.com/meetings>.

**\*\*\*\*\* November 1864 \*\*\*\*\***

In November 1864 Lincoln won the election for President. In the South, such was the impact of Sherman that a call for the people in Georgia in rise up against him received minimal support. Towards the end of November the state capital, Milledgeville, was burned and looted by Sherman’s men.

November 1<sup>st</sup>: Promised supplies had not arrived and promised repairs to railroads were not carried out – both of which seriously hindered Hood in his attempt to defeat Sherman in the South.

November 5<sup>th</sup>: Hood met General Beauregard at Tusculum to discuss their strategy against Union forces. Most senior officers under Hood wanted him to actively seek out Sherman while Hood himself wanted to launch an offensive north towards the Union. This prospect greatly

concerned officers under Hood who could not comprehend why Hood would let Sherman and his army roam around the South unhindered.

November 7<sup>th</sup>: The Congress of the Confederate States of America met in Richmond. Jefferson Davis spoke in an optimistic manner underplaying the loss of Atlanta. Davis also publicly urged Hood to seek out Sherman and defeat his army. Hood had other ideas. He wanted to march into Kentucky and Tennessee to launch an attack on the Union forces based there so that Union troops would be sucked away from their armies opposing Lee in the Eastern Theatre to support their comrades in Tennessee/Kentucky. In view of Hood's lack of supplies, he probably did not have a full knowledge as to his true military situation when compared to the armies that opposed him.

**November 8<sup>th</sup>: Lincoln won the Presidential election. He had feared a move towards the Democrats because of his belief that the war was becoming unpopular. In fact the Republicans increased their representation within both the House and the Senate. The election results indicated to Davis and the Confederate Congress that there would be no negotiated peace settlement.**

November 9<sup>th</sup>: Sherman ordered the resumption of the Union advance into Georgia. He ordered General Thomas to defeat the army of Hood while he planned to advance north to assist Grant in his defeat of Lee. Grant was fighting 1,000 miles away so Sherman marched his men to Savannah to allow for a march up the eastern coastline. Bolstered with plenty of supplies acquired from Atlanta, Sherman was confident of success. He also knew that the land his men were marching through was rich in supplies.

November 11<sup>th</sup>: Union troops in Atlanta and Rome destroyed anything that could be of use to the Confederacy before they left. In Atlanta all buildings except churches and a few houses were destroyed.

November 14<sup>th</sup>: Lincoln accepted the resignation of Major-General George McClellan – the man who had opposed him in the election. Lincoln promoted Sheridan to the rank of Major-General.

November 15<sup>th</sup>: The destruction of Atlanta was completed. The economic hub of Georgia was destroyed – this action by Sherman created much bitterness in the South.

November 16<sup>th</sup>: Sherman's army of 60,000 men left Atlanta. The twenty days rations they carried came from the city and left the people there with little to eat or drink. Facing Sherman's large army was just 20,000 Confederate troops with few supplies.

November 17<sup>th</sup>: Davis denounced any Southern state that intimated that as an individual state it might seek a peace settlement with the Union. In particular, he was concerned that Georgia might do this and contacted the state's senators accordingly.

November 19<sup>th</sup>: A call to arms in Georgia met with little response – it was as if the morale of the state had imploded after the treatment handed out to Atlanta. There was a fear that what had happened to Atlanta might happen to other areas within the state if they were seen to be still opposing Sherman.



November 20<sup>th</sup>: Confederate forces continued to harass Sherman's army as it advanced to Savannah – but with little success. Sherman's response was to order the destruction of even more property.

November 22<sup>nd</sup>: Sherman's army entered Georgia's state capital, Milledgeville. The city was burned and looted.

November 23<sup>rd</sup>: General William J Hardee was given command of the army that was meant to oppose Sherman's march to the sea.

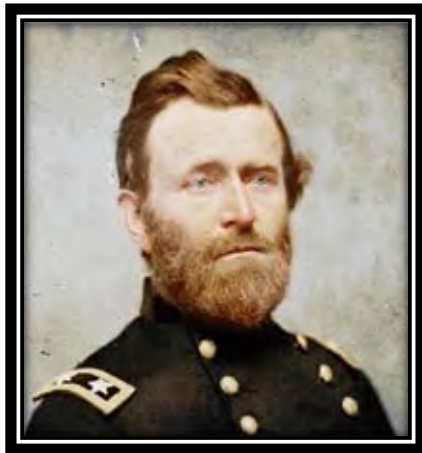
November 29<sup>th</sup>: Hood's Army of Tennessee had the opportunity to defeat a Union army at Spring Hill, Tennessee, but failed to do so because of a collapse in the ability of senior officers to communicate with one another.

November 30<sup>th</sup>: Hood continued in his attempt to defeat the Union force at **Franklin**, Tennessee. Both armies numbered 23,000 men. The North lost a total of 2,326 men but the battle cost Hood's army dearly – 6,252 men were lost, including six generals. The Union army, commanded by General Schofield, moved on to Nashville while Hood's men had to remain on the land in increasingly poor weather.

Source: <http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/November-1864-civil-war.htm>  
(Accessed October 3, 2014).

\*\*\*\*\* **October Program** \*\*\*\*\*

*Lincoln and the War's End*



**John C. "Jack" Waugh** discussed his book which covered the last five months of the Civil War. Jack especially concentrated on the last 20 days that witnessed Lincoln's extended visit to General Grant's HQ at City Point, Virginia. Grant had invited Lincoln to come to City Point to observe what was hoped to be the final campaign of a long and bloody conflict.

As winter changed into spring, Grant worried that Lee would move out of the entrenchments around Petersburg before the Union forces could deliver a final blow. Grant worried that Lee could gain a march on Union troops and unite with Joseph E. Johnston's Confederate army in

North Carolina. The possibility of Lee's escape made possible the continuation of the war. Grant and President Lincoln had seen enough of the horrors of war. Grant determined to strike Lee's emaciated army with all his available force.

Bringing Sheridan from the Shenandoah Valley, Grant wanted an attack made against Lee's extended right flank on March 29<sup>th</sup>. Lee had one more attack; he would commit half of his thinning ranks to break into the rear of the Union army and cause Grant to release his death grip. On March 25<sup>th</sup>, John Brown Gordon led the ANV against Fort Stedman. The Confederates were too weakened to sustain an attack. Within days, Sheridan destroyed a substantial Confederate force at Five Forks. On April 2<sup>nd</sup>, Grant attacked the center of the Lee's line. Grant was in the field, but shared the overwhelming successes with Lincoln.

Lincoln received captured Confederate battle flags from Grant's victories. Lincoln visited Richmond almost as soon as it fell to Union troops. Lincoln was greeted as a messiah by the black population who had remained in the devastated seat of the Jefferson Davis's Confederate government. On April 9<sup>th</sup>, Lee surrendered his shattered army to Grant at Appomattox Courthouse. Lincoln had seen his foremost hopes achieved, the Union was to be preserved and the divided nation was to be reunited.

Within days after Lee's surrender, Abraham Lincoln would be felled by an assassin's bullet. His achievements during the last five months of the war would remain important to the nation's future.

**Now he belongs to the Ages**

**Edwin M. Stanton**

**Note:** If you are interested in getting a copy of Jack Waugh's *Lincoln and the War's End*, contact Southern Illinois University Press at Phone: 1-800-621-2736; E-mail: [custserv@press.uchicago.edu](mailto:custserv@press.uchicago.edu); or order online at [www.siupress.com](http://www.siupress.com). Use the promo code LINCOLN at checkout and receive a 30% discount.

**\*\*\*\*\* Civil War Ancestors \*\*\*\*\***

Do you know what your ancestors did during the Civil War? Previously, **Bruce Patterson** shared the story of two members of his family.

If you would like to share stories of your kinsman or kinswoman and their lives during or after the Civil War, forward a short article and I will gladly include in *The Runner* so others may learn your family's history.



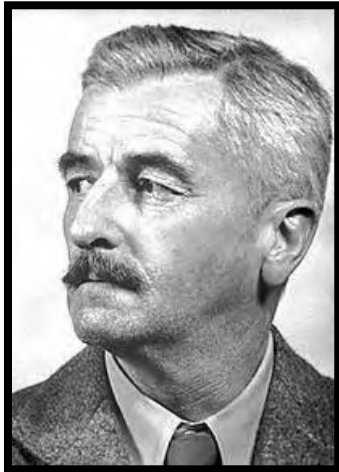
**Confederate soldier and his dog**



**Boy in Union Zouave uniform with drum**

**\*\*\*\*\* Civil War Ancestors To \*\*\*\*\***

Colonel William C. Falkner was born in Tennessee but moved to Mississippi at fifteen years of age. Falkner led the 2nd Mississippi at Manassas in July 1861. When voted out of command of the 2<sup>nd</sup>, Falkner returned to Mississippi and raised several bands of partisan rangers. After the war, he was active as a railroad builder and as a writer of romantic novels (*The White Rose of Memphis*). His great-grandson, **William C. Faulkner**, followed in the Colonel's footsteps – Faulkner won a Nobel Prize for Literature and two Pulitzer Prizes.



Russell Crawford Mitchell served as a sergeant in Hood's Texas Brigade. Severely wounded at the Battle of Sharpsburg, Mitchell was demoted for inefficiency, but served as a nurse in Atlanta. After the war, Mitchell became a lumberman who profited from the rebuilding of the Atlanta destroyed by William T. Sherman. Also rising from the ashes of Atlanta, a granddaughter, Margaret Mitchell, wrote a Pulitzer Prize-winning novel *Gone with the Wind*.

Source: Webb Garrison, *The Amazing Civil War* [New York: MJF Books, 1998] 242-243.

**\*\*\*\*\* Trivia Questions for November \*\*\*\*\***

**1 – How did the different regions of the United States compare prior to the Civil War?**

**COMPARISONS:**

	<b>North</b>	<b>South</b>	<b>Border</b>
<b>Population</b>	<b>18.5M</b>	<b>9.0M</b>	<b>2.8M</b>
<b>Manufacturing Workers</b>	<b>100.5 th</b>	<b>20.6 th</b>	<b>9.6 th</b>
<b>Product Value</b>	<b>1,100 th</b>	<b>111 th</b>	<b>70 th</b>
	<b>\$1,500M</b>	<b>\$155M</b>	<b>\$121M</b>
<b>Finance</b>	<b>\$189M</b>	<b>\$47M</b>	<b>\$18M</b>
<b>Railroads</b>	<b>20 th</b>	<b>9 th</b>	<b>1.7 th</b>

**2** – In 1931, Winston Churchill wrote an essay for a collection, by historians of the day, published in *If or History Rewritten*. Churchill's essay examined the Battle of Gettysburg and it outlined steps which Churchill believed would have enabled Robert E. Lee and his Army of Northern Virginia to gain a victory on that field. Who was the catalyst for a Confederate victory? Remember that Winston Churchill took part what was the "last" British cavalry charge at Omdurman in September 1898. He was a 23 year old lieutenant in the 21<sup>st</sup> Lancers. 33 years later, Churchill theorized that **Jeb Stuart** made a successful attack on the rear of Union lines on Cemetery Hill. Sans George Armstrong Custer's actions, Stuart's attack spread panic among the Union troops that were waiting on Cemetery Hill to repulse the Pickett-Pettigrew-Trimble attack.

Source: <http://www.historynet.com/churchill-imagines-how-the-south-won-the-civil-war.htm> (Accessed October 29, 2014).

**3** – Jack Waugh called the April 1<sup>st</sup> Battle of Five Forks the "Waterloo of the Confederacy." Who commanded the Confederate defense at Five Forks and where was he during the critical stage of the battle? Robert E. Lee had ordered **Major Gen. George Pickett** and his infantry division, with the support of cavalry the under command of Thomas Munford, W.H.F. Lee and Thomas Rosser, to hold the Five Forks crossroads at all costs. If the Confederates were defeated, Lee would lose his last supply line via the South Side Railroad.

While Phil Sheridan personally supervised the Union attacks, Gen. Pickett and his commanders attended a shad bake. Pickett was unaware of the battle.

Source: <http://www.civilwar.org/battlefields/five-forks.html> (accessed October 13, 2014),

**4** – What role did the *River Queen* play in the final days of the Civil War? The riverboat was Grant's ship while his HQ was at City Point, Virginia. The *River Queen* was the site of the Hampton Roads Peace Conference on February 3, 1865. The ship later brought President Lincoln, Mary Todd Lincoln, her maid, twelve year-old Tadd, and two guards to visit Grant at City Point. After Sherman's victory at Bentonville, Sherman ventured north to visit with Lincoln, Grant, and Admiral David Dixon Porter aboard the *River Queen*. At this famous gathering, the president and his military leaders discussed peace terms for the collapsing Confederacy.

Source: <http://www.commandposts.com/2012/03/march-26-1865-lincoln-at-city-point-planning-the-beginning-of-the-end/> (Accessed October 15, 2014).

**5** – Which unit of the ANV received the attack that broke Lee's line on April 2<sup>nd</sup>? The 18<sup>th</sup> North Carolina, as always, was in the thick of the fighting at Petersburg on that April morning. Composed of units from New Hanover, Bladen, Columbus, Robeson, and Richmond counties, the 18<sup>th</sup> served in many of the ANV engagements throughout the war.

From a history of the 18<sup>th</sup> Regiment:

In late March, General Lane deployed his men in the works between Hatcher's Run and Battery Greg (the site of present-day Pamplin Park). General Lane reported a distance of eight to ten paces existed between defenders. It showed a token defense at best.



**Brigadier General John Decatur Barry**

Note: John Decatur Barry of the 18<sup>th</sup> NC will forever be linked to the wounding of Stonewall Jackson at Chancellorsville in May 1863. After the war, Barry returned to Wilmington as a newspaper editor. Barry is buried in Oakdale Cemetery.

On the morning of 2 April, 14,000 men in the Union Sixth Corps advanced and swept the North Carolinians from their defensive positions. According to Chaplain Alanson Haines of the Fifteenth New Jersey, "The defenders of the fort showed the greatest obstinacy... Some refusing to surrender were shot down." Private Frank Esq, of the Fortieth New Jersey, captured the colors of the Eighteenth North Carolina and received the Medal of Honor for his deed.

Though fighting desperately, the Eighteenth did not give up. Some assembled at Battery Gregg, and others made a stand at some works near a dam. The entire brigade fell back. On the night of 3 April, the Eighteenth camped at Amelia Court House. Major Wooten, of the Eighteenth, commanded the sharpshooters, and they engaged the enemy, on 5 April, near Farmville. On 9 April 1865, General Lane received orders to stack their arms. At Appomattox, the Eighteenth North Carolina Troops surrendered ninety-four officers and men. They were paroled and headed back to the Old North State.

Source: [http://www.cflhs.com/history\\_18NC.htm](http://www.cflhs.com/history_18NC.htm) (Accessed October 29, 2014).

**6 – On November 30, Hood’s Army of Tennessee attacked John Schofield’s army at Franklin, Tennessee. The Confederates suffered a devastating defeat. How many Confederate generals died as a result of wounds received during this battle?** Six Confederate generals died during the attack on Union breastworks at Franklin: **Patrick Cleburne, John Carter, John Adams, States Rights Gist, Hiram Gransbury, and Otho Strahl.** Only Cleburne, Strahl, Adams, and Granbury were laid out on the back porch of the Carnton Plantation house.

**NOTE:** Be sure to schedule attendance at the January 2015 RT meeting when Stephen “Sam” Hood will share some of his research into the events about the Army of Tennessee and this campaign. Sam, a distance kinsman of John Bell Hood, will add a different slant on the controversial events that surrounded the Spring Hill, Franklin, and Nashville battles.

Source: <http://www.civilwar.org/battlefields/franklin/ten-facts/ten-facts-about-the-battle-of.html> ,  
<http://trrcobb.blogspot.com/2013/09/the-myth-of-six-dead-generals.html>.(Accessed October 15, 2014 and  
October 29, 2014).

**\*\*\*\*\* Thoughts \*\*\*\*\***



**The Peacemakers by George P.A. Healy**

How important was the conference aboard the *River Queen* on March 28, 1865? As outlined in his Second Inaugural Address, Lincoln had promoted the idea of a peace “with malice toward none ....” I think Lincoln outlined his thoughts on the war’s end and the terms to be offered to the defeated Confederates. At Appomattox and at Bennett Place, two of the Union’s hardest commanders, Grant and Sherman, offered generous to their former foes.

What are your thoughts?

Source: [http://www.whha.org/whha\\_about/white-house-collection-treasures-peacemakers.html](http://www.whha.org/whha_about/white-house-collection-treasures-peacemakers.html) (Accessed  
October 15, 2014).

# *The Runner*



## **Cape Fear Civil War Round Table**

Our next meeting will be **Thursday, 9 October** at St. Andrew's On-the-Sound Episcopal Church (101 Airlie Road). Social Hour begins at 7:00 p.m. (with light refreshments), meeting at 7:30.

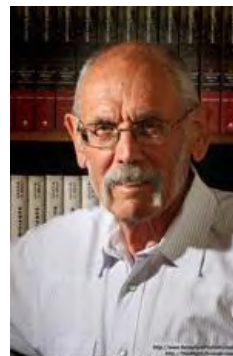
Please make plans to attend the next meeting of the CFCWRT's continuing 2014-2015 Program Year. Visitors are always welcome – **this year, ask a friend to join you**. Each of our speakers strives to enlighten, entertain, and add to our knowledge of Civil War history. This serves our mission of encouraging education and research into this seminal event in our nation's past.

**\*\*\*\*\* October Program \*\*\*\*\***

### ***Lincoln and the War's End***

On October 9<sup>th</sup>, **John C. Waugh** will discuss Abraham Lincoln during the final five months of the Civil War. Mr. Waugh will follow President Lincoln from his re-election in November 1864 through the end of the war in April 1865.

In early December Lincoln sent his last annual message to Congress. In late January 1865 he successfully pushed through Congress the 13th Amendment ending slavery throughout the United States. On March 4 Lincoln delivered his second inaugural address, one of the great speeches in the English language. Late that same month, as the war appeared about to end, he made an extended sixteen-day visit to Grant's army before Petersburg. On April 4 he walked into a just surrendered and burning Richmond with his son Tad and sat in Jefferson Davis's chair. A week later Lee's army of Northern Virginia surrendered at Appomattox Court House and Lincoln saw his four long years of toil ended in victory.



**John C. "Jack" Waugh  
Author**

John C. Waugh is a journalist turned historical reporter. For 17 years (1956 to 1973) he was a staff correspondent and bureau chief on The Christian Science Monitor. From 1973 to 1976, he was a media specialist on the staff of Republican Vice President Nelson Rockefeller of New York. For six years, 1983 to 1988, he was press secretary to Democratic U. S. Senator Jeff Bingaman of New Mexico. Between these stints in the newspaper and political worlds, and since, he has contributed to various magazines and periodicals, including *Civil War History*, *American Heritage*, *Civil War Times Illustrated*, *Columbiad*, *The Washington Post Book World*, *The New York Times*, *The New Republic*, *The Nation*, *The Los Angeles Times Magazine*, *The Boston Globe*, *The Boston Herald American*, and *Country Magazine*.

Jack began writing history—books on the Civil War era in 1989, and has since written and published ten—six full-size narratives and four shorter works. He has also collaborated with two co-authors on a book about how historians work. He believes that covering the past is not unlike covering the present. The only difference is that all his sources are dead. He greatly prefers it that way. It also means he can return to his favorite century, the 19<sup>th</sup>, on a daily basis.

**Editor**

**\*\*\*\*\* Raffle Winners \*\*\*\*\***

**Raffle Master: Ed Gibson**

*The Civil War* ----- *Dick Covell*

*The Maryland Campaign* ----- *John Moore*

*With My Face to the Enemy* ----- *John Baldwin*

*Unholy Sabbath* ----- *Martha Watson*

*Warrior Generals* ----- *W.G. Batson*

*Civil War on the Web* ----- *Ed Gibson*

If you have books, prints, or other items that you would like to donate to the CFCWRT Raffle, contact Ed Gibson ([egibson759@aol.com](mailto:egibson759@aol.com)) before our next meeting. The raffle is one of the components which allow the CFCWRT to fund our activities and our speakers. Please take part in our raffles by contributing items to the raffle or purchasing tickets.

**\*\*\*\*\* Trivia Questions for October \*\*\*\*\***

**1 – On March 4, 1865, Abraham Lincoln took his second oath of office. Who administered that oath of office?**

**2 – On April 4, 1865, President Lincoln and his son Tad visited Richmond. Lincoln visited the Confederate White House. What activity did Lincoln perform during his visit?**



3 – Who was Gibson J. Butcher?

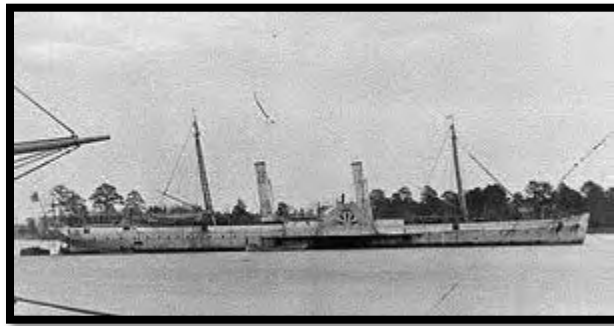
4 – The United States Military Academy Class of 1846 began with 122 cadets in late June 1842. How many of these cadets met success in the rigors that was the academy and graduated four years later?

5 – The members of the Class of 1846 graduated just as the war with Mexico began. What was the fate of this “band of brothers” in the years between 1846 and 1865?

6 – What role did Secretary of War Edwin Stanton play in the operation of the Union prisoner of war camp at Pt. Lookout Maryland?

7– What was the largest prison camp during the war?

\*\*\*\*\* **Member News & Activities** \*\*\*\*\*



**Blockade Runner the *Robert E. Lee***

If you have member news or news about Civil War events that you think would be of interest to CFCWRT membership, send me an email with the details. Thanks.

**1 – September 27, 2014 – Fort Fisher State Historic Site: “The Most Terrible Storm of Iron and Lead”:** Artillery at Fort Fisher, Saturday, 10 am - 4 pm. Free, and open to the public.

**2 – September 27, 2014 – In Remembrance of Rose O’Neal Greenhow.** A memorial service will be held at Oakdale Cemetery, 520 North 15<sup>th</sup> Street, beginning at 2:00 P.M. For more information, contact Martha Watson at mewdss@aol.com.

**3 – October 7, 2014 –** The Brunswick Civil War Round Table will meet on Tuesday – registration and refreshments: 6:30pm. Program begins: 7:00pm. They meet at the Trinity Methodist Church, 209 E. Nash Street, Southport.

Edward H. Bonekemper will present “**Lincoln and Grant and the Westerners Who Won the War.**”

**4 – October 18, 2014 – Avasboro Battlefield & Museum:** The Weekend of October 18, 2014. **Civil War Living History, with members of the 22nd North Carolina.**

**5 – October 25, 2014 – Bentonville Battlefield State Historic Site: Fall Festival and Living History.** Saturday, 10 am - 4 pm.

Bring the family and celebrate fall at Bentonville Battlefield! Activities include hayrides, carnival games based on 19th century games, corn shucking contest, townball (19th century baseball), and more. Visitors will learn about 19th century farm life, and the chores that women and children were suddenly responsible for. Costumed civilian re-enactors will also discuss how their lives changed at the outbreak of war and the general 19th century civilian lifestyle. Demonstrations include open-hearth cooking, games, spinning, sewing, and more. There is no admission fee for these daytime activities.

**\*\*\*\*\* October 1864 \*\*\*\*\***

October 1864, the Confederate General Hood believed that the only way to fight Sherman was to confront him. In this he was supported by Jefferson Davis. Hood knew that constant retreating was demoralising his men. Hood's approach won the admiration and respect of the man he was trying to defeat - Sherman.

October 1<sup>st</sup>: The body of Rose O'Neal Greenhow was found on a beach near Wilmington, North Carolina. She was one of the foremost Confederate spies in Washington DC and passed onto General Beauregard the plans of General McDowell on the eve of what became known as the Battle of Bull Run. Fearing her ship might be boarded on her return from Europe, Greenhow took to a small boat to row ashore but it must have overturned and she drowned.



Rose and "little" Rose

General Hood decided that an offensive campaign was the only way ahead for him against Sherman. Hood decided that Sherman's supply lines were too long and therefore were vulnerable to attack.

October 2<sup>nd</sup>: Confederate troops cut the Western and Atlantic Railroad – an important part of Sherman's lines of communication.

October 3<sup>rd</sup>: Jefferson Davis made a speech at Columbia, South Carolina, declaring that if everyone supported the work of Hood, he was confident that Sherman would be defeated.

Hood's men broke the track of the Chattanooga-Atlanta railroad, a further blow to Sherman.

October 4<sup>th</sup>: Hood's men destroy fifteen miles of railway near Marietta.

October 5<sup>th</sup>: Hood's men attacked Union positions that defended the railroad pass at Allatoona. The Confederate attack was defeated. Such was the importance of this victory, that Sherman sent a personal message of thanks to Major General J M Corse who commanded the Union troops at Allatoona.

October 6<sup>th</sup>: General Thomas Rosser led a Confederate cavalry force against General George Custer at Brock's Gap. It failed.



Thomas Lafayette Rosser and George Armstrong Custer – USMA Class of 1861

October 9<sup>th</sup>: Generals Custer and Lomax led a successful cavalry attack against Confederate positions in the Shenandoah Valley.

October 13<sup>th</sup>: Maryland voted to abolish slavery within the state.

A Confederate force destroyed twenty miles of railway near Resaca.

October 18<sup>th</sup>: General Early decided to attack General Sheridan's army despite being heavily outnumbered. He knew that he could not simply just move and then move on still more. Not only could he not adequately feed his army, he knew that such a tactic was demoralising his men.

October 19<sup>th</sup>: Early 10,000 men attacked Sheridan's 30,000 troops at Cedar Creek. Early's advance was disguised by fog and his attack achieved near total surprise. However, the early Confederate successes could not be sustained and by midday the exhausted Confederates withdrew. Early's army lost 3,000 men in total. The Union lost over 5,550 men in total but Sheridan's army could sustain this.

October 20<sup>th</sup>: Sheridan decided not to pursue Early as he no longer considered them to be a sustainable fighting force.

October 22<sup>nd</sup>: Hood continued with his aggressive campaign against Sherman. However, he was aware that lack of supplies was becoming a major issue.

October 23<sup>rd</sup>: The South suffered a defeat at Brush Creek in Missouri. Both sides lost about 1,500 men.

October 26<sup>th</sup>: Sherman recognised that his opponent, Hood, was a highly able commander. He said of him: "He can turn and twist like a fox and wear out my army in pursuit."

Bloody Bill Anderson was killed in an ambush at Richmond, Missouri.

The last Confederate offensive in Missouri ended.

October 27<sup>th</sup>: General Grant launched an attack against Confederate positions in Petersburg but it was beaten back.

October 31<sup>st</sup>: Hood's attempt to draw Sherman away from Atlanta failed. Hood's army was heading in one direction while Sherman's was heading further into the Confederacy.

Source: <http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/October-1864-civil-war.htm>  
(Accessed September 2, 2014).

### \*\*\*\*\* Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address \*\*\*\*\*

**“With malice toward none, with charity for all.....”** These were among the most well known words used by any president. These words were used to signify what Lincoln's second term was going to accomplish – **“to bind up the nation's wounds.”**

I had never read the entire address. It is a short, but powerful document that discussed a need for faith, a need for ending slavery, and a need for a lasting peace.

*Fellow-Countrymen:*

AT this second appearing to take the oath of the Presidential office there is less occasion for an extended address than there was at the first. Then a statement somewhat in detail of a course to be pursued seemed fitting and proper. Now, at the expiration of four years, during which public declarations have been constantly called forth on every point and phase of the great contest which still absorbs the attention and engrosses the energies of the nation, little that is new could be presented. The progress of our arms, upon which all else chiefly depends, is as well known to the public as to myself, and it is, I trust, reasonably satisfactory and encouraging to all. With high hope for the future, no prediction in regard to it is ventured.

On the occasion corresponding to this four years ago all thoughts were anxiously directed to an impending civil war. All dreaded it, all sought to avert it. While the inaugural address was being delivered from this place, devoted altogether to *saving* the Union without war, insurgent agents were in the city seeking to *destroy* it without war—seeking to dissolve the Union and divide effects by negotiation. Both parties deprecated war, but one of them would *make* war rather than let the nation survive, and the other would *accept* war rather than let it perish, and the war came.

One-eighth of the whole population were colored slaves, not distributed generally over the Union, but localized in the southern part of it. These slaves constituted a peculiar and powerful interest. All knew that this interest was somehow the cause of the war. To strengthen, perpetuate, and extend this interest was the object for which the insurgents would rend the Union even by war, while the Government claimed no right to do more than to restrict the territorial enlargement of it. Neither party expected for the war the magnitude or the duration which it has already attained. Neither anticipated that the *cause* of the conflict might cease with or even before the conflict itself should cease. Each looked for an easier triumph, and a result less fundamental and astounding. Both read the same Bible and pray to the same God, and each invokes His aid against the other. It may seem strange that any men should dare to ask a just God's assistance in wringing their bread from the sweat of other men's faces, but let us judge not, that we be not judged. The prayers of both could not be answered. That of neither has been answered fully. The Almighty has His own purposes. "Woe unto the world because of offenses; for it must needs be that offenses come, but woe to that man by whom the offense cometh." If we shall suppose that American slavery is one of those offenses which, in the providence of God,

must needs come, but which, having continued through His appointed time, He now wills to remove, and that He gives to both North and South this terrible war as the woe due to those by whom the offense came, shall we discern therein any departure from those divine attributes which the believers in a living God always ascribe to Him? Fondly do we hope, fervently do we pray, that this mighty scourge of war may speedily pass away. Yet, if God wills that it continue until all the wealth piled by the bondsman's two hundred and fifty years of unrequited toil shall be sunk, and until every drop of blood drawn with the lash shall be paid by another drawn with the sword, as was said three thousand years ago, so still it must be said "the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether."

With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation's wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan, to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations.

Source: <http://www.bartleby.com/124/pres32.html> (Accessed September 19, 2014).

\*\*\*\*\* **September Program** \*\*\*\*\*



**Richard Triebe's** research into the Union Prisoner Camp at Point Lookout, Maryland provided much information about the operation of this largest camp in the North. Richard began his program with descriptions of the prisoner exchange processes that existed early in the war. Neither North nor South was prepared for the prisoners who were taken during the large battles that began in 1861. Commanders on the field arranged exchanges as quickly as could be negotiated. The Dix-Hill Cartel established more formal exchange mechanics on July 22, 1862.

In mid-1863, the Lincoln administration stopped prisoner exchanges in response to the failure of the Confederacy to include black soldiers with equal treatment in the exchange process. This action flooded both prison camps in the North and South with soldiers who endured horrid conditions in the poorly planned and equipped prisons. The Confederate government, which found it increasingly difficult to provision its own forces, found itself with thousands of Union prisoners. The results of the cessation of exchanges and the depredations endured by those

unlucky enough to be taken prisoner caused further calls for retaliations against the offending governments.

Point Lookout was designed for a population of 10,000 prisoners – 22,000 would be confined there at its largest. A total of 52,000 Confederates passed through its gates. As instructed by Secretary of War Edwin Stanton, Colonel William Hoffman, commander of Point Lookout, never ordered the construction of permanent barracks – the men lived in tents. Per Richard's research, approximately 3,800 men died during their captivity.

For whatever reasons, the administration of prisons, North and South, was the most shameful failure during the American Civil War.

#### \*\*\*\*\* Civil War Ancestors \*\*\*\*\*

Do you know what your ancestors did during the Civil War? Last month, **Bruce Patterson** shared the story of two members of his family.

If you would like to share stories of your kinsman or kinswoman and their lives during or after the Civil War, forward a short article and I will include in *The Runner* so others may learn your family's history.

#### \*\*\*\*\* Photographs – What Story Do They Tell? \*\*\*\*\*



Sgt. Andrew Martin Chandler of the 44<sup>th</sup> Mississippi Regiment and Silas Chandler posed for this tintype in 1861. This photograph was one of the most striking and enigmatic images recorded during the war. What was the true relationship between master and slave?

An August 24, 2014 article in the *Washington Post* by Michael E. Ruane examined the photograph and part of its story. How the men were bound together will never be known, but Raune's article provided insight into the relationship and how it played out during and after the war.

The article also related how the picture was purchased from Andrew Chandler's great-great-grandson, Andrew Chandler Battaile, by McLean collector Tom Liljenquist. Mr. Liljenquist added the Chandler photograph to the collection of over 1,200 Civil War era photographs he had previously donated to the Library of Congress.

To read the complete article access the first site and to view this magnificent photograph collection access the Library of Congress site.

Source: [http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/library-of-congress-acquires-iconic-civil-war-image-of-master-and-slave-headed-to-war/2014/08/24/0f74befc-29fc-11e4-8593-da634b334390\\_story.html?wpmk=MK0000200](http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/library-of-congress-acquires-iconic-civil-war-image-of-master-and-slave-headed-to-war/2014/08/24/0f74befc-29fc-11e4-8593-da634b334390_story.html?wpmk=MK0000200), and <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/collection/lilj/>



**Confederate soldier and his dog**



**Boy in Union zouave uniform with drum**

**\*\*\*\*\* Trivia Questions for October \*\*\*\*\***

**1 – On March 4, 1865, Abraham Lincoln took his second oath of office. Who administered that oath of office?** Chief Justice Salmon Chase. Chase had been Secretary of the Treasury until his appointment to the Supreme Court during 1864.

Source: <http://www.bartleby.com/124/pres32.html> (accessed September 19, 2014).

**2 – On April 4, 1865, President Lincoln and his son Tad visited Richmond. Lincoln visited the Confederate White House. What activity did Lincoln perform during his visit?** Supposedly, Lincoln entered Jefferson Davis's office and sat in the Confederate president's chair. Lincoln also visited the State Capitol and Libby Prison.

Source: <http://www.nps.gov/rich/historyculture/lincvisit.htm> (accessed September 19, 2014).

**3 – Who was Gibson Jackson Butcher?** Gibson arrived at the United States Military Academy on June 3, 1842 as a member of the incoming class of 1846. Recommended by Virginia Congressman Samuel L. Hays, Butcher had placed higher on an examination than three other

hopefuls and he was expected to do well at the academy. Upon learning the discipline, the duties, the studying and marching that was to be his lot in the next four years, Gibson quietly and quickly departed West Point and returned to Virginia.

Gibson arrived at his home in western Virginia. He soon visited Jackson's Mill and informed one of the examination hopefuls of his decision to forego the appointment to West Point. That hopeful was Thomas J. Jackson.

Tom Jackson admitted that his lack of a formal education had left him "very ignorant." Jackson knew he would have to work extremely hard to obtain academic success. He had a strong desire to obtain the appointment and to earn an education at what former President Andrew Jackson had called "the best school in the world." Ladened with recommendations from Gibson Butcher and many others, Jackson headed to Washington, DC where he was to begin his journey into American history.

Source: John C. Waugh, *The Class of 1846 – From West Point to Appomattox: Stonewall Jackson, George McClellan and their Brothers* [New York: Ballentine Books, 1994], 3-7.

**4 – The United States Military Academy Class of 1846 began with 122 cadets in late June 1842. How many of these cadets met success in the rigors that was the academy and graduated four years later?** Captain Erasmus Keyes, a West Point instructor and 1832 graduate, described the academy as:

.... the only society of human beings I have known in which the standing of an individual is dependent wholly on his own merits as far as they can be ascertained without influence. The son of the poorest and most obscure man, being admitted as a cadet, has an equal chance to gain the honors of his class with the son of the most powerful and richest man in the country. All must submit to the same discipline, wear the same clothes, eat at the same table, come and go upon the same conditions. Birth, avarice, fashion and connections are without effect to determine promotion or punishment.... (a) model republic in all things saving respect to constituted authority and obedience to orders, without which an army is impossible.

Among those 122 cadets were George B. McClellan, Darius N. Couch, John Gibbon, Ambrose Powell Hill, Dabney H. Maury, George E. Pickett, Jesse L. Reno, George Stoneman, Cadmus M. Wilcox and the last to enter, Thomas J. Jackson. After physical and mental examinations, 92 remained to begin the summer encampment on the plain at West Point. Thomas J. Jackson was the last name on the list of the 92 cadets who would begin classes.

When the four years of study were completed, 59 cadets graduated with the Class of 1846. George B. McClellan graduated 2<sup>nd</sup>, Darius N. Couch 13<sup>th</sup>, John Gibbon graduated in 1847, Ambrose Powell Hill graduated in 1847, Dabney H. Maury 37<sup>th</sup>, George E. Pickett 59<sup>th</sup>, Jesse L. Reno 8<sup>th</sup>, George Stoneman 33<sup>rd</sup>, Cadmus M. Wilcox 54<sup>th</sup>, and Thomas J. Jackson 17<sup>th</sup>.

Source: John C. Waugh, *The Class of 1846 – From West Point to Appomattox: Stonewall Jackson, George McClellan and their Brothers* [New York: Ballentine Books, 1994], xiii –xvi.



**5 – The members of the Class of 1846 graduated just as the war with Mexico began. What was the fate of this “band of brothers” in the years between 1846 and 1865?** Fifty-three of the fifty-nine fought in the Mexican War. Four died during that conflict. Two more died during the Indian Wars of the 1850s. Of the fifty-three who remained at the beginning of the Civil War, twelve became Union generals and ten became Confederate generals. One Union and three Confederate generals died during the Civil War.

Source: John C. Waugh, *The Class of 1846 – From West Point to Appomattox: Stonewall Jackson, George McClellan and their Brothers* [New York: Ballentine Books, 1994], x.

**6 – What role did Secretary of War Edwin Stanton play in the operation of the Union prisoner of war camp at Pt. Lookout Maryland?** As presented in Richard’s program, Stanton was strongly opposed to secession and the Confederate government. He also favored harsh treatment of Confederate prisoners in retaliation for the conditions that Union prisons had endured in the southern prisons. To that end, Stanton forbade the construction of permanent housing structures at Point Lookout.

OFFICE COMMISSARY-GENERAL OF PRISONERS,  
Washington, D.C., October 17, 1863

Brig. Gen. G. Marston  
*Commanding Depot of Prisoners, Point Lookout, Md.:*

GENERAL: Your plans and estimates for barracks at Point Lookout have been submitted to the Secretary of War, but he declines at this time to order the barracks constructed. It will, therefore, be necessary to have on hand a supply of tents to meet any unexpected arrival of prisoners, and I have, therefore, to request you will make requisition for sufficient tents, with what you have on hand, to accommodate 10,000 prisoners.....

Very respectfully yours, your obedient servant,  
W. HOFFMAN  
*Colonel Third Infantry and Commissary-General of Prisoners*

Source: OR Series II Vol. VI, page 390.

Again per Richard’s talk, Stanton was not the only one who felt retaliation was needed for the miserable conditions in southern prisons. Senator Benjamin Wade and others pushed through Congress a resolution that called for harsh treatment of the rebels, enlisted and especially officers.

**7 – What was the largest prison camp during the war?** Camp Sumter at Andersonville, Georgia was designed to hold 10,000 Union prisoners – at its largest, more than 30,000 men were confined to what was best described as a “hell-on-earth.” Approximately 13,000 men died. Camp commander, Captain Henry Wirz, was hung in Washington, D.C. on November 10, 1865 for his actions against Union prisoners confined at Camp Sumter.

Source: <http://www.history.com/topics/american-civil-war/andersonville> (accessed September 14, 2014).

\*\*\*\*\* Thoughts \*\*\*\*\*

On September 15, 2014, President Obama announced that **Lt. Alonzo H. Cushing**, 4<sup>th</sup> United States Artillery. Battery A Artillery Brigade, 2<sup>nd</sup> Army Corps was to receive the Medal of Honor for his actions on July 3, 1863 at the Battle of Gettysburg. "During the advance, he was wounded in the stomach as well as in the right shoulder. Refusing to evacuate to the rear despite his severe wounds, he directed the operation of his lone field piece, continuing to fire in the face of the enemy," the White House statement said. "With the rebels within 100 yards of his position, Cushing was shot and killed during this heroic stand." This award came 151 years after the event and after its approval in the 2014 Defense authorization bill.



Alonzo H. Cushing

Congressional approval was needed because referrals for a Medal of Honor were supposed to be made within two years of the event. Former Senator Jim Webb of Virginia had long opposed the award for actions so long past. "As a point of observation, the Confederate Army lost more than 250,000 dead — one third of its soldiers — and received no Medals of Honor," Webb wrote in a letter to other senators in 2012. "While one would never wish to demean any act of courage, I believe that the retroactive determination in one case would open up an endless series of claims. The better wisdom for this body would be to leave history alone."

Webb had retired from the Senate and the language that Wisconsin Representative Ron Kind inserted in the 2014 Defense authorization bill found no opposition.

**What do you think?** Should history have "been left alone" or should the brave actions of a young artillery officer have been formally recognized? Senator Webb's remarks that Confederates "received no Medals of Honor" was indeed strange, and could lead to many other comments; however, a more pertinent question, Why was Cushing not nominated by his peers during or after the war? For actions during the war, over 1500 Medals of Honor were awarded to Union men and woman..... some of these medals were afterwards revoked. Why did the War Department not honor Cushing before the passage of 151 years?



Source: <http://www.npr.org/blogs/itsallpolitics/2014/09/01/344313857/151-years-later-picketts-charge-hero-gets-medal-of-honor> , [http://civilwarcavalry.com/?page\\_id=2922](http://civilwarcavalry.com/?page_id=2922) , (accessed September 12, 2014).

**\*\*\*\*\* Letters to the Editor \*\*\*\*\***

Tim, I always enjoy reading the newsletter for the Roundtable. I noticed your remark about the uniqueness of the South being permitted to form a veterans group comparable to the GAR. The most amazing event after the war for me is the fact that the US War Department returned captured Confederate flags to their respective Southern states in 1905. I can't think on any other time in history this has happened between two former enemies. Can you imagine the former Soviet Union returning flags to Germany or China returning flags to Japan? I think the return of the flags was such a unique event.

**Tom Belton**

*Tom retired as curator of military history for the North Carolina Museum of History in April 2011. He was (and is) an expert on North Carolina flags and has been a past speaker to our CFCWRT.*

# The Runner



## Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Our next meeting will be **Thursday, 11 September** at St. Andrew's On-the-Sound Episcopal Church (101 Airlie Road). Social Hour begins at 7:00 p.m. (with light refreshments), meeting at 7:30.

Please make plans to attend the first meeting of our 2014-2015 Program Year. Visitors are always welcome – **this year, ask a friend to join you**. Each of our speakers strives to enlighten, entertain, and add to our knowledge of Civil War history. This serves our mission of encouraging education and research into this seminal event in our nation's past.

\*\*\*\*\* September Program \*\*\*\*\*

### Point Lookout

**Richard Triebe** will be giving a talk on Maryland's Point Lookout prison camp and Hammond General hospital.

Point Lookout prison camp was the largest Union Civil War prison in the North and 52,000 Confederate soldiers passed through its gates. It was also the only Northern prison camp to house the prisoners in tents throughout the war. Approximately 3,800 Confederate prisoners died at Point Lookout prison camp during the two years it was open.



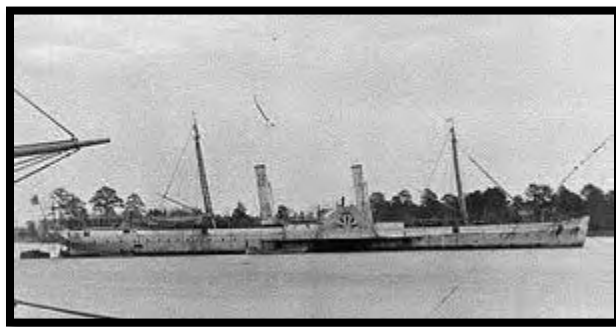
historical novels (*Upon a Rising Tide: A Tale of Running the Civil War, Port Royal*) and histories on Fort Fisher prisoners (*Confederate Fort Fisher: A Roster 1864-1865, Fort Fisher to Elmira: The Fatal Journey of 518 Confederate Prisoners*). His latest book, *Fort Fisher to Elmira*, is the recipient of the coveted Jefferson Davis Historical Gold Medal Award.

Richard H. Triebe is a freelance writer and historian. He is the author of several

Richard has an Associate's Degree in Marine Technology. Richard is a former Chicago police officer and also a former Provost Marshal investigator in the United States Army. He is a member of the Coastal Carolina Writers Guild and the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table. Richard has presented historical overviews of the battles of Fort Fisher to many local organizations. He and his wife, Barbara, live in Wilmington, North Carolina.

**Editor**

\*\*\*\*\* **Member News & Activities** \*\*\*\*\*



**Blockade Runner the *Robert E. Lee***

If you have member news or news about Civil War events that you think would be of interest to CFCWRT membership, send me an email with the details. Thanks.

**1 – Welcome** to the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table 2014-2015 program year. A wide variety of speakers and subjects will be featured during this exciting sesquicentennial year.

**2 -** The Brunswick Civil War Round Table will meet on **Tuesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>** - registration and refreshments: 6:30pm. Program will begin at 7:00pm. They will meet at the **Trinity Methodist Church**, 209 E. Nash Street.

**Peter Cozzens**, noted Civil War historian, will present ***“Shenandoah 1862: Stonewall Jackson’s Valley Campaign.”***

**3 – Opportunity** – On Saturday, **September 6**, 2014, **Dr. Chris Fonvielle** will present a lecture entitled, **“1864: The Beginning of the End of the Civil War in North Carolina.”** This Sesquicentennial talk will be sponsored by the Cape Fear Chapter 3, United Daughters of the Confederacy and will be held at **10am** at the Fifth Avenue United Methodist Church, 409 S. Fifth Avenue. For additional information, contact Pat Gasson, 392-0381.

**4 – Making Sense of the Civil War @ NHCPL** - Beginning on **September 9<sup>th</sup>** at the NHC Northeast Library (1241 Military Cutoff Road), **Dr. Chris Fonvielle** begins a series that calls for participants to read and then take part in discussions during each session. These Dr. Fonvielle led sessions are on September 9, September 23, October 7, October 21, and November 4 – **6:00 – 8:15pm**. Books for the programs are provided by the North Carolina Center for the Book and can be borrowed at the Circulation Desk at the Main Library or the Northeast Library.

For more information about these programs, or about local history and genealogy collections and research at NHC Library, please call Local History Librarian Jennifer Daugherty at 910-798-6305 or email [jdaugherty@nhcgov.com](mailto:jdaugherty@nhcgov.com).  
<http://www.libraryaware.com/560/NewsletterIssues/ViewIssue/fff25567-63c0-443b-803c-9a088205d711?postId=609400d5-a252-466d-859b-e50e5194220b>

**5 – Cape Fear Revolutionary War Round Table** meets on **September 10<sup>th</sup>** at the Southport Community Building 223 E. Bay Street at **7:00pm**. Harry Warren and Albert Shaw speak on “Production of Tar and Turpentine in Colonial North Carolina.”

**\*\*\*\*\* September 1864 \*\*\*\*\***

**September 1864** - Near Atlanta, the South launched an attack against Union positions at Jonesboro. It was a failure but of greater importance to the Union was that those who fought at Jonesboro for the Union noticed that the Confederate attack was nothing like previous ones in terms of “weight nor persistence”. A loss of a further 2,000 men at Jonesboro (against 200 lost by the North) showed that the South was losing far too many men to be able to sustain the campaign in Atlanta.

Atlanta fell on September 2<sup>nd</sup> and such was the importance of taking the city that Lincoln ordered a day of national rejoicing on September 5<sup>th</sup> 1864. It is what happened in Atlanta itself that remains one of the most controversial incidents of the American Civil War. Sherman ordered that any building that was of no use to the military should be destroyed and that the city was to be for the military only - not civilians. Grant encouraged Sherman to continue being aggressive.

September 1<sup>st</sup>: The whole of Sherman’s army was employed against Jonesboro. The Confederates here withdrew at night leaving behind 3,000 prisoners. There was little in the way of Sherman’s army now and the decision was taken to evacuate Atlanta. What the Confederate Army could not take with them was destroyed.

September 2<sup>nd</sup>: General Lee suggested that slaves could be used for the labouring tasks done by the Army of Virginia. This would free up non-slave labourers for combat.

The first Union troops entered Atlanta – men from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Massachusetts Infantry. Sherman sent a message to President Lincoln, “Atlanta is ours, and fairly won”.

September 3<sup>rd</sup>: Lincoln declared that September 5<sup>th</sup> would be a day of national celebration.

September 4<sup>th</sup>: the Confederate raider, John H Morgan, who had been a continual thorn to the Union, was killed at Greenville, Tennessee.

In Atlanta, Sherman ordered all civilians to leave. He wanted the city to be a purely military zone. He also ordered the destruction of any buildings other than private residences and churches.

September 5<sup>th</sup>: A national day of celebration. Louisiana, occupied by Union forces, voted to abolish slavery in the state.

September 8<sup>th</sup>: George B McClellan accepted the Democrat nomination to stand against Lincoln in the November election. However, the Republicans were reaping the rewards of the fall of Atlanta. Many also questioned why a major general would want to stand against the army's commander-in-chief.

September 10<sup>th</sup>: Sherman received a message from General Grant urging him to continue with his aggressive offensive.

September 12<sup>th</sup>: Buoyed by Sherman's success in Atlanta, Lincoln contacted Grant to urge him to be more aggressive against Lee. However, Grant was aware that Lee was facing major problems and that his army was becoming desperately short of men who were capable of fighting. His army was bolstered by men from General Early's army but this left Early short of men in the Lower Shenandoah Valley. Early had 20,000 men to face a Union force of 43,000 men.

September 16<sup>th</sup>: Lee's army ran out of corn and there was no obvious way his Army of Virginia could be supplied, especially as there were food shortages across the Confederacy. Lee was saved by a daring Confederate raid behind enemy lines that captured 2,400 head of cattle.

September 19<sup>th</sup>: General Early's men were attacked by a much larger Union force at Winchester. Early lost a total of 3,921 men out of 12,000 while Union losses numbered 4,018 men out of 40,000 men. While General Sheridan, commander of the Union force that attacked Early could afford such losses, Early could not. Only a very skilled withdrawal by Early avoided a far greater number of losses.

September 22<sup>nd</sup>: A large Union force pursued Early. They clashed on the banks of Cedar Creek. Early lost a further 1,200 men and 12 artillery guns.

September 23<sup>rd</sup>: Early weakened army embarked on a rapid withdrawal. They were not vigorously pursued.

September 24<sup>th</sup>: Crops in the Shenandoah Valley was destroyed on the orders of General Grant.

September 25<sup>th</sup>: What was left of Early's army fell back to Brown's Pass in the Blue Ridge Mountains.

Jefferson Davis met with General Hood at Palmetto, Georgia, to discuss what they both agreed was the parlous state of the Confederate Army in the Western Theatre.

September 26<sup>th</sup>: Union forces attacked Early's men in the Blue Ridge Mountains.

September 27<sup>th</sup>: Confederate guerrillas continued to unsettle Union forces in the South. Especially successful was Bloody Bill Anderson who looted the town of Centralia in Missouri.

September 29<sup>th</sup>: Grant started a major assault on Richmond.

September 30<sup>th</sup>: Union forces took three miles of land in just one day in their attack on Richmond. Lee with just 50,000 men to protect the city informed Davis in Richmond that his position was bleak. Lee survived by sending reserves to areas where a Union breakthrough looked the most likely. However, he knew that it was not the solution to the problems he was facing. Lee himself took command of several counter-attacks, which were successful. But he did believe that he was delaying the inevitable.

Source: <http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/September-1864-civil-war.htm>  
(Accessed May 21, 2014).

### \*\*\*\*\* Civil War Ancestors \*\*\*\*\*

Do you know what your ancestors did during the Civil War? **Bruce Patterson** shared the following about two members of his family.

If you would like to share stories of your kinsman or kinswoman and their lives during or after the Civil War, forward a short article and I will include in *The Runner* so others may learn you're your family history.

### Henry Stroub(e)

#### Company A, 15<sup>th</sup> New York Engineer Regiment



15<sup>th</sup> & 50<sup>th</sup> New York Engineers Monument at Gettysburg

Henry Stroub(e) served his Country during the Civil War with service in the 15<sup>th</sup> NY Engineers. Stroub(e) was not with the Regiment for an extended period but it was during his enlistment that the 15<sup>th</sup> was committed to one of the most significant early battles of that great conflict.



The 15<sup>th</sup> Engineer Regiment was raised in New York City in response to President Lincoln's call for troops. Henry Stroub (spelled Stroube on the Regimental roll) joined Company A, 15<sup>th</sup> New York Engineer Regiment at the age of 26 on 23 September 1862. As was the practice during the Civil War, he immediately joined the Regiment which was preparing for a campaign against the Confederate Capitol of Richmond, Virginia. In order to reach Richmond, the Union Army of the Potomac would have to cross the Rappahannock River and drive the Army of Northern Virginia from positions on the south side of the river at Fredericksburg.

Thus the 15<sup>th</sup> Engineers found themselves on the north bank of the Rappahannock River before Fredericksburg, Virginia in December, 1862 when newly appointed Union General Ambrose Burnside decided to cross the river with 120,000 men and attack General Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia who were dug into prepared positions on Marye's Heights, a wooded ridge to the south of and overlooking the city. The task for Union forces would be to cross the swift running Rappahannock, traverse the city of Fredericksburg and then attack Lee who held the high ground, south of the city. The date was 10 December 1862.



During the Civil War and for every conflict since, it is the Engineers that prepare the way for the Infantry and thus it was the 15<sup>th</sup> NY Engineer Regiment, together with the 50<sup>th</sup> NY Engineers, that was called upon to build three pontoon bridges over the Rappahannock while under Artillery fire from Marye's Heights and sharpshooter sniper fire from the city.

General Burnside began the assault with an artillery bombardment of the city the afternoon of 10 December. His Engineers followed immediately in their effort to build the bridges. They completed three bridges, with appropriate approaches by the night of 12 December. The Union Army attacked the morning of the 13<sup>th</sup> with disastrous results but the Engineers had done their job well. The bridges held and in fact were used in the Union assault and their subsequent retreat from Fredericksburg. Although there is no report of Henry Strobe's specific actions, he was no doubt in the thick of the action during that cold and wet operation.

Following the Fredericksburg Campaign, the Regiment went into winter camp but was called upon to construct corduroy roads in the vicinity as the dirt roads became impassible during the balance of the Northern Virginia winter.

Stroub was to remain with the Regiment until he was taken ill with Typhoid Fever and evacuated to a military hospital in Washington. His three year enlistment was cut short when he was discharged with disability on 25 March 1863. Henry Stroub had become a casualty of war due to disease rather than enemy action. Such was the case for more than 50% of all Civil War casualties. His records show that he was discharged with the rank of Artificer signifying that he had become a specialist in one or another discipline required for duty within the Regiment.

Henry Stroub, like so many of his fellow citizens answered his Country's call to arms in the defense of Union. As members of the (New York) Militia, they were the epitome of the Citizen Soldier.

### **The Military History of William H. Dobbs (1829-1885)**



William Dobbs was an ordinary laborer who made his living as a painter. That was before April 1861 when the Civil War began.

Dobbs was married (Sarah Newman, 23 October 1854) and living in Cold Spring, NY (Putnam County) when the New York State Militia began recruiting in order to meet the levy imposed on each state by President Lincoln. Dobbs enlisted (9 August 1862) in the newly formed 6<sup>th</sup> Heavy Artillery Regiment, raised from Putnam, Rockland and Westchester Counties. He was assigned to Company L for a contracted three year period.

The 6<sup>th</sup> Heavy Artillery (HA), following a period of training, was assigned to the defense of Washington, DC and in July of 1863, took part in the Second Battle of Manassas followed by the Mine Run campaign. The Regiment then spent the winter of 1863-64 in Winter Quarters at Brandy Station, VA (see picture) as part of the Army of the Potomac preparing for what became the most intensive and prolonged action of the war. The action of 1863 was just a foretaste of what was to follow, for in 1864, President Lincoln gave command of the Army of the Potomac to General Ulysses S. Grant with orders to defeat the Army of Northern Virginia (Robert E. Lee's battle tested troops) and ultimately capture the Confederate Capitol in Richmond.

The Regiment had taken few casualties prior to 1864 but in May they fought the Battle of the Wilderness followed by the Salient and Harris House at Spotsylvania Courthouse. It was at the Salient that the 6<sup>th</sup> HA was forced out of their traditional Artillery role and deployed as Infantry taking 161 casualties on the afternoon of May 12<sup>th</sup>. There is no record of what William Dobbs role was on those fateful days but the record of the 6<sup>th</sup> is resplendent with vignettes speaking of individual heroism. Newspaper reports, mostly written by soldiers in the field, give evidence of the terror on the battlefield as Grant continually hounded Lee and his Army of Northern Virginia as they attempted to move south and defend Richmond. It was reported in the Westchester (NY) newspapers that the Confederate forces at Spotsylvania had been told that they were facing green (untrained) troops. They were shocked to learn to the contrary as they faced the 6<sup>th</sup> Heavy Artillery fighting with rifle and bayonet.

Although the 6<sup>th</sup> sustained their highest casualties at Spotsylvania, they were quickly committed to battle at North Anna and then Cold Harbor where Grant won the day by simply committing more troops to the battle than Lee could possibly fend off. The cost to the 6<sup>th</sup> was 133 men.



**Gordon Rhea at Spotsylvania Courthouse – April 2015 CFCWRT Speaker**

Following Cold Harbor, Lee went into defensive positions around Richmond and Petersburg, VA. The siege had begun. It was during the early stages of what would become a nine month standoff that William Dobbs became ill, ill enough to turn himself into the medics and on 27 June 1864, he was transferred to the 5<sup>th</sup> Corps Hospital at City Point, Virginia (the major Union supply point at the confluence of the James and Appomattox Rivers, downstream from Richmond and Petersburg) Our ancestor remained at City Point for two months but was finally transferred (by ship) to the Military Hospital in West Philadelphia, PA for discharge on 6 May 1865.

Pension records reflect that a serious illness had afflicted him throughout his military service but it wasn't until the siege of Richmond and Petersburg that he sought (recorded) medical help. There is no doubt that Dobbs suffered from what is now known as celiac disease.

Dobbs returned to New York and his family. He received a small pension and supported his family as best he could by continuing work as a day laborer and painter. He continued to suffer from celiac until his death from a cerebral hemorrhage (8 January 1885). The medical examiner commented at that time that he appeared at least 10 years older than his 56 years. He is buried in Saint Michael's Cemetery (Astoria, LI, NY)

William Dobbs enlisted when his nation called and as fate would have it, took part in some of the most furious fighting of the war. Civil War veterans (from both sides) looked to the battles at Spotsylvania and Cold Harbor as perhaps the bloodiest of the conflict. Current day Civil War historians look with awe upon those battles still wondering how the combatants, national cousins for the most part, could have continued the engagement as their brothers fell on each side of them. When it was over, Dobbs went home and picked up where he left off. He was mustered out of the service as a Private First Class on 6 May 1865 and was awarded the appropriate service buttons at that time. William Dobbs military service was not unique. He answered the call, performed his duty and returned to civilian life. As a member of the New York Militia he was the epitome of the Citizen Soldier.

**\*\*\*\*\* Thoughts \*\*\*\*\***

I recently read several articles in the Winter 2014 issue of *The Museum of the Confederacy Magazine*. The articles were written by John M. Coski and they basically told of a story of Confederate veteran organizations and their importance in the resurrection of a defeated section of a reunited nation.

Coski's stories got me to thinking: Has any other nation allowed those who participated in a civil war and lost, to organize its defeated soldiers into veteran groups who honored the memory of their losing efforts? I cannot think of one other nation where this occurred whether in the ancient or modern world. Rome, England, France, Russia, Spain, China, the Balkans, and Syria? "Off with their heads" was and is more than a cliché. Most winners did not and do not embrace the losers in a civil conflict.

So what is the point?

Even though the United States was slow in seeing the North and the South to really embrace, it happened and compromise was achieved. It was a hard process and as recent events have shown, it is a continued process. That being said, the path that Abraham Lincoln, Ulysses S. Grant, Robert E. Lee, William S. Sherman, Joseph E. Johnston and others took in April 1865 was truly unique.

Comments?

**Editor**

# The ***RUNNER***

## Newsletter of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Editor **Tim Winstead**

Our next meeting will be **Thursday, 10 April** at St. Andrew's On-the-Sound Episcopal Church (101 Airlie Road). Social Hour begins at 7:00 p.m. (with light refreshments), meeting at 7:30.

Please make plans to attend our April meeting. Visitors are always welcome – **ask a friend to join you**. Each of our speakers strives to enlighten, entertain, and add to our knowledge of Civil War history. This serves our mission of encouraging education and research into this seminal event in our nation's past.

### \*\*\*\*\* April Program \*\*\*\*\*

## **“The Most Famous Private in the Civil War” – Private William Scott, 3<sup>rd</sup> Vermont Infantry**

A number of years ago while looking into an April, 1862 minor skirmish, **Rick Eiserman** came across a number of references to a Vermont soldier identified as “the most famous private in the Civil War”. Surprise and curiosity led to more research, including a “surprise family vacation”, to examine the facts and fiction behind the story of Private William Scott, 3<sup>rd</sup> Vermont Infantry. Killed in battle with less than a year of service, how did a young private end up with: an 1863 poem about him read in the White House and the U.S. Senate chamber; a 1914 movie and a 1929 radio play made about his exploits; and a Vermont highway named in his honor?



**Rick at Gaines's Mill with Hood's  
Texas Brigade Association Re-Activated**

**Rick Eiserman** is a long-time Civil War buff with a special interest in the history of Hood's Texas Brigade. During a 20-year U.S. Army career, Lieutenant Colonel Eiserman served in various command and staff positions in Europe, Korea and the U.S., including assignments as a military historian at both the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College and the U.S. Army War College. He has led a number of battlefield tours and staff rides, presented to numerous Civil War Round Tables and seminars, and published articles in several publications, including Civil War Times. He recently retired for a second time following a 20-year career in public education in

Pennsylvania and Georgia, in order to devote more time to the grandchildren and researching the Texas Brigade.

Rick is currently co-authoring a book on Hood's Texas Brigade with Dr. Susannah Ural to be published in the University of Tennessee "Voices of the Civil War" series. He is also editing the manuscript of PVT Joe Joskins, Co. A, 5<sup>th</sup> Texas Infantry for future publication.

Rick holds a Bachelor of Arts in Teaching degree with a major in history from Sam Houston State University, a Master's of Education from the University of Texas, and a Military Master's of Arts and Science from the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College. A member of the Harrisburg, PA CFWRT, Rick and his wife, Carmen currently live in Carlisle, PA.

**Editor**

**\*\*\*\*\* Raffle Winners \*\*\*\*\***

**Raffle Master: Ed Gibson**

If you have books, prints, or other items that you would like to donate to the CFCWRT Raffle, contact Ed Gibson ([egibson759@aol.com](mailto:egibson759@aol.com)) before our next meeting. The raffle is one of the components which allow the CFCWRT to fund our activities and our speakers. Please take part in our raffles by contributing items to the raffle or purchasing tickets.



*Robert E. Lee – Ulysses S. Grant*

**Ed Gibson**

*They Called Him Stonewall*

**Dick Covell**

*George Thomas*

**Bill James**

*Sherman*

**Dale Lear**

*The Civil War*

**Barbara Chilcote**

*Rebel*

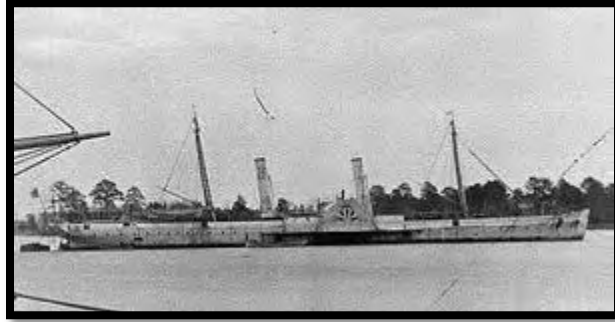
**John Moore**

**\*\*\*\*\* Trivia Questions for April \*\*\*\*\***

**1 – How many military executions were carried out during the Civil War?**

**2 - What is the difference between **Strategy** and **Tactics**?**

\*\*\*\*\* **Member News & Activities** \*\*\*\*\*



*Robert E. Lee*

If you have member news or news about Civil War events that you think would be of interest to CFCWRT membership, send me an email with the details. Thanks.

1 – Happy Easter to all members and friends of the CFCWRT on April 20<sup>th</sup>.

**2 – April 5: Civil War Trust “Park Day,” Saturday 9 am – 5 pm**

Interested in helping beautify **Fort Fisher**? Volunteer for Park Day 2014! Great project for service clubs, scouts, and youth groups, but all volunteers are welcome. Free tee-shirts, patches and lunch provided. All volunteers must register in advance by calling the site at (910) 458-5538 or email [info@friendsoffortfisher.com](mailto:info@friendsoffortfisher.com).

**3 - The 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Plymouth, NC**, will take place on April 25-27 when the Washington County Historical Society and Port ‘O Plymouth presents their Living History Weekend.

This 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the second largest battle to be fought on North Carolina soil will come only once. The weekend will include two Battle Reenactments, a Torchlight Tour, a Period Tea Party, River Rides on the Roanoke, and a Field of Honor Luminary Display.

This is the 24<sup>th</sup> annual event but (obviously) the only 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Member Keith Ward attended the 2013 event and was impressed enough to want all readers of *The Runner* to become aware of the event. Contact The Port of Plymouth Museum, 302 East Water Street, Plymouth, NC 27962, [252-793-377](tel:252-793-377) or [www.livinghistoryweekend.com](http://www.livinghistoryweekend.com) for more details.

**4 – From the Western North Carolina Civil War Round Table:** We have a large collection of Civil War books in paperback and hardcover, a few of which have been appraised as collectibles. We have been offering these to our members at a very low cost. At this time, we are opening this up to the public and are offering them first to other round tables and their members.

Inquiries to George Ferguson <http://wnccwrt.org>, or the link to our book collection is <http://www.wnccwrt.org/books.html>.

5 - The **Brunswick Civil War Round Table** will meet on **Tuesday, April 1st -** registration and refreshments: 6:30pm. Program will begin at 7:00pm. They will meet at the **Trinity Methodist Church**, 209 E. Nash Street.

**Chris E. Fonvielle, Jr.**, Ph.D., popular local historian and UNCW history professor. His topic: "The Reconstruction of Wilmington: 1865 – 1898". Editor Note: Dr. Fonvielle should provide a detailed description of Wilmington during this period of rapid change, controversy and finally armed conflict.

### \*\*\*\*\* April 1864 \*\*\*\*\*

April 1864 saw the American Civil War move into its fourth year. The improved weather meant that the month saw action on all the fronts. April 1864 witnessed another controversial incident in the war at Fort Pillow in Tennessee (April 12th).

April 2nd: The improving weather resulted in action throughout all of the theatre of war.

April 6th: The Constitutional Convention of Louisiana, meeting in New Orleans, adopted a new state constitution that abolished slavery.

April 8th: The Senate passed a joint resolution by 38 to 6 to abolish slavery. It also approved of the 13th Amendment to the Constitution.

Union forces suffered a defeat at Sabine Cross Roads. They lost 113 killed, 581 wounded and 1541 missing or captured. The South suffered total losses of 1000 men.

April 9th: Grant sent orders to Meade, commander of the Army of the Potomac. Meade's army had to follow Lee's Army of Northern Virginia wherever it went. Grant made it plain that the destruction of Lee's army was his top priority. "Wherever Lee goes, there you will head also."

In a follow-up to Sabine Cross Roads, Confederate troops attacked a Union force at Pleasant Bank. This was not a skirmish as both sides mustered 12,000 men. Both sides claimed a victory but ultimately it was the Confederates who were pushed back. The Union lost 150 dead, 844 wounded and 375 missing while the Confederates lost over 1,200 men.

April 11th: Union troops involved at Sabine Cross Roads and Pleasant Bank continue with their withdrawal from the Red River region.

April 12th: An attack by Confederate cavalry at Fort Pillow, Tennessee, became one of the most controversial incidents of the war. Fort Pillow was held by 557 Union troops, including 262 African-American troops. Confederate cavalry, commanded by Bedford Forrest, attacked and overwhelmed the fort. It was what happened next that caused



controversy. Of the 557 defenders, 231 were killed and 100 wounded. A high percentage of the deaths were African-American soldiers. In the post-war Joint Committee on the Conduct of the War it was claimed by those who survived that former slaves were specifically picked out by Forrest's men after the fort had surrendered – a claim he denied. Forrest claimed that the fort's commander carried on fighting even after it was obvious that the fort would fall. However, even by the standards of the American Civil War, casualties were high.

April 16th: A report released by the Union government showed that 146,634 Confederate prisoners had been captured since the beginning of the war.

April 17th: General Grant refused anymore prisoner exchanges. From a military point of view this was an obvious move as it reduced even further potential Confederate military reserves. However, the decision also condemned many Union men held as prisoners to appalling conditions. The South could barely feed itself, let alone prisoners-of-war.

**Editor Note: See the Peter Cozzens article about Camp Cahaba that follows in this newsletter.**

April 20th: A sea-based attack on Fort William, near Plymouth, N.C., was a resounding success for the Confederates. Not built to withstand a sea attack, the fort quickly surrendered with the capture of 2,800 men. More important, 200 tons of anthracite coal was also taken. The victory, while of no great strategic importance, was a huge morale boost for the South. However, this also should the plight of the South – celebrating a victory that had little importance to the overall way the war was going. **Editor Note: The C.S.S. Albemarle and Robert F. Hoke secured one of the last pure victories for Southern arms.**

April 22nd: Jefferson Davis sent out an order to Lieutenant General Polk that any captured African-American soldier who turned out to be an escaped slave had to be held until recovered by his owner.

April 26th: The loss of Fort William prompted Grant to pull out of Plymouth, North Carolina. In fact, Grant did not believe that the area had any strategic importance.

April 27th: Grant issued his orders for a spring offensive. The Army of the Potomac was to attack the Army of Northern Virginia head on. The Army of the James was to attack Richmond from the South. For Grant a co-ordinated and cohesive attack on the South's main fighting force was the start of the finish of the civil war. Grant believed that if his plan worked, the war would be over. He was not to know that on the same day Jefferson Davis sent Jacob Thompson to Canada to unofficially put out peace feelers for an end to the war.

April 30th: Davis sent out an order that any captured slave had to be returned to his owner.

Source: <http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/april-1864-civil-war.htm>  
(accessed February 14, 2014).

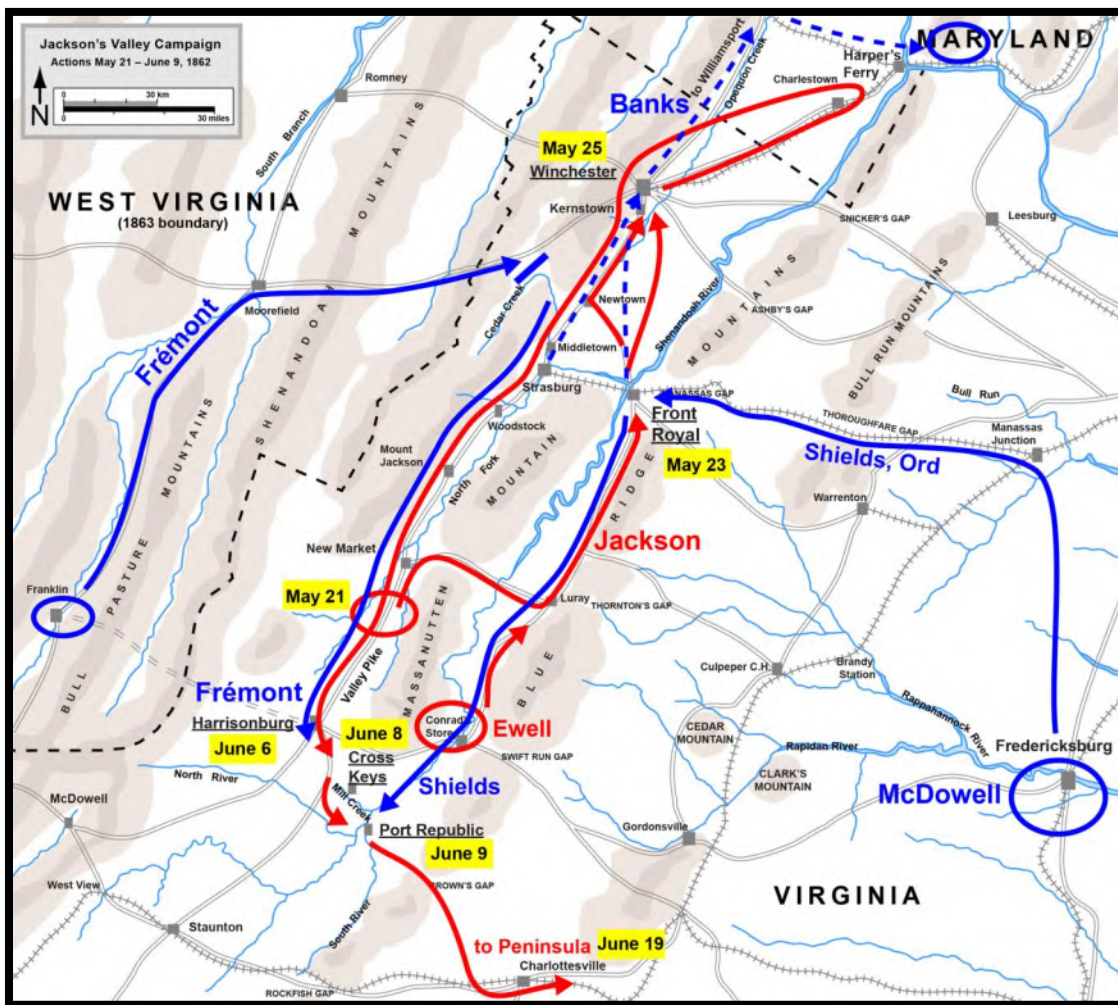
\*\*\*\*\* The Value of Honor \*\*\*\*\*

. . . and an Officer is so absorbed by the sense of responsibility for his men, for his cause, for the fight, that the thought of personal peril has no place whatever in governing his actions. The instinct to seek safety is overcome by the instinct of honor.

Major General Joshua L Chamberlain - *The Passing of Armies, 1915*  
Bruce Patterson

\*\*\*\*\* March Program \*\*\*\*\*

Shenandoah 1862: Stonewall Jackson's Valley Campaign



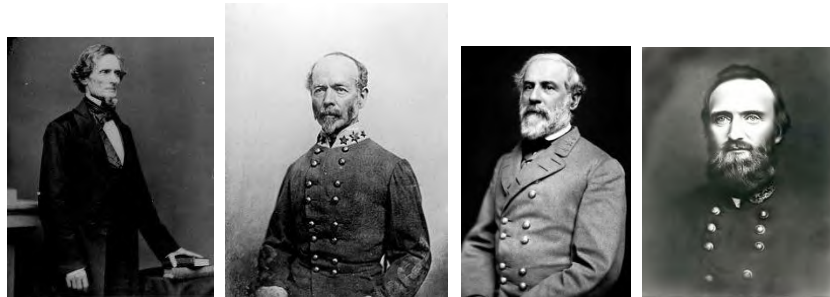
Source: Hal Jespersen, [http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Jackson\\_Valley\\_Campaign\\_Part2.png](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Jackson_Valley_Campaign_Part2.png) (accessed March 17, 2014).

Peter Cozzens presented a well reasoned study of the men and events that shaped the 1862 Shenandoah campaign.



**Northern Leadership: Abraham Lincoln, Edwin Stanton, Nathaniel Banks, Irwin McDowell, John C. Fremont, and George B. McClellan.**

Most of us, especially Southerners, probably believed that the campaign was a victory of a determined general and his men over numerically superior enemy armies. David slew Goliath! To many people, Stonewall Jackson became the stuff of legend and a hero throughout the South. Jackson had willed his small force to march faster, to march farther, and to fight harder than his adversaries. He had achieved his objective: Jackson had tied down large numbers of Union troops in the Valley and prevented their reinforcement of McClellan before the gates of Richmond.



**Southern Leadership: Jefferson Davis, Joseph E. Johnston, R.E. Lee, Stonewall Jackson**

Cozzens asked that we look closer into the Shenandoah campaign. Was it really the brilliant execution of Johnston and Lee's strategic plan and the tactical execution of that plan by Stonewall Jackson? Was it the ineptness of Banks, Fremont, and McDowell?

Cozzens proposed that this campaign was something of a different nature. To understand the 1862 campaign, Cozzens laid out the events that led to Lincoln's dismissal of George McClellan as General-in-Chief of Union armies on March 11, 1862. In short, Lincoln believed that McClellan had hoodwinked him about the strength of the Union troops left behind to protect Washington when the Army of the Potomac moved to attack Richmond via the Virginia Peninsula. Lincoln, with his Secretary of War, Edwin Stanton, not only removed McClellan from overall command of all Union armies, he and Stanton established three separate armies to operate in or near the valley. Nathaniel Banks was given command of the Department of the Shenandoah; John C. Fremont was given command of the Mountain Department in western Virginia; Irwin McDowell was given command of the Department of the Rappahannock. Each of these department commanders reported directly to Lincoln and Stanton. Per Cozzens, Lincoln's control of the strategy of Union arms led to the Union failure in the valley. Lincoln's plan involved the convergence of three armies in an attempt to trap and destroy Jackson between a pincer movement.

Lincoln and Stanton made two basic errors: 1) The Union command was fragmented by the establishment of three departments that had no coordinating communications capability. The

Union commanders were unable to move their commands with the precision necessary to execute their orders from Lincoln. What looked brilliant on a rough map was not necessarily possible due to topography, weather, or condition of a command. 2) Their actions diverted troops from the prime objective: destruction of the main Confederate army defending Richmond. Had McDowell and his 40,000 men been committed to McClellan's drive on Richmond, would the reluctant McClellan have achieved success in destroying the Confederate Army?

Banks, Fremont, and McDowell may not have performed to the best of their abilities, but they were hindered by in some cases, poor supply, and in others cases, orders from Washington which made little sense for the current situation in the field and/or no knowledge to the actions of the other departmental commanders. When John Pope was given command of the three departments on June 26, 1862, Edwin Stanton informed Pope that the forces, that were to become the Army of Virginia, had been directed from Washington by the president and himself. Stanton said that the responsibility for the valley debacle rested not with the generals, but with Lincoln's and his directions.

Was Stonewall Jackson's performance in the valley the stuff of legends? He achieved his objective. Jackson's victories also came at a low-point for Confederate arms. His victories did revive the morale of the Confederate soldier and civilian population. Jackson's actions may have instilled resolve to carry on the fight for Southern independence in the hours of serious danger. Jackson's actions in the valley did reflect soon weaknesses. Jackson's preference to piecemeal commit troops to a battle and his hard handling of his men and himself would have serious consequence for Confederate arms during the coming Seven Days Battles around Richmond.

provided fascinating details of this important action during the war's 2<sup>nd</sup> year.



Peter Cozzens, in *Shenandoah 1862: Stonewall Jackson's Valley Campaign*,

**Editor**

**\*\*\*\*\* Difference Makers \*\*\*\*\***

**Editor Note:** Do not be dissuaded by the length of the attached article. Cozzens shared a story about a truly remarkable man who commanded a Confederate POW camp in Cahaba, Alabama. Unlike Andersonville, Elmira, and other Confederate and Union camps, Cahaba had a prisoner **mortality rate of 3%** - read the entire story to learn about Howard Henderson and his most unlikely story.

## Commandant Howard Henderson, C.S.A

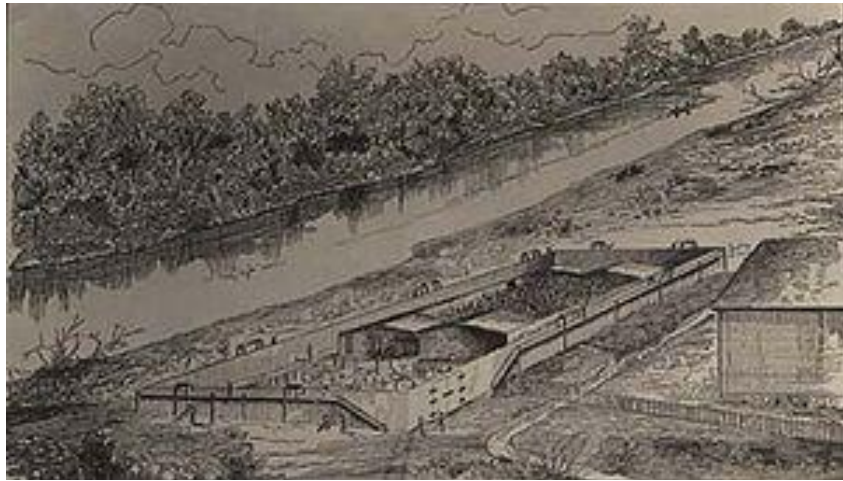
by

**Peter Cozzens**

On the afternoon of May 11, 1883, Hannah Simpson Grant died quietly in her home in Jersey City, N.J. Her son, Ulysses S. Grant, arrived later that day. To her pastor, the Rev. Dr. Howard A.M. Henderson, Grant entrusted arrangements for the funeral. Grant wanted no mention made of his own success. He asked Henderson simply to eulogize Hannah Grant as a "pure-minded, simple-hearted, earnest Methodist Christian."



**Henderson**



**Camp Cahaba, Alabama**

The man in whom General Grant placed so much trust had served honorably during the Civil War—but on the side of the Confederacy, and as the commandant of a prison camp. Soldiers in both armies despised Civil War prisons as places of hunger, harsh treatment and deadly diseases, and for the most part they excoriated prison commanders as cruel and cold-hearted. But Henderson was an exception. Gentle and genuinely concerned with the welfare of inmates, Henderson achieved with resources nearly as limited as those at Andersonville, Ga., something the commandant of that prison, Henry Wirz, couldn't: He kept his inmates alive. Under Wirz's regime, nearly a third of the 41,000 prisoners at Andersonville perished. At Cahaba, the mortality rate was 3 percent. According to Federal figures, only 147 of the 5,000 inmates died. The average mortality rate in Confederate prisons was 15.5 percent; in Union prisons, 12 percent.

There was little in the appearance of Cahaba, or in the conditions beyond Henderson's capacity to control—overcrowding, rats, lice and sometimes meager food—to suggest to new inmates their fate would be any different than that of their less fortunate countrymen at Andersonville.

But Henderson's humanity gave them hope.

Wisconsin cavalryman Melvin Grigsby entered Cahaba in the spring of 1864. His first stop was a room near the entrance. There Captain Henderson ordered him to surrender all his

valuables, promising to keep a list and return everything "at the proper time." Grigsby was skeptical; surrendered possessions had a way of disappearing in prisons. But when Grigsby and several hundred other prisoners were transferred to Andersonville, Henderson not only returned all the prisoners' valuables, but also expressed his "sorrow and shame for the horrors of that shameful place."

The Confederates established Cahaba Federal Prison in May or June 1863 in an unfinished red-brick warehouse on the west bank of the Alabama River in Cahaba, Ala., the seat of Dallas County. The town owed its name to the Cahaba River, which looped around the northern side of the town before emptying into the Alabama. The prison's informal name was Castle Morgan, after famed Confederate cavalryman Brig. Gen. John Hunt Morgan. The brick walls of the warehouse stood 14 feet high and enclosed 15,000 square feet. An unfinished roof left 1,600 square feet in the center exposed to the elements.

Under the roofed portion of the warehouse, Confederate prison authorities built 250 bunks of rough timber, one atop the other. Around the warehouse they raised a 12-foot wooden stockade with a plank walkway at the top for the guards. At the southeast corner of the stockade they built a four-seat privy. Drinking water for the prisoners came from an artesian well emptied into an open gutter, which flowed 200 yards through town before entering the stockade.

In July 1863, Henderson became commandant of Cahaba. A month later he also was named an agent for the exchange of prisoners, a duty that often took him away from the prison. Henderson understood Northerners. He had graduated from Ohio Wesleyan University and studied law at the Cincinnati Law School. Preferring the church to law, he became a Methodist minister after graduation. Henderson was determined to run Cahaba with as much compassion as discipline and good order permitted, but the prison nonetheless had its share of problems. Quarters were cramped. In March 1864, there were 660 prisoners at Cahaba, a third of whom had to sleep on the dirt floor of the warehouse for lack of bunks. The polluted water supply posed a grave health threat. Prison surgeon **R.H. Whitfield** told the Confederate medical department that, in its course from the artesian well to the warehouse, the water "has been subjected to the washings of the hands, feet, faces, and heads of soldiers, citizens, and negroes, buckets, tubs, and spittoons of groceries, offices, and hospital, hogs, dogs, cows, and filth of all kinds from the streets and other sources."

In response to Whitfield's complaint, the quartermasters installed pipes to replace the open ditch, which gave the prisoners clean water to drink. But in the summer of 1864, General Grant ordered a halt in prison exchanges, and the population of Cahaba grew to 2,151 in October. Conditions deteriorated sharply. Cahaba became the most overcrowded prison, North or South. Each prisoner had only 7.5 square feet to call his own; those at incarcerated Andersonville had 35 square feet of space per man.

Rations dropped severely both in quantity and quality. The average daily issue became 12 ounces of corn meal, ground together with cobs and husks, 8 ounces of often rancid beef or bacon, and occasionally some bug-infested peas. Prisoners were not starved at Cahaba, but they were hungry enough that a gnawing desire for food permeated their dreams. "The same experience was often repeated," remembered Sergeant Jesse Hawes of the 9th Illinois Cavalry.

"Go to the bed of sand at 9:00 p.m., dream of food till 1:00 or 2:00 a.m., awake, go to the water barrel, drink, and return to sleep again if the rats would permit sleep."

The number of rats at Cahaba grew at about the same rate as the prison population until, Hawes said, they became a veritable plague. They burrowed into every corner of the warehouse and swarmed through the prison yard. "At first they made me nervous, lest they should do me serious injury before I should awake; but after several nights' experience that feeling was supplanted by one of irritation—irritation that they should keep waking me up so many times during the night, an annoyance that at length became nearly unendurable."

But rats were a minor annoyance when measured against the infestation of lice, from which no prisoner was free. Private Perry Summerfield said that after his first night at Cahaba he was so covered with lice that his clothes "looked more like pepper and salt than blue." Lice "crawled upon our clothing by day, crawled over our bodies, into the ears, even into the nostrils and mouths by night," Hawes said.

Hardest to bear were the human vermin that infested the prison. The most pernicious came from among the prisoners themselves. Called "muggers," they were a well-organized group of robbers for whom newcomers were the targets of choice. The muggers would beat a man senseless or render him defenseless with a rag of chloroform (obtained from guards in exchange for part of the muggers' profits), and then strip him bare of money, watch, jewelry and keepsakes that the prisoner had managed to secrete from prison authorities.

It took a giant of a man named Richard Pierce to bring order. Standing nearly 7 feet tall, with chest and shoulders "enormous for a man of his gigantic dimensions," the young private from the 3rd Tennessee Union Cavalry was so mild-mannered that his fellow inmates regarded him as an overgrown boy—until four muggers robbed his best friend. "Big Tennessee," as the prisoners called Pierce, tracked down the robbers and knocked all four of them senseless. Big Tennessee's two-fisted justice rallied the prisoners and cowed the muggers, the worst of whom joined the Confederates to escape retribution from their former victims.

There ironically was less human vermin among the guard force of 179 poorly trained conscripts. Most of the Confederates were humane and well-intentioned, but at least two stood out as cold-blooded murderers. One named Hawkins shot three men in one week from the walkway atop the stockade wall, recalled several former prisoners, "without the least shadow of reason or excuse for the murders."

Another assassin, a boy not more than 16 whom the prisoners dubbed "Little Charley," killed three prisoners. He shot two men at close range and bayoneted a third in the cooking yard, again for no apparent reason. One day Little Charley failed to appear on duty as expected, and among the prisoners the rumor arose that he had been granted a furlough for his "zeal as a guard." Hawes decided to find out for himself. "Was he given a furlough because he killed so many prisoners?" Hawes asked a friendly guard. "I guess so," drawled the Southerner, "that's what we 'uns allers heerd."

That murder would be condoned, much less rewarded, under Henderson's regime was unthinkable. But on July 28, 1864, a new officer had arrived to command the military post of Cahaba and the prison guards. He was Lt. Col. Samuel Jones, a cruel man who had been twice captured and paroled, and then passed over for command of his regiment. Jones came to Cahaba with the professed intention of seeing the "God-damned Yankees" suffer.

The commander of military prisons in Alabama and Georgia, Brig. Gen. John H. Winder, complained to Richmond that he had not requested, nor did he want, Jones at Cahaba. The inspector general's office opposed divided authority at prison camps and sided with Winder. They looked into Jones' records and found no orders assigning him to Cahaba, but he nonetheless remained at the prison. Henderson's duty as exchange agent took him away from Cahaba frequently. In his absence, Jones was in charge.

Jones instituted a unique form of punishment and applied it for violations of serious prison regulations. On a ladder resting against the outer wall of the stockade, Jones forced prisoners to grasp a rung just high enough so that their feet barely touched the ground, and then sustain their weight by their hands for a prescribed number of minutes. There certainly were worse forms of punishment in Civil War prisons, many of which were inflicted with less cause, but to men accustomed to Henderson's moderate discipline, Jones' methods seemed barbaric. Amanda Gardner, whose home stood just outside Cahaba Prison, also found Jones' behavior reprehensible. Gardner was a "thorough Rebel" who already had lost a son in the war and believed in the righteousness of the Southern cause, said one prisoner, but she abhorred brutality. When she demanded Jones cease punishing prisoners near her doorstep, the colonel rebuked her. "Your sympathy for the damned Yankees is odious to me," Jones told her. "Now bear yourself with the utmost care in the future or you shall be an exile." But Henderson intervened and endorsed all Gardner had done. After that, Jones left her alone.

Gardner did far more for the prisoners than protest cruel punishment. Soon after the prison opened she began sending gifts of food, which her young daughter Belle slipped through cracks in the stockade wall with the connivance of friendly guards. When winter came, she took up every carpet in her house and cut them into blankets in order to "relieve the suffering of those poor prisoners." Gardner lent the prisoners books from a large and varied collection that an uncle had left her. Prisoners had only to send a note by a guard to Amanda or Belle in order to borrow a book from the Gardner library.

The good effect Gardner's books had in alleviating tedium, which could sap a man's will to live, contributed to the low death rate at Cahaba. Relatively good sanitation also played a role. After Whitfield's report, water entered the camp in pipes rather than an open gutter. The water closet at the southeast corner of the stockade prevented human waste from contaminating the water supply.

The final factor favoring survival was the prison hospital, located in a rambling, two-story hotel called Bell Tavern that the Confederacy commandeered to serve both guards and prisoners. There were never quite enough cots to go around, but chief surgeon **Louis Profilet** and prison surgeon Whitfield treated Confederates and Northerners with equal consideration. Medicine was seldom in short supply. Men died in the Bell Tavern hospital, but not for want of care.



Neither did they die for want of effort by Henderson. In September 1864, Henderson, now a colonel, proposed a special exchange of 350 of Cahaba's inmates. The Union district commander, Maj. Gen. Cadwallader C. Washburn, forwarded the request to the commissary general of prisoners along with a favorable comment on Henderson's management of Cahaba. The proposal made its way to Grant, who denied it as part of his larger policy of prohibiting prisoner exchanges. As winter neared, Henderson suggested the Federals send a ship up the Alabama River under a flag of truce and deliver supplies to the prisoners. Henderson and Washburn overcame the reservations of their superior officers, and in December a Union steamboat offloaded at Cahaba 2,000 complete uniforms, 4,000 pairs of socks, 1,500 blankets, medicine, writing papers and envelopes, and a hundred mess tins.

Henderson had done his best. But the prisoners wanted food more than supplies, and most bartered their new clothing to guards for extra rations. When the food was gone, wrote Henderson sadly, the prisoners were left with the same "scanty clothing and ragged blankets in a climate particularly severe in winter."

In December, Cahaba was cursed with the arrival of a prisoner who nearly cost several dozen innocent men their lives. He was Captain Hiram S. Hanchett of the 16th Illinois Cavalry. Moments before Confederate cavalymen captured him near Nashville, Hanchett had shed his uniform and donned civilian clothing, on the mistaken assumption that the Rebels would let civilians go. Hanchett further incriminated himself by adopting an alias. As he marched into Cahaba, Hanchett knew that he had made himself subject to conviction and execution as a spy. To save himself, Hanchett concocted an absurd escape plan. He told a handful of prisoners his true identity and offered to lead them to the Confederate arsenal at Selma to steal weapons, and then another 125 miles to Federal lines at Pensacola, Fla. In the early morning hours of January 20, 1865, Hanchett and his co-conspirators overpowered the nine guards on duty and shoved them into the water closet.

Hanchett's band never made it beyond the gate. The corporal of the relief saw the scuffle and called for help. Hanchett yelled into the warehouse for 100 "men of courage" to join him in rushing the gate. No one responded. Jones entered the prison with cannons and 100 guards, threatening to blow Hanchett and his men "from hell to breakfast."

One of his coterie let slip that Hanchett was a Union officer, and Henderson wrote to the War Department for permission to court-martial him as a spy. His letter got lost in the crumbling bureaucracy of the dying Confederacy.

Henderson left Cahaba permanently in January 1865 for Union-held Vicksburg, there to dedicate himself to duties as agent for prisoner exchanges.

No sooner had Henderson left than a natural disaster of the first order confronted Jones. Late February downpours pounded the prison and surrounding country, and on March 1 the Cahaba River roared over its banks. A torrent of water swept through town and into the stockade. The water closet backed up, and by nightfall the prisoners found themselves waist-deep in fetid water.

The next morning a delegation of sergeants appealed to Jones to let the prisoners move to higher ground just outside the stockade. Jones refused for fear they might escape. As a dumbfounded Hawes recalled, "The possibility of an escape at that time was an absurdity. The whole country was flooded." Sixty Confederate guards signed a petition on behalf of the prisoners. But Jones stood fast, and the prisoners stood shivering in the water for three days before Jones relented and allowed small details to go out and gather timber to build platforms for the men to stand on. Softening a bit more, he also sent 700 prisoners to Selma to ease the overcrowding.

Nine days later, as the last of the waters drained from the stockade grounds, Jones told the incredulous prisoners that he was going to parole them all.

It was no act of charity on Jones' part; with the war winding down, Grant had relented on prisoner exchanges. For four weeks steamboats plied the Alabama River with prisoners from Cahaba. Most were taken to a neutral site outside Vicksburg called Camp Fisk to await formal exchange. On April 14, Union department commander Maj. Gen. Napoleon J.T. Dana telegraphed the War Department that 4,700 Federals were at Camp Fisk awaiting transportation home. Of that number, he said, 1,100 were sick, nearly all of whom were from Andersonville. "The rest of the prisoners," Dana reported, "are in excellent health, the Cahaba prisoners particularly."

Camp Fisk was the creation of Henderson and his Union counterpart, Colonel A.C. Fisk. When he learned exchanges were to be resumed, Henderson asked Fisk to send supplies to the prisoners at Cahaba. Fisk suggested instead that Henderson bring the men to neutral ground near Vicksburg, where they would be guaranteed ample rations and medical attention. Henderson agreed and enthusiastically hastened the transfers.

But the humane work of Henderson and Fisk ended in an unimaginable tragedy. On April 24, the paddle steamer SS Sultana left Vicksburg crammed with approximately 2,000 Union prisoners, more than half of them Cahaba men. The Sultana had bad boilers and a legal capacity of 376 passengers. Early on the morning of April 27, three of the four boilers exploded, and the Sultana sank near Memphis. Two-thirds of those on board died.

The notorious Captain Hanchett had perished several days earlier. With the war over and no one to convene a court-martial of the presumed spy, Colonel Jones took matters into his own hands and murdered Hanchett. Not long after, Jones vanished from history. Federal authorities tried for a year to find him. If they had, Jones might have been the only Confederate prison official besides Andersonville Commandant Henry Wirz executed for war crimes.

General Dana made certain no harm came to Colonel Henderson. For as long as he superintended exchanges at Camp Fisk, a battalion of Union cavalry was assigned as Henderson's personal bodyguard. But after John Wilkes Booth killed President Lincoln, no Confederate, no matter how well-meaning, was safe within Union lines. So Dana spirited him across the Mississippi River into a camp of Texas Rangers.

Henderson died in Cincinnati in 1912. Obituaries incorrectly said Henderson had been a Confederate brigadier general and omitted any mention of his duty as commandant of Cahaba prison. No matter. Few readers would have recognized the name Cahaba, and none could have found the place had they wanted. After the flood of 1865, the county seat moved to Selma. Within a decade white residents had dismantled their homes and churches and moved away. At the turn of the century a former slave bought the abandoned warehouse and demolished it for the bricks. Cahaba prison remained only in memoirs and fading memories.

Source: Peter Cozzens <http://www.historynet.com/surviving-a-confederate-pow-camp.htm> (accessed March 17, 2014).

### \*\*\*\*\* Trivia Questions for April \*\*\*\*\*

**1 – How many military executions were carried out during the Civil War?** More soldiers were executed during the [American Civil War](#) (1861–1865) than in all other American wars combined. Approximately **500 men**, representing both North and South, were shot or hanged during the four-year conflict, two-thirds of them for desertion. The Confederate Articles of War (1861) specified that "all officers and soldiers who have received pay, or have been duly enlisted in the services of the Confederate States, and shall be convicted of having deserted the same, shall suffer death, or such other punishment as, by sentence of a court-martial, shall be inflicted." The General Orders of the War Department (1861, 1862, 1863) directed that those men convicted of desertion were "to be shot to death with musketry, at such time and place as the commanding General may direct."

Perhaps the most notorious mass execution came at the order of Major General [George E. Pickett](#) who, in February 1864, as commander of the Department of Virginia and North Carolina, authorized the hanging of twenty-two prisoners of war—men of the 2nd North Carolina Infantry (Union)—whom he deemed to have been deserters from the Army of Northern Virginia. After the war, United States authorities recommended that formal charges be filed against Pickett, and only the intervention of [Ulysses S. Grant](#) prevented his arrest and trial.

Source: [http://www.encyclopediavirginia.org/military\\_executions\\_during\\_the\\_civil\\_war#start\\_entry](http://www.encyclopediavirginia.org/military_executions_during_the_civil_war#start_entry) (accessed March 10, 2014).

**2 - What is the difference between Strategy and Tactics?** You could read volumes about these subjects; however, I found the following simple definition in a business publication. I think that it applies to the use of these word definitions in business, politics, and military situations:

**Strategy is done above the shoulders,  
Tactics is done below the shoulders.**

Source: <http://www.web-strategist.com/blog/2013/01/14/the-difference-between-strategy-and-tactics/> (accessed March 17, 2014).

# The *RUNNER*

## Newsletter of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Editor **Tim Winstead**

Our next meeting will be **Thursday, 12 December** at St. Andrew's On-the-Sound (101 Airlie Road). Social Hour begins at 7:00 p.m., meeting at 7:30.

Please join us at our December meeting. Visitors are always welcome – ***bring a friend or two***. Each of our speakers strives to enlighten, entertain, and add to our knowledge of Civil War history. This serves our mission of encouraging education and research into that historic conflict.

### \*\*\*\*\* December Program \*\*\*\*\*

## The Battle of South Mountain

Join us on December 12, 2013 when **Rex Hovey**, reenactor and Civil War sutler, will discuss the Battle at South Mountain and the North Carolina Monument erected to honor those troops who served there.

On Sunday, September 14, 1862, rear guard elements of the Army of North Virginia were involved in a desperate encounter on the crest of South Mountain, between Middletown and Boonsboro, Maryland. The battle on South Mountain began when the vanguard of General George McClellan's Army of the Potomac, emboldened with discovery of Robert E. Lee's Special Order 191, moved to strike the Confederates before their widely scattered forces could be re-concentrated. This often overlooked battle, which could have precipitated the possible destruction

of Lee's Army, was the prelude to the Battle of Sharpsburg on September 17<sup>th</sup>.



Hovey

Rex Hovey is the President of the Living History Association of Mecklenburg County, Inc. This association reenacts as the **13<sup>th</sup> North Carolina** and the **136<sup>th</sup> New York** on battlefields throughout the Eastern Theater. Rex is a retired Fire Captain from the Charlotte Fire Department. Rex and his wife, Bonnie, live in Mint Hill, NC.

**Editor**

**\*\*\*\*\* Raffle Winners \*\*\*\*\***

**Raffle Master: Ed Gibson**

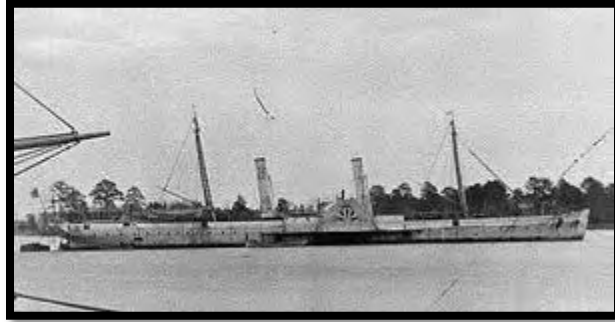
If you have books, prints, or other items that you would like to donate to the CFCWRT Raffle, contact Ed Gibson ([egibson759@aol.com](mailto:egibson759@aol.com)) before our next meeting. The raffle is one of the components which allow the CFCWRT to fund our activities and our speakers. Please take part in our raffles by contributing items to the raffle or purchasing tickets.

<i>Civil War in Depth</i>	- Dick Covell
<i>Encyclopedia of the Civil War</i>	- Joseph Hack
<i>General A.P. Hill</i>	- Dan Geddie
<i>Lethal Glory: Dramatic Defeats of the Civil War</i>	- Thomas E. Taylor
<i>Soldier Life</i>	- Thomas E. Taylor
<i>Action at Aquila</i>	- John Winecoff

**\*\*\*\*\* Trivia Questions for December \*\*\*\*\***

- 1 – Who commanded the Confederate forces at the Battle of South Mountain?**
- 2 – Confederate and Union troops fought at three gaps that led through the South Mountain range. What were the names of these gaps?**
- 3 – When was IN GOD WITH TRUST first shown on United States currency? Who proposed those exact words?**
- 4 – The Sea Mine or Torpedo had been conceived as early as the 16<sup>th</sup> century by the Dutch as a defensive weapon to be used against the ships of an opposing country's navy. American, David Bushnell, became known as the father of mine warfare during the American Revolution. Robert Fulton, another American engineer and inventor, was hired by Napoleon and then the British to design naval weapons including the submarine *Nautilus* and naval torpedoes. Samuel Colt, yet another American, first used an electrical current to detonate a mine in the Potomac River in 1844. During the late 1850s, British scientists, Charles Wheatstone and Frederick Abel, perfected the Wheatstone magnetic exploder and the Abel fuse as a practical way of exploding a sea mine. When the Confederate Secretary of Navy, Stephen Mallory directed that the Confederate Navy develop defensive weapons to destroy Union warships, whom did he choose as the leader of the Confederate efforts?**
- 5 – How many Union naval vessels were sunk by Confederate torpedo mines? How many Confederate vessels were sunk by Union torpedo mines?**
- 6 –Who was R.O. Crowley?**

\*\*\*\*\* **Member News & Activities** \*\*\*\*\*



*Robert E. Lee*

If you have member news or news about Civil War events that you think would be of interest to CFCWRT membership, send me an email with the details. Thanks.

**1** – The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table would like to welcome new member, **Clyde Peer**, and returning members to the Round Table. If you know someone with an interest in history, invite them to a meeting. You might bring in a new member.

**2** - Our **CFCWRT Annual Dinner Meeting** will be held in the Madeline Suites on the campus of UNCW on Thursday evening, 13 February, 2014. The featured speaker is noted historian and author, Rod Gragg, who will discuss his latest work: *The Illustrated Gettysburg Raeder: An Eyewitness History of the Greatest Battle of the Civil War*.

Tickets for the event are \$30 and include one raffle ticket that features a Kurz & Allison (1890) print of the *Second Battle of Fort Fisher* or one of two Brian Kraus prints (*33<sup>rd</sup> North Carolina at the Battle of New Bern* or *First Shot in the Civil War*) Additional raffle tickets (\$5) may be purchased prior to the event.

Tickets will be available beginning at the scheduled 12 December meeting (Rex Hovey and the *Battle of South Mountain*) on a first come first served basis since seating in the Madeline Suites is limited to about 100.

**3** – Our gift to the Civil War Trust has been acknowledged:

To The Members of the Cape Fear CWRT, Dear Fellow Preservationists, I cannot adequately express just how much I appreciate your support in the form of your recent \$600 gift (10/17/13) to the Civil War Trust for our preservation efforts at Gettysburg, Glendale, Malvern Hill and Deep Forests battlefields. . . . I commend you and hope that you take great pride in your accomplishments. Signed: Hannah Sise, Development Associate, Civil War Trust. (Hand written note: “Thank You All for your wonderful generosity”

**4** - The **Cape Fear Revolutionary War Round Table** will host its Annual Dinner Meeting on **December 4<sup>th</sup>** at the Madeline Suite – UNCW. Doors open at 5:30PM with dinner at 6:30PM. Ken Money will give a power point presentation on his work to

preserve the family cemetery and grave site of General Alexander Lillington of Moores Creek. Tickets will \$30.00 per plate.

Please call Connie Hendrix (910-278-6705) with your reservation **by Nov. 26th**.

**5** - Do you have guests coming to town? Do you want to do something a little different and share some history of the area? Consider visiting the **Fort Fisher State Historic Site** where Site Interpreter **Ray Flowers** gives a special 45 minute tour that covers the fort, its history, and its people. The \$10 tour begins at noon. Contact 910-458-5538 for additional details.

**6 – Fort Fisher State Historic Site *Holiday Open House* – December 10<sup>th</sup>**: Tuesday 10 am – 4 pm. Join us in celebrating the season at Fort Fisher State Historic Site. Enjoy seasonal refreshments, decorations, and entertainment throughout the day, including musical performances guaranteed to delight, and discounts in the museum store. Admission is free, and open to the public. Sponsored by the Fort Fisher chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy and the Friends of Fort Fisher and its sustaining members. Please call the site for more information at 910-458-5538.

**7 – Fort Anderson State Historic Site “An 18<sup>th</sup> Century Christmas” – December 15<sup>th</sup>**: Sunday 1 – 5:30 pm. This seasonal program allows visitors the opportunity to experience what life may have been for the citizens of Brunswick at Christmastime. Costumed interpreters will provide tours of St. Philips Church and historic Brunswick Town. Visitors will have the opportunity to try their hands at crafting a traditional Moravian star, play 18th century games, create stenciled ornaments, and enjoy colonial-era refreshments in the Visitor Center. The highlight of the evening will be a period candlelit service in the ruins of St. Philips Church. Service will begin promptly at 5:00pm. Admission is free, and open to the public.

**8 – Our friends at the Brunswick Civil War Round Table** will meet on Tuesday, **December 3th** at 6:30pm. They meet at the Trinity United Methodist Church, 209 E. Nash Street, Southport.

**Richard McMurray**, Civil War historian and author, will speak about the “A Georgian’s View of Sherman.”

\*\*\*\*\* **Difference Makers** \*\*\*\*\*

### **The Gallant Pelham**

Few men have been as noted for their courage in battle as was John Pelham of Alabama.

Pelham was at West Point when he made the difficult decision to serve his home state in the coming war. He served as commander of Jeb Stuart’s six-gun horse artillery battery in more than 60 actions before he was killed at Kelly’s Ford in March 1863. At Fredericksburg in December 1862, Pelham gained lasting fame when Robert E. Lee

observed Pelham's two gun battery as it fired for over an hour from an exposed position on the Union line and noted: "It is glorious to see courage in one so young."

Upon Pelham's death, Jeb Stuart wrote: "The noble, the chivalric, the gallant Pelham is no more . . . . How much he was beloved, appreciated and admired, let the tears of agony we have shed, and the gloom of mourning throughout my command bear witness. His loss to the country is irreparable."

Pelham observed war in a different context. He always served, even in the direst of situations, with courage and determination. After the first Battle of Manassas, Pelham wrote about his observation of warfare:



**Lt. Col. John Pelham**

I have seen what Romancers call glorious war. I have seen it in all its phases. I have heard the booming of cannon, and the more deadly rattle of musketry at a distance – I have heard it all nearby and have been under its destructive showers; I have seen men and horses fall thick and fast around me. I have seen our own men bloody and frightened flying before the enemy – I have seen them bravely charge the enemy's lines and heard the shout of triumph as they carried the position. I have heard the agonizing shrieks of the wounded and dying – I have passed over the battle field and seen the mangled forms of men and horses in frightful abundance – men without heads, without arms, and others without legs. All this I have witnessed and more, till my heart sickens; and war is not glorious as novelists would have us believe. It is only when we are in the heat and flush of battle that it is fascinating and interesting. It is only then that we enjoy it.

Pelham had no illusion about the gloriousness of war; however, he believed in his course of action: "I see the horrors of war, but it is necessary: We are battling for our rights and our homes. Ours is a just war, a holy cause. The invader must meet the fate he deserves and we must meet him as becomes us, as becomes men."

Agree with Pelham's reasoning or not, his actions always supported his beliefs. John Pelham was a difference maker.

Source: [http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/04/01/the-gallant-pelham/?\\_r=0](http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/04/01/the-gallant-pelham/?_r=0) (accessed November 1, 2013). [http://www.usa-civil-war.com/Civil\\_War/pelham.html](http://www.usa-civil-war.com/Civil_War/pelham.html) (accessed November 1, 2013).

**\*\*\*\*\* December 1863 \*\*\*\*\***

The armies on both sides of the American Civil War were effectively driven to a halt by the weather. The impact on the soldiers in the field was huge with scurvy and dysentery affecting many.

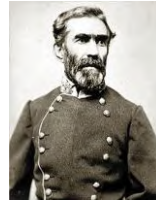


December 1<sup>st</sup>: Meade decided to withdraw the Army of the Potomac away from Richmond. In the previous few days, his army had suffered badly from the very poor weather.



**George Meade**

Bragg offered his resignation to Jefferson Davis after the defeat at Chattanooga. Even now, in the aftermath of a significant defeat, Bragg chose to blame others in his army, namely Major-General John Breckenridge, who he described as a drunk, and Cheatham who Bragg claimed was unfit for duty.



**Braxton Bragg**

December 2<sup>nd</sup>: Lieutenant-General W H Hardee was appointed on a temporary basis to succeed Bragg as commander of the Army of the Tennessee.

December 3<sup>rd</sup>: General Longstreet concluded that he did not have sufficient resources to take Knoxville, so he ordered his army to withdraw to its winter quarters at Greeneville.

December 4<sup>th</sup>: Persistent heavy rain made Longstreet's withdrawal very difficult for his troops who had to endure very harsh conditions.

December 7<sup>th</sup>: The fourth session of the Confederate Congress met in Richmond. Despite brave words from Jefferson Davis, all present knew that it had been a bad year for the Confederacy.

December 8<sup>th</sup>: President Lincoln announced the Proclamation of Amnesty and Reconstruction to Congress. He offered a full amnesty to those who fought for the Confederacy except to former Federal army officers who had resigned their commission to fight for the South. Anyone who was found guilty of mistreating Union prisoners was also exempt from any Presidential pardon as were senior government officials. Lincoln also promised that all property in the South (except former slaves) would be restored to their legal owners. He also guaranteed that any Southern state would be allowed back into the Union if just 10% of those in a state swore allegiance to the Union. Each of these states would also have to abandon slavery.

December 10<sup>th</sup>: The Army of the Potomac went into its winter quarters as no more manoeuvres were expected in view of the weather and the great difficulty this placed on movement.

December 15<sup>th</sup>: The lack of money available to the Confederacy was all too clear to Brigadier-General E P Alexander, part of Longstreet's command, when he noticed men marching in their bare feet as there were no replacements for broken shoes. Longstreet

ordered his men to exchange their footwear with the boots worn by captured Union soldiers.

December 16<sup>th</sup>: General J E Johnston was appointed commander of the Army of Tennessee. General Bragg went to Richmond and became the military adviser to President Jefferson Davis.



**Joseph E. Johnston**

December 18<sup>th</sup>: Union troops were suffering the same hardships as those in the South. Union troops at Knoxville had no winter clothing and they slept under their ponchos as no tents had been sent there. Both North and South had more casualties as a result of ill-health and disease as opposed to actual combat. Despite their hardships, General Grant applauded the work done by the men at Knoxville and praised Burnside's leadership.

December 21<sup>st</sup>: By this day most military operations had ceased because of the weather.

December 26<sup>th</sup>: The strength of the Confederacy was put at 465,000 men but only 278,000 were actually present at their colours. The discrepancy was accounted for by those men off through illness and the many thousands who had deserted. Those that remained at their colours were experienced soldiers. The North was not in a particularly good position either as it was having major problems enforcing conscription.

December 29<sup>th</sup>: The first signs of scurvy were reported in both camps along with frequent outbreaks of dysentery.

Source: <http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/december-1863-civil-war.htm> (accessed October 21, 2013).

\*\*\*\*\* **December 1863** \*\*\*\*\*

## ***In God We Trust***

The motto IN GOD WE TRUST was placed on United States coins largely because of the increased religious sentiment existing during the Civil War. Secretary of the Treasury **Salmon P. Chase** received many appeals from devout persons throughout the country, urging that the United States recognize the Deity on United States coins. From Treasury Department records, it appears that the first such appeal came in a letter dated November 13, 1861. It was written to Secretary Chase by Rev. M. R. Watkinson, Minister of the Gospel from Ridleyville, Pennsylvania, and read:

*Dear Sir: You are about to submit your annual report to the Congress respecting the affairs of the national finances.*

*One fact touching our currency has hitherto been seriously overlooked. I mean the recognition of the Almighty God in some form on our coins. You are probably a Christian. What if our Republic were not shattered beyond reconstruction? Would not the antiquaries of succeeding centuries rightly reason from our past that we were a heathen nation? What I propose is that instead of the goddess of liberty we shall have next inside the 13 stars a ring inscribed with the words PERPETUAL UNION; within the ring the allseeing eye, crowned with a halo; beneath this eye the American flag, bearing in its field stars equal to the number of the States united; in the folds of the bars the words GOD, LIBERTY, LAW.*

*This would make a beautiful coin, to which no possible citizen could object. This would relieve us from the ignominy of heathenism. This would place us openly under the Divine protection we have personally claimed. From my hearth I have felt our national shame in disowning God as not the least of our present national disasters.*

*To you first I address a subject that must be agitated.*

As a result, Secretary Chase instructed James Pollock, Director of the Mint at Philadelphia, to prepare a motto, in a letter dated November 20, 1861:

*Dear Sir: No nation can be strong except in the strength of God, or safe except in His defense. The trust of our people in God should be declared on our national coins.*

*You will cause a device to be prepared without unnecessary delay with a motto expressing in the fewest and tersest words possible this national recognition.*

It was found that the Act of Congress dated January 18, 1837, prescribed the mottoes and devices that should be placed upon the coins of the United States. This meant that the mint could make no changes without the enactment of additional legislation by the Congress. In December 1863, the Director of the Mint submitted designs for new one-cent coin, two-cent coin, and three-cent coin to Secretary Chase for approval. He proposed that upon the designs either OUR COUNTRY; OUR GOD or GOD, OUR TRUST should appear as a motto on the coins. In a letter to the Mint Director on **December 9, 1863**, Secretary Chase stated:

*I approve your mottoes, only suggesting that on that with the Washington obverse the motto should begin with the word OUR, so as to read OUR GOD AND OUR COUNTRY. And on that with the shield, it should be changed so as to read: IN GOD WE TRUST.*

The Congress passed the Act of April 22, 1864. This legislation changed the composition of the one-cent coin and authorized the minting of the two-cent coin. The Mint Director was directed to develop the designs for these coins for final approval of the Secretary. IN GOD WE TRUST first appeared on the 1864 two-cent coin.

Source: <http://www.treasury.gov/about/education/Pages/in-god-we-trust.aspx> (accessed October 28, 2013).

\*\*\*\*\* **November Program** \*\*\*\*\*

**Fort Anderson's Torpedo Defenses**

**Jeff Bockert** provided those present at his presentation with a fascinating history of the development of the torpedo in its various forms.

Secretary of the Confederate Navy, Stephen Mallory, directed the first efforts by the Confederate government to protect against the Union Navy's passage up the James River to attack Richmond. Mallory selected Matthew Fountaine Maury to command the Submarine Battery Service, (Note that the Torpedo Bureau was headed by Gabriel F. Rains). Initial experiments with galvanic torpedoes were carried out by the small group of 50 men who made up the service. The men assigned to the service were sworn to secrecy and they carried special credentials that called for exchange for general officers if they were captured by Union forces.

After Maury was sent to Europe to secure materials (copper and platinum wire, Wheatstone magnetic exploders) then in short supply in the Confederacy. Lt. Hunter Davidson assumed command of the service. Davidson and his men developed several different types of mines that were used to defend the James River. The men of the torpedo division performed their task successfully for the Union Navy was never able to breach the James River defenses.

detonation wires between the fort's exploder device and the mines.

Recognized as critical to the Confederate war effort, elements of the Torpedo Division were sent to the Cape Fear area during August 1864. R.O. Crowley and others mined New Inlet at Fort Fisher where they placed seven 2000 pound boiler torpedoes served from a battery station at Battery Buchanan. Crowley and his men also buried 100 pound copper land mines in front of the land face at Fort Fisher – these land mines were rendered useless when the heavy naval bombardment cut the



**Jeff Bockert**

After the fall of Fort Fisher on January 15, 1865, J. Pembroke Jones and members of the service mined the river off Fort Anderson. The Confederates placed four boiler and thirty keg torpedoes in the waters near the fort. William B. Cushing attempted to entice the Confederates to

prematurely explode their mines by launching a “mock” ironclad *Old Bogey* during the dark of night. The Confederates probably exploded few of their mines on the hardly secret “mock” ironclad scheme; however, the Union Army made the concentrated grouping of mines a moot matter when they flanked the land defenses of Fort Anderson. The Confederates evacuated Fort Anderson early on February 19<sup>th</sup> and they surrendered Wilmington within a matter of days.

The Confederate torpedo defenses caused the Union Navy many concerns for their ships being blown out of the water. The Union land campaign proved the determining factor in the fall of Wilmington. As it happened after Wilmington fell, the navy had been correctly concerned about the torpedoes: three Union naval vessels were damaged or sunk by the “infernal machines” of the Confederate Navy’s Submarine Battery Service/Torpedo Division.

### \*\*\*\*\* Winter Wanderings \*\*\*\*\*

It’s December. The golf course has turned brown and the garden (such as it is) is more or less dormant. What to do with all that excess time? For the next three months, this column will review Museum options for your consideration, all within a day’s drive.

We start with the Military Museum located at the west end (river side) of the Air Force Recreation Area and NC National Guard Training Site at Kure Beach. This is a no brainer being only 30 minutes from any Wilmington location. The site is not an active military reservation thus there are no access limitations. There is no admission fee.

Sponsored by the North Carolina Military Historical Society, this hidden gem contains a wealth of military memorabilia dating back to the Civil War. The collection contains a significant amount of WW II equipment as well as uniforms and small arms from both WW I and WW II. The German uniform collection is particularly impressive.

The Museum library contains extensive research material on military matters in general plus specific material on the 30<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, NC National Guard.

Winter hours at the Museum are Friday and Saturday 12 to 4 PM however, special arrangements can be made for specific openings to accommodate your special group. Please contact our Round Table members Dan Geddie (799-5338), John Winecoff (253-0883) or the undersigned for details. Dan and his team of curators can accommodate your group but we do ask that you provide us a two week lead time.

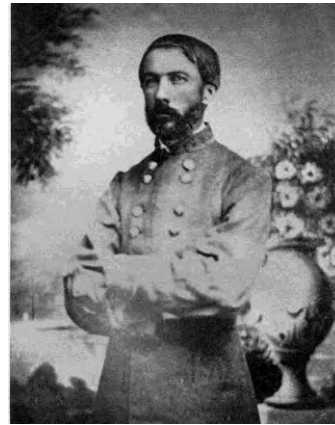
North Carolina is a state with a rich military heritage. Much of it is on display at this convenient Kure Beach museum. Next month, Fayetteville.

**Bruce Patterson**

### \*\*\*\*\* Trivia Questions for December \*\*\*\*\*

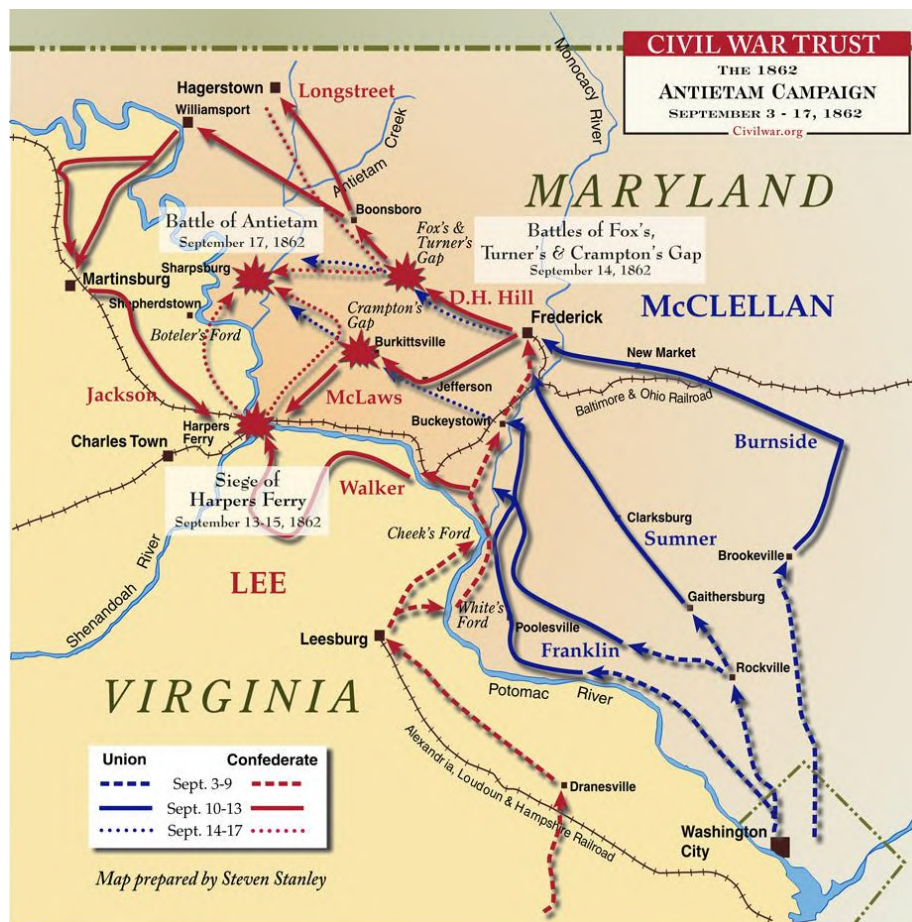
**1 – Who commanded the Confederate forces at the Battle of South Mountain?** Per article 7 of Lee’s Special Order 191, **General Daniel Harvey Hill**’s Division formed the rear guard of the army.

General Hill was the overall commander of the 5,000 soldiers who initially resisted the Union advance. Hill filled his thin line with teamsters, cooks, and staff officers. The Confederates barely held the line until additional units (included those of John Bell Hood) arrived on the scene. Hill eventually had 10,000 men to oppose a Union force of 25,000. After darkness descended on the battlefields, Lee ordered Longstreet and Hill to withdraw and move toward Sharpsburg. Lee's Army was able to begin a re-concentration only because of the tenacity of the Confederate defenders and caution by the Union commanders.



D.H. Hill

2 – Confederate and Union troops fought at three gaps that led through the South Mountain range. What were the names of these gaps? From north to south, Turner's, Fox's and Crampton's Gaps.



Source: <http://www.civilwar.org/battlefields/southmountain/maps/cramptongapmap.html> (accessed November 15, 2013).

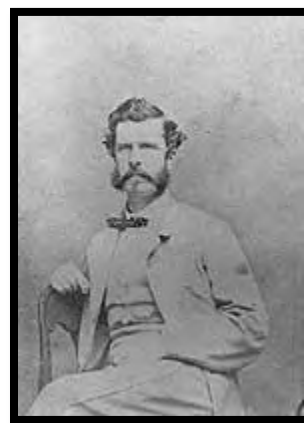
**3** – When was **IN GOD WITH TRUST** first shown on United States currency? Who proposed those exact words? **IN GOD WITH TRUST** first appeared on the 1864 two-cent piece. Salmon P. Chase, Secretary of the Treasury, proposed those words in a letter to James Pollock, Director of the Mint, on December 9, 1863.

**4** – The Sea Mine or Torpedo had been conceived as early as the 16<sup>th</sup> century by the Dutch as a defensive weapon to be used against the ships of an opposing country’s navy. American, David Bushnell, became known as the father of mine warfare during the American Revolution. Robert Fulton, another American engineer and inventor, was hired by Napoleon and then the British to design naval weapons including the submarine *Nautilus* and naval torpedoes. Samuel Colt, yet another American, first used an electrical current to detonate a mine in the Potomac River in 1844. During the late 1850s, British scientists, Charles Wheatstone and Frederick Abel, perfected the Wheatstone magnetic exploder and the Abel fuse as a practical way of exploding a sea mine. When the Confederate Secretary of Navy, Stephen Mallory directed that the Confederate Navy develop defensive weapons to destroy Union warships, whom did he choose as the leader of the Confederate efforts? Mallory was a good judge of talent for he selected Captain **Matthew Fontaine Maury**, “Pathfinder of the Sea.” Maury, who was one of the leading scientists of his day, began experiments on the James River. Maury formed what would be the Submarine Battery Service/ Torpedo Service with a small group of about 50 men. When Maury was sent to Europe to gain critical supplies and materials Lt. **Hunter Davidson** succeeded Maury.

Davidson and his Submarine Battery Service made the James River one of the most dangerous places in the Confederacy in which the Union Navy navigated.



**Matthew F. Maury**



**Hunter Davidson**

**Source:** [http://www.history.navy.mil/museums/keyport/The\\_History\\_of\\_the\\_Sea\\_Mine.pdf](http://www.history.navy.mil/museums/keyport/The_History_of_the_Sea_Mine.pdf) (accessed November 15, 2013),

**5** – How many Union naval vessels were sunk by Confederate torpedo mines? How many Confederate vessels were sunk by Union torpedo mines? Twenty-two Union ships were sunk and twelve were damaged by Confederate torpedoes, while six Confederate ships were destroyed by Union Navy torpedoes.

Both Confederate and Union navies further developed the torpedo as an offensive weapon. The CSS *David* steam torpedo boat was the first spar torpedo equipped vessel to attack a Union warship when it damaged the USS *Ironsides* at Charleston during August 1863. The most famous spur torpedo attack was against the CSS *Albemarle* by William B. Cushing during October 1864.

Source: <http://www.history.navy.mil/museums/keyport/html/part1.htm> (accessed November 19, 2013). <http://www.charlestonillustrated.com/hunley/david.htm> (accessed November 19, 2013), Gabriel J. Rains and Peter S. Michie, *Confederate Torpedoes: Two Illustrated 19<sup>th</sup> Century Works with New Appendices and Photographs*, ed. Herbert M. Schiller [Jefferson, North Carolina: McFarland & Company, 2011] 139-167.

**6 –Who was R.O. Crowley?** Crowley was an electrician with the Confederate Torpedo Division. He wrote an account of his service for the June 1898 issue of the *Century* quarterly. The article, “The Confederate Torpedo Service,” provided an interesting history of his service on the James River and in the Cape Fear region at both Fort Fisher and Fort Anderson. Crowley also provided information on the use of “mechanical torpedoes” usually placed by local army officers at Charleston, Savannah, Mobile Bay, and the Yazoo River.

Crowley concluded his article with his experience shortly after the fall of Richmond. Crowley was summoned by armed guards to General Terry’s headquarters and told that he was required at Admiral Porter’s flagship immediately. Fearing the worst about the persistent rumor that Torpedo Division personnel would be hung, Crowley was much relieved to be escorted by only a lieutenant to the *Malvern*. Per Crowley’s account, when he entered Porter’s cabin, he came face-to-face with Abraham Lincoln.

After introduction myself, and stated the occasion of my visit, Mr. Lincoln called for Admiral Port. When he came in, Mr. Lincoln said, “Porter, here is the young man you were expecting.” This looked ominous to me. Why had I been expected?

Porter informed Crowley that he wanted the location of all torpedo stations along the James River to be shown to Union Navy officers so that the river could be made safe for navigation. Crowley told Porter that the regular torpedo service torpedoes were harmless because the batteries and insulated wiring had been destroyed. Porter should be aware that the army had placed many “mechanical torpedoes” that were still dangerous to all shipping.

**Note:** Lincoln and his son Tad did tour Richmond on April 4, 1865. His arrival was far from a grand entrance, Lincoln, Porter accompanied by a small escort were rowed ashore by twelve sailors. William H. Crook, Lincoln bodyguard, reported, “On either side we passed so close to torpedoes that we could have put out our hands and touched them.” They arrived around 2:00 P.M. and departed around 6:30 P.M. Lincoln stayed on the *Malvern* the night of April 4th. Maybe Crowley did meet the President of the United States. Si non e vero, e ben trovato.

Source: R.O. Crowley, “The Confederate Torpedo Service,” *The Century* 2 [June 1898]: 290-301, Doris Kearns Goodwin, , *Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln* [New York: Simon & Schuster, 2005], 718.



# The *RUNNER*

## Newsletter of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Editor **Tim Winstead**

Our next meeting will be **Thursday, 13 February** at the **Madeline Suites on the campus of UNCW**. Registration will begin at 6:30, Dinner at 7:00, and Program at 8:00.

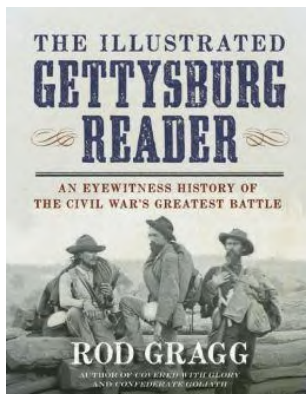
Purchase your ticket and join us at our February dinner meeting. Tickets are \$30 each which includes dinner, the program and a raffle ticket. Raffle items include books, and three prints including a rare Kurz & Allison print (circa 1890) entitled *The Capture of Fort Fisher*. Secure your place at this event by mailing your check to CFCWRT, PO Box 15750, Wilmington, NC 28408 **prior to 3 February** or by contacting Bruce Patterson ([910-794-8905](tel:910-794-8905) or [bppatterson@earthlink.net](mailto:bppatterson@earthlink.net)) Guests are most welcome. For additional details, visit [www.cfcwrt.com](http://www.cfcwrt.com).

\*\*\*\*\* **February Program** \*\*\*\*\*

### **The Illustrated Gettysburg Reader: An Eyewitness History of the Greatest Civil War Battle**

**“power, intimacy and poignancy....”**  
*Booklist Magazine*

Our **CFCWRT Annual Dinner Meeting** will be held in the Madeline Suites on the campus of UNCW on Thursday evening, **13 February, 2014**. The featured speaker is noted historian and author, **Rod Gragg**. He will discuss his latest work: *The Illustrated Gettysburg Reader: An Eyewitness History of the Greatest Battle of the Civil War*.



The confrontation at Gettysburg was the most important battle of the Civil War. For the Confederacy, success at Gettysburg would yield Southern Independence. For the Union, the battle was an opportunity to fight on Northern soil and destroy the seemingly invincible Army of Northern Virginia. For three days, the battle raged and more men died

during this epic struggle than in any other battle. Rod examined the drama that was Gettysburg as it was documented by its participants – North and South.

**Rod Gragg** is a former television news director, anchorman and reporter who is the director of the Center for Military Veteran Studies at Coastal Carolina University in Conway, South Carolina. Rod also serves as an adjunct professor of history at that school. As a noted Civil War Historian (*Confederate Goliath, Covered with Glory*), Rod is author of books about the American Revolution (*By the Hand of Providence, Forged in Faith*), the American West (*Lewis and Clark on the Trail of Discovery*), and World War II (*From Foxholes and Flight Decks, Lessons in Leadership from the Greatest Generation*). The winner of numerous literary awards for several of his 19 history books, Rod also hosts a regional television program, “Military Memoirs,” which features interviews with American military veterans.

Rod, his wife, Cindy, and their family reside in Conway, South Carolina.

### **Editor**

### **\*\*\*\*\* Raffle Winners \*\*\*\*\***

#### **Raffle Master: Ed Gibson**

If you have books, prints, or other items that you would like to donate to the CFCWRT Raffle, contact Ed Gibson ([egibson759@aol.com](mailto:egibson759@aol.com)) before our next meeting. The raffle is one of the components which allow the CFCWRT to fund our activities and our speakers. Please take part in our raffles by contributing items to the raffle or purchasing tickets.

<i>Bloody Ground</i> (Bernie Cornwell)	- Thomas E. Taylor
<i>Avenger Takes His Place</i> (Howard Means)	- Thomas E. Taylor
<i>Gettysburg: Day Three</i> (Jeffrey D. Wert)	- Dale Lear
<i>Women at War</i> (L.P. Brocket)	- Thomas E. Taylor
<i>The Civil War Day by Day</i> (E.B. Long)	- Ed Gibson
<i>The Rock of Chickamauga</i> (Freeman Cleaves)	- John Winecoff

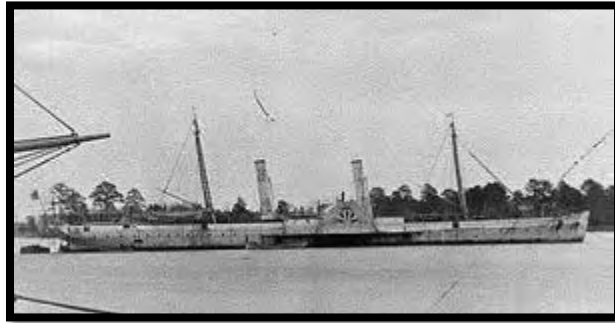
### **\*\*\*\*\* Trivia Questions for February \*\*\*\*\***

**1 – A.P. Hill’s Corps arrived at Cashtown, 8 miles west of Gettysburg, on June 29, 1863. On the morning of the 30<sup>th</sup>, Division commander, Henry Heth, ordered one of his subordinates to take three of his regiments and advance on Gettysburg where the Confederate forces were to collect commissary and quartermaster stores. Who was this Confederate commander?**

2 – Two Confederate generals are buried at Arlington National Cemetery. Who were these men?

3 – Per Sam Hood’s research, who was responsible for the failure of the Confederate troops to attack John Schofield’s retreating Union Army at Spring Hill?

\*\*\*\*\* **Member News & Activities** \*\*\*\*\*



*Robert E. Lee*

If you have member news or news about Civil War events that you think would be of interest to CFCWRT membership, send me an email with the details. Thanks.

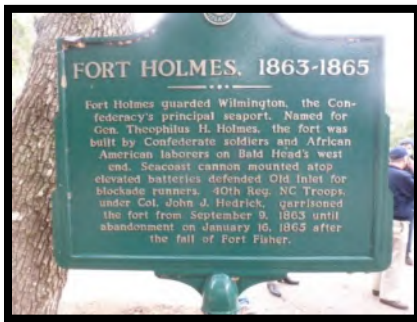
1 - **Dr. Chris E. Fonvielle Jr.** led a tour to Bald Head Island and its, Ft. Holmes, on Jan. 9 on behalf of the BCWRT for the annual **Ed Bearrs** visit to the Cape Fear region. They always try to take Ed somewhere he has never been when they host him as a speaker. I am attaching a picture of a marker that tells the story, if you want to add some history of the area in there.



**Ed and Chris**

CFCWRT members attending: Linda Lashley, Tom Hodges, John Munroe. Reciprocal members attending were Pat Steele, Charen Fink, Bob Maffitt, Wally Rueckel and, Mike Powell.

**Linda Lashley**



**Fort Holmes**



**Bald Head Island tour participants**

2 – On January 18, several members of the **CFCWRT** and the **North Carolina Military Historical Society – Wilmington Chapter** joined the activities at the 149<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Second Battle for Fort Fisher. These hardy folks, after all it IS January at Fort Fisher, shared information about both the CFCWRT and NCMHS with general public.



(L-to-R) Joe Hack, Dale Lear, John Winecoff, Linda Lashley, Dennis Wrynn, Bruce Patterson, Bob Cooke, and Dan Geddie

The members of the NCMHS man a recruiting and exhibit table that shares the story of the Society's Museum at the former Air Force base north of the Civil War site. Below members show off the latest addition- circa **1950 M1 Garand Rifle** - to the museum's impressive collection of small arms. The museum's collection also includes military gear, books, maps, equipment, etc. that documents North Carolina's military tradition from Pre-Civil War to the current period.



(L-R) Dale Lear, Dan Geddie, John Bolger, Joe Hack, Bob Cooke, John Winecoff, Dennis Wrynn

**3** – The Museum of the Confederacy and The American Civil War Center will combine to become **The American Civil War Museum: Confederacy, Union, Freedom**. The American Civil War Museum comprises The Museum and the White House of the Confederacy, The American Civil War Center at Historic Tredegar, and the Museum of the Confederacy – Appomattox. When completed in early 2016, the museum will be located at Historic Tredegar, an 8.9 acre National Historic Landmark. Further details [www.moc.org](http://www.moc.org).

**4** – The **Brunswick Civil War Round Table** will meet on **Tuesday, February 4th** - registration and refreshments: 6:30pm. Program will begin at 7:00pm. They will meet at the **Trinity Methodist Church**, 209 E. Nash Street..

**Gerald Prokopowicz**, Associate Professor of History at East Carolina University, will speak about “**Did Lincoln Own Slaves?**”

**\*\*\*\*\* Difference Makers \*\*\*\*\***

### **Marcus Joseph Wright**

Marcus Joseph Wright, aged 91, who held the rank of Brigadier General in the Confederate Army, died December 26, 1922 at his home in Washington, D.C. He was the author of a number of histories and memoirs of the South. Since 1878 he had been an agent for the War Department for the collection of Confederate military papers.

"He was born at Purdy, Tennessee, and had practiced law in that State. He was one of the foremost writers on the Confederate side of the Civil War, and had contributed fifty sketches of Southern commanders to Appleton's Cyclopedia of American Biography. With General A. L. Long, he prepared "Memoirs of Robert E. Lee," and has written half a dozen other books dealing with United States Military history."

His memorial in Section 16 of Arlington National Cemetery, at the base of the [Confederate Memorial](#), reads:

Marcus Joseph Wright  
Cheatham's Brigade

Source: <http://www.arlingtoncemetery.net/mjwright.htm> (Accessed January 19, 2014).

**\*\*\*\*\* February 1864 \*\*\*\*\***

February 1864 saw the start of what was to become one of the most controversial acts of the American Civil War. General Sherman started what was to eventually be known as his 'March Through Georgia' - though in this case it was a march on a major railway but with the intention of destroying anything that could be of use to the South once his army had moved on.

February 1<sup>st</sup>: President Lincoln ordered another 500,000 men to be drafted to serve for three years or for the duration of the war.

February 3<sup>rd</sup>: Life in the Confederacy became more difficult when on this day Jefferson Davis suspended habeas corpus for those accused of spying, desertion or association with the enemy. Such a move increased Davis' unpopularity.

Sherman started his march to destroy the Mobile/Ohio railway. His army consisted of 20,000 men. Sherman had by now decided to destroy as much Southern property as he could. When the war started any deliberate attack on civilians was all but unheard of. Now it was to form a specific part of Sherman's tactics in the South. He believed that by inducing fear and terror, he could bring the war to a swift end. Confronting Sherman's army was a Confederate force that also numbered 20,000. But they were demoralised, poorly equipped and poorly fed.

February 5<sup>th</sup>: Sherman's army reached Jackson, Mississippi. His final target was Meridian.

February 6<sup>th</sup>: The South banned the import of all luxury goods.

February 9<sup>th</sup>: 109 Union officers escaped from Libby Jail in Richmond. It was the largest escape of its kind during the war. 59 made it back to Union lines, 48 were recaptured and 2 men drowned.

February 14<sup>th</sup>: Sherman's army entered Meridian and started to systematically destroy it. Hotels, hospitals and storehouses (once what was in them was removed) were set alight.

February 16<sup>th</sup>: The Confederates under General Polk made a half-hearted attempt to confront Sherman. However, Sherman was so confident of success that he left half his men – 10,000 – in Meridian to complete their destructive work.

February 17<sup>th</sup>: Conscription in the South is extended to all white 17 to 50 year olds. Opposition to this was widespread and included the Confederacy's Vice-President!

February 20<sup>th</sup>: A Union force of 5,500 men confronted a similar number of Southern troops at Olustee, Florida. The Confederates were successful as the Union troops (many of whom were 'substitutes') turned and fled. Many of the Union troops were armed with the new Spencer rifle and nearly 1,600 of these were left behind.

February 24<sup>th</sup>: Congress agreed to reinstate the rank of lieutenant general. Grant is given this rank and became the supreme military commander of the army, though still answering to the commander-in-chief – Lincoln. The president also agreed to a plan to compensate farmers to the tune of \$300 for every slave they allowed to go free and who enlisted in the Union Army.

Jefferson Davis appointed his friend, General Bragg, to have full control of all the South's military operations. Many senior Confederate officers expressed their opposition to this appointment.

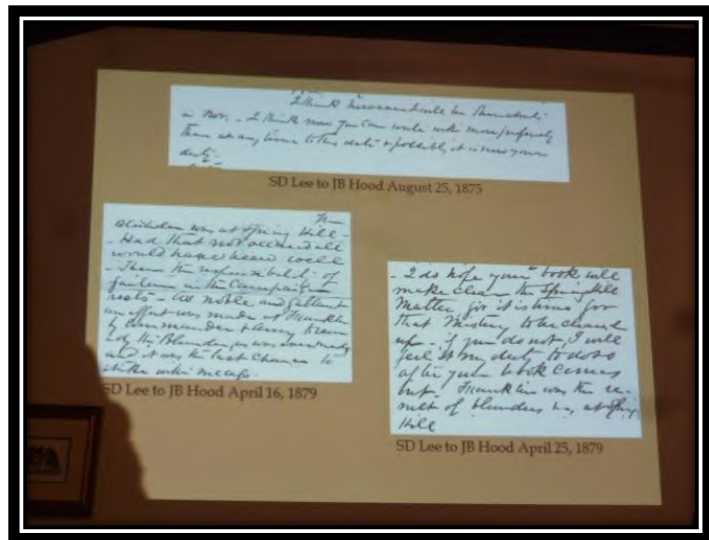
February 27<sup>th</sup>: Union prisoners started to arrive at the stockade at Andersonville, Georgia. Conditions and treatment there meant that by the end of the war, this prison was to have a notorious reputation.

February 28<sup>th</sup>: The North launched a cavalry attack against Richmond. The idea was to free Union prisoners held at Belle Isle and race back to Union lines. Lincoln considered that such a raid would have enormous propaganda value if it succeeded. It was to go wrong from the start.

Source: <http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/february-1864-civil-war.htm> (accessed December 12, 2013).

\*\*\*\*\* January Program \*\*\*\*\*

## John Bell Hood: The Rise, Fall, and Resurrection of a Confederate General



Stephen M. “Sam” Hood shared a most interesting presentation about the research he did in preparation for his recent book about General John Bell Hood. Part of this research involved verifying the multiple sources that had been used by several historians in their treatment of General Hood. Sam reached somewhat different conclusions than some previous writers. Up front, Sam told the audience that being a distant relative of General Hood made his research more personal and more diligent in tracking perceptions to their core sources.

Sam was most enthusiastic when he recounted the first examination of General Hood’s personal papers that had been saved – and kept private - by one of Hood’s children. Letters, commissions, and other artifacts revealed information that General Hood had collected during

and after the war. Several of these documents shed a different light on events during the Atlanta Campaign and the invasion of Tennessee.

Sam shared many of his findings with our members; however, I hoped that his presentation whetted your appetites to learn more about a man who maybe was not “the most destructive American of all time” nor “All Lion and no Fox.” *John Bell Hood: The Rise, Fall, and Resurrection of a Confederate General* changed many perceptions I had held about General Hood and his place in Civil War history.

**Editor**

**\*\*\*\*\* Winter Wanderings III \*\*\*\*\***

February and the final month of our local Winter Wanderings.

My selection this month is not all that local BUT is an absolute “must see” for any Civil War historian. The **Mariners’ Museum** (America’s National Maritime Museum) is home to 500 years of Seafaring Adventure but it is its Civil War exhibit AND the USS Monitor Center that makes the trip to Newport News, VA worth your time and effort.

Your trip from Wilmington to Newport News will take just under five hours (via I-40, I-795, I-95 and I-64) but please leave yourself not less than two hours to visit the museum.

The Civil War section of the museum properly devotes significant space to the Federal Blockade, to Blockade Runners and the importance of Wilmington to the Southern war effort. It is Monitor exhibit however that makes your visit memorable.

A full-scale replica of the USS Monitor is moored outside the exhibit. You are invited on board and this visitor was amazed at the size of that first iron clad. Back inside, you visit the carpentry shop of the shipwrights as they convert the USS Merrimack into the CSS Virginia. Appealing to all senses, you can hear the action, see the effort and smell the freshly hewn oak planks as they form the new hull.

Leaving the CSS Virginia you then visit several exhibits that are, in fact, full scale replicas of the Monitors interior. Amazed? You bet, particularly at the furnishing used in the officers’ quarters, at the completeness of the galley and at the raw power of the cannons on the cannon deck.

Finally, as you leave the replicas behind, you then view the remains of the recovered hull, cannon, turret and steam engines as they remain in the climate controlled salt water tanks, much the same as is the hull of the CSS Hunley (Charleston, SC).

The quick way home is to retrace your path on the Interstates but should you want to enhance your historical experience, take US 17 South as it parallels the Chesapeake-Elizabeth City Canal, though (little) Washington and New Bern and finally to Market Street in our own Port City.



\*\*\*\*\* Trivia Questions for February \*\*\*\*\*

**1 – A.P. Hill’s Corps arrived at Cashtown, 8 miles west of Gettysburg, on June 29, 1863. On the morning of the 30<sup>th</sup>, Division commander, Henry Heth, ordered one of his subordinates to take three of his regiments and advance on Gettysburg where the Confederate forces were to collect commissary and quartermaster stores. Who was this Confederate commander?** North Carolinian **James Johnston Pettigrew** was ordered to Gettysburg to drive away the home guard and collect the needed supplies. In the unlikely event, he encountered any organized troops or elements of the Army of the Potomac, he was to disengage and not bring on a fight.

While on the way to Gettysburg, Pettigrew met Henry Thomas Harrison (Longstreet’s spy). Harrison informed Pettigrew that 3,000 Union cavalry commanded by Brigadier General John Buford was in possession of the town. Pettigrew shared this information with Heth (and Hill). Following his orders, Pettigrew led his men back toward Cashtown.

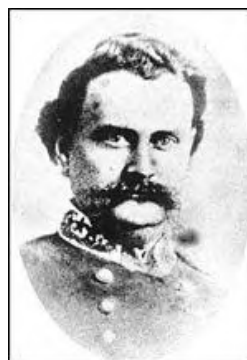
Heth reported to Lee that Pettigrew had not been willing to “hazard an attack.” Heth and Hill failed to believe what Pettigrew had seen; hence, against Lee’s orders to NOT bring on an engagement, the greatest battle of the Civil War began with its commanders blind to what was about to transpire.

Source: Rod Gragg, *Eyewitness to Gettysburg: The Biggest Battle of the Civil War – As Told by Those Who Fought It* [Washington, DC: Regnery History, 2013], 56-60.

**2 – Two Confederate generals are buried at Arlington National Cemetery. Who were these men?** **Joseph Wheeler** and **Marcus Joseph Wright**. Both of these men made a contribution to the United States Army after the Civil War. “Fighting Joe” Wheeler served as a Major General of Volunteers during the Spanish-American War. Supposedly during an attack on Spanish troops during that war, Wheeler uttered, “We’ve got the Yankees on the run.” Marcus Wright was employed by the War Department for over 30 years as the collector of Confederate documents used in the Official Records.



Joseph Wheeler



Marcus Wright

Source: <http://www.civilwarhome.com/wheelerbio.htm> , <http://www.arlingtoncemetery.net/mjwright.htm> (accessed January 8 & 20, 2014).

**3 – Per Sam Hood’s research, who was responsible for the failure of the Confederate troops to attack John Schofield’s retreating Union Army at Spring Hill?** Frank Cheatham was given Hood’s orders to block the road at Spring Hill by members of Hood’s staff. Cheatham was opposed to a night attack and apparently Patrick Cleburne agreed with Cheatham. The failure to cut-off Schofield’s escape resulted in the Battle of Franklin.

From Sam Hood’s notes:

In my new book "John Bell Hood: The Rise, Fall, and Resurrection of a Confederate General" I release the contents of two letters among the cache of the newly discovered personal papers of Hood. One letter from Major WW Old identified Frank Cheatham as having intentionally disobeyed Hood's orders to attack at Spring Hill because he disapproved night attacks. This letter corroborates previously known similar letters from Major Joseph Cumming and Major James Ratchford. Another letter from SD Lee to Hood, also previously unknown, states that AP Stewart also identified Cheatham as disobeying Hood's orders, because he didn't approve of night attacks.

AP Stewart also stated that Patrick Cleburne concurred with Cheatham, and upon learning of Schofield's escape the next morning, felt personal remorse and responsibility, and "in that feeling" lost his life at Franklin. This explains Cleburne's purportedly anomalous behavior at Franklin.

This information is not my interpretation or opinion, but the words of Major William W Old and Gen. AP Stewart. Unless these officers (and Cumming and Ratchford) are not to be believed, this should close the book on who was responsible for the Confederate failure at Spring Hill.

In yet another letter, SD Lee wrote to Hood, explaining that when Cheatham (not Hood) ordered Ed Johnson's division's night attack at Franklin to support William Bate, they were ordered not to fire until they reached the works for fear of hitting Bate's men. Johnson's men held their fire, were decimated, but upon arrival at the front, found Bate's division was gone. Lee stated that Bate was not there, "nor were many of his dead." Lee further said that he looked for Bate's division during the evening but could not find them, nor Bate himself. Lee asked Hood how Bate's casualties compared to the other divisions. I don't know if Hood provided the information to Lee, but records indeed reveal that Bate's division suffered the lowest casualties of the six Confederate divisions involved in the initial attack, and much lower casualties than Johnson's division.

Source: <http://www.civilwarinteractive.com/forums/forum36/3388.html> (Accessed January 19, 2014).

# The *RUNNER*

## Newsletter of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

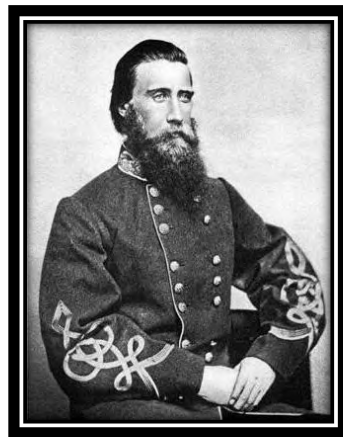
Editor **Tim Winstead**

Our next meeting will be **Thursday, 9 January** at St. Andrew's On-the-Sound Episcopal Church (101 Airlie Road). Social Hour begins at 7:00 p.m. (with light refreshments), meeting at 7:30.

Please join us at our January meeting. Visitors are always welcome – ***bring a friend or two***. Each of our speakers strives to enlighten, entertain, and add to our knowledge of Civil War history. This serves our mission of encouraging education and research into that historic conflict.

\*\*\*\*\* January Program \*\*\*\*\*

### **John Bell Hood: The Rise, Fall, and Resurrection of a Confederate General**



1831 – 1879

**The first law of the historian is that he shall never utter an untruth.  
The second is that he shall suppress nothing that is true.  
Moreover, there shall be no suspicion of partiality in his writing, or of malice.**  
- Cicero

Join us on January 9, 2014 when **Stephen M. “Sam” Hood**, will discuss his research into one of the most controversial generals of the Civil War. As a distant relative of John Bell Hood, Sam will share his findings in a recently discovered cache of personal papers that had remained hidden from the general public and Civil War historians. Sam used these Hood family papers and did other meticulous research which will reveal a different view of General Hood than the portrait that had previously been accepted by historians.

“All lion, no fox.” These words have been attributed to Robert E. Lee as a description of John Bell Hood. This saying has made its way in the history books as fact. Sam Hood examined this and many other accepted facts about General Hood. As William C. Davis, Civil War scholar, teacher and author, said in a recent review of *John Bell Hood*, “For a century and a half since those fights (Atlanta, Franklin and Nashville), Hood has been damned as a bumbling, inept leader who senselessly threw away the lives of his men, and then blamed them for his losses.” With diligent and insightful thought, Sam documented a different basis of facts that may redefine who this man had been.

Come to our January meeting, hear Sam’s presentation, and then make up your own mind. Who was John Bell Hood?

Sam Hood graduated from Kentucky Military Institute, Marshall University (BBA, 1976) and is a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve. A collateral descendent of General Hood, Sam is a retired industrial construction company owner, past member of the Board of Directors of the Blue Gray Education Society, and a past president of the Board of Directors of Confederate Memorial Hall Museum in New Orleans. He lives in his hometown of Huntington, West Virginia, with his wife of 35 years, Martha, and is the proud father of two sons: Derek Hood of Lexington, Kentucky, and Taylor Hood of Huntington, West Virginia.



**Editor**

**\*\*\*\*\* Raffle Winners \*\*\*\*\***

**Raffle Master: Ed Gibson**

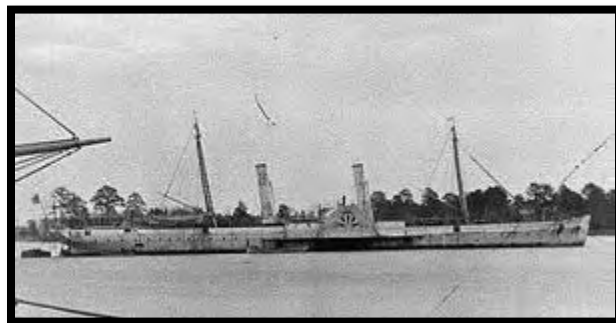
If you have books, prints, or other items that you would like to donate to the CFCWRT Raffle, contact Ed Gibson ([egibson759@aol.com](mailto:egibson759@aol.com)) before our next meeting. The raffle is one of the components which allow the CFCWRT to fund our activities and our speakers. Please take part in our raffles by contributing items to the raffle or purchasing tickets.

<i>Sacred Ties</i>	- Linda Lashley
<i>Cedar Mountain to Antietam</i>	- John Winecoff
<i>The American Civil War</i>	- Linda Lashley
<i>Bloody Ground</i>	- Dennis Wrynn
<i>Civil War Medical Instruments &amp; Equipment</i>	- Linda Lashley
<i>Farming a Battlefield</i>	- Linda Lashley

\*\*\*\*\* **Trivia Questions for January** \*\*\*\*\*

- 1 – John Bell Hood has been closely associated with the Texas Brigade. Where and when did Hood’s Texas Brigade receive its initial reputation as being fierce fighters? What was significant about this action?
- 2 – In the Confederate army, eight men attained the rank of “full” general. Who were these men?
- 3 – John Bell Hood was seriously wounded at Gettysburg and later at Chickamauga. He surrendered to Union forces at Natchez, Mississippi on May 31, 1865. What was Hood’s fate after the end of the war?
- 4 - January 8<sup>th</sup>: David O Dodd, convicted of being a Confederate spy, was hanged in Little Rock, Arkansas. Who was David O. Dodd?
- 5 – Who commanded the Union forces sent to force Crampton’s Gap and relieve Harper’s Ferry?
- 6 – What was D.H. Hill’s reaction to the Union forces that gathered on the National Pike in the Middletown Valley?
- 7 – The 23<sup>rd</sup> Ohio Infantry was engaged at Fox’s Gap during the Battle of South Mountain. Two of its members achieved lasting fame after the war. Who were these men?

\*\*\*\*\* **Member News & Activities** \*\*\*\*\*



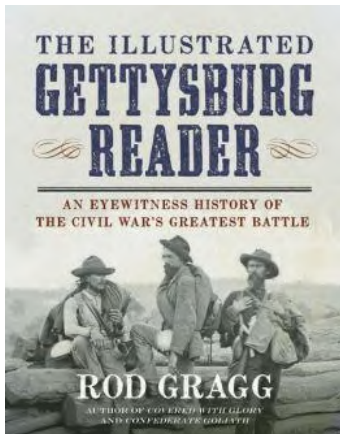
*Robert E. Lee*

If you have member news or news about Civil War events that you think would be of interest to CFCWRT membership, send me an email with the details. Thanks.

1 – **Happy New Year** to all our members and friends. Hoping that the new year brings you and your family wellness and prosperity.

2 - Our **CFCWRT Annual Dinner Meeting** will be held in the Madeline Suites on the campus of UNCW on Thursday evening, **13 February, 2014**. The featured speaker is

noted historian and author, **Rod Gragg**, who will discuss his latest work: *The Illustrated Gettysburg Reader: An Eyewitness History of the Greatest Battle of the Civil War*.



Tickets for the event are \$30 and include one raffle ticket that features a Kurz & Allison (1890) print of the *Second Battle of Fort Fisher* or one of two Brian Kraus prints (*33<sup>rd</sup> North Carolina at the Battle of New Bern* or *First Shot in the Civil War*) Additional raffle tickets (\$5) may be purchased prior to the event.

Tickets will be available at the 9 January meeting on a first come first served basis since seating in the Madeline Suites is limited to about 100.

### **3 – Fort Fisher’s 149<sup>th</sup> anniversary – “Healing the Troops: The Medical Service at Fort Fisher”** will be held on **January 18, 2014**, from 10am to 4pm.

This program will focus on the medical service of both sides of the struggle and the healthcare available to the soldiers. Civil War re-enactors will set up displays demonstrating various medical tools and the care of wounded, injured, and sick soldiers.

### **4 - Blockade Running Civil War Weekend |** Wrightsville Beach | **January 17-19, 2014**

The Blockade Runner Beach Resort and the Wrightsville Beach Museum of History in Wrightsville Beach, North Carolina are pleased to present a Civil War Weekend dedicated to the Union blockade, Confederate blockade running, and the final Battle of Fort Fisher, the last defense for the port city of Wilmington, North Carolina, the “Lifeline of the Confederacy.”

Join leading Civil War historians Dr. Robert Browning, Dr. Stephen Wise, Dr. Chris Fonvielle, and Dr. Mark Wilde-Ramsing as they set the war-time scene with lectures and tours regarding the events that make the Cape Fear a special Civil War destination.



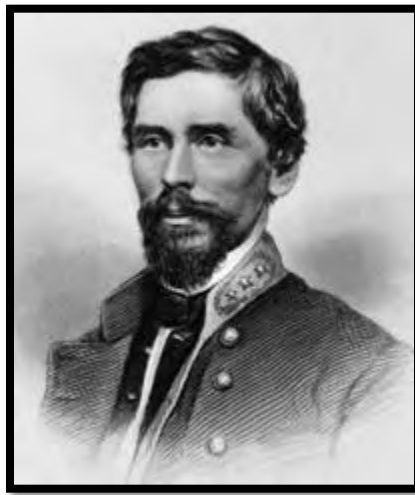
Additional details with agenda and associated costs can be found at <http://blockade-runner.com/blockade-running-civil-war-weekend/> or 910-256-2251 (accessed December 12, 2013).

5 – The **Brunswick Civil War Round Table** will meet on **Wednesday, January 8th** - registration and refreshments: 6:00pm. Program will begin at 700pm. They will meet at the **St. James Community Center**. Guest fee: **\$10**; can be applied toward \$25 annual membership dues. NOTE: Date and location a change from regular venue.

**Ed Bearss**, Civil War historian, author and raconteur, will speak about the “The Battle of Antietam.”

**\*\*\*\*\* Difference Makers \*\*\*\*\***

**Patrick Cleburne’s Proposal to Arm Slaves**



**Patrick Ronayne Cleburne** was best remembered as a competent general in the Army of Tennessee who died at the Battle of Franklin on November 30, 1864. Cleburne, a native of Ireland, enlisted as a private in the Confederate army in early 1861 and rose to the rank of Major General by December 1862. Cleburne distinguished himself at the battles of Shiloh, Richmond (Kentucky), Perryville, Murfreesboro, Chickamauga, Chattanooga, Dalton, Tunnel Hill, Resaca, Pickett’s Mill, Ringgold and the battles around Atlanta.

On January 2, 1864, Cleburne led his most controversial action. He proposed that the Confederate government recruit and arm slaves to serve as soldiers in the Confederate army. For their service, these soldiers would be granted their freedom. Cleburne formally sent a written proposal to his commanding officer, Joseph E. Johnston. Cleburne asserted that slavery was the Confederacy’s “most vulnerable point, a continued embarrassment, and in some respects an insidious weakness.” Official reaction to Cleburne’s proposal was extremely negative and almost assuredly ended Cleburne’s chances for promotion to higher rank.

Not until late in the war was the proposal, which Cleburne had favored, adopted by the Confederate government. Cleburne had failed in his attempt to alter the course of the war;

however, he demonstrated that he had the conviction of his ideas to risk all for what he believed.

Source: <http://www.civilwar.org/education/history/biographies/patrick-cleburne.html> (accessed December 2, 2013).

### \*\*\*\*\* January 1864 \*\*\*\*\*

The relationship between Lincoln and his military commanders was tested again in January 1864 when the president commuted a death sentence passed on a Union deserter. Unionist generals believed that such a move would undermine discipline in the Union armies. Later in the same month Lincoln did the same thing.

January 1<sup>st</sup>: The weather greatly hindered nearly all forms of military activity. Sub-zero temperatures occurred as far south as Memphis, Tennessee.

January 2<sup>nd</sup>: General Banks led his campaign against Galveston by moving along the Texan coast.

January 3<sup>rd</sup>: Chronic inflation hit the South especially hard. Basic foodstuff was 28 times more expensive in the South than in 1861. During the same time, wages only went up by 3 to 4 times.

January 4<sup>th</sup>: Lee was given permission by Jefferson Davis to commandeer food in Virginia. Such a measure may have helped his troops but not the people of the state.

January 5<sup>th</sup>: General Banks was encouraged by General Halleck to be more aggressive during his offensive. Halleck envisaged Union troops in Galveston by the spring.

January 7<sup>th</sup>: Lincoln commuted the death sentence imposed on a Union deserter. His move, as commander-in-chief, was not well received by the Union's military hierarchy who felt that it would undermine discipline even more. Union desertion was at an all-time high, especially in the Army of the Potomac. The problems were many but one of them was that men were paid a bounty to enlist. Many did enlist then deserted only to enlist again to collect another bounty. Also if your name came up in a draft for your town/city you could exempt yourself by paying \$300. Or you could get a substitute to do your draft for you. Big cities saw a major growth area in "substitute brokers" who, for a fee, would find a substitute for someone. The whole system was open to abuse and when 57 men were recruited to the 6<sup>th</sup> New York Heavy Artillery, 17 were physically disabled.

January 8<sup>th</sup>: David O Dodd, convicted of being a Confederate spy, was hanged in Little Rock, Arkansas.

January 10<sup>th</sup>: The Confederacy responded to its economic plight by printing more money. Foreign governments were unwilling to lend money to it and only accepted gold for the payment of weapons. The North made matters worse for the South by printing counterfeit Confederate notes, which made confusion endemic.





January 11<sup>th</sup>: Senator John Henderson (Missouri) proposed within the Senate that slavery should be abolished throughout the USA.

January 18<sup>th</sup>: Protest meetings were held in North Carolina regarding the conscription policy of the Confederacy. All white males between 18 and 45 were required to enlist – shortly to increase to all males between 17 and 60.

January 19<sup>th</sup>: Pro-Union supporters met at Little Rock, Arkansas.

January 21<sup>st</sup>: Pro-Union supporters met in Nashville, Tennessee.

January 23<sup>rd</sup>: Lincoln approved a plan that allowed plantation owners to hire those who had previously worked as slaves on their plantations.

January 26<sup>th</sup>: Lincoln commuted another 9 planned executions, as he did not want to “add to the butchering business”. On the same day he approved a plan to improve trade between the Union and those parts of the Confederacy now under Union control. Lincoln was already thinking beyond the end of the war and wanted to ‘normalise’ internal trade as much as possible.

January 31<sup>st</sup>: Lincoln stated that he hoped all former slaves who wanted to fight for the Union would swear the oath but that it was not an absolute requirement. The same was true for those men who had been in Confederate ranks – swearing loyalty to the Union was preferred but was not absolute.

Source: <http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/january-1864-civil-war.htm> (accessed November 21, 2013).

### \*\*\*\*\* January 11, 1864 \*\*\*\*\*

The 13th Amendment to the Constitution is written and introduced to the Senate by **John Brooks Henderson** of Missouri.

**Section 1.** Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

**Section 2.** Congress shall have power to enforce this article by legislation.



Henderson was born in Virginia in 1826. Henderson's parents moved to Missouri in 1832; however, both parents died before John was ten years old. John was mostly self-educated. He was first employed as a teacher, but he studied the law and gained admission to the Missouri bar in 1848. Henderson was active in Missouri politics. During 1861, John supported the Union. He was commissioned a brigadier general in the State militia. In 1862, Henderson was appointed to the United States Senate, he won election in 1863, and served until 1869. Henderson was known as a friend and confidant of Abraham Lincoln.

Source: <http://blueandgraytrail.com/year/186401> (accessed December 3, 2013),  
<http://www.civilwarstlouis.com/History2/henderson.htm> (accessed December 4, 2013).

**\*\*\*\*\* December Program \*\*\*\*\***

**The Battle of South Mountain**

**Rex Hovey** provided a spirited presentation about the little remembered battle at South Mountain, Maryland that occurred on September 14, 1862. Rex also related his involvement with the 13<sup>th</sup> North Carolina Living History Association and the placement of a North Carolina monument on the battlefield.

Rex had the storyteller's magic going strong as he lay down the details of the frantic battle that unfolded on that Sunday morning. Rex presented the actions of Confederate and Union units and commanders, many exhibited great courage while others covered themselves with anything but glory. Turner's Gap, Fox's Gap, Crampton's Gap, and Wise's Field became scenes of bitter fighting. At the end of the day, the Union army held the gaps. The Confederates abandoned the field, but they had slowed the Union advance and gained time for Lee to concentrate this battered army at Sharpsburg.



**Rex Hovey**



**CFCWRT Member:  
Bill Carshaw**

The Confederates suffered 3,800 casualties and the Union 2,500. Among those killed were generals, Samuel Garland CSA and Jesse Reno USA. Also among the dead was Private Nathaniel C. Carshaw, Co. K, 84<sup>th</sup> NY (14<sup>th</sup> Brooklyn) Infantry.

**Editor**

**\*\*\*\*\* Winter Wanderings \*\*\*\*\***

Wilmington has great weather but even so, there are a few days (mostly in January) when it is nice to be inside. What then can be better than a short drive to Fayetteville, a city that can boast of not less than four museums of significance and all four are free! (Rt. 74/76, 87)

Located at 801 Arsenal Avenue and just off route 87, is the Museum of the Cape Fear with exhibits dating from the pre-historic Cape Fear through our Revolutionary and Civil wars. Co-located is the 1897 Poe House, a late-Victorian masterpiece. The Museum is adjacent to Arsenal Park, the remains of the Ordnance Factory used by both the Confederate and Union Armies during the Civil War.

Just two blocks away, and adjacent to the AMTRAK Station is the Airborne & Special Forces Museum. This is a spectacular museum that honors the service of airborne and special forces from World War Two to present conflicts. There is no Civil War related exhibit here but this museum is a must see for any military enthusiast.

The Army Airborne Museum and the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division Museum are both located on the Fort Bragg Reservation. A photo ID is required for entry to Fort Bragg but your entry efforts will be well rewarded by seeing these two significant military museums. The Civil War skirmish at Monroe's Crossing is also located on the Fort Bragg Reservation but special permission must be secured in order to visit that very interesting site.

If time permits, drive back to Wilmington via Dunn and visit the Averasboro Civil War Battleground & Museum. This battlefield is preserved in a manner befitting that March 1865 battle that served as a prelude to Bentonville.

**Bruce Patterson**

**\*\*\*\*\* Winter Wanderings – December 20, 2013 \*\*\*\*\***

I found myself in the Dunn area on the 20<sup>th</sup>. I decided to take Bruce's suggestion and visit the **Averasboro Battlefield & Museum**. I had last visited this site while on a tour of Averasboro and Bentonville on the 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary of those battles. I was most glad that I made the effort to visit the museum that was located at 3300 Hwy 82, Dunn, NC 28334. Gloria Gullede gave several visitors an excellent tour of the museum and its considerable collection of Civil War artifacts.

Find out more information about Averasboro at <http://www.averasboro.com/Home.aspx>.

**Editor**

**\*\*\*\*\* Trivia Questions for January \*\*\*\*\***

**1 – John Bell Hood has been closely associated with the Texas Brigade. Where and when did Hood’s Texas Brigade receive its initial reputation as being fierce fighters? What was significant about this action?** Robert E. Lee had assumed command of the Confederate Army on June 1, 1862, after Joseph E. Johnston was seriously wounded during the Battle of Fair Oaks on May 31. Lee and the newly created Army of Northern Virginia were tasked with the defense of Richmond against a large Union army commanded by George B. McClellan. From June 26 – July 1, 1862, Lee and the Army of Northern Virginia attacked McClellan in a series of battles that became known as the Seven Days – Beaver Dam Creek, Gaines Mill, Savage’s Station, Glendale, White Oak Swamp, and Malvern Hill.

. At the Battle of Gaines’ Mill on June 27, 1862, Fitz John Porter and the Union Fifth Corps stubbornly held off multiple attacks by the numerous superior Confederates. Late in the day, Lee ordered another frontal attack on the strong Union position. John Bell Hood and his Texas Brigade were the first units to breach the Union line. Hood’s brigade had attacked across a creek and up a hill. The Texas Brigade and other Confederates units sustained heavy casualties, but the Union line collapsed. Fitz John Porter was forced to pull back from his position and cross the Chickahominy River to rejoin McClellan’s army.

Hood and his brigade had saved the day for the Army of Northern Virginia. They also gave Robert E. Lee his first victory as commander of that army.



**Hood’s Texas Brigade Association Re-activated (HTBAR) at Gaines’ Mill Texas Monument – June 27, 2012.**

Source: <http://www.nps.gov/rich/historyculture/gainesmillbull.htm> (accessed November 27, 2013).

## 2 – In the Confederate army, eight men attained the rank of “full” general. Who were these men?

Date of Rank	Notes	Age at Promotion	Birth	Death
Samuel Cooper	16 May 1861	63	June 12, 1798	December 3, 1876
Albert Sydney Johnston	30 May 1861	58	February 2, 1803	April 6, 1862
Robert E. Lee	14 June 1861	54	January 19, 1807	October 12, 1870
Joseph E. Johnston	4 July 1861	54	February 3, 1807	March 21, 1891
Pierre G. T. Beauregard	21 July 1861	43	May 28, 1818	February 20, 1893 September 27, 1876
Braxton Bragg	6 April 1862	45	March 22, 1817	
Edmund Kirby Smith	19 Feb. 1864	39	May 16, 1824	March 28, 1893
<a href="#"><u>John Bell Hood</u></a>	18 July 1864	<b>33</b>	June 1 or 29, 1831	August 30, 1879

John Bell Hood was the last to receive this rank – his was a temporary rank when he was promoted to succeed Joseph E. Johnston as commander of the Army of Tennessee. Hood reverted to his old rank when he stepped down on January 23, 1865. At 33 years of age, Hood was the youngest to assume command of an army. Much has been written about Hood’s efforts to garner command of the Army of Tennessee and his subsequent actions while its commander. Hood was the center of controversy for his actions in the defense of Atlanta and his invasion of Tennessee.

Only one general on the list, Robert E. Lee, won a significant number of Confederate victories on the battlefield. Even Lee was unable to achieve victories as the war entered its last two years. Was anyone capable of success after the end of 1863? Was bold attack the only possibility for a Southern victory?

John Bell Hood had won fame and promotion for his aggressive attacks at Gaines’ Mill, Second Manassas, Sharpsburg, Gettysburg, and Chickamauga. Did his aggressive nature result in poor battle plans or was he let down by his subordinates? Did Hood’s inexperience as an administrator doom his command of the Army of Tennessee. These are questions that have been asked since before the end of the Civil War. Perhaps the recently discovered Hood papers can assist current and future historians in answering some of these questions.

*John Bell Hood: The Rise, Fall, and Resurrection of a Confederate General* may provide some different answers (or thoughts) about Hood’s role during the war.

**3 – John Bell Hood was seriously wounded at Gettysburg and later at Chickamauga. He surrendered to Union forces at Natchez, Mississippi on May 31, 1865. What was Hood’s fate after the end of the war?** Hood had planned to permanently reside in Texas, but economic necessity made him pursue commercial ventures in a less war-torn New Orleans. A soldier from early in his life, Hood had to seek his livelihood in the business world. After borrowing \$10,000 from friends in his native Kentucky, Hood established J.B. Hood and Co., Cotton Factors and Commission Merchants with partners, John Barelli and Fred Thayer.

On April 30, 1868, Hood married Anna Marie Hennen. Anna, educated in Paris, was a member of a prominent New Orleans family. In the next ten years, John and Anna had eleven children – three sets of twins. Lydia was born in 1869. Oswald, the tenth, was born in 1879.

The cotton business initially struggled and in 1869, Hood took over James Longstreet's insurance business. From 1870 until 1878, the fortunes of both enterprises improved. Hood was successful and devoted himself to his family, to business affairs, and to gatherings for Confederate veterans. Hood, Anna, and their growing family lived in an elegant home in the Garden District and Hood traveled frequently throughout the South.

It was also during this period that Hood became embroiled in conflict with Joseph E. Johnston and other Confederate officers about the causes of Southern failures during the war. Hood's *Advance and Retreat* was published in 1880.

In 1878, the people of New Orleans were exposed to a yellow fever epidemic. Businesses failed as people fled the city. By early 1879, Hood was financially ruined. The yellow fever returned in 1879 and Hood was unable to take his family out of the city to safer environs. Anna Hood died on August 24, 1879, one month after the birth of Oswald. Lydia and Hood followed Anna in death on August 29<sup>th</sup> and August 30<sup>th</sup>.

The surviving ten children were adopted by families throughout the country. Organizations of Confederate veterans, especially the Texans of his old brigade, raised funds for the children's future support and education.

Source: <http://counter.johnbellhood.org/bio-05.htm> (accessed November 27, 2013).



**The 10 Hood orphans**

**4 - January 8<sup>th</sup>: David O Dodd, convicted of being a Confederate spy, was hanged in Little Rock, Arkansas. Who was David O. Dodd?** David Owen Dodd was born in Lavaca County, Texas on November 10, 1846. The family moved to Little Rock, Arkansas for his father's business interest and educational opportunities for David and his sisters. David attended St. Johns' College until illness forced him to withdraw.

During August 1862, Andrew Dodd and David moved south to Monroe, Louisiana, leaving David's Mother and sisters with kin folks in Little Rock. During this time, David worked in the Monroe telegraph office where he learned Morse code. When Little Rock fell to Union forces in 1863, his father thought that the underage David would be safe to venture to Little Rock and bring his wife and daughters south. David's father secured a pass for his son to pass through Union lines. David made it to Little Rock during September 1863 and for a time gained employment in a mercantile business. When Andrew Dodd did not hear from David and his family, Andrew went north and sneaked through Union lines to reunite with his family. On December 1, 1863, the Dodds, under cover of darkness and with help from kin folks, made it through Union lines and reached safety a week later in Camden, Arkansas.

At this point, the story, of which there are numerous versions, took a strange twist. Andrew Dodd sent his son back to Little Rock to settle some business matters. Dodd even procured a pass from the Confederate authorities which granted the boy a pass through their lines. Mounted on a mule and in possession of his birth certificate, David headed to Little Rock on December 24th. After all went well on the journey, David even attended parties among old friends. On December 28, David visited the Provost Marshal's office and obtained a pass that would take him through the Union lines and back to his family in Camden.

Eight miles south of Little Rock, David presented his pass and was allowed to pass through Union lines. The Union sentries, supposedly, tore up the pass because it was no longer needed. David decided that he should visit his uncle and spend the night before heading to Camden. On the morning of December 30<sup>th</sup>, David unfortunately took a road that led him back into Union territory and into a confrontation with a Union cavalry detachment.

Without a pass through Union lines, the cavalymen were suspicious of the boy. David had in his possession letters to relatives and friends as well as a leather memorandum book. Nothing was worrisome until examination of the memorandum book revealed a page written entirely in Morse code. David was arrested on suspicion of espionage and sent back to Union headquarters in Little Rock.

When Union authorities had the suspicious page decoded by a telegrapher, David's book revealed a detailed description of Union strength in Little Rock. From that point forward, in spite of efforts by local attorneys and townsmen, David Owen Dodd was tried and sentenced to be hung on January 8, 1864.

The various stories provided a sad end to David. A botched hanging saw David linger more than five minutes before his death.

In time, David became known as the **Boy Martyr of the Confederacy**. This stained-glass window is in the MacArthur Museum of Arkansas Military History and is on indefinite loan from the MOC.



Source: <http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?entryID=2536> (accessed November 28, 2013). [http://www.knowsouthernhistory.net/Biographies/David\\_Dodd/](http://www.knowsouthernhistory.net/Biographies/David_Dodd/) (accessed December 2, 2013), <http://www.arkmilitaryheritage.com/exhibits/dodd.htm> (accessed December 2, 2013).

**5 – Who commanded the Union forces sent to force Crampton’s Gap and relieve Harper’s Ferry? General William B. Franklin** commanded the VI Corps. Franklin, convinced that the Confederates were in sufficient strength to block his 12,000-man corps, delayed his assault. Union General Henry W. Slocum, one of Franklin’s subordinates, felt that the gap was theirs for the taking. Around 4 p.m., Slocum led his division against the 1,000 Confederate defenders. Successive Union assaults pushed the defenders down the western sloop. With daylight fading, Franklin halted his corps from further exertions and made no further attempt to relieve the Harper’s Ferry garrison.

Sources: <http://www.civilwar.org/battlefields/south-mountain.html?tab=facts> (accessed December 16, 2013).

**6 – What was D.H. Hill’s reaction to the Union forces that gathered on the National Pike in the Middletown Valley?** From his headquarters at South Mountain House, D.H. Hill saw the mass of the Army of the Potomac that gathered to force their way through the Confederate defenses. “It was a grand and glorious spectacle, and it was impossible to look at it without admiration. I had never seen so tremendous an army before and I did not see one like it afterward.” Years later, Hill remembered the view and his reaction to the scene, “I do not remember ever to have experienced a greater feeling of loneliness.”

Source: <http://www.dnr.state.md.us/publiclands/pdfs/SouthMtBattlefields.pdf> (accessed December 16, 2013).

**7 – The 23<sup>rd</sup> Ohio Infantry was engaged at Fox’s Gap during the Battle of South Mountain. Two of its members achieved lasting fame after the war. Who were these men? Rutherford B. Hayes and William McKinley** would both be elected President of the United States. Hayes was wounded during the battle. McKinley escaped injury at Fox’s Gap, only to be slain by an assassin on September 14, 1901 – 39 years to the day after the battle.

Source: [http://cmhl.org/Battle\\_of\\_South\\_Mountain.html](http://cmhl.org/Battle_of_South_Mountain.html) (accessed December 16, 2013).



# The *RUNNER*

## Newsletter of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

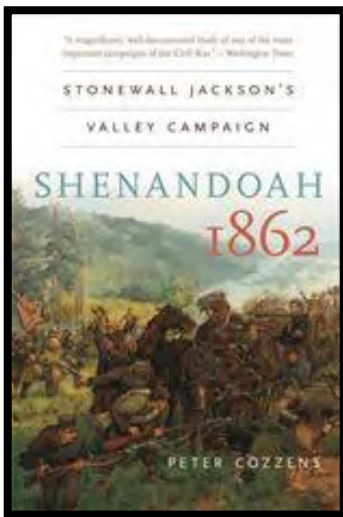
Editor **Tim Winstead**

Our next meeting will be **Thursday, 13 March** at St. Andrew's On-the-Sound Episcopal Church (101 Airlie Road). Social Hour begins at 7:00 p.m. (with light refreshments), meeting at 7:30.

Please make plans to attend our March meeting. Visitors are always welcome – [ask a friend to join you](#). Each of our speakers strives to enlighten, entertain, and add to our knowledge of Civil War history. This serves our mission of encouraging education and research into this seminal event in our nation's past.

### \*\*\*\*\* March Program \*\*\*\*\*

## Shenandoah 1862: Stonewall Jackson's Valley Campaign



Join the CFCWRT as we will welcome **Peter Cozzens** at our March 13<sup>th</sup> meeting. His presentation will feature the details of Stonewall Jackson's 1862 Valley Campaign. This presentation will include interpretations of the campaign that will differ from normally accepted facts about the actions that helped build the legend of Stonewall Jackson. Cozzens will also appraise Union leadership during this action. His appraisals will yield some surprising conclusions about Jackson and Union leadership. (NOTE: Cozzens's *Shenandoah 1862: Stonewall Jackson's Valley Campaign* was a Choice award for "Outstanding Academic Title" for 2009.)

Peter Cozzens is one of the nation's recognized Civil War historians. He has authored sixteen books on the American Civil War and the Indian Wars. Cozzens, a

native of Wheaton, Illinois, also is a retired Foreign Service Officer, U. S. Department of State.

After graduating from Knox College (Illinois) with a degree in International Relations, he served for four years with U.S. Army military intelligence, rising to the rank of Captain, and then entered the U.S. Foreign Service in 1984. He also received an Alumni Achievement award from his alma mater Knox College, from which he graduated summa cum laude. In 2002 Cozzens received the American Foreign Service Association's highest award, given annually to one Foreign Service Officer for exemplary moral courage, integrity, and creative dissent.

Cozzens is a member of the Advisory Council of the Lincoln Prize. He is at work on a narrative history of the Indian Wars of the American West, 1866-1890, to be published by Alfred A. Knopf in 2015.

**Editor**

**\*\*\*\*\* Raffle Winners \*\*\*\*\***

**Raffle Master: Ed Gibson**

If you have books, prints, or other items that you would like to donate to the CFCWRT Raffle, contact Ed Gibson ([egibson759@aol.com](mailto:egibson759@aol.com)) before our next meeting. The raffle is one of the components which allow the CFCWRT to fund our activities and our speakers. Please take part in our raffles by contributing items to the raffle or purchasing tickets.

**Douglas Grove** - Print: *Baptism of Fire*, Brian Kraus

**Ed Gibson**: *Illustrated Gettysburg Reader*



**Rod Gragg** with *The Illustrated Gettysburg Reader*

**Gehrig Spencer** - *Forged in Faith*

**Jim Gannon** - *Confederate Goliath*

**Margorie George** - *Confederate Goliath*

**Becky Sawyer** - Civil War Trust Calendar

**Martha Watson** - Print: *First Shot*, Brian Kraus

**Mike Powell** - *Civil War Battlefields 2-DVD Set*

**Margarett Gannon** - Print: *Ft. Fisher*

**\*\*\*\*\* Trivia Questions for March \*\*\*\*\***

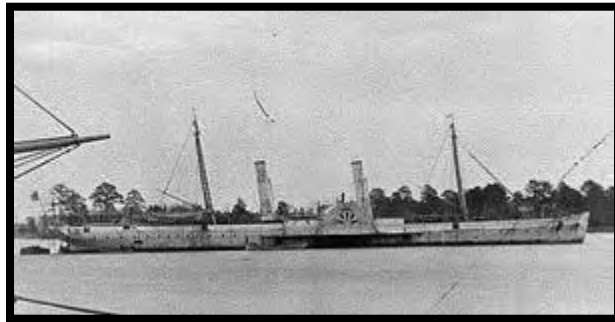
**1 – Who was Jackson’s indefatigable chief quartermaster?**

**2 – What were the goals of Stonewall Jackson and his army during the Shenandoah Valley campaign?**

**3 – The 1<sup>st</sup> Minnesota gained lasting honor for their actions on Cemetery Ridge on July 2<sup>nd</sup>. What were these actions?**

**4 - Who was instrumental in selecting Joshua Chamberlain to receive the Confederate surrender at Appomattox?**

**\*\*\*\*\* Member News & Activities \*\*\*\*\***



*Robert E. Lee*

If you have member news or news about Civil War events that you think would be of interest to CFCWRT membership, send me an email with the details. Thanks.

**1 -** Long-time member **Ann Hertzler** passed away on 6 February 2014. Failing health had kept Ann from attending meetings these past few years but she maintained contact and kept reminding us that she wanted to remain on our “mailing list” as she valued the contact and enjoyed reading of Round Table activities.

Members will remember Ann, who earned her PhD in nutrition from Cornell and taught the subject at Virginia Tech, as one who led a very interesting discussion on Civil

War food and related nutrition (or lack thereof) several years ago. For years, Ann traveled with the Round Table on battlefield tours, always assisting in the distribution of the boxed lunch, related rations and beverage. Ann Hertzler has been and will continue to be missed.



**Battle of Bentonville**

**2 - March 15, 16: 149th Anniversary: "Forced to Fight"** - Saturday, Sunday 10 am - 4 pm. Bentonville's 149th Anniversary program will bring the realities of war home to North Carolina. The Civil War is not going well for the Confederacy. The draft has been called out, again. Costumed living historians will portray raw conscripts being trained for war. Artillery and civilian demonstrations will also be on display. Visitors will also be given a chance to learn the period manual of arms that was used by the common infantry soldier.

**3 – Medal of Honor Commemoration Program** at Fort Fisher March 22, 2014 – Details at of event to be posted at either <http://www.friendsoffortfisher.com/calendar.html> or <http://www.nchistoricsites.org/fisher/>

**4 – The Brunswick Civil War Round Table** will meet on **Tuesday, March 4th -** registration and refreshments: 6:30pm. Program will begin at 7:00pm. They will meet at the **Trinity Methodist Church, 209 E. Nash Street..**

**Craig L. Symonds**, Professor Emeritus of History at the U.S. Naval Academy. will speak about **“The Civil War at Sea.”**

**\*\*\*\*\* March 1864 \*\*\*\*\***

During March 1864, General Sherman finalized his plan to march on Atlanta.

March 1<sup>st</sup>: The cavalry raid on Richmond started to go badly wrong. Having ridden for 36 hours, both men and horses were exhausted. The Confederate defenders had known about the raid and had prepared accordingly. An experienced cavalry unit from Lee's Army of Northern Virginia was brought in to Richmond and chased the Unionist cavalry force out of the city. By the time the raid formally ended the Unionists had lost 340 men and 500 horses. It was a propaganda coup for the South and should have been a disaster for the

North but the raid was sold as a success as it concentrated on the dilapidated state of the Confederate capital – as witnessed by those on the raid.

March 2<sup>nd</sup>: Grant was formally promoted to lieutenant general and assumed the title General-in-Chief of the Army of the United States.

March 9<sup>th</sup>: Grant received his new command in a ceremony attended by the whole Cabinet. Many politicians expected him to work out of Washington. Therefore, there was much surprise when Grant announced that he was going to set up his command in the field with the Army of the Potomac. While a number of politicians in Washington had tried to get Lincoln to dismiss Meade, commander of the Army of the Potomac, Grant expressed his full confidence in his leadership.

March 17<sup>th</sup>: Grant, observing a request from Halleck, relieved the general of his command and appointed him chief-of-staff. Grant announced that the Union's military headquarters would be with the Army of the Potomac. Grant made the destruction of the Army of Northern Virginia his primary aim.

March 18<sup>th</sup>: Sherman was given formal command of the Military Division of the Mississippi.

March 27<sup>th</sup>: Sherman, in Vicksburg, was making hard and fast plans for his campaign against Atlanta. These included calling in Union troops from elsewhere such as A J Smith's corps from Alexandria, Louisiana.

Source: <http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/march-1864-civil-war.htm>  
(accessed February 14, 2014).

### \*\*\*\*\* February Program \*\*\*\*\*

## **The Illustrated Gettysburg Reader: An Eyewitness History of the Greatest Civil War Battle**



“The Angle” – Bill Dowling

**Rod Gragg** began his discussion of Gettysburg with the actions between Union cavalry and Confederate infantry on the hills west of the town on July 1, 1863. His discussion of the battle ended with the failure of the Pickett-Pettigrew-Trimble grand assault on the center of the

Union line on July 3, 1863. Between that beginning and end, Gragg shared many eyewitness accounts of the grand, but tragic, events that occurred over the three days that determined whether Southern Independence would be gained or the Union would be maintained.

Gragg took readings from his book that followed Lee, Meade, Chamberlain, Oates, and numerous other officers as well as many soldiers who lived through those days. As these eyewitnesses wrote of their experiences, it was evident that there was little romance in war. There was bravery, there were desperate moments that were altered by individual efforts, there was suffering of unimaginable extent, and there was death. These survivors, these eyewitnesses, portrayed events, in many cases years after the war, with a grudging admiration for those enemies that fought at Gettysburg in July 1863.

Rod concluded his presentation with an explanation of what made the American Civil War so very different than civil wars that had forever led to bitterness between winners and losers. His explanation can best be understood by the actions taken by Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain and acknowledged by John Brown Gordon at Appomattox on April 12, 1865. A salute of honor by the victors and a returned acknowledgement by the defeated did not complete reconciliation, but it was a start for a long process that did heal many of the wounds of that conflict.

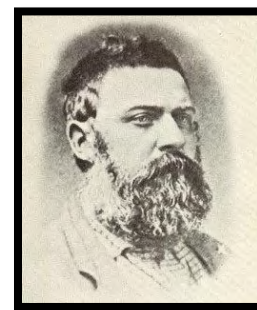


**Editor**

**\*\*\*\*\* Trivia Questions for March \*\*\*\*\***

**1 – Who was Jackson’s indefatigable chief quartermaster?**

**Major John Alexander Harman** was to gain some renown as Jackson’s quartermaster. Pre-war, Harman was a jack-of-many-trades: a butcher, Texas Ranger, farmer, newspaper editor, and stage line operator. When the war began, Harman was a captain of a Virginia Militia company. He became a member of Jackson’s staff at Harpers Ferry during May 1861.



Jackson was a hard taskmaster. He drove himself and his men to the limits of endurance. His traits both won victories and battlefield failings. At various times, Jackson’s extreme state of exhaustion led to incidents involving many of his officers and men.

During the Valley Campaign, Jackson ordered Harman to collect arms that lay upon the field after an engagement. Harman remarked, after the collection was completed, that many of the weapons appeared to be left by Confederate troops.

..... Jackson flew into a rage and told Harman that he wanted to hear no more talk of Southerners abandoning their arms. Harman stormed from Jackson's tent and returned with a letter of resignation. "Jackson's mysterious ways are unbearable," he told his brother. "He is a hard master to serve and nothing but a mean-spirited man can remain long with him. God be with us all." The next day Jackson apologized, and Harman stayed on.

Possibly the most well known story about Harman came from the recollections of General John Imboden and concerned an incident as the Confederate army crossed the Potomac River during the Sharpsburg Campaign.

I never knew him (Jackson) to let profanity pass without a rebuke but once. The incident was reported to me by the chief actor in it, Major John A. Harman, who was Jackson's chief quartermaster, and a man of extraordinary qualifications. It happened at Edwards Ferry, on the Potomac, when our army was crossing into Maryland in the Antietam campaign. Major-General D. H. Hill's division was crossing, when Jackson rode up, and found the ford completely blocked with Hill's wagon-train. He spoke sharply to Hill (who was his brother-in-law, they having married sisters) for allowing such confusion. General Hill replied that he was not a quartermaster, or something that implied it was no part of his business to get tangled wagons out of the river. Jackson instantly put Hill in arrest, and, turning to Major Harman, ordered him to clear the ford. Harman dashed in among the wagoners, kicking mules, and (the) apparently inextricable mass of wagons, and, in the voice of a stentor, poured out a volume of oaths that would have excited the admiration of the most scientific mule-driver. The effect was electrical. The drivers were frightened and swore as best they could, but far below the Major's standard. The mules caught the inspiration from a chorus of familiar words, and all at once made a break for the Maryland shore, and in five minutes the ford was cleared. Jackson witnessed and heard it all. Harman rode back to join him, expecting a lecture, and, touching his hat, said: 'The ford is clear, General! There's only one language that will make mules understand on a hot day that they must get out of the water.' The General, smiling, said: 'Thank you, Major,' and dashed into the water at the head of his staff.

Sources: Peter Cozzens, *Shenandoah 1862: Stonewall Jackson's Valley Campaign* [Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2008], 511. [http://antietam.aotw.org/officers.php?officer\\_id=1056](http://antietam.aotw.org/officers.php?officer_id=1056) (accessed February 20, 2014).

**2 – What were the goals of Stonewall Jackson and his army during the Shenandoah Valley campaign?** As envisioned by first Joseph Johnston and then by Robert E. Lee, Jackson was to detain Union troops in the valley, keep them occupied and unable to reinforce McClellan on the Peninsula. He was also to prevent McDowell's 40,000 troops at Fredericksburg from moving on Richmond from the north. Jackson succeeded by using his small force, never more than 16,000 men, with superior knowledge of the valley and rapid marches to frustrate Union force that numbered between 30,000 and 70,000.

Sources: Peter Cozzens, *Shenandoah 1862: Stonewall Jackson's Valley Campaign* [Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2008], 1.

### **3 – The 1<sup>st</sup> Minnesota gained lasting honor for their actions on Cemetery Ridge on July 2<sup>nd</sup>.**

**What were these actions?** In a desperate attempt to stop the collapse of the Union line as Sickles's III Corps collapsed under the Confederate attack, Winfield Scott Hancock ordered Colonel William Covill Jr., with the 262 troops of the 1<sup>st</sup> Minnesota: "Advance, Colonel, and take those colors." Colonel Covill and his 1<sup>st</sup> Minnesota regiment faced brigades of veteran Confederate troops – their task, buy time until Hancock could receive additional reinforcements from his II Corps.

Hancock needed five minutes; the 1<sup>st</sup> Minnesota gave him ten. The butcher's bill: of the 262 men who advanced, all but forty-seven were killed or wounded.

The sharp fighting continued and the Confederates (Ambrose Wrights Georgians) broke through the Union line on Cemetery Ridge. Victory was within the Southerners grasp – until Hancock's reinforcements plugged the break.

Source: Rod Gragg, *The Illustrated Gettysburg Reader: An Eyewitness History of the Civil War's Greatest Battle* [Washington, DC: Regency Publishing, Inc., 2013], 217-220.

**4 - Who was instrumental in selecting Joshua Chamberlain to receive the Confederate surrender at Appomattox?** Chamberlain had received a serious wound while leading his brigade at Petersburg. Army surgeons deemed the wound to be mortal. Gouverneur Warren, Chamberlain's Corps commander, recommended to U.S. Grant that Chamberlain be promoted to brigadier general while on his deathbed.

Chamberlain survived. His brigade was among those that drove Lee to Appomattox. For his services at Gettysburg and throughout the rest of the war, **General Grant** selected Chamberlain to receive the surrender of Lee's army.

Grant set the tone that was to be the pattern for this and future surrenders – respect and reconciliation while offering generous surrender terms and rations to their now former enemies. Chamberlain extended Grant's efforts to welcome the defeated Confederates back into the Union. There were to be "no jeers, no cheers, no drums, no bugles."

**"With malice toward none."** Those lines were from Abraham Lincoln's second inaugural address. At the surrender ceremony on April 12<sup>th</sup>, the salute that Chamberlain extended to John Brown Gordon added actions to those words.

Source: Rod Gragg, *The Illustrated Gettysburg Reader: An Eyewitness History of the Civil War's Greatest Battle* [Washington, DC: Regency Publishing, Inc., 2013], 406-407.



# **The *RUNNER***

## **Newsletter of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table**

**Editor: Tim Winstead**

Our next meeting will be **Thursday, 8 May** at St. Andrew's On-the-Sound Episcopal Church (101 Airlie Road). Social Hour begins at 7:00 p.m. (with light refreshments), meeting at 7:30.

Please make plans to attend the final meeting of our 2013-2014 Program Year. Visitors are always welcome – **ask a friend to join you**. Each of our speakers strives to enlighten, entertain, and add to our knowledge of Civil War history. This serves our mission of encouraging education and research into this seminal event in our nation's past.

**\*\*\*\*\* May Program \*\*\*\*\***

### ***Faces of Fort Fisher: 1861-1864***



**Dr. Chris E. Fonvielle Jr.** will speak about his latest book, ***Faces of Fort Fisher: 1861-1864***. Chris will trace the history of Fort Fisher from its humble beginnings to its position as the most important defensive fortification in the Confederacy. The men who planned, designed and commanded the fort, and the soldiers who built, garrisoned and defended it will come to life as Fonvielle shares stories of both the events and the people associated with its fascinating history.

**Chris Fonvielle**, Wilmington native and past president of the CFCWRT, continues his efforts to chronicle the Civil War in Southeastern North Carolina. Dr. Fonvielle's ***Faces of Fort Fisher: 1861-1864*** joins his earlier works: ***The Wilmington Campaign: Last Rays of Departing Hope***; ***Wilmington and the Lower Cape Fear: An Illustrated History***; ***Fort Fisher 1865: The Photographs of T.H. O'Sullivan***; ***Fort Anderson: Battle for Wilmington*** and ***Louis Froelich***.

**Editor**

**\*\*\*\*\* Raffle Winners \*\*\*\*\***

**Raffle Master: Ed Gibson**

If you have books, prints, or other items that you would like to donate to the CFCWRT Raffle, contact Ed Gibson ([egibson759@aol.com](mailto:egibson759@aol.com)) before our next meeting. The raffle is one of the components which allow the CFCWRT to fund our activities and our speakers. Please take part in our raffles by contributing items to the raffle or purchasing tickets



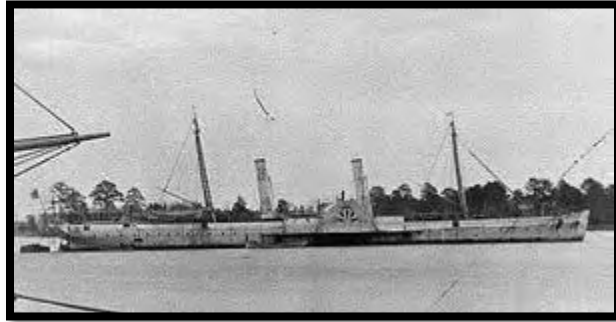
**Winners All!**

<i>Last Generation</i>	<b>Ed Gibson</b>
<i>Shenandoah Valley</i>	<b>Dale Lear</b>
<i>Appomattox</i>	<b>Dick Covell</b>
<i>Vicksburg</i>	<b>Bob Cooke</b>
<i>Savage Conflict</i>	<b>Linda Lashley</b>
<i>Wade Hampton</i>	<b>Ed Hampton</b>
<i>The Passing of the Armies</i>	<b>Dick Covell</b>

**\*\*\*\*\* Trivia Questions for April \*\*\*\*\***

- 1 – Who was J.J. Prosper For Me D. Doctor DeVowell Conner?**
- 2 – Blockade runners and blockaders continually played a cat and mouse game at the inlets entering the Cape Fear River. Did the Confederate Navy ever attempt to raise the blockade by attacking the Union Navy ships stationed along the North Carolina coast?**
- 3 – Who was given command of the USS *Monticello* during September 1863?**
- 4 – Why did the story of Private William Scott receive so much attention?**

\*\*\*\*\* **Member News & Activities** \*\*\*\*\*



*Robert E. Lee*

If you have member news or news about Civil War events that you think would be of interest to CFCWRT membership, send me an email with the details. Thanks.

**1** – We wish all the membership of the CFCWRT a productive and interesting summer hiatus. Join again with the CFCWRT as we begin another program year in September.

You may want to remember to see Linda Lashley at our May 8<sup>th</sup> meeting to take advantage of the **Early Bird Special membership** that can save you \$5 and the cost of a stamp.

**2 – Fort Fisher State Historic Site: May 10: Confederate Memorial Day Ceremony – Saturday, 10am.** Pause with us and the Fort Fisher Chapter 2325 UDC, for a special morning commemoration by the sea at "Battle Acre". Our guest, Dr. Walter L. Taylor, will speak on, "Religion in the South: How it affected soldiers and family". Admission is free, and open to the public.

**3 – Fort Anderson State Historic Site: May 10: Diabolical Contrivances and Dirty Tricks – Saturday 10-4.** Both sides played dirty during the Civil War. During this program, visitors will learn about a number of fiendish plans the Confederacy used on the Union. Exploding mines and biological warfare will be just a couple of demonstrations. This event is free, and open to the public.

**4 – Oakdale Cemetery Tours:**

May 17, 2014 – Summer Walking Tour Series. Historical walking tours of North Carolina's oldest rural cemetery will be given by local historian, Robing Triplett. Ms. Triplett will take you on a journey through time and delight you with the history and some interesting tales of those who are interred at Oakdale Cemetery. Tour is from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon. \$10.00 for non-members and FREE to members. Tours are cancelled in the event of inclement weather.

June 21, 2014 – Summer Walking Tour Series. Historical walking tours of North Carolina's oldest rural cemetery will be given by local historian and Civil War Author, Bob Cooke. Enjoy your stroll in Oakdale and hear the tales of some of the Civil War notables in Oakdale Cemetery. Tour is from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon. \$10.00 for non-members and FREE to members. Tours are cancelled in the event of inclement weather.

July 19, 2014 – Summer Walking Tour Series. Historical walking tours of North Carolina’s oldest rural cemetery will be given by local historian, Ed Gibson. Mr. Gibson will lead you through the cemetery and speak about the history of Civil War veterans as well as a taste of Oakdale’s prominent citizens. Tour is from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon. \$10.00 for non-members and FREE to members. Tours are cancelled in the event of inclement weather.

**5** – Several members of the CFCWRT/BCWRT attended the **17<sup>th</sup> Annual Salisbury Confederate Prison Symposium** on April 4-6. Shown are (top): Larry Brown, Tom Hodges, Mike Powell, Yvonne Brown, John Munroe, Linda Lashley and Connie Hendrix.



**6** - The Brunswick Civil War Round Table will meet on **Tuesday, May 6th** - registration and refreshments: 6:30pm. Program will begin at 7:00pm. They will meet at the **Trinity Methodist Church**, 209 E. Nash Street.

**Patrick Falci**, actor and performing historian, will present *“The Man in the Red Battle Shirt: The Life of General A.P. Hill.”*

**\*\*\*\*\* May 1864 \*\*\*\*\***

May 1864 saw the start of Sherman's attempt to capture the vital city of Atlanta. The Army of the Potomac was also ordered by Grant to follow and pursue the army of Robert E Lee wherever it went.

May 1<sup>st</sup>: General Sherman started his advance on the Army of the Tennessee.

May 2<sup>nd</sup>: The first skirmishes between Sherman’s troops and the Army of the Tennessee occurred.

President Davis also told the Confederate government that there was no hope of any form of recognition of the Confederacy by foreign governments.

May 3<sup>rd</sup>: The Army of the Potomac was ordered to start its campaign against Lee’s Army of Northern Virginia. Grant claimed that the men in the Army of the Potomac were “in splendid condition and feel like whipping somebody”.

May 4<sup>th</sup>: The Army of the Potomac, numbering 122,000 men, crossed the River Rapidan in pursuit of Lee's army. Lee had 66,000 men under his command. General Sherman's men prepared for their march on Atlanta. He had 98,000 men under his command.

May 5<sup>th</sup>: Grant and Lee's troops engage en masse for the first time in this campaign. Fighting in the 'Wilderness', Lee's troops had the advantage because the terrain was covered in scrub oak, stunted pines and sweet gum. All this made concealment easy and made Grant's task far more difficult despite a 2 to 1 superiority in terms of troop numbers.

May 6<sup>th</sup>: The Battle of the Wilderness continued. Neither side could claim victory at the end but in terms of casualties the Union could afford to lose more men than the South. The North lost 2236 dead, 12,037 wounded and 3383 missing. The Confederates lost 7,500 men in total.

May 7<sup>th</sup>: After a short rest the Army of the Potomac moved off again. This time Grant headed towards Richmond. This time it was Lee who had to be wary of Grant's movements. The Army of the James was already threatening Richmond to the South.

May 8<sup>th</sup>: An attempt by Grant to get his army between Lee and Richmond failed when the Union's V Corps failed to take Spotsylvania Cross Roads.

Sherman continued his march on Atlanta with little, at present, to stop him.

May 9<sup>th</sup>: Well-placed and well-dug trenches ensured that the Confederate force opposing Grant was difficult to move and there was a temporary halt to major attacks between Lee and Grant with the Union engaged in a series of reconnaissance raids as opposed to anything more.

May 11<sup>th</sup>: The Army of the Potomac spent the day manoeuvring into position for an attack primed for May 12<sup>th</sup>.

Six miles from Richmond, J E B ('Jeb') Stuart was killed in a skirmish. The South had lost one of its most talented commanders.

May 12<sup>th</sup>: The North's attack against Lee's army started at 04.30. Their initial assault was a success but a Confederate counter-attack ensured that the North was unable to capitalise on this. The fighting in an area known as 'Bloody Angle' – part of the South's entrenchments – was some of the bloodiest of the war.

**Editor Note:** John Wesley Bone, Company I, 30<sup>th</sup> North Carolina Infantry was at Spotsylvania on that May 12<sup>th</sup>. From his memoirs written in 1904, Bone recounted his remembrance of that day.

At dawn on the "memorial" day of Thursday May 12, the enemy launched a mass attack and drove the Confederates out of their works. Bone wrote that he heard Ramseur tell Colonel Parker that they had to charge and get those works back. Bone wrote that Parker replied, "We can do it." Bone related the events that followed Colonel Parker's reply.

We now moved forward and many, oh, many, made their last charge here. This field was the last resting place of many good soldiers, and came very near being one for the writer. We now passed the sharpshooters, and men were being wounded all along the line. We had orders to charge, and charge we did. Just before we reached the first line of works, I was mortally wounded by a ball striking me in the right breast, passing through my lungs and coming out beside my backbone, and lodging in some clothes that I had on my back. I now have the ball.

Bone survived the day and the rest of the war, but he never forgot the desperate hour and the deaths that accompanying the Confederate efforts to turn back the Union attack.

Source: Tim Winstead, “.... but it was war times ....The Making of a Civil War Soldier: John Wesley Bone” [Paper, University of North Carolina at Wilmington, 2010], 15-16.

May 13<sup>th</sup>: The fighting for ‘Bloody Angle’ near Spotsylvania ended at 04.00. The North had lost 6,800 men, the South 5,000. Once again, the Army of the Potomac could afford the losses while the South could not. Grant continued his aggressive approach of looking for Lee’s army. There was little doubt that Grant’s confidence of victory rubbed off on his men.

Sherman encountered determined opposition at Resaca. Here the South had built extensive entrenchments and they proved a major obstacle for Sherman and his army.

May 14<sup>th</sup>: Heavy rain meant that all forms of movement were curtailed around Spotsylvania.

May 15<sup>th</sup>: A Union force commanded by General Sigel was defeated at New Market. Sigel had been sent to defeat Confederate forces in the Shenandoah Valley. In this he failed. On the side of the successful Confederates was Colonel George Patton, grandfather of the officer with the same name who found fame in World War Two. Sigel was relieved of his command on May 19<sup>th</sup>.

Sherman was unable to make a breakthrough at Resaca.

May 16<sup>th</sup>: The North suffered a major defeat at Drewry’s Bluff and lost 25% of their manpower during the battle – 4160 men killed and wounded out of 18,000. The blame was later directed at the lacklustre leadership of General Butler.

May 18<sup>th</sup>: When the rain stopped Grant launched another unsuccessful frontal assault on Lee’s positions. With increasing casualties, Grant call off the attack. He had clearly underestimated just how well the Confederates entrenchments had been made.

May 19<sup>th</sup>: Buoyed by his successes, Lee turned to the Confederates II Corps and ordered an attack on Union lines. This led to heavy fighting between both armies but neither one gained an advantage. By the end of the day the fighting around Spotsylvania had come to an end. The Army of the Potomac had lost 17,500 men. Combined with the loss of men at the Battle of the Wilderness, Grant had lost 33,000 men out of 122,000 in just one month – 27% of the Army of the Potomac’s total. However, Grant still had an army nearly 90,000 strong. There are no accurate figures for Lee’s losses for the same period but they were undoubtedly high. While the Union could sustain their losses, however unpalatable the figure, the South could not.

May 20<sup>th</sup>: Sherman continued his advance to Atlanta.

May 23<sup>rd</sup>: Grant continued in his policy of shadowing Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. He had a 2 to 1 advantage in terms of troop strength. The cause of the South was not helped when Lee was taken with a fever and had to retire to bed.

May 24<sup>th</sup>: One of the consequences of Sherman's advance was that he had extended supply lines. On this day a raid by Confederate cavalry on his lines led to the destruction of large quantities of supplies. There was not a great deal Sherman could do about this, as he wanted to continue with his advance to Atlanta and the Confederates were skilled at quick cavalry attacks.

May 28<sup>th</sup>: The Army of Northern Virginia moved towards Cold Harbor. By doing this Lee had placed his army between Grant and Richmond.

May 29<sup>th</sup>: Lee entrenched his positions around Cold Harbor.

May 30<sup>th</sup>: Rather than shy away from contact with Lee, Grant maintained his aggressive stance and faced his army at Cold Harbor.

May 31<sup>st</sup>: Sherman's advance on Atlanta was stalled by Confederate troops commanded by J E Johnston. Their tactics, while never going to defeat Sherman, were sufficient to slow down his army to, on average, just one mile a day.

Source: <http://www.historylearning-site.co.uk/may-1864-civil-war.htm>  
(Accessed April 14, 2014).

**\*\*\*\*\* April Program \*\*\*\*\***

**“The Most Famous Private in the Civil War” –  
Private William Scott, 3<sup>rd</sup> Vermont Infantry**



<http://vermonthistory.org/research/museum-collections/faces-of-vermont/private-william-scott>

**Rick Eiserman** gave a fascinating presentation about a young soldier of Company K, 3<sup>rd</sup> Vermont Infantry. Scott was a farm boy who, along with four brothers, enlisted in the Union Army on July 10, 1861. Scott became involved in a series of events that involved his falling asleep at his post on August 31, 1861, a court-martial and a sentence to death involving General George McClellan, and a presidential pardon with a reported direct intervention by Abraham Lincoln. Whatever the series of events and the truthfulness of those telling, Scott was saved from his executioners on September 9, 1861.

Scott, the sleeping sentinel, returned to Company K where, if various reports can be believed, served well at his duties. Lincoln's involvement in going to the guilty soldier to ensure the pardon arrived before the firing squad carried out its sentence took on a life of its own. The Scott story resurfaced when on April 16, 1862 at Lee's Mill on the Virginia Peninsula, Private Scott gave his life in an attack upon Confederate positions. Scott, although wounded five or 6 times, was reported by newspapers as "a dying soldier (who) prays for the president ....." The story was picked up and perpetuated by Northern newspapers, poets, and dueling historians for the next hundred forty years. Numerous newspaper articles, conflicting books, a movie, a radio play, and even the iconic Carl Sandburg became involved in researching the events.

Whatever the real facts, Scott became a hero of sorts, not for his failure, but for his redemption.

### **THE SLEEPING SENTINEL**

**By Francis De Haes Janvier**

'Twas in the sultry summer-time, as war's red records show,  
When patriot armies rose to meet a fratricidal foe;  
When from the North, and East, and West, like the upheaving sea,  
Swept forth Columbia's sons, to make our country truly free.

Within a prison's dismal walls, where shadows veiled decay,  
In fetters, on a heap of straw, a youthful soldier lay;  
Heart-broken, hopeless, and forlorn, with short and feverish breath,  
He waited but the appointed hour to die a culprit's death.

Yet, but a few brief weeks before, untroubled with a care,  
He roamed at will, and freely drew his native mountain air;  
Where sparkling streams leap mossy rocks, from many a woodland font,  
And waving elms and grassy slopes give beauty to Vermont;

Where, dwelling in a humble cot, a tiller of the soil,  
Encircled by a mother's love, he shared a father's toil.  
Till, borne upon the wailing winds, his suffering country's cry  
Fired his young heart with fervent zeal, for her to live or die.

Then left he all; a few fond tears, by firmness half concealed,  
A blessing, and a parting prayer, and he was in the field.  
The field of strife, whose dews are blood, whose breezes war's hot breath,



Whose fruits are garnered in the grave, whose husbandman is death!

Without a murmur he endured a service new and hard;  
But, wearied with a toilsome march, it chanced one night, on guard,  
He sank, exhausted, at his post, and the gray morning found  
His prostrate form, a sentinel asleep upon the ground!

But God is love - and finite minds can faintly comprehend  
How gentle Mercy, in His rule, may with stern Justice blend;  
And this poor soldier, seized and bound, found none to justify,  
While war's inexorable law decreed that he must die.

'Twas night. In a secluded room, with measured tread and slow,  
A statesman of commanding mien paced gravely to and fro.  
Oppressed, he pondered on a land by civil discord rent;  
On brothers armed in deadly strife: it was the President!

The woes of thirty millions filled his burdened heart with grief;  
Embattled hosts, on land and sea, acknowledged him their chief;  
And yet, amid the din of war, he heard the plaintive cry  
Of that poor soldier, as he lay in prison, doomed to die!

'Twas morning. On a tented field, and through the heated haze,  
Flashed back, from lines of burnished arms, the sun's effulgent blaze;  
While, from a somber prison house, seen slowly to emerge,  
A sad procession, o'er the sward, moved to a muffled dirge.

And in the midst, with faltering step, and pale and anxious face,  
In manacles, between two guards, a soldier had his place.  
A youth, led out to die; and yet it was not death, but shame,  
That smote his gallant heart with dread, and shook his manly frame!

Still on, before the marshalled ranks, the train pursued its way,  
Up to the designated spot, whereon a coffin lay-  
His coffin! And, with reeling brain, despairing, desolate-  
He took his station by its side, abandoned to his fate!

Then came across his wavering sight strange pictures in the air:  
He saw his distant mountain home; he saw his parents there;  
He saw them bowed with hopeless grief, through fast declining years;  
He saw a nameless grave; and then, the vision closed-in tears!

Yet once again. In double file, advancing, then, he saw  
Twelve comrades, sternly set apart to execute the law-  
But saw no more; his senses swam-deep darkness settled round-  
And, shuddering, he awaited now the fatal volley's sound!

Then suddenly was heard the sounds of steeds and wheels approach,  
And, rolling through a cloud of dust, appeared a stately coach.  
On, past the guards, and through the field, its rapid course was bent,  
Till, halting, 'mid the lines was seen the nation's President!

He came to save that stricken soul, now waking from despair;  
And from a thousand voices rose a shout which rent the air!  
The pardoned soldier understood the tones of jubilee,  
And, bounding from his fetters, blessed the hand that made him free!

'Twas spring. Within a verdant vale, where Warwick's crystal tide  
Reflected, o'er its peaceful breast, fair fields on either side;  
Where birds and flowers combined to cheer a sylvan solitude,  
Two threatening armies, face to face, in fierce defiance stood!

Two threatening armies! One invoked by injured Liberty-  
Which bore above its patriot ranks the symbol of the Free;  
And one, a rebel horde, beneath a flaunting flag of bars,  
A fragment, torn by traitorous hands from Freedom's Stripes and Stars!

A sudden burst of smoke and flame, from many a thundering gun,  
Proclaimed, along the echoing hills, the conflict had begun;  
While shot and shell athwart the stream with fiendish fury sped,  
To strew among the living lines the dying and the dead!

Then, louder than the roaring storm, pealed forth the stern command,  
"Charge, soldiers, charge!" and, at the word, with shouts, a fearless band,  
Two hundred heroes from Vermont, rushed onward, through the flood,  
And upward, o'er the rising ground, they marked their way in blood!

The smitten foe before them fled, in terror, from his post-  
While, unsustained, two hundred stood, to battle with a host!  
Then, turning, as the rallying ranks, with murderous fire replied,  
They bore the fallen o'er the field, and through the purple tide!

The fallen! And the first who fell in that unequal strife  
Was he whom Mercy sped to save when Justice claimed his life-  
The pardoned soldier! And, while yet the conflict raged around-  
While yet his life-blood ebbed away through every gaping wound-

While yet his voice grew tremulous, and death bedimmed his eye-  
He called his comrades to attest he had not feared to die!  
**And, in his last expiring breath, a prayer to heaven was sent,  
That God, with his unfailing grace, would bless our President!**

**Editor**

**\*\*\*\*\* Difference Makers \*\*\*\*\***

May 1864 was a pivotal period in the Civil War. U.S. Grant was to change the way the Union was going to fight the war. Grant became the difference maker that Abraham Lincoln has sought since the opening days of the war.

**\*\*\*\*\* U.S. Grant Comes South \*\*\*\*\***

Ulysses S. Grant became the General-in-Chief of Union armies on March 12, 1864. Grant ordered William Sherman in Tennessee, Nathaniel Banks in Louisiana, Benjamin Butler in Southeast Virginia, Franz Sigel in the Shenandoah, and George Meade in Northern Virginia to wage hard war against the Confederacy. Grant knew the numerical superiority of Union manpower and equipment, if applied unceasingly, would overpower the Confederate armies. His campaigns for 1864 called upon each of his commanders to attack simultaneously across the South. Grant's strategy was intended to prevent the Confederates from shifting forces to meet uncoordinated thrust by ill timed Union advances.

Grant disdained the politics of Washington and actively campaigned with Meade and the Army of the Potomac. Beginning on May 4, 1864, the Army of the Potomac crossed the Rapidan River and began a move around Lee's right. Grant wanted to pull Lee out of his entrenchments where the Union superiority in men and material would be maximized. Lee moved quickly to strike Grant's forces before they were able to move into open ground beyond the Wilderness. Over the next month and a half, Grant and Lee played a deadly game of maneuver, thrust, and parry. The opposing armies locked in battles at the Wilderness, Spotsylvania, North Anna River, and Cold Harbor. The losses during this Overland Campaign were among the heaviest of the entire war. Grant was known as the butcher; however, Lee never backed away from an opportunity to attack the enemy. At the end of this campaign, the armies were locked in a stalemate at Petersburg.

**Editor**

**\*\*\*\*\* Trivia Questions for May \*\*\*\*\***

**1 – Who was J.J. Prosper For Me D. Doctor DeVowell Conner?** The gentleman, with the long name, was a Confederate soldier in Company E, 36<sup>th</sup> North Carolina Troops (2<sup>nd</sup> N.C. Artillery) who was stationed at Fort Fisher during the Civil War. Private Conner was supposed to have found the bag of gold coins that Rose O'Neale Greenhow had on her person when she drowned trying to reach the safety of Fort Fisher from the stranded blockade runner, *Condor*, during the early morning of October 1, 1864.

For the “rest of the story,” check out Chris's new book.

Source: Chris E. Fonvielle Jr., *Faces of Fort Fisher 1861-1864* [Carolina Beach, N.C.: SlapDashPublishing, LLC, 2013], 132-139.

**2 – Blockade runners and blockaders continually played a cat and mouse game at the inlets entering the Cape Fear River. Did the Confederate Navy ever attempt to raise the blockade by attacking the Union Navy ships stationed along the North Carolina coast?** The CSS *Raleigh* made the attempt to break the Union blockade on the evening of May 6, 1864. Slipping out of New Inlet at high tide, the *Raleigh* encountered several Union ships and succeeded in driving those vessels away from the inlet. At dawn on May 7<sup>th</sup>, the *Raleigh* was five or six miles offshore. The Union fleet returned to challenge the *Raleigh*; however, their efforts were futile against the iron-clad. At 7:00 a.m., the *Raleigh* returned over the bar into New Inlet.

Unfortunately for its commanders, Flag Officer William Lynch and Lieutenant J. Pembroke Jones, and the Confederacy, the *Raleigh* ran hard aground on a shoal while trying to navigate into the Cape Fear River. The *Raleigh* sunk as its back broke under the strain. Jefferson Davis in his postwar memoirs remarked that the *Raleigh's* “services were valueless in consequence of her deep draft and feeble steam-power. She made one futile trip out of New Inlet, and after a few hours attempted to return, but was wrecked upon the bar.”

Source: Chris E. Fonvielle Jr., *Faces of Fort Fisher 1861-1864* [Carolina Beach, N.C.: SlapDashPublishing, LLC, 2013], 116-125.

**3 – Who was given command of the USS *Monticello* during September 1863?** The *Monticello*, built in 1859, was a wood screw steamer of 655 tons, with a draft of almost 13 feet when fully loaded. Eventually, the *Monticello* mounted a 100-pounder Parrott rifle, three 30-pounder Parrott rifles, and two 9-inch Dahlgren smoothbore cannons.

The *Monticello* was first assigned to the James River squadron where she fought an action against Confederate shore batteries at Sewell’s Point on May 4-6, 1861. A Captain William Lamb, of the Woodis Rifles of Norfolk, commanded part of those batteries. The *Monticello* and Lamb would meet again at Fort Fisher later in the war.

Ok, the new commander of the *Monticello* in September 1863 was Chris Fonvielle’s favorite, **William Barker Cushing**.

Source: Chris E. Fonvielle Jr., *Faces of Fort Fisher 1861-1864* [Carolina Beach, N.C.: SlapDashPublishing, LLC, 2013], 32-33.

**4 – Why did the story of Private William Scott receive so much attention?** The story of the Sleeping Sentinel portrayed a story of failure, redemption, and sacrifice. William Scott failed at his duty, he was forgiven his sin, and he made good his failure by making the ultimate sacrifice for his country.

Of the five Scott brothers who joined the Union cause in July 1861, three would yield their lifeblood during that conflict.

Private William Scott, Company K, 3<sup>rd</sup> Vermont Infantry, lies among the honored dead at Yorktown National Cemetery.



## The *RUNNER*

### Newsletter of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Editor **Tim Winstead**

Our next meeting will be **Thursday, 14 November** at St. Andrew's On-the-Sound (101 Airlie Road). Social Hour begins at 7:00 p.m., meeting at 7:30.

Please join us at our November meeting. Visitors are always welcome – ***bring a friend or two***. Each of our speakers strives to enlighten, entertain, and add to our knowledge of Civil War history. This serves our mission of encouraging education and research into that historic conflict.

\*\*\*\*\* **November Program** \*\*\*\*\*

### **The Confederate Use of Torpedoes in the Defense of Fort Anderson**

Join us on November 14, 2013 when **Jeff Bockert** will discuss the evolution of the use of underwater torpedoes by the Confederates and the torpedo's subsequent use in the Cape Fear River. Before the end of the Civil War, Fort Anderson's defenses will include the largest concentration of underwater torpedoes in the Confederacy.



Jeff Bockert currently serves as the East Region Supervisor for the North Carolina Division of State Historic Sites based in Kinston, N.C. Jeff currently serves on the N.C. Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee and on the Board of the N.C. Military Historical Society. Prior to arriving in Kinston, he served as the Civil War Specialist for N.C. Department of Cultural Resources. Jeff's previous work experience includes managing the President James K. Polk Birthplace, Associate

Curator on the Battleship North Carolina and work at the National Archives in Washington, DC. He has also worked as a college history instructor and is the author of several works on presidential and military history. He has been published in works such as *White House Studies* and *Public Historian*. Jeff received both his undergraduate degree in American History and his master's degree in European History from UNC-Wilmington.

**Editor**

**\*\*\*\*\* Raffle Winners \*\*\*\*\***

**Raffle Master: Ed Gibson**

If you have books, prints, or other items that you would like to donate to the CFCWRT Raffle, contact Ed Gibson ([egibson759@aol.com](mailto:egibson759@aol.com)) before our next meeting.

<i>New York Times Civil War</i>	- Linda Lashley
<i>The Man Who tried to Burn New York</i>	- Dick Covell
<i>Soldier Life</i>	- Ed Gibson
<i>Cleburne</i>	- Dick Covell
<i>Shrouds of Glory</i>	- Tom Taylor
<i>Don't Know Much About the Civil War</i>	- Linda Lashley

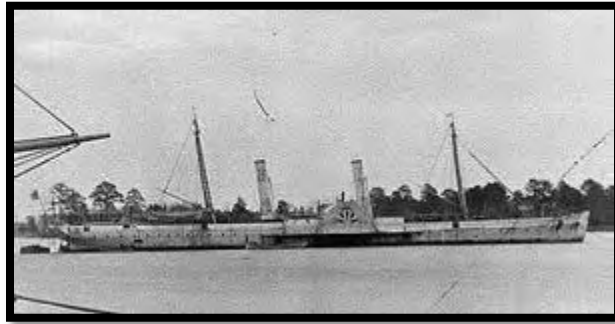
**\*\*\*\*\* Trivia Questions for November \*\*\*\*\***

- 1 – Who were the Bomb Brothers?**
- 2 – Fort Anderson’s defenses made use of torpedoes to hamper the Union Navy in attempts to steam up the Cape Fear River. What Confederate Naval Officer directed the placement of these devices?**
- 3 – As the Confederates learned from their evolutionary efforts, the torpedo proved to be an effective weapon against Union ships and personnel. What was the one “fundamental” weakness of the underwater torpedo?**
- 4 – Abraham Lincoln was not the feature speaker at the dedication of the Soldiers’ National Cemetery at Gettysburg on November 19, 1863. Who was the keynote speaker and what was his subject?**



- 5 – Who commanded the Confederate Mosquito Fleet during the naval battle at Elizabeth City (Cobb’s Point)?**
- 6 – Where were most of the crews for Confederate ironclads recruited?**

\*\*\*\*\* **Member News & Activities** \*\*\*\*\*



*Robert E. Lee*

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

**1** – Welcome to new and re-enlisting members who joined us at the October Meeting: **John Moore, Steve Godwin, Thomas Taylor, and Jim Gannon.**

**2** – The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table makes an annual contribution to the Civil War Trust. This year, President Bob Cooke chose to "pass the hat" and chose October as the month in which to do so. **You contributed \$200 at our October meeting.**

Two anonymous members promised to match the contribution and thus a two for one match was generated in Wilmington.

Bob's timing could not have been better since the Civil War Trust also had a match in effect in their effort to save three Richmond (VA) Battlefields thus your **CFCWRT generated \$1200 to help save Glendale, First Deep Bottom and Malvern Hill.**

Well Done!

**Bruce Patterson**

**3** –Our friends at the **Brunswick Civil War Round Table** will meet on Tuesday, **November 5th** at 6:30pm. They meet at the Trinity United Methodist Church, 209 E. Nash Street, Southport.

**Mark Bradley**, Staff Historian at the United States Army Center of Military History in Washington, D.C., will speak about the "The Battle of Bentonville."

**4** – Do you have guests coming to town? Do you want to do something a little different and share some history of the area? Consider visiting the Fort Fisher State Historic Site where Site Interpreter **Ray Flowers** gives a special 45 minute tour that covers the fort, its history, and its people. The \$10 tour begins at noon. Contact 910-458-5538 for additional details.

\*\*\*\*\* **Difference Makers** \*\*\*\*\*

**Brigadier General George Sears “Pop” Greene**

Much has been said and written about Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain and the 20<sup>th</sup> Maine at Little Round Top on July 2, 1863. Chamberlain was the savior of the Union left flank, the hero of the Republic. Chamberlain was also an accomplished writer who added to his fame in the years that followed the end of the war. As critical as the events on Little Round Top were to the Union left flank, the events on Culp’s Hill were equally, or even more so, important to the Army of Potomac’s victory at Gettysburg.

Greene, grandson of Revolutionary War General Nathaniel Greene, was a West Point graduate who had been a prominent civil engineer in the 25 years preceding the Civil War. With the Union debacle at Manassas, Greene returned to the service of his country as colonel of the 60th New York Infantry regiment. Greene was over 60 years old, but he would show himself to be an aggressive commander.



At Gettysburg on July 2<sup>nd</sup>, Greene found himself in command of the lone brigade left on the right flank of the Union Army. George Meade had shifted most of the XII Corps to meet Longstreet’s attack on the Union left flank. Being a capable and cautious civil engineer and despite the apparent disinterest of his superiors, Henry W. Slocum and John Geary, Greene instructed his troops to build field fortifications to strengthen their position. When Confederate General Edward Johnson’s division attacked the few troops on Culp’s Hill as darkness fell on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, Greene’s entrenched troops held the line. On the extreme right, the 137th New York held their line because Brigadier General Greene had the foresight to strengthen his position against a strong Confederate attack. He had insisted on a course of action that protected his men and gave them a position from which they repeatedly frustrated the Confederate intentions.

Why was Greene not more fully acknowledged for his efforts? Soon after the Gettysburg battle, the XII Corps was transferred to the Western Theater. The record of their actions on July 2<sup>nd</sup> were not included in the Meade’s Gettysburg official report reportedly because of a disagreement between Meade and Slocum. Greene was also an introspective engineer who never sought the limelight.

Greene passed at age 98 in Morristown, New Jersey. He was buried in the Greene family cemetery in Warwick, Rhode Island. A two-ton boulder from Culp’s Hill was placed above his grave.

Source: [www.thelatinlibrary.com](http://www.thelatinlibrary.com) (accessed October 19, 2013), <http://www.civilwar.org/battlefields/gettysburg/gettysburg-history-articles/battle-of-gettysburg-general.html> (accessed August 26, 2013), Rod Gragg, *The Illustrated Gettysburg Reader: An*



**\*\*\*\*\* November 1863 \*\*\*\*\***

November 1863 is best remembered for what was to become the most famous speech made during the American Civil War - the Gettysburg Address by Abraham Lincoln. Again, as in October 1863, the weather dictated what senior commanders could do in the field.

November 2<sup>nd</sup>: President Lincoln was invited to make a speech at the dedication of the new cemetery at Gettysburg. Jefferson Davis visited Charleston and publicly stated that he believed the city would not fall.

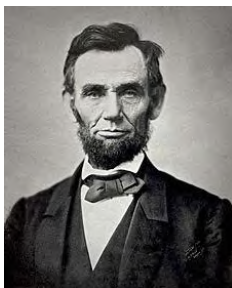
November 3<sup>rd</sup>: Sherman continued his march to Chattanooga. Unwilling to rely on a single rail line from Decatur to Nashville for his supplies, he ordered that it was rebuilt as double tracked.

November 4<sup>th</sup>: General Bragg, supported by Jefferson Davis, rid himself of General Longstreet and his 20,000 men who were sent to support Confederate troops at Knoxville.

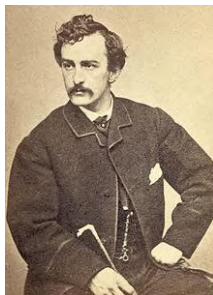
November 7<sup>th</sup>: General Meade, commander of the Army of the Potomac, attacked Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. Several Confederate redoubts were captured at Kelly's Ford on the Rappahannock River and 1,629 prisoners were taken. However, the North lost far more men killed – 83 to 6.

November 8<sup>th</sup>: Meade continued his assault on Confederate positions but by now they are no more than skirmishes as opposed full-scale assaults.

November 9<sup>th</sup>: Lincoln visited the theatre to see a play called "The Marble Heart" that starred John Wilkes Booth.



**A. Lincoln**



**John Wilkes Booth**

November 14<sup>th</sup>: Sherman arrived at Bridgeport at the head of 17,000 men. His men had covered 675 miles in just fourteen days. At Bridgeport, Sherman was briefed by Grant as to the state of play at Chattanooga. Sherman was told not to expect any help from the

Army of the Cumberland, as it would maintain its defensive position rather than an offensive one.

In the South, the Confederate Government ordered the use of force in its efforts to collect taxes. This included the confiscation of property and was primarily directed at farmers in North Carolina who were refusing to pay their taxes.

November 15<sup>th</sup>: Sherman started his campaign against Chattanooga. Accepting Grant's advice, Sherman viewed the role of the Army of the Cumberland to be solely defensive.

November 16<sup>th</sup>: Longstreet finally reached Knoxville. However, lacking heavy artillery, Longstreet was unable to besiege the town, which was well defended by Union troops commanded by General Burnside.

November 18<sup>th</sup>: Lincoln left Washington DC en route to Gettysburg.

November 19<sup>th</sup>: The dedication of the cemetery at Gettysburg took place. 15,000 people assembled there. The dedication started with a two-hour speech (**greater than 10,800 words**) by Edward Everett as to the course of the battle. Lincoln spoke after Everett and for only ten minutes (**272 words**) and received polite applause. Some in the gathering were unaware that he had even spoken. 'The Times' in London considered Everett's speech to have been very good while the President's was a disappointment. His speech was carefully prepared and not, as was once thought, put together on the train journey from Washington to Gettysburg. Lincoln himself said "the world will little note, nor long remember what we say here."

November 20<sup>th</sup>: Sherman's advance on Chattanooga was delayed by heavy rain.

November 21<sup>st</sup>: With better weather, Sherman prepared for his attack on Chattanooga.

November 23<sup>rd</sup>: Unionist troops took Orchard Knob just outside of Chattanooga. The capture of this position gave them a height advantage over Confederate positions around Chattanooga. Such was the strategic advantage of Orchard Knob, Grant made it his headquarters.

November 25<sup>th</sup>: Sherman started his main assault against Confederate positions around Chattanooga, especially the men based on Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge. By 15.00 the positions held by the Army of Tennessee had fallen. Seven Congressional Medals of Honour were awarded for the Union assault on Missionary Ridge. One went to Lieutenant Arthur MacArthur, the father of Douglas MacArthur.

November 26<sup>th</sup>: The Army of the Potomac threatened an attack on Richmond.

Bragg withdrew his forces from the Chattanooga area to Dalton, Georgia, having lost 10% of his men – 6,667 out of 64,000. Bragg was not to know that Sherman's army had suffered a similar percentage of casualties – 5,824 out of 56,000 men. By withdrawing,

Bragg kept his army as an effective fighting unit. However, Sherman's army was free to advance on Atlanta.

November 27<sup>th</sup>: The Army of the Potomac meets that Army of Northern Virginia at Mine Run.

November 30<sup>th</sup>: An attack on the Army of Northern Virginia was cancelled at the last minute when Meade decided that Lee's men were too well dug in.

Source: <http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/november-1863-civil-war.htm> (accessed August 27, 2013).

\*\*\*\*\* *CSS Neuse* \*\*\*\*\*

As mentioned in the October issue of the *Runner*, nine members of the CFCWRT/North Carolina Military Historical Society ventured to Kinston on September 25 to visit the newly opened **CSS Neuse Civil War Interpretive Center**. The center, with expected completion in mid-2014, remained a work "in progress" as many of the approximately 15,000 artifacts from the 1961 – 1963 salvage operations on the ironclad are added to the site exhibits. According to Bruce Patterson, the band of traveling historians enjoyed their visit and thought the two hour trip was well worth the time – especially if you dined at one of the famous Barbeque emporiums in that area.

The story of the CSS **Neuse** move to the new center and the history of the CSS *Neuse* made for interesting reading and can be found in an article in the *Civil War News* site: <http://www.civilwarnews.com/archive/articles/2012/august/neuse-081202.htm>. Additional information about the **Neuse** can be found on the NCDCCR website: <http://news.ncdcr.gov/2013/07/12/css-neuse-museum-to-open-july-18/>.



\*\*\*\*\* **October Program** \*\*\*\*\*

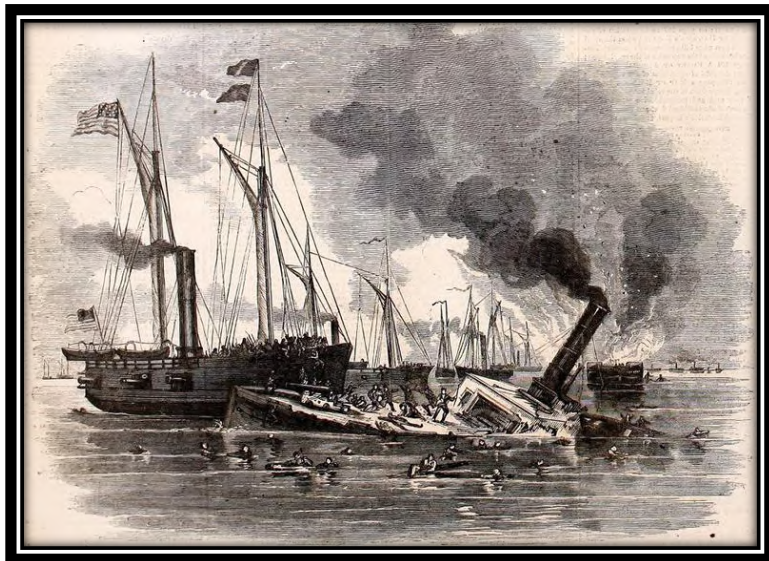
**Confederate Navy and Marine Corps in North Carolina:  
Plus Uniforms & Equipment**

**Andrew Duppstadt**, Assistant Curator of Education and Historic Weapons Programs  
Coordinator for the NC Division of State Historic Sites, provided those present at the October

Meeting with an interesting study of the Confederate Navy and Marine Corps and their efforts in North Carolina.

Confederate Secretary of the Navy, Stephen Mallory, directed the Confederacy's small navy in its efforts to challenge the larger United States Navy. Mallory believed that the Confederate Navy would have to develop technologically superior weapons and ship designs to achieve three goals to be successful in their mission: **1) Protect and defend the coast and rivers of the South. 2) Break the Union blockade. 3) Disrupt Union commerce.**

While Governor Ellis pushed the state toward a war footing, North Carolina fielded what in 1861 was known as the "Mosquito fleet." The navy consisted of the *Winslow*, *Beaufort*, *Raleigh*, and *Ellis* – all river vessels that were lightly armed and manned by very inexperienced crews. Like mosquitoes, the ships, which were transferred to the Confederate Navy in July 1861, were an irritation to Union shipping along North Carolina's long coast line. The Union Navy responded to this irritant by destroying the Mosquito Fleet near Elizabeth City in February 1862.



The Confederate Navy recovered from the debacle at Elizabeth City and attempted to achieve the goals set forth by Secretary Mallory. Four ironclads were built to defend the coastal waters and break the Union blockade. The CSS *Raleigh* and CSS *North Carolina* were built in Wilmington to operate from the Cape Fear River. The CSS *Neuse* was constructed near Kinston. The most successful of the rebel ironclads, the CSS *Albemarle*, was built in a corn field at Edwards Ferry on the Roanoke River. While the Confederate Navy faced severe limitations in manufacturing capacity and

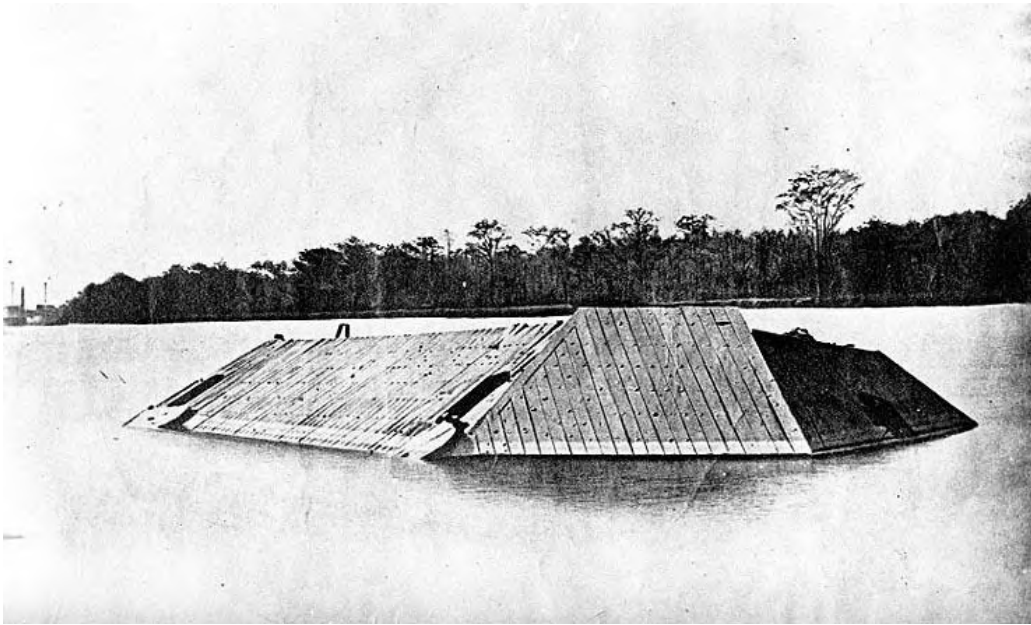
resource availability, resourceful engineers and constructors used the equivalent of "duct tape and bailing wire" to defend their territory.

The Confederate Navy and Marines served at numerous locations to oppose Union efforts to remove Eastern North Carolina from the war. North Carolina native, Gabriel Rains, headed efforts to develop land mines and torpedoes to defend rebel forts and rivers. Rains's brother, George Washington Rains, built and operated a large powder mill in Augusta,

Georgia that supplied quality gun powder for his brother's "infernal machines." The Marines served aboard the CSS *Tallahassee*, *Olustee*, and *Chickamauga* when they

ventured from Wilmington into the Atlantic Ocean to destroy Union commerce. The Navy and Marines each had units who served at Fort Fisher.

While the Confederates failed, the men who served in their Navy and Marines resisted a powerful foe for almost four years. Like the wreckage of the *Albemarle*, their efforts sunk in the rivers and sounds of North Carolina.



CSS *Albemarle* was sunk by a daring torpedo boat attack commanded by William Barker Cushing USN.

\*\*\*\*\* Trivia Questions for November \*\*\*\*\*

**1 – Who were the Bomb Brothers?** Gabriel James Rains and George Washington Rains were North Carolinians who contributed their unique talents to the Confederate cause. Gabriel and George both graduated from West Point. Both brothers exhibited great interest in chemistry and the sciences. Gabriel became interested in explosives and he produced both what became land mines and underwater torpedoes. George would direct the construction and operation of a large powder works in Augusta, Georgia.



Gabriel James Rains



George Washington Rains

2 – Fort Anderson’s defenses made use of torpedoes to hamper the Union Navy in attempts to steam up the Cape Fear River. What Confederate Naval Officer directed the placement of these devices?

SUGAR LOAF, *January 18, 1865*

Colonel Anderson:

The enemy seem to fear getting on torpedoes. I wish very much we could get some in the river. The explosion of one would keep the others out.

R. F. HOKE,  
*Major-General*

Wilmington, *January 18, 1865*

Major-General HOKE,  
*Sugar Loaf:*

Lieut. **Pembroke Jones**, Navy, goes down to-night to Anderson on steamer Equator to place torpedoes. Caution pickets not to annoy him.

ARCHER ANDERSON  
Assistant Adjunct-General

(Same to Brigadier-General Hebert, Fort Anderson)

Source: The War of Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies; Series 1 – Volume 46 (Part II), p. 1095.

3 – As the Confederates learned from their evolutionary efforts, the torpedo proved to be an effective weapon against Union ships and personnel. What was the one “fundamental” weakness of the underwater torpedo? Extended submersion corroded the torpedo and wet the powder charge. This condition was especially seen during Farragut’s attack on Mobile, Alabama on August 5, 1864. While Farragut may have dammed the torpedoes, his reckless attack proved successful because only one of his ships (USS Tecumseh) was sunk by a torpedo. Farragut may not have been entirely reckless, but he did gamble that the Confederate torpedoes had been submerged too long to seriously disrupt his attack.

Source: <http://www.civilwar.org/battlefields/mobilebay/mobile-bay-history-articles/damn-the-torpedoes-the.html> (accessed October 13, 2013).

4 – Abraham Lincoln was not the feature speaker at the dedication of the Soldiers’ National Cemetery at Gettysburg on November 19, 1863. Who was the keynote speaker and what was his subject? Lincoln was preceded on the podium by the famed orator **Edward Everett**, who spoke to the crowd for two hours with his “**Gettysburg Address**.” Lincoln followed with his now immortal Gettysburg Address. On November 20, Everett wrote to Lincoln: “Permit me also to express my great admiration of the thoughts expressed by you, with such eloquent simplicity & appropriateness, at the consecration of the Cemetery. I should be glad, if I could flatter myself that I came as near to the central idea of the occasion, in two hours, as you did in two minutes.”

Lincoln's reply to Everett follows:

Hon. Edward Everett.

My dear Sir:

Your kind note of to-day is received. In our respective parts yesterday, you could not have been excused to make a short address, nor I a long one. I am pleased to know that, in your judgment, the little I did say was not entirely a failure. Of course I knew Mr. Everett would not fail; and yet, while the whole discourse was eminently satisfactory, and will be of great value, there were passages in it which transcended my expectation. The point made against the theory of the general government being only an agency, whose principals are the States, was new to me, and, as I think, is one of the best arguments for the national supremacy. The tribute to our noble women for their angel-ministering to the suffering soldiers, surpasses, in its way, as do the subjects of it, whatever has gone before.

Our sick boy, for whom you kindly inquire, we hope is past the worst. Your Obt. Servt.

A. Lincoln

Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battle-field of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate -- we can not consecrate -- we can not hallow -- this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us -- that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion -- that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain -- that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom -- and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

Source: <http://myloc.gov/Exhibitions/gettysburgaddress/Pages/default.aspx> (accessed October 15, 2013).  
<http://www.abrahamlincolnonline.org/lincoln/speeches/everett.htm> (accessed October 15, 2013).

**5 – Who commanded the Confederate Mosquito Fleet during the naval battle at Elizabeth City (Cobb's Point)?** Flag Officer **William F. Lynch**. On February 7, 1862, the Confederates had battled the Union Fleet during its attack on Roanoke Island. Lynch withdrew to Elizabeth City to resupply and prepare a defense for the city. On February 10<sup>th</sup> two miles below Elizabeth City, the

Mosquito Fleet (6 ships mounting 11 guns) engaged Cdr. Stephen C. Rowan and his Union flotilla (14 ships mounting 40 guns). The outcome was never in doubt.

Source: <http://ncpedia.org/elizabeth-city-battle> (accessed October 19, 2013).

**6 – Where were most of the crews for Confederate ironclads recruited?** To crew the ironclads built in North Carolina, the navy relied on the local army soldiers to man the guns. The Confederate naval uniforms looked amazingly like those of the army.



# The *RUNNER*

## Newsletter of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Editor **Tim Winstead**

Our next meeting will be **Thursday, 10 October** at St. Andrew's On-the-Sound (101 Airlie Road). Social Hour begins at 7:00 p.m., meeting at 7:30.

Please join us at our October meeting. Visitors are always welcome – ***bring a friend or two***. Each of our speakers strives to enlighten, entertain, and add to our knowledge of Civil War history. This serves our mission of encouraging education and research into that historic conflict.

\*\*\*\*\* **October Program** \*\*\*\*\*

### **Confederate Navy and Marine Corps in North Carolina: Plus Uniforms & Equipment**

Join us on October 10, 2013 when **Andrew Duppstadt**, Assistant Curator of **Education and Historic Weapons Program Coordinator for the NC Division of State Historic Sites**, will present a history of the Confederate Navy and Marine Corps as they served in North Carolina during the Civil War. Andrew's presentation will also include information about the uniforms and equipment that differentiated these units from other branches of the service.

**Andrew Duppstadt**, born at Camp Lejeune where his Dad served in the Marine Corps, holds a BA and MA in History from UNC-Wilmington. He is a member of the Company of Military Historians and the Southeast Historical Association. He is also a founding member and President of the Carolina Living History Guild. In addition to his current position with the NC Division of State Historic Sites, his previous experiences include work at the CSS *Neuse* State Historic Site, Fort Fisher State Historic Site, and Tryon Palace Historic Sites and Gardens. Andrew is also an Adjunct Instructor of History at UNC-Pembroke,

Coastal Carolina Community College, and Craven Community College.



**Editor**

**\*\*\*\*\* Raffle Winners \*\*\*\*\***

**Raffle Master: Ed Gibson**

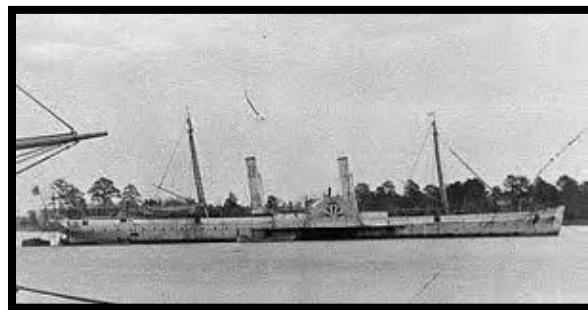
If you have books, prints, or other items that you would like to donate to the CFCWRT Raffle, contact Ed Gibson ([egibson759@aol.com](mailto:egibson759@aol.com)) before our next meeting.

<i>High Tide at Gettysburg</i>	- Lance Bevins
<i>Sherman</i>	- Ed Gibson
<i>Shrouds of Glory</i>	- Ed Gibson
<i>The Confederacy's Last Hurrah</i>	- Linda Lashley
<i>In The Company of Soldiers</i>	- Richard Covell
<i>The Fatal Storm</i>	- Bob Cooke

**\*\*\*\*\* Trivia Questions for October \*\*\*\*\***

- 1** – How many ironclads were built by the Confederate government in North Carolina during the Civil War?
- 2** – What was the mission of the Confederate Navy in North Carolina?
- 3** – Which North Carolinians commanded Confederate commerce raiders against Union shipping during the war.
- 4** – Who commanded the Confederate Marine Corps contingent at Fort Fisher during the Battles of Fort Fisher? What was the fate of this contingent?
- 5** – What was Robert E. Lee's Special Order 191? How was it relevant to the September 17, 1862 Battle of Sharpsburg? – This battle that became the single-most bloody day in American Military history.
- 6** – Sgt. Robert W. Parker joined Company F, 2<sup>nd</sup> Virginia Cavalry, Bedford Southside Dragoons on May 29, 1861. Parker and Company F faithfully served throughout the war. For what else was Bedford, Virginia remembered?

**\*\*\*\*\* Member News & Activities \*\*\*\*\***



*Robert E. Lee*

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

**1** – Welcome to new members: **Tommy Chilcote** and **Jack Skinner**. *A special welcome to all returning members.* Your membership makes possible the speakers and events that the RT schedules throughout our program year.

**2** – President Bob Cooke presented a proposal for the CFCWRT to support the Civil War Trust’s efforts to save an additional 109 acres at Reed’s Bridge on the Chickamauga battlefield. As we have done in the past, a hat will be passed at the October meeting to support this effort to secure the land where this battle opened on September 18, 1863.

**3** –Our friends at the **Brunswick Civil War Round Table** will meet on Tuesday, **October 1<sup>st</sup>** at 6:30pm. They meet at the Trinity United Methodist Church, 209 E. Nash Street, Southport.

Rev. Jeff Roberts, senior pastor at Trinity United Methodist Church, Southport. His topic: “Religion in the Civil War.”

**4** – The speaker schedule for 2013-2014 is set for the balance of the year and may be found under the **Events** tab at [www.cfcwrt.com](http://www.cfcwrt.com).

**5** – Several Round Table members, who are also members of the North Carolina Military Historical Society, traveled to Kinston on September 25<sup>th</sup> to visit the CSS *Neuse* Museum and hull. The Wilmington Chapter of the NCMHS meets semi-monthly for discussions and/or trips to historical sites. The Society also is the sponsor of the Military Museum located at the Air Force Recreation Area, Kure Beach. Contact **Bruce Patterson** if you have interest in joining this group.

\*\*\*\*\* **Difference Makers** \*\*\*\*\*



On Sunday, September 14, 1862, rear guard elements of the Army of North Virginia were involved in a desperate encounter on the crest of South Mountain, between Middletown and Boonsboro, Maryland. The battle on South Mountain began when the vanguard of General George McClellan's Army of the Potomac, emboldened with discovery of Robert E. Lee's Special Order 191, moved to strike the Confederates before their widely scattered forces could be re-concentrated. This often overlooked battle, which could have precipitated the possible destruction of Lee's Army, was the prelude to the Battle of Sharpsburg on September 17<sup>th</sup>.

This battle developed along the ridge of the mountain at Frostown, Fox's and Turner's Gap. The Union advance also involved clashes at Crampton's Gap, 6 miles south and nearer to Harpers' Ferry. The fighting at Fox's and Turner's Gap involved the North Carolina troops of the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, and 30<sup>th</sup> Infantry; the 1<sup>st</sup> North Carolina Artillery, Manly's and Reilly's Batteries; other units of Longstreet's Corps plus those who arrived during the afternoon.



Garland

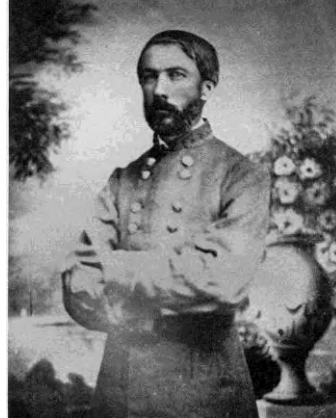


Reno

Action at Fox's Gap during the morning of September 14<sup>th</sup> involved hand-to-hand combat between the opposing troops. The intense fighting also witnessed soldiers engaged with clubbed muskets and bayonets. Confederate Brigadier General **Samuel Garland** of the 13<sup>th</sup> North Carolina and Union Major General **Jesse Reno**, Commander of the IX Corps, were among those killed during this fighting.

General **Daniel Harvey Hill** was the overall commander of the 5,000 soldiers who initially resisted the Union advance. Hill filled his thin line with teamsters, cooks, and staff officers. The Confederates barely held the line until additional units (included those of John Bell Hood) arrived on the scene. Hill eventually had 10,000 men to oppose a Union force of 25,000. After darkness descended on the battlefields, Lee ordered Longstreet and Hill to withdraw and move toward Sharpsburg. Lee's Army was able to begin a re-concentration only because of the tenacity of the Confederate defenders and caution by the Union commanders.

Daniel Harvey Hill and the Confederate troops at South Mountain had been difference makers; their defense had gained Lee time to prepare a defense to face the full weight of McClellan's Army of the Potomac at Sharpsburg, Maryland. Without that stalwart resistance, the battle that was fought at Antietam Creek could well have been the last battle of the American Civil War.



Source: <http://www.southmountain.stonesentinels.com/NC.php> (accessed August 26, 2013).

### Lance Bevins

#### \*\*\*\*\* October 1863 \*\*\*\*\*

October 1863 saw further fighting in and around Chattanooga. During the [American Civil War](#), both sides were hindered by something that they had no control over - poor winter weather. Manoeuvring and mobilising men and equipment became very difficult and on occasions impossible when the rain took a hold. October 1863 saw an early start to the winter.

October 1<sup>st</sup>: Rosecrans' supply route after the Battle of Chickamauga was a tortuous 28-mile mountain road that followed along the side of the Tennessee River. It would have been impossible to supply 50,000 men throughout the winter using just this route. Rosecrans ordered the building of flat-bottomed boats that would be able to navigate the Tennessee River.

October 2<sup>nd</sup>: The first reinforcements for the Army of the Cumberland arrived in Chattanooga. Their journey of over 1100 miles took just over a week, showing the importance of controlling the railways during the war.

October 4<sup>th</sup>: Union engineers completed the first of the flat-bottomed steamboats that they hoped to use to help supply the Army of the Cumberland.

October 6<sup>th</sup>: The weather in Chattanooga took a turn for the worse. Persistent heavy rain made living conditions difficult at best especially as all the wooden homes in the town had been destroyed as they were used in strengthening trenches and redoubts. The town's 2,500 citizens crammed themselves into a few stone buildings.

October 8<sup>th</sup>: The lack of food in Chattanooga started to take a hold with many Union soldiers falling ill due to malnourishment. The soldiers in the town had slaughtered most of their animals in an effort to feed themselves but by now even these had run out.

October 9<sup>th</sup>: Confederate cavalry attacked a major Union supply column bound for Chattanooga. Hundreds of supply wagons – along with their contents – were lost.

October 10<sup>th</sup>: Despite the victory at Chickamauga, senior Confederate officers under Bragg's command expressed to Jefferson Davis their discontent with regards to his leadership. They all agreed that his skills "would be better employed elsewhere". As a friend of Bragg, Davis was angered by their lack of support for him.



**Braxton Bragg**



**Jefferson Davis**



**James Longstreet**

October 11<sup>th</sup>: General Longstreet, who played such an important role in the victory at Chickamauga, again asked Davis to replace Bragg. Once again, Davis refused.

October 16<sup>th</sup>: The North introduced a major reorganisation of its armies. The armies of the Cumberland, Tennessee and Ohio were all combined into the Military Division of the Mississippi and put under the command of General U Grant.

October 18<sup>th</sup>: Rosecrans was relieved of his command, which was handed over to Major-General George Thomas. Rosecrans was never given another meaningful command.



**W.S. Rosecrans**



**George Thomas**

October 20<sup>th</sup>: Since their victory at Gettysburg, the Army of the Potomac had followed Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. Neither was in a position to launch a major attack against the other but numerous skirmishes had occurred up to this date when Lee crossed the Rappahannock River to return to his old base. Meade had no intention of following him across the river. The skirmishes that had occurred since Gettysburg had cost Meade 2292 killed and wounded while Lee lost 1381 men.

October 23<sup>rd</sup>: General Grant arrived at Chattanooga. The plight of the Unionists in the town was aided somewhat by the continuing infighting that Bragg was still experiencing among his senior officers.

October 24<sup>th</sup>: President Lincoln expressed his disappointment that Meade had not crossed the Rappahannock River in pursuit of Lee. However, as a politician, he still failed to fully understand the impact Gettysburg had on both armies even though it was some four months after the battle. In fact, Lincoln assumed that as four months had passed the Army of the Potomac should have been in a position to pursue Lee's army.

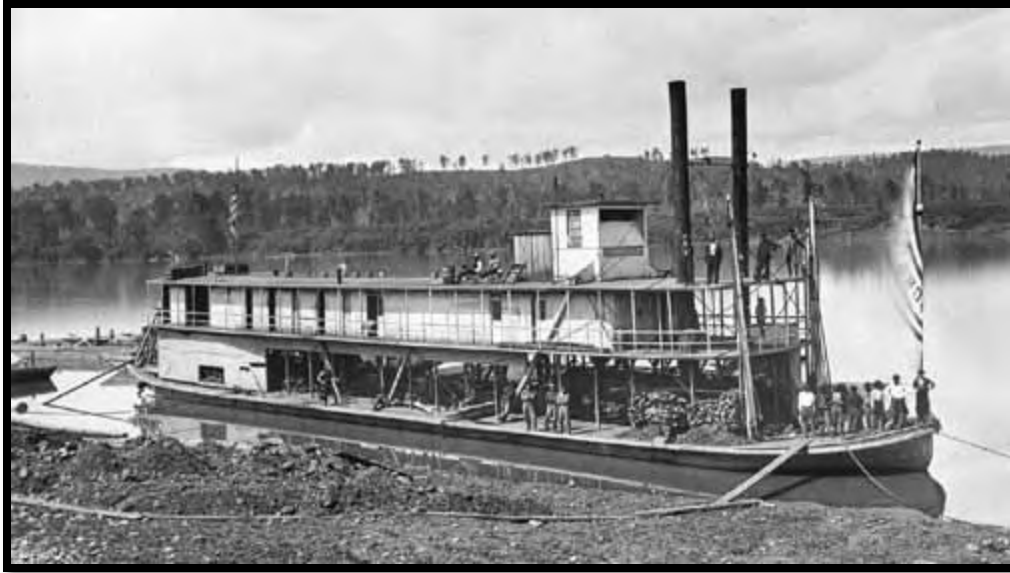
October 25<sup>th</sup>: The first of the flat-bottomed supply ships was launched in Chattanooga.

October 26<sup>th</sup>: The Tennessee River had to be made safe for the Unionists if the supply-boat was to succeed. General Thomas ordered the capture of Brown's Ferry, across the neck of Moccasin Point, which was the old high-water route.

October 27<sup>th</sup>: At 05.00, 1,800 Unionist soldiers attacked Brown's Ferry, having been moved along the Tennessee River by pontoons. By 10.00 some 4,000 Unionist soldiers had control of both sides of the river. The supply ship could now sail from Chattanooga passed Moccasin Point in relative safety.

October 28<sup>th</sup>: The South attempted to re-capture Brown's Ferry. The night attack lasted until early October 29<sup>th</sup>. However, it was now that the infighting among the senior Confederates officers hit home. Bragg would have been aware that General Longstreet had asked Jefferson Davis to remove Bragg from his post. Bragg and Davis had known each other as good friends for over 20 years so it is inconceivable that Davis had not informed Bragg of what Longstreet had requested. The Confederate attack at Brown's Ferry was to be led by Longstreet. Without telling Longstreet, Bragg removed from the attack some of the units that Longstreet had chosen to use. Instead of having 8,000 men in the attack, Longstreet had 4,000 and they were up against the Union force that now numbered 5,000. The North lost 77 men killed while Longstreet lost over 300 men killed. The Union remained in control of Brown's Ferry. The failure of Longstreet to succeed at Brown's Ferry - information that was swiftly conveyed to Davis - was sufficient to convince Davis that his decision to keep Bragg was the correct one.

October 30<sup>th</sup>: The flat-bottomed steam ship returned to Chattanooga at night towing several barges full of 40,000 rations. It arrived just in time as the soldiers in the town only had half a breakfast ration left. The citizens in the town only had four boxes of hard bread left for all of them.



**USS Chattanooga – The Cracker Line “home-made” steamboat**

Source: <http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/october-1863-civil-war.htm> (accessed August 21, 2013).

[http://www.qmfound.com/little\\_steamboat\\_that\\_opened\\_the\\_cracker\\_line.htm](http://www.qmfound.com/little_steamboat_that_opened_the_cracker_line.htm) (accessed September 19, 2013).

**\*\*\*\*\* September Program \*\*\*\*\***

**Lee’s Last Casualty:  
The Life and Letters of Sgt. Robert W. Parker, Second Virginia Cavalry**

**Cathy Wright**, curator at The Museum of the Confederacy, presented an interested look at the life of a Confederate cavalryman who served with the Army of North Virginia throughout the entire war. Parker survived the many battles, skirmishes, and sicknesses of cavalry service only to meet his fate at Appomattox on April 9, 1865.

Robert William Parker’s story was revealed from nearly 200 letters between Parker and his wife, Rebecca, which dated from 1861 until early 1865. These letters were discovered in the attic of an elderly kinswoman who passed away during 2004 in Roanoke, Virginia. The family shared knowledge of the existence of these long forgotten letters with historian, Dr. James I. Robertson. Robertson passed this information on to Dr. Peter S. Carmichael, who taught at UNCG. Carmichael had a graduate student, **Cathy Wright**, who was searching for a worthwhile topic for her

graduate thesis. Cathy had found her thesis topic.





Robert Parker was born in Pittsylvania County, Virginia on August 31, 1838. His family moved to Bedford County where Robert's father, Ammon H. Parker, and mother, Frances Goggin Parker, raised their four children at their home, Lone Aspen. Robert, as his father before him, became a farmer. On December 6, 1860, Robert married Rebecca "Beck" Walker. Robert and Rebecca began their married life as a young couple who lived on the family farm where they sought a peaceful and increasing prosperous life among family and friends. Their peaceful existence was to be interrupted by the coming struggle between the differing cultures of the South and the North.

With Virginia's secession from the Union on April 17, 1861, Robert Parker, and others from Bedford County, felt the need to rush to the defense of their families and their way of life. Parker enrolled for service in Company F, the Bedford Southside Dragoons on May 28<sup>th</sup> in Davis Mills, Virginia. He was mustered into service on May 31, 1861 with Company F, 2<sup>nd</sup> Virginia Cavalry. For the next Four years, Robert shared the insights that he gained through his service with the Confederate cavalry. He described battles, military campaigns, and the daily life of the soldiers.

Cathy's transcriptions of Parker's letter revealed more than the military actions and aspects of a soldier's life. These letters revealed the thoughts of Parker as the war turned against the South and the will to wage war flagged among the army and the civilian populations. Cathy's presentation of her book shared the life story of 4<sup>th</sup> Sergeant Robert W. Parker. He avoided serious injury on the many battlefields during four years of war; however, as the book's title suggested, Parker may have become the "last" casualty in the Army of Northern Virginia.

**Editor**

**\*\*\*\*\* Trivia Questions for October \*\*\*\*\***

**1 – How many ironclads were built by the Confederate government in North Carolina during the Civil War?** The Confederate government attempted building ironclads in the state, and was successful in completing four ships: the *CSS North Carolina* and the *CSS Raleigh* on the Cape Fear River, the *CSS Albemarle* on the Roanoke River, and the *CSS Neuse* on the Neuse River. A fifth ironclad, the *CSS Wilmington*, was nearing completion in February 22, 1865 when it was destroyed to prevent it from falling into the hands of the advancing Union forces.

There were also naval yards and stations located across the state, including a large operation at Charlotte for manufacturing marine machinery and other facilities in Wilmington, Halifax, Kinston, and for a brief time in Tarboro.



The CSS *Albemarle*, depicted above, saw several successes in combat late in the Civil War. Built in a corn field near Edward's Ferry (Scotland Neck) by a 19 year old Gilbert Elliot, the *Albemarle* was the most successful of the North Carolina ironclads. The *Albemarle* took part in the Battle of Plymouth, and several the naval battles near Plymouth and on the Albemarle Sound. The *Albemarle* met its fate when Union naval Commander William Barker Cushing led a torpedo attack against the ironclad as it lay at anchor near Plymouth on the night of October 27, 1864. Image courtesy of the North Carolina Office of Archives and History, Raleigh, NC.

Source: <http://www.northcarolinahistory.org/encyclopedia/158/entry/> (accessed August 23, 2013).

**2 – What was the mission of the Confederate Navy in North Carolina?** The Confederate Navy's mission was three-fold. First, it was to provide coastal defense and protection for inland waterways. Second, its ironclad construction program was designed to break the Union blockade of the southern coast. Third, it was seen as a function of the navy to raid enemy commerce.

Source: <http://www.northcarolinahistory.org/encyclopedia/158/entry/> (accessed August 23, 2013).

**3 – Which North Carolinians commanded Confederate commerce raiders against Union shipping during the war. John Newland Maffitt (CSS *Florida*) and James I. Waddell (CSS *Shenandoah*)** commanded commerce raiders that ranged far and wide to destroy Union shipping.



**John Newland Maffitt**



**James Iredell Waddell**

**Maffitt** returned to the Wilmington area after the war where he lived on a 212 acre farm – “The Moorings” – off Greenville Sound until his death on May 15, 1886. NOTE: Maffitt's Great-Grandson, Robert “Bob” Maffitt, lives in the Wilmington area and is active in keeping alive the history of his kinsman and the contribution of the Confederate Navy during the war.

**Waddell** did not return to the United States until 1875. He served as director of the State of Maryland's Oyster Regulation Board until his death on March 15, 1886.

**4 – Who commanded the Confederate Marine Corps contingent at Fort Fisher during the Battles of Fort Fisher? What was the fate of this contingent? Captain Alfred C. Van Benthuisen** was

among the reinforcements who arrived at Battery Buchanan on Christmas Eve, 1864. He suffered a severe head wound during the battle on January 15, 1865. Van Benthuyzen and his Marines were with Major James Reilly near Battery Buchanan when Reilly surrendered Fort Fisher to Captain E. Lewis Moore, Adjunct of the 7<sup>th</sup> Connecticut.

Source: Chris E. Fonvielle, Jr., *The Wilmington Campaign: Last Rays of Departing Hope* (Campbell, California: Savas Publishing Company, 1997), p.293-295.

**5 – What was Robert E. Lee’s Special Order 191? How was it relevant to the September 17, 1862 Battle of Sharpsburg? – This battle that became the single-most bloody day in American Military history.** Robert E. Lee issued Special Order 191 during the Maryland campaign, before the Battle of Antietam. A copy of the order having been lost, was recovered by Union soldiers of the 27th Indiana on the Best Farm in Maryland. The order provided the Union Army with valuable information concerning the Army of Northern Virginia's movements and campaign plans. Upon receiving Lee's "Lost Order", Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan, leading the Union Army of the Potomac, would exclaim "**Here is a paper with which, if I cannot whip Bobby Lee, I will be willing to go home.**" The practical value of this intelligence, which was quickly growing obsolescent, continues to be the subject of much debate.

1. The citizens of Fredericktown being unwilling while overrun by members of this army, to open their stores, in order to give them confidence, and to secure to officers and men purchasing supplies for benefit of this command, all officers and men of this army are strictly prohibited from visiting Fredericktown except on business, in which cases they will bear evidence of this in writing from division commanders. The provost-marshal in Fredericktown will see that his guard rigidly enforces this order.
2. Major Taylor will proceed to Leesburg, Virginia, and arrange for transportation of the sick and those unable to walk to Winchester, securing the transportation of the country for this purpose. The route between this and Culpepper Court-House east of the mountains being unsafe, will no longer be traveled. Those on the way to this army already across the river will move up promptly; all others will proceed to Winchester collectively and under command of officers, at which point, being the general depot of this army, its movements will be known and instructions given by commanding officer regulating further movements.
3. The army will resume its march tomorrow, taking the Hagerstown road. General Jackson's command will form the advance, and, after passing Middletown, with such portion as he may select, take the route toward Sharpsburg, cross the Potomac at the most convenient point, and by Friday morning take possession of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, capture such of them as may be at Martinsburg, and intercept such as may attempt to escape from Harpers Ferry.
4. General Longstreet's command will pursue the same road as far as Boonsborough, where it will halt, with reserve, supply, and baggage trains of the army.
5. General McLaws, with his own division and that of General R. H. Anderson, will follow General Longstreet. On reaching Middletown will take the route to Harpers Ferry, and by Friday morning possess himself of the Maryland Heights and endeavor to capture the enemy at Harpers Ferry and vicinity.

6. General Walker, with his division, after accomplishing the object in which he is now engaged, will cross the Potomac at Cheek's Ford, ascend its right bank to Lovettsville, take possession of Loudoun Heights, if practicable, by Friday morning, Key's Ford on his left, and the road between the end of the mountain and the Potomac on his right. He will, as far as practicable, cooperate with General McLaws and Jackson, and intercept retreat of the enemy.

7. General D. H. Hill's division will form the rear guard of the army, pursuing the road taken by the main body. The reserve artillery, ordnance, and supply trains, &c., will precede General Hill.

8. General Stuart will detach a squadron of cavalry to accompany the commands of Generals Longstreet, Jackson, and McLaws, and, with the main body of the cavalry, will cover the route of the army, bringing up all stragglers that may have been left behind.

9. The commands of Generals Jackson, McLaws, and Walker, after accomplishing the objects for which they have been detached, will join the main body of the army at Boonsborough or Hagerstown.

10. Each regiment on the march will habitually carry its axes in the regimental ordnance-wagons, for use of the men at their encampments, to procure wood &c.

By command of General R. E. Lee  
R. H. Chilton, Assistant Adjutant General

Source: <http://www.civilwar.org/education/history/primarysources/lostorder.html> (accessed August 24, 2013).

For an interesting article about "who" lost Special Order 191, see **Wilbur D. Jones**.  
<http://www.reocities.com/pentagon/barracks/3627/loser.html> (accessed August 24, 2013).

**6** – Sgt. Robert W. Parker joined Company F, 2<sup>nd</sup> Virginia Cavalry, Bedford Southside Dragoons on May 29, 1861. Parker and Company F faithfully served throughout the war. For what else was Bedford, Virginia remembered? As Company F served during the Civil War, Company A of the 116<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment faithfully served during WWII. At Omaha Beach on June 6, 1944, 19 of the 30 Bedford boys in the 116<sup>th</sup> perished from enemy action. Bedford's population in 1944 was approximately 3,200. This community proportionately suffered the severest D-Day losses of in place in the nation.

Source: <http://www.dday.org/the-memorial/why-bedford-the-bedford-boys> (accessed September 20, 2013).

## The *RUNNER*

### Newsletter of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Editor **Tim Winstead**

\*\*\*\*\* September 2013 \*\*\*\*\*

Our next meeting will be **Thursday, 12 September** at St. Andrew's On-the-Sound (101 Airlie Road). Social Hour begins at 7:00 p.m., meeting at 7:30.

Please join us as we begin our 2013 – 2014 Program Year with our September meeting. Visitors are always welcome – ***bring a friend or two***. Each of our speakers strives to enlighten, entertain, and add to our knowledge of Civil War history. This serves our mission of encouraging education and research into that historic conflict

Led by President Bob Cooke, the Steering Committee has worked to ensure that the programs for 2013-2014 accomplish our mission. Included among our speakers were a diverse group: **Cathy Wright** – Curator, Museum of the Confederacy, **Andrew Dupstadt** – Assistant Curator of Education for the North Carolina Division of State Historic Sites, **Jeff Bockert** – East Region Supervisor for the North Carolina Division of State Historic Sites, **Becky Sawyer** – Historic Site Interpreter at Fort Fisher, **Rod Gragg** – historian, teacher and author of numerous books including *Confederate Goliath and Covered with Glory, etc.*, **Peter Cozzens** – historian, retired Foreign Service Officer, U.S. State Department and prolific author – *Shenandoah 1862: Stonewall Jackson's Valley Campaign, This Terrible Sound: The Battle of Chickamauga, etc.*, **Rick Eiserman** – historian, retired Lieutenant Colonel U.S. Army who taught at Army Command and General Staff College and the Army War College, and **Dr. Chris Fonvielle** – past President of the CFCWRT, historian, teacher, and author/promoter of the Cape Fear's history – *The Wilmington Campaign: Last Rays of Departing Hope, Fort Anderson: Battle for Wilmington, etc.*

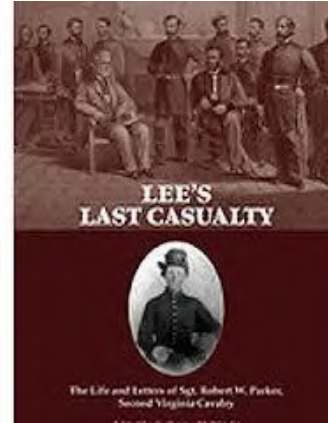
\*\*\*\*\* September Program \*\*\*\*\*

#### **Lee's Last Casualty: The Life and Letters of Sgt. Robert W. Parker, Second Virginia Cavalry**

Join us on September 12, 2013 when **Catherine Wright, Curator at the Museum of the Confederacy** in Richmond, will present the Civil War experiences of a Virginia cavalryman who served throughout the four years of this conflict.

The letters of Sgt. Robert W. Parker, 2<sup>nd</sup> Virginia Cavalry, provide a window into the daily life of an enlisted cavalryman, as well as highlight the unique story of the soldier believed to be the last man killed in action in the Army of Northern Virginia. In many ways, Parker was representative of the average Confederate soldier: a modest farmer in the antebellum years, his patriotic fervor spurred him at the beginning of the war to enlist

in the Confederate cavalry. His letters reveal how home front and battlefield were closely intertwined, and the importance of correspondence in sustaining that connection and the will to fight. The role of the cavalry and Parker's tragic death are also highlighted in the program.



**Catherine M. Wright** was born in Kansas City, Missouri, and grew up there and in Norfolk, Virginia. She received bachelor's degrees in English and History from Truman State University (2003), and a master's degree in American History with a concentration in museum studies from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro (2006). She is the editor of *Lee's Last Casualty: The Life and Letters of Sgt. Robert W. Parker, Second Virginia Cavalry*

(University of Tennessee Press, 2008) and is a contributing historian to the online *Encyclopedia of Virginia*. Various national media outlets have interviewed her, including NPR and CNN, and she has appeared on the PBS program "History Detectives" and twice on the Travel Channel program "Mysteries at the Museum". She was formerly the curator at the Stonewall Jackson House in Lexington, VA.

**Editor**

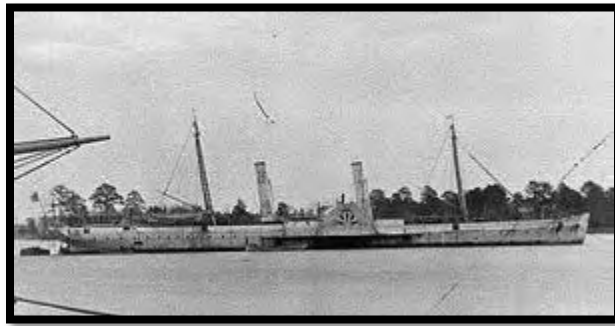
**\*\*\*\*\* Trivia Questions for September \*\*\*\*\***

- 1 – What was and is the goal of the Museum of the Confederacy?**
- 2 - Among the 550 flags in the Museum of the Confederacy collection, which one last flew over a Confederate unit?**
- 3 – Who was known as “Old Steadfast?”**
- 4 – What Union officer made a visit to Fort Anderson before the fall of the fort to Union troops?**

5 – What was the U.S.S. *Old Bogey* and what role did it play in the battle for Fort Anderson?

6 - Fort Anderson's garrison flag was at the center of a fascination series of events. What were those events?

\*\*\*\*\* **Member News & Activities** \*\*\*\*\*



*Robert E. Lee*

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

1 – Welcome to the 2013 – 2014 Program year of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table. If you made any visits to Civil War sites that you think other members would enjoy hearing about, please send me the particulars and I will share with our membership.

2 – **Lance Bevins** and **Tim Winstead** joined **Hood's Texas Brigade Association Re-Activated (HTBAR)** tour of South Mountain, Sharpsburg, and Gettysburg in early June. The tour traced the actions of the Texas Brigade during these battles. Tour guides and speakers included knowledgeable and enthusiastic individuals: **Dr. Tom Clemens, Rick Eiserman, Dale Gallon, Martha Hartzog, Stephen M. (Sam) Hood, Wayne Motts,** and **Jeff Werts.**

3 – Our Round Table is not the only one beginning their 2013-2014 Program Year during September. Our friends at the **Brunswick Civil War Round Table** begin their year on Tuesday, **September 3<sup>rd</sup>** at 6:30pm. They meet at the Trinity United Methodist Church, 209 E. Nash Street, Southport.

**Dr. Brian S. Wills** will make a presentation about Union General George Henry Thomas: “**The Rock of Chickamauga.**”

4 – **North Carolina Civil War Symposium, September 14-15**, Smithfield and Bentonville State Historic Site. Great speakers – for additional information: [www.fobb.net](http://www.fobb.net) or call 910-594-0789.

\*\*\*\*\* **Difference Makers** \*\*\*\*\*

As the war entered into its third year, many men, Confederate and Union, had been stigmatized for less than stellar achievement both on the fields of battle and in the leadership of the men under their command. These men had been removed from command, shunted to less important locations, returned to political office, or been removed from the army. A few others had begun to be perceived as men who could be counted on as battlefield commanders and leaders – these men were those who made a difference – a positive difference. One of these “difference makers” was **Union Brigadier General John Buford, Jr.**



**John Buford, Jr.** was born in Woodford County, Kentucky on March 4, 1826 to John and Anne Bannister Howe Watson Buford. His family was a large one for both parents had previously been married; hence, John had two brothers and thirteen half-brothers and half-sisters. His grandfather, Simeon Buford, had served under “Light Horse Harry” Lee during the

American Revolution. Simeon Buford had also married into the Early family of Culpepper County, Virginia. John Buford and Jubal Early were fourth cousins who would fight on opposite sides during the Civil War.

In 1835 following Anne Buford’s death during a cholera epidemic, the Buford family moved to Rock Island, Illinois. John’s father became a successful businessman and politician. It was in Illinois where Buford acquired the skills that would stand him well in later years – horsemanship, marksmanship, and a calm and composed manner.

John decided on a career path taken by an older half-brother, Napoleon Bonaparte Buford, who had been an 1827 West Point graduate. John attended college in Cincinnati and Galesburg, Illinois prior to being accepted into West Point in 1844. He graduated 16<sup>th</sup> in a class of 38. John was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the First Dragoons and later joined the Second Dragoons. He remained in the army and



served in Indian wars, in Bloody Kansas, and in the Mormon Expedition in 1857. Buford won praise from several of his commanding officers and made many acquaintances of officers who would have future impacts on Buford's career.

Buford was on service in Utah when the news of Fort Sumter was received. As a Kentucky native, Buford was conflicted between duty to Kentucky and the government he had served since he graduated from West Point. When a message from the Governor of Kentucky arrived in Utah, Buford was offered a post with that government. Buford related to his friend and future Union General, John Gibbon, that his reply had been, "I sent him word I was a captain in the United States Army and I intended to remain one."

Buford initially served as a major in the inspector general's office until pre-war friend, John Pope, promoted Buford to brigadier general of cavalry in Pope's Army of Virginia. Buford was one of the few Union officers who served with distinction during the Second Manassas Campaign. Buford's personal leadership at Lewis Ford gained Pope time to escape from Lee's determined efforts to destroy Pope's Army.

Wounded at Lewis Ford, Buford served in mainly administrative positions under McClellan and Burnside. It was only after Joe Hooker assumed command of the Army of Potomac that Buford again returned to field command of the Reserve Brigade, 1<sup>st</sup> Division, Cavalry Corps. Buford took part in the failed Stoneman's Raid during the Chancellorsville Campaign; however, Buford performed well in his service. Hooker relieved Stoneman and considered Buford as overall cavalry command; however, the more ongoing Alfred

Pleasanton was chosen over the competent but quiet-natured Buford.

At Brady Station on June 9, 1863. Buford commanded Pleasanton's right wing during the attack on J.E.B. Stuart's Confederate forces. Buford and his men drove the Confederates until Pleasanton ordered the Union forces back into their own lines. Stuart and his Confederate cavalry were dealt a serious blow to their feelings of superiority over their foe - the Union cavalry had given as good as it had received. The action at Brandy Station was to have serious implications for the coming Confederate offensive.

John Buford gave even more reliable service and gained lasting fame for his actions at Gettysburg. It was Buford who recognized the importance of the high ground south of the town. It was Buford who dismounted his men and delayed Henry Heth's infantry until John Reynold's men arrived on the field to challenge the Confederate advance. Buford's decision to use his smaller cavalry unit to block the larger Confederate force changed the course of the Civil War.

Buford took an active part in the pursuit of Lee's army as it returned to Virginia. He remained in the field through the Bristoe and Mine Run campaigns in late summer and fall of 1863. The demands of continued campaigning weighed heavy on Buford's health. In November, Buford contracted a severe case of typhoid and he was forced to leave his command.

Buford went to Washington where he stayed at the home of his former commander, George Stoneman. As Buford's health worsened, Stoneman appealed to President Lincoln for Buford's promotion to major general. Lincoln approved this request; unfortunately, this

was a deathbed promotion for John Buford died around 2:00 PM on December 16, 1863. He was 37 years old.

John Buford was not the gaudy showman as was George Armstrong Custer,

nor was he like the blustery commander, Hugh Judson Kilpatrick. Buford was a quiet man, a reliable man, a man who sought neither fame nor glory – John Buford was a difference maker.

### Editor

Source: <http://www.gdg.org/Research/People/Buford/bufbio.html>,  
<http://militaryhistory.about.com/od/americancivilwar/p/john-buford.htm>,  
<http://www.gdg.org/Research/People/Buford/wittidx.html> (accessed May 13, 2013).

### \*\*\*\*\* September 1863 \*\*\*\*\*

The Battle of Chickamauga was fought in September 1863. The battle was bad for the North in terms of men lost but they could recover from this. For the South, a 25% loss of manpower at Chickamauga was a disaster. September 1863 also saw the North specifically target Chattanooga.

September 1<sup>st</sup>: Six more Union gun ships sailed into Charleston Harbour to assist with the attack on the city.

September 2<sup>nd</sup>: Union forces captured Knoxville, Tennessee. This cut in half the railroad from Chattanooga to Virginia and meant that the South would have to supply its men in Virginia via railways through Atlanta.

September 4<sup>th</sup>: General Grant was injured falling from his horse. Observers claimed that it was because he was drunk – possibly with some justification. Allegations of drunkenness were to follow Grant for many years.

September 5<sup>th</sup>: An infantry assault on Battery Wagner started after the “sub-surface torpedo mines” had been cleared. General Rosecrans started his attack on Chattanooga. The British government seized two ironclads being built for the South in Liverpool after strenuous pressure from Washington DC.

September 6<sup>th</sup>: Chattanooga was evacuated on the orders of General Bragg.

September 7<sup>th</sup>: A full-scale infantry assault on Battery Wagner was planned for 09.00. However, by this time the battery had been evacuated.

September 9<sup>th</sup>: President Davis ordered 12,000 troops to Chattanooga, as he believed that the city could not be allowed to fall. They were to come from Lee’s Army of Northern Virginia.

September 10<sup>th</sup>: The South’s commander at Chattanooga, Bragg, ordered an attack on the Union forces as they approached the city. However, he was unaware of the size of

Rosecrans force or where they all were. The dense forests that surrounded the city hid many Union soldiers. Bragg chose not to use trained scouts. He used his own cavalry for reconnaissance and they failed to spot that the Union army approaching Chattanooga had split into three.

September 12<sup>th</sup>: General Polk was ordered by Bragg to attack the Union's known positions. Polk refused to do so. No one accused Polk of cowardice, as he had a reputation for enjoying battle, such was his fiery temperament. What stopped Polk was his lack of information – he did not know the size of the army he was meant to attack. Polk also knew from past experience that Bragg was rarely keen to gather as much intelligence as was possible. Even Bragg did not know the whereabouts of the main force of Union troops and his subordinate generals started to think that he was bewildered by what was going on around Chattanooga. It did not help matters that Bragg pointed the finger of blame at everyone except himself.

September 13<sup>th</sup>: Bragg was informed by officers on the ground that Rosecrans force was scattered and any one section was open to a concerted attack. Bragg refused to accept this and planned for an attack against a sizeable and concentrated enemy. If he had followed the information given to him by his subordinates, the outcome of the battle to come may have been different. As it was, Bragg's indecision allowed Rosecrans the time to move his XX Corps commanded by General McCook to the frontline. XX Corps was the furthest away of Rosecrans army. McCook's men had to march 57 miles to reach where the bulk of Rosecrans force was.

September 15<sup>th</sup>: Bragg planned for an attack on September 18<sup>th</sup>. However, chaotic communications within the Confederate camp meant that there were delays in getting this information to the generals in the field.

September 17<sup>th</sup>: Rosecrans correctly guessed what Bragg planned to do. He moved his units accordingly. The move took place at night to ensure that they were not seen.

September 18<sup>th</sup>: Bragg issued his orders to attack. With the additional men, he had an army that had numerical supremacy over Rosecrans – 75,000 troops against 57,000.

September 19<sup>th</sup>: Neither side had made any ground against the other. Just before midnight both Rosecrans and Bragg met with their junior generals to discuss the battle.

September 20<sup>th</sup>: The battle recommenced at Chickamauga. On this day Ben Hardin Helm was killed fighting for the South. He was brother-in-law to President Lincoln's wife. A major misinterpretation of orders sent by Rosecrans left the Union's middle front line exposed to attack after the men who had been there were moved to the Union's left flank – not what Rosecrans had wanted. The attack duly came when three Southern divisions attacked and inflicted major casualties on the Union forces in front of them. The senior Union commander in the field, Major-General Thomas stopped the rout from becoming a disaster by a valiant and well coordinated rear guard action that earned him the nickname "The Rock of Chickamauga". The battle cost the Union 1,656 dead, 9,749 wounded and

4774 captured – 28% of Rosecrans’ total force. The South lost 2,389 killed, 13,412 wounded and 2,003 missing – 24% of the Army of Tennessee’s total.

September 21<sup>st</sup>: Union forces headed for Chattanooga. Observer’s for Bragg sent him word that Rosecrans Army of the Cumberland was disorganised and scattered and that a robust chase could destroy what was left. Brigadier-General Nathan Bedford Forrest wrote to Bragg “every hour (lost) is worth a thousand men”. Bragg did not seem to fully comprehend the magnitude of the South’s victory. Some elements of the Confederate Army did attempt a follow up but it was piecemeal and Rosecrans was let off of the hook.

September 22<sup>nd</sup>: Rosecrans informed President Lincoln about the scale of his defeat. Lincoln had put a great deal on capturing Chattanooga and viewed Rosecrans’ failure as a bitter blow.

September 23<sup>rd</sup>: Rosecrans informed Lincoln that he could hold Chattanooga unless he had to face a much superior force in terms of numbers.

September 24<sup>th</sup>: Lincoln, believing that Chattanooga had to be held, ordered that 20,000 extra men should be sent there. However, supplying Rosecrans would be problematic, as Bragg had captured Lookout Valley cutting in half the Union’s supply line.

September 25<sup>th</sup>: Lincoln described Rosecrans as “confused and stunned like a duck hit on the head”. 20,000 Union troops started their journey to support Rosecrans.

September 28<sup>th</sup>: Rosecrans brought charges against some of his commanders - Generals McCook and Crittenden. Both were ordered to face a court of inquiry. Conditions in Chattanooga were becoming worse as food was in short supply.

September 29<sup>th</sup>: General U Grant was ordered to direct towards Chattanooga as many men as he could spare. Grant had pre-empted this command and sent a force led by Sherman.

Source: <http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/september-1863-civil-war.htm> (accessed April 28, 2013).

#### \*\*\*\*\* May Program \*\*\*\*\*

### Fort Anderson: Then and Now

On May 9th, **Jim McKee**, provided a description of Fort Anderson as it has evolved into a premier site to reflect the art of Civil War military engineering.

In 1862, General Samuel G. French decided a fortification at the Brunswick Town site would make a valuable addition to the defenses along the Cape Fear River. Major Thomas

Rowland was placed in charge of the construction of an earth fortification on the site of the ruins of the St. Phillips Church. Rowland began construction on March 24, 1862 and he called the fortification Fort St. Phillips. Battery

A ran parallel to the river and Battery B ran perpendicular to the river. The ordinance at the fort consisted of rifled 32 pounders, smoothbore 32 pounders, smoothbore 24 pounders, and Whitworth breech loading guns. The fort was enlarged and extended westward under the command of Major William Lamb and Major John J. Hedrick.



The preservation of the Civil War site was begun in 1958 when archeological efforts began to uncover the secrets of the Brunswick Town site. Clearing of the virtual jungle that encompassed the site revealed that the colonial site had also been occupied by a Civil War fortification. Stanley South led those early archeological efforts at the site where both colonial and Civil War era artifacts were discovered.

Ed Bearss was an early visitor to the site in 1962 – His interest in the fort and its history has led him back to this historical site on numerous occasions. Ed’s most recent visit came in January 2013.



Members, Connie Hendrix and Linda Lashley, took advantage of a January tour of the site led by Jim McKee, Chris Fonvielle and Ed Bearss.

Archeological efforts continue until the present. Recent work by Jim and others reveal that powder stored in magazines built into the fort’s walls may still be potent. Efforts continue to learn more about the fort, its garrison, and its part in the lore and history of the Cape Fear.

**Linda Lashley**

**\*\*\*\*\* Trivia Questions for September \*\*\*\*\***

**1 – What was and is the goal of the Museum of the Confederacy? Education.** The exhibits, past and present, were designed to further understanding of not only the Confederate nation but all aspects of Southern life. Students from 8 to 80, 50 states, and 73 countries have enjoyed and learned from materials at the MOC. The original museum was located in Richmond and an Appomattox location was opened in 2012.

The Museum of the Confederacy maintains the world’s most comprehensive collections of **artifacts, manuscripts, and photographs** from the Confederate States of America. While the Museum is best known for its military collections, it also holds significant collections

of domestic objects and decorative arts, personal papers and diaries, postwar memorial period materials and museum archives. The object collections total approximately 15,000 items. Among these are:



- 1,500 decorative arts objects featuring rococo revival-style furniture from the Confederate White House;
- 1,000 memorial period artifacts including badges and ribbons from postwar veterans Confederate Uniforms reunions and souvenirs of monument dedications throughout the South;
- 550 flags, including non-regulation oil-painted silk flags and government issue national colors;
- 300 edged weapons and 177 firearms representing Southern wartime manufacture and European imports;
- 215 uniforms including prewar militia uniforms, plantation-made garments, late-war issues from the CSA's Richmond depot and the uniforms of well-known officers;
- 3,000 military accoutrements and 1,000 military buttons;
- 150 paintings featuring a series of 31 oil-on-board paintings of Charleston Harbor by Conrad Wise Chapman, E.B.D. Julio's heroic painting, "The Last Meeting of Lee and Jackson," and wartime paintings by William D. Washington;
- 25 sculptures including busts of Jefferson Davis and "Stonewall" Jackson by Frederick Volck and work by Moses Ezekiel; and
- 5,000 domestic items featuring wartime "ersatz" goods such as plantation wooden shoes and homemade soap, slave-woven coverlets and baskets, and articles associated with the employment of women in government bureau.

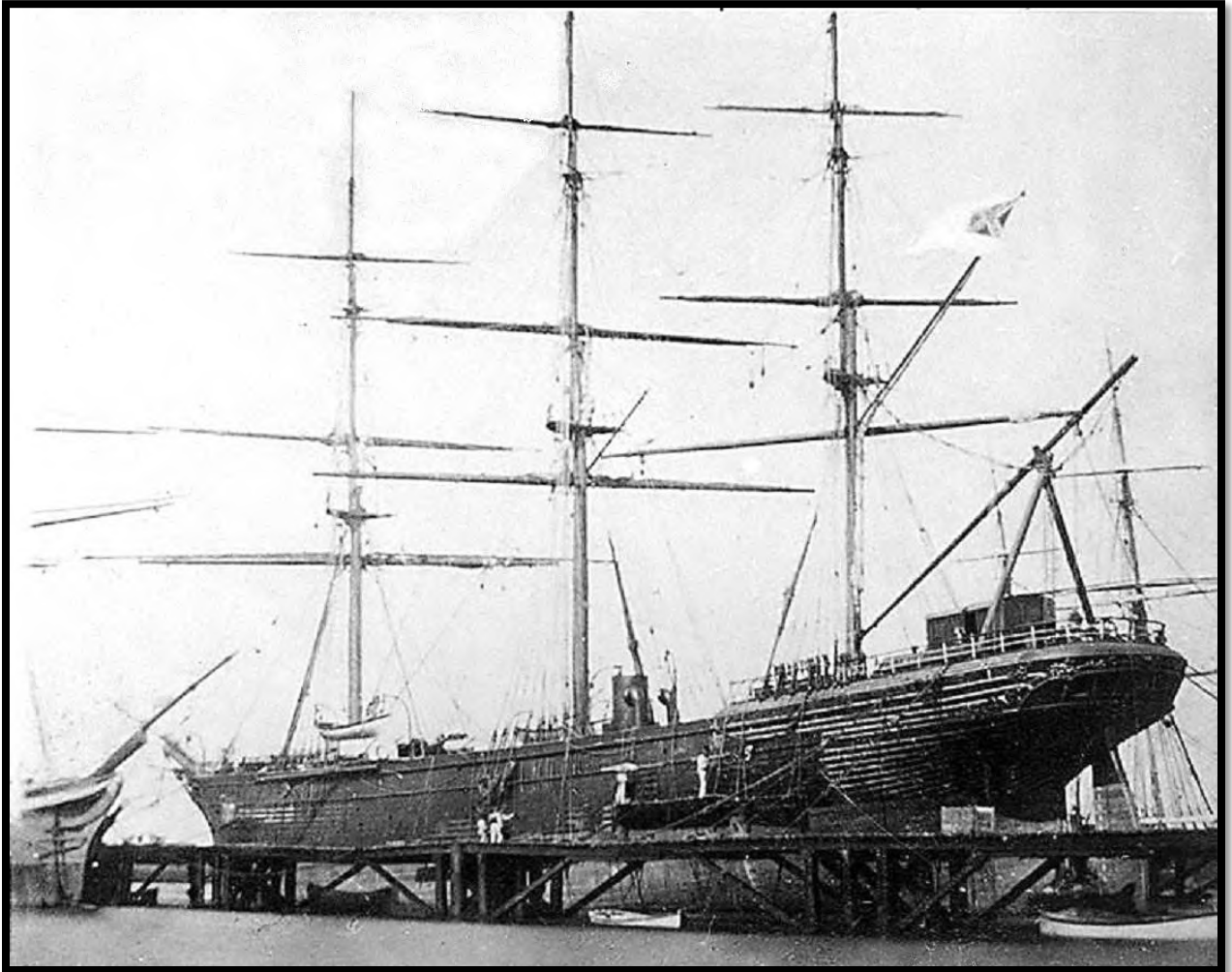


The Museum of the Confederacy fulfills its mission by collecting, displaying and preserving historic objects associated with the Confederate States of America including military and civilian items related to the

secession of Southern States and the subsequent war; post-war activities of Confederate veterans organizations; the White House of the Confederacy; the Confederate Memorial Literary Society (CMLS); other Confederate memorial and descendants organizations; and social, cultural and political history of the Confederate States of America. The Museum has continued to build its world-class collection through generous donations from people who wish to have their Confederate objects, photographs, and documents preserved and displayed for posterity.

Source: <http://www.moc.org/collections-archives/collections> (accessed May 15, 2013).

**2 - Among the 550 flags in the Museum of the Confederacy collection, which one last flew over a Confederate unit?** The flag of the C.S.S. *Shenandoah*. James Iredell Waddell commanded the *Shenandoah* and turned her over to the British Navy at Liverpool in November 1865.



The C.S.S. *Shenandoah* being repaired at Williamstown, at the mouth of the Yarra River near Melbourne in Victoria, Australia in February 1865. Since, many fine Royal Australian Navy Warships have been built close to this site.

**3 – Who was known as “Old Steadfast?”** Major General John Buford, Jr.

**4 – What Union officer made a visit to Fort Anderson before the fall of the fort to Union troops?** Lt. Comdr. William B. Cushing came ashore on February 11, 1865 and heard speeches given by Confederate officers to boost the morale of their troops.

When you visit Fort Anderson, ask Jim McKee or other staff to show you the location of Cushing Cove.

**5 – What was the U.S.S. *Old Bogey* and what role did it play in the battle for Fort Anderson?**

William Baker Cushing suggested that a “fake” monitor be used against Fort Anderson’s torpedo defenses. Cushing hoped the Confederates would mistake the fake for the U.S.S. *Montauk* and detonate their torpedoes in an attempt to destroy the ironclad.

How successful was *Old Bogey*? According to the Union Navy, especially Admiral Porter and Cushing, the fake was a resounding success. Cushing related the story to President Lincoln when Cushing was in Washington on February 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Source: Chris E. Fonvielle, Jr., *The Wilmington Campaign: Last Rays of Departing Hope* (Campbell, California: Savas Publishing Company, 1997), 375 – 376.

**6 - Fort Anderson’s garrison flag was at the center of a fascination series of events. What were those events?** Soldiers of the 140th Indiana entered Fort Anderson as the last Confederate troops made their escape toward Wilmington. The Federals took possession of the flag as it lay on the ground having fallen off a hastily departing wagon. This flag was later presented to Indiana Governor Oliver P. Morton in a ceremony in Washington, DC on March 17, 1865.



In attendance at this flag ceremony, was President Lincoln. Lincoln had changed his plans to attend a play at a hospital located near his summer cottage. His change of plans foiled a kidnapping attempt planned by conspirators led by John Wilkes Booth.

The rest of the story is history.

Visit Fort Anderson and view the garrison flag. Through the efforts of Dr. Chris Fonvielle and the donations of many individuals, the garrison flag was returned to its rightful home.

Source: Chris E. Fonvielle, Jr., *The Wilmington Campaign: Last Rays of Departing Hope* (Campbell, California: Savas Publishing Company, 1997), 379, <http://historiccamdencounty.com/ccnews142.shtml> (accessed May 23, 2013), <http://civilwarexperience.ncdcr.gov/brunswic/narrative-anderson3.htm> (accessed May 23, 2013).



## The ***RUNNER***

### Newsletter of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Editor **Tim Winstead**

\*\*\*\*\* May 2013 \*\*\*\*\*

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Please join us as we conclude our 2012 – 2013 Program Year with our May meeting. Visitors are always welcome – ***bring a friend or two***. Each of our speakers strives to enlighten, entertain, and add to our knowledge of Civil War history. This serves our purpose of encouraging education and research into that historic conflict

\*\*\*\*\* May Program \*\*\*\*\*

### **Fort Anderson: Then and Now**

Join us on May 9<sup>th</sup> when **Jim McKee**, Brunswick Town/ Fort Anderson Historic Interpreter, presents a program about the history and present day going-ons at the fort.

In 1862, General Samuel G. French decided a fortification at the Brunswick Town site would make a valuable addition to the defenses along the Cape Fear River. Major Thomas Rowland was placed in charge of the construction of an earth fortification on the site of the ruins of the St. Phillips Church. Rowland began construction on March 24, 1862 and he called the fortification Fort St. Phillips. Battery A ran parallel to the river and Battery B ran perpendicular to the river. The ordinance at the fort consisted of rifled 32 pounders, smoothbore 32 pounders, smoothbore 24 pounders, and Whitworth breech loading guns. The fort was enlarged and extended westward under the command of Major William Lamb and Major John J. Hedrick.



On July 1, 1863 and to honor a fallen North Carolina general, George Burgwyn Anderson, the name was changed to Fort Anderson. With the fall of Fort Fisher on January 15, 1865, Fort Anderson became the most important defensive position to prevent the Federals from advancing on Wilmington from the west side of the river. On February 18<sup>th</sup>, the fort was flanked by General

Jacob Cox's Federal forces and the Confederates abandoned the works on the morning of the 19<sup>th</sup>.

Fort Anderson's isolated location will serve its preservation well for the next 150 years for much of the fort remains as it had been in February 1865. Jim McKee will be giving an update of archeological efforts that have been and will be done at this wonderful example of Civil War military engineering.

### **Editor**

#### **\*\*\*\*\* Civil War Humor \*\*\*\*\***

In the midst of a desperate war, soldiers – Union and Confederate – could find something to relieve the stress in most situations. The following efforts were taken from *The Dispatch*, the newsletter of The Civil War Round Table of New York, October 1981, Vol. 31 No. 2.

At Kennesaw Mountain in 1864, General Sherman sat on a top of a high hill before ordering General Jacob Cox to threaten the enemy's left. Sherman gave his orders to Cox and then added, "And burn a few barns as you go along Cox. I can't understand those signal flags but I know what smoke means."

The 11<sup>th</sup> Mississippi Regiment was noted for being a rough, tough fighting unit that asked no quarter and gave no quarter. Being backwoodsmen, they were also famous marksmen. A farmer near where they were camped approached General Whiting and reported the loss of a hog within the 11<sup>th</sup>'s lines, testifying that a shot had been heard followed by a squeal. General Whiting replied soberly, "I am satisfied you are mistaken. When an 11<sup>th</sup> Mississippian shoots a hog, it don't squeal."

**Bob Cooke**

#### **\*\*\*\*\* Raffle Winners \*\*\*\*\***

**Raffle Master: Ed Gibson**  
**Special Assistant Raffle Master: John Winecoff**

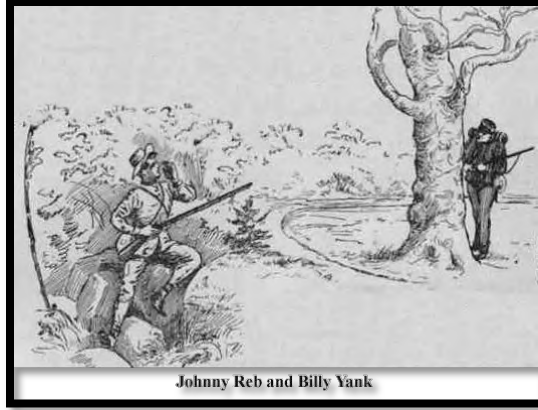
If you have books, prints, or other items that you would like to donate to the CFCWRT raffle, see Ed Gibson at our next meetings.

#### **April Meeting:**

<i>General Lee's Army</i>	-	<b>Martha Watson</b>
<i>Secession Divided</i>	-	<b>Dennis Wrynn</b>
<i>Cities of the Dead</i>	-	<b>Linda Lashley</b>
<i>Cloud Splitter</i>	-	<b>Bill Jayne</b>
<i>Stillness at Appomattox</i>	-	<b>Tom Taylor</b>
<i>Everything Civil War Book</i>	-	<b>John Winecoff</b>

**\*\*\*\*\* The Civil War Exchange \*\*\*\*\***

The Exchange is for members of the CFCWRT to alert others about items that are being sought or are being offered for sale or trade.



1 – CFCWRT member, Dennis Wrynn, has a set of hand-painted pewter figures of CSA leaders by Ron Wall for sale. They are Jeb Stuart, Bedford Forrest, Jefferson Davis, Robert E. Lee, Stonewall Jackson, and John Mosby. He is asking \$120 for the set in the original display box. If interested, call Dennis at 910-458-2657 in Kure Beach.

**\*\*\*\*\* Trivia Questions for May \*\*\*\*\***

- 1 – How large was the normal garrison at Fort Anderson during the Civil War?
- 2 – When the Confederates abandoned the fort early on the morning of February 19<sup>th</sup>, what actions did the Federal troops undertake?
- 3 – The Confederate Infantry bore the brunt of combat during the war. What were the total losses among the infantry that joined Lee's army in 1862?
- 4 – What were the desertions by year in the Army of Northern Virginia?
- 5 – What were the ages of the oldest and youngest member in Glatthaar's sample?
- 6 – On the third day of the Battle of Gettysburg, a massive bombardment by Confederate artillery was to weaken the Federal defensive positions on Cemetery Ridge before the Pickett- Pettigrew infantry attack. By all accounts, many of the Confederate artillery shells overshot the Federal positions. Why?

**\*\*\*\*\* Member News & Activities \*\*\*\*\***

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

1 – The May meeting is the final of our 2012 - 2013 program year. The 2013 – 2014 program year begins in September. Have a good summer and come again for more Civil War history in the fall.

2 – April 6<sup>th</sup> was **Park Day** at Fort Fisher and the CFCWRT was represented by **Bob Cooke** and **Linda Lashley**, who worked at Ft. Fisher raking and loading thousands of oak leaves under the windswept oaks across the street. This area is frequently used for weddings and family gatherings. Executive Director **Paul Laird** and State Historic Site Interpreter **Becky Sawyer**, also Round Table members, were involved in heading up the 66 volunteers who assisted in getting the site tidied-up for the summer tourist season. - **Linda Lashley**



3 – BCWRT Spring Trip 2013 – **Petersburg to Appomattox May 11 – 12, 2013** led by Will Greene, executive director of Pamplin Historical Park and The National Museum of the Civil War Soldier in Petersburg, Virginia. Contact: **Mike Powell** 910-278-3545 or mpowell6@ec.rr.com.

4 – North Carolina Military Historical Society Symposium, **May 11, 2013, 0930 – 1500** Hours, Museum of History, Raleigh, NC. **North Carolina and the War of 1812**. Contact Bruce Patterson for additional details or <http://www.ncmhs.net/>. – **Bruce Patterson** 910-794-8905.

5 – The North Carolina Military Historical Society is sponsoring a military history book sale of more than 200 titles on **Saturday, May 25, from 10:00am to 4:00pm**. The sale will be held in the yard of the NCMHS Military Museum located in the Air Force Recreation Center off Fort Fisher Boulevard (US Highway 421), which is located 1.2 miles south of Kure Beach Village traffic light or, .5 mile north of the Fort Fisher Civil War Museum. **Dennis Wrynn** 910-458-2657.

6 – **Our State** Civil War History Weekend, May 31 – June 2 - Come down to Wilmington on May 31-June 2, 2013, as *Our State*'s popular Civil War Series comes to life. Writer Philip Gerard and Historian Chris Fonvielle will take us on a journey into life in North Carolina during the Civil War. From Civil War era music to the importance of flags to what soldiers carried – you'll experience history first-hand in this Adventure Learning Weekend getaway. <http://www.ourstate.com/events/civil-war-weekend/>

**\*\*\*\*\* May 1863 \*\*\*\*\***

May 1863 saw two major events of the American Civil War. The first of these was the death of 'Stonewall' Jackson. The South was experiencing many difficulties - be it military or economic - and the loss of a highly talented military commander who seemed to thrive on being in the field as opposed to being in a tent studying maps was a major one. The second important event of May 1863 was the North's attack on Vicksburg.

May 1<sup>st</sup>: Stonewall Jackson halted the Union advance against Lee near Chancellorsville. Hooker told his junior commanders, much to their astonishment, that the Union army would go on the defensive as a result of this setback despite having a 2 to 1 advantage in terms of men over the South (90,000 to 40,000).



**Lee and Jackson at Chancellorsville**

May 2<sup>nd</sup>: Jackson commanded a force of 25,000 men in an attempt to get behind Hooker's main force and to attack them in the rear. It was a very bold plan that had to work. If Jackson's army was wiped out, Lee would have been left with just 15,000 men. To convince Hooker that his men were retreating, Lee ordered numerous trains to ride up and down the Fredericksburg/Richmond railway – even if their carriages were empty. His plan worked and Hooker became convinced that Lee was pulling back his men. Lulled into a false sense of security, Hooker may well have taken his eye off of what was going on and when Jackson launched his attack behind Hooker's line, the Union army was unprepared. Many parts of the Union army were driven back. However, in an attempt to know what was going on at the front, Jackson went to the front line to assess the situation for himself. One of his own men did not recognise him and shot him. Jackson was badly wounded.

May 3<sup>rd</sup>: Hooker lost the Battle of Chancellorsville and he ordered the Army of the Potomac to prepare for a retreat. However, not knowing of this, General Sedgwick, believing that an attack on Fredericksburg would be successful, ordered such an attack. Initially he was very successful and captured 15 cannon and 1000 prisoners. However, without any support from Hooker he was totally isolated and at the mercy of Lee's army.



May 4<sup>th</sup>: Sedgwick's men held off the first assaults on their positions by Lee's army. Then in a stroke of fortune, the whole area was shrouded in fog and Sedgwick used this to get his men out of Fredericksburg without further loss. In a Council of War, Hooker announced that the Army of the Potomac was to retreat to Falmouth, Virginia.

May 5<sup>th</sup>: Very heavy rain helped Hooker's army in their retreat as it greatly hindered Lee's army in its efforts to follow up its successes in May.

May 6<sup>th</sup>: The last of the Union's army had withdrawn. The Battle of Chancellorsville was a huge success for Lee and Jackson and if the weather had been better could have been a lot worse for Hooker. Hooker lost 17,000 men despite a 2 to 1 advantage over Lee. However, while the Union could sustain such losses, the South lost 13,000 men and they could not survive such a rate of attrition. The Confederacy agreed to spend \$2 million on purchasing European naval ships. The requirement for the ships was simple: they had to be able to operate in the Atlantic yet be able to sail up the River Mississippi. The leaders of the Confederacy believed that such a ship would be able to break the Union blockade of southern ports.

May 8<sup>th</sup>: Nearly a week after being accidentally shot by one of his own men, it became obvious that the wounds suffered by 'Stonewall' Jackson were life threatening. An arm had already been amputated but a chronic infection meant that he wasn't expected to live. Nearly one week after the shooting, Jackson was drifting in and out of consciousness.

May 9<sup>th</sup>: General Grant threatened to take Vicksburg, the key to the Mississippi. The Confederate leader, Davis, promised commanders in the city every means of support. The Confederate defenders of Vicksburg had a dislocated intelligence system and so had little knowledge of Grant's movements.

May 10<sup>th</sup>: 'Stonewall' Jackson died.

May 14<sup>th</sup>: Jackson fell to Generals Sherman and McPherson. The Union government continued to put pressure on Great Britain not to sell naval boats to the South.

May 15<sup>th</sup>: Sherman destroyed manufacturing centres and railroads in and around Jackson so that when Union forces moved on, they could not be reused by those who lived in Jackson – and supported the Confederacy. It was a foretaste of what he would do in future months.

May 16<sup>th</sup>: Union forces attacked Southern forces defending Vicksburg at Champion's Hill. The South had 22,000 men and faced a Union force of 27,000. Both sides suffered 2,000 casualties – though the Union army was better able to cope with such casualties. However, the South commander, John Pemberton, made one major error. Rather than keeping his men out in the field to face Union forces, Pemberton withdrew them to the poorly defended Vicksburg.

May 17<sup>th</sup>: At dawn Union forces attacked Confederate defences at Big Black Rock, just outside of Vicksburg. The attack was so swift that the defenders only had time to get off one volley of shots before being overrun. The North captured 1,700 Confederate troops and 18 cannon and lost just 39 dead and 237 wounded.

May 18<sup>th</sup>: Sherman's leading men reached the outskirts of Vicksburg.

May 19<sup>th</sup>: General Grant ordered a hasty and not well-prepared attack on Vicksburg. There were two reasons for this. The first was that he hoped to take advantage of what he hoped would be Confederate demoralisation within Vicksburg. The second was that prior to the success at Big Black Rock he had ignored and effectively disobeyed an order by his superior, General Halleck, to withdraw his men from Vicksburg and march to Port Hudson to assist General Banks in an attack there. One way of smoothing over this breach of military discipline would have been a swift, decisive and successful attack on Vicksburg. However, the attack failed and the North lost 900 men.

May 20<sup>th</sup>: Grant's men dug themselves in around Vicksburg. Union warships patrolled the River Mississippi around Vicksburg to hinder any Confederate use of the river. However, despite their military success, Union forces had not had it all their own way. They had to make do with five days rations over a three-week stretch.

May 21<sup>st</sup>: Grant's troops received their first batch of food in weeks when bread arrived along with coffee. Grant hoped that this would boost the morale of his men and ordered an attack on Vicksburg the following day.

May 22<sup>nd</sup>: The attack was a failure and the North lost 500 killed and 2,500 wounded. The ruined Grant's misguided belief that Vicksburg was not well defended. He withdrew his men and ordered Vicksburg to be besieged. Grant later described this as an attempt to "out-camp the enemy". Grant's siege line stretched for 15 miles around Vicksburg.

May 27<sup>th</sup>: Union forces attacked Port Hudson. It was a failure as Confederate troops were well dug in. The North lost 293 dead and 1545 wounded. As at Vicksburg, a decision was taken to besiege Port Hudson.

May 28<sup>th</sup>: The Union siege at Vicksburg was hampered by the fact that Grant had marched with small and manoeuvrable artillery. Therefore he did not have the necessary artillery to bombard Vicksburg. However, this problem was solved when large Union naval guns were brought up the Mississippi and installed ashore. Once operational, they were used to destroy known Confederate defences. In 1862, extensive defence lines had been built around Vicksburg. However, during the winter of 1862/63, they had fallen into disrepair and were only repaired after the clash at Big Black Rock on May 17<sup>th</sup>. 30,000 Confederate troops manned these defences commanded by General John Pemberton. They faced 41,000 Union troops commanded by Grant – though this figure was to rise to 70,000 men by the summer. Life for the besieged citizens of Vicksburg and Port Hudson was hard as food and fresh water supplies dwindled.

Source: <http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/may-1863-civil-war.htm> (accessed April 1, 2013).

**\*\*\*\*\* July 1863 \*\*\*\*\***

As a native Tar Heel, I found Dr. Joseph Glatthaar's discussion of the losses among North Carolina troops at Gettysburg moving. I had three great-grandfathers and a great-uncle who fought there. The great-uncle was wounded, captured, and ultimately died of his wounds.

I came across General Isaac Trimble's report on the third day's fight at Gettysburg. What I found interesting about Trimble's writing was a Virginian's positive comments on the bravery of the North Carolinians who came under his command. Trimble reportedly said of these men, "If the men I had the honor to command that day could not take that position, all hell couldn't take it." Note: Trimble's comment about the profane terms credited to him by North Carolina's General James Lane.

On the morning of the third, I had been put in command, by an order of General Lee, of two of the brigades of General Pender, who had been wounded. These were both of North Carolina troops commanded by J.H. Lane and Alfred M. Scales. On taking command of the troops, entire strangers to me, and wishing as far as I could to inspire them with confidence, I addressed them briefly, ordered that no gun should be fired until the enemy's line was broken, and that I would advance with them to the farthest point.

When the charge commenced about 3:00 p.m., I followed Pettigrew about 150 yards in the rear, a sufficient distance to prevent the adverse fire raking both ranks as we marched down the slope. Notwithstanding the losses as we advanced, the men marched with the deliberation and accuracy of men on drill. I observed the same in Pettigrew's line. When the latter was within 100-150 yards of the Emmetsburg Road, they seemed to sink into the earth under the tempest of fire poured upon them. We passed over the remnant of their line and immediately after some one close on my left sang out "Three cheers for the Old North State!" Both brigades sent up a hearty shout and I said to my aide "Charley, I believe these fine fellows are going into the enemy's lines."





They did get to the road and drove the opposite line from it. They continued there some minutes, discharging their pieces at the enemy. The loss here was fearful. I knew that no troops could long endure it. I was curious to know how things went on with the troops on our right, and taking a quick but deliberate view of the field over which Picket had advanced, I perceived that the enemy's fire seemed to slacken there and some squads were falling back on the west side of the Emmetsburg Road. By this I inferred that Pickett's division had been repelled and if so, it would be a useless exercise of life to continue the contest. I therefore did not attempt to rally the men who (moved?) back from the fence.

As I followed the retiring line on horseback at a walk to the crest of Seminary Ridge, under the unceasing discharge of grape, shell and musketry, I had cause to wonder how any one could escape wounds or death.

On reaching the summit of the ridge, I found the men had fallen into line behind some rude defenses. I said "that is right, my brave fellows, stand your ground and we will presently give these chaps as they have given us", for by all the rules of warfare, the Federal troops should, as I expected they would, march against our shattered columns and seek to cover our army with an overwhelming defeat.

In turning over the command to General Lane, I used some expressions of commendation for the gallant behavior of these men, but **I am sure I did not use the profane terms which General Lane quotes my language.**

Being severely weakened and unable to follow the army in retreat, I made no report of the battle in terms of killed and wounded. General Lane and General Scales have done this, which shows the fearful loss in these two brigades in the charge of July 3.

In *General Lee's Army: From Victory to Collapse*, Glatthaar reported that from late April to mid-October 1863 that 70% of the North Carolinians who served in the ANV were either killed, wounded, or captured. This was the highest casualty rate among troops of any state that provided troops to the ANV. These losses adversely affected the home front in North Carolina and would impact the level of desertion among North Carolina troops later in the war.

**Editor**

Source: <http://nccivilwar.lostsoulsgenealogy.com/ownwords/lanesbrigadegettysburg.htm> (accessed April 13, 2013).

\*\*\*\*\* April Program \*\*\*\*\*

## **Lies, Damn Lies, and Statistics: The Army of Northern Virginia and Some Interesting Numbers**

**Statistics:** *The classification and interpretation of such data in accordance with probability theory and the application of methods such as hypothesis testing to them.*

**Mind-numbingly boring?** Not when they were shared by **Dr. Joseph T. Glatthaar** of the University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill. For those who attended the April meeting, Glatthaar made charts and numbers not only interesting, but fascinating. He probably fielded more questions from the audience than any other meeting I have attended – that in itself meant that we were not asleep but followed the data and thought about its relevance.



Joe began his presentation with an explanation of “why” he began the exhaustive study of the Army of Northern Virginia: rather than having researchers (including himself) “cherry-pick” facts and numbers to support a conclusion, Glatthaar wanted to use a statistically random sample of members of Lee’s army to mathematically determine valid facts and numbers. With the aid of a statistics talented colleague, Kent Tedin, at the University of Houston, Glatthaar determined that a sample of 600 men – 150 artillerymen, 150 cavalrymen, and 300 infantrymen – would be required to yield valid findings. He then spent months selecting the individuals who made up the 600 man sample. Once Joe had his 600, he reviewed service records (approximately 800 reels), census records, county histories, obituaries, family histories, pension files and other data bases to flesh out the 560 enlisted men and 40 officers and their individual stories. The results of his study – from 1989 to 2008 – were presented in his ***General Lee’s Army: From Victory to Collapse.***

The most significant finding may have been that the men in Lee’s army were more closely linked to slaveholding than had been previously thought. 44.4% of the men lived in slaveholding households. Lee’s men also had a higher median wealth than the men of comparable ages in the states from which Lee drew his troops. Glatthaar’s complete findings can be found in his latest book, ***Soldering in the Army of Northern Virginia.***

What’s next for Dr. Glatthaar? He is almost complete with a similar study of the men of the Army of the Potomac. He is also trying to get funding to develop a statistical data base that would use 4,000 randomly chosen Confederate soldiers.

**Editor**

**\*\*\*\*\* Trivia Questions for May \*\*\*\*\***

**1 – How large was the normal garrison at Fort Anderson during the Civil War?** The normal garrison would have been about 200 men drawn from artillery units. After January 1865, the garrison was reinforced by units withdrawn from forts Caswell, Campbell, Holmes and Johnston. Additionally, General Johnson Hagood’s brigade of South Carolinians was sent as reinforcements. The garrison swelled to 2,300 men before the final battle for the fort.

**2 – When the Confederates abandoned the fort early on the morning of February 19<sup>th</sup>, what actions did the Federal troops undertake?** The Federals heard the withdrawal of the Confederate troops and they quickly moved into the fort and were able to capture some of the last departing rebels. Unfortunately for the Federal Army victors, the Federal Navy was not aware of the new tenants and began a bombardment of the fort. The Federal army troops waved a white canvas tent to alert their naval compatriots to their plight.

The Federal army surrendered the fort to the Federal navy.

**3 – The Confederate Infantry bore the brunt of combat during the war. What were the total losses among the infantry that joined Lee’s army in 1862?** 83.1% of those who joined the infantry in 1862 were KIA, WIA, died of disease, discharged for disability, or POW at least once, and 74.4% of those who joined the army in 1861 were. Per Dr. Glaathaar, that was a startling number.

**4 – What were the desertions by year in the Army of Northern Virginia?** By early 1865, Lee’s army was losing 120 men a day to desertion. During this period, the men were subsisting on a diet of approximately 900 – 1200 calories a day, a diet so deficient in vitamins and minerals that the men could not receive the full nutrition from the food they ate. By comparison, the United States Army today provides its soldiers 4,000 calories a day. Clothing was scarce for many of the soldiers and they actually favored battles with the Union forces during the winter months so that they could get items from the Union casualties. Even equipment like axes and picks were in short supply.

**Desertions by Year**

<b>6.8%</b>	<b>15.6%</b>	<b>33.6%</b>	<b>34.5%</b>	<b>9.5%*</b>
<b>1861</b>	<b>1862</b>	<b>1863</b>	<b>1864</b>	<b>1865</b>

\* complete records were not available for the last months of the war.

In spite of the hardships of service during late 1864 and early 1865, 67,000 men were with Lee in late March 1865. Continued Federal pressure by Grant’s troops at Petersburg forced Lee to abandon his line on April 2<sup>nd</sup>. After a week trying to escape the closing Federal noose, Lee surrendered at Appomattox on April 9, 1865. By the 12<sup>th</sup> of April, 26,018 men of the ANV were formally paroled by Grant’s forces.

**5 – What were the ages of the oldest and youngest member in Glatthaar’s sample?** The oldest man in Joe’s sample was 62 years old. The youngest man was 14 years old. The Army of Northern Virginia was desperate for men to continue the fight. The use of old men and especially young boys was a horrible indicator of how desperate the Confederacy became in the final stages of the war.

**6 – On the third day of the Battle of Gettysburg, a massive bombardment by Confederate artillery was to weaken the Federal defensive positions on Cemetery Ridge before the Pickett-Pettigrew infantry attack. By all accounts, many of the Confederate artillery shells overshot the Federal positions. Why?** On March 13, 1863, an explosion at the Confederate States Laboratories on Brown’s Island in Richmond killed approximately 50 workers. Many of those killed had been young women who had been engaged in the manufacture of shells, fuses, and other ordinance for the Confederate artillery services. As a result of the disaster in Richmond, General Josiah Gorgas and his ordinance officers were forced to secure supplies from other laboratories throughout the South to supply the armies of the Confederacy.

At Chancellorsville in May 1863, William Allan, an ordinance officer on Jackson’s staff, noticed that shells and case shots had exploded prematurely after exiting the cannon’s mouth. Several weeks after the battle, Allan submitted an official notice concerning his observations. Gorgas and the Confederate Ordinance Bureau took Allan’s observation seriously and the Richmond Laboratories began monthly testing of all ammunition, primers, and fuses from the various manufactories.

Lt. James Dinwiddie, at the Richmond Laboratories, was assigned the duty to test ammunition and fuses from the Charleston and Selma arsenals. A week after the battle at Gettysburg, Dinwiddie completed his test. The Charleston fuses were well made; however, they burned slower than they had been designed. Dinwiddie found that, “A spherical case shot with a 4” fuse would burst at 5” – that is at least 200 yards beyond where it was intended to burst.” The Ordinance Bureau found that fuses produced in Charleston, Augusta, and Atlanta burned slower than those that had been manufactured in Richmond. Fuses from Charleston had been sent to the ANV after the March 13th explosion.

The lack of consistency in fuse manufacture among the different arsenals caused experienced Confederate gunners to over shot their target. Porter Alexander was entrusted by Longstreet to direct the 170 cannons that were gathered to blast the Federal positions prior to the Confederate attack. Alexander ran short of ammunition and the smoke from the massed cannon obscured his view of the bombardment effectiveness. Alexander measured the return fire of the Federal gunners and when the return fire slackened, Alexander informed George Pickett that he must attack.

There were more than fuse issues on that July 3<sup>rd</sup>; however, the 15,000 or so infantrymen who charged into the Federal positions played the devil for the artillery’s failure.

Source: Joseph T. Glatthaar, *General Lee’s Army: From Victory to Collapse* (New York: Free Press, 2008), 258 – 287.

## The *RUNNER*

### Newsletter of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Editor **Tim Winstead**

\*\*\*\*\* April 2013 \*\*\*\*\*

Our next meeting will be **Thursday, 11 April** at St. Andrew's On-the-Sound (101 Airlie Road). Social Hour begins at 7:00 p.m., meeting at 7:30.

Please join us as we continue our Program Year with our fourth meeting of 2013. Visitors are always welcome – *bring a friend*. Each of our speakers strives to enlighten, entertain, and add to our knowledge of Civil War history. This serves our purpose of encouraging education and research into that historic conflict

\*\*\*\*\* April Program \*\*\*\*\*

#### *Soldiering in the Army of Northern Virginia: A Statistical Portrait of the Troops Who Served under Robert E. Lee*



**Dr. Joseph T. Glatthar** (“GLAD-har”) will speak to our members on April 11<sup>th</sup> about his study of the Army of Northern Virginia. In his sophisticated quantitative study, Glatthar will provide a comprehensive narrative and statistical analysis of many key aspects of General Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. Serving as a companion to Glatthar's *General Lee's Army: From Victory to Collapse*, Glatthar's will present supporting

data and major conclusions in extensive and extraordinary detail.

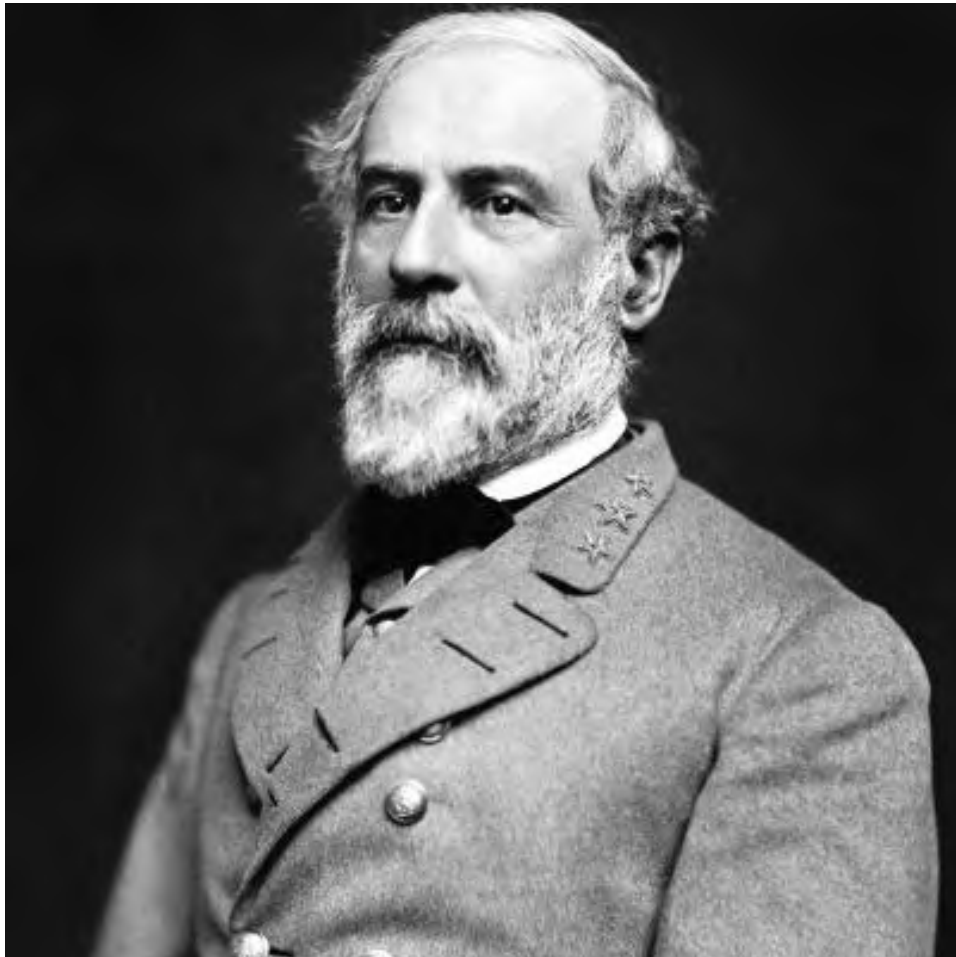
While gathering research materials for *General Lee's Army*, Glatthar compiled quantitative data on the background and service of 600 randomly selected soldiers--150 artillerists, 150 cavalymen, and 300 infantrymen--affording him fascinating insight into the prewar and wartime experience of Lee's troops. *Soldiering in the Army of Northern Virginia* presents the full details of this fresh, important primary research in a way that is useful to scholars and students and appeals to anyone with a serious interest in the Civil War. While confirming much of what is believed about the army, Glatthar's evidence challenges some conventional thinking in significant ways, such as showing that nearly half of all Lee's soldiers lived in slaveholding households (a number higher than previously thought), and provides a broader and fuller portrait of the men who served under General Lee.

Source :<http://www.amazon.com/Soldiering-Army-Northern-Virginia-Statistical/dp/>, accessed 3/21/2013.

Dr. Glatthaar received a B.A. from Ohio Wesleyan University, an M.A. in history from Rice University, and a Ph.D. in history from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He has taught at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, the U.S. Army War College, the U.S. Military Academy, and the University of Houston. He is currently the Stephenson Distinguished Professor of History and chair of the Curriculum in Peace, War and Defense at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

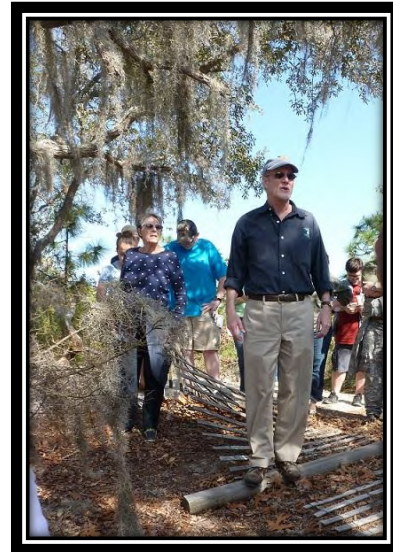
Dr. Glatthaar is the author of numerous books and articles, including: *The March to the Sea and Beyond: Sherman's Troops in the Savannah and Carolinas Campaigns* (New York University Press, 1985), *Forged in Battle: The Civil War Alliance of Black Soldiers and Their White Officers* (The Free Press, 1989), *Partners in Command: Relationships Between Leaders in the Civil War* (The Free Press, 1994), *Forgotten Allies: The Oneida Indians in the American Revolution* (Hill & Wang, 2007) with James Kirby Martin, *General Lee's Army: From Victory To Defeat* (The Free Press, 2008), and *Soldiering in the Army of Northern Virginia: A Statistical Portrait of the Troops Who Served under Robert E. Lee* (University of North Carolina Press, 2011).

## Editor

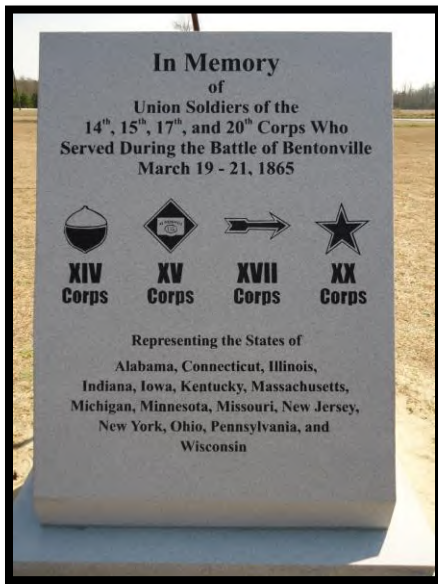


**\*\*\*\*\* A Walk in the Park \*\*\*\*\***

On March 16, **Dr. Chris Fonvielle**, led a narrated walk to Sugarloaf, north of Ft. Fisher. This was part of the Confederacy's defense between Ft. Fisher and Wilmington. The group of roughly 30 people met at the Federal Point History Center in Carolina Beach and was given access to several parcels of private property where significant remnants of entrenchments remain, along with an original roadbed. The group continued onto Carolina Beach State Park property and eventually reached the highest point in New Hanover County. Another 250 yards further brought them to the prize: Sugarloaf! The tired trekkers trudged back to the History Center to end their 4 mile hike. It was a very worthy spring afternoon. **Linda Lashley**



**\*\*\*\*\* Bentonville Dedication \*\*\*\*\***



On March 16, 2016, The Department of North Carolina, Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War, dedicated a monument to the 4 army corps, 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, which served with Major General William T. Sherman's army during the time of the Battle of Bentonville. This project has taken several years to bring it to the dedication and a number of individuals and organizations were responsible. The Department of NC, SUVCW, formed a Monument Committee which was able to develop a design, guide it through State regulations and bureaucracy, and have it placed on the battlefield.

Speakers taking place in the ceremony included Mr. Donny Taylor, Bentonville Battlefield Site Manager; Dr. Gerard Devine, Commander of the Department of North Carolina; Mr. Keith Hardison, Director of the State Historical Sites; and Mr. Mark Day, representing the National Commander of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. Mr. Taylor remarked that while it had been 148 years since the battle, it was 118 years since the first marker was placed on the site. Dr. Devine described the events leading up to the battle, the battle itself, and the aftermath. Special mention was made of the Cape Fear Living History Society and the Bentonville Battlefield Historical Association which donated funds for the Monument. These funds had been

held in trust from fundraising efforts during the 1990s for a monument to the Union troops. Mr. Hardison noted that General Joseph E. Johnston and Sherman later became friends and Johnston caught a bad cold, which caused his death, because he refused to cover his head while serving as a pallbearer at Sherman's funeral. He said that, therefore, he believed that Johnston would approve of the placing of this monument on the field. Mr. Day brought greetings from the national Commander of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Perley Mellor. He stated that it was especially significant for him to be here as his ancestor was here with the 150<sup>th</sup> New York Infantry in the 20<sup>th</sup> Corps. The ceremony was capped with the unveiling of the Monument, the skirl of bagpipes playing *Amazing Grace*, and *Taps* played by a US Army Sergeant. Re-enactors clad in the blue and the gray rendered artillery and infantry salutes.

Dennis St. Andrew, Commander of the Major General Thomas H. Ruger Camp #1, Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War, located in Fayetteville stated that the placement of this Monument means that the Union soldiers at Bentonville are finally being recognized for their service. **Ed Gibson**

**\*\*\*\*\* Raffle Winners \*\*\*\*\***

**Raffle Master: Ed Gibson**

If you have books, prints, or other items that you would like to donate to the CFCWRT raffle, see Ed Gibson at our next meetings.

**March Meeting:**

<i>Sherman: The Fighting Prophet</i>	- Bob Cooke
<i>Battlefields of the Civil War</i>	- Richard Covell
<i>The Confederate States of America</i>	- Tom Taylor
<i>Civil War Usage</i>	- Martha Watson
<i>H. L. Hunley</i>	- Dale Lear
<i>Soul of the Lion</i>	- Linda Lashley

**\*\*\*\*\* Trivia Questions for April \*\*\*\*\***

- 1 – How large was the Army of Northern Virginia at its largest?**
- 2 – What percentage of the Army of Northern Virginia were conscripts?**
- 3 – What percentage of the Army of Northern Virginia lived in households that were slave-owning before the beginning of the war?**
- 4 – How much more likely was an officer to be killed in action than an enlisted man?**
- 5 – Sometimes after December 20, 1860, a locomotive of the Wilmington & Manchester Rail Road were stopped at the North Carolina/South Carolina border. Who stopped this locomotive and why?**



## 6 – During the Civil War, the Wilmington & Weldon set up a repair yard in what location?

### \*\*\*\*\* Member News & Activities \*\*\*\*\*

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

1 – Welcome to new member of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table: **Bill Ouzer**

2 – **Ladies Forum-BCWRT** - On February 26, Connie Hendrix, Linda Lashley, and Carla Ann Yeager attended a forum in Southport, hosted by our good friends and colleagues, the Brunswick Civil War Round Table. Charen Fink, Co-Director of the BCWRT, presented a power point program, "Women in the Civil War." She brought along her collection of mourning jewelry, antique and authentic clothing, cosmetics, medicine, and pictures to help tell the story of women's life and hardships during the war. A special guest was "Lizzie," an elaborately prepared dress form who was happy to oblige the speaker as she peeled back each layer of clothing to show the many facets of the well dressed lady of the era. Refreshments were offered, consisting of goods baked using period recipes. The BCWRT plans to offer additional forums in the future and we anticipate they will be as informative as this forum was. - **Linda Lashley**

3 – **Philip Gerard**, the February 21<sup>st</sup> speaker at the CFCWRT, narrated a March 3 river tour aboard the Wilmington Water Tours' 46 ft. catamaran in order to launch his latest book, *Down the Wild Cape Fear*. As mentioned in our meeting, Philip and his party put canoes into the river at Buckhorn Dam, and let the river bring them to the mouth of the Cape Fear. His journal is written in a first person diary format detailing the trip, but it also contains historical commentary along the way, beginning with the 1700's. Members Carla Ann Yeager, Connie Hendrix, and Linda Lashley were among the 46 attendees and crew on the 90 minute cruise which culminated in a dockside reception and book signing. Philip and his wife Jill were gracious hosts and everyone agreed it was a valuable educational experience to hear Civil War and Revolutionary War history from the "other side" of the riverbank. - **Linda Lashley**

4 – **Fort Fisher State Historic Site** - April 6: Civil War Preservation Trust "Park Day" Saturday 8:30 am - 1 pm. Interested in helping to beautify Fort Fisher? Volunteer for Park Day 2013! This is a great project for service clubs, scout troops, and youth groups, but we are looking for volunteers of all ages. All volunteers must register in advance by calling (910) 458-5538 or emailing [John Moseley](mailto:John.Moseley@fischer.org).



5 – North Carolina Military Historical Society Symposium, May 11, 2013, 0930 – 1500 Hours, Museum of History, Raleigh, NC. **North Carolina and the War of 1812**. Contact Bruce Patterson for additional details or <http://www.ncmhs.net/>. – **Bruce Patterson**

\*\*\*\*\* **April 1863** \*\*\*\*\*

April 1863 saw the start of the third year of the American Civil War. The economic plight of the South was taking a heavy toll. Coupled with this, the Army of the Potomac started to finalise plans for an attack on Richmond, the Confederacy's capital.

April 2<sup>nd</sup>: Riots occurred in Richmond where people were becoming desperate at the economic plight of the Confederacy. Food in particular was in short supply. The riot was termed a “bread riot” by locals though it turned into a general looting session. It was only quelled when the rioters listened to Jefferson Davis who spoke to them in person and then threw the money in his pockets at them. It was a sufficient gesture to disperse the rioters.

April 3<sup>rd</sup>: Lincoln visited Hooker and pressured him into an attack on Richmond. In response Hooker put in for 1.5 million ration packs.

April 4<sup>th</sup>: Hooker prepared the Army of the Potomac for an attack on Richmond. The Army's Secret Service Department was ordered to prepare updated maps on the defences at Richmond.

April 5<sup>th</sup>: Several Confederate ships were detained in Liverpool docks, as it was believed that they were blockade-runners.

April 10<sup>th</sup>: Lincoln reviewed the Army of the Potomac at its winter quarters in Falmouth, Virginia. The troops he met expressed their full confidence in Hooker – a view not totally shared by the president. Lincoln had to dampen down Hooker's rhetoric about capturing Richmond and remind him that defeating Lee's Army of Virginia was far more important and that Richmond was the bait to lure Lee into battle.

April 13<sup>th</sup>: General Burnside issued his General Order Number 38, which threatened the death penalty for anyone found guilty of treasonable behaviour.

April 17<sup>th</sup>: This day saw the start of Colonel Ben Grierson's Union legendary raid into the Confederacy. With 1700 cavalymen, Grierson roamed 600 miles during his raid deep into the South. The raid lasted 16 days and within the Union army Grierson became a legend.

April 20<sup>th</sup>: Lincoln announced that West Virginia would join the Union on June 20<sup>th</sup> 1863.

April 21<sup>st</sup>: Hooker finalised his plan of attack. He hoped to fool the South into thinking that Fredericksburg was his main target while moving three corps of troops against Lee's left flank. 2000 mules were acquired by Hooker to speed up the movement of his army.

April 24<sup>th</sup>: The Confederate Congress passed a tax set at 8% on all agricultural produce grown in 1862 and a 10% tax on profits made from the sale of iron, clothing and cotton. There was much public hostility to these new taxes but a general acceptance that they were needed. The biggest problem facing the South's economy was the fact that much land was used for the growing of cotton and not for food.

April 26<sup>th</sup>: Hooker's offensive against Lee's Army of Virginia and Richmond started. However, torrential rain turned many of the roads/tracks he used to mud and made movement very difficult.

April 28<sup>th</sup>: The rain has made movement so difficult that engineers had to lay logs on the surface of roads/tracks to allow wagons to move.

April 29<sup>th</sup>: Lee's scouts informed him that it was their belief that the attack on Fredericksburg was a feint and that their observed movement of many men on Lee's left flank was the real target of Hooker. Lee accepted the advice of his scouts and ordered Stonewall Jackson not to attack Union troops at Fredericksburg – despite Jackson's request to do just this.

April 30<sup>th</sup>: Hooker ordered 10,000 cavalymen to raid Lee's communication bases. The raids, while impressive with regards to the number of men involved, achieved very little and if anything served to boost the confidence of Lee's Army of Virginia.

Source: <http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/april-1863-civil-war.htm> (accessed February 26, 2013).

**\*\*\*\*\* April 1863 cont'd \*\*\*\*\***

The April 2, 1863, Bread Riot in Richmond received much press coverage concerning the plight of the civilian population as the war entered its third year. Two factors contributed to this increasingly serious condition: **1)** The shortage of farm labor had an adverse impact upon the food supply to feed the army and the civilian population. **2)** The wearing out of the rail systems to transport food, equipment, and the army was making it difficult for the Confederacy to take advantage of its interior lines of communications.

The following letter from a soldier in the 11<sup>th</sup> Regiment (Bethel Regiment) of North Carolina Troops provides a good feel for the conditions that soldiers and their families at home were facing in April 1863. William A. Elliott enlisted on July 7, 1862. He was killed on July 1, 1863 at the Battle of Gettysburg.

*Camp near Hookerton North Carolina  
April 27 1863*

*Dear Father I take my pen in hand to rite you a few lines to let you know that I am well and I hope these few lines may find you all enjoying the same good blessings of health. I receive a letter from you a few minits ago and I was glad to heare from you all and to hear you was all well. I had not got a letter from you*

*in two weeks. You sed you could hardly read my last letter. That was the best I could do at that time for I neither had no paper nor ink with me and thot you would be glad to heare from me if it was badly done. You sed you wanted me to rite you all the particulars of the battle. I have rote you three or four letters sence the battle. I got your letter of the fifth of April. **You sed they was presing all the corn and bacon that there was in the country,. You had better sell yours and not let them prefs it and sell ever thing you can for we don't get mutch to eat no how. Our Regt gets one pound of meal a day to the man and half pound of meat. I can eat my meat at twice. I was glad to hear you was getting a long so well with your crop. You say that wheat looks well. If there are in good wheate crops made I think we will have plenty to eat a nother year. Some of the pore soldiers only gets a quarter of a pound of meat to the man. There is going to be a regimental inspection this evening sotues I will send I W Jamison letter. I could rote you a heap more but I did not have time and we have bin cleaning up our guns all day. Henry Hill sends you all his best respects. The boys is all well at this time. I rote uncl George a letter the other day but I don't know whether he has got it or not. **Tell George R to keep his age hid and not let them find out how old he is for this armyis a hard place to be.** We have to bake our bread on bords before the fire. We havent but about three pans and lids in our Co so I will close for this time. Nothing more remains. Your true son until death.***

W A Elliott

Source: <http://www.civilwarhome.com/elliottletters12.htm>, accessed March 21, 2013.

\*\*\*\*\* **March Program** \*\*\*\*\*

On March 14, **Dr. James C. Burke** shared with our members the research he had undertaken to write his second book, *The Wilmington & Weldon Railroad in the Civil War*, concerning the railroad that became the “Lifeline of the Confederacy.” Burke provided details of the railroads that served Wilmington before and after the war, the succession movement and Wilmington events during the 1860-1861 crisis, the freight hauled by those railroads, the difficulties encountered in war-time Wilmington, the Union raids and their impact on the Wilmington & Weldon’s operation during the war, the aftermath of the fall of Wilmington to Union forces, and the rebuilding of the WWRR and its economic

impact on North Carolina during the Reconstruction and later years.



Burke provided details about the men who were instrumental in the operation of the railroad during the Civil war and the challenges they faced as the shortages of railroad materials made their jobs exponentially more difficult. William S. Ashe, Stephen D. Wallace, R.R. Bridgers and S.L. Freemont were men whose lives were intertwined with the railroad.

Stephen D. Wallace, president of the W&WRR, closed his 1865 report to the stockholders with the following statement concerning the future and value of the railroad to North Carolina:

One thing is certain, the work is of too much importance to the public and the stockholders to be abandoned, and as there must be a commencement, the sooner that is entered upon the sooner will the desired benefits be realized. We have never appreciated the true value of Rail Roads to the communities until now. Having enjoyed their advantage and then being deprived of their use, we forcibly realize their worth.<sup>1</sup>

For those who want to know the “nuts and bolts” of the Wilmington & Weldon, the appendixes in James’ book should provide details of Locomotives and Company Shops inventories; Railroad Employees Living in Wilmington, 1865-1871; and Freight Shipments for the Confederate Government, 1861. *The Wilmington & Weldon Railroad in the Civil War* is available from [www.mcfarlandpub.com](http://www.mcfarlandpub.com) or McFarland order line (800-253-2187).

#### Editor

1 James C. Burke, *The Wilmington & Weldon Railroad in the Civil War* (Jefferson, North Carolina and London: McFarland & Company, 2013), 157.

#### \*\*\*\*\* Trivia Questions for April \*\*\*\*\*

**1 – How large was the Army of Northern Virginia at its largest?** In June 1862, the army had slightly more than 90,000 officers and men. Nearly half of the men who served in the Army of Northern Virginia resided in either Virginia or North Carolina, and another quarter came from Georgia and South Carolina. The average year of birth for soldiers in the Army of Northern Virginia was 1835. The median birth year was 1838. More than half were farmers and nearly all of them (94 percent) came from rural areas. One in seven was a student in 1860, and nearly half resided with parents or an older sibling.

**2 – What percentage of the Army of Northern Virginia were conscripts?** More than five of nine (56 percent) soldiers who served in the Army of Northern Virginia enlisted in 1861, and another three in ten (30 percent) enlisted the next year. In April 1862, the Confederate Congress passed the Conscription Act, and three of four who enlisted in 1862 did so prior to its enforcement. Because of poor record keeping, no one knows how many of the army's troops were conscripted. Most likely, **the percentage of conscripts ranged from 6 to 8 percent.** Less than 1 percent were hired as a substitute for someone else.

**3 – What percentage of the Army of Northern Virginia lived in households that were slave-owning before the beginning of the war?** Soldiers tended to come from comfortable backgrounds. Their median personal and family wealth (if they still lived with parents or other immediate family members) was \$1,295, placing them solidly in the middle class. Slightly more than one in eight soldiers owned slaves, but 37.2 percent either owned slaves or their parents and family with whom they resided did. Four in nine (44.4 percent) lived in slaveholding households, demonstrating a strong connection to the institution of slavery. As a result, these soldiers had an investment in slavery that influenced their decision to fight.

On average officers were a couple of years older than their enlisted men. They tended to be wealthier; their combined personal and family median wealth was \$3,000, compared to \$1,200 for enlisted men. Almost half of all officers or their parents with whom they resided owned slaves, a figure that contrasted with 36 percent of enlisted men. Yet these distinctions were not as one-sided as they initially appeared. One in five officers and their families had a total wealth of less than \$400, and almost nine of ten (89 percent) soldiers who owned slaves or whose families owned slaves served the entire war as enlisted men.

**4 – How much more likely was an officer to be killed in action than an enlisted man?** After two years of fighting under Lee, the officer corps alone suffered 1,600 killed and 6,000 wounded. Officers were two-and-a-half times as likely to be killed in action as enlisted men.

Sources for 1 - 4: [http://encyclopediavirginia.org/Army\\_of\\_Northern\\_Virginia#start\\_entry](http://encyclopediavirginia.org/Army_of_Northern_Virginia#start_entry), (accessed March 21, 2013). Contributed by Joseph Glatthaar.

**5 – Sometimes after December 20, 1860, a locomotive of the Wilmington & Manchester Rail Road were stopped at the North Carolina/South Carolina border. Who stopped this locomotive and why?** South Carolina became an independent nation after it seceded from the United States on December 20, 1860. South Carolina Customs Agents were installed on the Wilmington & Manchester sometimes after this date. These agents were to charge custom duties on goods entering or leaving South Carolina.

**6 – During the Civil War, the Wilmington & Weldon set up a repair yard in what location?** The small town of Magnolia in Duplin County was the site of this inland repair yard. S.L. Freemont sent all the company's rolling stock to Magnolia after the fall of Wilmington on February 22, 1865.

## The *RUNNER*

### Newsletter of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Editor **Tim Winstead**

\*\*\*\*\* **March 2013** \*\*\*\*\*

Our next meeting will be **Thursday, 14 March** at St. Andrew's On-the-Sound (101 Airlie Road). Social Hour begins at 7:00 p.m., meeting at 7:30.

Please join us as we continue our Program Year with our third meeting of 2013. Visitors are always welcome – *bring a friend*. Each of our speakers strives to enlighten, entertain, and add to our knowledge of Civil War history. This serves our purpose of encouraging education and research into that historic conflict

\*\*\*\*\* **March Program** \*\*\*\*\*

#### *The Wilmington & Weldon Railroad In the Civil War*

The Wilmington & Weldon Railroad was the backbone of what became the “Lifeline of the Confederacy.” The importance of the port of Wilmington, the blockade runners, and the extensive defensive forts in this area would have been significantly reduced had the railroad line from Wilmington to Weldon not existed. The story of this railroad and its operation during the Civil War was a tale of the men and events that greatly influenced the course of that war. The Wilmington & Weldon Railroad may have been neither as glamorous as the blockade runners nor as glorious as the battles for the forts; the story of the W&WRR may have been even more important than either in the supply of Lee's Army of Northern Virginia.

**Dr. James C. Burke** will share details about the ultimate test that the Civil War and its aftermath presented to the men who maintained an operating railroad during a difficult period. His presentation will include discussions of deterioration of railroad equipment; complications of Confederate government policies; sabotage attempts; a yellow fever epidemic; Union raids; the fall of Wilmington; and the unnecessary destruction of railroad property by the retreating Confederate troops. In spite of the challenges, Burke will relate how the W&WRR survived to become a powerful regional economic force.



James C. Burke grew up in Wilmington where he developed an interest in historical clues that can be embedded in an area's geography. He has published scholarly works in "The North Carolina Geographer" and "Railroad History." His books included *The Wilmington & Raleigh Rail Road Company, 1833-1854* and *The Wilmington & Weldon Railroad in the Civil War*. His education included: University of North Carolina at Wilmington, BA in Music - 1982; University of North Carolina at Wilmington, MA in Liberal Studies - 2001; University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Historic Preservation - 2004; University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Ph.D. in Geography – 2008.

Editor

**\*\*\*\*\* Fort Anderson February 17, 2013 \*\*\*\*\***

On a cold and windy Sunday afternoon, re-enactors, volunteers, period sutlers, and staff welcomed a hardy group to demonstrations that commemorated the 148<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the fall of Fort Anderson. Artillery, infantry, and navy re-enactors gave visitors a feel for the Civil War soldier and his routine at Fort Anderson during the final winter of the war.

**Jim McKee**, Brunswick Town/Fort Anderson Historic Interpreter, and other artillery re-enactors began a demonstration of the routine that a gun crew would have performed to service a 6 pound smooth bore cannon during a battle. The gunners efficiently went about their drill and provided the audience with a BOOM that gave good accompaniment to the event.



**\*\*\*\*\* Raffle Winners \*\*\*\*\***

**Raffle Master: Ed Gibson**  
**Special Assistant Raffle Master: John Winecoff**

If you have books, prints, or other items that you would like to donate to the CFCWRT raffle, see Ed Gibson at our next meetings.

**February Meeting:**

<i>A Rising Thunder</i>	- John Moore
<i>Cold Mountain</i>	- Linda Lashley
<i>Grant</i>	- Anonymous
<i>Lamson of the Gettysburg</i>	- Bill Jayne
<i>Stonewall in the Valley</i>	-Bill Jayne



*The Sands of Pride  
Grant*

- Thomas E. Taylor  
- Terry McGiverin

\*\*\*\*\* **Trivia Question for March** \*\*\*\*\*

- 1 – William S. Ashe was the president of the Wilmington & Weldon Railroad when the Civil War began in 1861. What happened to Ashe on the night of September 12, 1862?
- 2 – The W&WRR began operation in May 1840 with 160½ miles of track from Wilmington to Weldon in Halifax County. What distinction did the railroad hold when it began operation?
- 3- During the Civil War, the W&WRR was a 160½ mile railroad that was subject to attack from Union occupied eastern North Carolina. Who was responsible for repairing any damages inflicted by Union raiding parties?
- 4- Who were the Heroes of America and what part did they play in North Carolina during the Civil War?
- 5 – What rolls did the *North Carolina Standard* and *Fayetteville Observer* play during the Civil War.

\*\*\*\*\* **Member News & Activities** \*\*\*\*\*

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

- 1 – Welcome to new members of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table: **Doug Grove, Chris Grove, and Carla Ann Yeager.**
- 2 – **Happy Saint Patrick’s Day!** Patrick Cleburne, Thomas Meagher and many others gave their efforts to the cause they supported during the Civil War.
- 3 – **Bentonville Battlefield – March 16 & 17 Anniversary Program:** Saturday 10 am – 4 pm, Sunday 10 am – 4 pm  
The 148th Anniversary of the largest battle fought in North Carolina will focus on the power of the Confederate artillery. Visitors will get a chance to see how a battery of cannons operated and worked together to deliver their powerful destruction. In addition to artillery and infantry demonstrations throughout the weekend, interpreters will be on hand to discuss life in the Civil War. The Union Monument will also be dedicated during the program.
- 4 – **Cape Fear Revolutionary War Round Table** meeting on March 20, St. John’s Episcopal Church , 219 Forest Hills Drive, 7:00PM. Contact Linda Lashley for details.
- 5 – North Carolina Military Historical Society Symposium, May 11, 2013, 0930 – 1500 Hours, Museum of History, Raleigh, NC. **North Carolina and the War of 1812.** Contact Bruce Patterson for additional details or <http://www.ncmhs.net/>.

\*\*\*\*\* **March 1863** \*\*\*\*\*

By March 1863 the American Civil War had been going for nearly two years and the South was experiencing major economic problems as a result of the North's blockade of its ports. However, the North was not without its own problems as Lincoln had to sign into law what was effectively a call-up of all able-bodied men between 20 and 45 - a move that was not a popular one among the North's male population.

March 1<sup>st</sup>: Lincoln met with Secretary of War Edwin Stanton to discuss future military appointments.



March 2<sup>nd</sup>: Congress approved the President's list of promotions but also dismissed 33 officers for a variety of offences.

March 3<sup>rd</sup>: Both Senate and House passed The Enrollment Act. All able-bodied men between 20 and 45 were to serve for three years. The act was unpopular with the public because of its compulsion. Congress must have sensed this as in 1863 only 21,000 men were conscripted and by the end of the war conscription only accounted for a total of 6% of the North's army. Congress also suspended habeas corpus on this day – much to the anger of the Democrats in Congress.

March 6<sup>th</sup>: One of Hooker's attempts to develop the Army of the Potomac was to ensure that it had the most modern weapons available. By this day, his men were starting to be equipped with the Sharp's breech-loading carbine. This rifle gave Hooker's army unrivalled firepower at close range.

March 10<sup>th</sup>: Such was the problem of desertion across all armies of the Union, that Lincoln pronounced an amnesty on this day for all those who were absent without leave. Any deserter who returned to duty before April 1<sup>st</sup> would not be punished.

March 13<sup>th</sup>: 62 women workers were killed in an explosion in a munitions factory near Richmond. The Confederacy was to become more and more reliant on female workers as the war progressed.

March 24<sup>th</sup>: The last Union attempt to take Vicksburg failed. The Mississippi River was very high for this time of the year and it made navigation very difficult. Grant wanted to use the many waterways that surrounded Vicksburg to his advantage – but his plan failed.

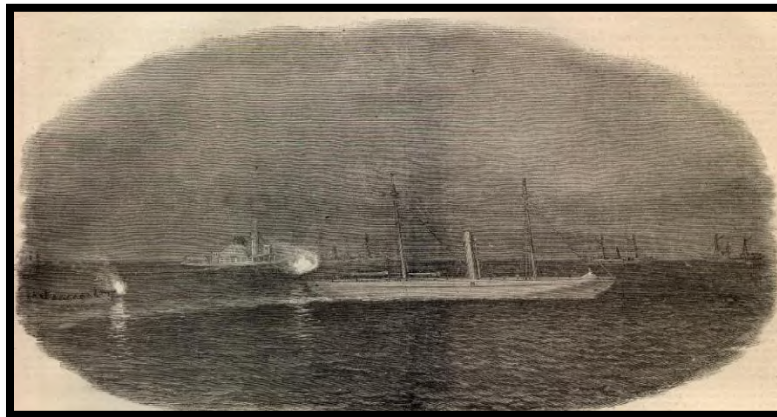
March 26<sup>th</sup>: West Virginia voted to emancipate its slaves.

March 30<sup>th</sup>: Lincoln announced that April 30<sup>th</sup> would be a day of prayer and fasting throughout the Union.

Source: <http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/march-1863-civil-war.htm> (accessed February 14, 2013).

\*\*\*\*\* **March 1863 cont'd** \*\*\*\*\*

In the February issue of *The Runner*, Acting Master Richard Hustace of the U.S.S. *Monticello* reported on his unsuccessful attempt to stop a blockade runner that sped past his position at 3:30 a.m. on the morning of February 25, 1863. Hustace's report reflected his frustration at the appearance of the phantom ship and its ability to use surprise and darkness to thwart his efforts. His report was found in the *Official Records of the Union and Confederate Navies*, Series 1, Volume 8, pg. 573.



The ship that slipped past Hustace was the **Granite City**. She was an 160' X 23' X 9'2", 400 burden ton, iron hulled sidewheeler that was launched as the *City of Dundee* in Dumbarton, Scotland in 1862. Bought and converted to a blockade runner by Alexander Collie and Company, the *Granite City* had made the voyage to Wilmington from Nassau. The *Granite City* cleared the port of Wilmington on the return trip to Nassau on March 12, 1863.

The U.S.S. *Tioga* intercepted and captured the blockade runner off Eleuthera Island, Bahamas, on March 24<sup>th</sup>. The ill fated ship was purchased

by the U.S. Navy from the New York Prize Court for \$55,000. Commissioned as the U.S.S. *Granite City* on April 16th, she joined the Western Gulf Blockading Squadron during August 1863. She took part in a Sabine Pass expedition; the blockade of the Texas coast - where she captured three ships; and the naval bombardment Pas Cavallo and Smith Landing, Texas. On a rescue mission to Calcasieu Pass, Louisiana on April 28, 1864, the U.S.S. *Granite City* was trapped in narrow waters and captured by Confederate troops.

The ship was sold to Thomas W. House of Galveston for \$36,000 Confederate. Converted

to her former use, the blockade runner *Granite City* was run ashore by the U.S.S. *Penquin* while trying to clear Calcasieu Pass, Louisiana on January 30, 1865. This versatile ship - the

former British ship *City of Dundee*, the former war ship U.S.S. *Granite City*, and blockade runner *Granite City* - broke apart off Velasco, Texas.

**Source:** <http://www.navsourc.org/archives/09/86/86287.htm> (accessed February 17, 2013); Stephen R. Wise, *Lifeline of the Confederacy* (Columbia, South Carolina: University of South Carolina Press, 1988), p. 234, 242, 271, 303.

**Editor**

**\*\*\*\*\* Official Records \*\*\*\*\***

Have you ever wondered who was responsible for *The War of Rebellion: Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies* (ORA)? Or *The Official Records of the Union and Confederate Navies in the War of the Rebellion* (NOR)? Last issue, I provided some information about the Official Records that was a little short of the total information available about that massive undertaking.



**Senator Henry Wilson** of Massachusetts was Chairman of the Committee on Military Affairs during the Civil War. In 1864, Wilson drafted a bill that proposed that military reports and correspondence be collected and published as a record of the war. The collection began almost immediately after Lee's surrender when Henry Halleck had Confederate records brought to Washington and combined with War Department records. A staff continued to collect and process documents for the next decade; however, Congress had not appropriated funds to publish the growing number of documents.

On March 4, 1873, Henry Wilson became vice president in Grant's second administration. Wilson used the influence of his office to encourage the project that he had proposed over a dozen years before. Forty-seven volumes were set in type by the end of 1877. By 1901, the U.S. Government Printing Office had published 130 volumes complete with a 1,248 page index accompanied by an official atlas. It was thought, at the time, that the 140,000 pages contained all known information available about the war.

U.S. Navy officials had complained for a decade that the undertaking had ignored huge amounts of naval reports. On July 31, 1894, Congress approved the publication of *The Official Records of the Union and Confederate Navies in the War of the Rebellion*. The first NOR was published by the end of 1894 and the last volume in 1917.

Henry Wilson, who died in November 1875, should best be remembered for the ORA.

Needless to say, the Official Records are a cornucopia of information. They are not; however, the end-all for a search of Civil War reports. Dr. Wayne K. Durrill, Professor in History Department at the University of Cincinnati reminded me that the OR contained mostly senior

officer reports. The National Archives, in its RG 393 Continental Commands, stored the ground level reports from captains and lieutenants. **ROAD TRIP!**

**Source:** Webb Garrison, *The Amazing Civil War: A Fascinating Collection of Little-Known Facts of the Four Year Conflict that Changed America* (New York; MJF Books, 1998) p. 32-39.; Wayne K. Durrill, e-mail to author, May 1, 2012.

**Editor**

**\*\*\*\*\* February Program \*\*\*\*\***

## **The Adventure of Discovery, or Why We Don't Know What We Think We Know About the Civil War**



Source: <http://www.ourstate.com/civil-war/> (accessed January 18, 2013).

**Phillip Gerard** provided a most interesting look at the articles he had written for the *Our State* magazine. Unlike many Civil War historians who examined the generals, the political leaders, and the battles; Gerard examined a large number of North Carolina's men and women who lived during this war. These were people who endured unimaginable hardships and stresses. Their experiences molded them into either survivors or casualties – living or dead. Gerard used primary source letters and diaries to feel and to relate the thoughts of those who encountered the hardships on the battlefields, in the camps, on the farms, and in the towns. "When This Cruel War Is Over" was more than a song to those

who experienced those years; those experiences were what Gerard sought to share as he wrote their stories.



The Civil War began long before the guns fired at Fort Sumter. The two divergent economies and societies that developed in the North and South made conflict a likelihood beginning in the early 1830s. While North Carolina was an agrarian society, it was unlike many states in the lower South. Many of its small farmers and working-class whites favored continuation of the Union. The rush to arms carried many reluctant Tar Heels to the defense of their state. After the

initial 1861 blush of succession, many had second thoughts about the war and where it was leading the people of North Carolina.

Phillip also shared with us what he had thus far learned from his extensive research: Firstly, all that we may have learned about the war was not always as it has been presented. War brought out the best and the worst of man: All of war was not glorious, all slaves and poor whites were not unintelligent, all men were not brave and honorable, all men did not experience war in the same manner. Secondly, knowing events for certain was not always possible. Conjecture was always a part of the letters and diaries, the writers did not know the ending of their stories.

Gerard related how one of the most beneficial occurrences about having written these articles was the feedback he had received from readers. Some pointed out some potential errors and others provided additional details which reinforced the story. Phillip said that eventually all stories would be combined into a single volume, one that contained updated details learned since their first publication.

The *Our State* articles were written in the present tense. Gerard wrote about men and women such as peace advocate William H. Holden, Governor Zeb Vance, Julian Leinbach 26<sup>th</sup> NC Regiment bandsman, Dr. John D. Bellamy and slavery in North Carolina, Confederate officer William Henry Speer, Abraham Galloway - a Cape Fear slave's quest for freedom, Union POW Benjamin F. Booth, farm wife Nancy Leigh Pierson Bennett and her day in history, Wilmington Doctor Thomas Fanning Wood, George Pickett and the Kinston hangings, William Holland Thomas and the Cherokees. Their stories have been written and many others will be written before the end of the sesquicentennial.

Who was Gerard's favorite character? Of the many hundreds he had met through his research, Julian Leinbach of the 26<sup>th</sup> NC Regimental band (second from the left) was his favorite. Leinbach's diary was informative about just what Leinbach thought of the war and his life. See "Battle of the Bands" in the January 2012 issue ([www.ourstate.com/archives/](http://www.ourstate.com/archives/)) to learn more about Leinbach and why he may have held such a fascination for Phillip.



\*\*\*\*\* Trivia Question for March \*\*\*\*\*

**1 – William S. Ashe was the president of the Wilmington & Weldon Railroad when the Civil War began in 1861. What happened to Ashe on the night of September 12, 1862?** On Friday, September 12, 1862, Ashe was heading in the direction of his home, 19 miles north of Wilmington. He hoped to reach the turnout at North East before the southbound mail train passed. At 7:30 P.M., within a quarter miles of the turnout, his handcar made contact with the mail train. The others on the handcar escaped, but Ashe was mutilated. The locomotive,

recently purchased from the Seaboard & Roanoke RR, had been put in front of the mail train because of mechanical problems. Neither the locomotive nor the handcar had a light.

**Source:** James C. Burke, *The Wilmington & Weldon Railroad in the Civil War* (Jefferson, North Carolina: McFarland & Company, 2013), p. 98.

**2 – The W&WRR began operation in May 1840 with 160½ miles of track from Wilmington to Weldon in Halifax County. What distinction did the railroad hold when it began operation?** It was the longest railroad in the world when it began operation.

Source: [http://thomaslegion.net/wilmington\\_and\\_weldon\\_railroad\\_history.html](http://thomaslegion.net/wilmington_and_weldon_railroad_history.html) (accessed February 17, 2012).

**3 - During the Civil War, the W&WRR was a 160½ mile railroad that was subject to attack from Union occupied eastern North Carolina. Who was responsible for repairing any damages inflicted by Union raiding parties? Colonel Sewall L. Fremont** was the chief engineer and superintendent of the Wilmington & Weldon before and during the war. Fremont was a West Point engineering graduate and a pre-war friend of William T. Sherman. Early in the war, Fremont had joined the Confederate Army and directed the construction of many fortifications in the Cape Fear region. It was Fremont who named the earthworks at Federal Point after Charles Frederick Fisher; the commander of the 6<sup>th</sup> North Carolina Infantry who had died at the Battle of Manassas on July 21, 1861. Fremont and Fisher had been pre-war friends; Fremont was chief engineer of the W&WRR and Fisher was president of the North Carolina Railroad.

Fremont's railroad experience made him more important to the Confederate cause while with the W&WRR than as an army engineer.

On July 23, 1863, Fremont corresponded with General W.H.C. Whiting about a Union raid that had been made on Rocky Mount, Tarborough and possibly Wilson. A paragraph from that letter made clear the importance of the W&WRR to the cause, "It seems to me, general, that the time has fully arrived for the Government to take some efficient steps to defend the line of this road, at all times so important to the defense of the country, and especially the Atlantic frontier, is to be maintained."

**Sources:** Chris E. Fonvielle, Jr., *The Wilmington Campaign: Last Rays of Departing Hope* (Campbell, California: Savas Publishing Company, 1997), p. 37-38; Letter to W.H.C. Whiting, July 21, 1863, United States War Department, *The War of Rebellion, A Compilation of the Official Records on the Union and Confederate Armies*, 128 vols. (Washington, D.C., 1880-1901), Series 1 – Vol. 27 (Part II), p. 975.

**4- Who were the Heroes of America and what part did they play in North Carolina during the Civil War?** In 1860-1861, North Carolina's people were in a divided state on the question of separation from the Union. The large land owners and pro-secession politicians were able to call a convention and successfully lead North Carolina from the Union; however, there remained a large number of men who opposed this action. The **Heroes of America** led active opposition the Confederate government and sought to disrupt their actions in North Carolina. Concentrated in the nine Piedmont counties known as the Quaker Belt, the men organized in a

style of the Freemasons with rituals, signs, countersigns, special handshakes, and oaths of loyalty. They encouraged spies, guided escaped Union POWs, fellow Unionists, and run-away slaves to safety in eastern Tennessee and Kentucky. Made up of mostly working-class whites and small farmers, the Heroes resisted conscription which gave exemptions to slave owners. The Heroes spread east to Raleigh, Goldsboro, Kinston, and the coastal area.

There was evidence that the Heroes were active in the Wilmington area. The State built a saltworks on Masonboro Sound and many of the positions were filled by men from the Piedmont. General W.H.C. Whiting believed that most of these men were members of the Heroes of America and that they should be given to the army. Whiting felt that there was no trust to be given to what he saw as treasonous men.

The “peace movement” favored by the H.O.A. continued throughout the war, but the efforts of the Confederate government to end their pacifist activities never lessened. The people of North Carolina found themselves involved with a “rebellion within a rebellion.”

**Source:** Phillip Gerard, “A Separate Peace,” *Our State*, November 2011; Gordon B. McKinney, *Zeb Vance: North Carolina’s Civil War Governor and Gilded Age Political Leader* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2004), p. 158, 160, 224-225, 227, 232.

**5 – What rolls did the *North Carolina Standard* and *Fayetteville Observer* play during the Civil War.** These were newspapers that editorialized the opposing political views of their editors.

**William H. Holden**, editor of the *North Carolina Standard*, was a supporter of the peace movement. He had long been known as a strong supporter of the common folks of the state. Holden was accused of being a support of the Heroes of American; he was also the peace candidate for governor against Zeb Vance in 1864. Holden drew controversy like a lightening rod drew bolts from the sky. In September 1863, Georgia troops passing through Raleigh made Holden pay when they attacked the offices of Holden’s newspaper.

**Edward J. Hale**, editor of the *Fayetteville Observer*, was a strong pro-Confederate supporter who clashed with anyone who voiced opinions dissimilar to his views. The *Fayetteville Observer* had much influence within the state and the South before and during the Civil War. Per Phillip Gerard, Hale’s actions made his paper one of three targets that William T. Sherman wanted to destroy when he and his army entered North Carolina. The others were the Confederate Armory at Fayetteville and Joe Johnston’s army. Sherman destroyed the newspaper plant in March 1865. The pen may have been mightier than the sword, but Sherman burnt the pen, paper and presses.

**Sources:** Gordon B. McKinney, *Zeb Vance: North Carolina’s Civil War Governor and Gilded Age Political Leader* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2004), p. 89-369,



# The *RUNNER*

## Newsletter of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Editor **Tim Winstead**

\*\*\*\*\* February 2013 \*\*\*\*\*

Our next meeting will be **Thursday, 21 February 2013** at St. Andrew's On-the-Sound (101 Airlie Road). Social Hour begins at 7:00 p.m., meeting at 7:30. *Note: This is a change from our normal second Thursday meeting date.*

Please join us as we continue our Program Year with our second meeting of 2013. Visitors are always welcome. Each of our speakers is selected to enlighten, entertain, and add to our knowledge of Civil War history. This serves our purpose of encouraging education and research into that historic conflict.

\*\*\*\*\* February Program \*\*\*\*\*

### The Adventure of Discovery, or Why We Don't Know What We Think We Know About the Civil War



Source: <http://www.ourstate.com/civil-war/> (accessed January 18, 2013).

The observance of 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the American Civil War has led to an enormous number of articles being written about a wide variety of subjects. The people of North Carolina have been particularly fortunate that a writer has skillfully undertaken the task of examining life in this state during that war. **Philip Gerard**, author and historian, has begun a series in *Our State* magazine in which he has tried to capture what was “the best and worst of the human spirit” caused by the events of those years.

**Phillip Gerard** is a professor and chairman of the Creative Writing department at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. A native of Newark, Delaware, Gerard holds a B.A. in English and Anthropology (Phi

Beta Kappa) from the University of Delaware and a M.F.A. in Creative Writing from the University of Arizona. His work experiences include stints as a bouncer, a musician, a freelance writer, a newspaper

reporter, and as a college teacher. His publications are both fiction and nonfiction and include *Creative Nonfiction: Researching and Crafting Stories of Real Life, Secret Soldiers, Writing a Book That Makes a Difference, Desert Kill, Cape Fear Rising, and Hatteras Light*.

“I’ll talk about the experiences of doing the *Our State* pieces and some of the surprises that researchers like me discover – how the war, especially in NC, turns out to be much more complicated and many-faceted than our schoolbooks told us.”

Please join us on **February 21<sup>st</sup>** for what promises to be a most interesting meeting of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table.

**Editor**



**Phillip Gerard**

**\*\*\*\*\* Fort Anderson January 10, 2013 \*\*\*\*\***

It was early January in North Carolina and **Ed Bearss** (pron: **bars**) was making his annual trek to speak to many Round Tables throughout the state. He spoke to the BCWRT on January 9<sup>th</sup> – he then made his way to round tables in Pinehurst, Greensboro/Burlington, Raleigh, Tarboro, and New Bern. His schedule would have been difficult for anyone, but Ed, who was born on June 26, 1923, was just getting warmed up for a new year.

I will not tell you about Edwin Cole Bearss other than to say that he is “THE MAN” among Civil War Historians. I will refer you to an article that appeared in the *Smithsonian* magazine in 2005 - <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/people-places/bearss.html?c=y&page=2>.

Many of our members visited with the Brunswick Civil War Round Table to hear Ed speak on Wednesday night, January 9<sup>th</sup>. A lucky few were able to accompany Ed and a small group on a walking tour of the extended fortifications of Fort Anderson from the state site onto private lands bordering the main fort. Thanks to the generosity of David Sprunt and his family along with coordination by Dr. Chris Fonvielle and Brunswick Town/Fort Anderson Historic Interpreter Jim McKee, a hardy few accompanied Ed along the fortifications that extended from Fort Anderson to Orton Pond.



Connie Hendrix, Ed, Linda Lashley



Ed, Tim Winstead

I cannot speak for Connie or Linda, but for me, it was an *amazing* morning.

Editor

**\*\*\*\*\* Endor Iron Furnace \*\*\*\*\***

Restoration work on Lee County’s 150 year old Endor Iron Furnace will begin sometimes during 2013. Work will probably take a decade, but an important part of Lee County’s history will be preserved for future generations. The sagging industrial plant restoration will become the center piece for a 400 acre recreation area. Initial work will be to stabilize the furnace system and to provide access to the site on the Deep River.

The site was built about 1862 to supply the Confederacy with pig iron from the iron ore deposits that were available in the area. The furnace was built by Wilmington businessmen John and Donald McRae, and John W.R. Dix. Profitable until the end of the war, the furnace ceased production in the 1870s.

**\*\*\*\*\* Trivia Question for February \*\*\*\*\***

- 1 – Who founded the *Our State* magazine? When?
- 2 – Who was Alexander Davis Betts?
- 3- When was the last case of yellow fever in the United States?
- 4- Who discovered how yellow fever was transmitted?
- 5 – Where can the inscription *PRO ARIS ET FOCIS* be found in Wilmington?

**\*\*\*\*\* Member News \*\*\*\*\***

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

- 1 – Welcome to new members of the CFCWRT: **David Rice, Robert Royce, and Tom Taylor.**

2 – **Happy Valentine’s Day** to all members, their families, and our friends.

3 - If anyone is interested in researching his/her ancestral roots to find his/her Civil War ancestry, the Old New Hanover Genealogical Society will host Joe Sheppard, research librarian for the North Carolina room of the main New Hanover County Public Library. On **Jan. 26, 2013**, Joe will give a presentation on “Advanced Research” at the “Landfall branch” of the public library 1241 Military Cutoff. Joe will begin his presentation at 1:30PM sharp. You do not have to be a member to attend. You will be skipping over the very basics of research, but that is relatively simple and can be easily picked up later. If interested, please contact the “ONHGS” historian, our own CFCWRT member, **Linda Lashley** for more details (395-0012).

4 – **8th Annual Civil War Living History Weekend - Sat. Feb. 9 10:00 am – 5:00 pm**  
**Sun. Feb. 10 10:00 am - 2:00 pm** (museum remains open until 5:00 pm)

Free and open to the public

Reenactors, **Battle of Forks Road** skirmish, sutlers, period music, and more during the 8th Annual Civil War Living History. The weekend’s activities will also include an opening ceremony on Saturday, February 9, 2013. **Cameron Art Museum** commemorates the 148th anniversary of Battle of Forks Road on the museum's historic site with two days of family fun interacting with Confederate, Union and U.S. Colored Troop re-enactors. The weekend features infantry and artillery demonstrations, battle sites tour, music of the era, artisan demonstrations, period games and art activities for families. For updates, schedule and more information visit our new site: [www.battleofforksroad.org](http://www.battleofforksroad.org). - **Linda Lashley**

5 – **148<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Fall of Fort Anderson – February 16 & 17, 2013**. Check the Brunswick Town/Fort Anderson site for additional information:

<http://www.nchistoricsites.org/brunswic/brunswic.htm>

6 - Interested in philately in addition to your Civil War obsession? The third set of Civil War stamps issued by the United States Postal Service will commemorate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversaries of the **Battle of Vicksburg** and the **Battle of Gettysburg**. 2011: Battle of Fort Sumter and Battle of First Bull Run; 2012: Battle of New Orleans and Battle of Antietam. – **Bruce Patterson**

\*\*\*\*\* **February 1863** \*\*\*\*\*

The economic blockade of the South during the American Civil War started to really hit home by February 1863 with the South's currency worth just 20% of its pre-war value. The weather meant that important military issues were kept to a minimum though the intelligence network of the Army of the Potomac was completely revamped.

February 1<sup>st</sup>: The dollar used in the Confederacy was worth just 20% of what it did when the war broke out. Such was the success of the Federal Navy in the rivers of the South that a decision was taken to remove any stores of cotton away from rivers. Any cotton that could not be moved was burned to save it falling into the hands of the Union.

February 2<sup>nd</sup>: Grant started his attempt to build a canal around to the rear of Vicksburg using the Yazoo River as his source of water. By doing this, Grant's men would avoid the Confederate artillery stationed in Vicksburg.

February 3<sup>rd</sup>: The French continued to offer attempts at mediation. Secretary of State Seward met the French ambassador in Washington DC to discuss such a move.

February 5<sup>th</sup>: The British government announced that any attempts at mediation would result in failure. Their lack of action was in stark contrast to the pro-active stance of the French government.

February 6<sup>th</sup>: The Federal government officially announced that it had rejected French offers of mediation.

February 9<sup>th</sup>: General Hooker started his reorganisation of the Army of the Potomac. He decided that his first task was to improve its intelligence gathering. On his arrival at his headquarters he found no document that could inform him about the strength of the Army of Virginia. General Butterfield wrote: "There was no means, no organisation, and no apparent effort to obtain such information. We were almost as ignorant of the enemy in our immediate front as if they had been in China. An efficient organisation for that purpose was instituted, by which we were so enabled to get correct and proper information of the enemy, their strengths and movements."

February 11<sup>th</sup>: Hooker then turned his attention to the conditions his men lived under, which he linked to the high levels of desertion. New huts were built that could cope with the winter weather and fresh fruit and vegetables were provided. Medical facilities were also improved. The impact on desertions was dramatic and even men who had deserted returned to their regiments.

February 12<sup>th</sup>: The Union's naval blockade had a disastrous impact on the South's economy and the river patrols of its flat-bottomed boats were equally as successful. However, the sheer size of the fleet operating meant that the Federal government faced a supply problem no one had encountered before. It was estimated that the North had to supply 70,000 bushels of coal each month to keep the fleet on the move. Food and water could be obtained locally but there was little chance of getting hold of large quantities of coal.

February 13<sup>th</sup>: General Hooker made what was to prove to be one of the most important changes to the Army of the Potomac during the war. Scattered cavalry units were amalgamated into one corps. No one was immediately appointed to command it as no army commander had ever had access to one concentrated cavalry unit. Hooker was willing to wait to appoint the most suitable candidate – he later selected General Stoneman to command it.

February 16<sup>th</sup>: The Senate passed the Conscription Act, which was passed, as volunteers for the Union army were not forthcoming.

February 22<sup>nd</sup>: Hooker believed that his changes were starting to have an impact as the levels of scurvy and intestinal diseases dropped quite markedly.

February 25<sup>th</sup>: Congress authorised a national system of banking.

Source: <http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/february-1863-civil-war.htm> (accessed January 21, 2013).

\*\*\*\*\* February 1863 cont'd \*\*\*\*\*



For the men of the Union blockading fleet, their job to prevent blockade runners from slipping past them was not as easy as many supposed. Imagine the frustration of Acting Master Richard Hustace as he reported the appearance of an apparition that had moved out of the darkness of a February evening.

U.S.S. Monticello,

*Off Western Bar, Cape Fear River, February 25, 1863*

SIR: I have to report that last night at 7 o'clock I left this ship in the first cutter with a crew of eleven men and proceeded in for the Western Bar for the purpose of performing picket duty. I arrived at the bar at 8:15 o'clock, sounded in and out over the bar and across the channel, and at 9 o'clock took my position on the north side of channel and anchored in 12 feet of water. Sea was smooth and weather cloudy. Near midnight the weather became clear and I was enabled to take the following bearings: Bald Head lighthouse about E.S.E. and Fort Caswell nearly E. by N.  $\frac{1}{2}$  N. after 1 o'clock the weather became misty to southward and westward and along the land, rendering it difficult to see objects at any distance. At 3:30 a.m. a steamer suddenly hove in sight between me and the land, coming out from under the cover of the woods; she passed between the boat and the shore, going at full speed. The breaking of the surf on the beach drowned the noise of her paddles. I had to get underway in order to bring the gun to bear on her, but before I could do that she was some distance up the channel. I immediately made the signal of a vessel having succeeded in passing me. I proceeded in toward the fort and got soundings at 8, 9, and 10 feet, where the steamer had passed. She was hailed from the shore, but I did not hear the answer returned. She stopped on the Rip long enough to take a pilot, as I supposed, then stood in and was soon out of sight. Tide had been running ebb three hours when steamer ran in. steamer was very long, low hull, side-wheels, short smokestack, no masts. Fort Caswell beat to quarters when I made signal to the blockaders.

Yours, respectfully,

RICHARD HUSTACE,  
*Acting Master, U.S. Navy*

Lieutenant-Commander D.L. BRAINE,  
*Commanding U.S.S. Monticello*

Source: ORN, Series 1, Volume 8, pg 573

If you are not familiar with the *Official Records of the Union and Confederate Navies* and the *Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*, these records are a great research tool that were compiled between 1881 & 1901 and consist of 128 volumes. They are available on-line and can be searched with simple, boolean or proximity queries. One on-line source is Cornell University's "Making of America" site: <http://ebooks.library.cornell.edu/m/moawar/index.html>

Editor

\*\*\*\*\* January Program \*\*\*\*\*

## Yellow Fever: "Wagon-load of Corpses"



David Rice

In August 1862, Wilmington was the largest city in North Carolina. Blockade runners had discovered the geographic advantages – two widely separate inlets into the river - that the mouth of the Cape Fear River afforded those who sought to avoid the Union blockade. These blockade runners brought in essential military supplies necessary for the survival of the Confederacy; they also brought in luxury goods that were in high demand. Soldiers, sailors, merchants, opportunists, scoundrels and adventurers were drawn to Wilmington because of the war – and the chance for



fame and fortune. More than 10,000 people lived in the increasingly busy and important port city.

**David Rice**, Director of the New Hanover County Health Department, shared with our members what else a runner may have brought in through the blockade. While there was speculation that there was sickness in Wilmington prior to the arrival of the blockade runner *Kate*, the ship's arrival on August 6, 1862 with sick crewmen among its complement boded ill for Wilmington and those who crowded its docks and

dwellings. Lewis Swartzman, a wood-and-coal dealer became the first recorded case of a death from yellow fever when he died on September 9<sup>th</sup>. Within a short interval, everyone who could escape the city departed to safer climes. The population fell to 3,000. Of those who stayed, 1,500 contracted the disease; approximately 700 died before the disease played out with the first hard frost. Many of the victims were buried in Oakdale Cemetery.

**David Rice** told of the doctors and clergy who remained in Wilmington and their struggles to meet the needs of those who could not flee. Dr. James H. Dickson, Rev. John Lamb Prichard of First Baptist Church, and Rev. Robert Brent Drane – Rector of St. James Episcopal Church gave their lives in service to their community. There was no cure for the disease; hence, the medical personnel could only keep the victim comfortable and the clergy could only pray

that the patient was strong enough to fight off the disease. A fatality rate of 40% was not uncommon during this period.

**Rice** finished his presentation by expanding his talk into an evolution of the Public Health Service in New Hanover County and in North Carolina. Wilmington native, Dr. Thomas Fanning Wood, led “an organized effort by society to protect, promote, and restore the people’s health.” Wood was not the only Wilmington doctor who championed a State Board of Health – Dr. Solomon Satchwell became chairman of a State Board of Health that was first organized in February 1877.

This was a most interesting talk by a speaker who understood the challenges faced by those who were in Wilmington in the fall of 1862.

Editor

NOTE: Additional information concerning the role and evolution of Public Health Services in Wilmington (and North Carolina) can be found in a paper written by Sharad J. Shah entitled “A History of Public Health in New Hanover County.” This paper can be accessed at <http://www.nhcgov.com/Health/about-us/Documents/Pub%20HI%20History.pdf>.

\*\*\*\*\* **Trivia Question for February** \*\*\*\*\*

**1 – Who founded the *Our State* magazine? When?** In 1933 during the depth of the Great Depression, Carl Goerch founded this magazine, then known as *The State*. Goerch, an eastern North Carolina newspaper man, had an idea that he believed would be important to North Carolinians – he wanted to share the stories of North Carolina’s industries, tourist attractions and lifestyles. From 2,500 copies in 1933, the magazine, now known as *Our State*, has grown to more than 150,000 copies today.

The promoter of all “things” North Carolina was a native of New York.

**2 - Who was Alexander Davis Betts?** The Rev. Alexander Davis Betts grew up in Cumberland County, but was a resident of Smithville when President Lincoln called for troops to bring the seceding Southern states back into the Union. Betts left a wife and four young children at home when he went to war with Company C, 30<sup>th</sup> North Carolina Regiment. Betts became chaplain of the 30<sup>th</sup> Regiment when he received his commission on October 25, 1861. Betts



was a 29 year old man who had been injured as a young boy. This injury had limited the physical labors he was able to perform.

Betts may have been physically challenged; however, he shared his men's hardships and he ministered to their needs until the end of the war. Afterwards, Betts returned home and preached to congregations for almost another half-century.

**3 - When was the last case of yellow fever in the United States?** According the David Rice, a traveler from Oakridge, Tennessee contracted the disease during a visit to the Amazon in 1996. From 1970 through 2010, a total of 9 cases of yellow fever were reported in **unvaccinated** travelers from the United States and Europe who traveled to West Africa (5 cases) or South America (4 cases). Eight (88%) of these 9 travelers died. There has been only 1 documented case of yellow fever in a vaccinated traveler. This nonfatal case occurred in a traveler from Spain who visited several West African countries during 1988.

Source: <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/yellowbook/2012/chapter-3-infectious-diseases-related-to-travel/yellow-fever.htm> (accessed January 22, 2013).

**4 - Who discovered how yellow fever was transmitted?** No one knew what caused the often-deadly yellow fever, but it occurred in epidemic proportions, with one person after another in a given area becoming sick. People feared the mysterious disease, until **U.S. Army physician James Carroll** endangered his own health in the name of science. On August 27, 1900, Carroll allowed an infected mosquito to feed on him. He developed a severe case of yellow fever but helped his colleague, **Walter Reed**, prove that mosquitoes transmitted the feared disease.

Source: [http://www.americaslibrary.gov/jb/progress/jb\\_progress\\_yellow\\_1.html](http://www.americaslibrary.gov/jb/progress/jb_progress_yellow_1.html) (accessed January 22, 2013).

**5 – Where can the inscription *PRO ARIS ET FOCIS* be found in Wilmington?** *For Alter and Home* is the inscription on the Confederate monument located on South Third and Dock Street. The monument has an interesting history and its location in the median has subjected it to several altercations with motor vehicles.



The monument was designed by Henry Bacon, of Lincoln Memorial fame, and sculpted by F.H. Packer. It was donated to the City of Wilmington in 1924 by Gabriel Boney.

Source: <http://cdm15169.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/search/searchterm/Monument> (accessed February 6, 2013).

## **The *RUNNER***

### **Newsletter of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table**

**Editor Tim Winstead**

**\*\*\*\*\* January 2013 \*\*\*\*\***

Our next meeting will be **Thursday, 10 January 2013** at St. Andrew's On-the-Sound (101Airlie Road). Social Hour begins at 7:00 p.m., meeting at 7:30.

Please join us as we continue our Program Year with our first meeting of the New Year. Visitors are always welcome. Each of our speakers is selected to enlighten, entertain, and add to our knowledge of Civil War history. This serves our purpose of encouraging education and research into that historic conflict.

**\*\*\*\*\* January Program \*\*\*\*\***

### **Yellow Fever: "Wagon-load of Corpses"**

Join us on January 10<sup>th</sup> as **David Rice** shares the story of the yellow fever epidemic that decimated Wilmington during the fall of 1862. Rice, who leads tours at Oakdale Cemetery, relates the experiences of many of the residents of this city during the time of "yellow jack."



**David Rice at Oakdale Cemetery**

**David Rice**, Director of the New Hanover County Health Department, is a 35-year health care professional who daily deals with infectious diseases that impact a community. His unique qualifications make his presentation a little different than just the historical facts that surround this facet of Civil War Wilmington.



**Yellow Jack**

### **Yellow Fever: “A perfect reign of terror...”**

Union-occupied New Bern had its own battle with “yellow jack” during the fall of 1864. A typical summer of heavy rains and high temperatures provided the perfect conditions needed for disease to flourish in and around the town and soldier camps. General Benjamin Butler was met by ‘an awful stench’ as he approached the town.

From the *Tryon Palace* Summer 2011 issue:

On provost duty in town, the men of the 15th Massachusetts remained busy trying to keep streets and sewers clean. When it came to odor, New Bern was fighting a losing battle. Strong southwest winds in August drove the waters of the river out, leaving extensive and smelly mud flats baking in the hot sun; a new embankment ordered by military authorities was being dug along the Neuse River, turning up and exposing large quantities of filth-saturated soil and adding to the panoply of unpleasant odors.

For the most part, these summer days passed slowly as soldiers coped with drills, duty and camp life, and townspeople labored under the ambivalence and uncertain loyalties that accompanied “enemy” occupation. Yet soldiers and citizens all shared one sentiment: as one chronicler of the 5th Rhode Island Heavy Artillery recalled, “The one desire of all grades of soldiers, and all classes of civilians seemed to be to get away from New Berne during the heated term.”

Just a few short weeks later, the formerly bustling town would resemble a scene from a horror novel. Day and night, haze and acrid smoke from numerous tar and pitch fires enveloped its streets, sending black columns skyward. Public life ground to a halt, businesses and churches closed their doors, family and friends abruptly stopped socializing. Parents died and children were left orphaned. Residents died alone in

their homes, their bodies lying unclaimed. Everyone who could leave fled, trying to stay ahead of a capricious enemy who struck with no mercy. “Yellow Jack” had arrived in New Bern and he was on a killing spree.

Nicknamed “Yellow Jack” for the yellow flag or “jack” flown by infected ships under quarantine, yellow fever is a viral illness transmitted to humans by the bite of the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito. To spread the disease, a mosquito has to bite a person already infected; when the mosquito bites and then infects another person, the disease is carried from human to human. As the number of bitten individuals multiplies, an epidemic is born.

Source: [http://www.tryonpalace.org/pdfs/palace\\_magazine\\_summer\\_2011.pdf](http://www.tryonpalace.org/pdfs/palace_magazine_summer_2011.pdf) (accessed December 28, 2012).

**\*\*\*\*\* Raffle Winners \*\*\*\*\***

**Raffle Master: Ed Gibson**

**Got extra books? Cleaning out your Library? Downsizing? Or just making room for more books?** If you have books, prints, or other items that you would like to donate to the CFCWRT raffle, see Ed Gibson at our next meeting.

**November Meeting:**

<i>Gods and Generals</i> (DVD)	-	Linda Lashley
<i>The Barefoot Brigade</i>	-	Clayton Ziggler
<i>War on the Waters</i>	-	Martha Watson
<i>Covered with Glory</i>	-	Martha Watson
<i>Gore Vidal</i>	-	Linda Lashley

**\*\*\*\*\* Trivia Question for January \*\*\*\*\***

- 1 – How is yellow fever spread?
- 2 – What is the suspected way that yellow fever arrived in Wilmington during the fall of 1862?
- 3 – Who was the first Wilmington victim of the yellow fever?
- 4 – When Isaiah Respass was on trial for treason in Richmond, his son, John R. Respass, was named acting Lieutenant Colonel of what organization? What was the defendant’s explanation of his son’s actions?
- 5 – After the war, Respass was sued by some business partners involved in a deal gone bad. What was Respass’ defense against his partner’s claims?
- 6 – The three oldest State Archives in United States are in which states?

**\*\*\*\*\* Member News \*\*\*\*\***

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

**1 – Happy New Year!!!!!!!** The New Year gives each of us a chance to reflect on the past and to look to the future. During the bleakest days of the Civil War Abraham Lincoln shared his hopes for the coming new year, “**We must think anew, and act anew.**” To the members and guests of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table, I hope that each of you is able to follow Abe’s advice.

**2 –** The following quests attended the December 13<sup>th</sup> meeting: **Carolyn & Bill Lewis, Marilyn & Ron Gunther, Clayton Ziggler, and Mary McLaughlin.** We hope each enjoyed their experience and hope that they will return soon.

**3 – Fort Fisher – January 19: Sheppard’s Battery: Defending the Left Flank,** Saturday 10 am - 4 pm. Fort Fisher's 148th anniversary program will focus on the Confederate defenders at Sheppard's Battery and around the "Bloody Gate" on the left flank of Fort Fisher. Civil War re-enactors will set up displays of camp life, and talk with visitors about the life of the Confederate infantry and artillery troops during the January 1865 campaign. Visitors will enjoy Civil War authors, artillery demonstrations, and infantry demonstrations. Admission is free, and open to the public.

**4 – Travel Opportunity!** The Civil War Round Table of Greater Boston announces their 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Battlefield Tour of great American Historical Sites. Tour guide, Dale Floyd, will lead a four day visit to Chancellorsville to commemorate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the battle that may have been Lee’s greatest triumph. The May 9-12, 2013 tour includes 3 nights lodging, the motorcoach, two boxed lunches, two evening meals, etc. Cost is \$555 (double room occupancy) and \$599 (single room occupancy). Contact David L. Smith: [cwrtmass@comcast.net](mailto:cwrtmass@comcast.net) or 781-647-3332.

Editor

\*\*\*\*\* **January 1863** \*\*\*\*\*

January 1863 saw arguably the most important non-political act of the American Civil War. On January 1st 1863 President Lincoln signed the Emancipation Declaration that abolished slavery throughout America. To many in the Confederacy, this was seen as an open attack on the perceived way of life in the South and any chance of peacefully bringing the American Civil War to an early end based on diplomacy vanished with the Emancipation Declaration.

January 1<sup>st</sup>: President Lincoln signed the Emancipation Declaration. Burnside accepted responsibility for the defeat at Fredericksburg and offered to resign. Lincoln told him to reconsider.

January 2<sup>nd</sup>: The Confederates suffered a defeat at Stone’s River, Murfreesboro. They lost a total of 14,560 killed, wounded and missing. However, the North also suffered major losses with 11,578 killed, wounded and missing. This, along with appalling weather that made the movement of troops and horses all but impossible, meant that The North could not follow up its success.

January 5<sup>th</sup>: The defeat at Murfreesboro gave the North control over much of Tennessee though Confederate raiding parties were a continual problem in the state.

January 10<sup>th</sup>: The French government made it clear that it was willing to mediate in the war should the government in Washington wish it to do so.

January 11<sup>th</sup>: A Union force commanded by General McClelland captured Fort Hindman on the Arkansas River. Nearly 4500 Confederate troops were taken prisoner.

January 13<sup>th</sup>: McClelland was ordered to blow up Fort Hindman as it had no strategic value to the Unionists.

January 16<sup>th</sup>: The Confederate commerce raider 'Florida' evaded a Union blockade and slipped out of Mobile Bay. In the next 18 months the 'Florida' sank fifteen Union ships, mostly off the waters of the West Indies.

January 19<sup>th</sup>: General Burnside made preparations to move the Army of the Potomac against Richmond.

January 20<sup>th</sup>: It soon became clear that the Army of the Potomac was in no fit state to campaign. Snow had turned to heavy rain and the barracking arrangements simply were not good enough. Many men fell ill due to the conditions they lived in; food was poor, water frequently unsanitary and the whisky that was provided of dubious quality. One senior Union officer wrote: "I have ridden through a regimental camp whose utterly filthy condition seemed enough to send malaria through a whole military department, and have been asked by one colonel, with tears in his eyes, to explain to him why his men are dying at a rate of one a day."

January 21<sup>st</sup>: A rainstorm that lasted 30 hours made a crossing of the Rappahannock River extremely hazardous. However, Burnside had to do this if he was to reach Richmond.

January 22<sup>nd</sup>: Burnside gave up on trying to cross the Rappahannock River as it had become too dangerous. Frustrated that he had not been given all the support he believed he should have got from his senior officers, Burnside decided to sack a number of them.

January 24<sup>th</sup>: Burnside met with Lincoln and gave him a list of those he wanted dismissed. Burnside told Lincoln if he did not get the support of the President, he would tender his own resignation.

January 25<sup>th</sup>: Lincoln removed Burnside from his command of the Army of the Potomac. The post was given to General Hooker. Burnside was very supportive of the President's decision as he had always felt that he was out of his depth and he offered Hooker his full support and loyalty.

January 26<sup>th</sup>: ‘Fighting Joe’ Hooker formally took charge of the Army of the Potomac. Whereas Burnside had never been confident about his ability to command a whole army of 100,000+ men, Hooker was fully confident about his own ability.

January 28<sup>th</sup>: Hooker was told that desertions in the Army of the Potomac were at 200 men a day, nearly 1500 a week or 6000 a month. Hooker had to stem this but it was a serious problem. He was also not popular with senior officers, as he had played a major part in undermining General McClelland’s position when McClelland was commander of the Army of the Potomac.

Source: <http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/january-1863-civil-war.htm> (accessed November 7, 2012).

\*\*\*\*\* **January 1863 Continued** \*\*\*\*\*

As the evening of December 30, 1862 settled onto the countryside outside of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, Union General William S. Rosecrans and Confederate General Braxton Bragg and their combined armies of 83,000 men faced each other in what would become a battle for control of central Tennessee. As a prelude to the battle that was to follow, the bands of both armies dueled as each played to drown out the other. When one band struck up “Home Sweet Home,” the mood of all present on that field changed as the other band joined in the refrain. For a short while, the men of both armies came together with thoughts of home and family.

At dawn on December 31, Braxton Bragg ordered the Confederates forward. The Battle of Stones River played out over two days. In total, more than 23,000 Union and Confederate soldiers were killed, wounded, missing or captured. After initial success, the Confederates were met with a withering artillery fire which blunted the rebel attacks. Bragg withdrew his battered army from the field after two additional days. Rosecrans had gained the victory.

A Confederate soldier wrote of the battle:

I am sick and tired of this war, and I can see no prospects of having peace for a long time to come, I don’t think it will ever be stopped by fighting, the Yankees cant whip us and we can never whip them, and I see no prospect of peace unless the Yankees themselves rebel and throw down their arms, and refuse to fight any longer.

The war would continue for more than two years before the men who survived would return to their “Home Sweet Home.”

Editor

Source: <http://www.nps.gov/nr/twhp/wwwlps/lessons/40stones/40facts1.htm> (accessed December 16, 2012).

\*\*\*\*\* **January 1863 Continued** \*\*\*\*\*

Wilmington’s own, **John Newland Maffitt**, made his presence felt by Union merchant shipping after he took the Confederate commerce raider, CSS *Florida*, past the blockading Union navy guarding Mobile Bay. Maffitt had previously made a daylight run into Mobile in September 1862 with an undermanned crew and with himself sick with chills and fever. The *Florida* was



badly damaged, however, Maffitt, with considerate assistance from Admiral Buchanan and Jefferson Davis, was able to refit and re-crew the *Florida* for its January 1863 return to the sea.

On January 11, 1863, Maffitt steamed the *Florida* out Mobile Bay, anchored off Fort Morgan, and waited for bad weather to cover his escape. The Federal fleet consisted of three ships in September had grown to thirteen in January. Maffitt waited for a violent storm and on the evening of January 15 the worsened conditions of a storm erupted to limit visibility. Maffitt waited until 2:00 a.m. and headed for the bar. The *Florida* buffed its way past several Federal ships. Only the fast U.S.S. *R.R. Cyler* realized the ship among them was not another Federal warship. The *Cyler* picked up the chase and closed the range on the *Florida*. Maffitt used the approaching darkness to elude the *Cyler* and gain the open seas.

From January 15 until August 23, 1863, the *Florida* waged commercial war on the Union's high seas commerce. Maffitt exhibited daring and skill during the *Florida's* first voyage. The *Florida* ranged the ocean from Mobile, north to the New York coast, south to Brazil, and east to Brest, France. Maffitt and his resourceful crew captured twenty-three ships with an estimated value in excess of \$3,727,000. By the time the *Florida* put into Brest for needed repairs, Maffitt's health was broken and he was replaced by Commander Joseph N. Barney.

Editor

Source: <http://cfcwrt.com/maffitt.html> (accessed December 12, 2012).

\*\*\*\*\* December Program \*\*\*\*\*

### **Three Times a Traitor: Mayor Isaiah Respass and the Civil War Occupation of Eastern North Carolina**

Eastern North Carolina residents, especially in those areas that bordered the coastal sounds, favored the Constitutional Union Party and its candidate, John Bell of Tennessee in the 1860 presidential election. Many were former Whigs who supported the ideas of the old Whig patriarch Henry Clay who had favored federally funded internal improvements that aided the growth of commerce and navigation. They believed that their rights and privileges, both commercial and property, would best be protected by the Constitution and within the Union. They adopted a "wait and see" attitude about president-elect Abraham Lincoln. Until the secession crisis culminated in the fall of Fort Sumter in Charleston, the pro-Union citizens in North Carolina had voted down the call for a secession convention. Once Lincoln called for volunteers to suppress the rebellion, there remained little hope that North Carolina residents would be able to keep tight the ties to the Union of their forefathers.



**Chris Meekins**

For those in attendance at our December 13<sup>th</sup> meeting, **Chris Meekins** laid out the remarkable story of a man who played, with cunning and resolve, the hand that he was dealt during the Civil War in Washington, North Carolina. **Isaiah Respass** (1805-1877), a ship-owner, a merchant, a lawyer, and mayor of Washington, was not a man adverse to the pursuit of commercial ventures. The 1862 arrival of the Union Army in Washington presented Respass with opportunities for risky ventures within the Union controlled area and also in the adjacent Confederate controlled area. Respass' pursuit of these opportunities often found him at odds with the government: Union and/or Confederate.

Isaiah Respass had been elected mayor of Washington, North Carolina during 1860. Respass found himself in an unusual position – as the winds of war quickly changed directions. After North Carolina had seceded, he had outfitted his nephews when they joined the Confederate Army. Respass allowed Confederate soldiers to be housed in buildings he owned in the town. When Union soldiers captured Washington during March 1862, Respass and several other town leaders met with the Union commander and supposedly toasted the return of Washington to the Union. What was Respass, a loyal Southerner who supported the Cause or a Unionist sympathizer?

Neither Confederate nor Union government was able to make up its mind about the true beliefs of Mayor Respass. First, the Confederates snatched Respass and sent him to Richmond where he stood trial for treason. After a short imprisonment, some cash payments and much legal wrangling between the Confederate and North Carolina state governments, Respass was freed on direction of Jefferson Davis, but he was told that he could not return to Union occupied territory. Shortly thereafter, Respass, while in residence in Confederate-held Pitt County, was grabbed by a Union raiding party – the charge: treason. Respass caught a break when Edward Stanley, a former North Carolina politician who had known Respass pre-war, returned to North Carolina as Lincoln's military governor. Not only was Respass released, he was named tax collector by Stanley. Controversy soon found Respass yet once more; he ran afoul of Union General Benjamin Franklin Butler after Respass had become involved in some questionable trading

practices between the Confederate and Union lines. It appeared that a fox, Respass, had raided the hen house controlled by an even slier fox, Benjamin Butler. While charges of treason faced Respass, Butler was in a dilemma for Union officers came forward and vouched for the true Union sympathies of the mayor. Respass even signed an oath of allegiance; however, Respass signed as Josiah instead of Isaiah – a small fact that only Butler noticed. Butler was busy with the war in Virginia and he needed to rid himself of the problem represented by the mayor. Butler declared Respass as being crazy and he send the mayor home. Respass was later detained by Union General Edward Potter, but he was released – maybe he was crazy.

How did Respass emerge from the war and his many troubles with the government? He resumed his trading activities much as if nothing had interrupted his normal activities. He filed a claim with the Southern Claims Commission to recover the value of a sawmill destroyed by Union troops during the war. His neighbors elected Respass to serve as their representative in the North Carolina Senate. Isaiah continued his business activities until his death in 1877.

“Isaiah Respass saw neither blue nor gray, he saw green.” With those few words, **Chris Meekins** summed up the subject of his presentation.

(NOTE: Chris warned us that the people of Washington, North Carolina took offense to any reference to that town as “Little” Washington. After all, Washington, NC was the first city named after George Washington).

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](mailto:tpwinstead@gmail.com). Please include “CFCWRT News” in your Subject line.

\*\*\*\*\* **Trivia Question for January** \*\*\*\*\*

**1 – How is yellow fever spread?** The yellow fever virus is spread by the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito.

**2 – What is the suspected way that yellow fever arrived in Wilmington during the fall of 1862?** On August 6, 1862, the blockade-runner *Kate* docked at the port of Wilmington. The *Kate* brought many much needed supplies that would fetch high prices for their owners. The *Kate* also carried a cargo that would exact a much higher price from those who lived in Wilmington during that fall.

**Source:** *Wilmington Star-News*, August 4, 2012.

**3 - Who was the first Wilmington victim of the yellow fever?** Lewis Swartzman, a 36-year-old German-born wood-and-coal dealer, died on September 9<sup>th</sup>. Swartzman’s business was located on the wharf near where the *Kate* docked. His was the first recorded death in the tally that would only abate after cold weather brought Wilmington release from the fever’s grip.

**Source:** *Wilmington Star-News*, August 4, 2012.

**4 - When Isaiah Respass was on trial for treason in Richmond, his son, John R. Respass, was named acting Lieutenant Colonel of what organization? What was the defendant's explanation of his son's actions?** John R. Respass had been named acting Lieutenant Colonel of the **1<sup>st</sup> North Carolina Union Volunteers** – a regiment of loyal Union men. Isaiah Respass stated that his son was a drunk.

**5 - After the war, Respass was sued by some business partners involved in a deal gone bad. What was Respass' defense against his partner's claims?** Respass was later sued by business partners in a deal gone bad – Respass' defense? He had been declared crazy by Benjamin Butler, and a crazy man was not responsible for debts in North Carolina courts.

*Si non e vero, e ben trovato* – If it isn't true, at least it's well told.

**6 – The three oldest State Archives in United States are in which states?** Alabama (1901), Mississippi (1902), and North Carolina (1903).

The State Archives of North Carolina collects, preserves, and makes available for public use historical and evidential materials relating to North Carolina. Its holdings consist of official records of state, county, and local governmental units, and copies of federal and foreign government materials. In addition to these official records are private collections, organization records, maps, pamphlets, sound recordings, photographs, motion picture film, and a small reference library. In all, the Archives houses over 50,000 linear feet of permanently valuable materials containing millions of individual items. Materials in the Archives collections constitute by far the most valuable assembly of manuscript records and North Caroliniana in existence. The State Archives is part of the Division of Archives and Records of the Office of Archives and History and the Department of Cultural Resources.

## The *RUNNER*

### Newsletter of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Editor **Tim Winstead**

\*\*\*\*\* December 2012 \*\*\*\*\*

Our next meeting will be **Thursday, 13 December 2012** at St. Andrew's On-the-Sound (101 Airlie Road). Social Hour begins at 7:00 p.m., meeting at 7:30.

Please join us as we continue our 2012 – 2013 Program Year. Visitors are more than welcome. Each of our speakers is selected to enlighten, entertain, and add to our knowledge of Civil War history. This serves our purpose of encouraging education and research into that historic conflict.

\*\*\*\*\* December Program \*\*\*\*\*

#### **Three Times a Traitor: Mayor Isaiah Respass and the Civil War Occupation of Eastern North Carolina**

The Burnside Expedition into eastern North Carolina in early 1862 secured a Union presence that posed a threat to the Confederate government for the rest of the war. Those people who lived in this Union occupied area were subjected to military and political pressures that forced many inhabitants to choose between loyalty to their state or to the Union. **Isaiah Respass**, mayor of Washington, North Carolina, was one of those inhabitants.

<insert image#1>  
**Isaiah Respass**

**Alex Christopher Meekins**, Correspondence Archives and Records Professional at the North Carolina Division of Archives and Records, will present an interesting story about **Isaiah Respass**, merchant, trader and politician. Respass found himself in a delicate position between those pressures that made this area a powder keg of charged emotions.

<insert image#2>  
**Chris Meekins**

**Chris Meekins** was born and raised in Elizabeth City, North Carolina. His interest in the Civil War began early – one great-great-grandfather was Unionist and another was Confederate, each died during the war as a result of their sympathies. Chris received a BA and MA in History from North Carolina State University. His Master's thesis concerned the Civil War in northeastern North Carolina and he later developed this thesis into *Elizabeth City, North Carolina and the Civil War: A History of Battle and Occupation*.

While researching other stories, Chris found bits and pieces about Mayor Respass that resulted in the presentation that we will hear on Thursday evening, December 13<sup>th</sup>.

Editor

**\*\*\*\*\* Raffle Winners \*\*\*\*\***

**Raffle Master: Ed Gibson**

**Cleaning out your Library? Downsizing? Or just making room for more books?** If you have books, prints, or other items that you would like to donate to the CFCWRT raffle, see Ed Gibson at our next meeting.

**November Meeting:**

<i>Forrest</i>	-	Judy Ward
<i>Grant</i>	-	Bob Cooke
<i>Civil War USA</i>	-	Martha Watson
<i>Lincoln</i>	-	Ed Gibson
<i>Stillness at Appomattox</i>	-	Gary Henderson
<i>Reveille in Washington</i>	-	Rick Morrison

**\*\*\*\*\* Trivia Question for December \*\*\*\*\***

**1 – Observe the photo graph below. What do you think this photograph represented?**

<insert image#3>

**\*\*\*\*\* Member News \*\*\*\*\***

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

**1 – A Christmas Holiday greeting goes out to all new and current members of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table. Thank you for your support and continued interest.**

**2 – Fort Fisher - December 6: Holiday Open House**, Thursday 10 am - 5 pm. Enjoy seasonal refreshments, decorations, and live music by area choral and instrumental groups throughout the day. Special one-day discounts in the Museum Shop. Sponsored by the Friends of Fort Fisher and the Fort Fisher Chapter No. 2325, United Daughters of the Confederacy. Please call the site at 910-458-5538 for more details.

**3 - GREAT DEAL! Christmas gifts for your Civil War buff or for yourself!** The Historical Publications Section of the N.C. Office of Archives and History announces a 60 percent to 70 percent discount of the popular and well-respected "**North Carolina Troops, 1861-1865: A Roster**" series, volumes 1 through 18. Regularly priced at \$50 per copy, volumes 1-15 are sale priced at \$15 per copy and volumes 16-18 are sale priced at \$20 per copy.

**NOTE:** Ansley Wegner's *Phantom Pain* is available for a sale price of \$2.50.

To purchase, please visit [online](#) or call [\(919\) 733-7442](tel:9197337442), extensions 0 or 225.

\*\*\*\*\* *Civil War Courts-Martial of North Carolina Troops* \*\*\*\*\*

Researching a Civil War ancestor is a challenging endeavor. As with all research into the past, surprises are possible with the turn of a page. One hopes that they find their ancestor with a distinguished record of service, but that is not always the case. The quest of research is to discover the facts; however, they play out in the drama of the Civil War. The quest for facts lead to many sources that aid in tracking an ancestor: *Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies* (and Navies), Regimental histories, memoirs, letters, websites (fold3), and countless books on the war. All sources provide facts that help determine an ancestor's path – the circumstances that lead to that path may be forever unknown – however, by studying the events surrounding the ancestor's path one may gain a better understanding of that individual and their fate.

Recently I received a book that provided much information concerning a subject that few people have researched in depth – desertions among North Carolina troops. **Aldo Perry**, a retired IBM Project Engineer, laboriously sifted through records at the National Archives in Washington, in the North Carolina State Archives, and in library collections throughout the nation. After twenty-five years of research, 35,000 note cards, and an initial 800 page manuscript, *Civil War Courts-Martial of North Carolina Troops* was published earlier this year.

Perry noted in his book's introduction , at least 160 of the trials of Tar Heel deserters ended in the sentence of death being carried out, making North Carolina the deadliest state for executions in United States wartime history. Perry asserted that discipline in the ranks was the factor that kept troops in the fight, loss of that discipline and the fabric of the army was weakened. Once that fabric had been weakened, the continued survival of the Confederate army and the Confederate States of America were in jeopardy.

*Civil War Courts-Martial of North Carolina Troops* provided an intimate look at the lives of hundreds of soldiers who lived, and more often died, after being court-martialed for desertion and other offenses. The 360 page book was arranged by the various regiments in which the soldiers served. Perry, with the detailed eye of an engineer, shared the stories and the emotions that controlled duty to country, to family, and to self-preservation. Concerning a mass execution

of members of the 58<sup>th</sup> and 60<sup>th</sup> North Carolina regiments approved by Braxton Bragg, an attending doctor recalled:

One other dreadful tragedy I will relate, and while it may reflect on our soldiers in some respects, it shows the great hardships they were compelled to endure under the most discouraging circumstances. . . . . When we were near Dalton Ga. sixteen men were condemned to be shot by order of General Bragg. One man was pardoned the day before the execution was to take place and one died in the hospital when he learned he was to be shot. The next day these fourteen men were executed . . . . . All of the army there was ordered out; the infantry formed a hollow square with cannon in the rear, while the Cavalry just back of them made such a strong line it was impossible for any one to pass. A long ditch had been prepared, and the rude coffins placed in front of it, with a stake by it, while a guard appointed to this duty marched each man to the stake & coffin prepared for him, and each man bound to his stake. The senior officer ordered all in position and to make ready, and Lt. Robert Clayton . . . .gave the order to fire. All were killed but two, as I found when I advanced to examine them. One had been shot in the side,- the other in the arm. I reported that two were alive and the guard advanced and fired killing them immediately. . . . Oh! what a Sunday was that! . . . .

While Perry provided numerous statistics in his Epilogue that supported his conclusions, the stories of the individual soldiers were what I found most compelling. I felt that this book was a reference material that was a good addition to my library.

Editor

Source: Aldo S. Perry, *Civil War Courts-Martial of North Carolina Troops* [Jefferson, North Carolina: McFarland & Company, 2012], 258-259.

NOTE: Mr. Perry has offered to send copies of his book to CFCWRT members who would be interested in the subject and in receiving a copy. Mr. Perry sought only to recover his cost of \$25.

\*\*\*\*\* **December 1862** \*\*\*\*\*

December 1862 witnessed the Battle of Fredericksburg. It was General Burnside's first major challenge after taking over from McClellan. The battle did not go in Burnside's favour and he lost far more men killed and wounded than the Confederates. The freezing weather killed many of the wounded. It also meant that little could be done at a military level.

December 1<sup>st</sup>: Lincoln addressed the 37<sup>th</sup> Congress in the capital and once again announced his intention of abolishing slavery within the United States.

December 7<sup>th</sup>: A battle fought at Prairie Grove left 167 Union soldiers dead, 798 wounded and 183 missing. The Confederates lost 300 killed, 800 wounded and 250 missing.

December 10<sup>th</sup>: The House of Representatives passed a bill to create the state of West Virginia.



December 13<sup>th</sup>: Burnside started his attack against Fredericksburg. However, the delay in doing so allowed Lee's men time to dig themselves into well-fortified positions both in the town and in the hills that surrounded it. All attacks were repulsed. An attack on Confederate troops dug in on Marye's Heights led to many Unionist deaths. By the end of the day the Army of the Potomac had lost 1200 killed, 9000 wounded and 2145 missing. Many of these were at Marye's Heights. The Confederates had lost 570 killed, 3870 wounded and 127 missing. Many of the wounded left out on the battlefield died of the cold during the night. Lee was heard to say: "It is well that war is so terrible; we should grow too fond of it."

December 14<sup>th</sup>: Burnside wanted to repeat the assault on Fredericksburg but was persuaded otherwise by his commanders in the field. The Army of the Potomac camped out along the Rappahannock River.

December 17<sup>th</sup>: General Grant's reputation was tainted when he issued General Order Number 11, which expelled Jews from his department because "they are a class violating every regulation of trade established by the Treasury Department."

December 20<sup>th</sup>: A Confederate force attacked a major Union supply base at Holly Springs, Mississippi. Over \$1 million in supplies was seized along with 1000 prisoners. Such a loss of supplies meant that Grant had to postpone his attack on Vicksburg.

December 23<sup>rd</sup>: Jefferson Davis names General Butler, formally in charge of New Orleans, an outlaw and an enemy of Mankind. Davis stated that Butler would be hanged if the Confederates captured him.

December 28<sup>th</sup>: A unit of Union troops captured a considerable amount of Confederate supplies at Van Buren, Arkansas.

<insert image#4>  
**Sinking of the USS *Monitor***

December 31<sup>st</sup>: Lincoln met Burnside to discuss what went wrong at Fredericksburg. The ironclad '**Monitor**' sank in a storm (off Cape Hatteras, North Carolina).

Source: <http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/december-1862-civil-war.htm> (accessed November 7, 2012).

\*\*\*\*\* **December 1862 Continued** \*\*\*\*\*

From the Naval History Blog: "**The loss of MONITOR off Cape Hatteras, 31 December 1862**"

On the morning of December 29, 1862, Commander John Bankhead, recently appointed commanding officer while Monitor repaired at the Washington Navy Yard, ordered his crew to prepare to put to sea. The weather finally clear, Monitor departed Hampton Roads

that afternoon in the tow of the sidewheel steamer Rhode Island to join the South Atlantic Blockading Squadron in offensive operations against Confederate ports.

After Monitor rounded Cape Hatteras at approximately 7:30 in the evening on the 30th, the starboard tow hawser gave way in reaction to the pounding waves and current rubbing the rope against the hull. At 9pm, Commander Bankhead signaled Rhode Island to halt her engines to better ride out the storm, but by this time water poured into Monitor at a pace greater than the bilge pumps could evacuate. A large steam pump arrested the rising water within the vessel, but the respite proved to be temporary. At approximately 10:30pm, the situation hopeless, Monitor asked that Rhode Island send rescue boats.

Bankhead ordered the remaining towline connecting his vessel to Rhode Island cut, but a wave swept two of the three volunteers for this duty overboard to their deaths before Master Louis Stodder hacked the hawser in two with a hatchet. Unfortunately, the severed hawser became entangled in one of Rhode Island's paddle wheels which left the large wooden ship drifting toward Monitor and threatening to crush one of the rescue boats. The rope that fouled the paddle wheel was cleared with an axe, but not before Rhode Island slammed into the first lifeboat and barely avoided a potentially calamitous collision with Monitor. The two ships got so close, that five or six sailors attempted to climb ropes to safety on Rhode Island; but only three reached their destination. Despite being damaged by Rhode Island, the first lifeboat took on survivors as the waves swept several of the ironclad's crew overboard to their death. The heavy seas had grown so violent that the second lifeboat nearly struck the first as it made the treacherous, now nearly half-mile, return passage.

Some of the sailors in Monitor heroically remained in the engine room stoking the boilers that powered the pumps as they fought a losing battle against the incoming water. At about midnight, the water extinguished the boilers and the last of the men inside scrambled to the top of the turret as a second lifeboat was taking on survivors and a third approached. Traversing the short distance to the lifeboats proved a treacherous task and several men lost their lives in the attempt. Some, perhaps unable to swim, petrified by the gruesome spectacle, or waiting for others to be saved first, continued to cling to the turret even as the third lifeboat filled to capacity. For those fortunate enough to make a lifeboat, the danger was far from over as several men lost their lives attempting to board the paddle wheel steamer. Rodney Browne, skipper of the second lifeboat, made one last gallant attempt to save those remaining on Monitor, but failed to reach the vessel before it disappeared beneath the waves around 2 o'clock on morning of the 31st. Despite the rough seas, his boat managed to survive the night and was rescued by another ship mid-morning.

In all, four officers and twelve sailors from Monitor lost their lives. The heroism of the volunteers from Rhode Island who manned the rescue boats kept the human toll from being much worse

Source: <http://www.navalhistory.org/2010/12/31/the-loss-of-monitor-off-cape-hatteras-31-december-1862>, (accessed November 26, 2012).

**\*\*\*\*\* The Angel of Marye's Heights – Fact or Fiction \*\*\*\*\***

On December 13, 1862 at Fredericksburg, Virginia, Burnside's Army of the Potomac assaulted the well entrenched troops of the Army of Northern Virginia. Confederate General James Longstreet had supposedly remarked that the defensive position of his Corps on Marye's Heights was so strong that a chicken could not cross field with impunity. The fourteen failed assaults made by the Union troops upon

Longstreet's men revealed the truth of the general's observation. As night fell, thousands of dead, wounded and stranded Union soldiers faced a cold night under the Confederate cannons and muskets.

The cries of the wounded were audible to all who were on the battlefield. There was no escape from the cries for aid, for water, for mercy. From the misery that lay upon that field, a story of the compassion of man for his fellow man unfolded. A Confederate sergeant in James Kershaw's brigade, Richard Kirkland, went among the Union wounded with water to quench their thirst and to show them compassion. Sergeant Kirkland remained among the wounded giving them comfort for an hour and a half.

The story of Kirkland's actions became widely known after James Kershaw wrote an account of the deed in 1880. A statue of Kirkland giving water to a wounded Union soldier was erected on the battlefield in 1963.

The story of the Angel of Marye's Heights may well have helped heal the wounds that remained after the war. Kershaw's article was published during a time when veteran groups and the population in general were trying to move toward reconciliation.

While researching the Battle of Fredericksburg and especially Kirkland's actions, I ran across an article that questioned whether the act had really taken place. The writer of the article used the OR to look for any reference to an act of compassion during the night of the 13<sup>th</sup>. Per that writer, Kirkland's name was not mentioned among fifteen officers and two orderlies cited for meritorious conduct in the 2<sup>nd</sup> South Carolina official reports. Douglas Southall Freeman failed to mention Kirkland in his writings, as did Shelby Foote. The entire article can be found at <http://cwmemory.com/2009/12/22/is-the-richard-kirkland-story-true/>.

Richard Kirkland died in action at the Battle of Chickamauga in the fall of 1863. He left no record of his actions on that cold night on December 13, 1862 (that I have found).

Was the Angel of Marye's Heights a myth? Read the entire article sited above and make your own decision. I have made mine. I may be a romantic, but I choose to doubt that anywhere in the OR was there an example of compassion being giving to the enemy. Giving aid to the enemy was something that was just not done in writing. The actual facts could have been much different from what was reported in those actual battle reports.

Editor

\*\*\*\*\* November Program \*\*\*\*\*

### **Phantom Pain: North Carolina's Artificial Limbs Program for Confederate Amputees**

While working in the North Carolina Archives Research Room, **Ansley Wegner** began looking into record boxes labeled "Artificial Limbs." The previously little studied records contained the names and county of residence of those North Carolina Confederate amputees who had taken advantage of a state program designed to return these men to a level of mobility that would allow them the "ability to earn a subsistence." Wegner's interest in those men and their experiences, both good and bad, led her to continue her research and to write *Phantom Pain*.

Ansley's presentation on November 8<sup>th</sup> gave insight into a little known facet of North Carolina's Civil War history. Civil War era medicine, while fraught with dangers of severe pain and infection, saved the lives of many victims of the Minié ball and rifled musket. Returning those amputees to as normal life as possible was another matter.

<insert image#5>  
**Ansley Wegner with *Phantom Pain***

From Ansley Wegner's North Carolina Time Traveler, November 7, 2012:

About 75 percent of the operations performed by surgeons during the Civil War were amputations. For those who survived amputation and the resulting infections, the pursuit of artificial limbs was natural.

Artificial legs, and to a lesser extent, arms, also helped the amputees get back to work in order to support themselves and their families. The United States government assisted Union amputees after the Civil War, but Confederate veterans were considered the responsibilities of the states.

North Carolina responded quickly to the needs of her citizens and became the first of the former Confederate states to offer artificial limbs to amputees. The General Assembly passed a Resolution in February 1866 to provide artificial legs to amputees. (Because artificial arms were not considered to be very functional, it was another year before the state offered artificial arms.) The state contracted with Jewett's Patent Leg Company, and a temporary factory was set up in Raleigh. During the five years that the state operated the artificial limbs program, 1,550 Confederate veterans contacted the state for help. (The state of North Carolina committed \$81,310.12 to this effort.)

<insert image#6>  
**Amputation Kit**

There are two Jewett legs that are on display in North Carolina. Robert Alexander Hanna's below-the-knee prosthetic is in the visitor's center at [Bentonville Battlefield](#) in Four Oaks. Hanna's family reported that he made a variety of peg-type legs to use on the farm so that he could save the manufactured one for special occasions. Samuel Clark received a Jewett leg for his above-the-knee amputation. His later pension indicated that he was unable to use the device. Clark's prosthetic leg remained in his family and is now on loan for the new exhibit called *North Carolina and the Civil War: The Raging Storm, 1863*, which just opened at the [North Carolina Museum of History](#) in Raleigh.

The records of the Artificial Limbs Department are available for research in the North Carolina State [Archives](#). And an index to all of the records, by the name of the veteran, is published in *Phantom Pain*.

Source: <http://nccultureblogger.wordpress.com/2012/11/07/north-carolina-gave-veterans-a-leg-to-stand-on/>, accessed November 23, 2012 and Wegner's November 8, 2012 presentation to the CFCWRT.

\*\*\*\*\* **One Pair of Shoes** \*\*\*\*\*

After Ansley's presentation, I asked her if she had ever heard the story of the two Confederate amputees who supposedly met in a general store while looking for shoes. One of them had lost his left leg, the other his right leg. As the story went, they both wore the same size shoe and they quickly realized that if they bought one pair of shoes, each would benefit from their joint purchase. For years afterwards, or as the story was related, they met at the same store on a mutually agreed upon date and made their frugal bargain.

I could not remember where I had heard this story, but I believe it was during a tour I took with Hood's Texas Brigade Association Re-activated (**HTBAR**) back in June. As I usually do. I did not remember the details because I had not written down the story. This was just one more incomplete story that I tucked into the recesses of my Civil War memory bank.

On November 15<sup>th</sup>, I attended presentations at Fort Fisher made by Medal of Honor recipient, Joe Marm, and Bronze Star recipient, Joe Galloway. Both men had been at LZ X-Ray in the Ia Drang Valley during November 1965 when American forces heavily engaged North Vietnam regulars in a three day battle. Their remembrances of their involvement were both riveting and extremely moving. If you saw the Mel Gibson movie *We Were Soldiers Once* ..... you were exposed to the story of this action. Joe Galloway, an embedded UPI reporter, and Hal Moore, the commanding officer of the American units, had written *We Were Soldiers Once ... and Young* that was used as the basis for the movie.

As Joe Galloway finished up his talk, someone asked him to tell the story about his great-grandfather. Joe, a native Texan, began his story. His great-grandfather, James Isham Galloway, had been a sergeant in Company C (Robertson County Five Shooters). 4<sup>th</sup> Texas Infantry, Hood's Texas Brigade. James had lost his left leg at the Battle of Second Manassas. After the war, James returned to Texas where he later became sheriff of Robertson County. Sometimes later, James Reid, formerly of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Louisiana, bought a ranch adjacent to Galloway's spread. Reid had lost his right leg at the Battle of the Wilderness.

According to Joe Galloway's family legend: Once a year, Galloway and Reid would go to the store, buy one pair of shoes, and return to their homes laughing about how they beat the storekeeper out of an extra pair of shoes.

As Paul Harvey said, that was the "rest of the story."

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](mailto:tpwinstead@gmail.com). Please include “CFCWRT News” in your Subject line.

**\*\*\*\*\* Trivia Question for December \*\*\*\*\***

**1 – Observe the photograph below. What do you think this photograph represented?** The image captured two Minié balls from opposite sides that collided head-on during the Battle of Fredericksburg during December 1862.

The Minié ball was designed to flatten upon contact with a target. If that target was a human, the individual was subjected to a wound that could shatter any bone it contacted as it passed within the body. The Minié ball and its ability to shatter bones made necessary the large number of amputations that took place during the Civil War.

Source: [http://www.civilwar.si.edu/weapons\\_minieball.html](http://www.civilwar.si.edu/weapons_minieball.html), (accessed November 27, 2012).



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# The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

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## The *RUNNER*

### Newsletter of The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Editor **Tim Winstead**

**November 2012**

Our next meeting will be **Thursday, 8 November 2012** at St. Andrew's On-the-Sound (101 Airlie Road). Social Hour begins at 7:00 p.m., meeting at 7:30.



Please join us as we continue our 2012 – 2013 Program Year. Visitors are more than welcome. Each of our speakers is selected to enlighten, entertain, and add to our knowledge of Civil War history. This serves our purpose of encouraging education and research into that historic conflict.

\*\*\*\*\* **November Program** \*\*\*\*\*

***Phantom Pain:***

***North Carolina's Artificial Limbs Program for Confederate Amputees***



**McDowell at Lane Street, Raleigh**

**Ansley Wegner** will join us on 8 November when she will present her findings about North Carolina's program to render assistance to men who had lost limbs during the Civil War. At a time when the state's economy was in shambles, North Carolina cared for its soldiers who had returned home with severe physical handicaps.

**Ansley's** presentation will examine the program to find amputees located throughout the state and subsequently, to supply and fit them with artificial arms and legs. She will relate amputation's place in Civil War era medical science as well as document the challenges the disabled men will face as they try to resume their post-war lives. After discussing the different type of artificial limbs available to amputees, Ansley will address the experiences of some amputees, positive and negative, and North Carolina's response to those experiences.



**Ansley Wegner**

**Ms. Wegner**, a native of Wilson, has worked in the Office of Archives and History since 1994. She graduated with BAs in Psychology and English from UNC Chapel Hill and worked in various jobs, including as a private investigator, before deciding to return to school. Ansley earned a master's degree in Public History from NC State and began her career in the State Archives search room. Wegner has been with the Research Branch since 2000. She is the author of two books, *History for All the People: One Hundred Years of Public History in North Carolina* and *Phantom Pain: North Carolina's Artificial-Limbs Program for Confederate Veterans*, and contributed to *The Governors of North Carolina* and William S. Powell's *Encyclopedia of North Carolina*. Wegner is the editor of *Carolina Comments*, the quarterly newsletter of the Office of Archives and History and writer of the North Carolina Time Traveler blog at <http://nccultureblogger.wordpress.com/author/ansleywegner/> and This Day in North Carolina History at <http://nchistorytoday.wordpress.com/>

I checked out both of the sites listed above and I found them very informative. Take a look.

Editor

\*\*\*\*\* **Claude-Etienne Minié & James Burton** \*\*\*\*\*

Nearly 75% of all surgeries performed during the Civil War were amputations. What factor had significantly resulted in this gruesome statistic?



In 1849, French army officer Claude-Etienne Minié developed an improvement that made it effective to utilize the improved range and accuracy of the rifle-musket. The Minié ball was a cylindrically shaped projectile that was of smaller diameter than the rifle-musket bore – when the weapon was fired, the hollow base expanded, gripped the spiral riflings, and the bullet spun down the length of the barrel - this spinning motion allowed the bullet to extend the killing range of an individual soldier.

In 1855, the United States military adopted an improved Minié ball developed by James Burton of the armory at Harper's Ferry. Burton's design simplified the manufacture; hence, the bullet was mass produced at a cheaper cost. The large caliber soft-lead design not only could kill at extended range, the lead projectile flattened upon hitting its intended target. If the Minié ball hit a bone in an arm or leg, the victim experienced a traumatic wound that effectively destroyed that section of bone. Civil War doctors, to save the soldier's life, were forced to amputate the limb above the impact area.

Unfortunately, technology had surpassed the tactics used in the early days of the war. At Fredericksburg, Virginia in December 1862, Burnside's massed troops made a series of frontal attacks against Lee's well entrenched army. The scene was best described as slaughter. Lee remarked that it was good that war was so horrible or man would grow fond of it. Lee, unfortunately for his soldiers, forgot the lesson of Fredericksburg and used the massed assault on July 3, 1863 to attack Meade's well entrenched troops at Gettysburg. Same tactic, same result – slaughter.

Claude-Etienne Minié and James Burton's contribution to the technology of warfare may have slipped from memory, but those who experienced amputation as a result of wounds would forever live with the consequence of Minié and Burton's developments.

Source: <http://www.history.com/topics/minie-ball> (accessed October 18, 2012).

#### \*\*\*\*\* Hood's "Lost Opportunity" – 2012 Update \*\*\*\*\*

On the night of November 29, 1864, Union General John Schofield's soldiers stealthily moved past Confederate General John Bell Hood's soldiers who were trying to block their path at Spring Hill, Tennessee. What followed this escape was one of the most controversial battles of the Civil War – Franklin, Tennessee. What followed the Battle of Franklin was a long and contentious argument about what had really caused Hood's "Lost Opportunity." How had an army and its train moved by a waiting adversary without detection? Who was to blame?

On October 19, 2012, The Battle of Franklin Trust Chief Operating Officer Eric A. Jacobson announced the discovery of several hundred documents of Confederate General John Bell Hood. The announcement was made at historic Carnton Plantation.

The discovery is noted as one of the most significant Civil War discoveries in recent history. The documents range from personal letters, letters regarding the war and military records, some signed by major historical figures like signed by Jefferson Davis, James Longstreet, Stonewall Jackson and Robert E. Lee.

Sam Hood, a collateral descendent of General Hood and a career student of the general's career, discovered the documents while conducting research for his upcoming book about his ancestor.

"I felt like the guy who found the Titanic, except for the fact everyone knew the Titanic was out there somewhere, while I had no clue that some of the stuff I found even existed," said Hood.

"General Hood is certainly no stranger to controversy," he added. "During his colorful military career and with historians ever since, he has remained a controversial and tragic figure of the Civil War."

General Hood has been long noted for the loss of Atlanta and what some consider reckless behavior at the Battle of Franklin after a lost opportunity for possible victory at Spring Hill. General Hood has often been the subject of ridicule and blame for the demise of the Confederacy in the West.

In light of this discover, new information may change the way General Hood has been portrayed

Hood is set for a spring release of his detailed point-by-point defense of General Hood's career.

Source: [http://franklinhomepage.com/battle-of-franklin-trust-announces-new-general-john-bell-hood-documents-discovered-cms-9810#.UIQsgW\\_A-So](http://franklinhomepage.com/battle-of-franklin-trust-announces-new-general-john-bell-hood-documents-discovered-cms-9810#.UIQsgW_A-So) accessed October 21, 2012).

**\*\*\*\*\* Raffle Winners \*\*\*\*\***

**Raffle Master: Ed Gibson**

**Cleaning out your Library? Downsizing? Or just making room for more books?** If you have books, prints, or other items that you would like to donate to the CFCWRT raffle, see Ed Gibson at our next meeting.

**October Meeting:**

<i>Marching Thru Georgia</i>	- Martha Watson
<i>The Crater</i>	- Richard Cowell
<i>The Blue &amp; the Gray</i>	- Ed Gibson
<i>In War and Peace</i>	- Tom Hodges
<i>Decisive Battles of the Civil War</i>	- Judy Ward
<i>Reville in Washington 1860-1865</i>	- Ed Gibson

**\*\*\*\*\* Trivia Questions for November \*\*\*\*\***

- 1 – When did the state government begin the limb replacement program?
- 2 – Who was George B. Jewett and what was his role in helping Civil War amputees?
- 3 - How much did the limb replacement program cost the state? How many veterans took part in the program?
- 4 – This Matthew Brady photograph was taken at Gettysburg around July 15, 1863. What do you know about the photograph and the identity of these men?



**Confederate POWs**

**5 – The Confederate government, whether provided by state or national quartermasters, sought to provide its soldiers two uniform changes per year. How long did these uniforms last during hard campaigning?**

**6 – Did the government of North Carolina ever provide clothing to Union prisoners held in North Carolina?**

**\*\*\*\*\* Member News \*\*\*\*\***

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

**1 – A warm welcome to all returning and new members of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table. Thank you for your support and attendance at our meetings.**

**2 – Friends of Fort Fisher Annual Meeting – November 10, 2012, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. Celebrate accomplishments & hear plans regarding the future of the historic site, Open to members, guests and the public.**

**3 - GREAT DEAL! Christmas gifts for your Civil War buff or for yourself!** The Historical Publications Section of the N.C. Office of Archives and History announces a 60 percent to 70 percent discount of the popular and well-respected "**North Carolina Troops, 1861-1865: A Roster**" series, volumes 1 through 18.

Regularly priced at \$50 per copy, volumes 1-15 are sale priced at \$15 per copy and volumes 16-18 are sale priced at \$20 per copy.

To purchase please visit [online](#) or call (919) 733-7442, extensions 0 or 225.

\*\*\*\*\* November 1862 \*\*\*\*\*

President Lincoln finally lost patience with General McClellan and he was relieved of his command in November 1862 and replaced by General Burnside. Lincoln had won the November election but not in a spectacular manner and he blamed the lack of any Unionist victory for this.

November 2<sup>nd</sup>: Grant started his campaign against Vicksburg. However, he faced a major problem in that his lines of communication were too extended and he needed to 'drop off' troops along his route to defend them. This meant that his force was weakened the nearer Grant got to Vicksburg.

November 4<sup>th</sup>: There was an election for Congress in the states loyal to the Union. The lack of any major Unionist victory was reflected in the results, which showed that the opposition picked up more support than Lincoln's government. In the Senate, Lincoln's supporters, who prior to the election had a majority of 41 seats, saw this slashed to the opposition having a majority of 10 seats.

November 5<sup>th</sup>: The blame for the government's poor showing in the election was blamed on McClellan and his lack of action. A decision was made to replace him.

November 7<sup>th</sup>: McClellan had placed his army less than ten miles from Lee's army. Lee's force was split in two and McClellan was confident that he could deal a mortal blow against the Confederacy. However, at the same time as he was finalising his plan of attack, he received two messages.

The first stated: "By direction of the President of the United States, it is ordered that Major General McClellan be relieved from the command of the Army of the Potomac, and that Major General Burnside take command of the army. By order of the Secretary of War."

The second from General Halleck stated: "General; on receipt of the order of the President, sent herewith, you will immediately turn over your command to Major General Burnside, and repair to Trenton, New Jersey, reporting on your arrival in that place, by telegraph, for further orders."

November 8<sup>th</sup>: General Butler was also relieved of his command of New Orleans. General Banks replaced him. No one was quite sure why Butler was replaced but it is thought that the political hierarchy in the capital believed that he was using his command to boost his own wealth.

November 9<sup>th</sup>: General Burnside officially took control of the Army of the Potomac. McClellan left the following day.

November 11<sup>th</sup>: Burnside immediately changed McClellan's plan of attack. He believed capturing Richmond was more important than taking on Lee's army. Burnside therefore ordered the Army of the Potomac to Richmond via Fredericksburg. He probably lost the best opportunity the North had of dealing the South a knockout blow by failing to take advantage of Lee's army that was still split in two.

November 14<sup>th</sup>: Burnside announced that he had reorganised the Army of the Potomac into three “Grand Divisions”. Each Division was assigned its own commander and tasked to defend either the left or right flanks or the centre of Burnside’s force.

November 15<sup>th</sup>: The newly reorganised Army of the Potomac started its march on Fredericksburg. The army marched away from where Lee had based his army. There was logic in Burnside’s strategy. By marching on Fredericksburg, his army was still close enough to Washington DC to protect the capital. He could also use the Potomac River to bring up supplies to his men via Acquia Creek. Richmond was also only 75 miles from Fredericksburg.

November 17<sup>th</sup>: An advance force of Burnside’s men reached the outskirts of Fredericksburg but could not cross the Rappahannock River to get into the town because they had no pontoons with them. The Unionists swiftly dealt with a brief Confederate artillery bombardment, which indicated to them that the town was poorly defended. However, Burnside had ordered that no Unionist unit could enter Fredericksburg until suitable communication lines had been established. This gave Lee the opportunity and time to send two divisions to the town.

November 20<sup>th</sup>: General Lee arrived in Fredericksburg.

November 21<sup>st</sup>: Burnside called on the mayor to surrender Fredericksburg. This was refused and non-combatants were sent from the town.

November 23<sup>rd</sup>: Bridging equipment finally arrived at Fredericksburg to allow the North to cross the Rappahannock River but in the course of five days, the Confederate force in the town had done a great deal to fortify it. Any attempted crossing would be fraught with difficulties.

November 27<sup>th</sup>: President Lincoln visited Burnside at his headquarters. Whereas Lincoln had despaired at McClellan’s lack of urgency, he expressed his reservations to Burnside about his commander’s desire to launch an attack against a well dug-in enemy while having to cross a river. However, Burnside was not willing to change his plan.

November 30<sup>th</sup>: ‘Stonewall’ Jackson arrived with his men at Fredericksburg bringing the total number of Confederate soldiers in the town to 80,000.

Source: <http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/november-1862-civil-war.htm> (accessed October 12, 2012).

\*\*\*\*\* October Program \*\*\*\*\*

## **Arms & Equipment of the North Carolina Soldier at Antietam 1862**

**Jeff Bockert**, Associate Curator of Education for the North Carolina Division of Historic Sites, shared his recent research into the logistical system that supplied North Carolina soldiers as they marched into Maryland where they were to face the Union army in September 1862. Jeff related how his research was a “work in progress” and he was still learning from the North Carolina Quartermaster records. He explained his “Material Culture” analysis of the Army of Northern Virginia as it invaded the North – the study of supply to determine a soldier’s effectiveness in battle, its impact on this campaign, and even its role in Lee’s decision to invade Maryland. He explained how he used analysis of Civil War

photographs of Tar Heel soldiers to determine how well the North Carolinians were supplied at this point in the war. By his analysis, he dispelled popular beliefs that early in the war North Carolina troops were well equipped to meet their foe in battle.



**Confederate troops in column  
Frederick, Maryland – September 12, 1862**

The North Carolina Depot System concentrated the output of 39 cotton mills and 9 woolen mills to the manufacture of uniforms by the Raleigh government’s contracted producers. The uniforms of 1861 were costly to produce due to their complex design and the amount of cloth needed in their manufacture. The North Carolina quartermasters redesigned the uniforms to require less material – they did not provide the same martial bearing as the 1861 uniforms, but they were serviceable. As the war progressed, the state government, led by the efforts of Governor Zebulon Vance, improved its ability to marshal resources.



**Jeff explains “Material Culture” Analysis**

North Carolina’s government improved its logistics performance to the position that they were able to supply troops from other states with uniforms.

**\*\*\*\*\* 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](mailto:tpwinstead@gmail.com). Please include “CFCWRT News” in your Subject line.

\*\*\*\*\* Trivia Questions for November \*\*\*\*\*

**1 – When did the state government begin the limb replacement program?** The program began in January 1866 when the legislature asked Governor Jonathan Worth to make a contract with a manufacturer of artificial limbs to supply the state's needs. A factory was established in Raleigh under the direction of George B. Jewett. The factory remained in operation until June 18, 1867 when demand had mostly been met. North Carolina's program was the first in the South and it served as a model for other states.

Source: <http://www.ncmarkers.com/Markers.aspx?ct=ddl&sp=search&k=Markers&sv=H-112%20-%20ARTIFICIAL%20LIMBS> (accessed October 17, 2012).

**2 – Who was George B. Jewett and what was his role in helping Civil War amputees?** Amputations accounted for roughly three-quarters of all battlefield surgeries during the Civil War, which meant that artificial limbs were much in demand after the bitter conflict's end. Captain Ahab-style wooden stumps were an easy fix, but they tended to severely curtail a man's productivity. Fortunately for the shattered nation, then, a Massachusetts linguistics professor named George B. Jewett enjoyed dabbling in prosthetics whenever he had a spare moment. His great innovation, patented just months after the Confederacy's surrender at Appomattox, was a novel artificial leg that featured something truly remarkable: a self-oiling mechanism, which allowed the limb to maintain maximum flexibility despite inclement weather or owner neglect.

Jewett's company, headquartered at the corner of Park and Tremont Streets in Boston, did a brisk business with the Union's former enemies, as states below the Mason-Dixon line launched public programs to supply veterans with artificial legs. North Carolina led the way.

Source: <http://www.microkhan.com/2010/07/26/the-yank-who-helped-save-the-south/> (accessed October 17, 2012).

**3 - How much did the limb replacement program cost the state? How many veterans took part in the program?** The program cost the state \$81,310.12. In today's dollars, that equals \$1,178,405.80. Over 1500 veterans took advantage of the program

Source: <http://www.newsobserver.com/2012/03/13/1938161/treating-wounded-troops-on-the.html> (accessed October 17, 2012).

**4 – This Matthew Brady photograph was taken at Gettysburg around July 15, 1863. What do you know about the photograph and the identity of these men?** In one of the most famous photographs of the American Civil War (1861–1865), three captured Confederate soldiers, likely from Louisiana, pose for Mathew Brady on Seminary Ridge following the Battle of Gettysburg (July 1–3, 1863). The extraordinary clarity of the image allows viewers to study the soldiers' uniforms and accoutrements, but the historian Shelby Foote has focused more on their body language. "You see something in his attitude toward the camera that's revealing of his nature," he told the filmmaker Ken Burns, "... as if he is having his picture made but he's determined to be the individual that he is." Other scholars have challenged this romantic view. Brady, who made about thirty images at Gettysburg and arrived after the dead had been buried, likely took the photograph on or about July 15. If that's true, as Thomas A. Desjardin has argued, then these soldiers—none of whom seems to be wounded—were likely deserters

captured well after the battle. (Prisoners taken in the fighting were marched off the field immediately.) Meanwhile, a closer look at their uniforms reveals the soldiers to be much better dressed than tradition would have it. According to legend, the Battle of Gettysburg began only when barefoot Confederates entered the town looking for shoes. But Richard Pougher has used this photograph as evidence that "the common Confederate soldier in the Army of Northern Virginia was well dressed in Southern military uniforms, well-shod, and well accoutered ... He was not the ragged, barefoot, poorly equipped individual in nondescript mix-and-match clothing so many have come to see him as."

Source: [http://encyclopediavirginia.org/media\\_player?mets\\_filename=evm00001203mets.xml](http://encyclopediavirginia.org/media_player?mets_filename=evm00001203mets.xml) (accessed October 17, 2012).

NOTE: Jeff Bockert thinks the men in Brady's photograph were from North Carolina because of their uniforms; however, Jeff said that there is support for them being from Virginia, Mississippi, or Florida units. Whether they were deserters, unlucky stragglers or hospital stewards left behind to care for the wounded will probably never be known.

**5 – The Confederate government, whether provided by state or national quartermasters, sought to provide its soldiers two uniform changes per year. How long did these uniforms stand up during hard campaigning?** Typically, during the rigors of campaigning, a soldier wore out his uniform, shoes, and other clothing within **three months**. By the end of the Peninsular Campaign (March – May 1863), Seven Days Campaign (June – July 1862) and the Second Battle of Manassas Campaign (August 1862), the Confederate soldiers who moved with Lee into Maryland were almost a ragged mob in their appearance.

As Jeff related in his presentation, the North Carolina soldier in September 1862 was faced with an inadequate quartermaster system to supply their needs. This was the Valley Forge of these soldiers. They endured worn-out uniforms, shoes, blankets and knapsacks, fought with fewer modern rifle-muskets than their foes, and subsisted on scarce rations. Only their ability to supply many of their needs from the Union quartermaster corps allowed them to survive until Confederate efforts improved.

After late 1863, North Carolina supply efforts improved significantly. The state owned interest in blockade runners and successfully brought in English goods – weapons, munitions, shoes, medicines and clothing.

**6 – Did the government of North Carolina ever provide clothing to Union prisoners held in North Carolina?** Toward the end of the war and under Governor Vance's direction, North Carolina supplied clothing and blankets to Union prisoners of war incarcerated at Salisbury. This was done on the condition that equivalent supplies were given to a like number of Confederate prisoners incarcerated in the North.

Zebulon Vance took this action to assist prisoners that were living in poor conditions in the Confederate camp at Salisbury. Vance took this action for a number of reasons: 1) It was the right thing to do for humanitarian reasons. 2) This action benefitted North Carolina prisoners of war who fared badly in Union prisons, 3) His brother, General Robert Vance, was held in a Union camp. 4) The Union government was probably going to seek retribution for the treatment of captured soldiers.



Source: Gordon B. McKinney, *North Carolina's Civil War Governor & the Gilded Age Political Leader* [Chapel Hill and London: The University of North Press, 2004], 147-148.



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# The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

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## The *RUNNER*

### Newsletter of The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Editor **Tim Winstead**

**October 2012**

Our next meeting will be **Thursday, 11 October 2012** at St. Andrew's On-the-Sound (101 Airlie Road). Social Hour begins at 6:30 p.m., meeting at 7:30..



Please join us as we continue our 2012 – 2013 Program Year. Each of our speakers is selected to enlighten, entertain, and add to our knowledge of Civil War history. This serves our purpose of encouraging education and research into that historic conflict.

**\*\*\*\*\* October Program \*\*\*\*\***

**North Carolina Arms & Equipment at Antietam**



**North Carolinians**

**Jeffrey L. Bockert** will be our speaker at the 11 October meeting. Jeff's subject will be **North Carolina Arms and Equipment at Antietam**. By reviewing North Carolina Quartermaster records, photographs, and first-person accounts, Jeff gained an idea of how the average Tar Heel was equipped as he and his unit fought at the bloody Battle of Antietam (Sharpsburg) in September 1862. Jeff's research revealed that North Carolina units were faced with shortages of uniforms, shoes, and modern weapons as they marched into Maryland and took part in some of the fiercest actions during the entire campaign.



**Jeff Bockert**

**Jeff Bockert** currently serves as the Associate Curator of Education for the North Carolina Division of Historic Sites based in Kinston, N.C. and as Vice-Chairman of the North Carolina Civil War Tourism Council. In addition, Jeff serves on the N.C. Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee as well as the N.C. War of 1812 Bicentennial Committee.

Editor

**\*\*\*\*\* North Carolina Troops after Antietam \*\*\*\*\***

Jeff's presentation will provide us with a better understanding of what the soldiers faced at Antietam and afterwards.

The following letter was written to North Carolina Governor Zebulon B. Vance in October 1862. It clearly and strongly detailed the condition of the 48<sup>th</sup> Regiment North Carolina Troops.

Camp Near Winchester Va. Oct 11th, 1862.

Govr. Z. B. Vance,

I lay before you for your consideration the destitute condition of our Regt. with the hope that you, who have experienced some of the severe trials of a soldiers life, may hasten up the requisite relief—

We have present Six hundred & nineteen men rank & file in the 48th Regt. N.C. Troops—There are of that number Fifty one who are completely & absolutely Barefooted—& one hundred & ninety four who are nearly as bad off, as Barefooted,

& who will be altogether so, in less than one month. There are but Two hundred & ninety seven Blankets in the Regt. among the 619 men, which is less than one Blanket to evry two men.

In truth there is one Compy (I) having 66 men & only Eleven Blankets in the whole company—The pants are generally ragged & out at the seats—& there are less than three cooking utensils to each Company—This sir is the condition of our Regt. upon the eve of winter here among the mountains of Va. cut off from all supplies from home & worn down & thinned with incessant marchings, fighting & diseases—can any one wonder that our Regt. numbering over 1250 rank & file has more than half its no. absent from camp, & not much over one third 449 of them fit for duty? The country is filled with Stragglers, deserters, & sick men & the hospitals are crowded from these exposures. A spirit of disaffection is rapidly engendering among the soldiers which threatens to show itsef in general Stragglng & desertion, if it does not lead to open mutiny.

Add to this that our surgeons have no medicines & don't even pretend to prescribe for the sick in camp, having no medicines & you have an outline of the sufferings & prospective trials & difficulties under which we labor....

Want we most pressingly need just now is our full supply of *Blankets*, of *Shoes* & of *pants* & *socks*. We need very much all our other clothing too. But we are in the greatest need of these indispensible articles & *Must* have them, & have them *Now*. Otherwise how can the Government blame the soldier for failing to render service, when it fails to fulfil its stipulated & *paid for* contracts? A contract broken on one side is broken on all sides & void....

The soldiers of the 48th N.C. & from all the State will patriotically suffer & bear their hardships & privations as long as those from any other State, or as far as human endurance can tolerate such privations, But it would not be wise to experiment to far in such times & under such circumstances as now surround us upon the extent of their endurance. With Lincolns proclamation promising freedom to the slaves, What might the suffering, exhausted, ragged, barefooted, & dying *Non* slaveholders of the South, who are neglected by their government & whose suffering families at home are exposed to so many evils, begin to conclude? Would it not be dangerous to tempt them with too great trials?

Dear Sir...I feel the very earnest & solemn responsibility of my position as commander of this Regt. at this critical period & under these trying circumstances & wish to do all I can...to remove the evils by seeking a speedy supply of Blankets, Shoes & clothing. & therefore beg your earnest attention to the premises & your zealous & I hope efficient aid to supply our necessities....

Your Excellencys most obt Servt.  
S. H. Walkup Lt. Col. [Commanding]  
48th Regt. NC Troops

Source: Governors Papers, State Archives, Raleigh

#### \*\*\*\*\* Trivia Questions for October \*\*\*\*\*

- 1 – Why were North Carolina soldiers supplied so poorly during the early stages of the war?
- 2 – North Carolina brought more materials through the blockade than any other state. How many blockade-runners did the state own?
- 3 – Who was Uncle Lewis Nelson?
- 4 - How many Union chaplains were awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor during the Civil War?
- 5 – A Union Chaplain was executed during the war. Who was he?

#### \*\*\*\*\* Member News \*\*\*\*\*

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

1 – A warm welcome to all returning and new members of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table. Thank you for your support and attendance at our meetings.

**2 – GREAT DEAL!** The Historical Publications Section of the N.C. Office of Archives and History announces a 60 percent to 70 percent discount of the popular and well-respected "**North Carolina Troops, 1861-1865: A Roster**" series, volumes one through 18.

Regularly priced at \$50 per copy, volumes 1-15 are sale priced at \$15 per copy and volumes 16-18 are sale priced at \$20 per copy.

To purchase please visit [online](#) or call [\(919\) 733-7442](tel:9197337442), extensions 0 or 225.

\*\*\*\*\* **October 1862** \*\*\*\*\*

October 1862 saw Robert E Lee move his army away from Washington and for the time being the capital was safe. At the end of October 1862, the armies of McClellan and Lee were only two miles apart near the Blue Ridge Mountains.

October 1<sup>st</sup>: The Confederate press portrayed Lincoln's emancipation declaration as a recipe for slave insurrection.

October 4<sup>th</sup>: The Confederates launched a major attack on Corinth. It was not a success as the Unionists were well dug in and the Confederates lost many men – 1,423 killed, 5,692 wounded and 2,248 missing. The North lost 315 dead, 1,812 wounded and 232 missing.

October 5<sup>th</sup>: As the Confederates withdrew from Corinth, their rearguard clashed with a Unionist force at Metamora by the Big Hatchie River. In this action, the Union lost over 500 men while the South lost about 400.

October 8<sup>th</sup>: A battle at Perryville in Kentucky led to heavy casualties on both sides. The North lost 916 killed, 2943 wounded and 489 missing while the South lost 500 killed, 2635 wounded and 251 missing out of their total of 16,000 men.

October 10<sup>th</sup>: Jefferson Davis requested to the Confederate Congress that 4500 African Americans be drafted in to build defences around Richmond.

October 11<sup>th</sup>: The Confederate Congress agreed with Davis but stipulated that anyone who owned twenty slaves or more was exempt from this call-up. This decision was not well received and the less well-off slave owners in the Confederacy started to comment that it was "a rich man's war and a poor man's fight".

October 13<sup>th</sup>: Lincoln wrote again to McClellan to urge him to do something. "You remember my speaking to you of what I called your over-cautiousness. Are you not over-cautious when you assume that you cannot do what the enemy is constantly doing? Should you not claim to be at least his equal in prowess, and act upon that claim? If we do not beat the enemy where he now is, we never can, he again being within the entrenchments of Richmond."

October 14<sup>th</sup>: While the Confederates had failed in Kentucky, they had taken vast amounts of booty that was vital to their supplies. While the Confederate press almost certainly exaggerated what was taken – the claim was that the wagon train was over 40 miles long – large amounts of barrelled pork and bacon were taken along with an estimated 1500 horses and 8000 cattle.

October 19<sup>th</sup>: In New Orleans, where the Unionists held power, General Butler passed two important pieces of legislation. The first was to raise three regiments of “free coloured men” and the second was to introduce the legal precedent that ‘blacks were equal to whites’ in the eyes of the law.

October 25<sup>th</sup>: Lincoln once again expressed his concern that McClellan appeared to be doing nothing.

October 26<sup>th</sup>: McClellan marched the Army of the Potomac back into Virginia. Whether this was part of a plan he already had or if it was in a direct response to Lincoln’s criticisms is not known.

October 28<sup>th</sup>: To avoid getting encircled by the Army of the Potomac, Robert E Lee moved his Army of Virginia further south and, therefore, further away from Washington DC. Lee’s army numbered 70,000 men while McClellan could call on 130,000 men – so it was a wise move. Sections of Lee’s army were ordered to maintain a close observation of McClellan’s men and for two days both sides were less than 2 miles apart but separated by the Blue Ridge Mountains.

Source: <http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/october-1862-civil-war.htm>, (accessed September 9, 2012).

**\*\*\*\*\* The Great Locomotive Chase \*\*\*\*\***

In April, 1862, James J. Andrews, a civilian spy for Union General Don Carlos Buell, led a group of twenty-four Union volunteers into Confederate territory in a daring attempt to sever the railroad that ran between Atlanta and Chattanooga. Andrew’s raid was to be made in coordination with a Union army effort to take Chattanooga and disrupt Confederate rail service between Virginia and the middle and lower South. Andrews’s plan was bold; he intended to take his raiders 100 miles into Confederate territory, overwhelm a train crew in Georgia, and take the high-jacked train on a journey of destruction north towards Chattanooga.



*The General*

At 5:00 a.m. in Marietta on April 12, 1862, Andrews and nineteen of his men, singly and in small groups, boarded the *General* for the rail journey north. The *General* stopped at Big Shanty for a twenty minute breakfast stop. Conductor William A. Fuller, Engineer Jeff Cain, and Fireman Andrew J. Anderson joined the other passengers for meal at the Lacy Hotel. Andrews, accompanied by three of his men who were also experienced locomotive engineers, made their way to the engine. Upon Andrews's signal, the remaining men uncoupled the passenger cars and boarded the three empty boxcars behind the *General*. An 87 mile scramble to the north was about to begin – it was the beginning of The Great Locomotive Chase.

Conductor Fuller and his crew began the chase for their train on foot, later found a hand cart, and finally found a small engine, the *Yonah*, to pursue the *General*. Initially, Fuller thought the train had been taken by conscripts from a local training camp. As they continued the chase and encountered track damage and cut telegraph wires, Fuller and his crew knew they were chasing Union raiders. Fuller and Andrews played a cat and mouse game as the chase moved north. The raiders had to stop several times as southbound trains were encountered; the pursuers changed pursuit trains, first the *William R. Smith* and finally the *Texas*, to avoid track damage and traffic blockages. Andrews used a cover story of that the *General* and its 3 boxcars contained a special munitions shipment for General Beauregard. Fuller, after abandoning the *William R. Smith* due to track damaged, continued the pursuit on foot for another three miles until, he stopped the southbound *Texas*.

After the *Texas* left its cars on a siding, Fuller and his increasing number of pursuers raced the *Texas* in reverse gear after the fleeing and increasingly alert raiders. One of those Fuller picked up on the *Texas* included a telegraph operator from Dalton who had come south to investigate the lost service south of his station. Andrews and his men placed obstacles, tried to burn the bridge over the Oostanaula River, released boxcars – all in an attempt to slow the *Texas*. The pursuers were so close at Green's Wood Station that the *General* was unable to take on a full load of wood and water. After the *General* quickly passed through Dalton, Andrews stopped again to cut the telegraph line. Fuller had put his telegrapher, Edward Henderson, off-board at Dalton and Henderson was able to get part of an alert telegram to Confederate authorities before the raiders had cut the line. The race was almost over.

The *General* roared through Tunnel Hill and Ringgold, but the *Texas* was within sound and sight. Andrews knew that with fuel and water for the *General* almost exhausted, he had to give up the raid. Two miles north of Ringgold, Andrews ordered his men to jump off the train and scatter to avoid capture.

Within a twelve day period, all the raiders who escaped the *General* were captured. On June 7, 1862, James J. Andrews was hung in Atlanta. Seven others were also hung.

Source: <http://www.greatlocomotivechase.com/aftermat.html> (accessed September 29, 2012).

**\*\*\*\*\* October 1862 cont'd \*\*\*\*\***

On October 16, 1862, fourteen surviving raiders from James J. Andrews's unsuccessful attempt to disrupt Confederate rail communications between Chattanooga and Atlanta tried an escape from the Fulton County jail. Eight of the Union soldiers made their escape by effort of great will, courage, and physical effort. The remaining six, still confined in the Fulton County jail, were exchanged later during the war.



Secretary of War, Edwin Stanton, met the six exchanged soldiers on March 25, 1863. These men, William Bensinger, Robert Buffum, Elihu Mason, Jacob Parrott, William Pittenger, and Robert Reddick, were to be the first six recipients awarded the Medal of Honor. Seventeen year old, **Jacob Parrott, received the first medal from Stanton.** The other five men received their medals from President Abraham Lincoln in a meeting at the White House.

Nineteen of the original 24 volunteers were eventually awarded the Medal of Honor. James J. Andrews and William Campbell had been civilians; hence, not eligible for the medal.

Source: [http://www.homeofheroes.com/moh/history/history\\_first.html](http://www.homeofheroes.com/moh/history/history_first.html) (accessed September 29, 2012).

**\*\*\*\*\* That Another May Live \*\*\*\*\***

There have been many examples of soldiers who aided their comrades during the Civil War. As the war lengthened into 1864, the cruelty of total war made itself felt.

**Pvt. Albert G. Willis**, Co. C, Col. John S. Mosby's Partisan Rangers (43d Battalion, Virginia Cavalry) and at least one other Ranger were captured about 13 Oct. 1864 near Gaines Crossroads by Union Brig. Gen. William H. Powell's U.S. 2nd Cavalry Division. During the Civil War, many Federals considered partisans civilian bushwhackers, not regular soldiers. Powell, in reprisal for what he called the "murder" of a U.S. soldier by alleged partisans, ordered a Ranger executed. According to some postwar sources, Willis, a ministerial student before the war, offered his life in place of a married cohort, "I have no family, I am a Christian, and I am not afraid to die." He was hanged nearby on 14 Oct. and buried at a Baptist church in Flint Hill.

Source: [http://www.dhr.virginia.gov/hiway\\_markers/marker.cfm?mid=3799](http://www.dhr.virginia.gov/hiway_markers/marker.cfm?mid=3799), accessed September 15, 2012.

The story of sacrificing for a friend did not end with the death of Willis. Mosby's men happened upon Willis's body almost before he was cold. After burying Willis and with vengeance in their hearts, the partisans rode forth to exact revenge upon their foes. They quickly captured **Francis Marion White** of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Pennsylvania Cavalry Ringgold Battalion. The partisans prepared to hang White, just as Powell had hung Willis – an eye for an eye, a hand for a hand.

White had a noose tightened around his neck when an unexpected event occurred:

.....some of [John Hanson] McNeill's men arrived on the scene, in a friendly mood, ready to join forces temporarily with Mosby. But their attitude changed when they learned the man about to be hanged was a Ringgolder. For any member of this outfit they had a soft spot, so they argued long and loud that the man was entitled to go free, that members of his battalion treated Valley residents with respect and had even kept some of them from starving. Stoutly they gave voice in his defense, without indication of letup. The argument went back and forth, never waning, until finally the McNeill boys lost patience and backed up, guns drawn, to form a ring around the prisoner, announcing they were prepared to die with him. This put an entirely different slant on the matter and, after a few more futile words, the rope was removed from White's neck.

Source: Virgil Carrington Jones, *Gray Ghost and Rebel Raiders* [New York: Henry Holt and Company, 1956], p. 312.

**\*\*\*\*\* The Rest of the Story \*\*\*\*\***

From Samuel Clark Farrar's *The Twenty-Second Pennsylvania Cavalry and the Ringgold Battalion* [Pittsburg: The New Werner Company, 1911], p. 405.

Francis Marion White. of Company A, 22d P.V.C. was captured by Moseby near Upperville, Va., Oct. 10, 1864, and was about to be hanged in retaliation from the execution of a Confederate by General Powell a few days before. Some of

McNeill's Rangers, who were with Moseby, learned that White was a member of the Ringgold Cavalry, **interceded and had him sent off a prisoner**, declaring that the Ringolds against whom they had warred for three years, were honorable soldiers, who had respected and protected their homes and families, when in possession of Moorfield, and that no captive from that command would be executed in retaliation, if they could help it.

Francis Marion White survived the war; however, his was not a good ending. In a pension application by his mother on February 25, 1889, it was revealed that White died on July 5, 1865. Information found on the USGenWeb Archives, revealed that White spent time in Andersonville prison prior to his release and his return to Beallsville, Pennsylvania. White died at home; the victim of the harsh conditions encountered while he was a prisoner-of-war.

I can only speculate about the events that White confronted after McNeill's men saved him from hanging. I don't want to do that; hence, I will continue to search for more information about what happened to him after that day in October, 1864.

\*\*\*\*\* **September Program** \*\*\*\*\*

### **Men of Peace, Who went to War: The American Civil War Chaplain's Story**

**Chaplain Alan Farley, D.D.**, in the loud and booming voice of a Civil War era preacher, shared the story of the efforts made by chaplains, priests, rabbis and volunteers to bring the word of God to the soldiers, North and South, who fought in the most cataclysmic event in American history. Sharing in the horrors of the battlefields, in the unimaginable suffering in the hospitals, and in the privations of camp, these men (and woman) of the cloth brought refuge in a time of great need. That refuge was faith.



**Chaplain Alan Farley**

Alan began his presentation with the story of a request that Robert E. Lee made to Dr. J. William Jones after the war. Lee wanted Jones to write a book about the impact of religious revival in the Army of Northern Virginia. Lee thought it important that the record of the service and accomplishments of the Confederate chaplains be recorded. Jones, a former chaplain in the ANV, responded to Lee's request and *Christ in the Camp or Religion in the Confederate Army* was published in 1887 and reissued in 1904. Jones used numerous memoirs and letters of the war's survivors to witness the efforts that were made to bring comfort of the spirit to Southern soldiers.

The Chaplain Farley then related the efforts made by both the Union and Confederate governments to meet the religious habitudes of their soldiers. Both congresses passed legislation to address the need and the advisability of placing chaplains among their soldiers. As was the case in every other logistical need, the Union was better organized in implemented these laws; however, the Confederacy proved resourceful in responding to this crisis of the spirit. Protestant, Catholic, and Jewish faiths were served during the war – 2,387 men and 1 woman, Ellen Hobart, served as chaplains with the Union Army – 94 of them died; 1,303 men served in the Confederate Army and among them was slave Louis Napoleon Nelson who served as chaplain of Co. M, 7<sup>th</sup> Tennessee Cavalry – 41 died.

As the war continued into its third and fourth years, the chaplains became increasingly important in administering to the spiritual needs of the soldiers in both armies. Chaplains shared the hardship of battle campaigns by going into action with their troops – numerous examples of “fighting chaplains”

were related. The chaplains were instrumental in holding regular religious services in chapels built by the soldiers while the armies were in their winter camps.





**Ella Hobart - - Uncle Lewis Nelson**

After the Battle of Antietam and especially during the winter of 1862-1863, a revival movement began among the soldiers of both opposing armies. The battles became bigger, the casualties became heavier. Many soldiers sought solace in the religious services and reaffirmed their faith in a higher power. During the war, Alan estimated that 250,000 to 350,000 soldiers received the message of their revival ministers.

**\*\*\*\*\* 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](mailto:tpwinstead@gmail.com). Please include “CFCWRT News” in your Subject line.

**\*\*\*\*\* Trivia Questions for October \*\*\*\*\***

**1 - Why were North Carolina soldiers supplied so poorly during the early stages of the war?** When North Carolina seceded from the Union on May 20, 1861, Governor John Ellis attempted to bring a very ill-prepared state to a war footing. Ellis, who had been governor since 1858, was an experienced administrator and should have been able to concentrate resources to meet the crisis. Unfortunately for the state, Ellis died on July 7, 1861. Ellis’s successor, Henry Toole Clark, was a wealthy and educated man. Clark was; however, very suspicious of extensions of government authority when the government

needed to fill its role as a supplier of its soldiers needs. The policies of Ellis and Clark tended to divide the state between ardent secessionists and those who had reluctantly left the Union. At a time when a common goal and direction was needed, Ellis and Clark had tried to exclude many needed allies from the war effort.

After Zeb Vance became governor in September 1862, his vigorous leadership moved North Carolina onto a much more efficient war footing. Vance began state efforts to clothe and arm its soldiers. Vance secured exemptions for men needed to run state enterprises and to staff state agencies. He bought state-owned blockade runners to bring needed supplies – medicines, clothing, and weapons – through the blockade.

Source: <http://www.northcarolinahistory.org/encyclopedia/208/entry/> (accessed October 3, 2012).

**2 - North Carolina brought more materials through the blockade than any other state. How many blockade-runners did the state own?** The state-owned blockade runner [Advance](#) made eight successful runs between Bermuda and Wilmington between July 1863 and August 1864. The state also owned 25percent interest in four other blockade runners owned by Alexander Collie and Company of England. Through successful blockade running and skillful management of smuggled goods, North Carolina's soldiers were likely the best equipped in the army. Vance did more than any other southern governor to bring supplies into the Confederacy from Europe and later recounted that North Carolina's blockade running enterprise accounted for

Source: <http://civilwarexperience.ncdcr.gov/narrative/narrative-3.htm> (accessed October 4, 2012).

**3 – Who was Uncle Lewis Nelson?** Jefferson Davis delegated the appointment of chaplains to Confederate States Army field commanders. The first noted African-American "honorary" chaplain of the Confederate States Army was [Louis Napoleon Nelson](#) who was appointed by the 7th Tennessee Cavalry field officers during The Battle of Shiloh (April 1862). Based on this date, [Louis Napoleon Nelson](#) was the first African-American chaplain to serve during the American Civil War. Note: The 7<sup>th</sup> Tennessee Cavalry, Company M supposedly served under the command of Nathan Bedford Forrest. Nelson had accompanied the sons of his owner, James Oldham, to war as their cook and body servant. Louis was a religious man who had memorized portions of the Bible.

The account of Louis Napoleon Nelson's appoint as chaplain is documented in the *Religious Herald* (September 10, 1863).

Source: [http://www.blackconfederatesoldiers.com/jefferson\\_davis\\_35.html](http://www.blackconfederatesoldiers.com/jefferson_davis_35.html), accessed September 15, 2012.

**4 - How many Union chaplains were awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor during the Civil War?** **Chaplain John M. Whitehead** of the 15th Indiana Infantry won it for carrying wounded to the rear under very heavy fire at Stone River, Tennessee, in 1862. **Chaplain Francis O. Hall** gained his at Salem Heights, Virginia, in 1863, while serving as regimental chaplain to the 16th New York Infantry. The third Medal of Honor was won by **Chaplain Milton L. Haney** of the 55th Illinois Infantry during fierce fighting near Atlanta in 1864. Unlike chaplains Whitehead and Hall, Haney, according to his citation, "voluntarily carried a musket in the ranks of his regiment and rendered heroic service in retaking Federal works which had been captured by the enemy."

Source: [http://www.chapnet.army.mil/usachcs/origins/chapter\\_3.htm](http://www.chapnet.army.mil/usachcs/origins/chapter_3.htm), accessed September 15, 2012.

**5 – A Union Chaplain was executed during the war. Who was he? Chaplain U.P. Gardner** of the 13<sup>th</sup> Kansas Infantry was shot down after identifying himself as a chaplain on November 22, 1864, by a member of Quantrell's guerilla raiders. The shooter was a 17-year-old boy by the name of Jesse James.

Source: <http://voices.yahoo.com/the-role-chaplains-civil-war-8472413.html?cat=37>, accessed September 15, 2012.





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# The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

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## The *RUNNER*

### Newsletter of The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Editor **Tim Winstead**

**September 2012**

Our next meeting will be **Thursday, 13 September 2012** at St. Andrew's On-the-Sound (101 Airlie Road). Social Hour begins at 6:30 p.m., meeting at 7:30..



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Please join us as we continue our 2012 – 2013 Program Year. Each of our speakers is selected to enlighten, entertain, and add to our knowledge of Civil War history. This serves our purpose of encouraging education and research into that historic conflict.

**\*\*\*\*\* September Program \*\*\*\*\***

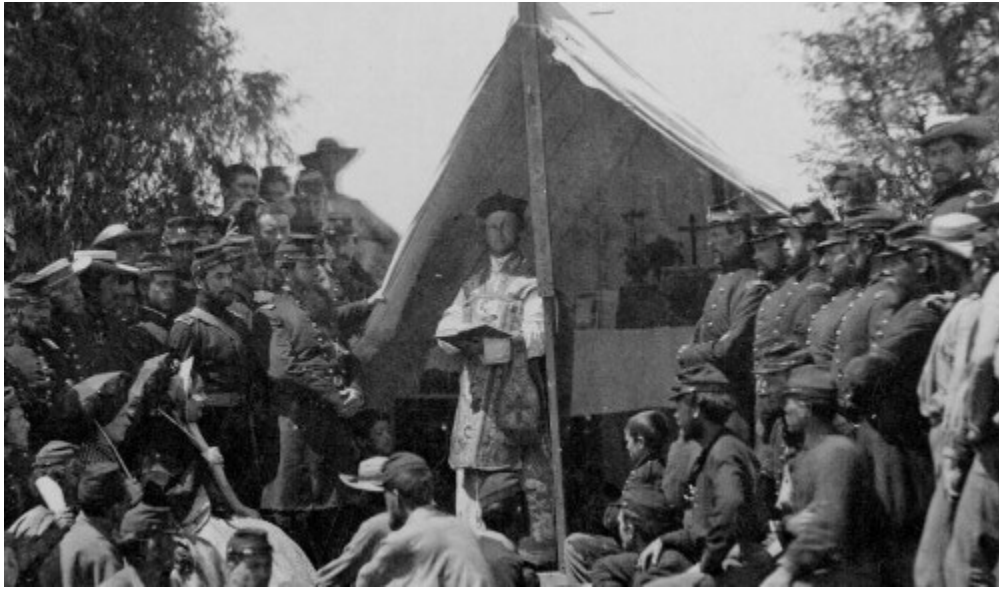
**Chaplains, Priests, Rabbis & Volunteers  
of the United States Christian Commission  
Who Served During the  
War Between the States**



Christian Commission

On September 13<sup>th</sup>, the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table will begin its 2012 – 2013 program year. Chaplain **Alan Farley**, D.D. will present a program that focuses on the men and volunteers who served the religious needs of the soldiers who fought in the Civil War.

A native Virginian, **Alan Farley** developed his lifelong interest in the War Between the States during the centennial commemoration of that struggle. He began his close association with the living history of the war when he became a re-enactor in 1979. In 1984, Alan “laid down his musket and picked up God’s sword and became the first, full time, chaplain to Civil War re-enacting.” Alan, joined by his wife and two children, began full time mission work that included the **Re-enactor’s Missions for Jesus Christ**. Farley co-founded the **National Civil War Chaplain’s Museum and Research Center** in Lynchburg, Virginia – the museum, which opened in January 2010, is dedicated to the memory of the chaplains, priests, and rabbis who served in the US and CSA armies during the war. Alan received his doctorate of Divinity from Antioch Baptist Bible College (Marietta, Georgia) in 2011.



**Soldiers at worship**

The Farley's travel over thirty-five thousand miles a year and participate in twenty to twenty-five Civil War re-enactments. Alan speaks about the role of religion in a soldier's life to SCV camps, UDC meetings, Round Tables, and other interested groups.



**Asking for God's Protection**

Join us at the September meeting when re-enactor, author, producer, collector and Civil War chaplain, **Alan Farley**, will share his story of those who ministered to the spiritual needs of the soldiers who faced the hell that was the Civil War. This will be an opportunity to learn about a facet of the war that may have been little studied until recently.

Editor

**\*\*\*\*\* Raffle Winners \*\*\*\*\***

**Raffle Master: Ed Gibson**

If you have books, prints, or other items that you would like to donate to the CFCWRT raffle, talk to Ed at our next meeting.

**June Meeting:**

Congratulations to the winners of the raffle.

<i>Grant Comes East</i>	- Tom O'Donnell
<i>Grant Takes Command</i>	- John Bolger
<i>Undaunted Courage</i>	- Linda Lashley
<i>Vicksburg</i>	- Dick Covell
<i>Lincoln</i>	- Ed Gibson
<i>Diary from Dixie</i>	- Martha Watson

\*\*\*\*\* **Trivia Questions for September 2012** \*\*\*\*\*

- 1 – What was the United States Christian Commission?
- 2 – What rank did a chaplain, priest or rabbi hold in the Union and Confederate Armies?
- 3 – What Northern Congressman objected that chaplains must be “regularly ordained clergyman of some Christian denomination?”
- 4 – In which battle did Hood’s Texans solidify their reputations as wild and fearless fighters?
- 5 - Who was “Howdy” Martin?
- 6 – At what battle did the 1<sup>st</sup> Texas Infantry suffer the highest casualty rate for any Confederate regiment during the war?

\*\*\*\*\* **Member News** \*\*\*\*\*

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

**1 – Membership renewals** – Thanks to all who took advantage of the “early-bird” sign-up period. If you forgot to sign-up, you and your membership dues are very important to the CFCWRT being able to provide programs of interest. Send \$30 payment either to **CFCWRT, PO Box 15750, Wilmington, NC 28408** or see **Linda Lashley** at the September 13 meeting.

**2** – If you have perused this issue of *The Runner*, you have probably noticed that there are several articles about Hood and his Texans. The selection of these articles was probably influenced by my participation in a June 26-29 tour with members of **Hood’s Texas Brigade Association, Re-Activated** as we toured many places in Virginia where the reputation of the brigade was forged in battle. Leaders of the tour included Dr. Susannah Ural, Col. Rick Eiserman, Col. John Favors, Dr. John Goddard and Ed Bearss. Great tour, great leaders, and great participants.

**3 – Tom & Karen Morgan** shared an interested memoir written by Karen’s great grandfather J.M. Johnston (1844-1917) of Bladen County. Mr. Johnston served with Co. H, 36<sup>th</sup> Regiment NCV (2<sup>nd</sup> Artillery) in coastal North Carolina where he took part in the first and second battles of Fort Fisher. Mr. Johnston was captured at Fort Fisher and spent the rest of the war at Point Lookout, Maryland.

..... All day long that Christmas day shot and shell poured thick and fast. T'was my first experience in a battle. To tell how I felt would be impossible. I don't think I felt like a coward or that I wanted to run away but I imagined I would have felt more comfortable some where else .....

Thanks to Tom & Karen for sharing this intriguing document.

**\*\*\*\*\* September 1862 \*\*\*\*\***

The Confederate army under Robert E. Lee continued to threaten Washington in September 1862. However, September saw Lee faced a set-back at Sharpsburg and at the Battle of Antietam, which Lincoln declared a victory for the North.

September 1<sup>st</sup>: The Second Battle of Bull Run ended when sections from both sides clashed at Ox Hill. They came across one another just before nightfall during a thunderstorm. In the clash, Union Generals Isaac Stevens and Philip Kearney were killed.

September 2<sup>nd</sup>: General McClellan was recalled to Washington DC by President Lincoln to take charge of the capital's defences. "If he can't fight himself, he excels in making others ready to fight."  
(Lincoln)

September 5<sup>th</sup>: Robert E Lee took his army into Maryland. At the same time the Union's military hierarchy could not make its mind up as to who should lead the Union's army in the field. Maryland was a tempting target for Lee as its fields were full of crops and any move north that he made would bring fear to those who lived in the capital who would have rightly believed that the city was his priority target.

September 6<sup>th</sup>: Within just four days, McClellan managed to get together an army of 90,000 men to defend the capital. This feat confirmed to Lincoln his excellent administrative skills. However, McClellan was known to lack tactical ability and someone was needed to command these men in a decisive manner. Lee was well aware of McClellan's failings as a commander.

September 7<sup>th</sup>: Lee crossed the Potomac River at Leesburg, Virginia. His move north caused the expected panic in the capital and ships were placed on standby to take the President and his Cabinet out of the city to safety. McClellan was given command of the 90,000 men in the Army of the Potomac.

September 8<sup>th</sup>: The cause of the Union was not helped by dissension in the most senior ranks of the Union Army. General Pope openly blamed other generals for the failure at Bull Run, while they (Generals Franklin and Porter) cited his incompetent leadership during the battle. Leaving this dispute behind in the capital, McClellan marched his men out to meet Lee away from the city. His army of 90,000 was twice as large as Lee's Army of Virginia but the men in it were very demoralized after the Second Bull Run while Lee's men were full of confidence.

September 9<sup>th</sup>: The people of Maryland did not greet Lee's army with any enthusiasm despite his proclamation that his intention was to return the state to the Confederacy – which Lee assumed would sell his cause. The expected provisions were not forthcoming and Lee's army remained short of supplies.

September 10<sup>th</sup>: McClellan marched his men to where he knew Lee's army had encamped – Frederick. However, Lee's army marched off on the same day as McClellan gave his order. Lee split his men in two with Jackson ordered to capture Harper's Ferry while he would lead his men to Hagerstown.

September 13<sup>th</sup>: In an astonishing twist, two Union soldiers found some cigars where Lee had made his camp. They were wrapped in paper. On this paper was written Lee's next plans for his army – their targets, which part of his army was marching where etc. This was Lee's Special Order 191. The Confederates knew that they had lost one copy but must have assumed that it was never going to be found by the North.

September 14<sup>th</sup>: The North, with the knowledge of where Lee was and where he was heading, made a series of attacks on the Confederates at South Mountain. The speed of McClellan's chase unnerved Lee and forced him into changing his plans at the last minute. The problem Lee would face was to ensure that his change of plans got out to his commanders in the field and that they all understood them.

September 15<sup>th</sup>: Harper's Ferry fell to Jackson who captured 12,000 Union troops. Jackson left behind an occupying force and then marched at speed to rejoin Lee to consolidate the Army of Virginia once again.

September 16<sup>th</sup>: Lee's army was at Sharpsburg – as was McClellan's. Lee faced two serious problems. First, he only had 18,000 men with him against 75,000 Union troops. Second, behind where his men were gathered was the Potomac River. So if Lee needed to withdraw, he would have to cross the river. McClellan started his attack with an artillery bombardment. Lee was reinforced when Jackson's 9,000 men arrived. No decisive impact was made one way or the other on this day.

September 17<sup>th</sup>: The battle continued at 06.00 with a Union attack at Antietam Creek but in a series of skirmishes as opposed to one great battle. The reason for this is that large parts of the Army of the Potomac did nothing, as their commanders had not received orders to do anything. The reason that the commanders in the field had not received orders was that McClellan had not issued any. By the end of the day, the Confederates had held their line despite the North's overwhelming superiority in terms of manpower.



**The Dunker Church at Antietam**

September 18<sup>th</sup>: The two armies continued to face one another at Antietam Creek. Two fresh Union divisions arrived but they were ordered to “rest” by McClellan. Lee started to make plans to withdraw his men.

September 19<sup>th</sup>: In the early hours of the 19<sup>th</sup>, Lee withdrew his men across the Potomac River. Though McClellan believed Lee would strike across the river again, he was wrong. Lee had ordered his men to the relative safety of Winchester in the Shenandoah Valley.

September 20<sup>th</sup>: McClellan kept his men at Sharpsburg and showed no inclination to pursue Lee’s men. However, any thoughts Lee had of taking Maryland were killed off in what McClellan called “a very great battle”.

September 22<sup>nd</sup>: Lincoln expressed his belief that the Battle of Antietam was a victory for the North in the sense that it stopped any plans Lee had for capturing Washington DC. In the same speech, Lincoln declared his intention of abolishing slavery throughout the United States and that this was now a major aim of the Union’s war effort.

September 24<sup>th</sup>: Lincoln suspended habeas corpus for those who tried to evade the militia draft.

September 28<sup>th</sup>: Lee’s army of 50,000 men gathered at Winchester in the Shenandoah Valley.

Source: <http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/september-1862-civil-war.htm>, accessed May 21, 2012.

\*\*\*\*\* September 1862 cont’d \*\*\*\*\*



**Artillery Hell at Antietam**

The terrifying impact of artillery fire was deeply felt by both infantry and artillery batteries at Antietam. Confederate Colonel Stephen D. Lee later referred to this battle as being an “Artillery Hell” in which his men received severe damage from Union artillery counter-fire and infantry rifle fire. The following passage was taken from Colonel Lee’s after-action report:

The action commenced about 3 a.m. on the morning of the 17th, between the skirmishers. Woolfolk's, Parker's, and Rhett's batteries were placed in position in front of the church, on the right of the Sharpsburg and Hagerstown pike, and opened on the enemy at daylight. These batteries were compelled to fire over our infantry, but fired with effect. A continuous fire was kept up until about 8.15 a.m., when the enemy gave way and our firing ceased as our infantry followed in pursuit. The batteries above mentioned while engaged were exposed to an enfilade fire of about twenty rifled guns from across the Antietam, two batteries in their front, and the fire of the infantry of the enemy, most of the time about 500 yards distant. They suffered very heavily and had exhausted most of their ammunition.....

About this time, 9 a.m., Moody's battery, which had been engaged near the center of our line, arrived and reported, and I placed it in position on the ground previously occupied by Parker's battery. General Hood's division, which followed the enemy when he gave way, not being supported, was compelled to fall back before their overwhelming numbers. The enemy having gained his rear, and occupying a position almost between his retiring troops and Moody's battery, his troops fell back so sullenly, and were so near to the enemy, that it was impossible to use the battery. This being the case, I advanced two guns of Moody's battery some 300 yards into a plowed field, where I could use them. They remained in this position and did good service for about fifteen minutes, under Captain Moody and Lieutenant [John B.] Gorey. This section was exposed to a most galling infantry fire, and retained its position until the infantry on its right and left retired, when I ordered it to the rear. The gallant Lieutenant Gorey was killed, being shot in the head by a Minie-ball as he was sighting his piece for its last discharge. The section with which he was serving was not his own, but, seeing it was going to an exposed position, he asked permission to accompany it. A more gallant officer was not in our service.

Colonel Lee’s report on the beginning of the bloodiest day in American military history revealed that Hood and his Texas Brigade were heavily involved in that conflict.

Source: <http://civilwartalk.com/threads/stephen-d-lee-s-artillery-at-sharpsburg-artillery-hell.74863/>, accessed August 20, 2012.



Editor

\*\*\*\*\* June Program \*\*\*\*\*

## **The Rise of Hood's Texans: Recruitment through Antietam**

Those members and guests who attended the June meeting of the CFCWRT were treated to a lively discussion about the men who became Hood's Texans. **Dr. Susannah J. Ural** enthusiastically shared her passion for the men of the Texas Brigade and she presented supporting details that shared stories about the men, their families, and the reasons for their particular views on the events of 1861 – 1862.



**Dr. Susannah Ural**

Why are so many people interested in the Civil War and especially the men who fought it? What made these men and their families endure severe hardships and separation from their loved ones? Who were these men?

Dr. Ural answered these questions and many others during her presentation about the Texas Brigade and its leaders and soldiers. Susannah related how Robert E. Lee came to love and count on their resolve, how North Carolina General William Dorsey Pender used them as an example to train his own troops, and how Douglas Southall Freeman referred to them as Lee's favorite shock troops. She shared examples of the Texans and how they gained their reputations as "wild and fearless fighters" who were made of "sterner stuff" than many of their contemporaries.

Men such as "Howdy" Martin, Malachiah Reeves, Val. C. Giles, J.B. Polley and other members of the 1<sup>st</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> Texas Infantry Regiments left written records of their experiences that made fascinating reading. That the Texas Brigade and its members were far from their homes and families and that they had little opportunity for furloughs made their letters and memoirs especially informative. Further information about the Texans who served in the Army of Northern Virginia can be found on the website for Hood's Texas Brigade Association, Re-Activated (<http://www.hoodstexasbrigade.org/>)

Editor

**\*\*\*\*\* Why They Joined \*\*\*\*\***

Malachiah Reeves (1843-1929) was caught up the patriotic fervor of the moment. In 1860 when he was 17 years old, Malachiah attended a subscription school in the Texas community in which he then worked. This was his first formal schooling. The following June, he was again enrolled in a subscription school and was intent on furthering his education. In this classroom setting, the teacher, Mr. McHenry, shared his thoughts about the perceived rights that were being violated by the actions of the Northern states. When a parade of his peers came by the school, Malachiah excitedly answered a call to arms and joined the parade. As had Paul Bäumer in *All Quiet on the Western Front*, Malachiah was destined to learn harsh realities during the next four years.

Malachiah served in Company I, 1<sup>st</sup> Texas Regiment Infantry, Hood's Brigade. His daughter, Leila Reeves Eades, recorded her father's stories of his service with the Texas Brigade during the Civil War. The following passages were from "Some Memories of a Daughter of the Confederacy" provided by Malachiah's great grandson, Rick Featherston.

I was doing well in my studies. It was a summer session and there were \_\_\_ students; in this situation I was getting extra help from the teacher. Then one day in June we were out on the school ground and a group of fire-eating boys came marching across the school yard led by Dr. E. Currie of Alto. He was enlisting every boy who would join into the Confederate Army. We had been listening to our teacher tell of the troubles between the North and the South and were very much in sympathy with our own Southern States; we were ready to go and sign up with Dr. Currie for three years, or the duration.....

As I told you, I joined up in the Confederate cause at the eager, uninformed age of 18 – even as many another boy did – I wanted to follow the others and our leaders in the fight for what we thought were our rights.....

I'm not too sure I knew all the reasons, but I wanted my land free of the taint of accusations put upon it. So, I fought through the years with determination to bring honor to our Southland. With that conviction I willingly fought along with my comrades sometimes terribly disheartened, but never ready to give up.....

Reeves returned to Texas where he farmed, married twice, raised twelve children, continued to further his education, and became an ordained Baptist minister. Malachiah's value on learning was continually shared with his family.

The Civil War story is not a pretty picture story with "all lived happily ever after" – *Little Women* and some of your Grimm's and Anderson Fairy tales are much better for little girls to hear, perhaps – but since you need to know the history of your great country, read well the pages of your books. Real life stories make for better qualities of character for our children than does fiction. You must read our Bible and your school books with zeal to know more of our heritage and see why it is necessary for us to go as far as possible in our striving for education.

Source: Leila Reeves Eades, *M. Reeves and his family: containing the autobiographical sketch written by Rev. Reeves with historical and genealogical addenda which fill out the story of this pioneer farmer-missionary-preacher* [Midland, Texas, 1966]

Source: <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fre22> accessed August 17, 2012.

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](mailto:tpwinstead@gmail.com). Please include "CFCWRT News" in your Subject line.

**\*\*\*\*\* Trivia Questions for September 2012 \*\*\*\*\***

**1 – What was the United States Christian Commission?** Soon after the start of the Civil War, YMCA leaders became concerned with the religious and spiritual needs of the soldiers in the nearby camps. Vincent Colyer, a member of the New York City YMCA, had begun spending time visiting nearby encampments where soldiers were stationed temporarily on their way to the battle front. Colyer mingled with the soldiers, offered words of encouragement, and handed out religious tracts. Since few camps had chaplains, the chaplaincy then being in its infancy, Colyer's ministrations were welcomed by both the soldiers and their officers. As a result of these activities, and the apparent need to extend them, the New York Association established an "Army Committee" with Colyer as chairman, with its mission to provide preaching services, individual religious visitation, and publications for soldiers. In November, 1861, at the instigation of members of the board of the New York City YMCA, a special convention of fifty delegates representing fifteen YMCAs met in New York. A "Christian Commission" of twelve members was appointed to devise a plan for the Associations to act as a clearinghouse for all religious work in the armed forces. The work of the Commission was organized at the national level. Local Associations were encouraged to support the Commission while maintaining their own activities. Many Associations merged into local branches of the Christian Commission or resolved themselves into army committees in order to facilitate the work of the Commission. The national organization established an office in Philadelphia and the Associations of Baltimore, Boston, Buffalo, Chicago, Louisville, New York, St. Louis, and St. Paul became regional clearinghouses for the various activities channeled through the Commission. George H. Stuart, founder and first president of the Philadelphia Association, and then chairman of the YMCA's Central Committee, was designated as Chairman of the Commission, a post he held throughout the war. The method of operation was the appointment of "delegates" who served on a volunteer basis for terms averaging six weeks.

The general aim of the Commission was "to promote the spiritual and temporal welfare of the soldiers in the army and the sailors in the Navy, in cooperation with the Chaplains." Its early activities included publication of a collection of familiar hymns, bible readings and prayers, devotional meetings in the camps, the organization of a "working Christian force" in every regiment, and aiding and supporting chaplains. Though originally devised to provide spiritual sustenance, the activities of the Commission soon expanded into the physical and social realm, making the Commission a valuable agency of wartime relief. A newspaper report of its first annual meeting described the objects of the organization as, "the promotion of the intellectual, moral and religious welfare of the Army and Navy, by suggesting needful national legislation and administration, securing well-qualified chaplains, encouraging Sabbath observance, promoting temperance, multiplying libraries, reading-rooms, and gymnasiums, and endeavoring to arouse the sentiment of the nation to a sense of its obligations to this class of citizens. Delegates, serving both at the front and behind the lines, established tents as social centers with stationery and periodicals provided, distributed emergency medical supplies, food, and clothing, and operated canteens and lending libraries. A special work of compassion performed by

delegates of the Commission was the assembling of records of those buried from prisons and in certain major battle areas. Prisoner-of-war work, which was to figure more prominently in YMCA war work in later conflicts, also began during the Civil War.

Source: <http://www.nwuscc.org/OldUSCC.html>, accessed August 15, 2012.

**2 – What rank did a chaplain, priest or rabbi hold in the Union and Confederate Armies?** In the Union Army after October 1864, the War Department awarded chaplains the rank of captain of cavalry. In the Confederate Army, chaplains held no rank, but they received half pay of a first lieutenant.

Source: <http://www.cyberneticlight.com/REDESIGN/Chaplain.htm> , accessed August 17, 2012.

**3 – What Northern Congressman objected that chaplains must be “regularly ordained clergyman of some Christian denomination?”** **Clement Vallandigham.** The Ohio Democrat urged that the requirement be changed to a “regularly ordained clergyman of some *religious society*” and made a surprisingly impassioned plea to his colleagues: “There is a large body of men in this country, and one growing continually, of the Hebrew faith ... whose adherents are as good citizens and as true patriots as any in the country ... While we are in one sense a Christian people, and yet in another sense not the most Christian people in the world, this is not yet a ‘Christian Government,’ nor a government which has any connection with one form of religion in preference to another form.”

Vallandigham would later lead the Copperheads and became the spokesman for their anti-war sentiments.

Source: <http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2011/12/11/rabbi-chaplains-of-the-civil-war/> , accessed August 17, 2012.

**4 – In which battle did Hood’s Texans solidify their reputations as wild and fearless fighters?** On June 27, 1862, John Bell Hood led his Texas Brigade against the Union Army’s Fifth Corps of Fitz-John Porter at Gaines Mill. Porter had successfully repulsed Lee’s attacks for five hours before Hood personally led the 4<sup>th</sup> Texas, with the 18<sup>th</sup> Georgia supporting, in a bayonet attack against the entrenched Union troops. As the other regiments of Hood’s Brigade joined in the fight, Porter was forced to retreat across the Chickahominy River. Hood’s Texas Brigade gave Robert E. Lee his first victory of the war.

The renowned Stonewall Jackson, who seldom gave praise without good reason, remarked that, “The men who carried this position were soldiers indeed.”

Source: <http://historyengine.richmond.edu/episodes/view/3869> , accessed August 20, 2012.

**5 - Who was “Howdy” Martin?** **William Harrison Martin** was a lawyer, Confederate officer, and congressman who served in Company K, 4<sup>th</sup> Texas Infantry. There were several stories concerning “Howdy” Martin and the origination of his nickname. Some said that Martin, on the occasion of seeing Robert E. Lee, stood up in his stirrups and greeted Lee with a big “Howdy!” Other stories reported that Martin never got the hang of saluting but resorted to “Howdy” as his military acknowledgement.

Whatever the source of his moniker, it was Martin who made the request to Jefferson Davis, in Lee’s presence, that the depleted Texas regiments not be merged into other units and thus lose their Texas Brigade identification. Lee added that he had never given the Texans an order to hold a place, that the Texas Brigade did not hold it. Davis granted Howdy’s request.

Source: <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fma62> , accessed August 17, 2012.

**6 – At what battle did the 1<sup>st</sup> Texas Infantry suffer the highest casualty rate for any Confederate regiment during the war?** The First Texas Infantry lost 82% of their men killed, wounded and missing while fighting in the Cornfield at Antietam, the highest casualty rate for any Confederate regiment in one battle of the Civil War.

Source: <http://www.nps.gov/anti/historyculture/artty.htm> , accessed August 17, 2012.



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# The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

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## The *RUNNER*

### Newsletter of The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Editor **Tim Winstead**

**June 2012**

Our next meeting will be **Tuesday, 19 June 2012** at St. Andrew's On-the-Sound (101 Airlie Road). Social Hour begins at 6:30 p.m., meeting at 7:30. NOTE: ***This is not our normal meeting date. Please mark your calendar.***



We invite and welcome all people with an interest in Civil War 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. This serves our purpose of encouraging education and research into that historic conflict.

\*\*\*\*\* **June Program** \*\*\*\*\*

**The Rise of Hood's Texans: Recruitment through Antietam**



**Dr. Susannah Ural**

In the spring of 1861, Northerners and Southerners rushed to arms in response to the crisis at Fort Sumter and President Abraham Lincoln's call for volunteers. Some of those men organized into the Texas Brigade, which quickly rose to fame as one of the elite units of Confederate General Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. The Texas Brigade was initially comprised of the First, Fourth, and Fifth Texas Infantry Regiments. After John Bell Hood became the Texas Brigade's brigadier on March 7, 1862, Hood's Texans quickly built their fighting reputations at Eltham's Landing, the Seven Pines, Gaines's Mill, Second Manassas, and in the Cornfield at Antietam.

"The Rise of Hood's Texans: Recruitment through Antietam" discusses their early organization. Their first winter in camp, and their first campaign season in 1862 that begins so dramatically at Gaines's Mill and ends in bloody tragedy at Sharpsburg, Maryland.



**Hood's Fifth Infantry Regiment, Texas Volunteers 1861**

<http://flags.nava.org/civil.html>

Susannah Ural holds a Ph.D. in history from Kansas State University. She specializes in nineteenth-century America, with an emphasis on the socio-military experiences of Civil War soldiers and their families. She taught at Sam Houston State University in Texas from 2000 - 2009 and recently joined the history faculty at the University of Southern Mississippi. She is a senior fellow in USM's Center for the Study of War and Society and is also part of USM's Center for the Study of the Gulf South. Dr. Ural teaches courses on the U.S. Civil War era, nineteenth-century America, U.S. military history, and Irish-American and U.S. immigration history. She is an active member of the

Society of Civil War Historians, the Southern Historical Association, and the Society for Military History, and is on the editorial board of *The Journal of Military History* and the journal *War and Society*. Her masters and doctoral students generally write on socio-military topics, looking at the motivations and experiences of Civil War soldiers or they study a Civil War-era community responding to war.



**Texas Brigade**

In 2006, Dr. Ural published *The Harp and the Eagle: Irish-American Volunteers and the Union Army, 1861-1865* (NYU Press). NYU Press published her edited essay collection, *Civil War Citizens: Race, Ethnicity, and Identity in America's Bloodiest Conflict*, in November 2010. She is the author of "Remember Your Country and Keep Up Its Credit: Irish-Americans and the Union War Effort, 1861-1865" published in *The Journal of Military History* in 2005, and other articles and short essays relating to Irish-American military service and the Texas Brigade in popular magazines like *America's Civil War* (March 2009) and *Civil War Times Illustrated* (September 2007). She writes a regular series, "Ural on URLs," for *Civil War Times Illustrated* that reviews websites focused on the U.S. Civil War Era.

Dr. Ural is currently writing a sweeping history of the Civil War that focuses on soldiers and families entitled *The People's Contest* (under contract, Osprey Publishing) and finishing her narrative history of John Bell Hood's Texas Brigade, which highlights the experiences of the men, the communities from which they came, and how they represented larger trends in Confederate society.

Editor

**\*\*\*\*\* Raffle Winners \*\*\*\*\***

**Raffle Master: Ed Gibson**

If you have books, prints, or other items that you would like to donate to the CFCWRT raffle, talk to Ed at our next meeting.

**May Meeting:**

Congratulations to the winners of the raffle.

*Battle Cry of Freedom*

*Politically Incorrect Guide to the South*

*Never Call Retreat*

*Starbuck Chronicles*

*Widow of the South*

*With My Face to the Enemy*

Martha Watson

Bob Cooke

Bill Carshaw

Bob Cooke

Ed Mahoney

Martha Watson

**\*\*\*\*\* Trivia Questions for June 2012 \*\*\*\*\***



- 1 – Who was the first commander of the Texas Brigade after it was formed on October 22, 1861?
- 2 – Where is Eltham's Landing?
- 3 – The Texas Brigade garnered a reputation for being somewhat disrespectful of military authority. How did they react to officers they felt were less than sufficient to command them?
- 4 – What observation did General Lee share with John Bell Hood about precautions needed when Hood's Texans were in an area?
- 5 – How many artifacts were recovered from the *Modern Greece* during the 1962 - 1963 salvage effort?
- 6 – Who was the famous passenger on the *Condor* when the ship ran aground on October 1, 1864? Why was this passenger so insistent on reaching shore and avoiding Yankee capture?

\*\*\*\*\* Member News \*\*\*\*\*

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

1 – **Martha Watson** and **Linda Lashley** made the May issue of *Civil War News* when they took part in the Cameron Art Museum's first living history weekend that commemorated the February 20-21, 1865 Battle of Forks Road.



**2 – Bob Maffitt** has received a certificate of award from the United Daughters of the Confederacy, Fort Fisher Chapter 2325, for his service during the Vietnam conflict and for his efforts to preserve the history of Captain John Newland Maffitt and the CSS *Florida*.

**3 - A Modern Greece** Commemoration Symposium will be held in the Azalea Room of the Fisher University Union at UNCW on **June 26, 2012** from 6:00 to 9:00 PM. Among the speakers will be outstanding historians who have written extensively about the Civil War and the impact that blockading running had on this area. **Robert Browning** - "Lincoln's Blockade," **Stephen Wise** – "Four Years of Blockade Running," **Chris Fonvielle** – "Cape Fear Defenses," **Kevin Foster** – "Modern Greece and its Career." Underwater archaeologist, **Gordon Watts**, will provide a view of underwater archaeology some fifty years after initial recovery efforts on the *Modern Greece*. The symposium will be free of charge; however, Pre-registration will be required – call 910-458-9042 or email: madeline.spencer@ncdcr.gov.

**4 – On June 27, 2012**, an Open House will be held at the North Carolina Underwater Archaeology Branch Lab at the Fort Fisher Historic Site. The Open House will be free of charge and will allow the public to tour the lab and talk to Archaeologist and Historians about the 1862 salvage and later activities in the Cape Fear region. Hours of the tours will be from 10:00 AM until 3:00 PM.

**5 – 1<sup>st</sup> NC Co. E** - The newly formed 1st North Carolina Company E has made the **Cameron Art Museum** its home site. The unit will provide monthly civil war activities on the museum's grounds, so come and watch drills, rifle firings and more. Engage with the reenactors about their passion for providing living history and explore the historic Civil War site where the Battle of Forks Road took place. The museum's site is where Major General Robert F. Hoke made his last stand against Union soldiers comprised primarily of U.S. Colored Troops in the final fight for Wilmington on February 20, 1865. Check the museum website <http://www.cameronartmuseum.com/index.php?c=calendar> for the calendar events involving the **1<sup>st</sup> NC**. The next drill will be held on May 19th from 10:00AM – 2:00PM.

**6 – On May 12<sup>th</sup>**, **Bob Cooke, Becky Sawyer, Dan Geddie, Dale Lear, Joe Hack, and Tim Winstead** attended the North Carolina Military Historical Society's Civil War Symposium at the NC Museum of History in Raleigh. The speakers, several of whom had previously spoken to the Round Table and several others, who should in the future, were excellent in their presentations that focused on North Carolina and its people during the Civil War.

**7 – The members of the CFCWRT** are always glad when visitors join us at our meetings. **Larry Hathcock**, from the **Michigan Regimental Round Table** (<http://www.farmlib.org/mrrt/>), probably traveled the farthest to attend our meeting. Larry, who lives in Ortonville, Michigan, was making a tour of sites of the naval war along the eastern seaboard that included stops in Annapolis, Norfolk, and Fort Fisher.

\*\*\*\*\* **June 1862** \*\*\*\*\*

In June 1862 McClellan continued his advance on Richmond. Lincoln complained that his approach was too cautious and that McClellan was not taking advantage of the confusion and panic Unionist spies had detected in Richmond.

June 1<sup>st</sup>: Robert E Lee was given command of the Confederate troops defending Richmond following the wounding of General Johnson. A renewed Confederate assault on Fair Oaks resulted in many

Confederate casualties – in total the Confederates lost 8,000 men killed, wounded or missing at Fair Oaks. The Unionists lost nearly 6,000 men in total.

June 3<sup>rd</sup>: Corinth, Mississippi fell to Unionist forces. Their next target was Memphis, Tennessee. A Unionist advance threatened Charleston, South Carolina.

June 4<sup>th</sup>: The Army of the Potomac prepared for their advance on Richmond.

June 6<sup>th</sup>: This day dealt two major blows to the Confederates. First, they lost Ashley Turner, considered to be a highly gifted cavalry commander at a time when cavalry units were coming more and more into the war. Second, in a confrontation on the Mississippi, the Confederate Navy lost seven out of eight armed riverboats to a Union fleet that lost none of its seven gunboats. The Confederates lost 80 men killed or wounded and had over 100 taken prisoner. The fleet was guarding Memphis, which fell to Union forces that day. The victory also meant that the Unionist Navy had effective control of the whole of the Mississippi River where it was navigable.

June 7<sup>th</sup>: Unionists reconnaissance units came into sight of Richmond. In New Orleans, General Butler sentenced William Mumford to death for tearing down the Union flag flying over the city's mint.

June 8<sup>th</sup>: 8,000 Confederate troops fought 18,000 Union troops at Cross Keys in the Shenandoah Valley. At the same time another battle took place at Port Republic, four miles along the Valley. Neither battle is conclusive but in total the Unionists lost 850 men killed and wounded. The Confederates lost about 600 men in both battles.

June 12<sup>th</sup>: After three days rest, Jackson's army made a move to Richmond to support Lee. Jackson's 20,000 men had effectively tied up 60,000 Unionist troops in the Shenandoah Valley. Jefferson Davis had initially feared a two-pronged Unionist attack on Richmond but the work of Lee all but ruled this out.

June 15<sup>th</sup>: Reports from scouting parties convinced Lee that McClellan's communication lines were very weak. In an attempt to outthink McClellan, Lee sent 10,000 in the direction of the Shenandoah Valley ostensibly to support Jackson– even though they would never get there as Jackson's men were marching at speed for Richmond. Lee hoped that McClellan's poor communication would convince him to keep his 60,000 men in the Valley to fight the extra 10,000 men who marched to be seen by the Unionists – but who were never intended to get to the Shenandoah Valley.

June 17<sup>th</sup>: President Lincoln was still not convinced that his generals were as offensively minded as he was. Lincoln believed that General John Pope fitted this requirement and appointed him commander of the newly created Army of Virginia.

June 18<sup>th</sup>: Lincoln wrote to McClellan urging him to attack Richmond. He wrote that with 10,000 less men – those men who had been directed to the Shenandoah Valley – the city was ripe for taking. McClellan viewed the situation differently. He believed that the Confederates had to be exceptionally well dug in and confident of victory if they could allow 10,000 men to leave the city. His response to Lincoln's exhortation to be more aggressive was to be more cautious!

June 19<sup>th</sup>: Lincoln made it known that he planned to outlaw slavery in all states in America.

June 24<sup>th</sup>: The first exchange of fire took place between troops near Richmond.

June 25<sup>th</sup>: McClellan ordered his men to advance on the left flank of Richmond. He also sent a letter to Washington DC that stated that he was facing an army of 200,000 men and that if he lost to them it would not be his fault and that he would die fighting with his men. McClellan made it clear that if he did lose the battle, there was nothing to stop the Confederates attacking the capital. To the end McClellan remained cautious. But it was a simple fact. If he did lose, what would stop Lee and then Davis entering Washington DC?

June 26<sup>th</sup>: Lee attacked Unionist forces outside Richmond at Mechanicsville. Lee had decided that attack was his best form of defence. However, an accurate and severe Unionist artillery bombardment threw back the Confederates. Lee withdrew his forces. McClellan remained very cautious and feared that a second attack would be more successful. Despite arguments to the contrary from his in-the-field commanders, McClellan ordered his forward troops to withdraw from their entrenched lines.

June 27<sup>th</sup>: Lee's men attacked as expected but the Unionists he expected to face were withdrawing across the Chickahominy River. The withdrawal was disciplined but the Confederates did capture a large amount of Union supplies. Lincoln was furious that McClellan had been overcautious.

June 28<sup>th</sup>: The Union Army continued its withdrawal and destroyed supplies at White House Landing rather than let them fall into the hands of the Confederates.

June 29<sup>th</sup>: The Army of the Potomac continued its withdrawal.

June 30<sup>th</sup>: Lee ordered an attack on McClellan's troops with all the 80,000 men at his disposal. However, it was never coordinated and by dusk it was plain that the attack had not been anywhere near decisive. If anything, the failed attack acted as a boost to the Unionists after what had happened in the previous three days.

Source: <http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/june-1862-civil-war.htm>, accessed April 17, 2012.

\*\*\*\*\* June 1862 cont'd \*\*\*\*\*

While the blockade runner, *Modern Greece*, was floundering off Fort Fisher on the morning of June 27, 1862, Union General Ambrose Burnside was approving the formation of a regiment of loyal Union men in Carteret County. The **First North Carolina Union Volunteers** was to be commanded by a member of General John Foster's staff, Captain Edward E. Potter, and its purpose was to protect the loyal citizens in the Union occupied portion of North Carolina. The volunteers were to be a home guard as clarified by an enlistment poster distributed among the citizens.

**TO THE PEOPLE  
OF EASTERN  
NORTH CAROLINA**

The Government of the United States, by Major-General Burnside in command of the Department of North Carolina, has authorized the raising of a regiment in the Eastern part of this State, which regiment will be under the protection of the United States, and commanded by a United States Officer. We, the undersigned, having full authority so to do, invite the citizens of this and neighboring counties to assist us in this enterprise.

All who are willing to enlist under the “Old Flag,” will be paid, clothed, and fed by the United States.

The Line Officers will be chosen by the men of the respective companies. The Colonel, Lieutenant Colonel, Major, and Adjutant will be appointed by the United States.

It is to be understood that this regiment is intended for the protection of loyal citizens by bringing them together under military discipline and will not be called upon to leave the State. Those able to bear arms who stand aloof from this movement cannot expect that the Government will protect those who make no effort to aid themselves.

**EDWARD E. POTTER, Capt. U.S.A.**  
**Col. Commanding 1<sup>st</sup> Reg. N.C.V.**

**JOHN R. RESSVESS**  
**Acting Lieut. Col. 1<sup>st</sup> Reg. N.C.V.**

### **Washington, Beaufort Co. North Carolina**

Why did some white North Carolinians take up arms against their own state? This was a complex question that involved more than anti-secession feelings or opposition to slavery. In Wayne K. Durrill’s *War of Another Kind: A Southern Community in the Great Rebellion*, Durill examined the stresses created between the planters, yeoman farmers, landless white laborers, free blacks and slaves in Union occupied coastal North Carolina (Washington County). For some men, the formation of Union Volunteers provided a means of “payback” against some of their neighbors and an opportunity to seize property. For others, it was a matter of economics and surviving in the turmoil that impacted their lives for the Federal Government had committed to support the volunteers and their families, if they pledged loyalty to the Union. Later in the war, the Union 2<sup>nd</sup> Regiment provided a haven for deserters and draft escapees from the Confederate Army. For whatever their reasons, more than 1,300 men chose to serve with the Union Army.

Eventually, the North Carolina Volunteers of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Regiments became involved in more than just garrison duty. Usually they became involved through Union attacks into Confederate North Carolina or Confederate attacks into the occupied areas. In early 1864, Confederate General George Pickett led an expedition against New Bern. At Beech Grove near that city, the Confederates captured 53 men in Company F, 2<sup>nd</sup> Regiment on February 1, 1864 – 27 of those men had previously deserted from the Confederate army. Pickett ordered a court martial and 22 of the men were hung at Kinston between February 5<sup>nd</sup> and February 22<sup>nd</sup>. The controversy that resulted from Pickett’s actions continued long after the end of the war.

Guerrilla warfare became a way of life in the coastal regions. The true nature of a “civil war” was experienced by many of those who lived in the eastern part of North Carolina for they endured more than a Northern or Southern invader marching through their lives – they endured the loss of nearly everything to men who had been their neighbors and they endured these wretched conditions for over three years. Whether unionist, secessionist, free black, or slave, their lives were forever changed by the war and the hard peace that followed. The war had utterly destroyed any concept of what had been law or justice.

Source: Donald E. Collins, "Eastern North Carolinians in the Union Army: The First and Second North Carolina Union Volunteer Regiments, <http://homepages.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ncuv/collins1.htm> accessed April 27, 2012.

Source: Wayne K. Durrill, *War of Another Kind: A Southern Community in the Great Rebellion* [Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1990].

Editor

\*\*\*\*\* May Program \*\*\*\*\*

## **Blockade Runner *Modern Greece* – Archaeology Program**

**Dr. Mark Wilde-Ramsing** provided our membership with a view of Civil War blockade running and the underwater salvage and mapping efforts that have been done since the *Modern Greece* was rediscovered in 1962. Fifty years of underwater archaeology efforts have added a significant number of shipwreck sites, artifacts, and archaeological preservation techniques to our knowledge of events that occurred during the heady days of blockade running on the Cape Fear.



*Modern Greece* – artist rendition

Mark began his presentation with a look at the Mosley 1733 and the Collet 1770 maps of the Cape Fear – the difference, and what made this region so important to the blockade running trade, was New Inlet. Opened by a 1761 storm, this inlet provided two entrances into the Cape Fear River. These two inlets and the shallow waters of Frying Pan Shoals made it difficult for the Union Blockading Fleet to easily prevent ships from entering the river. As the war continued, New Inlet and Wilmington increased in importance to the Confederate war effort. While many sleek blockade runners made successful runs into and out of the Cape Fear River, the lumbering *Modern Greece* failed in the attempt.

The following explains the significance of the underwater wrecks that were numerous in the Cape Fear region. This information was taken from the “National Register of Historic Places Nomination: Cape Fear Civil War Shipwreck District” that Mark and Wilson Angley submitted in September 1985.

During the Civil War at least thirty-one steam and twenty-two sail blockade-runners, as well as a wide assortment of Federal and Confederate military vessels were lost in the Cape Fear River area. With the exception of the USS *Peterhoff*, which was lost in a collision, all wrecks were stranded along the beach or on inlet shoals and sank in shallow waters (<30 feet). Upon wrecking, a vessel became the focus of furious attempts to save it and its cargo. The Federals had the decided advantage in efforts to recover the total vessel since they could approach from sea with tugboats. The Confederates concentrated on a wreck's cargo, which was not only more important to their specific need, but could be unloaded with ease onto the beaches which they controlled.



**Mark Wilde-Ramsing – Underwater Archaeologists**

Mark explained the early efforts of the first navy divers to recover artifacts from the *Modern Greece*. He then discussed the laws that North Carolina enacted to protect shipwrecks in the waters of this state. His presentation touched on the mapping and survey of shipwreck sites and the advances in technology that have aided in these efforts. After giving a brief history of several of the blockade runners and the CSS *Raleigh*, Mark ended his presentation with references to the March 2012 recovery efforts by an ECU led group to complete the discovery and cataloging of artifacts that have remained in outdoor holding tanks at the Underwater Archaeology Lab at Fort Fisher since 1962 - 1963. After 150 years, the *Modern Greece* continued to yield pertinent “bits of history” about the story that was blockade running in the Cape Fear during the Civil War.

Editor

Note: The photo of the blockade runner shown in the May issue was incorrectly identified as the *Modern Greece*.

**\*\*\*\*\* 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](mailto:tpwinstead@gmail.com). Please include “CFCWRT News” in your Subject line.

\*\*\*\*\* Trivia Questions for May 2012 \*\*\*\*\*

**1 – Who was the first commander of the Texas Brigade after it was formed on October 22, 1861?**

**Louis Trezevant Wigfall.** Born in South Carolina in 1816 and a transplant to Texas in 1846, Wigfall was a lawyer who was very active in Texas politics. He entered the United States Senate in 1859 as a leading fire-eater and representative of the states’ rights and slavery positions. On April 12, 1861, Wigfall was in Charleston, South Carolina urging Anderson to surrender Fort Sumter to Confederate forces. He served as an aide to Jefferson Davis and a member of the Provisional Congress. Appointed brigadier by Jefferson Davis, Wigfall was commander of the Texas Brigade until he resigned to enter the Confederate Senate.

Initially a supporter of Davis, Wigfall became a leading opponent of his former friend. After the Confederacy’s fall, Wigfall moved to England where he continued to push for the rise of the old Confederacy. He relocated to Baltimore in 1872 and died in Galveston on February 18, 1874.

Source: <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fwi04>, accessed April 22, 2012.

**2 – Where is Eltham’s Landing?** During the Peninsular Campaign, McClellan dispatched William B. Franklin’s division to make a amphibious landing at Eltham’s Landing (West Point) on the York River to position his troops behind Joe Johnston’s retreating Confederates. W.H.C. Whiting’s division was sent to oppose Franklin’s force. **John Bell Hood** led his Texas Brigade with Wade Hampton’s Legion in attacking Franklin and driving the Union troops back and allowing Johnston’s wagon train to escape.

Source: <http://www.hmdb.org/Marker.asp?Marker=17505>, accessed April 22, 2012.

**3 – The Texas Brigade garnered a reputation for being somewhat disrespectful of military authority. How did they react to officers they felt were less than sufficient to command them?** From an article in the *Civil War Times*:

One of the first challenges came when the men were organized into units, and officials in Richmond appointed their regimental officers. Although the recruits knew to expect this, they insisted on having some say in the process. The 4<sup>th</sup> Texas, for example, refused to have R.T.P. Allen as their colonel – they had had enough of his martinet manners in their training camps back home. The 5th Texas took note of Frank Schaller’s pageantry, foreign accent and, perhaps, his Jewish heritage, though the men said nothing about it. But Schaller awoke on morning to find his horse’s mane and tail cropped and the girth cut from the saddle, and he promptly left camp. The 5<sup>th</sup> finally accepted as their leader, if briefly, Colonel J.J. Archer, though many remained suspicious of the “too-near-Yankeedom” Marylander. And they made such a mockery of Major J.Q. Quattlebaum’s name and habits that the man resigned, insisting “that if he had to associate with devils he would wait until he went to hell, where he could select his own company.”

Source: Susannah J. Ural and Rick Eiserman, “The Winter That Made the Texas Brigade,” *Civil War Times*, August 2011.



**4 - What observation did General Lee share with John Bell Hood about precautions needed when Hood's Texans were in an area?** "Ah, General Hood, when you Texans come about the chickens have to roost mighty high."

Source: J.B. Hood, *Advance and Retreat: Personal Experiences in the United States & Confederate States Armies* [1880; repr., New York: Da Capo Press, 1993], 51.

**5 - How many artifacts were recovered from the *Modern Greece* during the 1962 - 1963 salvage effort?** The *Modern Greece* was a virtual hardware store that brought not only weapons, powder, and military gear, but large quantities of picks, hoes, knives, etc. According to Mark Wilde-Ramsing, over 11,500 items were salvaged during the efforts in 1962 - 1963. This volume of items recovered from the *Modern Greece* allowed the Underwater Archaeology Lab personnel to experiment with preservation methods that would best stabilize each type of item.

**6 - Who was the famous passenger on the *Condor* when the ship ran aground on October 1, 1864? Why was this passenger so insistent on reaching shore and avoiding Yankee capture?** **Rose O'Neal Greenhow.** Having been imprisoned by the Federal authorities earlier in the war and having represented the Confederate government in Europe, Greenhow was adamant about getting to shore to avoid capture and further imprisonment or death by hanging. Failing to heed the warning of the *Condor's* British captain, Rose paid the ultimate price for attempting to escape in the raging surf. Weighted down by gold coins secured on her person, Greenhow drown during her rowboat escape and was laid to rest in Wilmington's Oakdale Cemetery after she received full military honors from the Confederate government.

Source: Dawson Carr, *Gray Phantoms of the Cape Fear: Running the Civil War Blockade* [Winston-Salem, NC: John F. Blair, Publisher 1998] 104 -111.



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# The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

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## The *RUNNER*

### Newsletter of The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Editor **Tim Winstead**

May 2012

Our next meeting will be Thursday, 10 May 2012 at St. Andrew's On-the-Sound (101 Airlie Road). Social Hour begins at 6:30 p.m., meeting at 7:30.

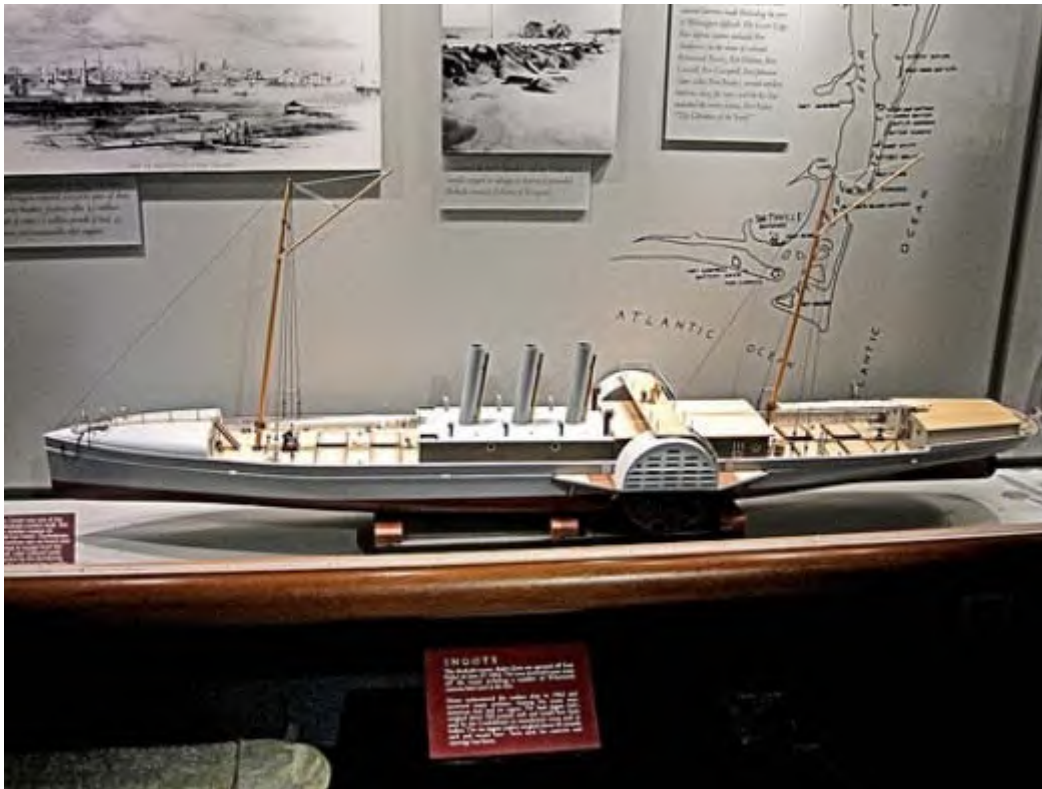


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We invite and welcome all people with an interest in Civil War history to attend a meeting of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table. The speakers for our programs are diverse in their views, interpretations, and presentations. This serves our purpose of encouraging education and research into that historic conflict.

\*\*\*\*\* **May Program** \*\*\*\*\*

**Blockade Runner *Modern Greece* – Archaeology Program**



**The Blockade Runner, *Modern Greece***

At 4:15 a.m. on the morning of June 27, 1862, Commander William A. Parker of the U.S.S. *Cambridge* spotted a large steamer about 3 miles from Fort Fisher. Parker ordered the *Cambridge* gunners to open fire upon the gray ship. The blockade runner hoisted an English flag and made for the protective guns of Fort Fisher. The iron steamer, the *Modern Greece*, failed to reach the safety of the Cape Fear River. Instead, she grounded and met her demise.

While some of the *Modern Greece's* large cargo was offloaded by the Confederates after she grounded, the steamer slipped under the water and sand of the Atlantic Ocean where she remained until she was uncovered by a fierce storm in the early spring of 1962. Divers from the Naval Ordnance School at Indian Head, Maryland discovered that the wreck was cleared of sand to a level below the main deck. Most importantly, much of the cargo was still there and in remarkable condition. The Office of Archives and History worked with other agencies and began the initial recovery of cargo from the *Modern Greece*. While generally successful, the knowledge about conservation of recovered artifacts was in its infancy and because of the large number of artifacts many were simply left in large outdoor storage tanks at the Fort Fisher site.



**Through the Blockade**

On March 5 - 7, eleven East Carolina University Maritime Studies graduate students and four interns from UNC Wilmington began efforts to discover what artifacts remained in those muddy outdoor storage tanks. This year marked the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the sinking of the *Modern Greece* and the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the original recovery effort. These student's efforts to clean out the tanks, catalogue the artifacts, and store them in more stable indoor wet storage was the beginning of a long conservation process that will allow these "bits of history" to be shared with the public.



**Mark Wilde-Ramsing**

On May 10, **Mark Wilde-Ramsing** will present the current status of the *Modern Greece's* cargo and the ongoing conservation efforts being made by the Underwater Archaeology Branch. Please join with the members of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table and learn about the latest discoveries from the *Modern Greece*.

**Mark U. Wilde-Ramsing**, Ph.D, became a staff archaeologist with the North Carolina Division of Archives and History – Underwater Archaeology Branch in 1978 and in October 2010 he became Deputy State Archaeologist – Underwater. Mark was appointed to develop an environmental review system for the submerged cultural resource management program. Wilde-Ramsing has surveyed many miles of North Carolina waters and supervised on underwater site investigations ranging from dugout canoes to 20<sup>th</sup> Century steamers. Throughout these investigations, Mark has sought input from marine archaeologists, historians, conservators, and physical scientists to help interpret and preserve the submerged archaeological record. Since 1997, Mark has been project director for the *Queen Ann's Revenge* shipwreck. Wilde-Ramsing graduated from Wake Forest University and the Catholic University of America. He received his doctorate in Coastal Resource Management from East Carolina University.

Editor

**\*\*\*\*\* Raffle Winners \*\*\*\*\***

**Raffle Master: Ed Gibson**

If you have books, prints, or other items that you would like to donate to the CFCWRT raffle, talk to Ed at our next meeting.

**April Meeting:**

Congratulations to the winners of the raffle.

*Lee's Tar Heels*

*Generals South – Generals North*

*The Civil War Battlefield Guide*

*Sherman*

*Lincoln's Men*

*Devil's Dream*

Dennis Wrynn

Davis Paul

Linda Lashley

Ed Gibson

Connie Hendrix

Martha Watson

Winners of the ancestry items:

*Tracing Your Ancestry*

*History of Lumpkin County*

*Passports Issued by Governors of Georgia*

Family Tree Maker

Dale Lear

Linda Lashley

Joseph George

Gail Clements

**\*\*\*\*\* Trivia Questions for May 2012 \*\*\*\*\***

**1 – Who owned the *Modern Greece*?**

**2 - What especially valuable articles were recovered from the *Modern Greece* and how were they used by the Confederates at Fort Fisher?**

**3 – On May 6, 1864, the C.S.S. *Raleigh* ventured through New Inlet and for a short interval broke the Union Blockade. What was the relationship between the *Modern Greece* and the *Raleigh*?**

4 – In Genealogy 101, Becky Sawyer discussed the immigration records that were available for research purposes. Where were the three major ports through which many of the new Americans entered the United States?

\*\*\*\*\* **Member News** \*\*\*\*\*

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

1 – **Reminder of June 2012 Meeting: Special Event!!!!** On Tuesday night, June 19, 2012, Dr. **Susannah Ural** will speak at an "added" meeting of the CFCWRT. Dr. Ural, who teaches at the University of Southern Mississippi, will present "**The Rise of Hood's Texans: Recruitment through Antietam.**" Dr. Ural will bring a knowledge and enthusiasm to her subject that you will not want to miss. **NOTE:** Please make a notation on your calendar that this meeting is not on our traditional second Thursday night but on the following Tuesday night – at the same time and place.

2 – **Worth Seeing** – Member **Lance Bevins** alerted us to this exhibit now showing at the **Cameron Art Museum**. *Eye Witness Civil War Drawings* from the Becker collection features 127 "first hand" drawings depicting colorful aspects of life and action during the Civil War era. This exhibit will be at the museum through **May 6, 2012**. These original drawings by artists-reporters for the *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*, were used to inform a reading public of actions during the war.

Many of you will be familiar with these prints; however, it will be fascinating to see the original drawing next to the engraving that appeared in the newspapers.

3 – **1<sup>st</sup> NC Co. E** - The newly formed 1st North Carolina Company E has made the **Cameron Art Museum** its home site. The unit will provide monthly civil war activities on the museum's grounds, so come and watch drills, rifle firings and more. Engage with the reenactors about their passion for providing living history and explore the historic Civil War site where the Battle of Forks Road took place. The museum's site is where Major General Robert F. Hoke made his last stand against Union soldiers comprised primarily of U.S. Colored Troops in the final fight for Wilmington on February 20, 1865. Check the museum website <http://www.cameronartmuseum.com/index.php?c=calendar> for the calendar events involving the **1<sup>st</sup> NC**. The initial drill was held on April 21<sup>st</sup> from 10:00AM – 2:00PM.



1<sup>st</sup> NC Company E

**4 – May 12<sup>th</sup>: Confederate Memorial Day Service** – Saturday 4 - 5pm. Fort Fisher Chapter #2325 of the United Daughters of the Confederacy will present the annual Confederate Memorial Day ceremony at Battle Acre. Local historian and CFCWRT member, Richard Triebe, author of *Fort Fisher to Elmira: The Fatal Journey of 518 Confederate Soldiers*, is guest speaker. For more information, call 910-458-5538.

Source: <http://www.nchistoricsites.org/fisher/>

\*\*\*\*\* May 1862 \*\*\*\*\*

In May 1862 Union forces moved against the Confederate capital Richmond. Jefferson Davis wrote to his wife that he was disappointed with the resolve of the people in Richmond. May 1862 also saw Unionist forces occupy Yorktown.

May 1<sup>st</sup>: General Butler occupied New Orleans. His administration of the city was to prove controversial.

May 2<sup>nd</sup>: Unionist forces were massed for an attack on Yorktown. General Johnston, the Confederate officer in charge of the city, knew he would not be able to make a stand against a mass attack and decided to evacuate the city.

May 3<sup>rd</sup>: Confederate forces started to evacuate Yorktown and withdraw to Richmond.

May 4<sup>th</sup>: The Army of the Potomac occupied Yorktown in Virginia.

May 5<sup>th</sup>: President Lincoln left Washington DC for a meeting with McClellan at Fortress Monroe. Secretary of War Stanton and Secretary of the Treasury Chase accompanied the President. A battle at Fort Magruder, Williamsburg, against a rearguard Confederate force protecting the withdrawal from

Yorktown, led to a Union victory but at a cost – 456 dead, 1,400 wounded and 372 missing. Confederate losses were estimated at being between 1,000 and 1,700.

May 7<sup>th</sup>: Union forces sailed upriver to Eltham's Landing, Virginia, and landed near West Point. They came under fire from Confederate troops still withdrawing from Yorktown and lost 49 killed, 104 wounded and 41 missing.

May 9<sup>th</sup>: Lincoln met McClellan to discuss the course of the war. Confederate forces abandoned the important naval base at Norfolk. When Unionist forces arrived at the naval base, they found large amounts of stores and equipment.

May 11<sup>th</sup>: The '**CSS Virginia**' (formally the 'USS Merrimac') was destroyed by the Confederates to stop it falling into the hands of the Unionists. It was too heavily armoured to be used on rivers and could not navigate the River James to help Confederate forces at Richmond.

May 12<sup>th</sup>: Lincoln announced that as ports Beaufort (North Carolina), Port Royal (South Carolina) and New Orleans were now in Federal hands, the blockade that they had been under would be lifted. Unionist forces occupied Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

May 13<sup>th</sup>: Many citizens in Richmond fled the city as Unionist forces approached.

May 15<sup>th</sup>: In New Orleans, the men of the city were kept in order by the presence of a large Unionist force. However, the women of the city made very public what they thought about the Unionist occupation of the city. Butler's response was to issue General Order Number 28. This stated "when any female shall, by word, gesture or movement insult or show contempt for any officer or soldier of the United States, she shall be regarded and held liable to be treated as a woman of the town plying her avocation."

May 18<sup>th</sup>: Suffolk, Virginia fell to Unionist forces.

May 19<sup>th</sup>: In a letter to his wife, Jefferson Davis, commented on the lack of resolve he had observed in those defending Richmond.

May 20<sup>th</sup>: Lincoln signed the Homestead Act. This act made available 160 acres of government land that would be handed over to a homesteader if he agreed to improve it for five years. Post-war America greatly benefited from this act as it encouraged many to migrate west.

May 21<sup>st</sup>: Advanced units of the Army of the Potomac were just eight miles from Richmond. However, McClellan was still cautious about attacking the Confederate capital, as he still believed that he did not have enough troops.

May 23<sup>rd</sup>: Union forces at Front Royal in the Shenandoah Valley suffered heavy casualties after being attacked by 'Stonewall' Jackson's men. Over 1,000 Union troops were killed or wounded out of a total force of 1,400 men. On the same day, the Confederates suffered a defeat at Lewisburg and lost over 200 men killed, wounded or missing.

May 24<sup>th</sup>: Lincoln ordered that 20,000 Unionist troops be sent to the Shenandoah Valley to eradicate the Confederate forces there.



May 25<sup>th</sup>: Lincoln gave McClellan an ultimatum – either attack Richmond or return with the Army of the Potomac to Washington DC to assist in the capital's defence.

May 29<sup>th</sup>: To counter Confederate success in the Shenandoah Valley, Unionist strength there was increased to 40,000 men. Ashland, a town just to the north of Richmond, was captured by the North.

May 31<sup>st</sup>: A major Confederate attack against the Army of the Potomac started at Fair Oaks. It was led by General Joseph Johnston. Towards the end of the day Johnston was seriously injured by shrapnel.

Source: <http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/may-1862-civil-war.htm>, accessed April 17, 2012.

\*\*\*\*\* May 1862 cont'd \*\*\*\*\*

### **C.S.S. Virginia**

The destruction of the CSS *Virginia* on May 11<sup>th</sup> was just one of many reverses experienced by Confederate forces in May 1862. As related in the following excerpt from a paper about John Taylor Wood, the Confederate hopes and visions of glory associated with the construction of the *Virginia* were short lived.

In January 1862, John Taylor Wood received orders to report to Commodore Franklin Forrest at the navy-yard in Norfolk. Wood was to be a lieutenant assigned to the C.S.S. *Virginia* then under construction from the remains of the frigate U.S.S. *Merrimac*. The *Virginia* was a revolutionary iron-clad vessel proposed by Lieutenant George M. Brooke and wholeheartedly backed by Stephen R. Mallory, Secretary of the Navy. Mallory proposed the iron-clad as a technological leap which would allow the Confederate Navy to counter the numerical superiority of the Union Navy. Wood was aware of the limitations of the *Virginia's* refurbished steam engines, her deep draft, and her Noah's Ark maneuverability. He was also aware that the ten guns mounted behind the iron casemate would be nearly impervious to the heavy guns of the Union's wooden fleet. Wood wanted to be in the midst of the experiment and to witness the *Virginia* in action against the Union fleet at Hampton Roads. Stephen R. Mallory knew that the *Virginia's* potential uses as an offensive weapon were in the hands of the Franklin Buchanan and his officers. He knew that Buchanan and his officers must be bold and daring. Mallory was a visionary whose ideas were sometimes out of reach to the realities of the present day. He expected much from "an untrained and untried crew, in an untested vessel, pitted against the undoubted mettle of a Federal fleet in Hampton Roads." On March 7, 1862 on the day before the *Virginia* would venture forth from Gosport Navy Yard, Mallory sent a confidential letter to Flag Officer Buchanan. Mallory's ultimate objectives for the *Virginia* were ambitious and far beyond the confines of Hampton Roads. He wanted to know Buchanan's views on a *Virginia* attack against New York City. "Such an event would eclipse all the glories of the combats of the sea, would place every man in it preeminently high, and would strike a blow from which the enemy could never recover. Peace would inevitably follow." Mallory would find boldness and daring in one of the *Virginia's* officers, John Taylor Wood. In the South's quest for independence, Mallory and Taylor would be linked in numerous bold and daring campaigns.

Wood wrote the following about the March 8, 1862 engagements in Hampton Roads between the *Virginia* and the Union wooden fleet, and on March 9 between the *Virginia* and the *Monitor*. It was, "in some respects the most momentous naval conflict ever witnessed. No battle was ever more widely discussed or produced a greater sensation. It revolutionized the navies of the world." The *Virginia* inflicted severe damage on the wooden ships but had been fought to a draw by the *Monitor*. After both ships withdrew for repair and refit, Buchanan sent Wood with a dispatch that informed Mallory of the two-day conflict. Buchanan also, "directed me to proceed to Richmond with it and the flag of the

*Congress*, and make a verbal report of the action, condition of the *Virginia*, etc." Wood reported to Mallory and they went to President Davis's office where Wood related the events to the gathered members of the government. "As to the future, I said that in the *Monitor* we had met our equal, and that the results of another engagement would be very doubtful." That Wood was sent to Richmond to report the events showed that his observations were valued by Buchanan. While Wood was excited by the historical significance of the conflict, he was able to give an even-handed appraisal of the actions. Wood's detachment from the growing excitement about the capabilities of the *Virginia* made his value as a reliable observer for Mallory and Jefferson Davis increasing important.

Wood returned to the *Virginia* and participated in her future actions against the Union fleet. As he observed, the unreliability of the *Virginia's* engines, the resulting slowness, and her depth of draft limited the ability to bring the *Monitor* into battle. The *Virginia* protected Norfolk but her survival was dependent upon the Confederate army's continued presence in the city. In April 1862, the threat of McClellan's Peninsula Campaign caused General Joseph E. Johnston to order the abandonment of Norfolk. The *Virginia* was too heavy to proceed up the James River to Richmond. Efforts to lighten her failed; hence, the navy ran the *Virginia* aground near Carney Island and set her ablaze on May 11, 1862. Wood and Lieutenant Catesby ap R. Jones were the last to leave the ship that had generated such enthusiasm for the Southern cause.

The weapon platform technology advanced by the *Virginia* was beyond the mechanical propulsion means available to the Confederate Navy. Mallory's dream of an attack on New York City never came to anything; however, John Taylor Wood did attempt to carry out an attack on that city when he took the *Tallahassee* and the war north in late 1864.

Editor

Source: [archive.html](#) , accessed April 17, 2012.

\*\*\*\*\* April Program \*\*\*\*\*

### **Genealogy 101 – Digging into the Past: Finding Your Civil War Ancestors**



## Becky Sawyer and the Census

To those who attended the April meeting, Becky shared the basic steps that should be taken to trace the roots of a Civil War ancestor. If you were lucky, you started with your ancestor's name, age or year of birth, and a location – state and town. If you were not lucky, you worked backwards and with names you knew and used census data to follow your ancestors back to the Civil War era. The 1850 Census was especially valuable – the 1850 Census was the first census that provided the names of the all the people who lived in a particular household.

Among other sources, Becky mentioned the following as possible information about your Union or Confederate veteran.

-

**Do the math:** During the early days of the war, men were usually found to be born between 1826 and 1842. As the war continued, older and younger men were drawn into the conflict. Especially in the South, the Senior Reserves and the Junior Reserves were prominent as the Confederacy called upon "cradle to the grave" enlistments.

**1890 Veterans Census** was a source (Ancestry.com) of much information about Union Veterans. This was the only portion of the 1890 Census that was not destroyed in a 1921 fire.

**1910 Census** was the first to have an indicator that a man was a Union or Confederate veteran.

**Geography** – Be aware that new counties could have been created after the war. Becky gave an example of Pender County being created from New Hanover County in 1870. She also shared a map of North Carolina as it existed between 1861 and 1865.

**Regimental Histories** – Both Union and Confederate veterans contributed to regimental histories in the years following the war. Official Regimental histories and individual soldier memoirs have been helpful in searches for men in a particular unit.

**North Carolina Resources** – The State of North Carolina began Roster of North Carolina Troops during the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the war. This effort continued as new volumes are still being completed at the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

**Public Libraries** – Many Public Libraries have genealogy rooms or access to on-line databases that can be helpful. The good thing about Public Libraries – they are usually helpful with suggestions and your tax dollars actually work for your quest.

The Internet has enhanced the ability of individuals to access huge amounts of information from their computers. The old days involved microfilm, microfiche, and paper records and these sources remain valuable tools; however, on-line databases can make your search much easier. Becky shared sites, both subscription based and free sites, that are good places to begin your search.

Subscription Based Sites:

**Ancestry.com** - \$22.95/month, \$155.40/year

**Fold3.com** - \$11.95/month, \$79.95/year

**Civil War Database:** [www.civilwardata.com](http://www.civilwardata.com) - \$25.00/year

Free Sites:

**Port of New York**, source of immigrant records, [www.castlegarden.org](http://www.castlegarden.org) (1820-1913)

**Immigrant Ships Transcription** – <http://www.immigrantships.net/>

**Soldiers and Sailors Database** (NPS site) – <http://www.itd.nps.gov/cwss/>

**Find A Grave.com** – [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com)

**Internment.net** – [www.internment.net](http://www.internment.net)

**Family Search.org** – Sources for various records (marriage, census, death – US & Europe) – [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)

**GenWeb** projects by state & counties – <http://www.ncgenweb.us/>

**State Archives or State Libraries** – [www.nclive.org](http://www.nclive.org) Remote access to state library or local libraries with your library card number – Heritage Quest (census records, Rev War pensions, Freeman's Bureau) Dyer's Compendium (Union Regimental Histories) – [www.civilwararchive.com/regim.htm](http://www.civilwararchive.com/regim.htm)

Other tips that Becky offered included:

**Document, Document, Document** – Always write down the source of information you found and where you found it. Nothing is as frustrating as have something and not having a clue as to where you got it.

**Brick walls** – You will encounter problems and this is where you need to get creative.

-Try variations of the spelling of a particular name. Names were Americanized: Dryer, Dreyer, Drier, etc. In my family's case, Kilit became Killet and finally Kilette. (Can you imagine being called Private Kilit?)

-Think of other links – siblings, parents

-Sons of Union Veterans, Daughters of Union Veterans

-Sons of Confederate Veterans, United Daughters of the Confederacy



Smiling Becky – Good job!

Finally, the last tip for your search and potentially the most valuable is: Becky loves this genealogy stuff, she works at the Fort Fisher State Historic Site, and she enjoys helping people find their Civil War ancestors. Seriously, there are records and databases available at Fort Fisher which could help you shorten your journey.

I believe I am going to make another trip to Fort Fisher.

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](mailto:tpwinstead@gmail.com). Please include "CFCWRT News" in your Subject line.

\*\*\*\*\* **Trivia Questions for May 2012** \*\*\*\*\*

**1 – Who owned the *Modern Greece*?** The *Modern Greece* was built by the Richardson's firm of Stockton, England during 1859. According to *Lloyd's Register*, she was a 753 ton ship, 210 feet in length, 29 feet in breadth, and drew 17 feet and 2 inches of water. She was not designed as a blockade runner and her deep draft made her ill-suited for running the bar into the Cape Fear River. On June 27, 1862, she paid the ultimate price for her design deficiencies.

The *Modern Greece* was owned by one of the first British companies that attempted to challenge the Union blockade. **Zachariah C. Pearson** was a ship owner, merchant, and the mayor of Hull, England. Pearson loaded his ships with supplies provided by Confederate agent, **Caleb Huse**. While accounts show that many blockade running enterprises reaped huge profits, Zachariah Pearson was not among their membership. Between May 4 and August 4, 1862, Pearson sent seven ships to run through the blockade – six were captured and the *Modern Greece* ran aground. By the end of 1862, Pearson and Company had declared bankruptcy.

The blockade of the Southern states was officially ended by President Andrew Johnson on June 23, 1865. The first successful run was by the *Bermuda* into Savannah on April 18, 1861, the last run was by the *Lark* out of Galveston on May 24, 1865. More than 300 steamers challenged the Union blockade. Of the approximate 1,300 attempts, more than 1,000 were successful. The average blockade runner made four runs (two round trips) during her lifetime. Per Stephen R. Wise, some 136 blockade runners were captured and another 85 were destroyed.

Source: Leslie S. Bright, *The Blockade Runner Modern Greece and her Cargo* [Raleigh, NC: Archaeology Section, Division of Archives and History, North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, 1977], 4.

Note: This book can be read on-line at <http://archive.org/stream/blockaderunnermo00brig#page/n1/mode/2up>

Source: Stephen R. Wise, *Lifeline of the Confederacy: Blockade Running During the Civil War* [Columbia, SC: University of South Carolina Press, 1988], 71, 221.

**2 - What especially valuable articles were recovered from the *Modern Greece* and how were they used by the Confederates at Fort Fisher? According to Colonel William Lamb:**

Shortly after taking command of Fort Fisher I recovered from the wreck of the blockade runner, the British Steamship MODERN GREECE, four 12 pounder **Whitworth rifle guns**, with a range of five miles. With these guns, we made the U.S. Blockading fleet remove their anchorage from two and a half miles to five miles from the fort. So many vessels were saved with these guns that they soon had a reputation throughout the South, and three of them were transferred to other commands, two going to Virginia.

Source: Leslie S. Bright, *The Blockade Runner Modern Greece and her Cargo* [Raleigh, NC: Archaeology Section, Division of Archives and History, North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, 1977], 14.

**3 – On May 6, 1864, the C.S.S. *Raleigh* ventured through New Inlet and for a short interval broke the Union Blockade. What was the relationship between the *Modern Greece* and the *Raleigh*? Other than the fact that both vessels ran aground, it was thought that the engines removed from the *Modern Greece* were used to power the *Raleigh*.**

Source: Leslie S. Bright, *The Blockade Runner Modern Greece and her Cargo* [Raleigh, NC: Archaeology Section, Division of Archives and History, North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, 1977], 18-19.

**4 – In Genealogy 101, Becky Sawyer discussed the immigration records that were available for research purposes. Where were the three major ports through which many of the new Americans entered the United States? New York, Baltimore, and New Orleans were the major gateways for the immigrants to enter and begin a new life.**



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# The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

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## The *RUNNER*

### Newsletter of The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Editor **Tim Winstead**

\*\*\*\*\* April 2012 \*\*\*\*\*

**Our next meeting will be Thursday, 12 April 2012 at St. Andrew's On-the-Sound (101 Airlie Road). Social Hour begins at 6:30 p.m., meeting at 7:30.**



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We invite and welcome all people with an interest in Civil War 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. This serves our purpose of encouraging education and research into that historic conflict.

\*\*\*\*\* April Program \*\*\*\*\*

**Genealogy 101 – Digging into the Past: Finding Your Civil War Ancestors**



**Veteran Reunion**

Have you ever wondered whose picture that was in your great-grandma's picture album? Have you ever wondered if any of your ancestors fought in the Civil War? Many of us have probably heard some family history that provided rather sketchy details about our ancestors and their whereabouts during the war. How can these sketchy details be utilized to learn more about that mysterious relative?

The April meeting of the CFCWRT will provide those who have ever wondered about their ancestors and their involvement in the war with the opportunity to learn from an accomplished genealogical researcher. CFCWRT member, **Becky Sawyer**, will provide a guide on the methods required to do basis genealogical research. Her presentation will include handouts, genealogy website information, and some tricks of the trade to work your way around roadblocks encountered while performing basis research.

**Becky Rolwes Sawyer** was born in St. Louis, Missouri and raised in the suburbs of St. Louis County. She graduated in 1996 from Southeast Missouri State University with a BS in Historic Preservation and a minor in History. Upon graduation, Becky began work at the North Carolina Historic Site at Bentonville as a program's coordinator and historian. Becky worked closely with the North Carolina Civil War Trails program in Johnston County and at the Bentonville Battlefield site. While working at Bentonville, Becky completed her MA in Public History from UNCW in 2001. During 2006, Becky began working in her present position at the North Carolina Historic Site at Fort Fisher.

Becky's own words provide an idea of the passion for the subject that she will address at the April meeting:

My passion for genealogy began at a young age. I do profess that I was a genealogy geek and people seemed to be in disbelief that some one of my age would be interested in "dead people." I learned



around the age of 8 how to load the microfilm reader in the basement of the St. Louis City Library genealogy room..... Never knew I had Civil War relatives until I started digging into the past. I had six ancestors who fought in the American Civil War, all for the Union.

Editor

\*\*\*\*\* **Raffle Winners** \*\*\*\*\*

**Raffle Master: Ed Gibson**

If you have books, prints, or other items that you would like to donate to the CFCWRT raffle, talk to Ed at our next meeting.

**March Meeting:**

Congratulations to the winners of the March Raffle.

*The Civil War Battlefield Guide*

Beverly Blanton

*Grant*

Beverly Blanton

*Lee*

Linda Lashley

*Confederates in the Attic*

Beverly Blanton

*Manhunt*

Linda Lashley

*Historical Maps of Civil War Battlefields*

Richard Covell

\*\*\*\*\* **Member News** \*\*\*\*\*

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

**1** – Welcome to our two newest members, **Ned Carten** and **John Coble**, to the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table. Thank you for joining us and we hope you enjoy the programs and the fellowship.

**2** - On March 31, CFCWRT members **Linda Lashley**, **Dale Lear**, and **Keith Ward** (also representing Boy Scouts of America), helped dig post holes along the main road, weed around the Ft. Fisher visitors' center and rake up the abundance of fallen oak leaves across the street around the traditional wedding area. "Park Day" is an annual hands-on preservation event created by the Civil War Trust to assist with the maintenance of America's Civil War sites. It is funded with a grant from History(TM), formerly The History Channel. Volunteers were treated to lunch by the Friends of Fort Fisher, a nonprofit group that helps support the historic site.



**Park Day at Fort Fisher**

**3 – Reminder of June 2012 Meeting: Special Event!!!!** On June 19, 2012, **Dr. Susannah Ural** will speak at an “added” meeting of the CFCWRT. Dr. Ural, who teaches at the University of Southern Mississippi, will present “**The Rise of Hood’s Texans: Recruitment through Antietam.**” Dr. Ural will bring a knowledge and enthusiasm to her subject that you will not want to miss.

**4 – Worth Seeing** – Member **Lance Bevins** alerted us to this exhibit now showing at the Cameron Art Museum. *Eye Witness Civil War Drawings* from the Becker collection features 127 “first hand” drawings depicting colorful aspects of life and action during the Civil War era. This exhibit will be at the museum through May 6, 2012. These original drawings by artists-reporters for the *Frank Leslie’s Illustrated Newspaper*, were used to inform a reading public of actions during the war.

Many of you will be familiar with these prints; however, it will be fascinating to see the original drawing next to the engraving that appeared in the newspapers.

**5** – A great article by Si Cantwell appeared in the *Starnews* on April 1, 2012. Si and about 25 others followed CFCWRT member, **Dr. Chris Fonvielle**, on an annual walking tour of Confederate defensive positions that dotted the landscape around Carolina Beach. NOTE: Contact the Federal Point Historic Preservation Society (910-458-0502) for the schedule of next year’s walk.

A vintage Fonvielle quote exclaimed the beauty and importance of the surviving fortifications, “It seems an oxymoron to talk about the beauty of wartime defenses, but the Confederate earthworks are absolutely magnificent.”

**\*\*\*\*\* Lexington, Virginia \*\*\*\*\***



**VMI – Stonewall Jackson & the Cadet Battery**

On March 23, 2012, several members of the CFCWRT took advantage of the free lectures and tours sponsored by the VMI Museum, the Stonewall Jackson House, Lee Chapel and the Lexington Visitor Center. **John Munroe, Lance Bevins, David Cooke, Dale Lear, and Roger Lear** journeyed to Lexington where they absorbed a massive dose of *Lexington's Civil War*. Among the lectures they were able to attend were: "Washington College in the Civil War," "Virginia Military Institute in the Civil War: The Institute Will be Heard from Today," "An Overview of Stonewall Jackson's 1862 Valley Campaign."

According to Dale, the sight of the 1500 member VMI Cadet Corps in parade formation was worth the visit. Then again, Dale said the same about the Lee Chapel, Traveler (with apple), the Stonewall Jackson house, the George C. Marshall Museum, and the entire trip.



**VMI Cadets on Parade**

**\*\*\*\*\* April 1862 \*\*\*\*\***

In April 1862 General McClellan finally made a decisive move against Richmond. April also saw the first move that would lead to the outlawing of slavery across America when Lincoln declared the abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia. The act spurred on the Confederacy in its belief that the government in Washington was doing what it could to destroy the way of life in the South. Lincoln's action served to enflame the American Civil War even more.

April 1st: McClellan had a force of three regiments facing 12,000 Confederate soldiers at Fortress Monroe. In total McClellan had a total force of 112,000 men.

April 3rd: The Senate outlawed slavery in the District of Columbia. This was seen to set the precedent that slavery should be abolished in any area over which the Federal government had jurisdiction. There were only 63 slaves in the District but the act set the wheels in motion for the abolition of slavery in all areas controlled by the Federal government.

April 4th: Union forces started a move on Yorktown – the start of McClellan's campaign in Virginia. The Confederate general Johnston had 17,000 men under his command along an eight-mile front but faced 100,000 Union troops.

April 5th: McClellan's force continued its push down the Virginia peninsula.

April 6th: 40,000 Confederate soldiers attacked a major Union base at Shiloh. They took the Union force by surprise and used to their good the fact that the Unionist force had not built any major defensive lines around their camp as they believed it would be perceived as a sign of weakness by the South. The fighting was fierce but by nightfall the North had managed to bring up reserves so that they had 54,000 men to the Confederates 34,000.

April 7th: The North launched a counter-offensive at Shiloh. Like the previous day the fighting was fierce but gun ships on the River Tennessee supported the Unionists. "Bloody Shiloh" had no obvious winning side and historians view the battle as a 'draw'. But the losses suffered by both sides far

outweighed any previous battle. The North lost 1754 killed, 8408 wounded and 2885 captured while the South lost 1728 killed, 8102 wounded and 959 men taken prisoner. Of the two sides, the North was better able to cope with such losses so their media portrayed it as a Northern victory.

April 8th: 3,000 Confederate soldiers were taken prisoner at Island Number 10 on the Mississippi River.

April 11th: The House of Representatives, in support of the Senate, passed a bill to ban slavery in the District of Columbia. The Unionists captured Fort Pulaski in the mouth of the harbour at Savannah after an eighteen-hour bombardment.

April 16th: President Lincoln signed a bill that outlawed slavery in the District of Columbia. President Davis signed a bill that made all males living in the Confederacy aged between 18 and 35 liable for military service.

April 18th: A Unionist naval fleet assembled at Ship Island in the Mississippi Delta, to begin its move against New Orleans. The route it was scheduled to take was fraught with dangers not least the forts at Jackson and St Philip, which could muster over 170 rifled 63-pounder cannon. The Unionist fleet was under the command of Commodore David Farragut and it carried 15,000 troops who were tasked with taking New Orleans.

April 21st: After three days of bombardment and being hit by over 4,000 rounds Forts Jackson and St. Philip were still functioning.

April 22nd: A Confederate deserter, however, confirmed to Farragut that the damage to both forts had been great. Farragut decided to try to 'run' the forts with his fleet. He told his subordinates that his philosophy was "conquer or be conquered".

April 24th: By dawn of this day, the Federal naval fleet had passed both forts. However, his fleet had lost 37 men killed and 171 wounded. Farragut steamed to within 18 miles (by river) to New Orleans.

April 25th: **Fort Macon in North Carolina fell to Unionist troops.** 450 Confederate soldiers were taken prisoner. Farragut's fleet arrived in New Orleans and claimed the city.

April 28th: Forts St. Philip and Jackson formally surrendered to Union forces.

Source: <http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/april-1862-civil-war.htm>, accessed March 27, 2012.

\*\*\*\*\* April 1862 cont'd \*\*\*\*\*

### **Shiloh: The Hard Reality of War**

On April 6, 1862, Confederate troops lead by Albert Sidney Johnston struck at Union forces that occupied the positions near Pittsburg Landing on the Tennessee River. The surprise attack against the unprepared Union defenders almost overpowered U.S. Grant's entire command. A determined Union defense in the "Hornet's Nest" gave the time necessary for the Union troops to hold until reinforcements arrived. General Johnston died of a wound he suffered on the battlefield and he was replaced by P.G.T. Beauregard. The fighting continued until darkness ended the vicious struggle. During the night, Grant received reinforcements and on the morning of April 7<sup>th</sup>, the Union

counteroffensive reversed the Confederate advantage. Beauregard was forced to retire his smaller army from the field.

The two day battle resulted in more than 23,000 casualties and set the stage for the increasingly deadly contest.

Source: <http://www.civilwar.org/battlefields/shiloh.html?gclid=CKHs5cK0lq8CFYNo4AodPC6x0g>, accessed April 2, 2012.

Editor

\*\*\*\*\* **March Meeting** \*\*\*\*\*

*To Strike a Blow: The Burnside Expedition of 1862*



**Jeff Bockert**

Our March Speaker, **Mr. Jeff Bockert**, began his presentation about Union General Ambrose Burnside (of “Sideburns” fame) who made his debut during the Civil War as a Colonel at First Manassas, where he “creditably” led his brigade in a flank attack. Shortly after the engagement, Burnside was promoted to Brigadier General and placed in command of an expedition to coastal Carolina. Mr. Bockert indicated that there were several main objectives of this expedition: To capture Roanoke Island (which controlled Albemarle and Pamlico Sounds); close the Dismal Swamp canal, thereby cutting supplies to Norfolk; capture New Bern, Beaufort and Morehead City and to reduce Fort Macon, to destroy the

railroad bridges of the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad (which was Richmond's main supply route); also, if feasible, to hold Goldsboro and then continue on to Raleigh.



**Attack on Fort Macon**

Mr. Bockert went on to detail some of the problems Burnside faced: not enough shipping – New York City ferry and tugboats were finally obtained. Seafaring men from the New England states were also sought after and were hard to come by as the Port Royal expedition had already been outfitted with such men.

Overcoming these obstacles, Burnside gathered 13,000 troops and after a difficult sea trip, reached his destination. Soldiers were landed out of the range of the guns on Roanoke in February 1862 and Burnside was quickly successful due to the lack of Confederate troops on the island. All eyes turned to the reduction of New Bern (which was to be used as a base of operations) and Fort Macon. In mid-March, the Union army was again on the move to New Bern and by the end of March, had taken the city, as well as Beaufort and Morehead City.

By the end of that month, Fort Macon (the last entrance to the Outer Banks still not in Federal hands), was invested and by the end of April, the fort was in Union hands as well. Jeff pointed out that General John Foster had once served at Fort Macon and knew exactly where the powder magazine was. Artillery fire was then directed against the magazine and was in danger of exploding, hence the fort's surrender! As Burnside prepared to gather his forces and continue on to Goldsboro, General Burnside was ordered to the Peninsula to aid General McClellan,

The results of the expedition were mixed (the locks were not closed, but the capture of Norfolk by the Federals relieved the pressure to close the canal) but with a firm lodgment on the coast of North Carolina, the Union army and navy would remain more than just a thorn in the side of North Carolina and the Confederacy. The U.S. Navy used the area as a coaling station and in December 1862, General

Foster, now in command, launched an attack on Goldsboro and successfully destroyed the railroad bridge at that point. He was not able to hold the city and was forced to retreat, but throughout the remainder of the war, several more raids on the road showed that an attack could be made at any point and at anytime along the vast “no man’s land” of coastal North Carolina.

Robert J. Cooke

**\*\*\*\*\* New Estimate Raises Civil War Death Toll \*\*\*\*\***

At our January 2011 Meeting, **Josh Howard**, Research Historian for the North Carolina Office of Archives and History, outlined the effort underway for the North Carolina Civil War Sesquicentennial to reanalyze the number of North Carolinians, Confederate and Union, who served and died during the Civil War. The study by the North Carolina researcher was not the only effort being undertaken to reexamine the significance of the Civil War deaths on the decades that followed the war.

In an article that appeared in *The New York Times* on April 2, 2012, Dr. J. David Hacker, a demographic historian from Binghamton University in New York, has used newly digitized census records from the 19<sup>th</sup> century to recalculate the Civil War’s death toll. Dr. Hacker raised the estimate of deaths by more than 20 percent – from 618,222 to 750,000.

Josh Howard will speak at the North Carolina Military Historical Society Symposium on May 12, 2012 in Raleigh. It will be interesting to learn the current findings of the two studies and how they may have differed.

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](mailto:tpwinstead@gmail.com). Please include “CFCWRT News” in your Subject line.





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# The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

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## The *RUNNER*

### Newsletter of The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Editor **Tim Winstead**

\*\*\*\*\* March 2012 \*\*\*\*\*

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We invite and welcome all people with an interest in Civil War 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. This serves our purpose of encouraging education and research into that historic conflict.

\*\*\*\*\* March Program \*\*\*\*\*

***To Strike a Blow: The Burnside Expedition of 1862***



**Jeff Bockert**

**Jeffrey L. Bockert**, will be our speaker for the March Meeting. Jeff's topic will be *To Strike a Blow: The Burnside Expedition of 1862*. By using letters, diaries, and first-hand accounts, Jeff will discuss the background and strategic goals of the expedition, the effect of the expedition on Confederate war aims and goals, and the effect on North Carolinians and African-Americans behind Union lines. He will also briefly address the battles of the campaign.



**Ambrose Burnside**

**Jeff Bockert** currently serves as the Associate Curator of Education for the North Carolina Division of Historic Sites based in Kinston, N.C. and as Vice-Chairman of the North Carolina Civil War Tourism Council. In addition, Jeff serves on the N.C. Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee as well as the N.C. War of 1812 Bicentennial Committee.



*Harper's Weekly* – Attack on New Bern

Jeff has worked for over fifteen years in the historic site and museum field. Prior to his position in Kinston, he served as the Civil War Specialist for N.C. Department of Cultural Resources. Jeff's previous work experience has included managing the President James K. Polk Birthplace, Associate Curator of the Battleship *North Carolina*, and he has worked at the National Archives in Washington, DC. Jeff received his undergraduate and master's degrees at UNCW.

If you want to learn more about the war in eastern North Carolina, join the members and guests of the CFCWRT on Thursday, March 8.

Editor

\*\*\*\*\* Raffle Winners \*\*\*\*\*

**Raffle Master: Ed Gibson**

If you have books, prints, or other items that you would like to donate to the CFCWRT raffle, talk to Ed at our next meeting.

**February Meeting:**

The Silent Auction provided some good deals for those who had winning bids.

Original Oil Painting	Linda Lashley
<i>The Morning Star</i> September 18, 1881	Martha Watson
General U.S. Grant print	Jim Gannon
Mort Kunstler's Road to Glory – "Jackson Leaves VMI"	John Moore
General Longstreet & horse print	Bob Watkins
General Longstreet print	Tim Winstead
<i>The Civil War Art of Mort Kunstler</i>	Ed Gibson
<i>The Gettysburg Companion</i>	Ed Gibson

\*\*\*\*\* Trivia Questions March 2012 \*\*\*\*\*

**Joe George** was the winner of the February Trivia question and its dinner prize. Joe quickly and correctly identified **Brig. Gen. James Dearing**.

Dearing was born at Otterburn in Campbell County Virginia. James Dearing attended West Point and would likely have graduated in 1862 had the war not divided the country. Like most of the Southern Cadets he resigned from the Academy. His allegiance to his family and state he became a junior officer with the Washington Artillery along with Thomas Rosser. His leadership skills gave him notable recognition as he moved up in rank from 2nd Lieutenant, Captain and to Major. He married Roxanna Birchett, of Dinwiddie Va., they would have one daughter Mary Lucretia Dearing.

Leading the charge of the Laurel Brigade at High Bridge he is believed to have engaged in duello with Gen. Theodore Read. After Gen. Read fell wounded from his horse, Dearing was shot in the chest, the ball passing through both lungs. Gen. Dearing was taken from the battlefield to the home of James Watson, "Chatham." After the fight Col. Elijah Viers White went to see him, as White entered the room where Dearing rested, Gen. Dearing who could hardly speak, took Gen. Rosser's hand, pointing to his collar insignia to gesture that Col White be promoted in his stead.

Mortally wounded, Dearing was taken to the Ladies Aid Hospital, in Lynchburg where he passed away April 23, 1865.

At 25 years old, he was the last Confederate General to die of wounds received in battle during the war.

Source: [http://highbridgebattlefieldmuseum.com/the\\_soldiers](http://highbridgebattlefieldmuseum.com/the_soldiers)

- 1 – On February 7, 1862, Gen. Ambrose E. Burnside and Flag Officer Louis M. Goldsboro led a combine Union force of 15,000 men and 100 naval vessels to a landing on Roanoke Island. Who were the Confederate Army and Navy commanders who opposed this invasion?
- 2– After the fall of Roanoke, Burnside turned his attention on New Bern and the capture of much of eastern North Carolina. Confederate Gen. Lawrence O’B. Branch and 4,500 poorly equipped and trained forces opposed Burnside and his 12,000 well equipped soldiers. The Battle of New Bern took place on March 14, 1862. After a failed defense, Branch and his force retreated to Kinston. The defeat was a stinging one for the people of North Carolina; however, two officers of the 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina emerged from the conflict with their reputations intact. While many North Carolina newspapers argued that many of the Confederates were guilty of cowardice, these two men would achieve further fame in the continuing conflict. Who were the men and what were their fates?
- 3 – As Burnside’s soldiers advanced inland from Roanoke Island, residents of one town decided on a course of action similar to the Russian’s actions as Napoleon advanced on Moscow. What was the town and what actions did the townspeople pursue?
- 4 – How long did Pickett’s Charge last?
- 5 – Who was responsible for the Union artillery during Pickett’s charge?
- 6 - According to Arthur Fremantle, what was Lee’s reaction to the failure of Pickett’s Charge?

\*\*\*\*\* **Member News** \*\*\*\*\*

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

1 – Welcome new member, **David Paul**, to the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table. We hope you enjoy the programs and fellowship.

2 – **Dr. Chris Fonvielle**, past CFCWRT President, gives many presentations and tours to promote the Cape Fear region and our fascinating history. A special opportunity exists to hear Chris and another Cape Fear historian/writer, Philip Gerard, in June 2012. The *Our State* magazine is sponsoring a Civil War History Weekend on June 1-3 in Wilmington. More details available in the March issue of the magazine.

3 – **Dale Lear**, “The Tour Guy,” is working on the spring trip to Lexington, Virginia. Be looking for additional pronouncements on the particulars.

4 – **Worth Seeing** – Member **Lance Bevins** alerted us to this exhibit now showing at the Cameron Art Museum. *Eye Witness Civil War Drawings* from the Becker collection features 127 “first hand” drawings depicting colorful aspects of life and action during the Civil War era. This exhibit will be at the museum through May 6, 2012. These original drawings by artists-reporters for the *Frank Leslie’s Illustrated Newspaper*, were used to inform a reading public of actions during the war.

Many of you will be familiar with these prints; however, it was fascinating to see the original drawing next to the engraving that appeared in the newspapers.

\*\*\*\*\* **Fort Fisher** \*\*\*\*\*

On a cold and windy February 9<sup>th</sup>, Bob Cooke led our February speaker and several members of the CFCWRT on a great tour of our own Civil War treasure. Bob shared many stories that explained the history of Fort Fisher and why its location was so critical to the Confederate cause.



**Back row: Bruce Patterson, Dan Geddie, Linda Lashley  
Front Row: Tim Winstead, Bob Cooke, Mike Priest, Becky Sawyer, Ed Gibson  
Ray Flowers - photographer  
\*\*\*\*\* March 1862 \*\*\*\*\***

March 1862 finally saw McClellan make some kind of move against Richmond - some two months after being ordered to do so by Lincoln. In March, Jefferson Davis appointed Robert E. Lee to be his military advisor.

March 1st: Richmond was put under martial law while a number of prominent citizens were arrested for proclaiming that the war should be brought to an end.

March 2nd: Confederate forces abandoned Columbus, Kentucky, seen as a major Confederate stronghold but one that was vulnerable to attack after the fall of Fort Donelson.

March 3rd: General Halleck accused General Grant of “neglect of duty, inefficiency and drunkenness”. McClellan gave Halleck permission to arrest Grant if he thought it was necessary. This argument was the result of Grant’s popularity in the North after the capture of Fort Donelson, which Halleck claimed the credit for coupled with Halleck’s lack of any real progress in Missouri.

March 4th: General Robert E Lee was appointed military advisor to Jefferson Davis. Halleck removed Grant from his command. Halleck was appointed commander of all the Union’s western armies – his reward for the victory at Fort Donelson.

March 6th: Lincoln asked Congress to approve Federal funding to assist states thinking about introducing emancipation of slave legislation. The Confederate Congress agreed that a scorched earth policy could be used in Virginia if Unionist forces broke through. The aim was to ensure that no cotton or tobacco fell into the hands of the North.

March 7th: McClellan moved the Army of the Potomac into Virginia. His target was the Confederate force based at Manassas.

March 8th: Lincoln finally agreed with McClellan's plan to invade Virginia from the sea. However, the President did insist that sufficient men had to be left behind to defend the capital. The Confederates suffered a heavy defeat at the Battle of Pea Ridge losing nearly 800 men with 1000 captured. The former 'USS Merrimac' – now the Confederate 'Virginia' – inflicted major losses on a small Union naval fleet of three ships resulting in the North losing 2 ships and 250 men at Hampton Roads. Only the night saved the third ship. The 'Virginia' was a heavily armoured ironclad that stood up to six full broadsides with little damage done to her. However on the evening of the 8th the 'USS Monitor' entered the Hampton Roads.

March 9th: The Army of the Potomac moved off in search of a Confederate force they thought was at Rappahannock – but it was not and they returned to their base at Alexandria without having made contact with the enemy. The 'USS Monitor' engaged the 'Virginia' at Hampton Roads. After a series of attacks on one another neither saw an opportunity to win and both broke off the engagement. Both ships were simply too heavily armoured to be susceptible to the firepower of the other.

March 11th: Another War Order by Lincoln stated that McClellan was now only commander of the Army of the Potomac. This was a temporary move only to ensure that McClellan could concentrate all his energy on a successful campaign in Virginia.

March 13th: Union forces captured \$1 million of Confederate supplies at Point Pleasant, Missouri.

March 15th: Grant was handed a command once again – he was placed in charge of Unionist forces in Tennessee.

March 17th: McClellan started his campaign to attack Virginia from the coast by moving his troops to Fortress Monroe.

March 19th: The South puts into place a plan to stop the North taking two vital rail lines – the Chattanooga to Georgia and the Corinth to Memphis lines. If the North took either line, they would have an easier route into the South's heartland.

March 23rd: The Battle of Winchester was fought (in the South this was known as the Battle of Kernstown). The South took heavy casualties with 270 killed and as many as 1000 missing. The North suffered 103 killed with 400 wounded and missing. A large Unionist force gathered at Camp Shiloh and made ready for an attack on Corinth, Mississippi. As the Confederates expected such an attack, their forces in Corinth were being increased.

March 24th: Lincoln became convinced that the South was about to launch an attack on Washington DC and ordered troops who were to have supported McClellan's campaign in Virginia to remain in the capital.

March 29th: The Confederates continued their build-up of men at Corinth, Mississippi, and waited for the North to attack. The size of the force gathered in Corinth showed that the South was not prepared to let the town fall to the North in view of its importance with regards to the two vital rail lines identified by the South.

Source: <http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/march-1862-civil-war.htm>, accessed February 10, 2012.

\*\*\*\*\* March 1862 cont'd \*\*\*\*\*

One of the most beautiful letters written during the Civil War was the letter that Major Sullivan Ballou, of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Rhode Island Regiment, supposedly wrote to his wife, Sarah, just prior to the July 21, 1861 battle at Manassas, Virginia. Ken Burn's *Civil War* documentary made Ballou's letter and the haunting musical backtrack, "Ashokan Farewell" known to many Civil War enthusiasts.

July 14, 1861

Camp Clark, Washington

My very dear Sarah:

The indications are very strong that we shall move in a few days - perhaps tomorrow. And lest I should not be able to write you again I feel impelled to write a few lines that may fall under your eye when I am no more. I have no misgivings about, or lack of confidence in the cause in which I am engaged, and my courage does not halt or falter. I know how American Civilization now leans upon the triumph of the government and how great a debt we owe to those who went before us through the blood and suffering of the Revolution. And I am willing - perfectly willing - to lay down all my joys in this life, to help maintain this government, and to pay that debt. Sarah, my love for you is deathless, it seems to bind me with mighty cables that nothing but omnipotence can break; and yet my love of Country comes over me like a strong wind and bears me irresistibly with all those chains to the battlefield. The memory of all the blissful moments I have enjoyed with you come crowding over me, and I feel most deeply grateful to God and you, that I have enjoyed them for so long. And how hard it is for me to give them up and burn to ashes the hopes and future years, when, God willing, we might still have lived and loved together, and see our boys grown up to honorable manhood around us.

If I do not return, my dear Sarah, never forget how much I loved you, nor that when my last breath escapes me on the battle field, it will whisper your name...

Forgive my many faults, and the many pains I have caused you. How thoughtless, how foolish I have sometimes been!...

But, O Sarah, if the dead can come back to this earth and flit unseen around those they love, I shall always be with you, in the brightest day and in the darkest night... always, always. And when the soft breeze fans your cheek, it shall be my breath, or the cool air your throbbing temple, it shall be my spirit passing by.

Sarah do not mourn me dead; think I am gone and wait for me, for we shall meet again...

Sullivan's premonition of his death proved correct. Ballou died of the wounds he received during the battle on July 21, 1861.

Ballou's body, along with those of other Rhode Island men, was later buried on the battlefield.

On the morning of March 19, 1862, Rhode Island Governor William B. Sprague and a party of 71 men left Washington City to recover the bodies of their Rhode Island dead. They had been spurred to undertake this journey by newspaper headlines that had appeared in the spring of 1862: **Molested Graves! Burned Bodies! Beheaded Skulls! Skull-And- Bone Souvernirs!**

Sprague and the party were led by Josiah W. Richardson, a private in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Rhode Island. Richardson had remained behind to help care for the wounded and he would later view the burial of Ballou and others. Richardson thought he could find the location of the graves of Colonel Slocum and Major Ballou. Once on the battlefield, soldiers dug at the spot Richardson indicated. They failed to locate a body.

A local girl saw that soldiers and asked them if they were looking for "Cunnel Slook?" Was she referring to Colonel Slocum?

"Yassuh, dat's it," she said. "Dat his name. Well, you ain't go' find him. Dem Georgia boys dug him up weeks ago. Dey cut his head off and carried it away and dey done burnt his body down in de hollow dere."

After finding the charred bones and articles of clothing that remained from the fire, a soldier who knew Slocum said that the items of clothing did not belong to the colonel. The body remains were those of Major Ballou. Sprague and the others dutifully recovered Ballou's remaining fragments and those bodies of the others from Rhode Island for return to their native state.

Subsequent investigation among the people who lived in the area confirmed the girl's story. The locals also reported that soldiers of the 21<sup>st</sup> Georgia had done the deed because of the rough handling the Georgians of the 8<sup>th</sup> Georgia had received from Slocum's command. Unfortunately for Ballou, the revengeful act had been against the wrong officer. Governor Sprague later testified about the recovery expedition and its gruesome findings before the U.S. Congress Committee on the Conduct of the War. And what became of Sarah Hart Shumway Ballou? Hopefully, Sarah and Sullivan did meet again, but without the pains inflicted by this terrible war. She was twenty-four years old mother of two young boys when Sullivan died. Sarah never remarried and lived with her son, William, in New Jersey until her 1917 death at the age of eighty years.

.....*But, O Sarah, if the dead can come back to this earth and flit unseen around those they love, I shall always be with you, in the brightest day and in the darkest night... always, always.....*

Source: Virgil Carrington Jones, *Gray Ghost and Rebel Raiders* [New York: Henry Holt and Company, 1956], 66-73.

Source: [http://www.pbs.org/civilwar/war/ballou\\_letter.html](http://www.pbs.org/civilwar/war/ballou_letter.html), accessed February 25, 2012,  
<http://www.historynet.com/sullivan-ballou-the-macabre-fate-of-a-american-civil-war-major.htm>,  
accessed February 26, 2012.

Editor

#### \*\*\*\*\* February Meeting \*\*\*\*\*

**Mike Priest** gave the audience at our annual dinner meeting a somewhat controversial interpretation of one of the most famous battle scenes in history. With exhaustive research for *Into the Fight: Pickett's Charge at Gettysburg*, Mike used a careful study of the battlefield terrain, calculations of unit frontages, eyewitness accounts, and the casualty reports of the various Confederate units to form his thesis of the actions of July 3, 1863. Mike laid aside the romantic notion of the gallant charge of all the committed Confederates into the carnage of the hell that was created by the Union army's Cemetery Ridge defensive line. Plain and simple, many of the Confederate soldiers recognized the futility of the charge and they chose to not go forward.



**Armistead and the Glorious Charge**

Mike disputed the usually quoted 15,000 men who began the charge. His calculations put the number at approximately 11,500 available for the assault. Of this number, about 5,000 in narrowing battle line even reached the Emmitsburg Road. This number was simply too few to break and hold the Union position. The Confederates made it into the Union lines, but they could not hold or expand their momentary gains.





**Mike Priest**

Why did many of the veteran troops of the Army of Northern Virginia fail to attempt the charge that Robert E. Lee thought would win the battle and the war? These were men who had given Lee victories over a numerically superior opponent on many occasions. They had achieved success through hard action and they had learned from the mistakes of their enemy (Fredericksburg). They also learned from their own past assaults on massed artillery (Malvern Hill). They were veterans who made a decision to fight on another day when the odds were more in their favor.

What about the 5,000 who made the final assault on the Union line. From Mike's article that appeared in the Number 6 Issue 1998 of the *North & South* magazine, page 52:

The combined numbers of the wounded captured and unwounded captured (discounting Brockenborough's 3 captured) accounts for 55% of the 5,000 who attempted to carry the charge to its end. ....Casualties among the men who crossed the Emmitsburg Road ranged from approximately 53% for Lowrance's Brigade to 100% for Fry's and Marshall's Brigades..... Armistead lost about 98% of his stalwarts between the road and the Angle. Overall, of the 5,000 who attempted to complete the charge, no more than 20% and perhaps less, returned to their own lines. The fact that 1,527 of them (30%) surrendered indicates that they knew when not to press the odds any further. When faced with annihilation or living, they chose to live.

Mike's *Into the Fight: Pickett's Charge at Gettysburg* provides the specific details that he used to support his thesis.

**\*\*\*\*\* John Dooley Confederate Soldier \*\*\*\*\***

**John Dooley** was mentioned in Mike Priest's presentation for Dooley's journal entries as a member of the 1<sup>st</sup> Virginia Infantry (Kemper's Brigade) during the Battle of Gettysburg. The journal began as Dooley joined the 1<sup>st</sup> Virginia prior to Second Manassas. Dooley fought his first battle at Manassas and

recorded his innermost feelings as to what he felt during combat. At South Mountain, Dooley related that only his pride kept him with his comrades. Dooley's entry about Pickett's Charge (where he was wounded and captured within thirty feet of the guns) was especially revealing:

I tell you, there is no romance in making one of these charges. You might think so from reading 'Charlie O'Malley.' That prodigy of valour, or in reading of any other gallant knight who would as little think of riding over *gunners and sich like* as they would of eating a dozen oysters. But when you rise to your feet as we did today, I tell you the enthusiasm of ardent breasts in many cases *ain't there*, and instead of burning to avenge the insults of our country, families and altars and firesides, the thought is most frequently, *Oh*, if I could just come out of this charge safely how thankful *would I be!*

Dooley recorded what many men must have felt but were reluctant to share.

Source: John Edward Dooley, *John Dooley Confederate Soldier*, ed. Joseph T. Durkin [Washington: Georgetown University Press, 1945], 105.

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](mailto:tpwinstead@gmail.com). Please include "CFCWRT News" in your Subject line.

\*\*\*\*\* **Trivia Question Answers March 2012** \*\*\*\*\*

**1 - On February 7, 1862, Gen. Ambrose E. Burnside and Flag Officer Louis M. Goldsborough led a combine Union force of 15,000 men and 100 naval vessels to a landing on Roanoke Island. Who were the Confederate Army and Navy commanders who opposed this invasion? Col. Henry M. Shaw**, with approximately 3,000 men, and **Flag Officer William F. Lynch**, with seven gunboats, opposed the Union invasion force. As had been the alarm felt by many in the North Carolina government, this small contingent of Confederates was no match for the invasion force.

Source: <http://www.learnnc.org/lp/editions/nchist-civilwar/5467>, accessed February 19, 2012.

**2 - After the fall of Roanoke, Burnside turned his attention on New Bern and the capture of much of eastern North Carolina. Confederate Gen. Lawrence O'B. Branch and 4,500 poorly equipped and trained forces opposed Burnside and his 12,000 well equipped soldiers. The Battle of New Bern took place on March 14, 1862. After a failed defense, Branch and his force retreated to Kinston. The defeat was a stinging one for the people of North Carolina; however, two officers of the 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina emerged from the conflict with their reputations intact. While many North Carolina newspapers argued that many of the Confederates were guilty of cowardice, these two men would achieve further fame in the continuing conflict. Who were the men and what were their fates? Col. Zebulon B. Vance and Lt. Col. Henry King Burgwyn, Jr.** Vance would achieve fame for his purported actions at New Bern and would use his notoriety to pursue a political career. As my 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher told me years ago, Zebulon B. Vance became our beloved War Governor. Burgwyn (VMI Class of 1861) became the "Boy" Colonel of the 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina and effectively led the 26<sup>th</sup> until his death at Gettysburg on July 1, 1863.

Source: Rod Gragg, *Covered With Glory: The 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina Infantry at the Battle of Gettysburg* [New York: HarperCollinsPublishers, 2000].

**3 – As Burnside’s soldiers advanced inland from Roanoke Island, residents of one town decided on a course of action similar to the Russian’s actions as Napoleon advanced on Moscow. What was the town and what actions did the townspeople pursue?** Elizabeth City was set on fire by some of its panicky citizens. Luckily for the town, only about two blocks actually burned.

Source: <http://www.learnnc.org/lp/editions/nchist-civilwar/4604>, accessed February 20, 2012.

**4 - How long did Pickett’s Charge last?** The artillery barrage began at 1:00pm and continued for about an hour. At 1:50pm, Pickett’s men began the advance. By 3:00pm, the Confederate force that had attacked the center of the Union line had reached its high tide. The Confederates had failed to achieve the victory that Lee had wanted. `

**5 - Who was responsible for the Union artillery during Pickett’s charge?** Brig. General **Henry Hunt**. Hunt made sure his artillery reserves were available and supplied to counter the Confederates barrage. As he had a Malvern Hill on July 1, 1862, Henry Hunt handled his artillery with frightful effect upon the Confederate soldiers who assaulted the Union lines.

**6 – According to Arthur Fremantle, what was Lee’s reaction to the failure of Pickett’s Charge?** “This has been a sad day for us, Colonel – a sad day; but we can’t expect always to gain victories.” Lt. Col. Fremantle of the Coldstream Guards recorded his observations of the Confederacy in his book, *Three Months in the Southern States*. His observations at Gettysburg and his feelings upon meeting many of the commanding officers of the Confederacy led him to believe that the South and its gallant people would never be conquered by the North.



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# The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

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## The *RUNNER*

### Newsletter of The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Editor **Tim Winstead**

\*\*\*\*\* February 2012 \*\*\*\*\*

**Our Annual Dinner Meeting will be Thursday, 9 February 2012 at the Madeline Suites on the campus of UNCW. Dinner will begin at 7:00PM. Contact Bruce Patterson (910-794-8905) or Dan Geddie (910-799-5338) for additional details.**



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We invite and welcome all people with an interest in Civil War 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.

\*\*\*\*\* February Program \*\*\*\*\*



**John Michael Priest**

**Mike Priest**, scholar, author, teacher, and certified Civil War battlefield guide, will join us on February 9<sup>th</sup> at the Madeline Suites on the UNCW campus. Mike's presentation will be entitled ***Into the Fight, Pickett's Charge at Gettysburg.***

Mike provided the following summary of his presentation:

I discovered while researching what I thought was an easy book, that a considerable number of the Confederates, for whatever reason, other than being wounded, decided that "discretion was the better part of valor." I also could not verify the horrendous casualties they allegedly suffered after conducting a study of the nominal list of casualties for all the regiments but those from Tennessee and Arkansas. For years, I wondered if I would have crossed that field knowing full well what lay ahead. The story of the charge has been distorted by myth. The tactical presentation you will receive will put to rest the history we have been taught.



**Into the Fight**

Mike was born in Georgetown, DC. He received a B.A. in History and Secondary Education from Loyola College (Baltimore) and a M.A. in Social Sciences from Hood College (Frederick, Maryland). Mike taught World History, Government, U.S. History, Civil War History, and Psychology for the Washington County Board of Education from 1980 – 2011. The author and editor of many Civil War books and articles, he received a Maryland Council for the Social Services Program Excellence Award for his involvement with motivating and inspiring his students to research, edit, and publish several books. In addition to sixteen books and numerous articles in *The Civil War Times Illustrated*, *North & South*, and the *Potomac Magazine*, Mike has served as historical consultant to several television and movie producers. In his spare time, he has conducted walking tours of Antietam, the Wilderness, South Mountain, and Gettysburg. In 2011, Mike became a licensed tour guide at the Antietam National Battlefield.

Mike listed his hobbies as Irish Folk music, black powder shooting, writing, and giving tours.

Please join us on 9<sup>th</sup> February for dinner with an accomplished historian who will share his research and thoughts about one of the most dramatic events of the Civil War.

Editor

\*\*\*\*\* **Raffle Winners** \*\*\*\*\*

**Raffle Master: Ed Gibson**

If you have books, prints, or other items that you would like to donate to the CFCWRT raffle, talk to Ed at our next meeting.

**January Meeting:**

<i>Civil War Calendar</i>	-	Dave Paul
<i>Quantrill in Texas</i>	-	Tim Barton
<i>Charles Dahlgren of Natchez</i>	-	Bob Cooke
<i>Complete Civil War Road Trip Guide</i>	-	Palmer Royal
<i>Lee Takes Command</i>	-	Tom Morgan
<i>Ulysses S. Grant</i>	-	Tim Barton

\*\*\*\*\* Trivia Questions February 2012 \*\*\*\*\*

1 – Who was this officer? Another Opportunity to win a free dinner reservation at the February 9<sup>th</sup> Dinner Meeting!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



- 2– On July 3, 1863, a Confederate Brigadier General in Pickett’s Division determined to show his courage in the face of his enemies. This general, unable to walk because of an earlier injury, mounted his horse and went forward to his death and disappearance from his comrades. Who was this officer and what prompted him to seek a “glorious” end?
- 3 – Keith Hardison shared the story of Jefferson Davis’s 1825 carousing incident at Benny Havens’ Tavern while he attended West Point (See Trivia question #4, January issue of *The Runner* for additional details). According to Hardison, who may have intervened to prevent Davis’s dismissal from West Point? What incident did Davis become embroiled in during the Christmas season of 1826?
- 4 – Jefferson Davis served as Secretary of War in the administration of Franklin Pierce 1853 -1857. Keith Hardison outlined the many accomplishments that Davis oversaw while in this office. What was one of the most unusual experiments that Davis implemented?
- 5 - Throughout his life, Jefferson Davis failed to embrace the art of compromise. What did Varina Davis say about her husband’s stubbornness?
- 6 – Jefferson Davis and Abraham Lincoln shared many experiences as commander-in-chiefs. They also shared a similarity as parents during their stay in their separate White Houses. What was that parental similarity?

\*\*\*\*\* **Member News** \*\*\*\*\*

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

**1** – Welcome new member, **Connie Hendrix**, to the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table. We hope you enjoy the programs and fellowship.

**2** – **Time is running out!!** Still time to make your reservations for the **February 9, 2012** dinner meeting. **John Michael Priest** will make a presentation entitled *Into the Fight, Pickett's Charge at Gettysburg*. The dinner will cost \$26 per person and will be held at the Madeline Suite at UNCW. Contact **Bruce Patterson** (910-794-8905) or **Dan Geddie** (910-799-5338) via email or telephone for further details.

\*\*\*\*\* **Museum of the Confederacy** \*\*\*\*\*



CFCWRT members at Pamplin Park

On January 18<sup>th</sup>, **Lance Bevins, Dan Geddie, John Munroe, Dale Lear, and Tim Winstead** headed north for a visit to the Petersburg and Richmond areas of Virginia. On Wednesday, they toured the Blandford Church and the Petersburg National Battlefield. The church was located at the Blandford Cemetery and each of its Tiffany windows honored the war dead of a southern state. The battlefield sites included the Crater, Fort Stedman, and other scenes of the nine month long siege that strangled the Confederacy.



**Blandford Church's Tiffany Window  
Honoring South Carolina's Soldiers**

January 19<sup>th</sup> was the anniversary of the birth of Robert E. Lee. The group was privileged to enter the vault and research room at the Museum of the Confederacy in Richmond. Robert E. Lee's sword and uniform, Wade Hampton's cavalry sword, and Joe Wheeler's pistol were a few of the numerous items they were shown. The Research Librarian shared a few of the items that had been saved by the ladies who started the MOC. Lee's General Orders No. 9 was, as it had been on April 10, 1865, emotionally moving and remarkable. "After four years of arduous service, marked by unsurpassed courage and fortitude....." The MOC was remarkable, not just for the collection of artifacts of the famous, but for the artifacts and records of the lower level officers and regular soldiers.

The 20<sup>th</sup> found the group at Pamplin Park and the site of the April 2, 1865 breakthrough by Union forces that led to the Lee's surrender at Appomattox. NOTE: Wilson Greene, executive director at Pamplin Park, will speak about the breakthrough to the **Brunswick Civil War Round Table** on February 13, 2012 at Trinity UMC in Southport at 6:30.

**\*\*\*\*\* February 1862 \*\*\*\*\***

February 1862 did not witness a massed Unionist attack on Richmond despite the orders of Lincoln. However, a major Confederate fort was captured by Grant's men - a move that boosted morale in the capital.



February 1st: Confederate generals became aware that Union forces were massing along the line of the Mississippi River and planned to expect a major Union offensive with the targets thought to be either Fort Henry or Fort Donelson.

February 2nd: Confederate intelligence indicated that the Union's ability to move its men along river systems was not good. However, the Confederates were unaware of Lincoln's order – to attack regardless.

February 3rd: Lincoln again asked McClellan to make a major move for Richmond using the Army of the Potomac. McClellan again showed his usual reluctance to do anything without having it precisely mapped out first. He told Lincoln that he wanted to move troops by sea to the Virginia Peninsula and then push the 40 miles inland.

February 5th: General Grant concentrated his forces for an attack on Fort Henry. He had 15,000 men under his command while the Confederate defenders at the fort numbered 3,200.

February 6th: Union gunboats on the Tennessee River bombarded Fort Henry. The fort commander, General Tilghman withdrew as many men as he could to Fort Donelson but ensured that gunners remained in Fort Henry. By mid-afternoon the walls of Fort Henry were broken and Tilghman decided to surrender. Only 63 men were left in the fort. Over 3,000 made it to the relative safety of Fort Donelson, which prepared itself for an attack. However, the control of the Tennessee River at that point was very important to the Unionists as it allowed them to make river patrols up to northern Alabama.

February 7th: Grant prepared for an attack on Fort Donelson, which was a far tougher proposition than Fort Henry. Fort Henry was by the river's edge while Fort Donelson was 100 feet above the Cumberland River.

February 8th: Union forces took prisoner 2,527 Confederate troops at Roanoke Island, North Carolina.

February 10th: Grant told his men that they would move on Fort Donelson within 24 hours. The fort was 12 miles from Fort Henry. Grant's large land force was bolstered by a large river force as more Union gunboats joined the attack.

February 12th: 20,000 Union troops moved on Fort Donelson. By the time Grant's men arrived at the fort, it is thought that there were about 18,000 Confederate troops in it.

February 13th: The attack on Fort Donelson started though the gunboats were late in arriving. Artillery fire continued throughout the day and into the night.

February 14th: Six Union gunboats arrived at Fort Donelson. They accompanied ten transport ships that brought an extra 10,000 Union troops to the fight. The gunboats added an extra 70 guns to the Union's artillery capability. As well as being pounded from the land, the fort was attacked from the river. During the night, the fort's commander, General Floyd (**John B. Floyd, Buchanan's Secretary of War**), decided that the Confederate force in the fort had to fight its way out and push into open land. Floyd assumed that they had no chance of holding Fort Donelson.

February 15th: One hour before daybreak the Confederates in Fort Donelson attempted their breakout. They had surprise on their side and attacked on just one front but after initial success had to face Union

troops sent to reinforce that front. By the afternoon, the Confederates had to return to Fort Donelson. By the end of the day, Fort Donelson was totally surrounded. Union troops surrounded it on three sides on land and the Union gunboats dominated the Cumberland River.

February 16th: At dawn Fort Donelson surrendered. The Confederates had hoped to negotiate terms but Grant told them that “unconditional and immediate surrender can (only) be accepted”. The loss of Fort Donelson resulted in the Confederates losing control of Tennessee and Kentucky. Over 14,000 Confederates were taken prisoner.

February 18th: There was much celebration in Washington DC when news reached the capital of the surrender of Fort Donelson. The First Congress of the Confederate States of America met in Richmond.

February 21st: The Battle of Fort Craig in New Mexico was fought. This saw a Confederate victory against a larger Union force. The Confederates captured six artillery guns from the Unionists.

February 22nd: Jefferson Davis was inaugurated as the first President of the Confederate States of America.

February 25th: General Halleck, commander of the Army of the Southwest, sent a series of telegraph messages stating how well the Unionist forces were doing in Missouri – a state seen as a thorn in the side to Federal aspirations. However, these telegraph messages were misleading in that Halleck had yet to achieve anything decisive.

February 27th: Davis was given permission by the Confederate Congress to suspend habeas corpus if he felt it was necessary to do so. Davis asked for martial law to be introduced at Norfolk and Portsmouth – both important naval bases in Virginia.

February 28th: Charleston was captured by Unionist forces. Charleston was to become the capital for the new state of West Virginia.

Source: <http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/february-1862-civil-war.htm>, accessed December 23, 2011.

**\*\*\*\*\* Through the Blockade \*\*\*\*\***

**“What possible chance can the South now have?”**

This is the third in a series of articles that will examine the efforts of the United States and Confederate governments to arm and equip the untrained mob of volunteers who flocked to their respective banners. This article will focus on the Confederate Ordnance Department and Massachusetts born, Major Caleb Huse, C.S.A. In April 1861, Caleb Huse was ordered to proceed to Europe to undertake a mission for the Ordnance Department. He was to travel, at considerable risk, through the North to secure passage to England. The following from Huse’s book explained, in some detail, the challenges that he faced as he made his way on his mission:

It was impossible to get farther than Philadelphia that day. The next morning, on taking my seat in the train, I recognized the gentleman directly behind me as the Hon. Caleb Cushing. I did not accost him, not caring to meet acquaintances just then, and, moreover, I had no reason to think that he knew me, for although we were born in the same town,—Newburyport, Mass.,—he was a distinguished public man when I was a boy.

The route from Philadelphia to New York was by the way of Camden to South Amboy, and thence by steamboat. The latter was a ferry boat with room for teams on each side of the engine. There were no teams on board, and, as I had been sitting for some time, and now that we were nearing New York where I was likely at any moment to meet an acquaintance, I was a little nervous, I walked about the lower deck. In doing so I met Mr. Cushing face to face. He was passing the time in a similar manner. I lifted my cap, as I would to any superior officer, or public man. Immediately Mr. Cushing stopped and said:

"Good morning, Mr. Huse, you are with the South, I understand."

For the moment I was staggered, but quickly calling to mind that Mr. Cushing had been chairman of the Charleston Democratic Convention which nominated John C. Breckenridge for President, I replied:

"Yes, sir, what chance do you think the South has?"

"What chance can it have?" he said, "the money is all in the North; the manufactories are all in the North; the ships are all in the North; the arms and arsenals are all in the North; the arsenals of Europe are within ten days of New York, and they will be open to the United States Government, and closed to the South; and the Southern ports will be blockaded. What possible chance can the South have?" There was nothing for me to say in reply, and I probably did the best I could have done under the circumstances. Looking him squarely in the eye, I lifted my cap and said: "Good morning, Mr. Cushing." I never saw him afterwards.

Huse may have been staggered by his encounter with the Massachusetts politician, Caleb Cushing, but he was not deterred from his task. NOTE: Caleb Cushing was President Franklin Pierce's Attorney General. He was known as a "doughface" for his southern sympathies; however, Cushing supported the Union during the Civil War.

Upon his arrival in England, Huse quickly went to the London Armory Company to fulfill his orders to procure 12,000 rifles and a battery of field artillery. In a strange scene, Huse found an American engineer who had recently installed a plant of gun-stocking machinery from the Ames Manufacturing Company of Chicopee, Massachusetts. Huse asked the engineer if he was an agent of the United States Government whose presence was to purchase arms. Huse informed the man that his intention was to secure arms for the Confederate government and that he intended to fulfill his mission. Huse felt that the engineer was indeed an U.S. agent and that he was there to lock up the production the London Armory. Huse waited for the engineer to complete his business and depart. Afterwards, Huse approached the superintendent and the chairman of the company and asked the price of all the arms that London Armory could produce in the coming year. Unable to respond to Huse's request of a price quote on such short notice, the chairman asked Huse to return to his offices on the following day.

The chairman told Huse that the company directors felt the output of the company should go to their current customers. Without the ability to consult with the Confederate Government in Montgomery, Huse determined to offer the London Armory a substantial profit to shake their resolve to commit their production to the U.S. agent. By dangling profit and the prospect of a renewed contract, Huse convinced the chairman that a solid business arrangement was possible after the company fulfilled the relatively small order for the U.S. Government. At the time of these negotiations, Caleb Huse had no authorization for his proposal nor did he have at his disposal the funds to complete the transaction. By his rash actions, Huse proved Caleb Cushing's prophesy as false – the South had indeed the ability to secure arms for its armies regardless of the seemingly insurmountable advantages of the North.

In his book, Huse outlined the reasons for his successful efforts. Caleb Huse proved to be a resourceful and confident officer. After the passage of many years, Huse detailed the reasons he thought of himself as being able to achieve results and to compete with the U.S. Government. Huse made no mention of the mission that Edward Clifford Anderson undertook to ascertain Huse's loyalty to the Confederate cause. (*The Runner* December 2011 issue, "Through the Blockade.")

Baring Brothers were, at that time, the London financial agents for the United States Government, and they would unquestionably have been supported and gratefully thanked, had they assumed the responsibility of contracting for all the arms in sight in England. Any army officer, fit for such a mission as that of buying arms for a great Government at the outbreak of a war, would have acted, if necessary, without instructions, and secured everything that he could find in the line of essentials, especially arms, of which there were very few in the market. There were *muskets* enough to be had for almost any reasonable offer, but of modern Enfield or Springfield rifles—which were practically the same—there were only a few thousand in England, and none elsewhere except in Austria, where all were owned by the Government. And, according to Mr. Cushing, these

would be available by the United States but impossible of purchase by "the South." Yet even so high an authority as Ex-Attorney General Cushing proved to be wrong in his assumption, as will be shown below.

Any young, intelligent West Point graduate holding an army commission and as fearless in assuming responsibility as the average "graduate," would not only have prevented my making this important contract, but would have blocked my efforts in every direction; for in all Europe the supply of arms ready for use or possible of manufacture was very limited. Such an officer would have secured everything worth having—in other words, all the best—and only inferior arms of antiquated model would have been left for the Confederacy. The effect would have been not only to give the United States good arms in profusion, but utterly to discourage their opponents by the inferiority of their weapons.

Mr. Davis did not make the great mistake of sending a civil agent to purchase supplies—a duty as thoroughly military as any that could be named—nor the still greater blunder of setting several men to do what one man, with uncontrolled authority, could do so much better. Doubtless he could have found men who would have performed the duty as well as did the young officer whom he selected, and some who would have done their part better; but, during the whole war, no change was made, although not to remove him often required that firmness—not to say obstinacy—which was a prominent trait of Mr. Davis's character, and which, right or wrong, but especially when he was right, he exercised to a remarkable degree.

**Through the Blockade** will continue in the next issue.

Source: Caleb Huse, *The Supplies for the Confederate Army: How They Were Obtained in Europe and How Paid For: Personal Reminiscences and Unpublished History* [Boston: Press of T.R. Martin & Son, 1904] 5-36.

Editor

\*\*\*\*\* **January Meeting** \*\*\*\*\*

***Jefferson Davis***  
***“Confederate Commander”***

The members and guests who attended the January 12<sup>th</sup> meeting were fortunate to enjoy the presentation by one of Jefferson Davis's most knowledgeable scholars, **Keith Hardison**. Keith's experiences from 1986 - 1999 as executive director at **Beauvoir**, Confederate President Jefferson Davis's home and library, were evident in the depth and insight provided during his presentation. However you personally view Jefferson Davis, Hardison presented a detailed look at the man, his talents, his accomplishments, and his failings.



**Keith Hardison – Director of the Division of State Historic Sites and Properties**

Keith's discussion focused on Davis's qualifications to be the Confederate President and Commander-in-Chief. His brief comparison between the qualifications of Abraham Lincoln and Jefferson Davis revealed a major difference in the experiences each man brought to their respective offices. Davis, by virtue of this training at West Point (1824 -1828), his service in the U.S. Army from 1828 – 1835, his success as the colonel of the Mississippi Rifles during the war with Mexico 1846 -1847, and his service as Secretary of War in Franklin Pierce's administration, was experienced in many matters of the military sciences. While Davis had been a reluctant West Point cadet and subject to dismissal for several infractions, his service in the US Army both in the western territories and his volunteer service during the Mexican War were more than adequate. While both Lincoln and Davis were to endure an awesome burden as Commander-in-Chiefs, Davis was the man whose résumé reflected considerable talents.

Why then, if Davis was so qualified for his position, did he fail? Keith provided a listing of factors, some controllable and others not, that weighted into Davis's shortcomings.

**Situational factors** (uncontrollable):

- The geographic size and character of the Confederacy was simply too large for the resources (men and materials) available to the Confederacy to effectively manage.

- Davis was faced with building a national government at the same time the Confederacy was fighting for its survival.

- The infrastructure, manufacturing capacity, and capital resources available to the south were insufficient for the needs.
- **States Rights**, which Davis supported on many occasions before the war, were too divisive to allow centralization of power to a national government. Keith related an example that reflected the problem of appeasing the sensitivities of each individual state. The first three Secretaries of War, each of whom served for short intervals and with mixed results, were all lawyers with little or no military experiences. Jefferson Davis's personal choice for Secretary of War had been Braxton Bragg. Davis, because of the need to placate the various states, had selected less able men – an Alabama secessionist lawyer, a Louisiana lawyer and wealthy planter, and a Virginian lawyer whose grandfather had been Thomas Jefferson. For all his shortcomings and inability to get along with almost anyone, Braxton Bragg was an effective organizer and planner with an understanding of what an army needed to give battle.
- The strategy of the Confederate government was limited to the defense of many sites within the country. The Confederate Army did launch invasions of the north; however, the need to defend so many locations prevented the commitment of sufficient forces to successfully take the war to their enemies. NOTE: Early in the conflict, Davis had said that the Confederacy just wanted to be left alone.

**Personal factors (controllable):**

- Davis was extremely loyal to his friends and hostile toward those he disliked.
- Davis supported Bragg when others called for Bragg's dismal as an army commander. After Bragg had failed in many duties, Davis sent Bragg to command in Wilmington in late 1864. ("Hello Bragg, goodbye Wilmington.")
- Davis disliked Joe Johnston, P.T.A. Beauregard, D.H. Hill, and others. Sometimes his animosity clouded his judgment – Hood to replace Johnston at the gates of Atlanta,
- Davis had military experience but he had never commanded an army. He did; however, consider himself to be extremely knowledgeable about all military matters.
- Davis was a workaholic who immersed himself in minutiae that could and should have been delegated to subordinates.

Hardison's conclusion about the role Jefferson Davis played as commander-in-chief: His qualifications and skills were considerable; however, his personal failings overshadowed his talents. Considering the challenges faced by Davis, Hardison did maintain that few, if any man, could have done more to sustain the Confederacy through four years of war.

**\*\*\*\*\* 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](mailto:tpwinstead@gmail.com). Please include "CFCWRT News" in your Subject line.

**\*\*\*\*\* Trivia Question Answers December 2011 \*\*\*\*\***

**1 - Who was this officer?** Another chance to win, but this is your **last chance**. The first one who tells me who this man was wins a reservation to the February Dinner Meeting. This is a \$26 value for the inquisitive individual among you who can correctly answer this trivia question. If you need additional

hints about this man's identity (other than he is a Confederate with a semi-Napoleonic pose and he commanded Neverson Columbus Winstead late in the war, send me an e-mail [tpwinstead@gmail.com](mailto:tpwinstead@gmail.com)). **Hint#1:** This officer was a West Point cadet who resigned to serve his southern state.

**2 - On July 3, 1863, a Confederate Brigadier General in Pickett's Division determined to show his courage in the face of his enemies. This general, unable to walk because of an earlier injury, mounted his horse and went forward to his death and disappearance from his comrades. Who was this officer and what prompted him to seek a "glorious" end? Richard B. Garnett**, an 1841 West Point graduate, had run afoul of Stonewall Jackson for his alleged actions at the Battle of Kernstown on March 23, 1862. Jackson had Garnett arrested for an unauthorized retreat (per Garnett, only after his men ran low on ammunition while fighting a superior Union force). Jackson proposed to court-martial Garnett; however, Robert E. Lee reassigned Garnett to Pickett's former brigade. Garnett spent the next year trying to prove his bravery; on July 3<sup>rd</sup>, he paid the ultimate price. To remove the stain against his name, Garnett, having been previously kicked by his horse, rode his black charger forward into the hell that became known as "Pickett's Charge". Garnett's body was never recovered from the battlefield.

In one of those ironies that seemed to appear throughout Civil War history, Garnett served as a pallbearer at Stonewall Jackson's funeral after Jackson's death from wounds received at Chancellorsville.

Approximately thirty years after the Gettysburg battle, General George H. "Maryland" Steuart found Garnett's engraved sword in a Baltimore pawnshop. The sword was an artillery officer's pattern and had "R.B. Garnett, U.S.A." engraved on the blade. Steuart purchased it and eventually returned the relic to Garnett's family. Today, Richard Garnett's sword is included in the collection of the Museum of the Confederacy in Richmond, Virginia.

Source: [http://www.encyclopediavirginia.org/Garnett\\_Richard\\_B\\_1817-1863](http://www.encyclopediavirginia.org/Garnett_Richard_B_1817-1863), accessed December 25, 2011. <http://www.gdg.org/Research/SHSP/shgarnet.html>, accessed December 25, 2011.

**3 - Keith Hardison shared the story of Jefferson Davis's 1825 carousing incident at Benny Havens' Tavern while he attended West Point (See Trivia question #4, January issue of *The Runner* for additional details). According to Hardison, who may have intervened to prevent Davis's dismissal from West Point? What incident did Davis become embroiled in during the Christmas season of 1826?** John C. Calhoun was Secretary of War when Jefferson Davis was appointed to West Point. Calhoun also aided the young cadet by perhaps preventing Davis's dismissal for the Benny Havens' incident. Davis was also linked to the Christmas Eve 1826 "Eggnog Riot" (See [http://www.army.mil/article/49823/The\\_Eggnog\\_Riot/](http://www.army.mil/article/49823/The_Eggnog_Riot/) for additional information.)

**4 - Jefferson Davis served as Secretary of War in the administration of Franklin Pierce 1853 -1857. Keith Hardison outlined the many accomplishments that Davis oversaw while in this office. What was one of the most unusual experiments that Davis implemented?** The U.S. Army Camel Corps (its 77 camels, and chief camel driver, Hadji Ali) was the subject of much interest in the barren west prior to the Civil War. The tensions of the gathering sectional discord prevented Congress from following recommendations to increase the camel corps and continue the experiment.

**5 - Throughout his life, Jefferson Davis failed to embrace the art of compromise. What did Varina Davis say about her husband's stubbornness?** Varina Davis supposedly remarked that her husband, "did not know the arts of the politician and would not practice them if understood."

Source: <http://www.aboutfamouspeople.com/article1031.html> accessed January 16, 2012.

**6** – Jefferson Davis and Abraham Lincoln shared many experiences as commander-in-chiefs. They also shared a similarity as parents during their stay in their separate White Houses. What was that parental similarity? Both Davis and Lincoln experienced the death of a son while they served their nations.





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# The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

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## The *RUNNER*

### Newsletter of The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Editor **Tim Winstead**

\*\*\*\*\* January 2012 \*\*\*\*\*

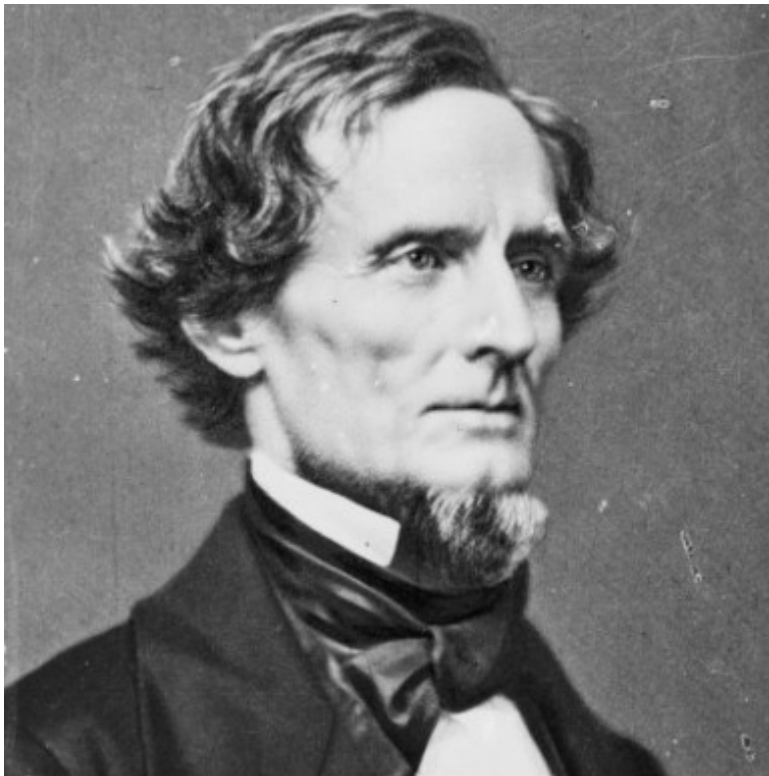
Our next meeting will be Thursday, 12 January 2012 at St. Andrew's On-the-Sound (101 Airlie Road). Social Hour at 6:30 p.m., meeting at 7:30.



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We invite and welcome all people with an interest in Civil War 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.

\*\*\*\*\* January Program \*\*\*\*\*



**Jefferson Davis**

**Keith A. Hardison**, Director of the Division of State Historic Sites and Properties, will join us on January 12, 2012 with a presentation on the first and only President of the Confederate States of America, Jefferson Davis.



**Beauvoir – Home of Davis, Biloxi  
Prior to Hurricane Katrina 2005**

**Hardison** was born and raised in Tennessee. He received a bachelors in history from David Lipscomb University (Nashville) and a masters in museum science from Texas Tech (Lubbock). Prior to becoming N.C. Historic Sites director in 2006, Keith was division director of the Louisiana State Museum, executive director of Knoxville's Mabry's Hazen House Museum, director of education, interpretation, and visitor services at Pamplin Historical Park and the National Museum of the Civil

War Soldier in Petersburg. From 1986-1999, he was executive director of **Beauvoir**, Confederate President Jefferson Davis's home and library in Biloxi. Earlier during his career, Hardison worked at the John E. Conner Museum in Kingsville, Texas, and the Heritage House Museum in Orange, Texas.

Please join us on Thursday night, January 12<sup>th</sup>, for what promises to be an informative presentation about Jefferson Davis. Keith Hardison is uniquely qualified through his association with Beauvoir to provide insights into a historic figure in American history.

**Note:** See November 2010 issue of *The Runner* for additional information pertaining to Jefferson Davis and Beauvoir.

Editor

**\*\*\*\*\* Raffle Winners \*\*\*\*\***

**Raffle Master: Ed Gibson**

If you have books, prints, or other items that you would like to donate to the CFCWRT raffle, talk to Ed at our next meeting.

**December Meeting:**

*Gods and Generals*

- Beverly Blanton

*With My Face to the Enemy*

- Judy Ward

*The American Civil War*

- John J. Bolger

*To Make Men Free*

- Dick Covell

*Swamp Doctor*

- Linda Lashley

*A Shower of Sparks*

- Judy Ward

**\*\*\*\*\* Trivia Questions January 2012 \*\*\*\*\***

**1 – Who was this officer?**



**2– What was the first breech-loading infantry long arm to be manufactured for use by the United States Army?**

**3 – In Mike Long's presentation, he made reference to the February 17, 1865 burning of Columbia, South Carolina. Sherman blamed Wade Hampton's troops and Hampton blamed Sherman's troops. Who was responsible?**

- 4 – In 1825, Jefferson Davis faced court-martial from West Point. What offense had Davis committed?  
5 – Did Jefferson Davis have a middle name?

\*\*\*\*\* **Member News** \*\*\*\*\*

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

1 – Welcome new members, **Art Unger**, **Tom Hodges** and **John (Rick) Morrison**, to the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table. Glad y'all joined us.

2 – Congratulations to **Robert D. Maffitt** on his selection as 290 Foundation Hon. Vice-President USA. The 290 Foundation is a UK-based charitable enterprise that commemorates all those who served in the Confederate Navy. [The 290 refers to the hull number of the CSS *Alabama* built at the John Laird Shipyard at Birkenhead.]

3 – Make your reservations for the **February 9, 2012** dinner meeting. **John Michael Priest** will make a presentation entitled *Into the Fight, Pickett's Charge at Gettysburg*. The dinner will cost \$26 per person and will be held at the Madeline Suite at UNCW. Contact **Bruce Patterson** via email or telephone (910-794-8905) for further details.

4 – **Special Event!!!!** On June 19, 2012, **Dr. Susannah Ural** will speak at an “added” meeting of the CFCWRT. Dr. Ural, who teaches at the University of Southern Mississippi, will present “**The Rise of Hood's Texans: Recruitment through Antietam.**” Dr. Ural will bring a knowledge and enthusiasm to her subject that you will not want to miss. Think of it as a tenth presentation for 2011 – 2012 – and it will be **FREE!** – Well not exactly free, more like, Buy 9 and get the 10<sup>th</sup> for the same price!

\*\*\*\*\* **January 1862** \*\*\*\*\*

The weather still determined how much warfare took place in January 1862. The American Civil War was determined by a series of skirmishes in the winter months coupled with a great deal of political work. In January 1862 Lincoln issued two orders both of which required McClellan to go on the offensive as opposed to remaining, in Lincoln's mind, on the defensive.

January 1st: The Cabinet urged greater success in Missouri, which seemed to be a state out of control. Martial law was introduced to St. Louis but General Halleck was urged to do more by politicians in Washington DC.

January 3rd: Jefferson Davis expressed his concern that Union forces were stationed at Ship Island in the Mississippi Sound. This base was only 65 miles from New Orleans. General ‘Stonewall’ Jackson started his campaign to disrupt the North's movement of supplies. His targets were the Baltimore to Ohio railway and the Ohio to Chesapeake canal.

January 4th: Jackson's reputation for keeping his men on the move was cemented when Union forces could barely find his 10,000 men who were on the march.

January 6th: The Senate urged Lincoln to replace McClellan because of his seeming lack of activity. However, Lincoln supported McClellan.

January 7th: Three Union gunboats made a sortie along the Mississippi to within three miles of the important Confederate stronghold at Columbus. Their information was fed back to General U Grant.

January 9th: General Grant started his campaign against Columbus.

January 11th: Secretary of War Simon Cameron resigned over accusations of corruption and basic incompetence. 100 Union ships transported 15,000 troops to Port Royal, North Carolina, to support the men who are already there.

January 13th: Edwin Stanton became Secretary of War.

January 14th: Lincoln called for a more robust campaign in Missouri. McClelland urged caution.

**January 18<sup>th</sup>: Former U.S. President and Confederate congressman-elect John Tyler dies.**

January 19th: A battle at Mill Spring (sometimes called the Battle of Somerset) led to as many as 195 Confederate troops being killed with 200 taken prisoner. However, the Union's leader in the attack, General Zollicoffer, was killed.

January 25th: By this day, what was left of the Confederate force at Mill Spring had been forced 100 miles to the southwest to Gainsboro, which resulted in the Confederate line having a large gap punched through it.

January 27th: Lincoln issued General War Order Number One. This urged the Union army into action and set February 22nd as the date he expected a major surge in action.

January 30th: The '**USS *Monitor***' was launched – a revolutionary new vessel designed by John Ericsson. The '*Monitor*' marked a new stage in the development of ironclads. Mason and Slidell finally arrived in Great Britain.

January 31st: Lincoln issued his Special War Order Number One. This ordered the army that had been protecting Washington DC to launch an attack on Manassas Junction – as long as the safety of the capital had been ensured – by February 22nd. Great Britain announced that it would remain neutral in the war.

Source: <http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/january-1862-civil-war.htm>, accessed November 18, 2011.

#### **\*\*\*\*\* The Arms Race – 1861 \*\*\*\*\***

I am by no means knowledgeable about the weapons that dominated the Civil War, but I think it worthwhile to provide an overview of the transition occurring to the infantry weapons in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century.

The arms of this period evolved into weapons that added range and accuracy to a unit's offensive firepower. Unlike the massed use of infantry during the American Revolution and the Napoleonic Wars to achieve concentrated firepower, the weapons that dominated the Civil War battlefield allowed a man to kill his opponent at greater distances. Unfortunately during the first years of the war, the commanders on the Civil War battlefield continued to march their men in close formation against their adversaries.

From *Lincoln and the Tools of War*:

Rifled guns had been born centuries before, when some gun-maker discovered that an elongated projectile would hold straight and true in flight if given a spin about its long axis. The spin could be imparted by spiral grooves in the bore of the gun; and these grooves, as well as the process of making them, were called "rifling." Without the all-important spin, elongated projectiles would tumble and wobble through space, unpredictably in both course and impact. For that reason, most projectiles to that time had been made spherical. But the volume, and hence the weight of the spherical projectile was limited by the diameter of the bore, whereas an elongated shot could be made much heavier, and therefore much more formidable in range, accuracy, and penetration.

Until the middle of the nineteenth century, however, rifled small arms were loaded at the muzzle. The bullets had to fit tight enough to take the grooves, and ramming them home by main force was too conspicuous and protracted an operation to be feasible in open combat. But in 1855 the *Annual of Scientific Discovery* printed, to the edification of Abraham Lincoln among others, excerpts from the Secretary of War [Jefferson Davis], which told of not just one but two promising answers to the problem of loading rifles. One solution had come with the development of efficient rifles which could be loaded from the breech. The other, favored by the Secretary, was a newfangled bullet with a concave base which expanded on firing, so as to take the rifles grooves. Using such bullets, especially one developed by Captain Minié of the French Army [and improved by James H. Burton, assistant master armorer at the Harpers Ferry Armory], the nations of the world began that year to adopt muzzle-loading rifles as their standard infantry arm, and one of those nations was the United States.

In 1861 smoothbore muskets, well polished, still looked smart on parade. They served as well as any other arm for practicing the drill manual. Some of them had value as historical curiosities. But when life depended on their performance, not even raw recruits would take them without protest, and soldiers' complaints were backed by the home folks. "It is the opinion of all military men here," wrote Governor Morton of Indiana, "that it would be little better than murder to send troops into battle with such arms as are a large majority of these [smoothbore] muskets altered from flint to percussion locks."

Editor

Source: Robert V. Bruce, *Lincoln and the Tools of War* [New York: The Bobbs-Merrill Company, 1956], 37-39.

**\*\*\*\*\* Through the Blockade \*\*\*\*\***

This is the second in a series of articles that will examine the efforts of the United States and Confederate governments to arm and equip the untrained mob of volunteers who flocked to their respective banners. This article will focus on the United States Ordnance Department and Union agents who sought to meet weapon demand at the beginning of the war.

On November 12, 1859, Henry Knox Craig, Colonel of Ordnance, reported to John B. Floyd, Secretary of War, the inventory of muskets and rifles in the various United States armories and arsenals. Craig's report excluded 23,895 muskets and 652 rifles that had not been converted from flintlock into percussion locks. The numbers of the new rifled arms and the rifling of older smoothbore muskets are included in the totals. NOTE: the New Model Rifle .58 caliber was considered by many ordnance men as the finest infantry weapon in the world. Only 28,702 of the .58 caliber rifles and rifled muskets were available out of the 610,598 arms in the government inventory:

Smoothbore Muskets

Altered to percussion, cal. - .69	275,744
Altered to Maynard lock, cal. - .69	14,765
Made as percussion, cal. - .69	<u>213,155</u>
	503,664

Rifled Muskets

Percussion, since rifled, cal. - .69	33,631
Rifled muskets, cal. - .58	<u>24,105</u>
	57,736

Rifles

Altered to percussion, cal. - .54	1,385
Made as percussion, cal. - .54	43,375
New Model rifle, cal. - .58	<u>4,102</u>
	48,862

The officers of the Ordnance Department were guided by the Militia Act of 1808 and later Congressional acts which required the department to furnish each state with an annual quota of arms. Reacting to sectional tensions that were building in the late 1850s and 1860, several governors requested increased allotments from Colonel Craig's department. Craig, a Lieutenant in 1812, was strict in the execution of his duties; however, he was a Union man who was determined to protect the property of the United States government. His boss, Secretary of War, John B. Floyd, may have been a little less strict in attitudes toward some of his Southern colleagues. In a November 24, 1860 letter from S. Adams, Virginia State Master Armorer, Adams expressed to Floyd his displeasure with the efforts of Colonel Craig to assist Virginia in gaining an increased allotment. "I have no hopes of any favors from Colonel Craig, for in a conversation with him a few months since I found him deadly opposed to the Virginia Armory." Adams continued his request for Floyd's assistance as he expressed his feelings, 'before our much-honored and esteemed Secretary of War vacates his office, for I have no hopes of any assistance after a Black Republican takes possession of the War Department.'" Colonel Henry Knox Craig used his extensive knowledge of bureaucratic maneuver to delay and forestall some requests and arms sales that would have placed more arms in Southern arsenals.

Craig's hand may have been seen in the events that transpired between North Carolina Governor John W. Ellis and Simon Cameron, Lincoln's Secretary of War, in an April 12, 1861 letter:

WAR DEPARTMENT,  
April 12, 1861.

His Excellency JOHN W. ELLIS,  
Governor of North Carolina, Raleigh :

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of a letter addressed to this Department on the 2d instant by Graham Daves, esq., your private secretary, inquiring the cause of the delay in the issue of the arms called for by you on account of North Carolina's quota for the current year.

The rifles were ordered to be sent to you on the 4th of February last from the Harper's Ferry Armory, but their issue has probably been retarded by numerous prior engagements, the rule, unless in special cases, being to

execute the orders for issues according to priority of receipt at the armory. The superintendent of the armory has been requested to make the issue to your State at the earliest moment possible.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
SIMON CAMERON,  
Secretary of War.

When the war finally began, the Ordnance Bureau had approximately 40,000 of the Model 1855 rifles and rifle muskets to issue to Union troops. To supply arms to the incoming regiments, Craig and his associates were forced to issue the smoothbore arms as well. This action had tragic impact on early fighting at First Manassas and later at Ball's Bluff. Because of limited number of even the old smoothbores in Southern arsenals, the Confederates had been forced to seek weapons in Europe. Confederate agents reacted by securing and shipping large numbers of rifled weapons through the early blockade (See December issue *The Runner* – cargo of the blockade runner *Fingal*). These imported arms were effectively used by Southern forces at both First Manassas and Ball's Bluff. Only after First Manassas did Simon Cameron, Lincoln's Secretary of War, pursue seeking modern arms from European sources. Cameron had favored a "Buy American" strategy to encourage Northern arms manufactures to tool-up and supplement the weapons being produced at the government-owned Springfield Armory. The Union defeat at First Manassas shocked Cameron and others out of the belief of a short war and the expectations of unrealistic rapid deliveries from Northern suppliers. It was not until July 27, 1861 that Colonel George L. Schuyler was commissioned as an agent by the War Department. At roughly the same time, the War Department offered a contract to Boker and Company of New York for one-hundred thousand arms from Europe. Adding to the surging search for European weapons, H.S. Sanford, American Minister to Belgium, was buying weapons. Competition among Union buyers, failure of the United States Treasury to provide timely credits to Schuyler for a contract for Enfield rifles, and failure of the Ordnance Bureau to provide assistance to the purchasing process hindered the Union efforts. As the agents bid against each other, prices rose and the temptation of corruption became linked to the process. Note: The activity, or inactivity, of the Treasury Department was especially damaging. Confederate agent, Caleb Huse, was able to outbid Schuyler for a supply of Enfields.

The Union efforts to secure European weapons may have had shortcomings; however, their agents purchased about 1,165,000 rifles and muskets during the first two years of the war. After Simon Cameron resigned on January 11, 1862 amidst accusations of corruption and incompetence, new Secretary of War, Edwin Stanton, appointed the more experienced Marcellus Hartley as purchasing agent. Hartley, of the firm of Schuyler, Hartley and Graham, instilled better controls and inspections of purchased weapons. While some of the weapons purchased by initial contracts may have been of poor quality, most weapons were of quality and serviceability to the Union troops.

As William T. Sherman reminded his colleagues when he left the Louisiana Military Seminary to offer his services to the Union, "You are rushing into war with one of the most powerful, ingeniously mechanical and determined people on earth." This statement was a vision of what would be unleashed on the South during 1864 and 1865. The more industrialized North achieved arms manufacturing sufficiency by the summer of 1863; the South would never achieve this self-sufficiency. The Northern manufacturing superiority and plan old "Yankee Ingenuity" led to advances in weapon designs that would have dire impact upon Southern Armies.

Source: Source: Robert V. Bruce, *Lincoln and the Tools of War* [New York: The Bobbs-Merrill Company, 1956].



Source: Carl L. Davis, *Arming the Union: Small Arms in the Civil War* [Port Washington, NY: 1973].

Source: *Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*

Editor

\*\*\*\*\* **December Meeting** \*\*\*\*\*  
***No Good Like It Is***

On Thursday night, December 8<sup>th</sup>, **McKendree (Mike) R. Long III** shared an interesting story about his efforts to write a book about members of the Eighth Texas Cavalry (Terry's Texas Rangers) during and after the Civil War. His initial advice to any of the audience who had awakened in the middle of the night and entertained the thought to write a book, "Roll over and go back to sleep." After a chuckle, Mike began to tell his story.

After a short history of the Eighth Texas Cavalry (see <http://www.mckendreelong.com/> for details), Mike related how his initial quest to write a non-fiction book about the development of fire arms from 1850-1890 changed as he learned more about the Eighth Texas and their use of some of those weapons. He changed this direction to focus on two members of the Eighth Texas, Dobey Walls and Jimmy Melton. These fictional characters were woven into the story of *No Good Like It Is*.



**Mike Long with Colt Revolving Rifle**

Mike then shared the details of how a book is written, edited, published, distributed, and advertised, a journey almost as interesting as that of Dobey Walls and Jimmy Melton. Fraught with pitfalls for the unsuspecting, Mike provided a pathway on which he began and how he learned on his journey.



**Colt Dragoon, Colt 1860, Smith & Wesson**

The journey must have been interesting for Dobey and Jimmy will continue their journey in *Dog Soldier Moon*.

**\*\*\*\*\* 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](mailto:tpwinstead@gmail.com). Please include “CFCWRT News” in your Subject line.

**\*\*\*\*\* Gone but not Forgotten \*\*\*\*\***

From an army correspondent with the *Philadelphia Inquirer* after the Battle of Fredericksburg in December 1862, the following appeared under the title, “**Fidelity of a Dog.**”

On Monday last as Hon. John Convode, in company with a number of officers, was passing over the battle field beyond Fredericksburg, their attention was called to a small dog lying by a corpse. Mr. Convode halted a few minutes to see if life was extinct. Raising the coat from the man’s face, he found him dead. The dog, looking wishfully up, ran to the dead man’s face and kissed the silent lips. Such devotion in a small dog was so singular, that Mr. Convode examined some papers on the body, and found it to be that of Sergeant W.H. Brown, Company C, Ninety-first Pennsylvania.

The dog shivering with the cold, but refused to leave his master’s body, and as the coat was thrown over his face again, he seemed uneasy, and tried to get under it to the man’s face. He had, it seemed, followed the regiment into battle, and stuck to his master, and when he fell remained with him, refusing to leave him or eat anything. As the party returned, an ambulance was carrying the corpse to a little grove of trees for interment, and the little dog following, the only mourner at that funeral, as the hero’s comrades had been called to some other point.

Bob Cooke

The Hon. John Convode represented the Twenty-First District of Pennsylvania in the Thirty-Sixth Congress from 1859 to 1861. Convode was especially interested in the welfare of Union soldiers. He sent three sons into the ranks of the army. One died in fighting outside of Richmond, the youngest endured imprisonment at Andersonville, and one returned safely to his home after his enlistment.

Sergeant William Henry Brown was twenty-five years old at his enlistment at Philadelphia on September 13, 1861. Brown had been married to Sarah Christine on September 18, 1857. They had no children. Mrs. Brown received a pension of \$8 per month beginning after approval on August 17, 1863. At the time of her death on May 4, 1924, Sarah Brown received a pension of \$30 per month.

There was some question about the faithful dog and Convoide incident that appeared in the *Philadelphia Inquirer*. Regardless of the actual facts, the army correspondent made the effort to show that Sergeant Brown had not died in vain, and while he had died apart from his home and loved ones, his death had been mourned. For the greater than 600,000 who perished during the war, few had a mourner at their internment.

Editor

Sources: Obituary of the Hon. John Convoide, *New York Times*, January 12, 1871. William Henry Brown, 91<sup>st</sup> Pennsylvania, <http://freepages.military.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~pa91/pbroww1.html> , accessed November 20, 2011.

\*\*\*\*\* Trivia Question Answers December 2011 \*\*\*\*\*

**1 - Who was this officer?** The first one who tells me who this man was wins a reservation to the February Dinner Meeting. This is a \$26 value for the inquisitive individual among you who can correctly answer this trivia question. If you need a hint about this man's identity (other than he is a Confederate and he has an arm injury), send me an e-mail.

**2 - What was the first breech-loading infantry long arm to be manufactured for use by the United States Army?** Inventor **John H. Hall** patented the breech-loading long arm in May 1811. This flintlock weapon, later updated to percussion lock in 1833, took either cartridge or loose ammunition. A lever in front of the trigger guard was pulled to the rear; hence, a short section of the barrel was pivoted upward enough to load the weapon. The breech was then closed for firing. In 1819, Hall reached a royalty agreement with the government to produce the weapon at the Harpers Ferry Armory. The Hall breech loader was the first weapon made with interchangeable parts and was produced at Harpers Ferry until 1844. Approximately 200,000 of these weapons were manufactured over their gradual adoption period. Reluctant acceptance by many field officers in opposition to recommendations from ordnance experts, limited the effective development and utilization of this innovative weapon. By the beginning of the Civil War, many Ordnance Bureau officers (including Ordnance Chief James W. Ripley who replaced Henry Knox Craig in mid-1861) were opposed to the introduction of large numbers of breechloaders and repeating rifles into the Union Army. NOTE: Carl L. Davis provided an interesting study of the breechloader controversy in his *Arming the Union: Small Arms in the Civil War*.



**Hall Breech loader – Harpers Ferry Armory**

Source: <http://sportingoutdoors.blogspot.com/2008/04/hall-breech-loading-rifle-americas.html> accessed December 7, 2011. Carl L. Davis, *Arming the Union: Small Arms in the Civil War* [Port Washington, NY: Kennikat Press, 1973], 107-112.

**3 - In Mike Long's presentation, he made reference to the February 17, 1865 burning of Columbia, South Carolina. Sherman blamed Wade Hampton's troops and Hampton blamed Sherman's troops.**

**Who was responsible?** In *Memoirs of General William T. Sherman Vol. 11*, page 287, Sherman wrote, "In my official report of this conflagration I distinctly charged it to General Wade Hampton, and confess I did so pointedly to shake the faith of his people in him, for he was in my opinion a braggart and professed to be the special champion of South Carolina."

**4 - In 1825, Jefferson Davis faced court-martial from West Point. What offense had Davis committed?**

In James S. Robbins's *Last in their Class: Custer, Pickett and the Goats of West Point*: Jefferson Davis and four other were the first cadets to face dismissal for carousing at Benny Havens' Tavern. They were charged with "drinking spirituous and intoxicating liquor" and "going to a public house or place where spirituous liquors are sold." They were also charged with leaving post without permission. Davis defended himself with the skill of a seasoned lawyer. He pleaded guilty to the charge of leaving the post with prior permission, but claimed special circumstances. Davis sited that weak evidence had been presented to the court. The charges were "contrary to the principles of a soldier and man of honor." Davis asserted that no one had witnessed him drinking and if he had appeared intoxicated, it was from embarrassment at being found at the tavern. Davis challenged the regulations inclusion of Benny Havens' – Davis, in a Clintonian wordplay strategy, said that it depended on what the definition of "public house" was.

Guilty of all charges! Dismissal! The court showed leniency to Jefferson Davis. The court ruled "in consideration of his former good conduit [it] respectfully recommend the remission of said sentence."

Davis was the only one of the Benny Havens' Five who graduated.

Source: <http://www.lastintheirclass.com/Davis.html> assessed December 11, 2011.

**5 - Did Jefferson Davis have a middle name?** I always thought his full name was Jefferson Finis Davis and that he was to be the last child of his parents. From the Rice University site comes a somewhat different answer:

From November 30, 1824, until mid-1833, Jefferson Davis' name on official lists and at times his signature included the middle initial "F." The name is not spelled out in full in any known document. In his story of Davis' life, Hudson Strode claimed that the final son born to Samuel and Jane Davis was given the middle name "Finis" because "it seemed unlikely that Jane Davis would ever bear another child" (*Jefferson Davis: American Patriot*, p. 3). The "Finis" myth has been repeated so often that it has become accepted as fact by many scholarly resources, but there is no evidence for it. All of Jefferson Davis' siblings had traditional names.

Perhaps equally curious is the sudden appearance and just as sudden disappearance of the middle initial. Davis had been at West Point for at least three months before it showed up for the first time, on a monthly conduct report. The last known "J. F. Davis" signature is on a note of October 3, 1832, notifying his commanding officer of his acceptance of a furlough. As of the publication of Davis' appointment as second lieutenant of Dragoons on May 4, 1833, the "F." had disappeared from official documents as well. At the time the initial was in use, there were no other Davis officers with the given name Jefferson (Jefferson C. Davis, a Union general in the Civil War, did not enlist until 1846), so it is unlikely the young cadet was trying to avoid mistaken identity. Only two other officers named Davis with the first initial "J." were in the army from 1824-1833, and one of them died in 1828. It should be noted that the "F." was used on Davis' first marriage license (June 17, 1835), although he signed the document without the "F." The initial was not used on his second marriage license ten years later. Jefferson Davis' signature and the listing of his name on official documents may be traced in the first volume of *The Papers of Jefferson Davis*, which includes all known documents from Davis' birth through 1840.

Source: <http://jeffersondavis.rice.edu/FAQs.aspx> , accessed December 12 2011



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# The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

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## The *RUNNER*

### Newsletter of The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Editor **Tim Winstead**

\*\*\*\*\* December 2011 \*\*\*\*\*

**Our next meeting will be Thursday, 8 December 2011 at St. Andrew's On-the-Sound (101 Airlie Road). Social Hour at 6:30 p.m., meeting at 7:30.**



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We invite and welcome all people with an interest in Civil War 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.

\*\*\*\*\* **President's Message** \*\*\*\*\*  
**President Bob Cooke**

November is almost gone and Thanksgiving is upon us. Soon after that, Christmas; how fast the year is going! One hundred fifty years ago, 1861, the first year of the war was coming to a close. On December 25<sup>th</sup> the war went on: "It was a busy Christmas Day in the White House. Mr. Lincoln and his cabinet met for lengthy discussions about the British demands for release of Confederate commissioners Mason and Slidell, A decision was to be made the next day. The Lincolns at Christmas dinner entertained many guests.

The shooting did not stop for the holiday. There was skirmishing at Cherry, western Virginia, near Fort Frederick, Md.; a Union expedition operated off Danville, Mo. Off Cape Fear, N.C., a blockade-runner was taken." (The Civil War Day by Day: An Almanac, 1861 – 1865, by E.B. Long). For many families, both North and South, empty chairs were set at the dinner table in remembrance of those who were off fighting, or who had already paid the ultimate price. This holiday season, let us remember not only those who fell in that conflict, but all the wars, conflicts, police actions and peace-keeping efforts that have taken our youths from us.

Bob Cooke

\*\*\*\*\* **December Program** \*\*\*\*\*

## *No Good Like It Is*



Wilmington native, **Mike Long**, will share a story of the Eighth Texas Cavalry (Terry's Texas Rangers) during the Civil War. He will follow two central characters from pre-war days in the Indian Territory, through their adventures during the war, and finally through their efforts to return to Texas during the dying days of the Confederacy. This presentation will be a "rip roaring" adventure that will provide an entertaining evening.

Join us on Thursday evening, 8 December, as Mike spins a web that promises to trap many of the emotions that charged the atmosphere during the Civil War.



**McKendree R. (Mike) Long III**, is a former soldier with two tours as an advisor to South Vietnamese Army units. His awards and decorations include the Parachutist Badge, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Silver Star, and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry (Gold and Silver Stars).

After retiring from the Army in 1980, he was a financial advisor with a major investment firm for 29 years. He now devotes his time to his family, his writing, his guns, and travel.

Married in 1960, he and his wife Mary have two married daughters and four grandchildren. He is a gun enthusiast, life member of the NRA and VFW, and is active in Sertoma. He is often found on Seabrook Island, S.C.

Editor

\*\*\*\*\* Raffle Winners \*\*\*\*\*

**Raffle Master: Ed Gibson**

If you have books, prints, or other items that you would like to donate to the CFCWRT raffle, talk to Ed at our next meeting.

**October Meeting:**

<i>Lee's Cavalryman</i>	-	Gary Henderson
<i>Warrior Generals</i>	-	Ed Gibson
<i>Grant</i>	-	Richard Covell
<i>Civil War Strange &amp; Fascinating Facts</i>	-	Linda Lashley
<i>Leatherbreeches</i>	-	Eric Kozen
<i>History of the Lincoln Assassination</i>	-	Gretchen Kozen

**November Meeting:**

<i>Civil War Trivia</i>	-	Linda Lashley
<i>Southern Invincibility</i>	-	Mary Royal
<i>General Lee's Army</i>	-	Dick Covell
<i>Artillery of Gettysburg</i>	-	Palmer Royal
<i>Team of Rivals</i>	-	Sam Flowers
<i>For Cause and Comrades</i>	-	Ed Gibson

**\*\*\*\*\* Trivia Questions December 2011 \*\*\*\*\***

**1 – The Eighth Texas Cavalry was mustered into Confederate service at Houston in September 1861. The Eighth was initially led by Benjamin Franklin Terry; hence, their name Terry's Texas Rangers. Where did the Texans first charge into battle?**



**Terry's Texas Rangers**

**2– On July 23, 1864, General John Bell Hood asked the commander of the Eighth Texas to provide him with a capable officer and men to reconnoiter Sherman's artillery batteries which were shelling Atlanta. Who was that officer and what became of this detached unit?**

**3 – The Eighth Texas served mainly in the Western Theater, but their last action was with Joseph E. Johnston's army in North Carolina. What was the last major battle in which these veteran Texans were engaged? Who was their newest and youngest member when they engaged in this battle?**

**4 – Who surrendered the city of Raleigh and the state of North Carolina to General William T. Sherman?**

**5 – How did Ella Swain's mother react to the presence of a Yankee officer in her home?**

**6 – Ella Swain and Smith Atkins were married on August 23, 1865. What was the reaction of University of North Carolina students to the ceremony that took place in the Swain home on Franklin Street?**

**\*\*\*\*\* Member News \*\*\*\*\***

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

**1** – Please welcome new members, **Beverly Blanton** and **John Dwight**, to the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table.

**2** - Members, **Linda Lashley**, **Judy Ward**, and **Martha Watson**, will be in Civil War era dress for the Old Wilmington by Candlelight Tours on December 3rd and 4th. The Tour sponsored by the Historical Society of the Lower Cape Fear will feature a “festive tour of the finest private homes, churches and historical sites in the downtown Wilmington area.” Tickets will be \$25 per through November 18, and \$30 thereafter.

**3** – Make your reservations for the **February 9, 2012** dinner meeting. **John Michael Priest** will make a presentation on Pickett’s Charge. The dinner will cost \$26 per head and will be held at the Madeline Suite at UNCW. Contact **Bruce Patterson** for further details.

**4** – **Special Event!!!!** On June 19, 2012, **Dr. Susannah Ural** will speak at an “added” meeting of the CFCWRT. Dr. Ural, who teaches at the University of Southern Mississippi, will present “**The Rise of Hood’s Texans: Recruitment through Antietam.**” Dr. Ural will bring a knowledge and enthusiasm to her subject that you will not want to miss. Think of it as a tenth presentation for 2011 – 2012 – and it will be **FREE!**

\*\*\*\*\* **December 1861** \*\*\*\*\*

December 1861 saw a continuing fraught relationship between the president, Abraham Lincoln, and the man he appointed as overall commander of the North's army, General McClellan. Lincoln continued to question the timidity of McClellan's approach while McClellan continued with his assertion that if got it wrong, the whole of the North could suffer as a consequence.

December 1st: President Lincoln expressed his concern to General McClellan that the Unionist armies did not seem to be doing anything substantial.

December 2nd: Congress gave its permission for the suspension of habeas corpus in Missouri.

December 3rd: Lincoln gave his State of the Union address to Congress. The Union started its move against New Orleans when ‘USS Constitution’ arrived at Ship Island at the mouth of the Mississippi River carrying the 26th Massachusetts Regiment.

December 4th: Great Britain announced an embargo on all exports to the US

December 5th: The Secretary of War announced that Unionist strength stood at 660,971 men of whom 640,637 were volunteers.

December 6th: It was announced that the Treasury could cope with a war that ended by mid-1862 but if it lasted longer than this then the Treasury’s income would be far outweighed by its outgoings and taxes on most things would have to be increased to fund the war.



December 7th: In a scene that mirrored the 'Trent' incident, the 'USS Santiago de Cuba' stopped a British ship, the 'Eugenia Smith' and a Southerner called J W Zacharie was taken off. Zacharie was a purchasing agent for the Confederacy.

December 9th: The Senate approved the setting up of the Joint Committee on the Conduct of the War. This recognised that previous comments made to the Confederacy, that states rights would not be interfered with once the war was over, was no longer the case and that the internal affairs of the rebel states would be reformed regardless and that the Union would be upheld.

December 10th: The Confederacy admitted Kentucky to its membership despite the overwhelming evidence that the state was about to fall to Unionist forces.

December 11th: Charleston was damaged as a result of a fire that swept through the city. Charleston was the most important port in South Carolina.

December 12th: The success of the Union's navy along the South's coastline was such that cotton farmers started to burn their crop in fear that it might fall into the hands of the Union.

December 15th: Congress expressed its view that the use of slavery in the South was becoming more and more an issue. The original cause of the war was state's rights but greater knowledge in the Union about slavery put it at the forefront of why the war was being fought. Over the next few months Congress passed a number of laws such as the military could no longer return to the South fugitive slaves; that slavery was to be outlawed in the District of Columbia; that any slave state that offered to give up slavery would be given financial assistance from the Union.

December 18th: Lord Lyons, the British ambassador in Washington DC, received a message from the British government that he was to demand the release of Mason and Slidell. If the Union failed to do this within 10 days, he had instructions to break off diplomatic relations.

December 19th: Lyons met the US Secretary of State, Seward.

December 20th: Two British warships arrived in Canada as a result of the 'Trent' affair.

December 21st: The meetings between Lyons and Seward continued. Both Seward and Lincoln recognised that there was a real risk of war with the British if their demands went unheeded.

December 23rd: The Cabinet was advised by Seward that Captain Wilkes made an error in taking off Mason and Slidell and that he should have brought in the 'Trent' and its 'contents' as the ship had violated its neutral status. Seward made it clear that the seizure of the Confederate commissioners was unlawful whereas the seizure of the 'Trent' as an entity would have been lawful.

December 24th: Congress passed a series of duties that were to be added to tea, coffee, sugar and what were classed as "luxury goods".

December 25th: Despite it being Christmas Day, the Cabinet and the President were in discussions on what to do with Mason and Slidell. Fighting was reported at Fort Frederick in Maryland and Cherry, western Virginia.

December 26th: It was announced that Mason and Slidell would be released because their arrest was illegal. It was further announced that Captain Wilkes had acted without the knowledge of the government.

December 30th: Mason and Slidell (**seized on November 8, 1861**) were handed over to Lord Lyons. They were immediately put on a ship to England. Lyons then released his own interpretation of the law regarding “neutral nations” and it was at odds with Seward’s and, ironically, found support among many Americans. However, with the issue resolved, relations between the North and Great Britain improved.

December 31st: President Lincoln pressed his army commanders for more action. However, McClellan did not hear his message as he was ill.

Source: <http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/december-1861-civil-war.htm>, accessed October 30, 2011.

**\*\*\*\*\* Through the Blockade \*\*\*\*\***

The Fire-Eaters and the Abolitionist of late 1860 and early 1861 believed their causes just, their foes irrational, and their specific causes achievable only by war. Among the majority of Americans, few really expected war, but if war did come, few - including the radicals - initially expected a conflict of long duration. As the crisis escalated, resolute men in Washington and Montgomery looked beyond the rhetoric and saw the reality of a coming armed conflict that neither side was prepared to wage. These resolute men began the actions necessary to secure the materials of war that would be required.

Both the governments of the North and South engaged in a contest to equip and field armies to achieve their aims. The North had a decided advantage of having industries that could eventually equip the large armies necessary to subdue the rebellious states of the South. However; in the early days, agents from the United States and the Confederate States were dispatched to Europe to secure arms and accoutrements. Thus began a game to secure weapons of every description, but more so, it began a game to deny those weapons to the other side.

This article will be the first in a series that will examine the early efforts of several men in the United States and in the Confederate States to arm and to supply the untrained mobs who will flock to their respective banners. This article will focus on Edward Clifford Anderson, a past mayor of Savannah, planter and businessman, and a former United States Navy officer. Even before the events at Fort Sumter, Anderson will be in Richmond purchasing heavy ordinance from the Tredegar Iron Works for the State of Georgia. Secretary of War, Leroy Pope Walker, will engage Anderson to purchase similar ordinance for Confederate emplacements in Mobile, Savannah, and New Orleans. Anderson’s efforts as an arms buyer will intensify after he is summoned to Montgomery by Jefferson Davis.

President Davis personally commissioned Anderson as a major in the Corps of Artillery and ordered him proceed to Europe. Anderson’s mission was to buy war materials and to probe the conduct of Captain Caleb Huse whose recent actions had caused suspicion. Secretary Walker had instructed Anderson, “You are hereby authorized, should circumstances in your opinion demand it, to supercede Captain Caleb Huse . . . . and to take possession of any assets or credits placed to his account as [our] agent.” Anderson, accompanied by James Heyward North, sailed on the *Camilla* from Savannah on May 25, 1861 and arrived in England on June 22.

Within days, Anderson met with Caleb Huse and J.D. Bulloch (Confederate Navy) and met with representatives of Fraser, Trenholm & Co. For the next six months, Anderson noted in his diary the

difficulties he and Huse had in buying guns, ammunition, medicines and other supplies. During this period, he found Huse to be both capable and trustworthy. Anderson and Huse, in a letter to Walker, complained of insufficient funding, Yankee spies who stalked them, suppliers who demanded large cash payments, and British government reluctance to allow them to ship arms. Anderson was highly upset by the proposed shipping cost that some companies sought. He also informed Walker that it, “may be necessary .... to unite with Mr. J.D. Bulloch in the purchase of a fast steamer, sending her over under his command.”

From *Confederate Foreign Agent: The European Diary of Major Edward C. Anderson*:

In early September Anderson and Huse, in cooperation with Bulloch, bought *Fingal*, an iron-framed twin-masted screw-steamer of 463 tons. Six week later, with a British captain and crew, flying a British flag, *Fingal* steamed from Greenock, bound according to her papers, “for British Honduras.” On board were Anderson, Bulloch, and John Low (Bulloch’s assistant), and concealed beneath her deck was a cargo of munitions and supplies valued at more than \$250,000: about 15,000 Enfield rifles, 1,000,000 cartridges, 2,000,000 percussion caps, 3,000 cavalry sabers, 500 revolvers, two 2 ½ -inch and 24 ½ rifled cannons with 8,000 shells, 400 barrels of gunpowder and large quantities of medicines, blankets, clothing and other supplies. Wrote Bulloch, “No single ship ever took into the Confederacy cargo so entirely composed of military & naval supplies....”

Anderson and the *Fingal* arrived in the Savannah River on November 13<sup>th</sup>. Within days, Major Anderson was in Richmond and reported his activities to President Davis. Anderson also met with Secretary of Navy, Stephen Mallory, and put forth an idea that could have impacted the course of the war. Anderson proposed that the Confederacy secure fast steamers and put the ships under command of his former USS *Constitution* shipmate, John Newland Maffitt. As reported in his diary, “Mr. Mallory met my suggestions with evident discourtesy, intimating to me that the Navy Dept would regulate its own affairs & that there were other officers under his control just as good as Maffitt.”

Major Anderson refused offers of jobs in Richmond and returned to Savannah where he served under Robert E. Lee. He felt his talents were underutilized in building and commanding defensive works around Savannah. After the fall of Savannah, Anderson was in Charleston where he was in command until the fall of that city. He and his Georgians joined General William J. Hardee as they marched into North Carolina where they joined Joe Johnston in a last attempt to stop William T. Sherman’s army. Anderson returned to Savannah after the war ended and began again in a devastated country to make his living. He had cast his die with the South, lost his wealth, but he would again work hard to return Savannah to prosperity.

Anderson’s diary provides a great description of his duties in Europe. Intrigue and stealth are elements in his description of a foreign agent. It also shows him to be a most efficient man who performs his duties with dispatch. He is blunt and to-the-point in his dealings with superiors and subordinates.

Had Mallory implemented Anderson’s suggestion in 1861, what could have been the outcome?

Source: Edward C. Anderson, *Confederate Foreign Agent: The European Diary of Major Edward C. Anderson*, ed. W. Stanley Hoole [University, Alabama: Confederate Publishing Co., 1976]. 1-15.

Editor

\*\*\*\*\* November Meeting \*\*\*\*\*

## Undaunted Heart: The True Story of a Southern Belle & a Yankee General

“When I was a little girl, my granny would hold out her hands, point to her rings, and say to my sister and me, ‘Ellie, when you grow up, this ring will be yours. Suzy, when you grow up, this ring will be yours.’ We’d hug her and wonder how long it would be before we were grown up!”



Eleanor (Ella) Hope Swain



Suzy Barile

**Suzy Barile** presented the audience at our November meeting with the remarkable details of a love story. Barile presented the story of her great-great-grandparents and their unlikely union that took place shortly after the Civil War ended in April 1865. Her great-great-grandmother, Eleanor (Ella) Hope Swain, and her great-great-grandfather, General Smith Dykins Atkins, were from very different worlds. Ella was daughter of a former North Carolina governor and University of North Carolina president, Smith was a Yankee lawyer, newspaperman, and Union general. In a Chapel Hill that had endured hardships and losses in a long civil war, Ella and Smith’s romance and marriage was indeed hard for the locals to phantom.

“Nearly a century and half after Ella and the general met, I found a cardboard folder in my mother’s attic that contained Ella’s letters to her parents. The correspondence revealed a love that transcended the bitterness of war and scandal.”

“After reading Ella’s words, I knew I had to tell their story.”

Suzy used these old letters from Ella to her parents as the basis for *Undaunted Heart*. In her book, Barile shared the events of Ella’s life and the changes she experienced as a result of meeting a handsome Yankee officer who had been sent to protect the University of North Carolina. According to a neighbor, Mrs. Cornelia Phillips Spencer, Ella and Atkins “‘changed eyes’ at first sight and a wooing followed.”

Unlike that of Eric Segal's fictional *Love Story* of 1970, this story, which encompassed a difficult period in this country's history, was true. If you are interested in the further details, get a copy of *Undaunted Heart* (grab a tissue, if so inclined) and prepare to be captivated.

**\*\*\*\*\* 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](mailto:tpwinstead@gmail.com). Please include "CFCWRT News" in your Subject line.

Regarding a Trivia Question in last month's *Runner*:

**RICHARD MEAD DID NOT GRADUATE 1ST IN THE CLASS OF 1857 USMA, HE WAS SECOND . JOHN C. PALFREY OF BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS WAS 1ST IN A CLASS OUT OF 38. PLEASE SEE "EDWARD PORTER ALEXANDER"  
BY MAURY KLEIN 1957, PAGE 14.  
HOWEVER E.P ALEXANDER WAS 3 RD**

I appreciate receiving comments about *The Runner* because it means someone is reading it. It also means, I need to do some more research.

Richard K. Meade, Jr. was E.P. Alexander's roommate while at West Point. I found two sources that stated Meade was first in the class of 1857. I did not check further. (<http://www.civilwarsignals.org/1st/epalexander/epalexander.html>) As the reader pointed out, other sources gave that distinction to John C. Palfrey.

When sources differ, it is best to consult an authority on the subject. I have been in touch with researchers at West Point and have requested further information about the class rankings in the class of 1857. The cadets receive scores on their actions every day they are at the academy. I hope to see exactly how overall ranking is calculated. I hope to hear from the West Point researchers in a short while, but I believe our reader is correct in his statement.

In the *Official Register of Officers and Cadets of the U.S. Military Academy* (First Class 1857), Meade had top ranking in 3 of the 6 disciplines (including Engineering), and 3 second rankings in the others with 16 demerits for the year. Palfrey had top ranking in 2 of 6 disciplines, 2 second rankings, and 1 fifth ranking with 6 demerits for the year. In examination of registers for the Second Class of 1856, the Third Class of 1855, and the Fourth Class of 1854, Palfrey ranked ahead of Meade each year. NOTE: Being an engineer by training, I put much stock in Meade's ranking as the #1 engineering student in his First class. The register also showed that Palfrey was age 19 years 6 months upon admission; Meade was 16 years 10 months.

Editor

**\*\*\*\*\* Parting Words \*\*\*\*\***

William T. Sherman became the superintendent of the Louisiana Military Seminary in Alexandria during 1859. When Louisiana left the Union on January 26, 1861, Sherman faced a decision, a decision that for him had little room but for one choice. Sherman was all in for the Union. He remained at his post for one additional month, collected his final paycheck, and left his colleagues with these words,

**“You are rushing into war with one of the most powerful, ingeniously mechanical and determined people on earth.”**

Source: Noah Andre Trudeau, *Southern Storm: Sherman’s March to the Sea* [New York: HarperCollins Publishers, 2008], 25.

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Edward C. Anderson also had a decision to make in 1861. In his diary, he told of his decision and his uneasiness with the state to his north.

**..... I had decided that under the circumstances it would be impossible for me to stand aloof in the conflict which was pending. I decided to go up to Montgomery and have a talk with the authorities there. Meantime my heart was very heavy within me. I disapproved entirely of the rash course of the politicians of the country North and South, and believed that Georgia especially had been led by the nose by South Carolina. I had been reared under the U S flag in the Navy and was to the innermost recess of my nature, attached to its folds, yet the die was cast & my lot as a Southern man with it.**

Source: Edward C. Anderson, *Confederate Foreign Agent: The European Diary of Major Edward C. Anderson*, ed. W. Stanley Hoole [University, Alabama: Confederate Publishing Co., 1976], 16.

Editor

**\*\*\*\*\* Trivia Question Answers December 2011 \*\*\*\*\***

**1 - The Eighth Texas Cavalry was mustered into Confederate service at Houston in September 1861. The Eighth was initially led by Benjamin Franklin Terry; hence, their name Terry’s Texas Rangers. Where did the Texans first charge into battle?** They were engaged in a small action near Woodsonville, Kentucky on December 17, 1861. Colonel Terry was killed in this engagement. Thomas Lubbock, John Austin Wharton, Thomas Harrison, J.F. Matthews, and others followed Terry as commander of the Eighth Texas. The Texans were known as a hard hitting unit who fought mounted or on foot. They fought at Shiloh, Murfreesboro, Bardstown, and a many other engagements during 1861 – 1865. Source: <http://www.terrytexasrangers.org> , accessed November 11, 2011.

**2 - On July 23, 1864, General John Bell Hood asked the commander of the Eighth Texas to provide him with a capable officer and men to reconnoiter Sherman’s artillery batteries which were shelling Atlanta. Who was that officer and what became of this detached unit?** Captain **Alexander May Shannon** became the leader of what became known as the “Shannon Raiders.” This small force, armed with repeating rifles and pistols, became a commando type unit which would strike at Union invaders with intense savagery. Yankee bummers were special targets of Shannon and his men. During Sherman’s “March to the Sea,” Shannon’s men were cited for actions against the invaders and the invaded civilian population.

Judson Kilpatrick reported on February 22, 1865, the Union troops who had surrendered to the Eighth Texas had been killed and their bodies mutilated. Notes had been attached to their corpses – **Death to Foragers**. Kilpatrick was supposed to have accused Joe Wheeler and his men, including Shannon, of fighting “under a black flag.” This controversy continued until the end of the war.

On April 15, 1865 when Joe Wheeler informed Shannon that surrender was imminent, the Texans refused to put down their arms, but decided to make their way to the Trans-Mississippi to join Kirby Smith. Supposedly, some of Shannon’s men acquired new mounts from nearby Union forces and began to make their way home. After the war, the men of Shannon’s command made little mention of

their wartime experiences. Alexander Shannon said it best, "I have never had a desire to fly into print and get up controversies over matters that are so long past."

Source: [http://www.terrytexasrangers.org/histories/mhtsw/shannons\\_scouts.html](http://www.terrytexasrangers.org/histories/mhtsw/shannons_scouts.html) , accessed November 12, 2011.

**3 - The Eighth Texas served mainly in the Western Theater, but their last action was with Joseph E. Johnston's army in North Carolina. What was the last major battle in which these veteran Texans were engaged? Who was their newest and youngest member when they engaged in this battle? The Battle of Bentonville** was the last major battle in which the Eighth Texas was engaged, March 19 – 21, 1865. Until the end, the Eighth Texas answered the call to battle with their usual tenacity.

**Willie Hardee**, the only son of Lt. General William J. Hardee, begged this father to allow him to join the Texans so he could win his rank. Willie refused to join Johnston's staff as an aide and he reported said, "he would not have rank until he won it." General Hardee finally gave his consent.

On March 21<sup>st</sup>, Hardee ordered the Fourth Tennessee and Eighth Texas forward to attack the advancing units of Mower's command.

"Forward, Rangers! Doc Matthews (Captain Doc Matthews of the Eighth Texas) hollered. "Front into line." One of the Texans noticed that Private Hardee took his place in the front rank, the general and the son "tipped their hats to each other." For a moment there was a terrible stillness: "Everything was so plain and clear," recalled one Ranger, "you could see the [Yankees] handling their guns and hear their shouts of command." Drawing his sword, General Hardee gave the order and led the charge on a borrowed horse."

Hardee and his men met Mower's attack and drove the enemy back, but a victory was short-lived. Willie Hardee was to suffer a mortal chest wound.

Source: Mark L. Bradley, *The Battle of Bentonville: Last Stand in the Carolinas* [Campbell, CA: Savas Publishing Company, 1996], 382-395.

**4 - Who surrendered the city of Raleigh and the state of North Carolina to General William T. Sherman?**

Former governors, David L. Swain and William A. Graham, took on this duty on behalf of Governor Zebulon B. Vance. Ella Swain's father, David, had been North Carolina's governor while in his early thirties and President of the University of North Carolina from 1836 until his death in 1868. About 3 o'clock in the evening, in company with Gov. Graham, who had risked life and reputation on behalf of the community to an extent, I delivered the keys of the State House to Gen. Sherman, at the gubernatorial mansion, then his headquarters, and received his assurance that the Capitol and the city should be protected, and the rights of private property duly regarded.

Source: Suzy Barile, *Undaunted Heart: The True Story of a Southern Belle & a Yankee General* [Hillsborough, North Carolina: Eno Publishers, 2009], 9-10.

**5 - How did Ella Swain's mother react to the presence of a Yankee officer in her home?** From *Undaunted Heart*:

Within the Swain household, however, tension was mounting. Even though Ella and Atkins were wooing, and Atkins and David Swain had become fast friends, Mrs. Swain had no interest in friendship with the general or anyone in the Union army, "so great was her hate for the Yankees," wrote her great-great-granddaughter "Wuff" Newell years later.

'We will never give up the strife until exterminated or freed and restored to a peaceful security and our own independence.'

Suzy recounted the family lore that Mrs. Swain never sat at the same table as her son-in-law. Even years later, the elder Mrs. Swain declined to dine with Atkins. To his credit, Smith Atkins would carry a food tray to Mrs. Swain's room and keep her company while she dined. After Ella's death on June 13, 1881, Smith granted the elder Mrs. Swain's request that the Atkins children remain with her in North Carolina throughout the fall and winter.

Source: Suzy Barile, *Undaunted Heart: The True Story of a Southern Belle & a Yankee General* [Hillsborough, North Carolina: Eno Publishers, 2009], 25, 143.

**6 - Ella Swain and Smith Atkins were married on August 23, 1865. What was the reaction of University of North Carolina students to the ceremony that took place in the Swain home on Franklin**

**Street?** They protested! For three hours, they tolled the campus bells during the wedding ceremony. They also hung General Atkins and President Swain in effigy from the bell tower on Old South.

From *Undaunted Heart*:

The Swains sent few invitations for the wedding on August 23, 1865. Unlike Mrs. Spencer, many invitees sent their regrets. “Invitations were spit upon in one or two houses!” she wrote, adding that some family friends “were very hot against Ellie.”

Source: Suzy Barile, *Undaunted Heart: The True Story of a Southern Belle & a Yankee General* [Hillsborough, North Carolina: Eno Publishers, 2009], 62-65.





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# The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

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## The *RUNNER*

### Newsletter of The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Editor **Tim Winstead**

\*\*\*\*\* November 2011 \*\*\*\*\*

Our next meeting will be Thursday, 10 November 2011 at St. Andrew's On-the-Sound (101 Airlie Road). Social Hour at 6:30 p.m., meeting at 7:30.



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We invite and welcome all people with an interest in Civil War 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.

\*\*\*\*\* **President's Message** \*\*\*\*\*



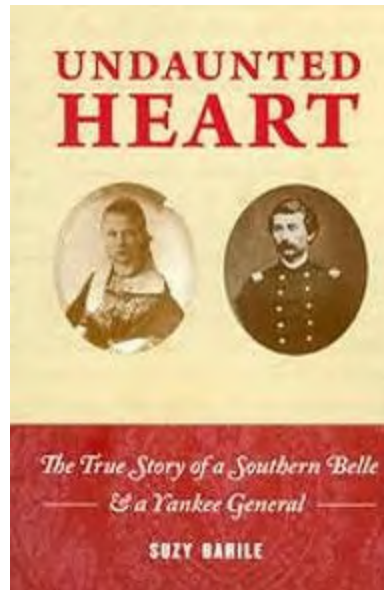
**President Bob Cooke**

Please join us on 10 November for another great presentation. The season began with a talk by Don Wilkinson about his blockade-running ancestor, Lt. John Wilkinson. It continued in October with our own (past president) Dr. Chris Fonvielle, who spoke on Timothy O'Sullivan and the photographs O'Sullivan took of Fort Fisher in 1865. In November, Suzy Barile will present a story of two very different people who fell in love in the days after the close of the Civil War.

Kudos and thanks to the new Steering Committee members – **Linda Lashley** (who will assist Bruce Patterson in Treasurer/Membership), **Martha Watson** (Publicity), and **John Moore** (Refreshments). Remember, when you mention the RT to friends and neighbors, invite them to attend a meeting.

Bob Cooke

\*\*\*\*\* November Program \*\*\*\*\*



### **Undaunted Heart: The True Story of a Southern Belle & a Yankee General**

**Suzy Barile** will make a presentation based upon her book about the unlikely relationship that developed between Ella Swain and Union General Smith Atkins. Set in Chapel Hill and Freeport, Illinois immediately following the end of the Civil War, Barile will share the story that forever changed her family's history.

From <http://www.blairpub.com/alltitles/undauntedheart.htm>:

When a brigade of General Sherman's victorious army marched into Chapel Hill the day after Easter 1865, the Civil War had just ended and President Abraham Lincoln had been assassinated. Citizens of the picturesque North Carolina college town had endured years of hardship and sacrifice, and now the Union army was patrolling its streets. One of Sherman's young generals paid a visit to the stately home of David Swain, president of the University of North Carolina and a former governor of the state, to inform him that the town was now under Union occupation.

Against this unlikely backdrop began a passionate and controversial love story still vivid in town lore. When President Swain's daughter Ella met the Union general, life for these two young people who had spent the war on opposite sides was forever altered.

General Smith Atkins of Illinois abhorred slavery and greatly admired Abraham Lincoln. Spirited young Ella Swain had been raised in a slave-owning family and had spent the war years gathering supplies to send to Confederate soldiers.

But, as a close friend of the Swains wrote, when Atkins met Ella, the two "'changed eyes' at first sight and a wooing followed."

The reaction of the Swains and fellow North Carolinians to this North-South love affair was swift and often unforgiving.

In *Undaunted Heart: The True Story of a Southern Belle & a Yankee General*, author Suzy Barile, a great-great-granddaughter of Ella Swain and Smith Atkins, tells their story, separating facts from the elaborate embellishments the famous courtship and marriage have taken on over the generations. Interwoven throughout *Undaunted Heart* are excerpts from Ella's never-before-published letters to her parents that reveal a loving marriage that transcended differences and scandal.



**Suzy Barile**

Following a 25-year career as a newspaper reporter and editor, **Suzy Barile** currently teaches English and journalism at Wake Tech Community College in Raleigh, North Carolina. She is a graduate of the School of Journalism and Mass Communications at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and she holds a master's degree in education from North Carolina State University.

She contributed to the *North Carolina Encyclopedia* (ed. William S. Powell) and the *Book of American Traditions* (ed. Emyl Jenkins). In 2001, she won a Paul Green Multi-Media Award from the N.C. Society of Historians for her presentation of "The Governor's Daughter and The Yankee General." She lives in Cary, North Carolina.

Editor

**\*\*\*\*\* Trivia Questions November 2011 \*\*\*\*\***

- 1 – On April 15, 1861, President Abraham Lincoln issued a proclamation calling for 75,000 volunteers "to cause the laws to be duly executed." Smith D. Atkins, States' Attorney for the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit of Illinois, was in the courtroom when a telegram was received that announced Lincoln's proclamation. Atkins, an ardent supporter of Lincoln during the 1860 presidential contest, immediately took action in support of the president. What action did Atkins take?**
- 2– Atkins saw early service at Fort Donelson and Pittsburg Landing where he received notice for his personal bravery and conspicuous service. After his resignation for ill health and a period of convalescence, Atkins returned to the army and progressed in rank. By the beginning of the Atlanta Campaign of 1864, Colonel Atkins was in command of a cavalry unit. Atkins was in command of Judson Kilpatrick's 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade when Sherman began his March to the Sea. By the time Sherman took Savannah, Atkins had become a Brevet Brigadier General. At what location in North Carolina did Atkins find himself in a difficult "gap" that required his skills as a leader?**
- 3 – A soldier in the 92<sup>nd</sup> Illinois remembered Atkins as having "a slick tongue and was fond of speech making." Atkins's skill with speech was evident in that he could talk the daughter of a Southern slaving owning family into marrying him and moving to Illinois. Who else in the Swain family did Atkins convince to relocate to Illinois?**
- 4 – After the *Lilian* was captured off Wilmington on August 24, 1864, Acting Volunteer Lieutenant Thos. C. Dunn of the United States Navy questioned the captain, mate, and chief engineer of the captured ship. Dunn's examination of these officers learned what each man would be paid for successfully running through the blockade. What was each man to have been paid for their run?**

5 – Fort Fisher’s Battery Meade (Hospital) was named for Confederate engineer, Richard K. Meade. Captain Meade had an unusual entry on his resume. Have any idea about Meade’s unusual qualification?

6 – How many pictures did Dr. Fonvielle discover during his thirty year search for additional O’Sullivan photographs?

\*\*\*\*\* **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 is pleased to welcome the following new member: **Vic Venters**.

2 – The Friends of the Hunley acknowledged receipt of a memorial donation for Charles Watson made by the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table. Thank you to all who contributed to this memorial donation.

3 – **Bob Maffitt, Wallace Rueckel, John Monroe, and Mike Powell** visited the Richmond battlefields with the Brunswick Round Table.

\*\*\*\*\* **November 1861** \*\*\*\*\*

November 1861 saw a turn in the weather for the worse and as was to become a norm in the American Civil War, the winter months saw little military activity. However, the suffering of the soldiers in the field increased and disease was as much an enemy for the soldier as was his opponent in the field.

November 1<sup>st</sup>: General McClellan, aged 35, took up his post as overall commander of the United States Army. General Frémont agreed to an exchange of prisoners in Missouri – but such action could only be carried out with the express support of the President.

November 2<sup>nd</sup>: General Frémont was formally relieved of his command and was replaced by General David Hunter.

November 3<sup>rd</sup>: Jefferson Davis and his senior army commanders disagreed on how the Confederacy should proceed. His major opponent was General Beauregard. Jefferson tried to bring onto his side commanders he felt shared his views such as General Robert E Lee.

November 4<sup>th</sup>: A Union naval force arrived at Port Royal Bar. An anchorage here gave the Unionists dominance along the whole coast of South Carolina and allowed the blockade to be better enforced.

November 6<sup>th</sup>: Jefferson Davis was elected to a six-year term as President of the Confederacy. Alexander Stephens was appointed Vice-President.

November 7<sup>th</sup>: A battle at Belmont, Missouri, left about 100 Unionist and 261 Confederate soldiers dead. Over 1000 men were reported as missing from both sides.

November 8<sup>th</sup>: Two Confederate commissioners (John Slidell and James Mason) joined a British ship, the ‘Trent’, in Havana en route to the UK. In international waters, the ‘USS San Jacinto’, forced the ‘Trent’ to heave to and surrender Slidell and Mason. Once this is done, the ‘Trent’ was allowed to continue with both men’s families on board – but not them.

November 12<sup>th</sup>: McClellan announced a major shake-up of the Union command structure. The Department of the West was split into three new departments – New Mexico, Kansas and Missouri. Previously one man had commanded all of these. Now, each new department had a new commander.

November 15<sup>th</sup>: Slidell and Mason were landed at Fortress Monroe, Virginia. Political bigwigs in Washington DC were quick to congratulate Captain Wilkes of the ‘USS San Jacinto’ with some even suggesting that the ‘Trent’ itself should have been taken in as well. However, once the celebrations died down it became apparent that Wilkes had acted as he did in international waters against a ship belonging to the world’s greatest naval power. There was a fear that the UK would be pushed into supporting the Confederacy as a result of this. Postmaster-General Blair and Senator Sumner of Massachusetts called for Slidell and Mason to be released with due speed.

November 19<sup>th</sup>: Davis called for the construction of a major rail network in the Confederacy to allow for the rapid movement of troops and supplies.

November 24<sup>th</sup>: Commissioners Slidell and Mason were moved to Massachusetts amid fears in Washington DC that the episode might lead to war between the UK and the North.

November 27<sup>th</sup>: News of what happened to the ‘Trent’ finally reached London and the outcry was immediate.

November 30<sup>th</sup>: The British Foreign Secretary, Lord John Russell, wrote to the British ambassador in Washington that he, on behalf of the British government, was to express in the strongest terms Britain’s outrage over what happened to the ‘Trent’. Lyons was to demand the immediate release of Slidell and Mason and a formal apology from the Federal government. In a private letter, Russell told Lyons to give the Federal government 10 days before closing the embassy and cutting diplomatic relations. The Royal navy was put on alert and the Guards regiments were told to prepare to sail to Canada. **NOTE: The Trent Affair was about as close as Great Britain and the United States came to war with each other. Amanda’s Foreman’s *A World of Fire: Britain’s Crucial Role in the American Civil War* provides a detailed study of the relationships between these powers.**

Source: <http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/november-1861-civil-war.htm>, accessed September 30, 2011.

**\*\*\*\*\* Through the Blockade \*\*\*\*\***

Not every captain of a blockade runner was cast in the image of the gallant Rhet Butler of *Gone with the Wind* fame. Captain Daniel H. Martin of the *Lilian* was cast of a different metal, a metal that did not shine brightly during a dash into Wilmington on July 30, 1864.

Wilmington’s own, Captain John Newland Maffitt, was the *Lilian*’s first skipper to make the run into Wilmington. Daniel Martin was the skipper on the second and the third & final run.

**\*\*\*\*\* Recollections of a Rebel Reefer \*\*\*\*\***

In James Morris Morgan’s book, Morgan related the story of several Confederate Navy officers, Lieutenants Campbell, Ingraham, King, and Midshipman Morgan, who were returning from service in Europe where they had been attached to various Confederate commerce raiders. As crew members of commerce raiders, these officers were considered to be pirates by the Union Navy; hence, each officer was subject to be hung if they were captured while risking a run “through the blockade.”

According to Morgan's account, the Confederate naval officers made their way by private steamers from Liverpool to Halifax, Nova Scotia, and on to St. George, Bermuda. They boarded the *Lilian* for the final leg of their journey back into the Confederacy. It was on the *Lilian* where Morgan met the biggest "braggart and blowhard as ever commanded a ship."

When fifty miles from the Cape Fear, the *Lilian* was sighted and chased by the steam sloop-of-war, USS *Shenandoah*. Captain Martin, reported to be "already in his cups," squandered the *Lilian's* speed advantage by steering a course that allowed the pursuing *Shenandoah* to fully utilize her full spread of sails. Martin "went below and stored several big drinks of brandy under his vest, and then coming on deck, in a spirit of braggadocio, hoisted the Confederate flag." Lieutenant W.P.A. Campbell ordered his companions to go below and don their uniforms and side arms – if they were to be captured, they would be so as officers of the Confederate Navy.

The *Shenandoah's* gunners began firing on the *Lilian* and they soon had the range of the blockade-runner. When a shot hit the *Lilian's* paddlebox on which Martin was standing, Martin screamed that the flag should be lowered, "I will not have any more lives sacrificed." Lieutenant Campbell reacted to Martin's intended surrender by calmly saying: "Captain, if you want to give up this boat, turn her over to me. I will not allow you to surrender her. These officers are branded as pirates, and according to President Lincoln's proclamation may be hung if captured."

The tension among the crew and passengers on the *Lilian* heightened as the gunners on the *Shenandoah* continued to cause damage to the delicate blockade-runner. The engine room crew fled onto deck after a boiler was hit and its super hot steam escaped with a roar. Captain Martin shouted to Campbell, "If you are going to take my ship, take her!" Martin then disappeared into relative safety below deck. Campbell turned to his officers and calmly ordered them to kill any man who attempted to lower their flag.

The chief engineer informed Campbell that he would be able to maintain steam on the remaining boilers. Their speed had been reduced by a third, but they could still keep up their attempted escape. He also informed the lieutenant that he had previously been a prisoner of the Union Navy and he and his men had no desire to endure that fate once again. According to Morgan, the crew cheered when they heard their chief engineer's remarks.

Campbell ordered a course change that forced the *Shenandoah* to take in her sails. This maneuver allowed the *Lilian* to maintain their lead on their pursuer; however, they were forced to go in close to the pounding surf. As night fell, Campbell took the *Lilian* as close to the shore as possible and he headed her southward toward the protection of Fort Fisher's guns. They had escaped the guns of the *Shenandoah*; however, the *Lilian* was not swift enough to make the inlet that night. As the sun rose the next morning, several of the Union blockade ships spotted the *Lilian* and they opened fire on the already damaged runner. Campbell ordered that all available speed be gotten from the remaining boilers and that the ship be taken under the fort's guns without delay. Campbell and the *Lilian* were lucky for they soon dropped anchor and their pursuers heeded the menace of Fort Fisher's gunners.

Where was Captain Martin during the running fight for his ship? According to James Morris Morgan, Captain Martin was dead drunk in his bunk with an empty brandy bottle by his side. Where was Martin when officers from Fort Fisher arrived to welcome the *Lilian* to safety? Again according to Morgan, Martin received the visitors and when told that the *Lilian's* dash through the blockade had been one of

the most daring they had seen, Martin modestly replied: “Oh, it was nothing; we have to take chances in our business!” Morgan also reported that Lieutenant Campbell witnessed the exchange but remained silent as to his part in the daring dash.

James Morris Morgan was not satisfied with his depiction of Captain Martin’s behavior during the *Lilian’s* return to Wilmington. In his memoir, Morgan included the story of Martin’s surrender of the *Lilian* on its first voyage after it was repaired while in port. Morgan also used reports by Captain Ridgely, commander of the *Shenandoah*, which detailed the chase and the 140 shots fired by the Union ship. Ridgely said, “He was a bold blockade-runner and flew the rebel flag as long as we could see him ....” As told by Morgan, the boldness of which Ridgely spoke was not that of Captain Martin but of the Lieutenant W.P.A. Campbell, Confederate States Navy, who had taken control in the midst of the crisis.

From *Official Records of the Union and Confederate Navies in the War of the Rebellion*, Morgan included parts of an interview by a Union officer who questioned the captain of the *Lilian* after its capture.

My name is Daniel Martin, a native of Liverpool, England..... Was three weeks in Wilmington repairing boiler injured in chase..... The Confederate colors were hoisted by some of the passengers,,,,,,,

Source: James Morris Morgan, *Recollections of a Rebel Reefer* (Boston and New York, Houghton Mifflin Company, Cambridge Riverside Press, 1917), 190-196.

In Stephen R. Wise’s *Lifeline of the Confederacy: Blockade Running During the Civil War*, a somewhat different story evolved from the details of the July voyage. Martin was faced with a mutiny of his crew as it departed from St. George. Martin and his officers called for help from a passing vessel; the troublesome firemen were subdued until they cooled down. Given the choice of imprisonment or returning to work, the disgruntled firemen resumed their duties and the *Lilian* continued with its voyage.

As the *Lilian* approached the Cape Fear, Martin and his “merry” men did encounter the USS *Shenandoah* and a chase was begun. When a boiler collapsed or was hit by shot from the *Shenandoah*, the fireman again refused to work. Martin met the mutinous crewmembers armed with a pistol in one hand and a bottle of brandy in the other. Martin, fortified with good brandy, forced the firemen back to work.

The story of the *Lilian* was the same until the battered ship entered into the Cape Fear River. Maybe Martin received welcomes and admiration from Fort Fisher’s officers, however, Martin and the *Lilian* **did** receive two warming shots from Fort Anderson’s guns when he failed to stop for inspection.

Source: Stephen R. Wise, *Lifeline of the Confederacy: Blockade Running During the Civil War* (Columbia, South Carolina, University of South Carolina Press, 1988), 159-161.

Somehow these stories reminded me of Lloyd Bensen’s 1988 remark to Dan Quayle about a Quayle comparison to Jack Kennedy. “I knew John Maffitt. John Maffitt was a friend of mine. Captain Martin, you are no John Maffitt!”

Editor

\*\*\*\*\* Concise Military Writing \*\*\*\*\*

While much writing in official Civil War reports and individual participant recollections were long on flowery and protracted language, not everyone succumbed to the tendency to over report. Member **Lance Bevins** provided the following exchange that showed that some soldiers knew how to state facts and let them stand on their own merits.

To Major General Early:

General: General Jackson desires to know why he saw so many of your stragglers in the rear of your division today?

Signed: A.S. Pendleton, A.A.G

Dear General Jackson:

In answer to your note I would state that I think it is probable that the reason you saw so many of my stragglers on the march today is due to the fact that you rode in the rear of my division.

Respectfully,

Jubal Early  
Major General

Source: Richard J. Sommers, ed., Vignettes of Military History, volume I (Carlisle Barracks, Pa.: US Army Military History Research Collection, October 1976), Vignette No. #, contributed by Dr. B.F. Colling, drawn from The Adjutant's Call, Official Publication of the Louisville (Ky.) Civil War Round Table. #67, September 1974, files MHRC.

Editor

\*\*\*\*\* October Meeting \*\*\*\*\*

**Fort Fisher 1865: The Photographs of T.H. O'Sullivan**



**“Fonvielle entertaining questions!”**



**Dr. Chris Fonvielle** provided an interesting presentation that documented the photographic history of Fort Fisher made by Timothy O’Sullivan in early February 1865. Chris told the audience how he had become interested in the 36 photographs that were displayed at the Blockade Runners of the Confederacy Museum where he was curator from 1979 until 1983. With his interest drawn to those photographs, Chris began a thirty year search for previously unidentified photographs that O’Sullivan may have made during his visit to Fort Fisher.



**“Fonvielle at book signing”**

At the instigation of his Chief Engineer (Colonel Cyrus Comstock), Ulysses Grant requested that a photographic record be made to reflect the strength and construction of Fort Fisher. The firm of Alexander Gardner sent one of its experienced assistants, Timothy H. O’Sullivan, to photograph this important military fortification. Fort Fisher had been taken on January 15, 1865; however, Braxton Bragg and Robert F. Hoke’s Division held the line about 4 miles north of the fort. O’Sullivan began his assignment under the threat of counterattack by the Confederate troops at Sugar Loaf. Fonvielle noted that Braxton Bragg, as usual, failed to attack and retake Fort Fisher (even though he had been ordered to do so by Jefferson Davis).

Fonvielle used newspaper reports that placed O’Sullivan at the fort on February 4, 1865. Chris systematically followed O’Sullivan as he made 39 pictures of the various land-face and sea-face batteries and 2 photographs of the Union fleet that attacked the fort. Chris shared his careful examination of each photograph that revealed much about the activities that the Union forces performed to make the fort secure against any Confederate counterattack. The Union forces rebuilt the palisades and remounted cannons that had been damaged by the heavy naval bombardment of January 13 – 15.



**The Mound Battery**

For more details and stories about Fort Fisher and O'Sullivan, Fonvielle's book, *Fort Fisher 1865: The Photographs of T.H. O'Sullivan* provides a great resource to understanding the engineering feat that was accomplished by Confederate engineers from the fort's beginning in April 1861 until its fall on January 15, 1865.

Source of O'Sullivan photo: <http://www.nchistoricsites.org/fisher/osullivan-shep-bat2.htm> accessed October 17, 2011.

**\*\*\*\*\* 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](mailto:tpwinstead@gmail.com). Please include "CFCWRT News" in your Subject line.

**\*\*\*\*\* Trivia Question Answers November 2011 \*\*\*\*\***

**1 - On April 15, 1861, President Abraham Lincoln issued a proclamation calling for 75,000 volunteers "to cause the laws to be duly executed." Smith D. Atkins, States' Attorney for the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit of Illinois, was in the courtroom on April 17 when a telegram was received that announced Lincoln's proclamation. Atkins, an ardent supporter of Lincoln during the 1860 presidential contest, immediately took action in support of the president. What action did Atkins take?** Smith D. Atkins prepared an enlistment roll, added his name at the top of the roll, and announced his decision to the Court and jury that he was prepared to serve in the Union Army. He then left the unresolved case in the hands of another attorney and went into the streets of Freeport to find additional volunteers. By the end of the day, Atkins had gained 100 names to his enlistment roll. These three months volunteers became Company A of the 11<sup>th</sup> Illinois Infantry. Smith Dykins Atkins was elected to be Captain of the company.

Source:

<http://www.accessgenealogy.com/scripts/data/database.cgi?file=Data&report=SingleArticle&ArticleID=0000098> , accessed October 10, 2010.

**2 – Atkins saw early service at Fort Donelson and Pittsburg Landing where he received notice for his personal bravery and conspicuous service. After his resignation for ill health and a period of convalescence, Atkins returned to the army and progressed in rank. By the beginning of the Atlanta Campaign of 1864, Colonel Atkins was in command of a cavalry unit. Atkins was in command of Judson Kilpatrick’s 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade when Sherman began his March to the Sea. By the time Sherman took Savannah, Atkins had become a Brevet Brigadier General. At what location in North Carolina did Atkins find himself in a difficult “gap” that required his skills as a leader? As Sherman advanced into North Carolina, Judson Kilpatrick decided to divide his force and send them on divergent routes to interfere with William Hardee and Wade Hampton’s Confederate column of march toward Fayetteville. On the night of March 9, 1865, Atkins and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade found themselves between Hardee’s infantry and Hampton’s long cavalry column as all made their way toward **Monroe’s Crossroads**.**

“We had filled the gap in the Rebel column,” recalled a member of the 92nd Illinois. One of Joe Wheeler’s staff officers mistook Atkins’s brigade for Rebels. Hoping to hurry the Southern column along he moved in while cursing the laggard cavalry to pick up the pace. The aggravated Federals promptly captured him. Fearful that their cover had been blown, Atkins dismounted his men, deployed a section of artillery, and waited for an attack that never materialized. His deployment in the darkness prevented him from pushing on until morning. March 10<sup>th</sup> would bring another surprise for Atkins and especially his boss, Judson Kilpatrick; however, that is another story.

Source: Eric J. Wittenberg, *The Battle of Monroe’s Crossroads: And the Civil War’s Final Campaign* (New York, Savas Beatie LLC, 2006), 128-130.

**3 – John M. King, soldier in the 92<sup>nd</sup> Illinois, remembered Smith Atkins as having “a slick tongue and was fond of speech making.” Atkins’s skill with speech was evident in that he could talk the daughter of a Southern slaving owning family into marrying him and moving to Illinois. Who else in the Swain family did Atkins likewise convince to relocate to Illinois?** Richard Caswell Swain, Ella Swain’s brother, had been an assistant surgeon in the 39<sup>th</sup> Regiment of N.C. Troops, but he had experienced difficulties in establishing a practice after the war. At the urging of his brother-in-law, Swain moved to Illinois during 1868 and began a medical practice in Carroll County. Swain was killed while attempting to board a train on January 29, 1872. Swain was honored by his descendents and members of the Fourth Texas Infantry at a ceremony held in the Freeport City Cemetery on July 23, 2011.

Source: Eric J. Wittenberg, *The Battle of Monroe’s Crossroads: and the Civil War’s Final Campaign* (New York, Savas Beatie LLC, 2006), 19.

Pam VanDeburgh, “Civil War Vet to get new grave marker,” Freeport, Illinois *The Journal-Standard*, June 4, 2011.

**4 – After the *Lilian* was captured off Wilmington on August 24, 1864, Acting Volunteer Lieutenant Thos. C. Dunn of the United States Navy questioned the captain, mate, and chief engineer of the captured ship. Dunn’s examination of these officers learned what each man would be paid for successfully running through the blockade. What was each man to have been paid for their run?**

Captain Daniel Martin was to have received **\$3,000**; Mate George Gowanlock was due **\$600**, and Chief Engineer Francis Skuse **\$800** for the trip. It should be noted that all three men were Her Majesty’s subjects. These “examinations” as Dunn called them in his report to Acting Rear-Admiral S.P. Lee can be read in full in the *Official Records of the Union and Confederate Navies* Series I, Vol. 10, pages 393-395.

What are these payments worth in today’s dollars? **\$43,000, \$8,590, and \$11,500** -respectively. Note: These amounts were generated using the Consumer Price Index as the computation tool.

The rate of pay for running the blockade was a lure for the men who assumed some risk. The foreign captains and crews seldom took chances like the Confederate Navy officers who commanded many of the blockade runners. John Maffitt, John Wilkinson, and Michael Usina were examples of Confederate Navy officers who showed a strong sense of duty to bring their ships and needed supplies safely to

port. If Lieutenant Campbell did indeed take control of the *Lilian*, the successful run into Wilmington was a matter of duty and survival rather than pay. Interestingly, Captain Martin reported in his statement to his captors, “There is talk in Wilmington of the Confederate Government taking all the vessels engaged in the blockade running business and putting them under command of Confederate officers.” The Confederate authorities recognized the propensity of civilian captains to surrender their ships and cargoes rather than risk the possibility of injury. Men like Maffitt, Wilkinson, and Usina understood the importance of the supplies they were bring into port and were much more willing to take risk to deliver their cargoes.

Source:

[http://www.measuringworth.com/uscompare/result.php?use%5B%5D=DOLLAR&use%5B%5D=GDP%5B%5D=DEFLATION&use%5B%5D=VCB&use%5B%5D=UNSKILLED&use%5B%5D=MANCOMP&use%5B%5D=NOMGDPCP&use%5B%5D=NOMINALGDP&year\\_source=1864&amount=800&year\\_result=2011](http://www.measuringworth.com/uscompare/result.php?use%5B%5D=DOLLAR&use%5B%5D=GDP%5B%5D=DEFLATION&use%5B%5D=VCB&use%5B%5D=UNSKILLED&use%5B%5D=MANCOMP&use%5B%5D=NOMGDPCP&use%5B%5D=NOMINALGDP&year_source=1864&amount=800&year_result=2011) accessed October 17, 2011.

**5 – Fort Fisher’s Battery Meade (Hospital) was named for Confederate engineer, Richard K. Meade. Captain Meade had an unusual entry on his resume. Have any idea about Meade’s unusual qualification?** Richard K. Meade, Jr., a Petersburg, Virginia native, was a member of Robert Anderson’s staff on April 12, 1861 when South Carolina troops fired on Fort Sumter. He resigned his commission on May 1, 1861 and joined the Confederate Army as an engineer. Meade roomed with Edward Alexander Porter at West Point – Meade graduated 1<sup>st</sup> in his class and Alexander 3<sup>rd</sup>. Meade served at Fort Fisher and was transferred to the Army of Northern Virginia. On July 31, 1862, Meade died of typhoid fever at his parent’s home in Petersburg, Virginia.

**6 - How many pictures did Dr. Fonvielle discover during his thirty year search for additional O’Sullivan photographs?** Fonvielle discovered 3 photographs of the fort and 2 of the attacking Union fleet. During his presentation, Dr. Fonvielle stated that there were probably additional photographs taken by O’Sullivan, but it would take further research to find and determine that they were taken by O’Sullivan during February 1865.

If you have a visit planned to the Library of Congress, contact Chris if you find any “suspect” photographs.



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# The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

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## The *RUNNER*

### Newsletter of The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Editor **Tim Winstead**

\*\*\*\*\* October 2011 \*\*\*\*\*

**Our next meeting will be Thursday, 13 October 2011 at St. Andrew's On-the-Sound (101 Airlie Road). Social Hour at 6:30 p.m., meeting at 7:30.**



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We invite and welcome all people with an interest in Civil War 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.

\*\*\*\*\* **October Program** \*\*\*\*\*

**Fort Fisher 1865: The Photographs of T.H. O'Sullivan**



**Timothy O'Sullivan 1840 – 1882    Dr. Chris Fonvielle**

CFCWRT member, **Dr. Chris Fonvielle**, will present a program based upon his recently published book about the photographic history of Fort Fisher made by T.H. O'Sullivan during February 1865.

As reported in the *New York Herald* on February 8, 1865, Messrs. Gardner & Company, as requested by Lt. Gen. Grant, dispatched an experienced Civil War photographer to make a series of views of Fort Fisher for Grant's report on the Wilmington expedition. The thirty-nine photographs taken by O'Sullivan have provided a detailed record of the fortifications that protected the many blockade runners that made entrance into New Inlet during 1861 – 1865.

It has been said that a picture is worth a thousand words. Chris has used O'Sullivan's photographs to paint a picture of the fort that had become known as the Gibraltar of the South. Please join us on October 13<sup>th</sup> for a program that will add to our knowledge of the local history of the Cape Fear region during the Civil War. As is his style, Chris is sure to share anecdotes that will add human interest stories to the largest naval bombardment ever to have occurred on this continent.

**Dr. Chris E. Fonvielle, Jr.** is a native of Wilmington with a lifelong interest in the American Civil War, the Lower Cape Fear, and Southern history. He currently teaches courses on the Civil War, Wilmington and the Lower Cape Fear, and the Old South and Antebellum America at the University of North Carolina Wilmington. Among his many books and articles, *The Wilmington Campaign: Last Rays of Departing Hope*, is the definitive examination of the Union effort to close the port of Wilmington.

Editor

**\*\*\*\*\* Raffle Winners \*\*\*\*\***

- |  |   |                |
|--|---|----------------|
| <i>The American Civil War</i> / Keegan | - | Tom Morgan     |
| <i>Witness to Appomattox</i> / Wheeler | - | Martha Watson  |
| <i>Rising Thunder</i> / Wheeler        | - | Richard Covell |

<i>Robert E. Lee: The Soldier</i> / Maurice	-	Palmer Royal
<i>Classic Civil War Stories</i> / Purcell	-	Bill Jayne
<i>Andersonville</i> / Kantor	-	Mary Royal



**Raffle Master: Ed Gibson**

If you have books, prints, or other items that you would like to donate to the CFCWRT raffle, talk to Ed at our next meeting.

**\*\*\*\*\* Trivia Questions September 2011 \*\*\*\*\***

- 1 – Who was John H. Foard? Why was he important to the Civil War history of the Cape Fear region?**
- 2 – At the southern end of the Fort Fisher sea face, Battery Lamb (Mound Battery) towered some forty-three feet above the beach. This important battery provided protection for blockade runners entering or leaving the Cape Fear River through the New Inlet. It also served as the signaling station to assist the blockade runners trying to navigate into the river. During the bombardment on December 24, 1864, Colonel Lamb ordered that a Confederate flag be raised on the Mound Battery in defiance of the Union ships shelling the fort. Because the signaling flagpole was not equipped with halyards to raise a flag, someone would be required to climb the pole and manually attach the flag. Who was the “volunteer” who came forward to attach the fort’s standard to the Mound Battery flagpole?**
- 3 – Mr. Wilkinson’s presentation began with a slide that showed a seal with crossed naval guns overlaid by an anchor with the inscription “C.S.N” and the phrase, “Aide toi et Dieu t’Aidera.” Know where the phrase originated? Know what Confederate leader had this phrase engraved on his sword?**
- 4 – Among the officers who served in the Confederate States Navy, Commander James D. Bulloch, a Georgia native, was sent to England where he purchased, manned, and commanded the CSS *Fingal* in bringing a much needed cargo of military stores to Savannah, Georgia during November 1861. Because of his unique managerial talents, Bulloch was sent back to England where he achieved prominence for his actions as Chief Purchasing Officer for the CSN in Great Britain. Bulloch’s talents included establishment of contacts & methods that allowed the Confederate Navy to clandestinely contract the construction and equipage of warships in violation on Britain’s Neutrality Act. Among the ships Bulloch procured, the Laird #290 became the most effective commerce raider of the war. The Laird cruiser #290 slipped out of Liverpool as the unarmed *Enrica* and after a cat-and-mouse game with the USS *Tuscaloosa*, the *Enrica* proceeded to the Azores where she received guns and other equipment needed to complete a warship. Having completed his task, Bulloch turned the *Enrica* over**

to a new captain. Who was that captain who would take command and commission the ship as a Confederate warship? Why was Bulloch not given command of the #290?

**5** – Lt. John Wilkinson commanded the CSS *Robert E. Lee* through the Union blockade 21 times. During these trips, Wilkinson delivered some 7,000 bales of cotton to European markets and he returned through the same blockade with critical stores for the Confederate government. What was the fate of the CSS *Robert E. Lee*?

**6** – During the Civil War, Imperial Russia was the only European nation that unequivocally supported the Union and its cause. The leaders of the two nations recognized the similarity between Czar Alexander II's freeing of Russia's serfs and Lincoln's freeing of America's slaves. After the czar survived an assassination attempt on April 16, 1866, the United States Congress, remembering Abraham Lincoln's assassination, enacted a resolution of sympathy to the Russian people. Gustavus Fox was selected to personally take the message to Russia. On what iron-clad did Fox make the nearly one year tour of ports from the Mediterranean to the Baltic?

\*\*\*\*\* **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 is pleased to welcome the following new members: **Judy L. Ward, Art McGiverin** (Associate member – Bartlesville, OK), **Jim Spruill**, and **Dennis Wrynn**.

**2** – A memorial service for Charles Watson will be held at Popular Grove Plantation at 3:00pm on October 1, 2011.

**3** – At the September meeting, **Gary Henderson** addressed those present about the North Carolina Power and Sail Heritage Foundation and its project to build a blockade runner for display in Wilmington. The foundation had experienced difficulties in moving forward with the project - Gary was seeking assistance from members who had skills in ship building, fund raising, or related talents. For an overview on the project see: <http://www.blockaderunnerproject.com/>

If you have talents in this arena and are interested in supporting a most worthy cause, contact [tpwinstead@gmail.com](mailto:tpwinstead@gmail.com) and I will be sure Gary gets the names of any interested individuals .

\*\*\*\*\* **October 1861** \*\*\*\*\*

October 1st: President Lincoln met with his Cabinet and senior army figures such as McClellan to discuss a major operation against the Confederates along the east coast. Ironically, Jefferson Davis was doing the same in Richmond regarding an attack against Unionist positions in Virginia as the public in the South were also expecting a major military campaign against the enemy.

October 3rd: Governor Thomas More of Alabama banned the export of cotton to Europe. He hoped that this would pressure the governments of France and Great Britain to recognize the Confederate government. Soldiers fought at Greenbriar, western Virginia, which resulted in over 100 Confederate dead while the Unionists lost just eight killed but also captured a large number of horses and cattle.

October 4th: The Confederacy signed a number of treaties with Native American tribes that brought these tribes into the war on the side of the Confederacy.



October 5th: The Cabinet in Washington DC signed a contract for a new type of warship – the Ironclad. The first was called the ‘USS *Monitor*’ and had a pair of heavy guns in a revolving turret.

**Note:** This was one of the pivotal moments in the course of the Civil War for John Ericsson’s “Cheesebox on a Raft” would have significant impact on Great Britain’s decisions concerning recognition of the Confederacy. See \*\*\*\*\* **More Summer Reading** \*\*\*\*\* for more information. A review of Howard J. Fuller’s *Clad in Iron: The American Civil War and the Challenge of British Naval Power* further explained the impact of ironclads on naval policies in both the United States and Great Britain. **Editor**

October 6th: The Confederacy started a campaign to find crossings over the Upper Potomac that, if successful, would have allowed them to outflank the Unionist force in the capital.

October 7th: Lincoln sent the Secretary of War to Missouri to investigate what exactly was going on as more reports reached Washington DC about the incompetence of General Frémont. What Secretary of War Simon Cameron found was that it had taken Frémont seventeen days to organize troops in an effort to retake Lexington. The news was not well received by President Lincoln.

October 8th: William T Sherman was appointed commander of the Union’s Army of the Cumberland. Sherman replaced the ill General Robert Anderson.

October 10th: Jefferson Davis, while discussing the fact that the South has a smaller population when compared to the North, ruled out using slaves in the Confederate Army.

October 12th: Two commissioners from the Confederacy left the South for Europe. Their task was to increase trade between the South and the UK and France. In Missouri many people, opposed to Frémont’s harsh rule, took part in clashes against Unionist forces.

October 14th: President Lincoln suspended habeas corpus. Though he did so reluctantly, Lincoln felt that such a move was necessary to the war effort.

October 16th: Lexington in Missouri was back in the hands of the Union after Confederate forces withdrew from the town.

October 18th: Union gunboats started a move down the Mississippi River.

October 20th: McClellan believed that the Confederacy was planning a major move against Washington DC.

October 21st: A Union force suffered heavy losses at Ball’s Bluff. The Union force, commanded by Colonel Edward Baker, believed that it was attacking a small Confederate force. In fact, they advanced into four Confederate regiments. In the confusion that reigned in the Union ranks, many men tried to swim across the river at Ball’s Bluff but were drowned. 223 Unionists were killed at Ball’s Bluff, 226 wounded and 445 taken prisoner. The Confederates lost 36 men killed. There was an outcry in the North but the Confederate leader at Ball’s Bluff, Nathan Evans, was hailed as a hero by the Confederacy.

October 22nd: Lincoln’s Cabinet met to discuss the disaster at Ball’s Bluff.

October 24th: Lincoln decided to replace Frémont as Union commander in Missouri. He appointed General David Hunter as his replacement “with immediate effect”.

October 29th: A major naval force sailed from Hampton Roads – 77 ships. The ships carried 12,000 troops commanded by General T Sherman. Deliberate leaks make the Confederates believe that the naval force will target Charleston or New Orleans. In fact, it was heading for Port Royal, South Carolina.

October 31st: General Winfield Scott, head of the Union Army, retired at the age of 75. He was replaced by General George McClellan.

Source: <http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/october-1861-civil-war.htm>, accessed September 10, 2011.

**\*\*\*\*\* View from a Blockader \*\*\*\*\***

At our September meeting, Don Wilkinson provided a view from a Blockade Runner– tension, exhilaration, and danger were ever present to the crew of a runner. It was easy to picture John Wilkinson with his pistol threatening to shoot anyone who made a sound that would give the ship’s presence to the enemy. What was the view from an officer on a Blockader off New Inlet?

Paymaster William F. Keeler, U.S. Navy, left a series of letters he wrote to his wife, Anna, while serving on the USS *Florida* from 1863 – 1865. These letters provided a view aboard a Union Blockader.

Off Wilmington, April 23, 1863

Well we poked around in the darkness for some time without hearing or seeing anything but the lights I have already mentioned when we anchored & at 1 I turned in & slept till the deafening report of the 9 in. gun directly over my head, followed in a moment or two by the rush of a rocket, *slightly disturbed my quite slumbers* & led me to suspect that something was in the process of “turning up.”

A dense thick fog enveloped us on every side rendering objects invisible but a few feet from the vessel. Our sides were lined with anxious faces peering into the surrounding darkness in search of the object of our alarm. This, as the officer of the deck states, was a large steamer which stole noiselessly out of the fog & glided by us as quickly & quietly as a shadow. Before he could train a gun on it, it had disappeared in the fog.

Keeler related the heightened activity when a runner was sighted, but he also wrote of the extreme boredom that accompanied the “sameness” that constituted the daily activities of the crew of a Blockader.

Source: William F. Keeler, *Aboard the USS Florida: 1863-65*, ed. Robert W. Daly (Annapolis, Maryland, United States Naval Institute, 1968), 24-25.

**\*\*\*\*\* More Summer Reading \*\*\*\*\***

Amanda Foreman’s book, *A World on Fire: An Epic History of Two Nations Divided*, whetted my appetite for additional reading on the roles of Great Britain and the United States during the Civil War.

I plunged into another work that added more to what I had learned. Howard J. Fuller wrote a technical analysis of the evolution of ironclads as they developed in France, Great Britain, and the United States. *Clad in Iron: The American Civil War and the Challenge of British Naval Power* concentrated on the variety of ship designs and designers, naval ordinance advances, evolution of armor plating, and strategies that were considered by each government.

The characters depicted in Fuller's book were familiar from previous readings; however, Fuller more fully presented the contributions of men like John Ericsson, Gustavus Fox, and Gideon Welles to the Union naval development. On the British side, Fuller presented the evolving British reaction to the challenge of Ericsson's *Monitor*. The leaders in both the Lincoln and Palmerston governments played a delicate game to develop and maintain a naval power to counter that of the other. Fortunately for the United States, Ericsson, Fox, and Welles created a naval force that gave the British pause during the period in which the British government considered actions against the United States.

I enjoyed this book; however, I needed to be in the mood to study the technical developments, personality clashes, and diplomatic dealing that contributed to the armored, steam-powered vessels that forever changed naval warfare. The March 9, 1862 Battle of Hampton Roads between the C.S.S *Virginia* and the U.S.S *Monitor* was the impetus that accelerated evolution of all ships that were to be "clad in iron."

Source: Howard J. Fuller, *Clad in Iron: The American Civil War and the Challenge of British Naval Power* (Annapolis, Maryland: Naval Institute Press, 2008), 268 – 285.

Editor

\*\*\*\*\* September Meeting \*\*\*\*\*

**The Most Good for the Confederacy**

**Captain John Wilkinson, CSN**

**Donald Wilkinson**, great great-nephew of Captain John Wilkinson, presented a fascinating program that shared revealing information about John Wilkinson and others who served with the Confederate States Navy.



**Donald Wilkinson - John Wilkinson 1821 – 1891**

Mr. Wilkinson began his presentation with a discussion of the strategies developed by the Union and Confederate leaders to “rule the seas.” While the Union strategy evolved from Winfield Scott’s schema that became known as the Anaconda Plan – the Union would build a powerful navy that would blockade and strangle the rebellious and agricultural Southern states. The Confederate strategy evolved from the mind of Stephen R. Mallory, Secretary of the Navy – the Confederates would use technology to overcome the numerical advantages of the Union navy, they would employ commercial raiders to destroy Yankee commerce, and they would utilize the competent naval officers who chose loyalty to the Southern cause. The availability or lack of manufacturing capability would further shape the strategies of each – The Union would produce the ships needed to accomplish their task, the Confederates would build but few ships to challenge their enemies and they would seek to purchase most of their arms and ships in Europe. Thus began the naval war of 1861 – 1865.

The Confederate Navy had an abundance of experienced and qualified officers. They had few ships available for these competent men to serve upon; hence, a Confederate naval officer was offered the opportunity for a broad variety of services untraditional to in the pre-war United States Navy. Wilkinson discussed the variety of duties that many of these men undertook; these duties included serving “aboard” either: Artillery Batteries, Gunboats, Commerce Cruisers, Blockade Runners, Administrative positions, Ironclad Rams, Covert Operations, Special Duty Abroad, or Torpedo Service. Among these officers were: Comdr. James Bullock, Lt. Hunter Davidson, Comdr. Catesby Jones, Comdr. John N. Maffitt, Lt. Charles M. Morris, Capt. Thomas J. Page, Capt. Raphael Semmes, Lt. Alex Warley, Lt. John Wilkinson, and Lt. John Taylor Wood.

In addition to the naval officers, Mr. Wilkinson provided information concerning three men who shaped the strategy that the Confederacy would employ during the war. As previously stated, Stephen

R. Mallory, Secretary of the Navy, was a proponent of the South's use of advanced technology that included iron-armored ships, torpedoes, fast steam-powered commerce raiders – the inadequacy of Southern manufacturing capability limited the successful adaptation of these new technologies. Christopher Memminger, Secretary of Treasury, supported the strategy to withhold cotton from the European textile industry in an effort to force European intervention – this “Cotton is King” strategy failed miserably, for at the time when the Union blockade was weak, the South could have shipped much cotton to provide cash credits to purchase the manufactured items needed for the war effort. George A. Trenholm became the banker of the Confederacy who arranged the financial resources that James Bulloch and others would require in Europe. Trenholm's expertise made available international banking services for the Confederate cause.

With the background of the Confederate Navy established, Mr. Wilkinson began to share the story of his great-great-uncle, Lt. John Wilkinson.

John Wilkinson was born in Norfolk, Virginia on November 6, 1821. The son of Commodore Jesse Wilkinson and Frances Coleman Wilkinson, John followed his father's path when he was appointed a Midshipman in 1837. During the Mexican War, John served on the USS *Saratoga* which was commanded by David Farragut. John Wilkinson saw service with the Coastal Survey. By 1860, he was Chief of the Hydrographic Party and commanded the USS *Corwin*. John Wilkinson resigned his commission in the USN on April 6, 1861.

Wilkinson was first assigned to command of a Confederate shore battery at Ft. Powhatan on the James River. As with most of his deep water navy comrades, John longed for service aboard ship.

John was ordered to New Orleans where he saw service as executive officer on the powerful, but uncompleted and immobile, CSS *Louisiana*. Union commander, David Farragut, ordered David D. Porter to use his mortar boats to reduce Ft. Jackson and St. Phillip. When the bombardment and an expedition that cut a chain that blocked the river were complete, Farragut steamed passed the forts and the tethered *Louisiana* on the night of April 24, 1862, and captured the city. The forts surrendered and left the *Louisiana* to its fate - destruction by its crew and capture of the crew by Union forces. John was sent to Ft. Warren in Boston Harbor where he would remain until exchanged on August 5, 1862.

On August 6, 1862, Wilkinson reported to George W. Randolph, Confederate Secretary of War, for special duty in England. Wilkinson carried cotton bonds from Secretary Memminger to Commissioner James Mason and he was also charged to purchase a ship capable of running the Union blockade. (NOTE: Wilkinson was accompanied by an interesting group that included Major Benjamin Franklin Ficklin, Colonel William Finney, and Johnny Tabb. Theirs was another story; however, be sure to check out Ben Ficklin). Wilkinson purchased the fast packet ship *Giraffe* from Alexander Collie & Co. Lt. Wilkinson and the renamed CSS *Robert E. Lee* thus began the adventure as one of the most successful blockade runners. With John Wilkinson in command, the CSS *Robert E. Lee* ( 900 tons, 283' length, 20' beam, and 13' depth) made 21 trips through the Union blockade.

Mr. Wilkinson shared a unique example of what it was like to have been on a blockade runner trying to sneak into either the Old Inlet at Fort Caswell or the New Inlet at Fort Fisher. Imagine yourself on board the *Robert E. Lee* where there were no navigational instruments to guide you, there had been no dredging of the inlets, there were no lights aboard your darkened ship – only stealth, speed, and daring were your deliverer. It was easy to feel the tension on a dark night where a cough, a stumble, or escape of steam from an engine boiler could remove your shield of invisibility.

Mr. Wilkinson discussed the tactics used by Lt. Wilkinson to avoid the Union blockaders as he made his way out of or into the Cape Fear River.

- **Doing the unexpected** (don't wait for a moonless night to run)
- **Innovation** (run out during the day – break the rhythm of the blockaders)
- **Misinformation** (spread false rumors of destination and schedule while in St. George or Nassau)
- **Imitation** (Fly the Union flag and act like you are a blockader, use colored rockets like the Union ship commanders to miss-direct pursuit)
- **Smokescreen** (Wilkinson used North Carolina coal to create a means of escaping detection – North Carolina coal attributed to the *Ad-Vance* captured; hence, when and where it was used was mission critical)
- **Daring** (steam between blockading ships making it difficult for them to fire without risks to each other, Use cotton soaked in turpentine to extract extra speed for the engines)
- **Seamanship**

In October, 1863, Wilkinson was selected to lead a group of 22 Confederate Naval officers in an attempt to free prisoners held by the Union on Johnson's Island on Lake Erie. The group made their way to Halifax, Nova Scotia; hence, into Canada and to the Great Lakes where an attempt to seize the USS *Michigan* was to be made. While planning was underway and the attempt was to be made, a Canadian volunteer revealed the plan to the Canadian government. With the Union authorities alerted and the Canadian government anxious to see the Confederates depart their country, Wilkinson cancelled the expedition. **NOTE:** A complete report on the Johnson's Island expedition can be found in the ORN Series I, Vol. 2, pages 822 – 830 in a letter from expedition member, Lt. Minor, to Admiral Buchanan.

John Wilkinson was to serve in numerous positions during the war. At one point he was assigned to Wilmington to establish a system of lights, maintain a record of water depth at the inlets, and make efficient the export of cotton. Wilkinson would make several additional runs through the blockade as commander of blockade runners and of a commerce raider. Wilkinson considered the latter vessel, CSS *Chickamauga*, as being in conflict with what he thought was prudent action against the Union. His last command was the converted commerce raider, CSS *Tallahassee*, renamed the CSS *Chameleon*. Wilkinson took the *Chameleon* on a trip to Bermuda for food stuffs for Lee's army. When he returned to Wilmington and found it taken by Union forces, Wilkinson took the *Chameleon* first to Nassau. Wilkinson (and John N. Maffitt) consulted with the Confederate agent at Nassau and they decided the *Chameleon* should be taken to Liverpool. After arriving on April 9, 1865, Wilkinson turned the ship over to Commander James D. Bulloch. The war was over – Wilkinson later wrote, "... the cause for which so much blood had been shed, so many miseries bravely endured, and so many sacrifices cheerfully made, was about to perish at last."



*CSS Chameleon*

Because he was classified as a pirate by the United States government, Wilkinson did not return to the states immediately after the war. He and fellow Confederate naval officer, John Taylor Wood, operated a marine mercantile business in Halifax, Nova Scotia for some number of years. When a pardon was granted in 1871, Wilkinson with his wife and daughters returned to the U.S. where upon a recommendation from Union Admiral and friend, David Dixon Porter, he established a school in Annapolis, Maryland to tutor aspiring Naval Academy students. John Wilkinson died in Annapolis in 1891.

Lt. John Wilkinson was involved in every duty except that of the torpedo service. The title of Mr. Wilkinson's presentation came from a lecture given by General Perry M. DeLeon at Annapolis in 1900 and it reflected the full measure of service that John Wilkinson gave to the Confederacy:

**“Raphael Semmes did the most injury to the enemy,  
But John Wilkinson did the most good for the Confederacy.”**

**NOTE:** For additional information about John Wilkinson read his book, *The Narrative of a Blockade Runner*. This book is available online at:  
[http://books.google.com/books?id=304DSBXn020C&printsec=frontcover&source=gbs\\_ge\\_summary\\_r&cad=0#v=onepage&q&f=false](http://books.google.com/books?id=304DSBXn020C&printsec=frontcover&source=gbs_ge_summary_r&cad=0#v=onepage&q&f=false)

**\*\*\*\*\* 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](mailto:tpwinstead@gmail.com). Please include “CFCWRT News” in your Subject line.

**\*\*\*\*\* Trivia Question Answers September 2011 \*\*\*\*\***

**1 - Who was John H. Foard? Why was he important to the Civil War history of the Cape Fear region?**  
John H. Foard was a Wilmington native whose interest in Wilmington during the Civil War led him to collect and display his collection at the Blockade Runners of the Confederacy Museum. The privately owned and staffed museum operated in Carolina Beach from 1967 until 1983. Mr. Foard's efforts preserved and brought focus on the significance of Wilmington to the Confederate war effort. After Mr. Foard's death, the collection was purchased by New Hanover County and is now part of the Cape Fear Museum located in Wilmington.  
Dr. Chris Fonvielle served as the last curator of the Blockade Runners of the Confederacy Museum from 1979 to 1983.

Source: Chris E. Fonvielle, Jr., *Fort Fisher 1865: The Photographs of T.H. O'Sullivan* (Carolina Beach, North Carolina, SlapDash Publishing, LLC, 2011), 2.

2 – At the southern end of the Fort Fisher sea face, Battery Lamb (Mound Battery) towered some forty-three feet above the beach. This important battery provided protection for blockade runners entering or leaving the Cape Fear River through the New Inlet. It also served as the signaling station to assist the blockade runners trying to navigate into the river. During the bombardment on December 24, 1864, Colonel Lamb ordered that a Confederate flag be raised on the Mound Battery in defiance of the Union ships shelling the fort. Because the signaling flagpole was not equipped with halyards to raise a flag, someone would be required to climb the pole and manually attach the flag.

Who was the “volunteer” who came forward to attach the fort’s standard to the Mound Battery flagpole?

As recounted in Fonvielle’s *The Wilmington Campaign* and *Fort Fisher 1865*, Lamb sent word to Captain Daniel Munn at Mound Battery to raise the flag. Munn ordered Corporal Noah B. Bennett of Company K, 36<sup>th</sup> Regiment of North Carolina Troops, to brave the fire of the Union fleet and attach the colors. The 196 pound Bennett was probably a brave man, but his size made him an unlikely climber. Private Christopher C. “Kit” Bland **volunteered** to shinny up the flagpole. Not only did Kit brave the fire and attach the flag, he re-climbed the flagpole and reattached the flag when it was partially detached. This time the volunteer received hoorays from Confederate defenders and Federal gunners. Source: Chris E. Fonvielle, Jr., *The Wilmington Campaign: Last Rays of Departing Hope* (Campbell, California, Savas Publishing Company, 1997), 134-136.

3 - Mr. Wilkinson’s presentation began with a slide that showed a seal with crossed naval guns overlaid by an anchor with the inscription “C.S.N” and the phrase, “**Aide toi et Dieu t’Aidera.**” Know where the phrase originated? Know what Confederate leader had this phrase engraved on his sword? This phrase has been attributed to Joan of Arc during her quest to free France from English control. Most translations revealed this to mean, “**Aid yourself and God will aid you.**”

On April 9, 1865, General Robert E. Lee wore a presentation sword to his meeting with General U.S. Grant at Appomattox. The sword, a gift from a Maryland admirer, was engraved with this phrase. This sword was never offered to Grant as has been rumored. Today, this sword is part of the collection at the Museum of the Confederacy in Richmond, Virginia.

Source: [http://www.maidofheaven.com/joanofarc\\_robert\\_e\\_lee.asp](http://www.maidofheaven.com/joanofarc_robert_e_lee.asp) , accessed September 12, 2011.

4 - Among the officers who served in the Confederate States Navy, Commander James D. Bulloch, a Georgia native, was sent to England where he purchased, manned, and commanded the CSS *Fingal* in bringing a much needed cargo of military stores to Savannah, Georgia during November 1861. Because of his unique managerial talents, Bulloch was sent back to England where he achieved prominence for his actions as Chief Purchasing Officer for the CSN in Great Britain. Bulloch’s talents included establishment of contacts & methods that allowed the Confederate Navy to clandestinely contract the construction and equipage of warships in violation on Britain’s Neutrality Act. Among the ships Bulloch procured, the Laird #290 became the most effective commerce raider of the war. The Laird cruiser #290 slipped out of Liverpool as the unarmed *Enrica* and after a cat-and-mouse game with the USS *Tuscaloosa*, the *Enrica* proceeded to the Azores where she received guns and other equipment needed to complete a warship. Having completed his task, Bulloch turned the *Enrica* over to a new captain. Who was that captain who would take command and commission the ship as a Confederate warship? Why was Bulloch not given command of the #290?

The captain was **Raphael Semmes** and the *Enrica* became the famous or infamous commerce raider, **CSS Alabama**.

Bulloch was too critical to the Confederate naval efforts to give him command of a single ship. After returning to Liverpool, Bulloch would “work his game” again and again as the Union agents tried with



increasing effectiveness to stop his efforts. Bulloch remained in England after the war. In 1883, Bulloch published the record of his exploits, *The Secret Service of the Confederate States in Europe*.

Source:

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/liverpool/localhistory/journey/american\\_connection/alabama/building\\_02.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/liverpool/localhistory/journey/american_connection/alabama/building_02.shtml), accessed September 10, 2011.

**NOTE:** James Dunwoody Bulloch and his exploits were of great interest to his nephew. Bulloch's sister, Martha Bulloch, had married a New Yorker in 1853. Bulloch's nephew was born on October 27, 1858. This nephew became the 26<sup>th</sup> President of the United States in 1901 – Theodore Roosevelt, Jr. **5 – Lt. John Wilkinson commanded the CSS *Robert E. Lee* through the Union blockade 21 times. During these trips, Wilkinson delivered some 7,000 bales of cotton to European markets and he returned through the same blockade with critical stores for the Confederate government. What was the fate of the CSS *Robert E. Lee*?**

Wilkinson was reassigned from the *Robert E. Lee* to lead a Confederate expedition to free 2,000 prisoners at Johnson's Island at Sandusky, Ohio. Wilkinson and a group of Confederate Naval officers were on the *Robert E. Lee* on October 7, 1863 as it steamed to Halifax, Nova Scotia. **Lt. Richard H. Gayle** was in command of the *Robert E. Lee* when on November 9<sup>th</sup> the USS *James Adger* intercepted Gayle on the return trip from Bermuda to Wilmington. The CSS *Robert E. Lee* was converted from blockade runner to the blockader, USS *Fort Donelson*.

Source: <http://cavernofcarnage.wordpress.com/acw-naval/confederate-navy/confederate-blockade-runners/css-robert-e-lee/>, accessed September 12, 2011.

**6 – During the Civil War, Imperial Russia was the only European nation that unequivocally supported the Union and its cause. The leaders of the two nations recognized the similarity between Czar Alexander II's freeing of Russia's serfs and Lincoln's freeing of America's slaves. After the czar survived an assassination attempt on April 16, 1866, the United States Congress, remembering Abraham Lincoln's assassination, enacted a resolution of sympathy to the Russian people. Gustavus Fox was selected to personally take the message to Russia. On what iron-clad did Fox make the nearly one year tour of ports from the Mediterranean to the Baltic?**

In an expression of sympathy to Czar Alexander II (and an expression of American naval power), Fox boarded the USS *Miantonomoh* for an extended voyage to Europe. The visit of the twin-turreted ship warship caused considerable controversy among the naval planners in Great Britain.

Source: Howard J. Fuller, *Clad in Iron: The American Civil War and the Challenge of British Naval Power* (Annapolis, Maryland: Naval Institute Press, 2008), 268 – 285.



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# The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

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## The *RUNNER*

### Newsletter of The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Editor **Tim Winstead**

\*\*\*\*\* September 2011 \*\*\*\*\*

Welcome to the 2011 -2012 Program year of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table. Our next meeting will be Thursday, 8 September 2011 at St. Andrew's On-the-Sound (101 Airlie Road). Social Hour at 6:30 p.m., meeting at 7:30.



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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.

\*\*\*\*\* September Program \*\*\*\*\*



The Most Good for the Confederacy: **Capt. John Wilkinson, CSN**



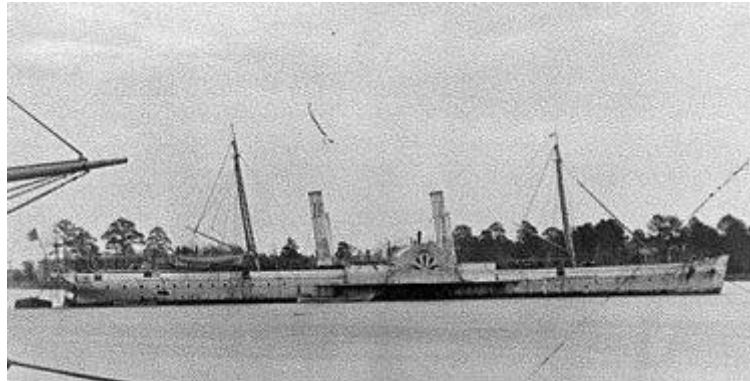
<center>  
**Wilmington waterfront during the war**

</center> **John Wilkinson 1821 – 1891**

While J.E.B. Stuart and John Singleton Mosby of the Confederate Army will be well known to most students of the American Civil War, a less well known group of heroic Confederate naval officers, who with limited resources, will show every bit as much bravery, energy, dash and imagination in their valiant fight against the overwhelming strength of the U.S. Navy. The September presentation will introduce these naval officers, but the presentation will focus on the career of Captain John Wilkinson.



<center>  
</center>



*C.S.S. Robert E. Lee*

Wilkinson was among the foremost blockade runners of the Civil War but he also engaged in commerce raiding, construction of ironclads, covert operations in Canada, and purchasing of ships and supplies in England. During a period of nine months in 1863 with his ship the *C.S.S. Robert E. Lee*,

Wilkinson ran the Wilmington blockade 21 times. He was the only naval officer to command every type of vessel operated by the Confederacy.

**Donald Wilkinson**, great-great nephew of John Wilkinson, will speak about the Captain's wartime career and on the Confederate government's overall naval strategy. Captain Wilkinson's ties with the port of Wilmington, other Confederate naval officers, and blockade running will be an appropriate subject to begin our 2011 – 2012 program year. Join us on September 8<sup>th</sup> for a presentation that will add much to our knowledge of naval operations during the Civil War.



**Donald Wilkinson**

**Donald M. Wilkinson**, a Virginian, lives in New York City. He is Chairman of Wilkinson O'Grady, Inc., a global asset management firm, he founded in 1972. Growing up in the Capital of the Confederacy, Richmond, Virginia, and in the shadows of the great monuments to Lee, Jackson, Davis and Stuart, Mr. Wilkinson developed a shared interest in the Confederate Navy with his Civil War kinsman. He is a 1961 graduate of the Virginia Military Institute and a 1966 M.B.A. graduate of the University of Virginia. In his spare time, he is a naval historian and presently is working on a biography of John Wilkinson.

Editor

**\*\*\*\*\* Trivia Questions September 2011 \*\*\*\*\***

- 1 - In July 1864, John Taylor Wood and G.W. Custis Lee were given command of a daring expedition to free and arm thousands of Confederate prisoners held at Point Lookout, Maryland. Lee was to command the land forces who would be dispatched from Jubal Early's army that had begun to move north on July 5. Wood was sent to Wilmington to ready crews and two steamers capable of capturing Union gunboats at Point Lookout. Wood was also to secure weapons to arm the prisoners who would join Early's attack on Washington. On July 9, the Honorable John Tyler wrote to Confederate General Sterling Price in Arkansas and outlined the complete details of the secret expedition. Tyler, son of the late U.S. president, exclaimed that this was "decidedly the most brilliant idea of the war." The expedition failed because of a complete lack of secrecy. It seemed that in addition to John Tyler and Sterling Price, most everyone in the Confederacy and the Union was aware of the daring plan. Had the plan been "decidedly the most brilliant idea of the war," or did it show another scenario as the war had progressed into late 1864?**
- 2 – The Confederates developed a system of lights and signals to help blockade runners gain access to the Cape Fear River. Who reorganized this system while on shore duty at Wilmington?**
- 3 – Who was the first Union general killed in combat during the Civil War?**
- 4 – Who was the youngest general during the Civil War?**
- 5 – Who was the famous journalist who served in both the Confederate Army and Union Navy during the war? This Welsh-born journalist would gain fame as an adventurer and explorer.**

**\*\*\*\*\* Member News \*\*\*\*\***

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

**1 – Charlie Watson, 1937 – 2011** – Charlie will be missed as a fateful member of the CFCWRT. His contributions to various historical groups around the Cape Fear region were his passion.

**2 – Bruce Patterson** visited the USMC Museum at Quantico and reported that the new exhibit on the **Civil War** was worth the visit. The Civil War exhibit included a segment about Fort Fisher and the role the Federate Marines played in the amphibious assault on Fort Fisher. Bruce also reported that other new exhibits included the **Origins of The Corps** and **Small Wars and Expeditions**.

**3 – Dale Lear** was present for the **St. Albans Heritage Weekend**, July 29-31. Civil War re-enactment units included: 2<sup>nd</sup> Vermont Infantry, 1<sup>st</sup> Vermont Cavalry, Medical Corps, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mississippi, 61<sup>st</sup> Georgia, and 27 Virginia and 55<sup>th</sup> Virginia Middlesex Artillery.

St. Albans, Vermont was the scene of an October 19, 1864 Confederate raid that claimed possession of the city and the deposits of its banks. The twenty-one Confederate raiders, led by Lieutenant Bennett Young, escaped into Canada with \$200,000. Fourteen of the raiders were captured by Canadian authorities but neutrality laws prevented any from being extradited to the United States.

If you are interested in further information about the raid and the diplomatic maneuvering that accompanied it: [http://asoac.org/bulletins/90\\_hamilton\\_raid.pdf](http://asoac.org/bulletins/90_hamilton_raid.pdf)

**4 – William Carshaw** provided a source of genealogical research information maintained by the **Genealogy Society of Bergen County** (NJ). Their website provided access to their databases as well as links to others resource links. <http://njgsbc.org/>

**5 – Joe George** shared a website that may be of interest to some of our members. The site was developed as a source of information on Virginia's veterans and has links to many national cemeteries and museums. <http://vets2search.com/>

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

U.S. Grant became one of the great military leaders of the Civil War because he learned from the experiences gained through many hard fought battles. Prior to his narrow victory at Shiloh, Grant had "believed that the Confederacy was a house of cards that would soon collapse." His victories at Fort Henry and Fort Donelson had reinforced his view of the weakness of the Confederacy; he confidently moved his forces south to push his advantage. On April 6 – 7, 1862, Grant absorbed a lesson: the Confederate forces displayed morale and a fighting spirit that he had not previously encountered. Grant adapted from the lesson learned at Shiloh.

Up to the battle of Shiloh I, as well as thousands of other citizens, believed that the rebellion against the Government would collapse suddenly and soon, if a decisive victory could be gained over any of its armies. Donelson and Henry were such victories. An army of more than 21,000 men was captured or destroyed. Bowling Green, Columbus and Hickman, Kentucky, fell in consequence, and Clarksville and Nashville, Tennessee, the last two with an immense amount of stores, also fell into our hands. The Tennessee and Cumberland rivers, from their mouths to the heads of navigation, were secured. But when Confederate armies were collected which not only attempted to hold a line farther south, from Memphis to Chattanooga, Knoxville and on to the Atlantic, but assumed the offensive and made a gallant effort to regain what had been lost, then indeed, **I gave up all idea of saving the Union except by complete conquest.**

The concept of “Total War” would become Grant’s method to end the Civil War. Beginning in 1864, Grant would find Union generals who were willing to carry out the dictates to wage war on the infrastructure of the Confederate war effort.

Source: Ulysses S. Grant, *Personal Memoirs of U.S. Grant*, vol. 1 (New York: Charles L. Webster & Co., 1885), pp. 368-69.

\*\*\*\*\* **Civil War Facts** \*\*\*\*\*

**“The Civil War: Freedom and 49 Other Ways It Changed American Life”**

**Political and social impact:** [No other conflict has so profoundly changed our society:](#)

1. 13th Amendment: slavery banned
2. 14th: citizenship for all born in the U.S.
3. 15th: voting rights for all male citizens regardless of race
4. Women's rights gain momentum
5. 1862 Homestead Act passed
6. Censorship of battlefield photos
7. Reconstruction laws passed
8. Ku Klux Klan organized
9. [Jim Crow laws](#) passed
10. Federal law trumps states' rights

**Medical advances:** In many ways the Civil War set the stage for modern medicine, providing thousands of poorly schooled physicians with a vast training ground:

11. Modern hospital organization
12. Embalming techniques
13. Safer surgical techniques
14. Improved anesthesia
15. Organized ambulance and nurses' corps

**Cultural legacy**

The war influenced our holidays and play:

16. Juneteenth holiday, also known as Emancipation Day
17. [Memorial Day](#)
18. Thomas Nast popularizes image of Santa Claus
19. Some 65,000 books on the conflict
20. Films such as *Gone With the Wind*, *Glory* and *Cold Mountain*
21. More than 70 National Park Service Civil War sites
22. Centennial toys: Civil War trading cards and blue & gray toy soldiers

**A high-tech nation:** The war years brought technological advances:

23. 15,000 miles of new telegraph lines, which reached the West Coast
24. Mass production of canned food
25. Battlefield photography
26. Transcontinental Railroad

**Everyday things:** Wartime helped devise or popularize parts of our daily lives:

27. Can openers
28. Home-delivered mail

29. Left and right shoes shaped differently
30. Standard premade clothing in sizes small, medium and large
31. National paper currency

**Military advances:** In what's considered the first modern war, both sides developed equipment and tactics that would be refined in later conflicts:

32. Minié ball bullets, cartridge ammunition
33. Repeating rifles
34. First machine guns
35. Submarines
36. Hot-air balloons
37. Soldier ID tags
38. Land mines
39. Ironclad ships
40. Trench warfare

**Veterans legacy:** In its wake, the war left a system to care for and honor those who fought:

41. First national cemeteries
42. Network of soldiers' homes later becomes the Veterans Administration
43. Social care for veterans' widows and orphans

**Language:** Last but not least, Civil War slang is still with us today:

44. Carpetbagger
45. Deadline
46. Horse sense
47. Shebang
48. Skedaddle
49. Smart like a fox
50. Greenback

Source: Towner, Betsy, "The Civil War: Freedom and 49 Other Ways Its Changed American Life." *AARP Bulletin*, June 1, 2011.

Bob Cooke

\*\*\*\*\* **Sesquicentennial Commemoration** \*\*\*\*\*

**William C. Davis**, noted Civil War historian and prolific writer, selected the following books as his personal favorites. If the Sesquicentennial Commemoration has inspired your interest, these were Davis's list of great books:

***Personal Memoirs of U.S. Grant*** – by Ulysses S. Grant, edited by E.B. Long. Grant's memoirs are considered as being among the best soldier's story ever written.

***This Hallowed Ground*** – by Bruce Catton. Although this is a chronicle of the war to preserve the Union from the Northern point of view, Catton told the story of the men from both sides who endured the horrors of war.

***Lee's Lieutenants: A Study in Command*** – by Douglas Southall Freeman. Lee and the Army of Northern Virginia are highlighted in the pages of Freeman's masterpiece.

*Forged in Battle: The Civil War Alliance of Black Soldiers and White Officers* – by Joseph T. Glatthaar. This book provided an in-depth study of the emergence of black soldiers and their relationship with their white officers.

*Flight to Oblivion* - by A.J. Hanna. The collapse of the Confederate Government and its flight from Richmond during the closing days of the war is retold in Hanna's word portrait of the main characters.

Bruce Patterson

\*\*\*\*\* **Summer Reading** \*\*\*\*\*

I followed my own recommendation for a summer of reading and research. An advanced copy of Amanda Foreman's new book, *A World on Fire: An Epic History of Two Nations Divided*, arrived in the CFCWRT mail box during May. The heft of a thousand page book was a little daunting; however, I decided that if they were kind enough to send an advance copy, I should at least expend the effort to read this book.



**Amanda Foreman – *A World on Fire***

The letter that accompanied the book stated, “*A World on Fire* narrates the Civil War as a history-in-the-round: it includes the story of the Americans who fought the Civil War in England – from US Ambassador Charles Francis Adams to Confederate Naval Officer James Dunwoody Bulloch – as well as the British, whose support was divided between the Union and the Confederacy all the way from the men and women who pledged themselves as volunteers on the ground in the US to the men who represented Britain in Parliament.” If anything the preceding description fell short in describing the events portrayed in Foreman's book.

Amanda Foreman skillfully and painstakingly interwove the lives and actions of almost two hundred characters from the beginning to the end of the war. These characters, men and women, were diplomats, commissioners, agents, military figures, Pro-Southern supporters, Pro-Northern supporters, journalists, observers, and volunteers. These characters, the great and the not so great, pursued their beliefs with action and energy. The intrigue that involved these men and women was played out on a giant chessboard. Each move and countermove added to the mounting tension that accompanied this period.

When I finally finished *A World on Fire*, I was saddened to leave my newly found acquaintances. Mary Sophia Hill, Benjamin Moran, Henry Morton Stanley, Jacob Thompson, Henry Feilden, Frank Vizetelly, Francis Dawson, John Fitzroy De Courcy, Sir Percy Wyndham, and many others had given me a much different perspective than I had previously known.



Amanda Foreman spent more than ten years researching and writing this book. She has written a book that provided fascinating reading and much new knowledge about the struggles to gain or deny British recognition of the Confederacy. The battle of wits in England to sway the British government's foreign policy waged from 1861 until the very end in 1865. The British volunteers, Union or Confederate, cast their lot and fortunes with commitment to their chosen cause.

Do not be put off by the sheer size of this work. *A World of Fire* is a story woven so well that it will maintain your interest from the Napier Ball at Willard's Hotel in Washington, D.C. on February 17, 1859 until the *Alabama* tribunal in 1872. British writer William Michael Rosetti wrote in 1866 that the entirety of Great Britain had been divided over the American Civil War. Foreman sought to tell the story of this Anglo-American world about which Rosetti had referred in 1866. She did quite well in her effort.

Editor

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

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\*\*\*\*\* Trivia Question Answers September 2011 \*\*\*\*\*

**1 - In July 1864, John Taylor Wood and G.W. Custis Lee were given command of a daring expedition to free and arm thousands of Confederate prisoners held at Point Lookout, Maryland. Lee was to command the land forces who would be dispatched from Jubal Early's army that had begun to move north on July 5. Wood was sent to Wilmington to ready crews and two steamers capable of capturing Union gunboats at Point Lookout. Wood was also to secure weapons to arm the prisoners who would join Early's attack on Washington. On July 9, the Honorable John Tyler wrote to Confederate General Sterling Price in Arkansas and outlined the complete details of the secret expedition. Tyler, son of the late U.S. president, exclaimed that this was "decidedly the most brilliant idea of the war."**

The expedition failed because of a complete lack of secrecy. It seemed that in addition to John Tyler and Sterling Price, most everyone in the Confederacy and the Union was aware of the "daring plan." Had the plan been "decidedly the most brilliant idea of the war," or did it show another scenario as the war had progressed into late 1864? After the war, Captain **John Wilkinson**, of the Confederate Navy, offered a different opinion of the Point Lookout and other such expeditions. "These futile projects for the release of prisoners, serve to show the desperate straits to which the Confederacy was reduced, for want of soldiers." Wilkinson had some previous insight into plans to secure the release of Confederate prisoners for he had commanded a failed 1863 attempt to secure the freedom for those imprisoned on Johnson's Island at Sandusky, Ohio.

Sources: Winstead, Tim, "John Taylor Wood: Man of Action, Man of Honor." *Recall*, Spring 2010. ORN, Series I, Volume 2, pages 822 -828.

**2 – The Confederates developed a system of lights and signals to help blockade runners gain access to the Cape Fear River. Who reorganized this system while on shore duty at Wilmington? John Wilkinson.** As you will hear on 8 September, Wilkinson was a very resourceful officer who was adept at improving not only the communications system but in coming up with ingenious methods to secure more speed from blockade runners under his command. Wilkinson **never** lost a ship under his command.

Source: Carr, Dawson. *Gray Phantoms of the Cape Fear: Running the Civil War Blockade*. Winston-Salem, North Carolina: John F. Blair, 1998.

**3 - Who was the first Union general killed in combat during the Civil War?** On August 10, 1861 at the Battle of Wilson's Creek, Union Brigadier General **Nathaniel Lyon** (1818 – 1861) met his death while rallying his troops against Confederate forces near Springfield, Missouri. Lyon defied his aides' plea to remove himself from danger; he shouted to his Kansas and Iowa troops, "Come on, my brave boys, I will lead you! Forward!" and with that said, he advanced into Confederate fire.

Lyon's actions at Wilson's Creek blunted the Confederate efforts to bring Missouri under Confederate control.

Source: Patrick, Jeff, "Missouri's Bloody Hill: Civil War Erupts at Wilson's Creek." *Hallowed Ground*, Summer 2011.

**4 - Who was the youngest general during the Civil War?** Was it Galasha Pennypacker (184(?) – 1916) of Fort Fisher fame? Or was it George Armstrong Custer (1839 – 1876) of Little Big Horn infamy? According to William Marvel in his August 2011 *Civil War Times* article, "The Boy General," **Charles Cleveland Dodge** of the 1<sup>st</sup> New York Mounted Rifles claimed that title. Dodge's commission as brigadier general dated from November 29, 1862.



**Dodge 1841 - 1910**

Dodge retained this distinction for a short period. His superior officer, Maj. Gen. John Peck, had little use for a 21 year old cavalry commander at Suffolk, Virginia. The departmental commander, John Dix, must have shared the same feeling. From the Official Records, Series I, Volume 16, page 561:

FORT MONROE, March 17, 1863

Major-General PECK:

I do not intend that General Dodge shall command the cavalry force at Suffolk. I shall make some other arrangement if he is put on duty in my command.

JOHN A. DIX

Major-General

The young Yale graduate, son of a New York Congressman, resigned his commission effective June 12, 1863. A star whose flame burned so bright could not sustain his brilliance. Dodge; however, rose from the ashes and became a businessman who was a partner in the Phelps Dodge Company.

**5 – Who was the famous journalist who served in both the Confederate Army and Union Navy during the war? This Welsh-born journalist would gain fame as an adventurer and explorer.** John Rowlands was born in Denbigh, Wales in 1841. He immigrated to New Orleans in 1859 and became associated with wealthy businessman, Henry Hope Stanley. Rowlands soon affected a southern accent and assumed a new name – **Henry Morton Stanley**.

Stanley fought with the Confederate Army at Shiloh where he was captured. He quickly deserted to the Union Navy. The Union cause must have also been a disappointment to Stanley for he soon deserted from this position.

As a correspondent for the *New York Herald*, Stanley traveled to Zanzibar in March 1871 and led a 7,000 mile expedition to find Scottish missionary, David Livington. On November 10, 1871, Stanley was said to have uttered the famous phrase of discovery, “**Doctor Livingstone, I presume?**”

Source: Foreman, Amanda, *A World on Fire*; <http://www.eyewitnesstohistory.com/stanley.htm>



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# The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

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## 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.



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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.

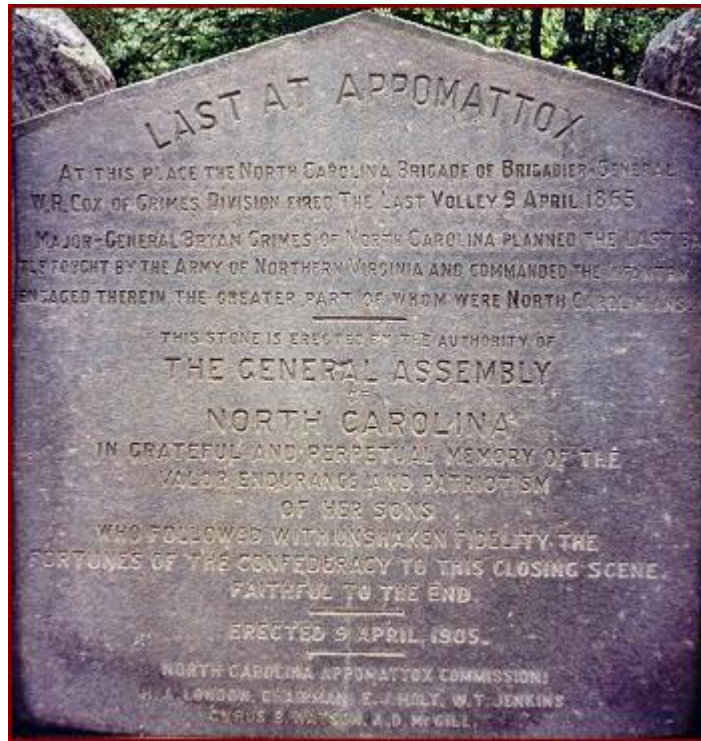
NOTE: At our February meeting, Waite Rawls, CEO of the Museum of the Confederacy, spoke of Grimes's scabbard & belt buckle that are included in the MOC collection. During a charge led by Grimes, a ball embedded in his sword belt and scabbard. Grimes had several horses shot from under him, received many 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 RAMSAYS 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](mailto: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 LeVeaconte, 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.





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# The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

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## The *RUNNER*

### Newsletter of The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Editor **Tim Winstead**

April 2011

Our next meeting will be Thursday, 14 April 2011 at St. Andrew's On-the-Sound (Airlie Road).  
Social Hour at 6:30 p.m., meeting at 7:30.



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\*\*\*\*\* April Program \*\*\*\*\*

**John Taylor Wood - Bold Raider**



**John Taylor Wood**

**Tim Winstead** will present a program about a fascinating man who served in both the Confederate Army and Navy. Tim will follow the career of an officer whose unique background and family connections made him privy to the inner thoughts of a President of the United States and the President of the Confederate States.



**Zachary Taylor - Jefferson Davis**

Using diaries, Official Records of the Union and Confederate Navies in the War of the Rebellion, letters, and other primary and secondary source materials, Tim followed John Taylor Wood through the tension-filled antebellum period and through the war. Again and again, Wood turned up at major event after major event. Was John Taylor Wood the Forrest Gump of the Confederacy?

Wood served on the C.S.S. *Virginia* and took part in the epic battle with the U.S.S. *Monitor* on March 9, 1862. He led cutting-out expeditions against Union ships in Virginia and in North Carolina waters. Wood commanded the commerce raider, C.S.S. *Tallahassee*, when it steamed out of Wilmington in August 1864 to wreck havoc on Northern shipping and to attempt to influence the election of 1864. Wood accompanied Jefferson Davis when Richmond was abandoned on April 2, 1865 and was present when Davis was captured near Irwinsville, Georgia on May 10, 1865.



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



### **C.S.S. Tallahassee**

Join us on April 14 and learn more about a man described by David Dixon Porter as "fearless" and "gallant."

**Tim** grew-up in Elm City, North Carolina. He attended NCSU and graduated with a degree in Industrial Engineering in 1969. He joined AT&T's Western Electric in Burlington, North Carolina and subsequently transferred to Wilmington with Southern Bell in 1974. After a nearly 37 year career, Tim retired as an Engineering Manager with BellSouth in November 2006. He returned to UNCW and completed study for a degree in History during May 2010.



**\*\*\*\*\* CFCWRT Spring Tour Reminder – Last Chance \*\*\*\*\***

### **Cape Fear Civil War Round Table Spring 2011 Battlefield Tour**

#### **of Guilford Courthouse National Park**

**A 1 day bus tour of this historically important site will occur on Saturday, March 26, 2011 (the 4th Saturday in March 2011). Our guide will be Josh Howard, NC Division of Cultural Resources, who was our speaker at the January 2011 Table. (Josh is co-author of *Long, Obstinate, and Bloody: The Battle of Guilford Courthouse.*)**

**We have reserved a 47 passenger bus, with on board toilet, for the tour. A box lunch will be included in the cost of the tour as well as coffee, water, soda, donuts and cookies on the bus as on past tours. The price will be determined based on the number of participants. The more people who make the trip; the cheaper the tour. We will leave at 7 AM on Saturday, March 26th from Pine Valley Methodist Church for the 3 and ½ hour bus trip to the park in Greensboro.**

**The Tour Guy will need E-mail addresses of interested people. His E-mail address is [DELSNOOP@aol.com](mailto:DELSNOOP@aol.com). Please put in the subject line of your E-mail CFCWRT 2011 Tour. The tour is open to nonmembers of the CFCWRT. The bus seats limit us to 47 participants and reservations will be sold on a 1st come basis.**

**Dale Lear**

**NOTE: This is your last chance to walk in the history of 1781 and 1865.**

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\*\*\*\*\* Raffle Winners \*\*\*\*\*

*A Sense of History* – Ed Gibson

*Cold Mountain* – John Bolger

*Lee's Terrible Swift Sword* – Gary Henderson

*Killer Angels* – Bill Carshaw

*Never Call Retreat* – Dale Lear

*Oldest Living Confederate Widow Tells All* – Sam Flowers

\*\*\*\*\* Trivia Questions April 2011 \*\*\*\*\*

- 1 – The cruise of the C.S.S. *Tallahassee* from Wilmington outraged Northern merchants and political leaders. Its mission was backed by Jefferson Davis and Stephen Mallory, Confederate Secretary of the Navy, as a means to destroy Northern commerce and morale. Which three Southerner leaders were especially distressed by the use of Wilmington as a haven for commerce raiders? And why?
- 2 – During the *Tallahassee's* cruise, Wood sought a Union pilot who would take the *Tallahassee* into the New York City harbor where Wood could attack shipping and the naval yard. Unable to find a pilot of questionable Union loyalty, Wood abandoned his attack plan. In one of the many strange quirks of history, two of the most audacious men in the Confederacy and Union were in close proximity during August 1864. What Union naval officer was in New York on an assignment that would have dire consequences for the Confederate war effort in North Carolina? This Union officer had previously been assigned to the blockade force off the Wilmington coast.
- 3 – The Union Blockade was a part of General Winfield Scott's plan to isolate and starve the Confederacy. The Northern press dubbed the plan as the Anaconda Plan. What were the requirements for a successful blockade that were required by the blockading navy? Was the United States Navy successful in enforcing the blockade?
- 4 - Bert Dunkerly, during his March 10 address to the CFCWRT, told of the efforts during the period leading up to the Civil War to save Mount Vernon as a symbol of the Union for which George Washington had toiled so long. Who led the effort to organize the preservation of Washington's home for future generations? What was the name of the organization founded by this person?
- 5 – "George Washington, Builder of the Union," was a lecture first delivered on February 22, 1856. The orator allied himself with the organized effort to save Mount Vernon. Who was he and for what is he best remembered?
- 6 – Bert related the events of McClellan's army approach to Yorktown in 1862. The soldiers of both armies expressed the significance of Washington's victory at Yorktown. A soldier from Pennsylvania remarked about the significance of Cornwallis' surrender and now the descendants of both North and

South were arrayed against one another on that same ground. A Texan observed that the opposing armies were upon scared ground. What Confederate general addressed his troops with reference to a "Second War of Liberty"?

\*\*\*\*\* **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 members who have joined us this year. Bill Jayne, Gene Funderbunk, Terry McGiverin, R. Bertram Williams, Ray Flowers, and Linda Lashley have joined the Round Table during 2011.

**2-** 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.

**3** – 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.

**4** - Member **Richard Riano** alerted us to activities that occurred at Poplar Grove Plantation on Saturday, 12 March. **Bob Maffitt** and **Jack Travis** were special guests with special stories during Poplar Grove's Women on the Plantation During the Civil War.

\*\*\*\*\* **Sesquicentennial Commemoration** \*\*\*\*\*

On April 19, 1861, President Abraham Lincoln issued the call for a blockade of the rebelling Southern States. This action did not include North Carolina or Virginia – initially - because they had not yet left the Union. This action, under international law, extended to the Confederacy legality as a belligerent nation; hence, rights of a government in administering its own affairs to wage war and seek international support for its cause. Lincoln never accepted the legitimacy of the Confederacy and his administration waged its own campaign to "prevent" the official recognition of the Confederacy by the major European powers.

While admitting his error in point of international law, Lincoln claimed the right to act on his point of practical law. In *Prize Cases*, the Supreme Court recognized Lincoln's action. In an *ABA Journal* February 1981, Vol. 67, page 177 - 178, "The Supreme Court expressly upheld the president's authority to issue the proclamation," and "despite the fact that the proclamation itself constituted the legal beginning of the Civil War."

From Roy P. Butler, et. al., ed., *The Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln*, vol. 4 (New Brunswick, N.J.: Rutgers University Press, 1953), pp. 338-339.

Whereas an insurrection against the Government of the United States has broken out in the States of South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas, and the laws of the United States for the collection of the revenue cannot be effectually executed therein conformably to that provision of the Constitution which requires duties to be uniform throughout the United States:

And whereas a combination of persons engaged in such insurrection, have threatened to grant pretended letters of marque to authorize the bearers thereof to commit assaults on the lives, vessels, and property of good citizens of the country lawfully engaged in commerce on the high seas, and in waters of the United States: And whereas an Executive Proclamation has been already issued, requiring the persons engaged in these disorderly proceedings to desist therefrom, calling out a militia force for the purpose of repressing the same, and convening Congress in extraordinary session, to deliberate and determine thereon:

Now, therefore, I, Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, with a view to the same purposes before mentioned, and to the protection of the public peace, and the lives and property of quiet and orderly citizens pursuing their lawful occupations, until Congress shall have assembled and deliberated on the said unlawful proceedings, or until the same shall ceased, have further deemed it advisable to set on foot a blockade of the ports within the States aforesaid, in pursuance of the laws of the United States, and of the law of Nations, in such case provided. For this purpose a competent force will be posted so as to prevent entrance and exit of vessels from the ports aforesaid. If, therefore, with a view to violate such blockade, a vessel shall approach, or shall attempt to leave either of the said ports, she will be duly warned by the Commander of one of the blockading vessels, who will endorse on her register the fact and date of such warning, and if the same vessel shall again attempt to enter or leave the blockaded port, she will be captured and sent to the nearest convenient port, for such proceedings against her and her cargo as prize, as may be deemed advisable. And I hereby proclaim and declare that if any person, under the pretended authority of the said States, or under any other pretense, shall molest a vessel of the United States, or the persons or cargo on board of her, such person will be held amenable to the laws of the United States for the prevention and punishment of piracy.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand, and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the City of Washington, this nineteenth day of April, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-one, and of the Independence of the United States the eighty-fifth.

Tim

**\*\*\*\*\* The Capture of Jefferson Davis \*\*\*\*\***

**John Taylor Wood version**

At our October 2010 meeting, **Clint Johnson** presented us with the material covered in his book, *Pursuit: The Chase, Persecution, and Surprising Release of Confederate President Jefferson Davis*. Clint's fascinating story led me to examine another view of the events that led to Davis's capture.

What follows is the Wood's diary entry from May 10, 1865:

Unfortunate day. We camped last night near a stream with a narrow thicket & swamp on either side of it, as is the case with all streams in this pine region. Capt. Campbell with some of his scouts was in advance, there was no one in rear, from which direction alone we might expect danger. The P. slept in a tent with Mrs. D., Miss Howell and the children occupied another, all others slept in the open air. I was with Col. Lubbock near our horses. At day dawn we were awakened by Jim the coachman, saying he heard firing on the road toward Abbeville. We rose & were dressing, when from the opposite direction we heard shouts & the clattering of horses feet, in a few moments over a hundred Yankee cavalry burst into the camp; taken completely by surprise, no resistance was offered, our revolvers



were first seized, then horses. I held onto Tom for some time, a Yankee on one side of his head, I on the other; finally he told one of his companions to fire on me, if I did not let go. I gave him up reluctantly. I never rode as game a horse. A few minutes after our surprises, firing was heard again towards Abbeville, some of the Yankees moved across the branch in that direction, soon firing was quite brisk & kept up until good daylight, some of the balls passing thru. the camp. Then the enemy discovered their mistake, they were firing on each other; the regiment which surprised us, had by taking the Jacksonville road, come in ahead of us at Irwinville, it was a Michigan Reg. under a Col. Pritchard; the other following us was a Wisconsin Reg. They killed & wounded several of their own people. While this was going on, I went over to the P's tent, saw Mrs. D. told her that the enemy did not know that he was present & during the confusion he might escape into the swamp not more than 100 yards distant; she much alarmed said if we would engage the attention of some Yankees near the tent she would do so. Some time was lost, it was becoming more light, the enemy were posting their sentries around the camp.

When the P. came out of his tent with a gown & hood on & a bucket on his arm, with Helen the mulatto nurse. They advanced some distance toward the stream, when one of the Yankee guards directed them in another direction as the balls were flying where they wished to go. they pushed on, Mrs. D in her ever anxiety saying from the tent, "they were only going after water," they were not afraid of the balls." Another Yankee rode up, ordering them to halt, saying he knew who it was, recognizing a man, but not the P., still moving on, he ordered them to halt, pointing his Carabine at the P.'s head. Then Mrs. D. by her appeals, the children by crying, the servants by fear & howling destroyed all. Others rode up, the P. was obliged to make himself known. **This attempted escape in disguise I regret exceedingly, only Mrs. D.'s distress could ever have induced him to adopt it.**

After he realized Davis was captured and beyond help, Wood was able to make his escape by bribing a guard with \$40 in gold. Wood made his way to Florida where he and John C. Breckinridge were to able to make their escape to Cuba. Wood remarked in his diary that Davis had met a "Sad fate."

NOTE: Wood Diary (April 2, 1865 – July 16, 1865), in the John Taylor Wood Papers, #2381, Southern Historical Collection, The Wilson Library, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Tim

\*\*\*\*\* **March Meeting** \*\*\*\*\*

**Revolutionary War Connections to the Civil War**

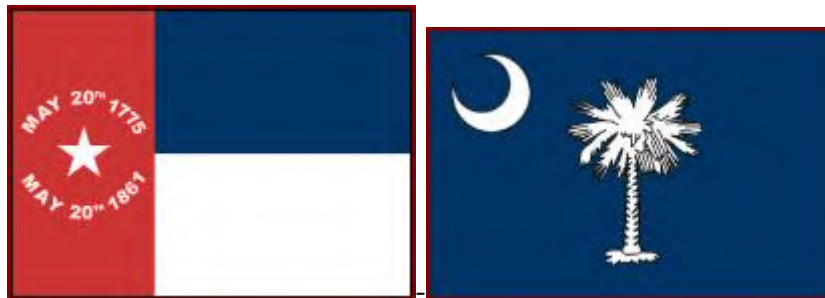


## Bert Dunkerly

**Bert Dunkerly**, Lead Park Ranger at the Appomattox Court House National Historical Park, presented a study of the way Americans looked at their Revolutionary War heritage and how it affected their views during 1860 – 1865. Bert set the context of his study when he reminded the audience of the similar passage of time between the veterans of the Revolutionary War and the beginning of the Civil War with WWII veterans and today. In many cases, fathers fought in one conflict and their sons fought in the next conflict.

Robert E. Lee's father, Light Horse Harry Lee, was a cavalry leader who served with Washington and Nathanael Green. Jeb Stuart's great grandfather, Major Alexander Stuart, commanded a Virginia Militia unit during the Battle of Guilford Courthouse. Charles Francis Adams, United States minister to Great Britain during the Civil War, was the grandson and son of former presidents of this nation. Colonel Paul Revere, 20th Massachusetts, was grandson of the mid-night rider who carried the call for defense against tyranny in 1776. Many men grew up hearing about the earlier fight for liberty and freedom.

As men flocked to defend their liberties, their homes, and their freedoms, many chose, as their banners, symbols of Revolutionary War. The Kings Mountain Tigers – Co G, 49th NC Troops, used a local battle as their "rebel" inspiration. North Carolina's first state flag made reference to a Mecklenburg Resolve's call for freedom from Great Britain (May 20th 1775) and secession resolutions that called for freedom from the Union (May 20, 1861).. South Carolina used as its national flag a banner that used the Palmetto tree famous for its defense of Fort Moultrie against the British in 1776..



As often happens, the ladies were the ones who cherished the past and determined to honor the men who built this nation. Bert's story of Ann Pamela Cunningham and her secretary, Sarah Tracy, and their efforts to save Mount Vernon was a story of the strong feelings held by ladies in South and North. Ann Pamela was from South Carolina; Sarah was from New York. When you next visit Mount Vernon, think of these ladies and their efforts to preserve the home of the Father of our nation.

Both in the North and the South, people claimed that God was on their side. **Deo Vindice** (With an Avenging God) appeared on the Seal of the Confederacy, **In God We Trust** appeared on Union coinage.



Great Seal of the CSA

George Washington

Those, in the South, who remained loyal to the Union were known as Tories as were those who remained loyal to George III during the Revolution. Men, in North and South, fought for reasons that each felt sprang from the earlier conflict. As battles were fought on Revolutionary War fields, men drew inspiration from what had occurred on those sacred sites. Bert related the comments of Union and Confederates who met each other at Yorktown in 1862. Each would in turn put their own spin on the similarity that their forefathers had achieved there. Our own Brunswick Town/Fort Anderson site was significant in both periods.

Even after the war ended, references to Revolutionary War battlefields were found in accounts of defeated Confederates and victorious Unionists. Rebel soldiers making their way home from Virginia to the Deep South stopped at Guilford Courthouse, Cowpens, and Kings Mountain. Union General Jacob Cox, who fought in the Wilmington Campaign, visited the Guilford Courthouse Battlefield after the war ended. In his book *Blue Tide Rising: A Memoir of the Union Army in North Carolina*, Cox wrote on pages 118-119:

A summer ride which a party of us took to the battlefield of "Guilford-Old-Court-House" may be worth noting as an encouragement to believe that our descriptions of the scenes of our own engagements need not become unintelligible even in the distant future. Among the combats of our Revolutionary War, Guilford Court House ranks high in importance; for the check there given to the invading British army under Lord Cornwallis by the Continental forces under General Greene was the turning-point in a campaign. Greensborough is the present county-seat of Guilford County, and the "Old Court House," a few miles distant, has disappeared as a village, a few buildings almost unused being the only mark of the old town. Natural topography, however, does not change its material features easily, and in this case a cleared field or two where the forest had formerly extended seemed to be the only change that had occurred in the past century. With General Greene's official report of the battle in our hands, we could trace with complete accuracy every movement of the advancing enemy and his own dispositions to receive the attack. We could see the reasons for the movements on both sides, and how the undulations of surface and the cover of the woods and fences were taken advantage of by either commander. Military principles being the same in all times, we found ourselves criticizing the movements as if they occurred on one of our own recent battlefields. It brought the older and the later war into almost startling nearness .....

Tim

\*\*\*\*\* **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 April 2011** \*\*\*\*\*

**1** - The cruise of the C.S.S. *Tallahassee* from Wilmington outraged Northern merchants and political leaders. Its mission was backed by Jefferson Davis and Stephen Mallory, Confederate Secretary of the Navy, as a means to destroy Northern commerce and morale. Which three Southerner leaders were especially distressed by the use of Wilmington as a haven for commerce raiders? And why? **W.H.C. Whiting, Robert E. Lee** and North Carolina Governor, **Zebulon B. Vance**, were among those who voiced their concerns that the use of Wilmington would draw unneeded Union attention to the last major blockade running port in the Confederacy. All three feared the loss of the lifeline that brought needed supplies to Lee's army and the Southern war efforts. Vance wrote to Davis:

I beg leave to enter my most respectful and earnest remonstrance against the sailing of the two privateers (*Tallahassee* and *Chickamauga*) from the port of Wilmington. Ten or twelve valuable steamers have already been lost in consequence of the cruise of the *Tallahassee*, and among them the noble steamer *A.D. Vance*, which alone, I respectfully submit, has been of far more value to the Confederacy than all our privateers combined. For these and other obvious reasons I hope these two vessels may remain in the Cape Fear to assist in its defense.

NOTE: Vance to Davis, October 14, 1864, ORN, Series I, Volume 10, p. 783.

**2** – During the *Tallahassee's* cruise, Wood sought a Union pilot who would take the *Tallahassee* into the New York City harbor where Wood could attack shipping and the naval yard. Unable to find a pilot of questionable Union loyalty, Wood abandoned his attack plan. In one of the many strange quirks of history, two of the most audacious men in the Confederacy and Union were in close proximity during August 1864. What Union naval officer was in New York on an assignment that would have dire consequences for the Confederate war effort in North Carolina? This Union officer had previously been assigned to the blockade force off the Wilmington coast. About the same time as Wood and the *Tallahassee* steamed north to raid commerce and attack New York City, **Lt. William Baker Cushing** was sent to New York to secure small steam vessels capable of attacking the C.S.S. *Albemarle* at its anchorage in the Roanoke River.



**Lt. William B. Cushing**

This bold Union raider had proposed a daring plan to use small steam launches to carry spar torpedoes and sink the ironclad that had allowed the Confederates to retake much of eastern North Carolina. Having already made raids on Confederate forces in Southport and Wilmington, Cushing achieved greater fame and reward for his successful sinking of the *Albatross*.

**3 – The Union Blockade was a part of General Winfield Scott's plan to isolate and starve the Confederacy. The Northern press dubbed the plan as the Anaconda Plan. What were the requirements for a successful blockade that were required by the blockading navy? Was the United States Navy successful in enforcing the blockade?** With the addition of North Carolina and Virginia to the Confederacy, the Union Navy in 1861 had a handful of ships to institute a blockade of 189 bays, inlets, and rivers along the 3,549 miles of coastline.

The first military strategy offered to President Abraham Lincoln for crushing the rebellion of Southern states was devised by Union **General-in-Chief Winfield Scott**. From April 1 through early May 1861 Scott briefed the president daily, often in person, on the national military situation; the results of these briefings were used by Scott to work out Union military aims.

About 3 May Scott told his protégé, Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan, that he believed an effective "Blockade" of Southern ports, a strong thrust down the Mississippi Valley with a large force, and the establishment of a line of strong Federal positions there would isolate the disorganized Confederate nation "and bring it to terms." Contemporary sources said McClellan called it Scott's "boa-constrictor" plan. Scott then presented it to the president, in greater detail, proposing that 60,000 troops move down the Mississippi with gunboats until they had secured the river from Cairo, Ill., to the Gulf, which, in concert with an effective blockade, would seal off the South. Then, he believed, Federal troops should stop, waiting for Southern Union sympathizers to turn on their Confederate governors and compel them to surrender. It was his belief that sympathy for secession was not as strong as it appeared and that isolation and pressure would make the "fire-eaters" back down and allow calmer heads to take control.

But the war-fevered nation wanted combat, not armed diplomacy, and the passive features of Scott's plan were ridiculed as a proposal "to squeeze the South to military death." The press, recalling McClellan's alleged "boa-constrictor" remark, named the plan after a different constricting snake, the anaconda. The plan was not adopted, but in 1864 it reappeared in aggressive form. Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant's 2-front war, fought in Virginia and Tennessee, pressed the Confederates, while Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman's march through Georgia to the sea helped "squeeze the South to military death."

The United States had not signed the **Declaration of Paris 1856** agreement that established the need for an enforced and effective blockade to be in place between 2 belligerent nations. In 1861, the blockade was not effective; however, on May 5, 1861, **Queen Victoria** recognized the legality of the blockade and the need for Britain to remain "neutral" in the conflict. The navy had 12 steamships capable of blockade duty in April 1861.

By the end of 1861, Gideon Welles, Lincoln's Secretary of the Navy, had 264 ships with which it began tightening the Lincoln blockade. The thoroughness of the blockade increased over time. By 1865, Welles had 671 ships in the USN. 2/3 of these were assigned blockade duty. The USN concentrated on the 12 major ports in the Confederacy.

Was the blockade effective? Opinions vary as to the answer because the Confederates never lost a battle because of the lack of weapons of war. The people of the South and its soldiers did suffer from shortages but they were caused mainly by the crumbling infrastructure that preventing the available resources to be allocated to where they were most needed.

Neutral ships could be boarded and searched if they appeared "suspicious." Ships stopped by the Union Navy:

- 1:10 1861
- 
- 1:8 1862
- 
- 1:4 1863
- 
- 1:2 1864 -1865
- 

Steven Wise, *Lifeline of the Confederacy*, estimated that 60% of the supplies used in the Confederacy came through the blockade.

NOTE: This information came from Dr. Chris Fonvielle's Civil War and Reconstruction class, *Historical Times Encyclopedia of the Civil War* (edited by Patricia L. Faust) and various other readings assigned by Dr. Fonvielle.

**4 - Bert Dunkerly, during his March 10 address to the CFCWRT, told of the efforts during the period leading up to the Civil War to save Mount Vernon as a symbol of the Union for which George Washington had toiled so long. Who led the effort to organize the preservation of Washington's home for future generations? What was the name of the organization founded by this person? Ann Pamela Cunningham** organized a nationwide effort by the ladies of the United States to preserve what she envisioned as a shrine to the ideals of union represented by the nation's first president. She took her task after receiving a letter from her mother who had passed Mount Vernon and seen its rundown condition. Ann Pamela was a semi-invalid who shouldered the responsibility to accomplish what Congress and the Virginia legislature had failed to undertake. (John Augustine Washington III had tried to sell Mount Vernon to the United States Congress and to the Virginia legislature.) In December 1853, the small and frail South Carolinian, made her first public appeal in a letter published in the **Charleston Mercury**. The Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union was formed to accomplish her vision.

5 – "George Washington, Builder of the Union," was a lecture first delivered on February 22, 1856. The orator allied himself with the organized effort to save Mount Vernon. Who was he and for what is he best remembered? **Edward Everett** of Massachusetts delivered this lecture in Boston as he attempted to rally citizens to the cause of union. Ann Pamela attended Everett's lecture in Richmond and convinced him to support The Mount Vernon Ladies' Association's efforts. Everett delivered the lecture 129 times and in all sections of the country. Edward Everett, the silver-tongued orator, raised \$69,000 of the \$200,000 needed to purchase Mount Vernon. NOTE: See [www.mountvernon.org/visit/plan/index.cfm/pid/809/](http://www.mountvernon.org/visit/plan/index.cfm/pid/809/) for more details about the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association.

Does his name ring a bell? Edward Everett was the key-note speaker at the dedication of a memorial to Union soldiers who died at Gettysburg. Everett's lengthy address was overshadowed, as Everett observed, by the "eloquent simplicity & appropriateness" of Abraham Lincoln's "Gettysburg Address." NOTE: *Dictionary of American Biography*.

6 - Bert related the events of McClellan's army approach to Yorktown in 1862. The soldiers of both armies expressed the significance of Washington's victory at Yorktown. A soldier from Pennsylvania remarked about the significance of Cornwallis' surrender and now the descendants of both North and South were arrayed against one another on that same ground. A Texan observed that the opposing armies were upon scared ground. What Confederate general addressed his troops with reference to a "Second War of Liberty"? **"Prince John" B. Magruder**.



**John B. Mcgruder**





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# The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

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## The *RUNNER*

### Newsletter of The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Editor **Tim Winstead**

March 2011

Our next meeting will be **Thursday, 10 March 2011 at St. Andrew's On-the-Sound (Airlie Road). Social Hour at 6:30 p.m., meeting at 7:30**



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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.

\*\*\*\*\* **March Program** \*\*\*\*\*

#### **Revolutionary War Connections to the Civil War**

**Robert M. Dunkerly**, Lead Park Ranger at Appomattox Court House National Historical Park, will be the speaker at our March 10 meeting. Bert will present his examinations of the similarities between the American Revolution and the American Civil War. How will the events of 1776 and 1861 be viewed during the 150th anniversary observance of the cataclysmic civil war that tested the very existence of a nation founded upon the ideals of equality for all men?

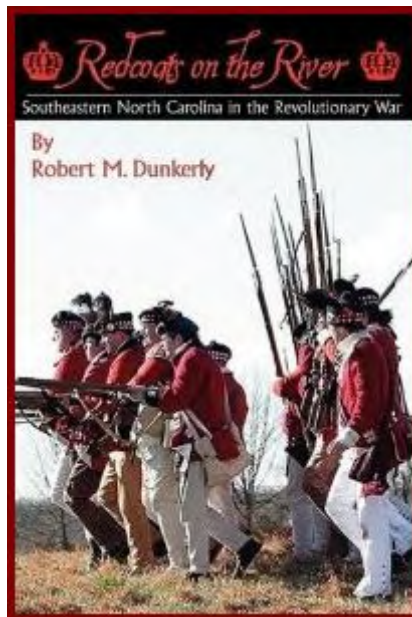
Join us on March 10 and learn what Bert thinks of this and other questions.





Bert is a historian, award-winning author, and speaker who is actively involved in historic preservation and research. He is a graduate, with a degree in History, of St. Vincent College (Pennsylvania) and holds a Masters in Historic Preservation from Middle Tennessee State. Bert's service with the National Park Service includes assignments at nine historic sites (including Moores Creek National Battlefield). Bert is the author of six books on the American Revolution and over twenty articles. His research includes archaeology, colonial life, military history, and historic commemoration.

Bert has visited over 300 battlefields and over 700 historic sites worldwide. When not reading or writing, Bert enjoys hiking, camping, and photography.



***Redcoats on the River: Southeastern North Carolina in the American Revolutionary War***

From a paper entitled, "Our History's History" (*The George Wright FORUM* 20, no. 1 (2003), Bert explained some of his views about the way events are affected by the passage of time. The connection between the Revolution and Civil War may have been little understood, but it seemed that it may have had much more meaning to the people of 1861 than to many of us today.

My historical research with the National Park Service (NPS) has led me to some pretty interesting places, from Washington's family deeds to the work of the Civilian Conservation Corps. As I have studied various reports, historical studies, and site histories, I began to acutely perceive changes evident in historiography today. It is important to periodically stop, look around, and see where we are going. The study and application of history and its applied concepts is constantly changing as society evolves .....

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

A 1 day bus tour on Saturday, **March 26, 2011** (the 4th Saturday in March 2011). Our guide will be Josh Howard, NC Division of Cultural Resources, who was our speaker at the January 2011 Table. (Josh is co-author of *Long, Obstinate, and Bloody: The Battle of Guilford Courthouse.*)

We have a 55 passenger bus, with on board toilet for the tour, reserved. A box lunch will be included in the cost of the tour as well as coffee, water, soda, donuts and cookies on the bus as on past tours. The price will be determined based on the number of participants. The more people who go make the trip, the cheaper the tour. We will leave at 7 AM on Saturday, March 26th from Pine Valley Methodist Church for the 3 and ½ hour bus trip to the park in Greensboro.



This monument is dedicated to the unity of the American people. On the west face of the monument is an inscription honoring Nathanael Greene, a northerner who served in the south during the Revolutionary War.

The Park is open from 8:30 AM to 5 PM. At the Park Headquarters, where we will start, they have a 32 minute live action film, in the 1st person, which starts on the hour. There is an animated battle map presentation which takes place on the :15 and :45 of the hour. There is also a bookstore and a small museum. We will travel the tour road which is 2 & ½ miles long. Josh advised we will some walking at the beginning of the tour to see things you cannot see from the tour road.

You Tube has "[The Battle of Guilford Courthouse](#): an animated map" that you may want to look at as well as other articles found via Google.

The Tour Guy will need E-mail addresses of interested people. His E-mail address is [DELSNOOP@aol.com](mailto:DELSNOOP@aol.com). **Please put in the subject line of your E-mail CFCWRT 2011 Tour.** The tour is open to nonmembers of the CFCWRT. The bus seats limit us to 55 participants and reservations will be sold on a 1st come basis.

Dale Lear

\*\*\*\*\* **Raffle Winners** \*\*\*\*\*

*Mr. Gatling's Terrible Marvel* – Joe George

*Nine Died in Vain* – Mary Royal

*Civil War Blunders* – Dale Lear

*Mary Lincoln: Biography of a Marriage* – William Clark

*The Civil War* – Ed Gibson

*Best Little Ironies, Oddities and Mysteries of the Civil War* – John Moore

*Elmira: Death Camp of the North* – Mary Bolger

\*\*\*\*\* **Trivia Questions February 2011** \*\*\*\*\*

1 – Ever wonder why there are 13 stars on the Confederate battle flag and the final national flag? Sure, Kentucky and Missouri were included as an inducement for the Border States to join the Confederacy, but why include what was not a reality?

2 – How did Southerners view the celebration of the Fourth of July 1861?

3 – Waite Rawls, CEO of the Museum of the Confederacy, provided a detailed story that traced the beginning and actions of the ladies of the South to honor and then remember those who had fallen during the late war. Rawls shared the stories of the ladies collecting artifacts from Confederates, great and small, to keep the spirit of these men's efforts remembered. The museum's collection was recently valued at more than \$400,000,000. This collection was obtained without the benefit of trained historians or preservationists. In 1907, the ladies hired a John Hopkins PhD. graduate to catalog the vast collection. Who was the man lucky enough to see and document the content of this collection?

4- Among the 510 flags in the MOC collection, which one flew last over a Confederate unit?

5 – The majority of items in the MOC collection were received from Southerners answered the call of the Confederate Memorial Literary Society's January 1892 appeal. Waite mentioned two items that were donated by Union officers. What were these items?

\*\*\*\*\* **Member News** \*\*\*\*\*

**1 - John Winecoff** has initiated the formation of a Wilmington chapter of the *North Carolina Military Historical Society*. The meeting is scheduled for March 23, 1230 hours at Jackson's Big Oak Bar-B-Que located on Kerr Avenue.

This society is a historical organization that honors the State's rich military history and traditions by recording the bravery, sacrifices, and challenges of Tar Heel service members and the military events in which they participated from the Colonial period to the present.

See [http://ns50.webmasters.com/\\*ncmhs.net/httpdocs/NCHMSwhoweare.htm](http://ns50.webmasters.com/*ncmhs.net/httpdocs/NCHMSwhoweare.htm) for additional details about the society. For further details of the initial Wilmington meeting, contact John at [winnabowjohn@atmc.net](mailto:winnabowjohn@atmc.net).

2- See **Ed Gibson** to purchase your raffle ticket(s) for the 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 print for only \$5.

3- "**Black Jack**" **Travis** has written a biography of E. Porter Alexander – Confederate artilleryman who commanded the barrage against the Union center at Gettysburg on July 3, 1863. *Rebel Gunner: Gen. E. Porter Alexander* (\$14.95). Contact Jack at [www.ColBlackJackTravis.com](http://www.ColBlackJackTravis.com) for details on getting his books.

4- **Stephen Gunter** was recognized by the National Safety Council for completing one million miles of unpreventable motor vehicle accident driving. Stephen is a rural carrier in Magnolia, NC.

\*\*\*\*\* **Sesquicentennial Commemoration** \*\*\*\*\*

The early days of the secession crisis witnessed many individuals trying to keep the Union together. George Davis from Wilmington was one of those individuals.



Davis, an attorney, was named a North Carolina delegate to the Washington Peace Conference held in February 1861. He had been a member of the Constitutional Union party and strong supporter of the Union prior to this conference. He had urges his state to resolve the secession debate "within the Union." When members to the peace conference failed to achieve a compromise, Davis reached a decision that, to guarantee its constitutional liberties, North Carolina must support the Southern states in the crisis.

Upon his return to Wilmington, Davis addressed its citizens on March 2, 1861. He noted that he had failed in every honorable fashion to secure a fair peace. As reported in the *Wilmington Herald* on March 4, 1861, Davis told the citizens that the only course for North Carolina was that it "must go with the South."

George Davis served his state as a senator in the Confederate Senate. He became Attorney General in late 1863 and remained in that post until the end of the war. After the war, Davis resumed his Wilmington law practice and worked to heal the wounds of the Union.

Tim  
\*\*\*\*\* Southern Histories \*\*\*\*\*

With Waite Rawls speaking on the collection of artifacts and the history of the Museum of the Confederacy, I think it appropriate to share some information about why the Civil War may be one of the most written about conflicts in history. Beginning in 1866, the ladies of the South, and the North, begin efforts to honor the fallen soldiers. Historians and veterans begin a prolific era to document the struggle for which each side fought. Initially, high ranking officers, in North and South, feel the need to "clarify" decisions and actions. Jubal Early leads the efforts of Southern officers to share their stories; hence, the Lost Cause is born. To the victors go the spoils; to the defeated goes the pen.

Daniel Harvey Hill, Jr. (1859 – 1924), was an educator (president of the North Carolina Agricultural and Mechanical College - NCSU), historian, and writer. As the son of a famous Confederate general, Hill felt the need to encourage Southern writers to record the events of 1861 – 1865 through the eyes of the Southern cause. Hill delivered a paper entitled "Southern Histories" at a meeting of the Southern Educational Association at Chattanooga, Tennessee in July 1891. The following excerpts came from that paper.

When I was invited to address this Association on the subject of "Southern Histories," one of Hood's pieces of merry-making suggested itself. While he was out walking, he came across a sign-board having on it this inscription, "Beware of the dog." Taking out his pencil, Hood wrote just under the inscription, "Ware be the dog?" "Southern Histories," said the programme. "Ware be the histories?"

Now, though, as Burns says, "it gars me greet" to admit it, the truth is, the South has been sadly to blame for her indisposition to write history. Glance over the list of America's most celebrated historians – Sparks, Ramsay, Bancroft, Hildreth, Lossing, Prescott, Motley, Cooper, Irving, Parkman. We can claim but one man in the list, Dr. Ramsay, and he was a Southerner only by adoption, having been born in Pennsylvania.

Southerners have always been ready to dare all for their principles; in every American war their prowess has been remarkable; in the council of nations they have been foremost, but how few of them have been willing to commemorate, with their pens, the deeds of their associates or countrymen? Had they been as ready to use their pens as their swords, how many unrecorded deeds of heroism, how many unselfish instances of patriotism would have been added to our national annals? To illustrate: In 1773, three merchant vessels, loaded with tea, entered Boston harbor. Some patriotic colonists, after disguising themselves as Indians, and waiting for "seeling night to scarf up the tender eye of pitiful day," went on those vessels and threw the tea overboard. Almost every child in the land has heard of this daring deed. Story and song and art have, very properly, embalmed it. On the other hand, how many people know that eight years before this Boston tea party, an English man-of-war – not merchant vessel – the *Diligence*, bearing stamped papers, entered the Cape Fear river, in North Carolina. As soon as it was known, the men of that section, without disguise and in broad daylight, boarded that man-of-war and said to its commander, "You must not land that paper here." After having so terrified the Captain that no attempt was made to land the paper, they seized the ship's boat, hoisted it on a cart, fixed a mast to it, mounted a flag and marched in triumph to Wilmington, where that night, in defiance of Governor Tryon, they had a grand illumination in honor of their victory. Suppose this had happened elsewhere than in the South. It would, as Wheeler says, "have been pealed and chimed on every tongue of fame" until it was known in the obscurest hamlet in the republic.....

Hill went on in his presentation to encourage Southerners to set the record right. He encouraged the educators to make it known to all that, "Unless we preserve the record of what has been thought,

written, and done by our own people, as a matter of course, these records will perish or be imperfectly or untruthful kept." Hill urged his audience to keep "the truth of history."

From the quantity of all the diaries, letters, articles, and books written to record the history of the conflict from the Southern view, I think Hill was and is successful in his goal. Whether all the written records recorded the absolute truth may be the subject of another article in **The Runner**.

Tim

\*\*\*\*\* February Meeting \*\*\*\*\*

**History of the Museum of the Confederacy  
The People, The Place, The History**

**Waite Rawls**, CEO of the Museum of the Confederacy, presented an interesting program about the history, the people, and the 21st century direction of the MOC.



After the end of the war, the men of the South were faced with rebuilding the shattered economy of a defeated nation. Their time and energies were expended in an effort to return the southern states to solvency; their wives and daughters assumed the task of honoring and reburying the Confederate soldiers fallen on battlefields throughout the North and South. These ladies established Decoration Day to memorialize those fallen soldiers who lay in makeshift graves far from their homes. The ladies of Richmond formed the Ladies Hollywood Memorial Association (LHMA) on May 3, 1866. This organization became the catalyst for the future reburials, memorial statues, and creation of a museum to collect and display artifacts of the Confederacy.

By 1890, the LHMA and other women's groups had overseen the reburial of 72,000 Confederate soldiers. On May 29, 1890, 150,000 people attended the dedication of the Robert E. Lee Monument in Richmond. On May 31, 1890, the Confederate Memorial Literary Society was chartered with the express purpose of securing the former residence of Jefferson Davis (the Confederate White House) as a museum in which to store and display the artifacts the ladies were determined to collect from throughout the South. Isobel (Belle) Lamont Stewart Bryan was the president and able leader of the CMLS.

The new Museum's first appeal for donations went out in January 1892. The language reveals the sentimental and commemorative ideas with which the Museum was founded a  
[http://www.moc.org/site/PageServer?pagename=abt\\_ov\\_history](http://www.moc.org/site/PageServer?pagename=abt_ov_history)>  
([http://www.moc.org/site/PageServer?pagename=abt\\_ov\\_history](http://www.moc.org/site/PageServer?pagename=abt_ov_history), accessed February 19, 2011.) :

The clothes, the arms, the money, the belongings of the Confederate soldier, and the women whose loyal enthusiasm kept him in the field, are properly objects of historical interest. The glory, the hardships, the heroism of the war were a noble heritage for our children. To keep green such memories and to commemorate such virtues, it is our purpose to gather together and preserve in the Executive Mansion of the Confederacy the sacred relics of those glorious days. We appeal to our sisters throughout the South to help us secure these invaluable mementoes before it's too late.



Belle Bryan and the influential ladies she enlisted were successful in attainment of their goals: 1- Secure the Confederate White House and reopen it as a museum (February 22, 1896) ; 2- Rebury Jefferson Davis in Richmond's Hollywood Cemetery (May 31, 1893); 3- Organize a museum to display their collection. Note: In 1907, Douglas Southall Freeman became the first historian hired by the CMLS.



Waite recounted the number and varied contents (510 flags, uniforms, weapons, and paintings. 100,000 manuscripts, diaries, letters, maps, etc.) of the collection. He told of past exhibits, distinguished guests



(Margaret Thacker, David Lloyd George, a reenactment group from Stuttgart, Germany). Waite also told of the conservation efforts and their costs and fund-raising efforts to maintain the collection.



What was and is the goal of the museum? Education. The exhibits, past and present, were designed to further understanding of not only the Confederate nation but all aspects of Southern life. Students from 8 to 80, 50 states, and 73 countries have enjoyed and learned from the materials available at the MOC. The MOC and North Carolina Central University have collaborated on research projects. With 90% of the collection "in the vault," changing the exhibited items continued to add to the knowledge of the public and researchers.

What are the future plans for the MOC? Waite and the MOC board are working to be able to display more of the collection to the general public. They envision taking the museum to where the people are. A new museum is under construction at Appomattox Court House (150,000 visitors a years) with a 2012 opening. If plans and donations enable, another museum in the Fredericksburg area (500,000 visitors and 30% of the Civil War casualties) will add to a multi-museum vision. Plans for another museum at Fort Monroe are unclear because of ownership issues at the fort. From that point, other sites may emerge as the opportunities arise. The possibility of another museum outside of Virginia could become a reality.

With the difficulty of locating a future site at Fort Monroe, I would propose to Waite and the MOC that Wilmington be the location of a Confederate Navy Museum. Wilmington, Fort Fisher, and its port are a critical part of the history found within the MOC collection. Wouldn't it be fitting that the naval collection be in **Wilmington – Lifeline of the Confederacy**? But why limit its scope to just the Confederate Navy? Expand the scope to include Confederate and Union Navies, white and black servicemen. The Fort Fisher bombardment was the largest US Navy engagement until Normandy. While the daring Confederate officers, John Taylor Wood, John Newland Maffitt, and John Wilkinson, used Wilmington as a base for operations; US Navy officers, William Barker Cushing and David Dixon Porter, also shaped history here.

Tim

\*\*\*\*\* **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.

\*\*\*\*\* Trivia Question Answers February 2011 \*\*\*\*\*

1 - Ever wonder why there are 13 stars on the Confederate battle flag and the final national flag? Sure, Kentucky and Missouri were included as an inducement for the Border States to join the Confederacy, but why include what was not a reality? Some Confederates were "taken" by the number thirteen and its association with the American Revolution. The Confederate Congress also included seats for thirteen states. Wishful thinking as it turned out; however, thirteen was a lucky number in 1776 so why not in 1861.

2 – How did Southerners view the celebration of the Fourth of July 1861? Southerners appeared to have been divided, as they had been on the question of secession. Some were for embracing the celebration. A minority were against. From an article written by Robert F. Durden , "The American Revolution as Seen by Southerners in 1861," *Louisiana History: The Journal of the Louisiana Historical Association*, 19, no. 1 (Winter, 1978) 33-42.

From the Raleigh *Register* of July 3, 1861, "no reason why the birth of Liberty should be permitted to pass unheeded wherever Liberty has votaries..... The conduct of the North in trampling the principles of 1776 under foot and throwing ashes on the memory of its forefathers is no sufficient reason for a failure by the South to recognize and celebrate the Fourth of July as the anniversary of the most glorious human event in the history of mankind....." The editor continued, "the accursed Yankees are welcome to the exclusive use of their 'Doodle'" He urged that the South "hold on tenaciously to Washington's March and Washington's Principles and on every recurring anniversary of the promulgation of the Declaration, reassert the great principles of Liberty."

The editor of the New Orleans *Picayne* boldly claimed the Fourth of July as the South's "own." In a July 1861 article, he wrote, "The Confederate States of 1861 are acting over again the history of the American Revolution of 1776." He continued that the Lincoln administration had applied the same measures adopted by George III and his government. "The resistance of the South has been based on the same eternal principles which justified and glorified the patriots of 1776." The Fourth of July was "the work of men who laid the cornerstone of constitutional freedom." Since the North had "thrown off the respect" and was "marching its armies openly to overthrow State authorities and State existence with fire and sword;" hence, the Confederate States had "the most sacred right of property in the memories of Independence Day, as the loyal inheritors of its principles and its glories."

A dissenting voice was heard from the editor of the *Wilmington Journal*. In an article dated June 27, 1861, he wrote that the Fourth of July was not relevant because it was part of a "history of a union which no longer exists." He favored stopping celebrations for the duration of the war.

3 – Waite Rawls, CEO of the Museum of the Confederacy, provided a detailed story that traced the beginning and actions of the ladies of the South to honor and then remember those who had fallen during the late war. Rawls shared the stories of the ladies collecting artifacts from Confederates, great and small, to keep the spirit of these men's efforts remembered. The museum's collection was recently valued at more than \$400,000,000. This collection was obtained without the benefit of trained historians or preservationists. In 1907, the ladies hired a John Hopkins PhD. graduate to catalog the vast collection. Who was the man lucky enough to see and document the content of this collection?

Douglas Southall Freeman. He would continue his career as a journalist, historian, and author (Lee's Lieutenants).

4- **Among the 510 flags in the MOC collection, which one flew last over a Confederate unit?** The flag of the C.S.S. Shenandoah. James Iredell Waddell commanded the Shenandoah and turned his ship over to the British Navy in Liverpool in November 1865. NOTE: The Shenandoah made port in Melbourne, Australia in January 1865. Per Waite Rawls, the people of Melbourne still fondly remember the visit of the Confederate commerce raider. An American Civil War Round Table of Australia still promotes the study of all aspects of the American Civil War and its link to Australia.



**Lt. Cdr. James Iredell Waddell of North Carolina  
Commander of the C.S.S. *Shenandoah***

5 – **The majority of items in the MOC collection were received from Southerners answered the call of the Confederate Memorial Literary Society's January 1892 appeal. Waite mentioned two items that were donated by Union officers. What were these items? Gen. Lewis Armistead's sword,** which he carried at the battle of Gettysburg. Armistead commanded one of the three brigades in Pickett's division, Armistead led his troops during "Pickett's Charge" with his hat raised high on the point of this sword. Armistead was mortally wounded in the charge and died two days later. The veterans of the unit that defended Cemetery Ridge against the charge returned the sword to the Pickett Division Association during a reunion at Gettysburg in 1906, and it was donated to the museum that same year. ([www.moc.org](http://www.moc.org)) The silver service used at the Confederate White House by Davis family. With the fall of Richmond, a New Hampshire regiment was assigned to guard the house. Years later, the silver was returned with an added engraved inscription, "war booty."





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# The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

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## The *RUNNER*

### Newsletter of The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Editor **Tim Winstead**

February 2011

Our next meeting will be Thursday, 17 February 2011 at Madeline Suites on the UNCW Campus. This meeting will be our annual Dinner Meeting and will begin at 7:00 p.m.



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We invite and welcome all people with an interest in our 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.

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### February Program

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#### **History of the Museum of the Confederacy**



**S. Waite Rawls III**, President and CEO of The Museum and White House of the Confederacy, will be the speaker at our February 17 Dinner Meeting. Waite will present the history and the future of the Museum of the Confederacy as it transitions into the 21st century from a one-museum site to a multiple-site system of museums. What will be the place occupied by the Museum of the Confederacy and why will its collection remain relevant in a 21st century United States of America?

Join us on February 17 and learn what Waite thinks of these and other questions.

Rawls, a native of Franklin, Virginia, received a B.A. at Virginia Military Institute and was awarded an M.B.A. and J.D. by the University of Virginia. Rawls assumed his current position on Jan. 5, 2004 following a long career as an executive in the international investment and commercial banking industry. His parallel career in volunteering for historical and civic organizations included engagements as trustee of the Civil War Preservation Trust and the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation and member of the Virginia Military Institute Board of Visitors. Among the positions he held in the banking, investment, and money markets fields were: Managing Director, Chemical Bank, New York; Vice Chairman, Continental Bank, Chicago; Executive Vice President, The Chicago Corporation; and Chief Operating Officer of Ferrell Capital Management, Greenwich, Conn.

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### **Raffle Winners**

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*Custer in Photographs* – Palmer Royal  
*Gods and Generals* – John Bolger  
*Civil War Schemes and Plots* – Sam Flowers  
*Battle Cry of Freedom* – Mary Palmer  
*Mr. Gatling's Terrible Marvel* – Dale Lear  
*Grant Comes East* – Sam Flowers

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### **Trivia Questions February 2011**

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- 1 – How large is the collection of the Museum of the Confederacy?
- 2 – The Museum of the Confederacy will construct three new museums: Fort Monroe, Fredericksburg, and Appomattox. Each museum will represent a different period of the war. The first of these museums will open during 2012. Where will this first new museum be located?
- 3 – The war caused many people to leave their homes and face a perceived enemy. As found in research during the death study, what were the ages respectively of the youngest and oldest North Carolinian to die during the conflict?

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### **Member News**

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**Bob Maffitt** has become a member of The Clyde River Blockade Runners Camp #2168, Bridge of Allan, Scotland.

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## Sesquicentennial Commemoration

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The 150th anniversary of the secession of South Carolina, the firing on the *Star of the West*, and the Cape Fear Minutemen's seizure of Fort Johnston and Fort Caswell has come and gone.

These events were noted by Ed Bearss during his visit to the Cape Fear region during January. Dan Geddie has reported the occasion of Ed's recent visit to Fort Caswell:

On January 14, Dale Lear and I joined the Brunswick Civil War Round Table for a tour of Fort Caswell. The leader of the tour was the none other than Ed Bearss. We were also accompanied by the Director of Fort Caswell, **Rick Holbrook**. We met in the lobby of the hotel. **Rick** explained how that at the end of World War II the site was still a coastal artillery base. In 1946 the Army decided it no longer needed the base, at this point the Baptist stepped in and purchased the base for \$85,000. The Baptist has been using the site to operating a very successful youth camp every summer. Ed Bearss discussed the construction of Ft. Caswell and the fact that it was a pentagonal brick fort and looked very similar to it more famous Ft. Sumter.

Our next stop was on the parapet of the old fort. What a spectacular sight it was. You could see the land and south wall of the old fort. Most of the north wall had been blown away by the retreating Confederates and the sea wall had been replaced with World War I concrete battery. It had the same look as Ft. Moultrie did last year on our tour. Next we toured the inside of the old fort, including a cavernous area that was the powder room. We also toured the other post Civil War battery, including a huge 10 inch mortar that was designed to take out battleships.

One of Ed's discussions was about the Coastal Artillery branch of the US Army. They were elite troops of the army. They had to understand trigonometry. We should remember all of these veterans who served the country well at Ft Caswell from 1848 to 1945.

Dan Geddie

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## The Civil War Round Tables

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While doing some research on one of my favor subjects (the American Civil War), I found an article written by Stephen Ambrose in *The Wisconsin Magazine of History*, Vol. 42, No. 4 (Summer, 1959), pp. 257-262. Ambrose sought to explain the fascination that Americans held for a conflict fought almost a 100 years earlier. He observed that many citizens had almost forgotten WWI, WWII and Korea but they retained a keen interest in the men and women who participated in the war that almost destroyed this nation.

Ambrose explained:

Heart and soul of America's new fascination with the Civil War are the thousands of intensely dedicated members of the scores of Civil War Round Tables scattered throughout the United States, Canada, and Europe. Unlike their predecessors, the Grand Army of the Republic, and the United

Confederate Veterans, and other post-war organizations, the Round Tables have no sectional bias. Their basic function is to give members a chance to refight battles. Condemn erring officials – on both sides – and praise distinguished generals in both *Blur* and *Gray*. In this objective the Round Tables have succeeded admirably.

The Round Tables are another evidence that the quiver has not yet subsided, and that a catastrophe which divided the nation 100 years ago is, today, through the Civil War Round Tables, helping to unite it.

I believe Stephen Ambrose was correct in his assessment. When members of Round Tables can come together and examine the events of 1861 – 1865, I believe a better understanding of this period can be determined. When Round Tables such as Cape Fear, Brunswick County, Raleigh, and Ottumwa (Iowa) share their findings, we are united in our search for the relevance of the Civil War.

Tim  
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## January Meeting

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### "Bringing in the Dead"



#### **Cold Harbor, Virginia, April 1865**

Josh Howard presented the status of the North Carolina Civil War Death Study Project.

Background for the study can be found on [www.nccivilwar150.com](http://www.nccivilwar150.com):

On June 10, 1861, nineteen-year-old Private Henry Lawson Wyatt of Company A, 1st North Carolina Volunteers, was killed in action at the Battle of Big Bethel, Virginia. He has been widely recognized and honored as the first Confederate killed in combat and the first of *over 40,000*

*North Carolinians to die in the war.* Both claims when properly analyzed are unsupported by the historical record, and highlight problems that complicate North Carolina's understanding of its Civil War participation. An ongoing project at the North Carolina Office of Archives and History, supported by the efforts of the Colonel Leonidas L. Polk Camp of the Sons of Confederate Veterans in Garner, is attempting to rectify such issues. The North Carolina Civil War Death Study, work intended to supplement the *North Carolina Civil War Atlas* currently being prepared by the Office of Archives and History, provides a reanalysis of the available archival evidence, compiling the most definitive, accurate assessment of the number of North Carolina soldiers — both Confederate and Union — who died during the conflict.



NOTE: This website offers a most detailed report of the death study.

Josh discussed some long accepted statistics and how, when, and by whom they were prepared.

The 40,275 deaths attributed to North Carolina troops came from the U.S. Army Provost Marshal, James D. Fry, and his study released in 1866. Fry used incomplete Confederate after action reports as a basis for his numbers. The men employed by Fry to complete the initial death report were required to complete the Provost Marshal report prior to their discharge.

Josh provided the criteria for the study of 116,000 service records available to the death study team. Josh estimated the total number of men who served as 125,000; however, the final total may be nearer to 135,000 – 137,000.

### **The Death Study: New Analysis and New Interpretations**

The Civil War Death Study's mechanics are fairly straightforward. The analysis is three phase: (1) a study of what is within the published rosters as well as the actual compiled service records; (2) a study of contemporary North Carolina newspapers; and (3) a cemetery and gravestone survey. Analysis began with going line by line, soldier by soldier, within each regiment in the published seventeen *Roster* volumes, documenting deaths. Each individual's name and unit is recorded, as well as the year of his death and cause — be it a battle wound, disease, accident, execution, unknown or other. For many individuals, particularly those at the beginning of the war, their death was recorded but not the cause. Most often their death was due to disease, though overworked hospital stewards did not waste time recording what type. Examples in the "other" category include those who were murdered, committed suicide, or suffered calamities such as being bitten by a spider or poisoned by eating a terrapin.

For those units which have not yet been covered in the *Roster* series, namely the Senior Reserves, Home Guard, militia units, white and black Union units from North Carolina, as well as those companies that consisted of North Carolinians but which served in other Confederate states' regiments, analysis consists of going through their Compiled Service Records in the same fashion. Records of North Carolinians serving in the Confederate naval, engineering, and signal personnel, as well as general and staff officers, also will be analyzed along with records of Union volunteer regiments raised from Confederate prisoners-of-war.

Caution must be taken in several areas. For numerous North Carolina regiments and companies, muster rolls end in December 1864. Whether from a lack of paper or intentional destruction, the records simply no longer exist. Therefore, if an individual was present for duty in December 1864 but does not appear on any hospital documentation, casualty list, or is documented with a parole at Appomattox or Greensboro, his service record simply ends. In these instances name searches in the 1870 census or research in family histories can provide final disposition. Numerous men were captured at the end of the war, wounded and in Confederate hospitals, for which no final disposition data is available in Union provost marshal records. For others, that information does exist, so on a case-by-case basis decisions can be made as to whether that individual likely died or not. In other instances errors of spelling and pronunciation have complicated the service record. Prisoners often took assumed names, as did those enlisting for bounties, making the researcher's job that much more difficult.

At times the archival evidence is even contradictory. Men oftentimes were recorded as killed or missing when in reality they were sitting in a Union prison camp. Widow's pension records remain for men who, it was claimed, were killed in the war, when all available evidence suggests the man at the very least survived the conflict. These may be individuals who simply never returned home and were

thought of as dead. In addition, just as we are identifying and crediting those North Carolinians who served in fully organized companies within other states' regiments, we are cautiously addressing those Georgians, South Carolinians, Tennesseans, and Virginians who served in organized companies within North Carolina battalions. While their information is recorded, the project must take into account their loss in a separate fashion than totaling them with our North Carolinians.

### **Conclusions**

The North Carolina Civil War Death Study will never be fully perfect or complete. Record loss has ensured that. Nevertheless, the project attempts to provide the most accurate assessment of North Carolina's loss in the war to date. Not only can this study more accurately determine the number of young men from North Carolina who gave their lives for the Confederate cause, but we can for the first time give credit to those white and black Tar Heels who died wearing Union blue. Furthermore, the information gathered can then be used to produce graphical representations demonstrating how many men from each county or each region died in the war. For once, accurate assessments of how many men fell to disease versus combat and how many were lost by various means during each year of the war can be demonstrated, as can the number of North Carolinians who died in prisoner-of-war camps. Such information is essential to furthering our understanding of the war within the state. Similar endeavors currently are being undertaken to compile a more accurate accounting of the number of North Carolinians who participated in the war, and to study the socioeconomic backgrounds of those soldiers. The findings will be published during the Sesquicentennial as supporting material for a larger map-driven project known as the *North Carolina Civil War Atlas*. As North Carolinians begin our Sesquicentennial Commemoration of the conflict, it is only right and honorable that we more accurately identify those who lost their lives. The time has come to get it right.

Josh reported the current total for deaths of North Carolina troops as 31,076 men; however, the final death count may number between 32,000 – 35,000. This 31,076 number represented 25% of the 1860 white male population (age 15 -50). A comparison to the 2009 estimate of the 15 – 50 white male population yielded a staggering 488,878 dead!

The *North Carolina Civil War Atlas* with its county level maps is scheduled for publication in 2015.

Josh explained why this study was made and why it was deemed important as a part of the Sesquicentennial Commemoration. He further provided an answer to a question many people have probably asked themselves: Why does nearly every county square in the states involved in this war have a memorial to those who gave their all in support of a cause? These memorials were important to the people who erected them because nearly everyone in a community was impacted by the deaths of someone they loved. Whether it had been a grandfather, father, uncle, husband, brother, son, cousin, or friend, these men were honored as a remembrance from their families and friends.

Tim  
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### **Comments and Suggestions**

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Comments and suggestions to make the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table and "The Runner" more relevant to your Civil War experience are welcomed.

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## Trivia Question Answers February 2011

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1 - **How large is the collection of the Museum of the Confederacy?** The MOC collection of artifacts number approximately 20,000 items and 100,000 documents and photographs. Among the 20,000 items are 550 wartime flags, 300 swords, and the ten foot long Confederate Constitution. The MOC, at its current location in Richmond, Virginia, displays roughly 10% of the collection.

2 – **The Museum of the Confederacy will construct three new museums: Fort Monroe, Fredericksburg, and Appomattox. Each museum will represent a different period of the war. The first of these museums will open during 2012. Where will this first new museum be located?** On September 23, 2010, the MOC broke ground on its Appomattox site. Waite Rawls led the proceedings that began the expansion of the MOC beyond its Richmond location.

### September, 2010 at Appomattox, Virginia



The addition of museums at Appomattox (2012), Fredericksburg, and Fort Monroe will allow the MOC to display much more of the artifacts of "The Lost Cause."

3 – **The war caused many people to leave their homes and face a perceived enemy. As found in research during the death study, what were the ages respectively of the youngest and oldest North Carolinian to die during the conflict?** Nine years of age and seventy-seven years of age.





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# The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

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## The *RUNNER*

### Newsletter of The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Editor **Tim Winstead**

January 2011

Our next meeting will be Thursday, 13 January 2011 at St. Andrew's On-the-Sound (Airlie Rd.) Social Hour at 6:30 p.m., meeting at 7:30 p.m.

We invite and welcome all people with an interest in our 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.



\*\*\*\*\* January Program \*\*\*\*\*

#### **North Carolina Civil War Death Study**

**Josh Howard** will be the speaker at our January 13 meeting. Josh will present the results of an in-depth study of long accepted statistics concerning the number of North Carolina troops who served and subsequently lost their lives during the American Civil War.

Josh is a military historian and co-author of two books about the Revolutionary War as well as numerous journal articles. He is a research historian for the North Carolina Office of Archives and History and is currently assigned, as part of the State's Civil War Sesquicentennial Commemoration, the task of reanalyzing the number of North Carolinians who served and died during the Civil War.

His most recent book, *Long, Obstinate, and Bloody: The Battle of Guilford Courthouse, March 15, 1781*, coauthored with Dr. Lawrence E. Babits, the George Washington Professor of History at East Carolina University, and published by the University of North Carolina Press, was awarded the 2010 United States Army Historical Foundation Distinguished Writing Award.

On June 10, 1861, nineteen-year-old Private Henry Lawson Wyatt of Company A, 1st North Carolina Volunteers, was killed in action at the Battle of Big Bethel, Virginia. He has been widely recognized and honored as the first Confederate killed in combat and the first of over 40,000 North Carolinians to die in the war. Both claims when properly analyzed are unsupported by the historical record, and highlight problems that complicate North Carolina's understanding of its Civil War participation. An ongoing project at the North Carolina Office of Archives and History, supported by the efforts of the Colonel Leonidas L. Polk Camp of the Sons of Confederate Veterans in Garner, is attempting to rectify such issues. The North Carolina Civil War Death Study, work intended to supplement the North Carolina Civil War Atlas currently being prepared by the Office of Archives and History, provides a reanalysis of the available archival evidence, compiling the most definitive, accurate assessment of the number of North Carolina soldiers — both Confederate and Union — who died during the conflict.

[www.nccivilwar150.com/features/nc-civil-war\\_death-study.htm](http://www.nccivilwar150.com/features/nc-civil-war_death-study.htm) (accessed December 9, 2010)

Josh's process for the death study included comparison of military records, newspapers, and archival accounts, as well as cemetery surveys against the figures put forth by the Federal Government in 1866 in what was known as the "Fry Report."

Josh's presentation will provide a more complete description of the study and its significance to North Carolina's Sesquicentennial Commemoration.

**\*\*\*\*\* Raffle Winners \*\*\*\*\***

*Civil War Weapons and Equipment* – Bill Carshaw

*Personal Memoirs of U.S. Grant* – Mary Royal

*Battle Cry of Freedom* – Dale Lear

*The Widow of the South* – Sam Flowers

*Hunt for Confederate Gold* – Palmer Royal

*Lee's Terrible Swift Sword* – Richard Courtney

**\*\*\*\*\* Trivia Questions January 2011 \*\*\*\*\***

- 1 – Who was the first Confederate volunteer to be killed during the Civil War?
- 2 – Other than to determine force strength, why was the report of the dead important to army commanders?
- 3 – Where were Daisy Lamb and her children during the First Battle of Fort Fisher in December 1864?

**\*\*\*\*\* Sesquicentennial Commemoration\*\*\*\*\***

**December 20, 1860 – South Carolina secedes from the Union.** This event led to the exodus of ten other states and the formation of the Confederate States of America. From December 20,

1860 until their confederacy collapsed on April 9, 1865, a state of war existed between the people of these previously United States.

To better understand the feelings of the citizens of South Carolina, it is worthwhile to review the grievances that the delegates to its secession convention felt compelled to challenge. The following document is quite long; however, it clearly shows that the delegates feel that the Northern states threaten their rights – especially their property rights. Note: The delegates make reference to "slavery" six times within this document.

Not everyone in South Carolina was swayed by the logic of the secession convention delegates. James L. Petigru, lawyer, politician, and jurist, famously remarked after the secession ordinance was passed, "South Carolina is too small for a republic and too large for an insane asylum."

***CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA - DECLARATION OF THE IMMEDIATE CAUSES WHICH INDUCE AND JUSTIFY THE SECESSION OF SOUTH CAROLINA FROM THE FEDERAL UNION.***

The people of the State of South Carolina, in convention assembled, on the 26th day of April, A.D., 1852, declared that the frequent violations of the constitution of the United States by the federal government, and its encroachments upon the reserved rights of the states, fully justified this state in then withdrawing from the Federal Union; but in deference to the opinions and wishes of the other slaveholding states, she forbore at that time to exercise this right. Since that time, these encroachments have continued to increase, and further forbearance ceases to be a virtue.

And now the State of South Carolina having resumed her separate and equal place among nations, deems it due to herself, to the remaining United States of America, and to the nations of the world, that she should declare the immediate causes which have led to this act.

In the year 1765, that portion of the British Empire embracing Great Britain, undertook to make laws for the government of that portion composed of the thirteen American colonies. A struggle for the right of self-government ensued, which resulted, on the 4th of July, 1776, in a Declaration, by the Colonies, "that they are, and of right ought to be, FREE AND INDEPENDENT STATES: and that as free and independent states, they have full power to levy war, conclude peace, contract alliances, establish commerce, and to do all other acts and things which independent States may of right do."

They further solemnly declared that whenever any "form of government becomes destructive of the ends for which it was established, it is the right of the people to alter or abolish it, and to institute a new government." Deeming the government of Great Britain to have become destructive of these ends, they declared that the colonies "are absolved from all allegiance to the British crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain is, and ought to be totally dissolved."

In pursuance of this Declaration of Independence, each of the thirteen States proceeded to exercise its separate sovereignty; adopted for itself a constitution, and appointed officers for the administration of government in all its departments, legislative, executive and judicial. For purposes of defense, they united their arms and their counsels; and, in 1778 they entered into a league known as the articles of confederation, whereby they agreed to entrust the administration of their external relations to a common agent, known as the Congress of the United States, expressly declaring in the first article, "that each state retains its sovereignty, freedom and independence, and every power, jurisdiction and right which is not, by this confederation, expressly delegated to the United States in Congress assembled."

Under this confederation the war of the revolution was carried on, and on the 3d September, 1783, the contest ended, and a definite treaty was signed by Great Britain, in which she acknowledged the independence of the colonies in the following terms:

**"ARTICLE I.** His Britanic Majesty acknowledges the said United States, viz: New Hampshire, Massachusetts Bay, Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia, to be FREE, SOVEREIGN AND INDEPENDENT STATES; that he treats with them as such; and for himself, his heirs and successors, relinquishes all claims to the government, propriety and territorial rights of the same and every part thereof."

Thus were established the two great principles asserted by the colonies, namely: the right of a state to govern itself; and the right of a people to abolish a government when it becomes destructive of the ends for which it was instituted. And concurrent with the establishment of these principles, was the fact that each colony became and was recognized by the mother country as a FREE, SOVEREIGN AND INDEPENDENT STATE.

In 1787, deputies were appointed by the States to revise the articles of confederation, and on 17th of September, 1787, these deputies recommended for the adoption of the states, the articles of union known as the Constitution of the United States.

The parties to whom this Constitution was submitted, were the several sovereign states; they were to agree or disagree, and when nine of them agreed, the compact was to take effect among those concurring; and the general government, as the common agent, was then invested with their authority.

If only nine of the thirteen states had concurred, the other four would have remained as they then were - separate, sovereign states, independent of any of the provisions of the constitution. In fact, two of the states did not accede to the constitution until long after it had gone into operation among the other eleven; and during that interval they each exercised the functions of an independent nation.

By this constitution, certain duties were imposed upon the several states, and the exercise of certain of their powers was restrained, which necessarily implied their continued existence as sovereign states. But to remove all doubt, an amendment was added, which declared that the powers not delegated to the United States by the constitution, nor prohibited by it to the states, are reserved to the states, respectively, or to the people. On 23d May, 1788, South Carolina, by a convention of her people, passed an ordinance assenting to this constitution, and afterwards altered her own constitution, to conform herself to the obligations she had undertaken.

Thus was established, by compact between the states, a government, with defined objects and powers, limited to the express words of the grant. This limitation left the whole remaining mass of power subject to the clause reserving it to the states or to the people, and rendered unnecessary any specification of reserved rights.

We hold that the government thus established is subject to the two great principles asserted in the Declaration of Independence; and we hold further, that the mode of its formation subjects it to a third fundamental principle, namely: the law of compact. We maintain that in every compact between two or more parties the obligation is mutual; that the failure of one of the contracting parties to perform a material part of the agreement, entirely releases the obligation of the other; and that where no arbiter is provided, each party is remitted to his own judgment to determine the fact of failure, with all its consequences.

In the present case, that fact is established with certainty. We assert that fourteen of the states have deliberately refused for years past, to fulfil their constitutional obligations, and we refer to their own statutes for the proof.

The constitution of the United States, in its 4th article, provides as follows:

"No person held to service or labor in one state, under the laws thereof, escaping into another, shall, in consequence of any law or regulation therein, be discharged from such service or labor, but shall be delivered up on claim of the party to whom such service or labor may be due."

This stipulation was so material to the compact, that without it that compact would not have been made. The greater number of the contracting parties held slaves, and they had previously evinced their estimate of the value of such a stipulation by making it a condition in the ordinance for the government of the territory ceded by Virginia, which now composes the states north of the Ohio river.

The same article of the constitution stipulates also for rendition, by the several states, of fugitives from justice from the other states.

The general government, as the common agent, passed laws to carry into effect these stipulations of the states. For many years these laws were executed. But an increasing hostility on the part of the non-slaveholding states to the institution of slavery has led to a disregard of their obligations, and the laws of the general government have ceased to effect the objects of the Constitution. The States of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New York, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin and Iowa, have enacted laws which either nullify the acts of Congress or render useless any attempt to execute them. In many of these states the fugitive is discharged from service or labor claimed, and in none of them has the state government complied with the stipulation made in the constitution. The State of New Jersey, at an early day, passed a law in conformity with her constitutional obligation; but the current of anti-slavery feeling has led her more recently to enact laws which render inoperative the remedies provided by her own law and by the laws of Congress. In the State of New York even the right of transit for a slave has been denied by her tribunals; and the States of Ohio and Iowa have refused to surrender to justice fugitives charged with murder, and with inciting servile insurrection in the State of Virginia. Thus the constituted compact has been deliberately broken and disregarded by the non-slaveholding states, and the consequence follows that South Carolina is released from her obligation.

The ends for which this constitution was framed are declared by itself to be "to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquillity, provide for the common defence, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity."

These ends it endeavored to accomplish by a federal government, in which each state was recognized as an equal, and had separate control over its own institutions. The right of property in slaves was recognized by giving to free persons distinct political rights, by giving them the right to represent, and burthening them with direct taxes for three-fifths of their slaves; by authorizing the importation of slaves for twenty years, and by stipulating for the rendition of fugitives from labor.

We affirm that these ends, for which this Government was instituted, have been defeated, and the government itself has been made destructive of them by the action of the non-slaveholding states. Those states have assumed the right of deciding upon the propriety of our domestic institutions; and have denied the rights of property established in fifteen of the states and recognized by the constitution; they have denounced as sinful the institution of slavery; they have permitted the open establishment among them of societies, whose avowed object is to disturb the peace and to eloign the property of the citizens of other states. They have encouraged and assisted thousands of our slaves to leave their homes, and those who remain have been incited by emissaries, books and pictures to servile insurrection.

For twenty-five years this agitation has been steadily increasing, until it has now secured to its aid the power of the common government. Observing the forms of the constitution, a sectional party has found within that article establishing the executive department the means of subverting the constitution itself. A geographical line has been drawn across the Union, and all the states north of that line have united in the election of a man to the high office of President of the United States, whose opinions and purposes are hostile to slavery. He is to be entrusted with the administration of the common government, because he has declared that that "government cannot endure permanently half slave, half free," and that the public mind must rest in the belief that slavery is in the course of ultimate extinction.

This sectional combination for the subversion of the constitution, has been aided in some of the states by elevating to citizenship, persons, who, by the supreme law of the land, are incapable of becoming citizens; and their votes have been used to inaugurate a new policy, hostile to the South, and destructive of its peace and safety.

On the 4th of March next this party will take possession of the government. It has announced that the South shall be excluded from the common territory; that the judicial tribunals shall be made sectional, and that a war must be waged against slavery until it shall cease throughout the United States.



The guaranties of the constitution will then no longer exist; the equal rights of the states will be lost. The slaveholding states will no longer have the power of self-government, or self-protection, and the federal government will have become their enemy. Sectional interest and animosity will deepen the irritation, and all hope of remedy is rendered vain, by the fact that public opinion at the North has invested a great political error, with the sanctions of a more erroneous religious belief. We, therefore, the people of South Carolina, by our delegates, in convention assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, have solemnly declared that the union heretofore existing between this state and the other states of North America, is dissolved, and that the State of South Carolina has resumed her position among the nations of the world, as a separate and independent state, with full power to levy war, conclude peace, contract alliances, establish commerce, and to do all other acts and things which independent states may of right do.

Adopted December 24, 1860

[http://avalon.law.yale.edu/19th\\_century/csa\\_scarsec.asp](http://avalon.law.yale.edu/19th_century/csa_scarsec.asp) (Accessed on December 12, 2010)

To many North Carolinians, the events of 1860 will not be the first civil war that existed in these United States. Brother against brother, neighbor against neighbor will be deeply felt during the American Revolution and the American Civil War. Taxation without representation and violations of state's rights will drive men of 1776 and 1860 to wage revolution against a perceived unjust government. During the first year of the Sesquicentennial Commemoration, the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table will examine some of the parallels between the first and second revolutions.

The people of the Cape Fear were quickly immersed in the coming storm.

January 1861

January 9— The Cape Fear Minute Men seized Fort Johnston (eventually renamed Pender) from Ord. Sgt. James Reilly at Smithville (present-day Southport). Governor Ellis ruled the fort's seizure illegal and that it should be returned to Reilly.

January 10 — The Cape Fear Minute Men and the Smithville Guards seized Fort Caswell on Oak Island from Ord. Sgt. Frederick Dardingkiller. Governor Ellis ordered the fort be returned to Dardingkiller.

\*\*\*\*\* December Meeting \*\*\*\*\*

*Heart, Hearth and Home:  
A Trove of Lettered Memories Treasured by the Lambs:*

Ray Flowers shared the story of Will and Daisy Lamb in a context similar to the sweep of history that Margaret Mitchell wrote of in *Gone With the Wind*. While the Lamb's were not quite the Rhett Butler and Scarlett O'Hara of the Cape Fear, their relationship grew as they faced the hardships of military and domestic travails associated with their life at Fort Fisher.

The story began with the acquisition of eleven pieces of silverware that had belonged to the Lambs. Ray began research that culminated in an exhibit currently on display at the Fort Fisher State Historic Site. He made use of diaries, letters, official records and newspapers to fashion the relationship between the highly educated William Lamb of Norfolk, Virginia and the well-born Sarah Anne Chaffee of Providence, Rhode Island. As in *Gone With the Wind*, theirs

was a story of blockade running, military adventure, family tragedy, personal loss, and reconstruction.

Rather than repeat the story that Ray shared with the audience at the December 9 meeting, a visit to Fort Fisher, and maybe a tour by Ray, can recreate the electric atmosphere that existed between Will and Daisy Lamb during their time at the "Tara of the Cape Fear."

Tim



Fort Fisher State Historic Site  
P.O. Box 169  
1610 Ft. Fisher Blvd South  
Kure Beach, N.C. 28449  
Phone: (910) 458-5538  
Fax: (910) 458-0477  
Email: fisher@ncdcr.gov

#### Hours of Operation

*April 1 - Sept. 30*

Monday-Saturday 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Sunday 1-5 p.m.

*Oct. 1 - March 31*

Tuesday through Saturday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Closed Sunday and Monday and most major state holidays.

#### Admission

No admission fees. There is a suggested donation at some special events.

\*\*\*\*\* 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 appreciated.

\*\*\*\*\* Trivia Question Answers January 2011 \*\*\*\*\*

**1 – Who was the first Confederate volunteer to be killed during the Civil War?** Recent historians have gone so far as to focus on a Baltimore native named William P. Clark, who apparently had enlisted in the Confederate army and was awaiting transport south when he was killed in the Baltimore riots on April 19, 1861. Wyatt remains the first North Carolina soldier, if not the first Confederate, to die in combat, and deserves all of the credit and dignity due him for that claim. He was not, however, the first North Carolina soldier to lose his life in the war. That tragic distinction went to Private James Hudson of Company B, 1st North Carolina Volunteers, who died of pneumonia in Raleigh on May 11, 1861.

[http://www.nccivilwar150.com/features/nc-civil-war\\_death-study.htm](http://www.nccivilwar150.com/features/nc-civil-war_death-study.htm) (accessed December 9, 2010)

**2 – Other than to determine force strength, why was the report of the dead important to army commanders?** Numbering the dead was important to the armies in that they needed to know their force strength. Therefore casualty lists and hospital returns were not concerned with individual lives, but instead assessments of military resources. In turn, however, army commanders also hoped to hide accurate data from their enemies, leading to misinterpretations that distorted the historical record. Union Gen. George McClellan was fascinated with numbers, and consistently overestimated not only his enemy's losses, but also their strengths. His obsessions led to a failure to act when needed, and eventually led to his sacking. In May 1863, General Robert E. Lee issued an order that critiqued the standard custom of reporting losses, suggesting that inflated estimates were being made by officers who viewed their unit losses as a direct affirmation of their own performance and courage on the battlefield. Large losses in an officer's unit theoretically showed that he and his men had been in the thick of the fight, and therefore that they had fought ferociously and honorably. Thus, inflated numbers led to inflated egos. Conversely, in the latter years of the war, Lee appears to have consistently underestimated his losses in an effort to hide the war's impact on his army from the enemy, and to a certain extent from civilian authorities.

[http://www.nccivilwar150.com/features/nc-civil-war\\_death-study.htm](http://www.nccivilwar150.com/features/nc-civil-war_death-study.htm) (accessed December 9, 2010)

**3 – Where were Daisy Lamb and her children during the First Battle of Fort Fisher in December 1865?** Orton Plantation.





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# The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

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## The *RUNNER*

### Newsletter of The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Editor **Tim Winstead**

December 2010

Our next meeting will be **Thursday, 09 December 2010** at **St. Andrew's On-the-Sound (Airlie Rd.) Social Hour at 6:30 p.m., meeting at 7:30 p.m.**

We invite and welcome all people with an interest in our 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.



\*\*\*\*\* December 2010 \*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\* **December Program: Heart, Hearth, and Home:** \*\*\*\*\*  
**The life of Colonel and Mrs. (Daisy) Lamb**

Our speaker for December will be **Ray Flowers** of the Fort Fisher State Historic Site Staff. Ray will share the story of the Southern officer and his Northern wife who shared the hardships and joys of life at the most militarily important and exciting fortification in the Confederacy. Amidst the tedium of garrison command, the frequent actions with the Federal blockading fleet, and the exciting visits of blockade runner officers, Will and Daisy Lamb made their home.

Ray (blue shirt) and visitors at the River Road Sally Port

Ray Flowers is a native Wilmingtonian and graduate of UNCW with a B.A. in English. He is a lifelong enthusiast of Fort Fisher and the War Between the States. As a nearly fourteen year member of the Fort Fisher State Historic Site Staff, Ray shares his extensive knowledge with fort visitors through his interesting and insightful stories. Ray is an avid toy soldier collector and rabid Minnesota Vikings' fan.

Colonel William Lamb Sarah Anne Chaffee Lamb  
"Daisy"  
*College of William & Mary*

Sarah Ann Chaffee "Daisy" Lamb grew up in Providence, R.I. In 1863, she joined her husband at Confederate Point where Colonel William Lamb commanded at Fort Fisher. Lamb had his soldiers build a small cottage north of Fort Fisher. Daisy set up residence with Lamb and their two oldest children in this simple cottage.

In December 1864, a large Federal fleet appeared off Fort Fisher. Daisy and the children were sent across the Cape Fear River to the safety of Orton Plantation. On Christmas Eve, the Federals began a massive bombardment intended to destroy the guns of Fort Fisher. Daisy watched the bombardment and despaired over the safety of Lamb and his command. As the prolonged bombardment continued, young Dick Lamb approached his mother: "Mama," he said, "I want to pray to God for my papa." The child knelt down and "said his little earnest prayer," and feeling the better for it, exclaimed "Oh, sister, I'm so glad! I'm so glad! [N]ow God will keep care of my papa!" Dick's prayer was answered for Lamb and the defenders of Fort Fisher were spared when the Federals withdrew their soldiers from the beaches and the fleet disappeared.

The Confederate celebration was short-lived. A Federal fleet reappeared in mid January 1865. Daisy and the children again crossed the river to relative safety. The Federal fleet began another fierce bombardment. Lamb and his men were doomed to endure the fall of Fort Fisher. Daisy watched, waited, and prayed as the battle raged to its conclusion.

<http://www.nchistoricsites.org/fisher/gallery/g-lamb-daisy.htm> (accessed November 15, 2010)

\*\*\*\*\* **Raffle Winners** \*\*\*\*\*

Three Great Novels of the Civil War- Terry McGiverin  
*A People's Contest*- Martha Watson  
*Atlas of the Civil War*- Chuck Bailey  
*Flags of Our fathers (DVD)* - Dick Covell  
*Jeff Shaara's Civil War Battlefields*- John Bolger  
*The Photographic History of the Civil War* - Bill Carshaw  
\*\*\*\*\* Trivia Questions \*\*\*\*\*

- 1 – When Daisy Lamb came South, she was offered lodgings in a fine home in Wilmington or at Orton Plantation. Instead of luxury, she chose temporary residency in the upper floor of James N. Craig's house a mile north of the fort at Craig's Landing on the Cape Fear River. Colonel Lamb had his soldiers build a simple cabin which became their home. Where was Daisy Lamb's "Cottage" located?
- 2 – What nickname was given to Daisy Lamb by the soldiers of the Thirty-Six Regiment? What was the nickname given to Colonel Lamb by blockade runner officers and owners?
- 3 – Shortly after the Battle of Gettysburg, Stuart began to receive criticism for his actions during that campaign. After the war, Jubal Early, Henry Heth, James Longstreet, E.P. Alexander, and others began to lay groundwork for the Lost Cause and the infallibility of Robert E. Lee. The writings of these officers led to renewed efforts to cast Jeb Stuart as the scapegoat for the loss at Gettysburg.

Who assisted Flora Stuart in her defense of Jeb Stuart's reputation?

\*\*\*\*\* Member News \*\*\*\*\*

**Richard Triebe**, has written a new book that described the battle at Fort Fisher and followed the Confederate survivors who were sent to the Elmira Prison.

*Fort Fisher to Elmira: The Fatal Journey of 518 Confederate Soldiers* is available at Amazon.com.

\*\*\*\*\* **November Meeting** \*\*\*\*\*

**Tonia "Teej" Smith** shared the results of five years of research in her presentation of "Flora Cooke Stuart: Life Without Jeb." The relationship between the dashing cavalry officer and daughter of a Lieutenant Colonel Phillip St. George Cooke grew from shared interests and mutual respect. Jeb was taken with Flora when she demonstrated her abilities to master a skittish horse during a review of troops at Fort Leavenworth in 1855. Frequent evening rides led to friendship, and their friendship progressed to love. Flora rode, played guitar, shot a weapon with skill, and was well-read. Jeb had found his soul mate. In less than two months, Stuart and Flora became engaged.

Married on November 14, 1855, the Stuarts shared their lives together as the United States moved closer to a division that would split the nation and their families. Stuart was present at Harpers Ferry and viewed John Brown's actions to incite a slave uprising. John Brown's raid added to the deepening division between the sections. Flora's family would be severely impacted as her father, mother, and one sister remained loyal to the Union while Flora, a brother and another sister would cast their lot with the South.

When the Civil War started in 1861, Jeb quickly displayed the attributes that made him into an outstanding cavalry commander. Among his major accomplishments was his ride around George McClellan's army while being chased by his Union father-in-law. The spirited cavalier provided intelligence that helped Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia fend off McClellan's intended capture of Richmond. Stuart developed his role as a knight defending Southern womanhood and chivalry. He played a role that built his image and character.

While Jeb devoted his energies to the Confederacy, Flora moved from place to place to be near her husband. The couple shared tragedy when their five year old daughter, Flora Stuart, died in Lynchburg on November 3, 1862. Stuart had been in action and unable to go to his wife and child. He wired for Flora and son, Jimmy, to come to him near Culpepper so they could share their grief. Jeb also cautioned Flora to avoid wearing black so as to not depress his soldiers. Again, image was everything to Stuart.

Flora lived with Stuart's idealized views of Southern womanhood. He warned her not to embarrass him about reports of his flirtations with other women. He was a knight who defended all women's virtues and she should understand his role. Stuart reportedly told Flora that she was "never so happy as when miserable." Flora continued to relocate to be in proximity to her husband. In 1863, a daughter, Virginia Pelham Stuart, was born.

After the defeat of Lee's Army at Gettysburg in July 1863, Stuart received criticism from some Southern officers for his efforts during this campaign. Even Lee reported that Stuart's absence from his

army impacted the results of the campaign. For a man who had never experienced failure, this criticism, especially from Lee, was hard to accept. Stuart had lost superiority over the more numerous and improved Federal cavalry. Stuart continued to portray a dashing spirit who would lead his forces to victories against his enemies – Union and Confederate.

With Grant's move into the Wilderness in May 1864, Lee and this army were locked in a deadly struggle to block the Federal advance. Stuart and his cavalry performed good service during initial fighting. When Sheridan's cavalry broke free from the Army of the Potomac and advanced toward Richmond, Stuart moved to counter. Stuart took time from the pursuit for a short visit to the Fontaine plantation near Beaver Dam Station. Stuart was greeted by his wife and two children. This short visit, with its rushed farewell, would be the last for Flora and Jeb. Stuart would be mortally wounded at Yellow Tavern shortly after he kissed Flora, Jimmy, and Virginia for the final time. Stuart suffered horribly and passed from this earth before Flora could reach his side.

Farewell Flora was left alone with no home, little money, and two children. Because Stuart had desired that his children be raised south of the Mason and Dixon Line, Flora refused her father's offer to pass through the Union lines and come to Baltimore. She elected to remain in Virginia to raise her children and preserve the memory of her husband.

Mrs. "General" Stuart never remarried. She settled in Saltville, Virginia where she supported her family as a teacher. In 1880, Flora became headmistress of the Virginia Female Institute in Staunton. From 1880 until 1899, she adopted curriculum changes that provided a relevant education to young women. Flora realized that the domestic and refined finishing school's education was no longer practical in a world where a woman may need to earn her own way. Shorthand, bookkeeping, and typing skills were more applicable in a world without Jeb.

Flora Stuart took an active role in countering criticism that was directed at her husband. She guarded Stuart's papers and kept private his writings that may cast dispersion on others. Flora refused to raise-up her husband by bring others down. Stuart's Aide-de-Camp, Major Henry B. McClelland and Colonel John S. Mosby also came to Flora's aide as they took on the arguments of Confederate officers who sought to cast Jeb Stuart as a scapegoat.

When Virginia Pelham Stuart Walker died in 1898, Flora moved to Norfolk and assisted her son-in-law in raising her grandchildren. Flora remained in Norfolk until her death on May 10, 1923. While on a walk, Flora tripped and severely injured her head. Mrs. "General" Stuart had for 59 years protected her family, cherished the memory of her husband, and helped to rebuild Jeb Stuart's shattered South.

Flora Cooke Stuart and James Ewell Brown Stuart were reunited at the Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond, Virginia on May 12, 1923.

Tim

\*\*\*\*\* **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 appreciated.**

\*\*\*\*\* **Trivia Question Answers December 2010** \*\*\*\*\*

**1 – Where was Daisy Lamb's "Cottage" located?** The "Cottage" was built on the ocean side of Confederate Point approximately a mile north of the fort and Craig's Landing. The cottage was isolated but it provided privacy for the Lambs.

**2 – What nickname was given to Daisy Lamb by the soldiers of the Thirty-Six Regiment? "Angel of the Fort." What was the nickname given to Colonel Lamb by blockade runner officers and owners? "Guardian Angel."**

**3 – Who assisted Flora Stuart in her defense of Jeb Stuart's reputation?** Henry McClellan and John S. Mosby

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."







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# The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

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## The *RUNNER*

### Newsletter of The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Editor **Tim Winstead**

November 2010

Our next meeting will be Thursday, 11 November 2010 at St. Andrew's On-the-Sound (Airlie Rd.) Social Hour at 6:30 p.m., meeting at 7:30 p.m.



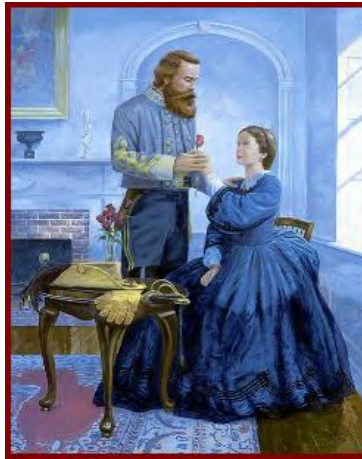
#### November Program: **Flora Cooke Stuart: Life Without Jeb**

To many Civil War students, the name "Jeb" Stuart brings images of a warrior, a fighter, a plumed knight, and a seeker of fame and adulation. To others, Stuart is a self-serving officer seeking rank and privilege. Did anyone really know the true Stuart?

James Ewell Brown Stuart was the Beau Ideal of the Confederacy. "I rather die than be whipped." Stuart was a bold dragoon who wrote poetry and he cherished knightly honor and chivalrous attention to the women of his beloved South.

While Mars with his stentorian voice  
Chimes in with dire discordant noise,  
Sweet woman in angelic guise  
Gives hope and bids us fear despise.

The Maid of Sargossa still  
Breathes in our cause her dauntless will  
Beyond Potomac's rockbound shore  
Her touch bids southern cannon roar ...



Our speaker for November will be Tonia Smith. She will present the life of the lady who shared the events of the Civil War and preserved the *Beau Ideal's* memory after his death from wounds received at Yellow Tavern on 11 May 1864.

Tonia "Teej" Smith, a native Tar Heel, has lived in Pinehurst for the past eighteen years. She has written articles for magazines such as *North and South*, *America's Civil War*, and *Civil War Times*.

In addition to her writing and research, she has presented programs on various Civil War topics to local schools and to Civil War round tables in North Carolina and Virginia. In 2009, she was one of the presenters at Longwood University's annual Civil War Seminar. She was the keynote speaker for the Stuart-Mosby Historical Society meeting in Richmond this past May where she presented a program on Flora Cooke Stuart, widow of Maj. Gen. J.E.B. Stuart

Teej currently moderates an online Civil War discussion group. She is also the founder and past president of the Rufus Barringer Civil War Round Table in Pinehurst. She now serves on the round table's board of directors and is their program chairperson.

#### Flora Cooke Stuart: Life Without Jeb

In the spring of 1855, 19 year-old Flora Cooke, daughter of Colonel, later Union Brigadier General, Philip St. George Cooke, a Virginian, and Rachel Wilt Hertzog, a Philadelphia debutante, met a dashing young cavalry officer named James Ewell Brown at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. After a whirlwind courtship the young couple was married at Fort Riley on November 14, 1855.

Their marriage ended eight and a half years later when Major General J.E.B. Stuart, C.S.A., was mortally wounded at Yellow Tavern on May 11, 1864. Flora would remain a widow for the next fifty-nine years. The speaker briefly will cover the Stuart marriage before discussing the challenges Flora Cooke Stuart faced in her life without Jeb.

Flora Cooke Stuart ensured his legacy was remembered.



## Raffle Winners

There was no raffle at the October meeting; however, the chance to add to your library returns in November.

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## Trivia Questions

- 1 - Who was the "Maid of Sargossa" and why did "Jeb" speak of her in his poem?
  - 2 – Who wounded "Jeb" Stuart at Yellow Tavern?
  - 3 – Who was the admirer of Jefferson Davis who made possible his retirement to Beauvoir in Biloxi?
- 



## Member News

**Jack Travis**, "Colonel Black Jack," has been awarded a Jefferson Davis Gold Medal by the Daughters of the Confederacy for his book, *Men of God, Angels of Death*. Jack received recognition for his efforts to preserve Confederate history through the research that led to the publication of his book.

Congratulations to Jack for receiving this award.

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## Ottumwa (Iowa) Civil War Round Table



**L to R: Arthur, Terry, Ray, Dan, and Bruce**

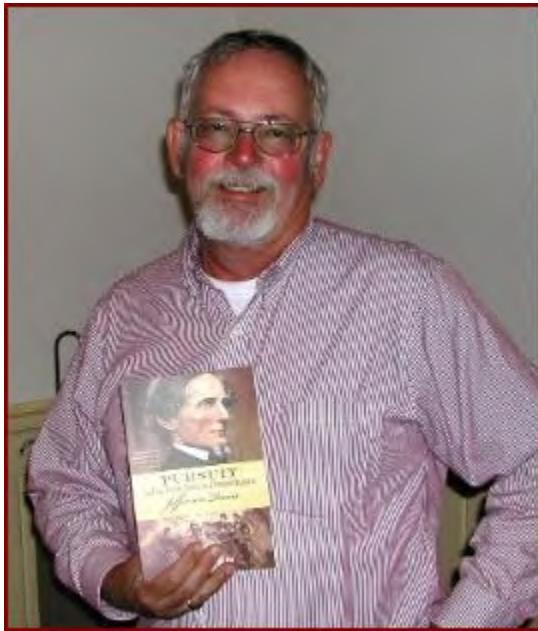
**Arthur A. McGiverin**, a member of the Ottumwa Iowa round table, visited his nephew, **Terry McGiverin**, at Wrightsville Beach. Arthur contacted **Bob Cooke** and inquired if any members of the CFCWRT would be interested in meeting at Fort Fisher and talking about our round tables.

On October 20, **Bruce Patterson, Dan Geddie, and Tim Winstead** met Arthur and Terry at Fort Fisher. **Ray Flowers** gave this group of Civil War buffs an excellent tour of the fort that included many "little known" facts about the clash on the Cape Fear. Sharing information about how each round table operated was informative and hopefully we can maintain contact between groups.

During our conversations about the type of programs presented at the Ottumwa and Cape Fear round tables, Clint Johnson's October presentation was discussed. Clint had discussed some of the legalities that faced Lincoln and Jefferson Davis about the issue of secession. Arthur provided a very qualified answer to this question for he was a former Chief Justice of the Iowa Supreme Court. Let me know if you are interested in Arthur's answer.



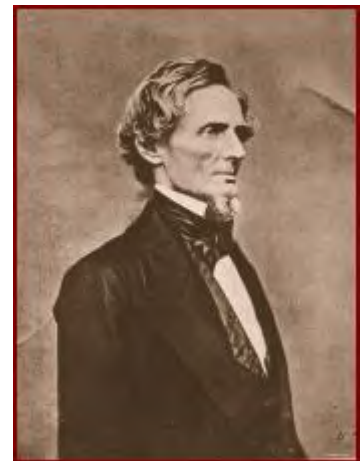
## October Meeting



Clint Johnson's program examined the closing days of the Civil War as related in his book, *Pursuit: The Chase, Persecution, and Surprising Release of Confederate President Jefferson Davis*. Mr. Johnson discussed the intricate ethical and legal questions faced by Abraham Lincoln, Andrew Johnson, and other high ranking Federal officials in the wake of the collapse of the Confederacy. Beginning with the only man in the Confederacy who believed the military collapse of Confederate armies began a "new phase of the struggle," Johnson revealed the strengths, weaknesses, and stubbornness that led Jefferson Davis in his odyssey that became the basis for the "Lost Cause."

While Lincoln and other Federal leaders may have preferred that Davis escaped capture to avoid future

contentious trials to determine the legality of secession and the guilt of high ranking Confederate leaders, Clint laid before us the facts that accompanied the capture of Davis near Irwinville, Georgia on May 10, 1865, his two year imprisonment in Fort Monroe, the legal wrangling for Davis to stand trial, and his May 13, 1867 release on bail provided by Northern citizens. Intrigue and hidden agendas dominated this phase of the history of the Civil War and its aftermath.



In the final drama of Davis' odyssey, he never stood trial for his actions. He never had his day in court. The question of the legality of secession and the guilt of high Confederate leaders was never completely addressed.

Jefferson Davis accepted the kindness of an admirer and retired to Beauvoir in Biloxi, Mississippi. It was at Beauvoir where Davis wrote his history, *The Rise and Fall of the Confederate Government*. In this history, Jefferson Davis defended his and the South's actions during the conflict that claimed 620,000 American lives and forever changed the United States.

Tim Winstead

[e-mail](#)



### Trivia Question Answers November 2010



1 – **Who was the "Maid of Sargossa" and why did "Jeb" speak of her in his poem?** Agostina Zaragoza. Stuart worshipped the ideal of women defending the home & hearth of the Confederacy and actively supporting the men in the field. Agostina Zaragoza man-ed (woman-ed) a cannon in defensive of Saragossa, Spain against Napoleon's invading army. Agostina's true story was so inspiring that poets like Byron, Southey, and "Jeb" Stuart praised her in their poems.

2 – **Who wounded "Jeb" Stuart at Yellow Tavern?** Private John A. Huff of Armada, Michigan. Huff was formerly a member of one of Colonel Hiram Berdan's sharpshooter regiments. In the spring of 1864, Huff enlisted and opted to ride to war with the 5th Michigan.

<http://www.historynet.com/major-general-jeb-stuart-last-stand-of-the-last-knight.htm> (November 4, 2010)

3 – **Who was the admirer of Jefferson Davis who made possible his retirement to Beauvoir in Biloxi?** Sarah Anne Ellis Dorsey, a novelist and believer, made Beauvoir available to the Davis family for a nominal rent. In 1879, Davis purchased the home for \$5,500 to be paid in three installments. Dorsey died before Davis made the final two installments. In her will Dorsey left the estate to Davis.





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# The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

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## The *RUNNER*

### Newsletter of The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Editor **Bob Cooke**

October 2010

Our next meeting will be **Thursday, 14 October 2010 at St. Andrew's On-the-Sound (Airlie Rd.) Social Hour at 6:30 p.m., meeting at 7:30 p.m.**



Our guest speaker for October will be **Mr. Clint Johnson**, author of several books on the Civil War. Mr. Johnson lives in the mountains of Ashe County looking down on the New River, oddly enough, supposedly one of the oldest rivers in the world. He has written ten books on the Civil War or the South, including: *A Vast and Fiendish Plot: The Attack on New York City and Pursuit: The Chase Capture, Persecution and Surprising Release of Jefferson Davis* (this is the topic of his power point presentation to our RT). Mr. Johnson has also written, *The Politically Incorrect Guide to the South* and coming in 2010 will be updates of his two touring books: *Touring the Carolinas Civil War Sites and Touring Virginia and West Virginia's Civil War Sites*.

He is a Florida native of the small farming community of Fish Branch in Hardee County. That is about 40 miles south of Fort Meade, Florida, the fort at which Lt. Thomas J. Jackson was serving when he was put under arrest for questioning the morals of his superior officer. As a child Clint day-dreamed that Jackson patrolled the dirt road in front of his house. Later research showed that Jackson never came within 40 miles of Clint's house- which still disappoints him!

#### **Raffle Winners:**

*Secret Mission of the Civil War* - **Ed Hickmon**

*Drawn to Civil War* - **Mary Royal**

*A Politician Goes to War* - **Ed Gibson**

*Lady of Arlington* - **John Bolger**

*Piercing the Heartland* - **Gary Henderson**

*Lincoln- A Photo biography* - **Vince Myers**

Everyone knows that famous photograph of three Confederate soldiers standing atop Seminary Ridge; according to one report, they were "among 5,425 unwounded soldiers" captured by Union General Meade's army. What you may not have known is that they are North Carolinians. That was but one of the tidbits **Mr. Jeff Bockert** gave us at our September meeting with a talk entitled: "The Uniforms of Fort Fisher." Mr. Bockert began with the statement that, as there are no longer any veterans left, it is via the study of material culture- i.e. the material "things" we have left from that era that we may examine and learn from. Thus it is with a uniform that hangs in a museum: It was worn by a soldier and has a story to tell.

When North Carolina entered the war, she was ill-prepared to clothe and equip the many regiments that would be needed in the conflict. In May 1861, a Uniform Panel Board met to design a suitable uniform for the new Provisional Army of the Confederacy (PACS). Following an Austrian design, soldiers would wear a hip length, double breasted tunic with service facings indicating branch of service (light blue for infantry, red for artillery, yellow for cavalry). It was quickly realized that Richmond would be unable to clothe all the soldiers being enlisted, so the "Commutation System" was utilized. States would step into the gap and provide uniforms for their native sons and the Confederate government would give the state \$50 for each man thus clothed. In September 1861, North Carolina began to produce uniforms for its men as state agents were sent throughout the Confederacy seeking to buy cloth and leather. They were competing against other state agents and the Confederate government as well. This competition tended to drive up prices. All material went to the newly established NC Depot and material obtained was "outsourced" to tailors and local seamstresses to produce the finished product.

North Carolina then turned to foreign markets to fill its need for uniform cloth. From 1861 through 1864, according to Jeff, 255,000 jackets and 300,000 trousers were produced from the NC Depot. Donated clothing was another "important source" for the soldiers; even carpeting, once lined, became used as coats and blankets.

Imports from England accounted for 20% of all socks, 70% of all shoes and 100% of all blankets issued by North Carolina from July 1863 to September 1864. The NC Depot clothing was somewhat different than the uniforms from other states, hence it is a little easier to pick out a North Carolina trooper. At Fort Fisher, even though the site was the "entrepot" for uniforms and cloth, the men received uniforms at different times and no two companies looked alike. Even the men of the same company many times showed up wearing a variety of uniforms. As the soldiers were artillerymen, they all wore some sort of red piping somewhere on their caps and jackets. Later in the war, some Confederates might be seen wearing a "Tait" jacket. In Ireland, Robert Tait began producing an eight-button jacket with royal blue trousers and exporting them to the Confederacy. They were based on the British Army uniform.

Viewing a Frank Vizetelly (of the London Illustrated News) print, Mr. Bockert indicated that Vizetelly literally drew what he saw and the men and uniforms he sketched were quite accurate. Finally, Mr. Bockert told of the 92,000 uniform suits left in a Raleigh warehouse after the war. There are quite a few stories of these uniforms being issued to German POWs in World War I. If true, as most believe) the uniforms would most likely not have survived, making the uniform worn by the common soldier of North Carolina a very rare piece of history.





# The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

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## The *RUNNER*

### Newsletter of The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Editor **Bob Cooke**

September 2010

**Our next meeting will be Thursday, 9 September 2010 at St. Andrew's On-the-Sound (Airlie Rd.) Social Hour at 6:30 p.m., meeting at 7:30 p.m.**



Please join us for our meeting at which **Mr. Jeff Bockert** will once again "Kick-off" our season! Mr. Bockert is no stranger to our group; he has spoken to our group before and will speak about "**The Uniforms of Fort Fisher.**"

A native of California, Mr. Bockert currently serves as the Civil War Specialist for the North Carolina Division of Historic Sites based in Goldsboro, N.C. Jeff has worked in the historic site and museum field for over fifteen years and prior to arriving in Goldsboro, managed the President James K. Polk Birthplace near Charlotte, N.C. He has also worked for the National Archives in Washington, D.C. and as Associate Curator of the Battleship North Carolina in Wilmington. He has taught history at Brunswick Community College and Wingate University. He is also the author of several works on presidential and military history. Jeff received both his undergraduate degree in American History and his master's degree in History from UNC-Wilmington. Join us and find out just what those soldiers manning the forts at the mouth of the river were wearing and how they obtained their uniforms.

Speaking of **Fort Fisher**, the state recently held meetings on "The Future of fort Fisher", at both the Arboretum and at Carolina Beach. Did you know that of the 264 total acres of Fort Fisher, only 38 are owned by the state, the rest leased from the Army at Sunny Point? Looking towards the future, staff members and the public held informal talks on what was felt it was needed or desired at the site. Divided into five segments, the program covered 1- preservation; 2- Site development; 3- Operations; 4- Programming; 5- Community involvement. Public comments were sought and some of the subjects broached were: the lack of space at the Visitor's Center; the reconstruction of the fort's landface, the palisade fence and perhaps even a bombproof (such were the hopes in the 1960s also!) An outdoor presentation site was mentioned, as well as updating a database on the soldiers (both Union and Confederate) that fought there. With the realization that preservation of the site was all-important, security was a concern; outdated trail markers and historical plaques that require updating were



brought up also. If you were not able to attend either of the meetings, you can still let your voice be heard by e-mailing your comments to: [comments@coolspring.com](mailto:comments@coolspring.com), or mail them to: Cool Spring Center, 399 W. Page Hager Rd., Cleveland, N.C., 27013.

*New Bern: A Maritime City* is the theme for the annual conference to be held in that city from September 30 to October 2 Thursday-Saturday). Visit our link for more information, but here's a teaser: *Maritime Arts in New Bern* (Nancy Packer); *New Bern and Craven County to 1860 with an Emphasis on Maritime History* (Dr. Alan Watson); *Privateering along the Carolina Coast* (Josh Howard); *Barbour Boats* (Dr. Paul Fontenoy); *The Civil War at Sea in North Carolina* (Dr. Craig Symonds); *Latest From the Lab: Update on Artifacts Recovered [from] the QAR* (Sarah Watkins-Kenney); *Excitement Comes to Kingston: The USS Underwriter and the Officers of the CSS Neuse* (Andrew Duppsatd).





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# The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

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## The *RUNNER*

### Newsletter of The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Editor **Bob Cooke**

May 2010

**Our next meeting will be Thursday, 9 September 2010 at St. Andrew's On-the-Sound (Airlie Rd.) Social Hour at 6:30 p.m., meeting at 7:30 p.m.**



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We hope you are enjoying the warm days of summer (although it has been quite hot these last few days!) The RT is on a summer break but your committee will be meeting shortly to select our programs for the coming season.

**Mr. William "Bill" Jayne** spoke to our group in May on the establishment of the national cemetery system. Beginning with the burials of soldiers who died on frontier posts such as Forts Leavenworth and Gibson, he noted that there was no formalized system to deal with those killed in the service of their country. During the Mexican-American War, General Scott did attempt to take care of his dead, but still, there was no governmental policy to follow. Mr. Jayne noted that to this day, there are Americans buried in cemeteries in Mexico City.

With the onset of the Civil War and the massive casualties that followed in the wake of a battle, something had to be done. Over 620,000 soldiers lost their lives during that conflict and at one battle alone (Shiloh) there were 27,000 casualties. As he stated, "The Civil War changed the relationship between the government and the people." In July 1862, the U.S. Congress authorized the purchase of grounds for cemetery use. Fourteen cemeteries were established, including ones at Philadelphia, Keokuk (Iowa) and Springfield (Illinois).

Here in Wilmington, after the battles at Fort Fisher and the occupation of the town, there were at least 4,500 dead, scattered throughout the area. Some were interred at Fort Fisher, others at the town's Oakdale Cemetery, more found their final resting place in unmarked graves near where they fell. An effort to gather and identify the dead began in earnest in 1865 and shortly thereafter land was purchased for the new National Cemetery at Wilmington, N.C. Many of the newly established national

cemeteries were located on battlefields or prison camps and by 1870, there were seventy cemeteries holding nearly 300,000 soldier's graves. Of that number, nearly half (144,000) were unknowns.

The Wilmington National Cemetery was bought early in 1867 from Isaac D. Ryttenburg for \$2,000. Burials began almost immediately; graves were sodded, wooden crosses placed and a caretaker's lodge was built. Of the 2,059 soldiers buried there, 604 were known to be white, over 1,200 are unknowns, 12 sailors, seventy-one known blacks and 138 unknown black soldiers lie at rest within the five acre compound. At least 72 of those men are known to have been in the infamous Andersonville prison. There are no (known) Confederate dead in the cemetery; the national cemeteries were only to hold Union dead, not Confederates. Immediately after the war, those men would have to be cared for by their relatives; this policy has since changed.

Mr. Jayne then went on to give a history of the cemetery (in 1881, 50 bodies were removed from Fort Fisher to Wilmington, in 1882, 2 African-American soldiers came from Burgaw). In the 1930s, the national cemetery system was expanded due to the aging WWI veterans and many new cemeteries were added: Fort Snelling (Minnesota), Long Island (N.Y.), Baltimore, Fts, Bliss, Sam Houston, Rosecrans and at the Golden Gate. After WWII, another expansion was required due to the many dead returning to their native soil. Bringing us up to date, Bill told us that the largest veteran areas in the country have been identified and expansion of those cemeteries begun. In these regions- Chicago, Northern California, South Florida, Cleveland, Detroit, Pittsburgh, Dallas, Seattle, Albany (N.Y.) and Oklahoma City the Veteran's Administration will adhere to the mission of the National Cemetery Administration: "To honor veterans with final resting places in national shrines and with lasting tributes that commemorate their service to our nation."

### **This just in!**

"Statshot: Numbers that shaped the era.

Within a year of passage of the National Cemetery Act of 1862, 14 cemeteries were established for Union soldiers. By 1870, there were 73 burial grounds. Virginia is home to the most Civil War era national cemeteries, with 14- including Arlington national Cemetery, the resting place of 16,000 Union and 482 Confederate soldiers. The smallest national cemetery established before the war's end was Ball's Bluff, in Leesburg, Va., the final resting place of 54 soldiers. Vicksburg National Cemetery is the largest established during the war; it holds 17,077 Union soldiers, 12,909 of whom are unidentified, and 2 Confederate soldiers. [Civil War Times, June 2010].

### **Raffle Winners**

*More Civil War Curiosities-* **Ed Mahony**

*Glory Road-* **Rich Triebe**

*Murder Most Confederate-* **Tim Barton**

*Cold Mountain-* **Dick Covell**

*Phantom Army of the Civil War-* **John Bolger**

*The Battles of East Cavalry Field-* **Ed Gibson**

And the Grand Prize Winner of *Arms Maker to the Confederacy:* **Gary Henderson!**



Kudos and congratulations to member **Tim Winstead** who was honored for his masterful study of Captain John Newland Maffitt by none other than **Representative Mike McIntyre**. Rep. McIntyre, prompted by member **Bob Maffitt** (a descendant of the intrepid mariner), read of Tim's work and had it inserted into the Congressional Record. Once again, congratulations Tim and keep up the good work!



The steering committee held its first meet of the summer and has come up with a slate of speakers to astound and hold our members in awe! This is of course, a tentative list subject at this early date to change; bear in mind we still have to contact and schedule speakers, but here is a taste of what is in store: At our kick-off meeting on 9 September - **Jeff Bockert**(subject to be determined, Jeff is a subject expert on virtually any area); In March, **Robert (Bert) Dunkerly** will speak on the "Revolutionary War Connections to the Civil War". Those two speakers have been confirmed, others remain to be scheduled. Remember, if you come across a historian, tour guide, author, etc. that you feel is exceptional, obtain their contact information and pass it along to a committee member.

Once again, have a happy and healthy summer and we'll see you in **September!**





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# The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

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## The *RUNNER*

### Newsletter of The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Editor **Tim Winstead**

April 2010

**Our next meeting will be Thursday 13 May 2010 at St. Andrew's On-the-Sound (Airlie Rd.) Social Hour at 6:30 p.m., meeting at 7:30 p.m.**



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Our May meeting will feature **Bill Jayne**, who will speak on the formation of the National Cemetery system and the Wilmington National Cemetery in particular. That cemetery was begun shortly after the fall of Wilmington; some Union soldiers were interred in Oakdale until the national Cemetery was opened.

Mr. William ("Bill") Jayne was born in upstate New York and has relocated to the Lower Cape Fear area in 2006. Bill is responsible for coordinating the development on new national cemeteries and expansion of the Veteran's Administration's 131 existing national cemeteries around the country.

Bill began his civil service career in 1981 in Washington, D.C. and joined the VA in 1984. He has held numerous positions at VA headquarters, including director of the State Cemetery Grants Program. Bill also served on the Department's Advisory Committee on readjustment of Vietnam Veterans prior to joining the VA. He was an early volunteer in the effort to build the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial and was a member of the Board of Advisors of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund from 1979 to 1984.

Bill served as a rifleman with the 26th Marine regiment in Vietnam and was honorably discharged in 1968. In Vietnam, he received the Purple Heart and the Presidential Unit Citation. He and his wife Randy now live in the Carolina Place neighborhood. Please join us for what will be a most informative presentation!





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# The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

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## The *RUNNER*

### Newsletter of The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Editor **Bob Cooke**

March 2010

Our next meeting will be Thursday 8 April 2010 at St. Andrew's On-the-Sound (Airlie Rd.)  
Social Hour at 6:30 p.m., meeting at 7:30 p.m.



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**Semper  
Fi!**

Our featured speaker for April will be our own **Ed Gibson**. Ed considers himself a native Tar Heel by virtue of having been born to parents who lived at Camp LeJeune, N.C. His father, a career Marine, was stationed there at the time, but Ed also calls Philadelphia, Pa., home. After a career in law enforcement with the Wilmington Police Department, (and a stint as Chief of Police in Burgaw) Ed has found time to delve into his true passion- Civil War history. His talk will focus on the both the United and Confederate States' Marine Corps during the Civil War. Please join us for what promises to be a most interesting talk about a most interesting subject.



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#### Raffle Winners

*The Last Ninety Days of the War*- Palmer Royal

*The C.S.S. Hunley*- W.A. Hickmon

1776- Ed Gibson

*All for the Union*- John Boulger

*Gettysburg* (video) - Ed Mahoney

*Pickett's Charge*- Ray Martin

**(Grand Prize)**

*Men of God, Angels of Death*- Mary Royal

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**(Colonel) Jack M. Black Jack Travis**  
**(National Civil War Artillery Association)**

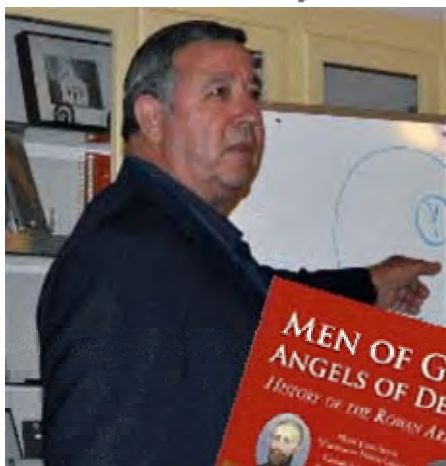


Image by  
**Harry Clements**

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## Gettysburg and "The King of Battle" !

That might have well been the title of member **Jack Travis's** talk on artillery at that decisive battle in July 1863. Taking us back to the "why" of Gettysburg (lack of food), Colonel "Black Jack" Travis (*his rank denotes his stature among re-enactors*), began his talk about the movement by Lee's army northward. With a train stretching some ten miles long, horses, mules and oxen dragged Lee's artillery towards that fateful meeting. Commanded by General William Nelson Pendleton, the artillery arm of the Army of Northern Virginia was already somewhat hamstrung by that officer. Described as "less than effective...while serving as chief artillerist" for Lee, Jack admitted that Pendleton's alter ego, U.S.A. commander, General Henry Hunt, was the better artillerist. Indeed, it has been written that "Hunt was the driving force in welding the Army of the Potomac's artillery into a superb organization.

As events unfolded on the battlefield, discrepancies in the Confederate arm began to take a toll. In addition to a lack of shot and shell, many of the Confederate guns were captured U.S. cannon. These guns, as Jack told us, were a "mixed bag" of different calibers, requiring a multitude of ammunition, whereas, Hunt had only one type of gun in each section. The hot July weather began to wear down men on both sides, even as there was much work left to be done- casualties to be replaced, guns to be cleaned and ammunition to be loaded; various parts of damaged cannons had to be replaced by wagon-mounted portable forges. The U.S. forces were able to replace worn-out gun tubes; Confederates could not. Even the lack of sleep, according to Jack, played a major role in the battle.

Describing the failed attack on Cemetery Ridge, Jack noted that smoke over the battlefield, made it hard to locate targets, while Confederates, firing uphill towards the ridge, were thought to be overshooting their quarry. Jack informed the group that the powder being used was the likely culprit: when the Southerners use captured U.S. gunpowder, their fuses fail to detonate properly, causing the shells to explode beyond the hill. A further fiasco occurred when Pendleton ordered nine guns and their ammunition train moved back to safety. As he had not notified E. Porter Alexander, commanding the First Corps artillery which was supporting the attack, that general could not locate the guns when they were needed. When Pickett's Charge came, Hunt had an additional eighteen guns rolled into position to repel the attackers. At Appomattox, recognizing who was the better artillerist, General Henry Hunt would not speak to Pendleton, but rather went to talk with General Alexander.

# CFCWRT - 2010



Image by *Harry Samuels*







# The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

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## The *RUNNER*

### Newsletter of The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Editor **Bob Cooke**

February 2010

Our next meeting will be Thursday 11 March 2010 at St. Andrew's On-the-Sound (Airlie Rd.) Social Hour at 6:30 p.m., meeting at 7:30 p.m.



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Please join us on 11 March at St. Andrew's On-the-Sound to hear Jack M. Travis discuss "**Artillery at Gettysburg**"

. Colonel "Black Jack" Travis, a member of our RT, specializes in muzzle-loading artillery. "A Confederate reenactor since 1990, Jack was appointed Chief of Artillery for Longstreet's Corp in 1997. Jack, who was raised in South Florida (from which state he returned in 2005), graduated from Miami Jackson High School, attended Colorado State University and graduated from Lakeland College with a BS in Business Administration and a minor in history. He worked in pharmaceutical sales and later owned and operated Action Orthopedics in Raleigh.

Jack has authored the definitive work on Major James E. Reilly and the Rowan Artillery (later commanded by Captain John A. Ramsey) in *Men of God, Angels of Death*. Jack has also organized many memorials and remembrances including: Major James Reilly at Oakdale Cemetery; Captain John Ramsey at Salisbury; Colonel Edward Willis at Hollywood Cemetery (Richmond, Va.) and General E. Porter Alexander at Magnolia Cemetery (Augusta, Ga.). Likewise, too numerous to mention are the many services Black Jack has provided to the UDC and SCV on Confederate Memorial Day, Flag Day and Lee-Jackson Birthday services. Colonel Travis is also a member of the Raleigh Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution and is past president of the Wake Forest Rotary Club.

**Raffle Winners**

*Battles and Leaders*- Dale Lear  
*The Blockade Runner Modern Greece and Her Cargo*- Bob Cooke  
*Lee Vs. McClellan*- John Winecoff  
*Southern Lady, Yankee Spy*- John Noll  
*Appomattox Court House*- Bruce Patterson  
CWPT Calendar- John Moore  
*Cloudsplitter*- Jim Worden  
Print of the Battle of Five Forks, Va. (Grand Prize)- John Winecoff

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### "Seek Out Fort Fisher's Distant Answering Gleams"

(From James Sprunt's [\*Chronicles of the Cape Fear River\*](#))

At our February dinner meeting held at UNCW's Madeline Suite, author **James "Larry" Walker** entertained us with stories not only of his family, but of what life was like at Fort Fisher during the war. He noted early on that his book, ***Rebel Gibraltar: Fort Fisher and Wilmington, C.S.A.*** was meant to complement other studies done on Fort Fisher and Wilmington and he emphasized the importance of Wilmington (and hence the fort) to the war effort. He peppered his talk with stories of Joe King, Daisy Lamb and "Uncle John" Beasley. Larry's ancestor, (Joe King) a teenager during the war wrote his reminiscences in 1926 and remembered passing through town during the deadly yellow fever epidemic of 1862. He vividly recalled seeing the death carts as they hauled the victims to Oakdale Cemetery for interment.

Larry spoke to us about the importance of blockade running, with a description of several of the runners: the *Modern Greece*, the battle over the *Kate* and the saga of the *Fannie and Jennie*- perhaps that gold sword meant for General R.E. Lee and carried by the ship is still buried in the sands along the beach!

Larry noted that he made a very fortunate purchase of a book (**Thomas Taylor's *Running the Blockade***) because it had belonged to **Colonel William Lamb**. He discovered that officer's handwriting in the flyleaf as well as a picture of Daisy Lamb. That book, donated by Mr. Walker, now graces the display cabinet at **Fort Fisher**. Kudos to Larry Walker for that generous gift!





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# The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

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## The *RUNNER*

### Newsletter of The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Editor **Bob Cooke**

January 2010

**NEXT MEETING:** Thursday 11 February 2010 at the Madeline Suite, at UNCW Dinner at 7 p.m. (This is our annual dinner meeting)



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Please join us for our annual dinner meeting to be held at the Madeline Suite at UNC-Wilmington. **James L. ("Larry") Walker, Jr.**, author of *Rebel Gibraltar: Fort Fisher and Wilmington, C.S.A.*, will be our guest speaker. His book is: "the complete story of the Confederacy's most important port and the forts that defended it throughout the entire Civil War." The book concentrates on the importance of Fort Fisher to blockade running and consequently to the survival of Lee's army. Larry, who now resides in Charlotte, has roots in Wilmington that stretch back to pre-Revolutionary days. He is an avid Civil War buff, reenactor and historian, who has "studied and hiked nearly all the battlegrounds of consequence in the war." Larry would also like to inform us that he and his wife are now the proud grandparents of twin girls, Abbie and Lily Burton. Congratulations, Larry and Janice!

For your information, the directions to the **Madeline Suite** at **UNC-Wilmington** are as follows: Take S. College Rd. to Randall Dr. Take Randall Dr. into the college (Randall will turn into Reynolds Dr.), go past the parking deck (on your left) to Cahill Dr. and take a left turn; go two blocks to Lot FF. Park in this lot and to your north will be Wagoner Hall. The Madeline Suite is a wing of Wagoner Hall.

### Civil War Living History Weekend

**Miss Heather Wilson** of the Cameron Art Museum spoke briefly at our last meeting on the upcoming "**Battle of Forks Road.**" The fifth annual Living History event will be held on the grounds of the Museum beginning Friday 18 February and continue on Saturday, 19 February. Our own **Dr. Chris Fonville** will lead walking tours of the battleground, while "historians, encampments, artillery demonstrations and family activities" will abound. The Museum will

play host to nearly three hundred school children from the area who will be introduced to that era of their history. The **145th** anniversary of the battle is free to the public, with donation greatly appreciated. The Museum is located at the corner of S.17th St. and Independence Blvd. and their telephone number is **910 395-5999**.

**The Cape Fear Civil War RT** has donated over \$100 (and a special thank you to **Col. Bruce Patterson** who also provided additional support) to the event.

### **Fort Anderson/Brunswicktown**

There will be yet another reenactment held at **Fort Anderson/Brunswicktown** this month. On Saturday, 20 February, the site will open at 9 a.m and later will host a talk by Mike Kochan ("Torpedoes and Other Infernal Machines"). There will be a nighttime lantern tour and the fort will close at **8:30** p.m. On Sunday (21st) it will again open its gates at **9** and at **11:45** there will be a talk ("**The battles of fort Anderson and Town Creek**") by **Dr. Chris E. Fonvielle**. The site will close at **3:30** p.m. that day. If you visited **Fort Fisher** during the reenactment held there, you know what else is in store to view: Confederate and Union reenactors, living history talks and walks through one of the most pristine Confederate forts still remaining.

### **Raffle Winners**

(December 2009)

*Army of the Potomac* (Bruce Catton trilogy)- **Tim Barton**

*Equipment of the Civil War* - **Bruce Patterson**

*Scouts and Spies of the Civil War* - **John Winecoff**

*Storm Over Carolina* - **Ed Gibson**

*The Oldest Confederate Widow Tells All* - **Wally Rueckel**

*Gettysburg: A Testing of Courage* - **Bob Cooke**

(January 2010)

*One Dam Blunder* - **Becky Sawyer**

*Ironclads and Columbiads* **Pat Mahoney**

*Mary Chestnut's Civil War* - **Linda Snider**

*Georgia Sharpshooter* - **Palmer Royal**

*Jeff Davis* - **John Winecoff**

*North Carolina's Hurricane History* - **James MacLaren**



### **January Meeting**

We had a record turnout for **Bert Dunkerly's** talk on the "Road to Appomattox and Greensboro" and suffice it to say that none were disappointed. Bert, who is a **National Park Ranger** at that historic site took us back to the spring of '65; to when R.E. Lee struggled to hold the lines around Richmond and Petersburg. Early in April, the Union army cracked those lines and the long, hard retreat began. Lee, who was attempting to join Joe Johnston in North Carolina, was constantly forced to move westward to avoid the Federals who were always maneuvering to cut him off. There was constant fighting along the way and at Sailor's creek, Lee's army suffered a great loss with over 7,000 men and many generals captured. Virtually all



of Lee's III Corps were now prisoners of the Yankees. . The morning of the 9th of April, Lee found himself nearly surrounded and attempted unsuccessfully to break through the Union cordon. Later that day, he sent a messenger through Union lines to ask for a truce. He was responding to letters that U.S. General Grant had sent earlier. Soon, resplendent in his dress uniform and mounted on his horse Traveler, he rode to the McLean home to meet with Grant. Terms were discussed between the two and soon some 27,000 soldiers stacked their arms. After surrendering, the Confederates were given rations and the all-

important parole pass. These paroles allowed them passage by train or government steamer and insured that the men were not molested by Union troops as they returned home.

"In North Carolina, by contrast," General Johnston has consolidated his army, with many units now done away with and the effect on the soldier's morale is discernable. As soldiers of Lee's army pass through Smithfield, word is received of Lee's surrender and morale plummets even further (many of those first troopers were thrown in jail as deserters!) Johnston moves his army west to Raleigh and Chapel Hill and President Jefferson Davis, who has fled Richmond and is heading south calls for a cabinet meeting (the last one) in Greensboro, N.C. Johnston is invited to the meeting, along with General P.G.T. Beauregard and when Johnston inquires about negotiations, he is told to fight on. When Davis leaves Greensboro, Johnston realizes the futility of further resistance and is soon (17 April) meeting with his adversary, Union General W.T. Sherman. The meeting takes place at the Bennett House in Durham and the terms are much more lenient than those given to Lee. Sherman, it would appear, completely misjudged the mood in Washington, especially after the Lincoln assassination. When the terms given Johnston are rejected by Congress, the war is back on. Johnston's army, when informed of the decision to continue the war, goes into a state of near mutiny. "Whole regiments refused to move" reported one South Carolina soldier and many men simply began to disappear as the days wore on.

Sherman and Johnston met again and this time the terms were virtually the same as those given Lee. The major differences were that most of Johnston's men were allowed to keep their horses and wagons with the order to "stack arms" in place. Just how many actually surrendered their weapons is unknown, but 7/8's of them were allowed to keep their guns. Union General George Hartsuff is sent to Greensboro to begin the long process of issuing paroles to the men of Johnston's army. As Mr. Dunkerly pointed out, it would be interesting to learn of the general's feelings, surrounded as he was by 30,000 Confederate troops! The process went well however, and by May many of the men are headed home. With the exception of a few other surrenders, the war had finally come to an end.

### **Record Turnout!**

We had over eighty people attend our last meeting. Committee member **Bruce Patterson** attributed it to a "perfect storm" of sorts. The weather cooperated and many folks came to ensure a seat at our dinner meeting next month (as well as to get one for our **March trip to**

**Charleston).** There were several new members, as well as visitors and guests and whatever the reason for the great crowd, let's see if we can do it again!





# The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

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## The *RUNNER*

### Newsletter of The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Editor **Bob Cooke**

December 2009

Our next meeting will be Thursday 14 January 2010 at St. Andrew's On-the-Sound  
(Airlie Rd.)

Social Hour at 6:30 p.m., meeting at 7:30 p.m.



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Our speaker "Kicking off the New Year" will be former member **Robert (Bert) Dunkerly**, who is currently a Park Ranger at Appomattox. Bert will discuss the closing battles of the Civil War at not only Appomattox, but also at Greensboro. Bert is a Revolutionary War scholar as well and his book, *Redcoats on the River* (Dram Tree Publishing Co.) was awarded the Clarendon Cup award last year by the Lower Cape Fear Historical Society. Please join us on Thursday (14 January) for yet another great year of speakers and camaraderie!



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To date we have well over forty persons signed up for our spring trip to Charleston. If you are considering going along, please let a committee member (**Dale Lear**, **Charles Watson** or **Bruce Patterson**) know as the bus we are looking at will seat forty-seven passengers. The trip promises to be a memorable one, with a side trip to Magnolia Cemetery as well as the main event, a behind-the-scenes tour of the *C.S.S. Hunley*. Also, if you have not made your choice as to sandwich-type, please let Dale Lear know what you would prefer.



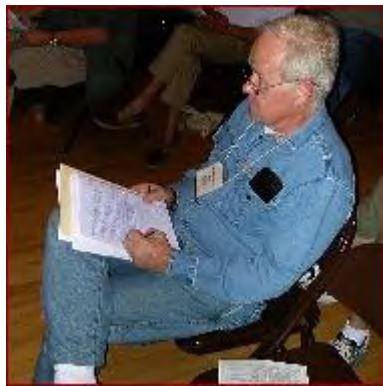
On Friday, 15 January, Fort Fisher State Historic Site will kick off the 145th anniversary of the Second Battle of Fort Fisher with a panel discussion (6 p.m.) at the Fisher Student Center (UNCW). The topic, "Black Men Bearing Freedom: U.S. Colored Troops and Their Impact on North Carolina" will be co-hosted by the University's Upperman African American Cultural



Center. For those of you wanting more action, there will be artillery and infantry demonstrations throughout the weekend. One will be able to walk through the grounds where Civil War era encampments will be set up (these are great photo opportunities!) There will also be a staged battle, evening lantern tours and a night firing (7:30 p.m.) of the fort's 32-pdr. Cannon. As the site

has warned, dress warmly and bring earplugs! There is a charge for the thirty-minute evening tours, \$5 for adults and \$3 for children. Tours will start at 5:30 p.m. with the last tour at 7:30 p.m..

On Saturday (16 January) Dr. Richard Reid, author of *Freedom for Themselves: North Carolina's Black Soldiers in the Civil War Era*, will speak on his book. On Sunday musicians will be performing throughout the day, while local authors will be selling and signing their books. For more information, you may call the Site at 910.458.5538 or visit their website at [www.nchistoricsites.org/fisher/](http://www.nchistoricsites.org/fisher/).



Member (and editor of this newsletter!)

Bob Cooke, gave a wonderful presentation of Civil War Wilmington at our last meeting. It was not the staid, genteel town it had once been; indeed the war altered the town so much so that former residents left for more peaceful climes. As one attendee commented, it is astounding that Wilmington and indeed the Confederacy was able to fight such a



massive war and to have lasted for four long years! Bob's book, *Wild, Wicked, Wartime Wilmington* is available at Books-a-Million.

Bruce Patterson







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# The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

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## The *RUNNER*

### Newsletter of The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Editor **Bob Cooke**

November 2009

Our next meeting will be Thursday 10 December 2009 at St. Andrew's On-the-Sound  
(Airlie Rd.)

Social Hour at 6:30 p.m., meeting at 7:30 p.m.



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Our next speaker will be member (and editor!) **Bob Cooke**. Bob, who relocated from the northeast to southeastern N.C. in 1995, will speak about his new book, *Wild, Wicked, Wartime Wilmington: Being an Account of Murder, Malice and Other Assorted Mayhem in N.C.'s Largest City During the Civil War!* Bob, who has always had an interest in American History (and the Civil War in particular) has been a Tour Guide at several Cape Fear historical sites and is the current vice-president of the Cape Fear Round Table. The book is the culmination of several years of research into the subject of what life was like on the home front in Wilmington during the war and Bob will tell us about not only the problems the military and civilian authorities encountered, but what the doctors, the blockade runners and the railroads were doing to support the war effort.

Al Hines  
Webmaster



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**Helmira** on Earth

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Member **Richard Triebe** delivered what was promised! It was a closer look at the fate of the Confederate soldiers marched off to prison camps upon the fall of Fort Fisher. While some of those men were sent to Point Lookout, Fortress Monroe, Fort Delaware or Fort Columbus, many of them (Richard pegged the number at 1,132) wound up in the infamous Elmira prison. Located by the banks of the Chemung River in south central New York state (about 15 miles from the Pennsylvania border), the camp had originally been constructed as Union training grounds to hold anywhere from 2,500 to 3,000 men.

Using a member of the 40th NCT- Thaddeus C. Davis' account of the fall of Fort Fisher and the subsequent trip to the prison, Mr. Triebe related how the prisoners overcoats and blankets, having been stored in their barracks, were burned when the Union naval bombardment set those buildings afire. Being sent northward, without suitable warm clothing, ensured that many would fall ill, even

before entering the prison gates.

The Fort Fisher prisoners and indeed, virtually all captives held by the Union authorities were victims of a new policy towards them, one espoused by the U.S. Secretary of War, Edwin Stanton. This new policy, a policy of retribution, whereby food rations were deliberately reduced, compounded the distress of many of those detained in prisons throughout the north. The normal ration for a POW was that of a regular soldier, but letters to newspapers and testimony given before Congress by former Union prisoners swayed government officials (including Stanton) to strike back at the most defenseless Southern soldiers: those under their control.

Stanton's policy, although officially rejected when it was vetoed by President Lincoln, was applauded by the U.S. commissary general of prisoners, Colonel William Hoffman, himself a released POW. Hoffman's rationale was since POWs were "sedentary", they did not require as much food as a regular trooper, so their rations were cut to 2/3rds (at Elmira it was said the rations were reduced even more, to as little as 1/4 of what it had been).

In 1864, as the war progressed, the prison at Point Lookout had become overcrowded, so some men were sent off to Elmira, where those from Fort Fisher would soon arrive at. As Thad Davis recounted: "We arrived about eight o'clock in the evening, in four feet of snow, and many prisoners had neither blankets nor coats. We were kept standing in ranks ... for half an hour before starting for the prison .... We were ... robbed of all valuables ...; then sent to the barracks- board shanties about fifty feet long, containing one stove. Our beds were planks without blankets. There were about seven thousand prisoners confined there[.]"

At its peak, Elmira lodged around ten thousand prisoners who were not allowed to receive any packages nor were given even the most rudimentary medical attention, indeed, the surgeon at the post (Dr. Sanger) was heard to remark that he had "killed more rebels in his camp than any officer in battle" (some say he personally killed many by overdosing them with drugs as he was a

drug user himself). The death rate varied from over 200 to 400 per month (February 1865). The water supply was in large measure responsible for many deaths. Foster's Pond, a small tributary of the Chemung had become diseased and spread dysentery throughout the camp. There were plans afoot to alleviate the water problem by having the prisoners dig a canal whereby the pond would drain back into the river, but Secretary Stanton's refusal to assent to the project delayed it until the winter when the ground was too hard to break.

As statistics became an important tool to measure how well (or badly) a camp was doing, the federal government took pains to show that the percentages of Union soldiers who died in southern camps (Andersonville in particular) was higher than those who perished while in Union hands. Actually, using Mr. Triebe's methodology, whereby he looked at how many POWs actually made it home (many "died en route"), the death rate at Elmira climbed to 25%. The death rate at Andersonville was somewhat higher, at nearly 29%, but it must be remembered (as Mr. Triebe pointed out) that while at Andersonville, there was nothing (no railroad to bring in supplies, no food), Elmira had everything (it was on the main line and the farmers had a bumper crop that year). You might also be surprised to learn that yet another northern prison camp had the highest death rate of all- Camp Alton, Illinois saw a 31% death rate!

[In addition to Mr. Triebe's talk, the editor also referred to member Walter M. Bullard's research on Corporal Dennis L. Carlisle, Co. D, 51st NCT, who is interred at Woodlawn National Cemetery in Elmira. It was also quite interesting to note that member Royal Palmer mentioned that an ancestor of his died at Elmira.]





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# The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

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## The *RUNNER*

### Newsletter of The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Editor **Bob Cooke**

October 2009

Our next meeting will be Thursday 12 November 2009 at St. Andrew's On-the-Sound  
(Airlie Rd.)

Social Hour at 6:30 p.m., meeting at 7:30 p.m.



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**Richard Triebe** is a historian and writer living in Wilmington; he has an Associate's Degree in Marine Technology and this interest in the sea is reflected in his writings. Author of two novels, **Richard** will speak on his third (soon to be published) book titled: *Fort Fisher to Elmira: The Deadly Journey of 514 Confederate Prisoners*. This work will certainly shed new light on what was a tragic (and much neglected) era in our nation's history. **Richard's** hobbies include writing and learning about the Civil War and he is a member not only of our RT, but also the Coastal Carolina Writer's Guild. Please join us for good snacks, good company and a good lecture!

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#### Raffle Winners:

*Fields of Honor*- John Winecoff

*Black Soldiers in Blue*- Ed Hickmon

*Colonel Lamb*- Dick Covell

*The Idiots Guide to the Civil War*- John Bolger

*Ironclads and Columbiads*- Ed Gibson

*Battles and Leaders*- Alan Broadwater

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## A Few Notices:

There will be a fundraising banquet at the Duplin Winery (505 North Sycamore Street) in Rose Hill, N.C. on November 16th and 17th. The featured speaker for both events will be the “Pied Piper of History”, **Edwin C. Bearss**, (Head Historian Emeritus, National Park Service) who will certainly enthrall attendees with (Monday, 16 November): **Terry’s** Push Through Duplin County and (Tuesday, 17 November) **Foster’s** Attacks on Warsaw and Kenansville. The benefit is to raise monies to preserve what remains of the site of the Civil War Confederate States Armory (also known as the Sword factory). The cost of the affairs are: \$40 per person for the Monday event, which includes a chicken dinner and likewise, \$40 for the event on Tuesday (pork dinner). For both events, the cost will be \$70. To reserve a seat, or for more information, you may call 1.800.774.9634 or 910.289.3888. Several authors will also be on hand, including **John W. McAden, Jr.**, **Dr. Chris E. Fonvielle** and **Dr. Lynn Veach Sadler**. There will also be a display (said to be the largest in the country) of the Sword Factory’s products: swords, bowie knives and bayonets.



**Tom Belton** of the North Carolina Museum of History talked to a group of about forty-five members and guests at our October meeting. Discussing the collection of Civil War flags held by the Museum, he first led us through their production, materials utilized and survival rate. Beginning with the Confederate national flags, **Mr. Belton** went on to cover regimental battle flags (many of which had battles or “battle honors” painted on them), the headquarters flag of General L.O’B. Branch, captured federal flags, state flags and even post-war organizational banners.

In battle, flags represented not only a company or regiment but family and country as well and were used to align troops or serve as a rallying point. The American Civil War was very likely the last war which saw flags carried into battle. **Mr. Belton** also mentioned the flag of the First Rhode Island Cavalry, captured by the Fifth N.C. cavalry in June 1863 and recently returned to that state. Hopes that Rhode Island would reciprocate by returning a captured North Carolina flag seemed to be in vain, however. He informed his listeners that the arrangements made early on had fallen through and it now appears that the flag will remain in Rhode Island .... Too bad.



## Your Attention Please!

A bulletin from the North Carolina Historic Sites!

The 145th Anniversary of the American Civil War in North Carolina is fast approaching:

16-17 January 2010- the Second Battle of Fort Fisher

20-21 February 2010- the Battle of Fort Anderson

20-21 March 2010- the Battle of Bentonville

17-18 April 2010- the Surrender at Bennett Place

(Let’s not forget the First Battle of Fort Fisher- 24-27 December 2009!)



**Also... Did you know that in 1859 ... “Daniel Emmett, a songwriter for a traveling show called Bryant’s Minstrels....was approached to pen a new ditty for a performance[.] He soon had the music and began the song with the line, ‘I wish I was in Dixie.’ These words did not profess a yearning for his southern home (Emmett was born in Ohio), but rather the warmer climate where the production companies would travel to escape the harsh northern winters.” [from *Best Little Stories of the Blue and Gray with “General’s Wives*, by C. Brian Kelly and Ingrid Smyer-Kelly; book review in *Military Heritage*, April 2007].**

**We wish everyone a Happy (and safe) Thanksgiving and look forward to seeing you all at our December meeting as well!**





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# The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

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## The *RUNNER*

### Newsletter of The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Editor **Bob Cooke**

September 2009

Our next meeting will be Thursday 08 October 2009 at St. Andrew's On-the-Sound  
(Airlie Rd.)

Social Hour at 6:30 p.m., meeting at 7:30 p.m.

"Summer Edition"



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Once again **Mr. Tom Belton** of the North Carolina Museum of History will address our Round Table, this time on the subject of the museum's flag collection. The N.C. Museum of History has the "second largest collection of Confederate flags in a single collection. Titled "The Civil War Flag Collection in the North Carolina Museum of History", his program will examine North Carolina state flags, Confederate first and second national pattern flags, battle flags, company flags, captured Federal flags, as well as flags of post-war organizations and recent acquisitions.

Mr. Belton is a native of Surry County who attended public schools in Raleigh and received his BA and MA from NC State, has worked at the museum for 31 years. Tom, married with a daughter who lives in Atlanta, also informs us that he had ancestors who served in Company H (the "Mountain Tigers"), 21st Regiment N.C. State Troops.

Interestingly, Mr. Belton, military curator at the museum, was in the news recently. The museum donated a captured Civil War flag of the First Rhode Island Cavalry back to the Rhode Island National Guard, "in the hopes the gesture will be reciprocated." The Fifth N.C. Cavalry had made the capture in June 1863. Rhode Island soldiers captured a North Carolina flag at the battle of New Bern in March 1862 and it is this flag it is hoped will be returned to North Carolina. Please join us as Mr. Belton discusses several of the many flags in the collection!

## Raffle Winners:

*Oldest Living CSA Widow*- Tim Barton; *John Brown* - Ed Hickmon *Robert E. Lee*- John Bolger; *Civil War Curiosities*- Tom O'Donnell *Gettysburg*- Mary Royal; *Confederate States Navy*- Gary Henderson

And the winner of our grand prize, *Louis Froelich: Arms Maker to the Confederacy*- **Dick Covell**.

Thanks to those who donated the raffle items and also to **Becky Sawyer** .and **Ed Hickmon**. who generously gave up their prizes!

Member **Jack Travis** has informed us that on (Saturday) 24 October, at the gravestone of Major James Reilly in Oakdale Cemetery (Section H, 10E) there will be a ceremony at the placement of a military marker to honor Major Reilly's memory. The dedication will take place at 10 A.M...

Reilly, it will be recalled, was an Ordnance Sergeant in the "Old Army" at the outbreak of war and it was he who surrendered the keys to Fort Caswell (after obtaining a receipt for the ordnance in the fort!) and who later joined the CSA and rose to the rank of Major. When Colonel Lamb was wounded at the Second Battle of Fort Fisher, Reilly assumed command "and covered himself with glory at the fall." Descendents, the UDC, SCV and Military Order of the Stars and Bars will be on hand, as well as Confederate reenactors from the 20th N.C. State Troops. Jack has told us that a "full Confederate military salute will be given by the reenactors, Adams Battery and the Fort Fisher cannon cockers. Member John Golden will provide the music.

## Blockade Running- An Island Perspective.,

At our last meeting. **Mr. Jeff Bockert** spoke to us about an interesting aspect of blockade running- the Caribbean islands where the transshipments occurred. How those blockade running goods actually got to Wilmington was discussed. Covering Nassau in the Bahamas and St. George (Bermuda), Mr. Bockert stated that virtually all the goods that came to Wilmington came from the islands.



Nassau, which was really a "backwater" of the British Empire, was garrisoned by nearly 1,000 British troops. The islands were financially destitute with "wrecking" a major business. Many of the colonist were former Southerners who fled the U.S. after the American Revolution and were thus, very pro-Confederate.

Ships coming from England were quick to learn that by stopping first at New York, they could obtain the required customs clearance and then continue on unmolested to the islands. When the Union government found out what was happening, they then required a large bond to ensure the vessel would not divert their cargo to a Southern port.

Early in the war, ship's captains carried out the trade arrangements, by 1862, agents were sent abroad to supervise (and safeguard) government cargoes. Throughout the war, ship's captains (and many times the crew) were allowed their own space on board, giving them a larger stake in the business, in addition to their pay.



**The amount of money passing through the islands transformed them. Property values went up, sailors spent freely while captains and Confederate officials "wined and dined" merchants at the Royal Victoria Hotel (which is still extant) in Nassau. One visitor reported that so many languages were heard there that it was like the "Tongues of Babel."**

**When Wilmington fell in February 1865, there were several vessels prepared to make the run to Wilmington. "The islands role in the struggle was invaluable and the rewards received in return were no less valuable to their welfare and no less fleeting."**

**The islands economy suffered greatly and they returned to the backwater they once were, although there was resurgence during the era of prohibition. The islands were once again used as a port of transshipment for contraband cargoes of alcohol.**





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# The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

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## The *RUNNER*

### Newsletter of The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Editor **Bob Cooke**

June 2009

Our next meeting will be Thursday 10 September 2009 at St. Andrew's On-the-Sound  
(Airlie Rd.)

Social Hour at 6:30 p.m., meeting at 7:30 p.m.

“Summer Edition”



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Summer is upon us and our RT is on recess until September, but please keep in mind that we are always looking for speakers for our meetings (we only utilize the very best) and Civil War related articles for our newsletter! Please have a wonderful, enjoyable and safe summer and we look forward to seeing you in September.

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Please mark your calendar on 16 June (the third Tuesday) and be sure to attend member [Richard Triebe's](#) talk on the Confederate POWs captured at Fort Fisher. He will speak at 7 p.m. at the Southport Community Building (E. Moore St.). For more information contact the NC Maritime Museum at 457-6699 or by e-mail at [info@friendsncmmsouthport.org](mailto:info@friendsncmmsouthport.org)

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At our May meeting, our past president, **Dr. Chris E. Fonvielle, Jr.**, and his co-author (*Louis Froelich: Arms Maker to the Confederacy*) **John W. McAden, Jr.** held the audience captive with their dual approach to examining the war-time enterprise of Louis Froelich. As **Dr. Fonvielle**



discussed his research, which due to a real lack of historical information, he likened to searching for a needle in a haystack, **Mr. McAden** held up an actual Froelich edged weapon and described it in detail. It is unknown when Froelich arrived in America, but by 1861, he was involved in the manufacture of buttons and cannonballs!

Situated in Wilmington on Surry Street, between Church and Queen Streets, his Confederate Arms Factory was soon churning out all sorts of edged weapons; from bayonets, cavalry sabers, short swords, lances and bowie knives (many of which John gladly showed to a most interested group), all were produced in Wilmington until Froelich, fearful of both the threatened Union attack as well as yellow fever which was, by the summer and fall of 1862, was washing like a tidal wave over the town, he shut down his factory. No sooner had he again begun operating his factory then a fire swept through the premises. It was at this point that Froelich moved his factory to Kenansville, where he again began producing weapons for both the state and Confederate government.

Unfortunately for Froelich, Kenansville was the target for a Union cavalry raid in July 1863. He suffered the loss of several building which were burned to the ground, but was once again turning out not only swords and bayonets but also farm tools, buttons, surgical equipment and knapsacks. Our thanks to **Dr. Fonvielle** and **Mr. McAden** for a great evening's talk!

P.S. Our RT purchased two volumes of *Louis Froelich: Arms Maker to the Confederacy*. One is to be raffled off at our September "kick-off" meeting while the other (leather-bound) will be raffled off at our annual dinner meeting. Be sure to be there for both and get two chances to win! Speaking of raffles:

### Raffle Winners

*Confederate Navy Quiz book*- Mary Royal  
*Gettysburg*- Ed Gibson  
*Fort Fisher*- Cris Mowrey  
*Civil War Commanders*- John Winecoff  
*Tarnished Eagles*- Bob Cooke  
*Robert E. Lee print*- Paul Codull  
*The Fighting McCooks*- Bob Cooke  
*Wild, Wicked Wilmington*- John Winecoff





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# The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

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## The *RUNNER*

### Newsletter of The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Editor **Bob Cooke**

May 2009

Our next meeting will be 14 May 2009 at St. Andrew's On-the-Sound (Airlie Rd.)

Social Hour at 6:30 p.m., meeting at 7:30 p.m.



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Our speaker for the May meeting is our own **Dr. Chris E. Fonvielle, Jr.** As past president of the **CFCWRT**, Chris is well known to our members, as well as the community at large. **Dr. Fonvielle** and **John McAden, Jr.** will speak to the RT about their new book, *Louis Froelich: Arms-Maker to the Confederacy*. Froelich was a Bavarian-born industrial engineer who immigrated to the United States in 1860. When the Civil War broke out in April 1861, Froelich was living with his wife and children in Wilmington, North Carolina. He soon established the Wilmington Sword Factory (later renamed the Confederate Arms Factory) to supply the Confederacy and the state with swords, sabers, bayonets and knives. Froelich moved his operations to Kenansville, North Carolina, after fore destroyed his Wilmington plant. Froelich was the largest supplier of edged weapons to North Carolina during the war.

**Chris Fonvielle** teaches in the Department of History at UNC Wilmington. He is the author of books and articles on Civil War and Cape Fear history, including *The Wilmington Campaign: Last Rays of Departing Hope* and *Historic Wilmington and the Lower Cape Fear: An Illustrated History*.

Please join us for what promises to be a most interesting meeting!



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**Raffle Winners**

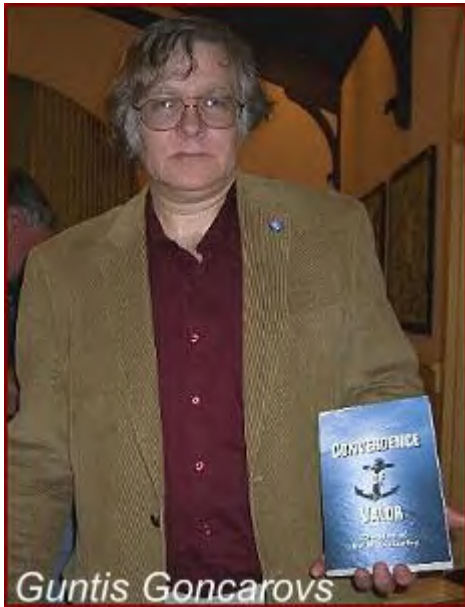
*Sea of Gray*- **Bill Carshaw**  
*Grant Comes East*- **Steve Gunter**  
*Secession Debated*- **Tommy Morgan**  
*Never Call Retreat*- **Joe George**  
*Grant and Sherman*- **Steve Gunter**  
*Print of Fort Fisher* - **John Winecoff**  
*Convergence of Valor*- **Bob Cooke**

### Grand Prize Winner!

(Bruce Catton's 3 volume set)- **Ed Hickmon**



Lieutenant George E. Dixon, Arnold Becker, “Seamus” Lumpkin (possibly Simpkins), Frank Collins, J.F. Carlsen, Samuel Miller, James A. Wicks and Joseph Ridgaway, names which have only recently surfaced with the raising of the C.S.S. *Hunley* off Charleston, South Carolina. They have now attracted much interest because they are the last crew of that vessel and the first to successfully sink an enemy warship in an undersea attack. Just how these men came together at that time was the subject of our April speaker, **Guntis Goncarovs**. *Convergence of Valor* is the apt title of his book which investigates and gathers together what is known about these seamen. Forensic pathologists put together an impressive report on how they lived, (some had hard lives) while historians delved into the past to find bits of information that tied the men together even before serving on the *Hunley*. As an example of what he has discovered, **Mr. Goncarovs** said that Seaman Arnold Becker, a European sailor, had worked on riverboats before the war and had likely known George Dixon who also worked on the Mississippi steamers. The true convergence seems to have come aboard the C.S.S. *Indian Chief*, a naval receiving ship. Fully five of the men came from that vessel, not unusual at all, as **Mr. Goncarovs** pointed out, it was where an officer would go to fill out his crew. At least three of the crew were from Europe (Becker, Miller and Carlsen), only three of them were “true Southerners”: Ridgaway, Collins and Wicks.



Incidentally, the *Hunley* is still available for tours. Housed at the Warren Lasch Conservation Center in Charleston, a tour consists of being able to see the vessel in: “its 90,000 gallon conservation tank. Feel what it was like to be on the *Hunley* through interactive exhibits. Facial reconstructions of the *Hunley* crew. National Geographic documentary *Raising the Hunley* and model from [the] TNT movie the *Hunley*. Artifacts found during excavation of the submarine, including the legendary gold coin that saved the *Hunley* Captain’s life. Replica of the *Pioneer*, an early *Hunley* prototype.

Tours are open every Saturday from 10am to 5pm and Sunday 12pm to 5pm. For more information go to [www.hunley.org](http://www.hunley.org) or call 1.877.4HUNLEY (1.877.448.6539)

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**Dr. Chris E. Fonvielle** will also be presenting *Wilmington in the Balance*, a series of talks (two) and walks (1) in May. On Tuesday, 12 May at 7pm, “City at War” will “explore Wilmington’s transition from a quiet seaport to the most important city of the Confederacy. The following Tuesday (19 May) also at 7pm, **Dr. Fonvielle** will have you “Visualize Union and Confederate perspectives from the siege of Fort Fisher to the capture of Wilmington.” Both talks will be at the Cape Fear Museum (814 Market St.)

On Saturday 16 May, at 10am, he will lead a walk through Oakdale Cemetery (420 N. 15th St.) “Stories of Wilmington’s War Dead” is the third in the series sponsored by the Cape Fear Museum, the Bellamy Mansion the Historic Wilmington Foundation and the Lower Cape Fear Historical Society.

All three events- \$25; any two events- \$20; one event- \$10. For reservations contact Gareth Evans- 910.762.2511 or on line at [garethevans@historicwilmington.org](mailto:garethevans@historicwilmington.org)

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# The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

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## The *RUNNER*

### Newsletter of The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Editor **Bob Cooke**

April 2009

Our next meeting will be 9 April 2009 at St. Andrew's On-the-Sound (Airlie Rd.)

Social Hour at 6:30 p.m., meeting at 7:30 p.m.



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Our April speaker, **Guntis Goncarvos**, is a chemist by profession but a historian at heart! He has a BS in Chemistry from Charter Oak College in Connecticut and has worked in the nuclear power industry as a radio chemist and Chemistry Supervisor for over 28 years. He recently relocated from North Carolina, where he worked for Progress Energy, to New Hampshire where he now works for FPL Energy. He and his wife Joan have three daughters, one at Purdue University where she is a staff veterinarian, another is an attorney in Boston, and the youngest is attending the University of Rhode Island.

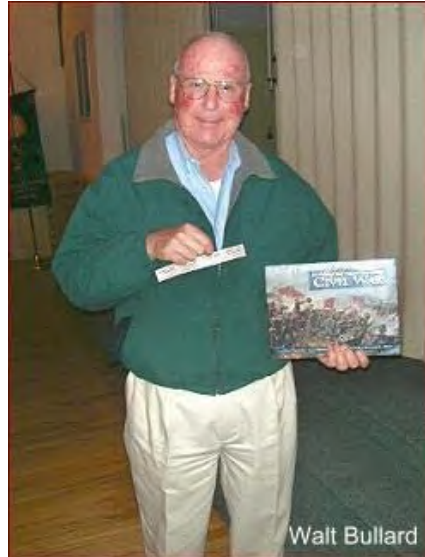
*Convergence of Valor*, published in late 2003 “was sparked by the recovery of the *H.L. Hunley* in 2000. **Mr Goncarvos** was particularly interested in the forensic reconstruction of the faces of the *Hunley's* final crew. While following developments, he learned that four of the eight sailors were recent European immigrants. Research into the men's lives revealed that two of the men, Miller and Lumpkin had mysteriously sparse backgrounds. Using known facts, he worked a story around the men and their parts in the events that led to the sinking of the *Housatonic* on February 17, 1864. Please join us Thursday evening for what promises to be yet another great talk!



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**Raffle Winners**

*Songs of the Civil War-* **Richard Riano**  
*Glory in Thy Name-* **Al Hines**  
*This Hallowed Ground-* **Charles Watson**  
*The History of the 117th New York Volunteers-* **Palmer Royal**  
*The Last to Die-* **Ed Gibson**  
*Under Custer's Command-* **Bruce Patterson**



Grand prize winner - *Don Troiani's Civil War-* **Walt Bullard** (welcome back Walt!)



At our March meeting, **Mr. Brian Kraus** did indeed set the stage for our upcoming trip to New Bern. Beginning with uniforms and accoutrements that were worn and carried by the Union and Confederate troops, he indicated that on the day of the battle in March 1862, the men of both sides looked quite similar. It had rained heavily the preceding day, so much so that many of the Northerners rifles failed to fire because they had not “kept their powder dry.” The rain also caused their wooden stocks to swell so much so that the ramrods could not be withdrawn. Many of the Union regiments went into battle knowing they could only fire one or two shots, so they were ordered to fix bayonets. With audience participation, he showed how the troops were aligned and sent forward, elbow to elbow.

Knowing that the successful attack of **Union General Ambrose Burnside** on the coast of North Carolina would lead to further incursions, the Confederates prepared to defend the deep-water port (and its two rail lines) of New Bern. The Confederate general in overall command was **Lawrence O'Bryan Branch**, a well-known pre-war politician. Branch had taken to military command and was good at it. Unfortunately, he erred in the placement of his troops (he had between 4,000 and 4,500 men) and



when the battle commenced, it was found that the untried militia was holding the center of the line. The militia were flanked by the 35th NC regiment. That unit had, according to Mr. Kraus, undergone a terrific bombardment by U.S. Navy gunships the day prior when they were sent to Fisher's Landing to oppose the Union amphibious assault. As they were quite "skittish" about being shelled again, the Confederate line began to waver as the first U.S. soldiers hit them.

Burnside's men numbered around eleven thousand, along with several gunboats that could ply up the Trent River and shell the Southern defenders. The militiamen withstood but two volleys from the attackers before fleeing from their position. In General Branch's report he wrote: "The militia had now abandoned their positions, and the utmost exertions of myself and my staff could not rally them. Colonel Sinclair's regiment [the 35th] very quickly followed their example, retreating in the utmost disorder."

While the center of the line was disintegrating, the 26th NC, commanded by future Governor Zebulon B. Vance, was holding back the attackers on the Confederate right flank. Soon however, they began to realize, as they took fire from their left, that they had been flanked. A general withdrawal ensued; one that soon became a rout. The Confederates finally reformed their line at Kinston. The losses were as follows: CSA- 64 dead and 89 wounded; USA- 88 dead and 370 wounded. Although the numbers listed are not like those of later Virginia battlefields, Mr. Krause pointed out that based on the lower numbers of men engaged, the percentage of killed and wounded is notably higher than other battles.

New Bern was lost to the Confederacy and although several attempts were made to recapture it, the city would serve the Union well as a strong enclave throughout the war. It would be from New Bern that raids were dispatched to strike the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad.



**EXTRA ! EXTRA ! EXTRA !**

**Burnside Visits New Bern (and stayed a while)**



(Images provided by **Ann Hertzler**)



Rain threatened throughout Saturday, 28 March 2009 when 25 members, friends and guests of your Cape Fear Civil War Round Table traveled by chartered bus to the New Bern Battlefield. The weather, in fact, was not unlike the conditions that existed in that strategic port city when Brigadier Ambrose E. Burnside landed his expeditionary force on the south bank of the Neuse River and approached New Bern.

Noted Civil War artist and historian Brian Kraus had set the stage for our tour with his splendid presentation to the Round Table earlier in March. At that time and again during the tour, Brian

emphasized his talk by showing the weathered uniforms of the North Carolina 33rd Infantry with their signature “black tabs”, soldiers field equipment and finally a Enfield rifle and bayonet.

The battlefield today consists of some 27 acres of the original site of the assault on New Bern. The redans built by the Confederate troops have (remarkably) been undisturbed for the 147 years and except for tree growth, look exactly as they did in 1862. Likewise, Fort Thompson, an earthen fort overlooking the Neuse and anchoring the Confederate left flank remains in pristine condition.

General Burnside led some 11,000 Union troops towards New Bern. Confederate forces numbering some 4,500 inexperienced and ill-equipped troops were led by General Laurence O’ Bryan Branch, a politician with little military experience. General Branch was determined to



Chaille and Lance serving the troops....

defend New Bern at a line of entrenchments that ran from Fort Thompson on the Neuse, inland to the edge of a deep swampy backwater called Bullen’s Branch. This defensive line was cut (almost in the middle) by the



Fisher’s Landing - image by Ann Hertzler

Atlantic & North Carolina Railroad tracks and it was in this sector that the Union troops broke through the Confederate line defended by the 33rd. The battle lasted some four hours. Casualties were high and although the 33rd Infantry Regiment was to fight many battles in the years to come, they rarely incurred losses as heavy as during this baptism of fire.

**Our tour retraced Burnside's line of march. We were able to walk the defensive positions, stand at Evan's Hill Redoubt (where Branch had positioned a two-gun section of artillery anchoring his right flank) and visualize the battle that Brian had memorialized in his painting Baptism of Fire, a copy of which was provided to each member.**

**This was a most successful tour, thanks to the combined efforts of several members coupled with the professional expertise of our tour director. The best testimonial was from several members who want to know where we are going next year.**

**Bruce Patterson**





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# The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

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## The *RUNNER*

### Newsletter of The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Editor **Bob Cooke**

March 2009

Our next meeting will be 12 March 2009 at St. Andrew's On-the-Sound (Airlie Rd.)

Social Hour at 6:30 p.m., meeting at 7:30 p.m.

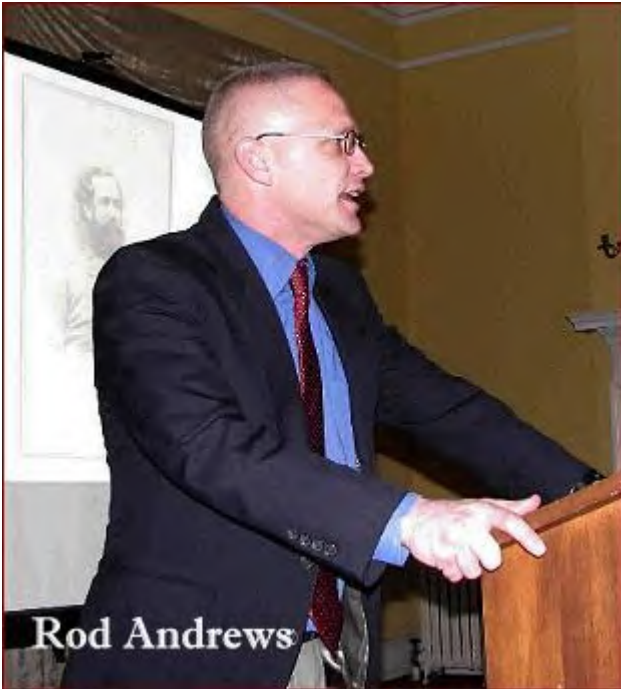


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Setting the stage for our March trip to New Bern, **Mr. Brian Kraus** will speak about the 1862 battle. Mr. Kraus, well known to our Round Table, "lives along the coast, in the Morehead City area." Born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Mr. Kraus has also lived in Miami, Florida. Mr. Kraus is an Art teacher in neighboring Craven County, who has taught dependents of the Marine Corps and Navy personnel for many years. For many years he also owned and operated a successful landscaping business. It is in the attention to detail that shows in his art work, details of terrain and plant species, that insures a more realistic and accurate scene portrayal. He has also been a Civil War reenactor with the **1st NC Vols./ 11th N.C. Troops**, again with a mind to better understand the soldier experience, not only tactics, but the sights, sounds and smells that reenacting imparts.

At our last meeting **Mr. Kraus** offered us a teaser: we may well be able to visit Fort Thompson, now in private ownership. Please join us for what promises to be a great (and informative) meeting. Also, see **Bruce Patterson** and make your reservations for our spring trip!





At our February meeting, a near-record gathering of some sixty-four members and guests of the RT were treated to a great talk, good food AND camaraderie. Our speaker, **Rod Andrews, Jr.**, presently teaching at Clemson University, talked about the subject of his newest book, *Wade Hampton*. Speaking not only of Hampton during the war, **Mr. Andrews** continued with Hampton's post-war career, "Tragedy and Vindication." Only one of three men who rose to the rank of Lieutenant General in the Confederate



army, he was the only one who had no prior military experience; he was, however, a natural-born leader who took command of the Confederate Cavalry after the death of J.E.B. Stuart in 1864. As **Mr. Andrews** pointed out, at that point of the war, the South was pretty well beaten, but Hampton, his men and a host of others didn't know that. They continued to fight on for nearly a year!

It was the later years that came into closer scrutiny as **Mr. Andrews** discussed Hampton's view on race. Some have portrayed him as a racial moderate, others as a leader of the KKK. One thing was certain: in South Carolina for many whites, he was viewed as the "symbol" of their future. **Mr. Andrews** also pointed out that during his tenure as Governor, one-hundred sixteen blacks were appointed to office and many black leaders praised him for his even-handedness. But make no mistake about it, **Mr. Andrew** cautioned: Hampton was very much a white supremacist; that is, he believed in the superiority of whites and the inferiority of blacks. Hampton's main concerns after the war were to bring social peace and stability to "his people."

Vindication of the war (and the losses suffered therein) was very much the focus of his post war labors. Having lost a son at the Boyton Plank Road in October 1864, he believed his son and the others that had fallen, died as true heroes. Thus was born the mythology and culture of the "Lost Cause" that many Southerners grasped and held onto.



### Raffle Winners

*Charts of War* - **Betty Henderson**  
*Gray Phantoms of the Cape Fear* - **Marjorie George**  
*The Civil War on Coastal North Carolina* - **John Moore**

*General Robert F. Hoke: Lee's Modest Warrior* - **Ed Hickmon**  
*The Battle of New Market* - **Dale Lear**  
*The American Heritage Civil War* - **Mary Royal**  
*Civil War Trust Calendar* - **Ed Gibson**  
*The flag of North Carolina* - **Joe George**

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See our link to Richmond's Historic Tredegar (The American Civil War Center), [www.tredegar.org](http://www.tredegar.org) for information about upcoming events. March 12-14 there will be a conference at the University of Richmond: Lincoln and the South. Sponsored by the National Park Service and the University of Richmond, the conference will be moderated by Dr. James M. McPherson and will feature as speakers, David Blight (Yale University), Fitzhugh Brundage (UNC-CH), Michael Burlingame (U. of Connecticut) and a host of others.

Congratulations and kudos to member John Winecoff, not only for his write-up (and all-to-brief bio) in Sunday's Star-News, (8 March 2009) but also for being a valued member of the community and RT as well!





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# The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

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## The *RUNNER*

### Newsletter of The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Editor **Bob Cooke**

February 2009

Our next meeting will be 12 February 2009 at the Cape Fear Club, 206 Chestnut St. at 6:30 p.m.



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Our speaker for our dinner meeting at the renowned Cape Fear Club will be **Rod Andrew Jr.** who will speak on Wade Hampton. Join us for “An Evening With Wade Hampton” as **Mr. Andrews** expounds on his latest book, *Wade Hampton: Confederate Warrior to Southern Redeemer*. Mr. Andrew, a native of Wilmington and graduate of Hoggard High School, went on to get his degrees from UNC-Chapel Hill, Clemson University and (his PhD) from the University of Georgia (1997). Mr. Andrew served a stint in the Marine Corps (1989-1991) and has taught at both the University of Georgia as well as the Citadel. Rod is the son of Rod Andrew, Sr. More about Wade Hampton: He was one of the richest men in the pre-war South; he had no formal military training and yet rose to the second highest rank in the army. Starting out in the infantry, he became legendary when he assumed a cavalry command. One of his most famous deeds was staged in September 1864 when he raided north and returned with 2,500 head of much-needed cattle. Please join us on the 12th for what promises to be a great evening of camaraderie, food and Civil War history!



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From the *Star-News* (via Bruce Patterson):

**Confederate Raider Cannons Preserved.**

After more than eight years of work, scientists say two cannons from the Confederate raider **CSS Alabama** have been preserved at the same lab conserving another Civil War artifact, the Confederate submarine **H.L. Hunley**. [The work will be done at the Warren Lasch Conservation Center, located on Charleston's Old Naval Base.]

Lying in 200 feet of water off the coast of Cherbourg, France, the **C.S.S. Alabama** has given up two of the several guns she carried: six 32 pdrs. (mounted in broadside) and two pivot guns (one a 100-pdr. Blakely was lifted from the wreck in 1994, the other gun was a smooth-bore 8") constituted her armament. She was the most widely feared Confederate raider and also the most successful. After a battle with the **U.S.S. Kearsarge** that lasted nearly an hour and a half, the **Alabama** went under. She had fired 370 shots, her adversary, 173; the Union gunners proved to be better shots, although historians now seem to agree that the Alabama's gunners were hampered by the fact that they had bad gunpowder (damp powder and faulty fuses) and many shots failed to explode. One non-exploding shell hit the **Kearsarge's** room, another dud hit the rudder; either of these would have seriously injured the Union vessel and may have turned the tide of battle. The unexploded shell, stuck in the rudderpost, was later presented to President Lincoln as a trophy of war.

*Some more interesting facts:*

John Ancrum Winslow, Captain of the **U.S.S. Kearsarge** was a native of Wilmington, North Carolina. Captain Raphael Semmes surrendered to Union forces in Greensboro, North Carolina. Before the war, both men were friends and shared the same quarters when stationed aboard the **U.S.S. Raritan**. Well after the war had ended, (December 1865) Secretary of the Navy Gideon Welles ordered Semmes arrest on the charge that he had "violated the 'usages of war.'" Semmes would later be pardoned and set free, much to Welles' chagrin. In the Alabama Claims, Great Britain was forced to pay for the damages wrought by the Confederate raiders. She paid out \$15,500,000 in gold to the United States. Of that amount, the Alabama was responsible for \$6,750,000.



At our last meeting we were treated to an excellent talk by **Mr. Tom Belton** who brought to light the extraordinary collection of (Orderly Sergeant) **Alfred May** of the 61st North Carolina. Presently residing in the Museum of History at Raleigh, it is the most complete accoutrement collection of any Confederate soldier. Born in March 1843, **Alfred** was listed in the 1860 census as a "student" but would shortly afterwards enlist in Co. F of the 61st Regiment. **Alfred** had two older brothers, one of whom, Robert, would die in a Richmond hospital in 1864. The other, Benjamin, would suffer a head wound at Petersburg, but as for **Alfred**, he survived and served through the entire war. **May** served in the eastern part of the state, as well as at Charleston's battery Wagner and Savannah. In December 1864, **May's** regiment was sent to the aid of beleaguered **Fort Fisher** and participated in the battles at Wyse Fork's and Bentonville. His regiment was surrendered at Bennett Place in late



April 1865. As for **Alfred**, he lived until March, 1906.

After referring to the **May** collection as similar to the King Tut collection, Tom proved his statement by showing us slides of **May's** uniform, which initially suffered from insect damage. Kudos to those conservators who brought not only the uniform, but all the items in the collection (which had been stored in a trunk) back to life. He noted that there are less than 200 uniforms extant, most of those in private hands. Only 200 left from various sources: captures from the Union, through the blockade and from local manufacture.

The collection included **May's** rifle, indicating that **May** never officially surrendered. Most interesting about the various implements was a tool obviously designed for the Enfield rifle. Even the experts could not conclude exactly what it was for! **May's** cartridge box, although stiff from age, was X-rayed and showed it was full of cartridges. **May's** Colt pistol was also still loaded and required the assistance of the SBI to remove the rounds. Using compressed air, the Colt six-shooter was made safe.

A shelter half, knapsack, haversack, two canteens (one wooden, one metal) and a host of personal items were discovered in the old **May** trunk. The survival of the artifacts was due in large part, **Mr. Belton** told us, to not allowing the children to play with the items. The trunk was brought out at family reunions and the collection was shown to family members and then everything was packed away. My question, which will likely remain unanswered, is what was a sea shell doing in **May's** jacket pocket?



### Raffle Winners

Civil War Print- **Mark Lewis**

*Gordon of Khartoum*- **Joshua McLamb**

*Gettysburg*- **Dick Covell**

*Pearl Harbor*- **Jim Vaugh**

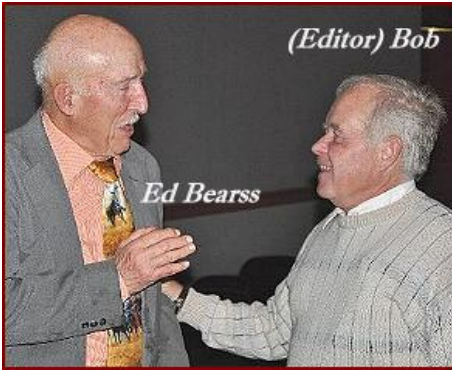
*Rebel Raiders*- **Ed Gibson**

*Potter's Raid*- **Becky Sawyer**

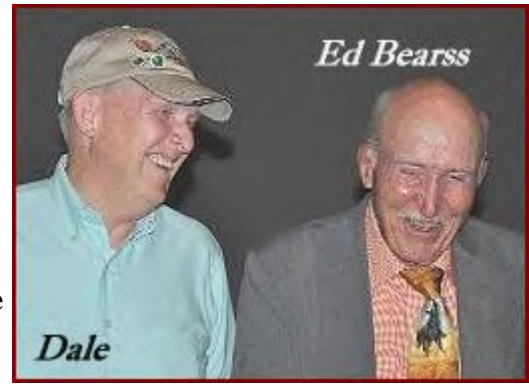
(Grand Prize)- *Don Troiani's Civil War*- **Gary Henderson**



### Prelude to Our Spring Trip



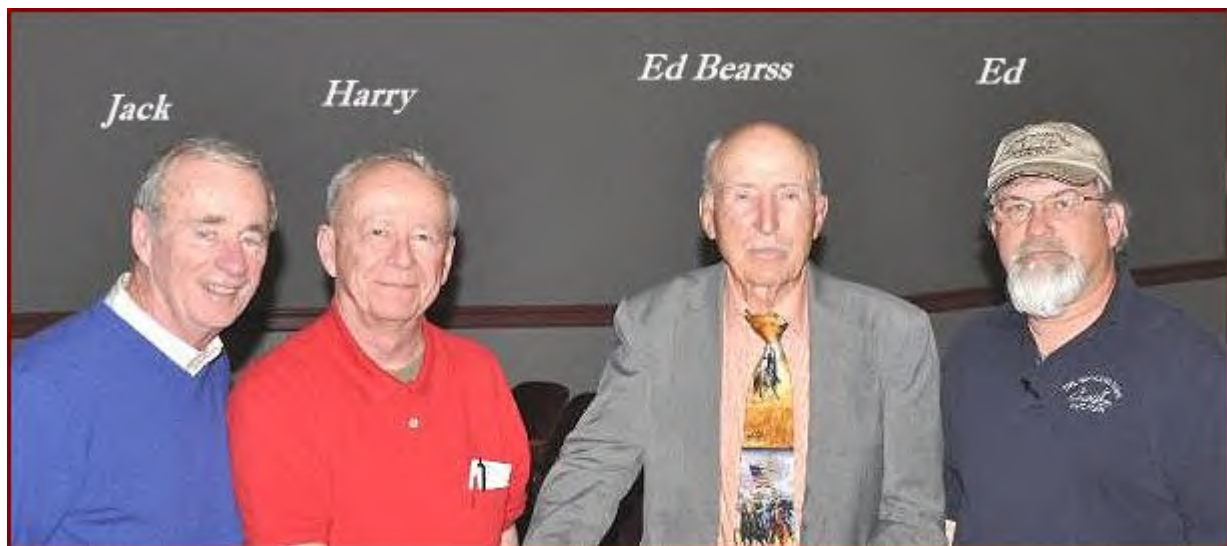
Several of our RT members traveled recently to New Bern where they were treated to a discourse on the battle that took place there in 1862 by the renowned historian, **Mr. Ed Bearss**. Meeting in the historic Masonic Temple, **Ed Gibson, Dale Lear,**



**Harry Clements** (thanks to **Harry Clements** for providing the images), **Lance Bevins, Jack McGarrie, Bob Cooke, Tim Winstead** and guest **Nathan Alexander** listened as Mr. Bearss set the stage with Burnside's successful attack on Roanoke Island in February 1862.

The following month the Federals moved on to the mainland with Federal gunboats shelling the landing site. As the Federals made their way towards the city, the Confederate defenders, numbering no more than four thousand, awaited the coming battle. Under the command of Lawrence O'Bryan Branch (who, as Mr. Bearss noted, had a short time to live), the men were spread from Fort Thompson across a line of entrenchments (including a brick yard) beyond the rail line. The Federals, after being stopped by a hot fire from the defenders, discovered a break in the confederate line at the brick yard. Concentrating their attack at this point, the Federals broke through and scattered most of the Confederates there. Seeing this breakthrough, the Union commander, General John Foster, ordered the entire brigade to charge. This charge carried the entire works and led to the loss of New Bern.

Mr. Bearss gave a brief biography of several of the participants in his own inimitable style and after the talk received a hearty round of applause. We were even able to snap a few photos with Mr. Bearss, who, as always, was quite genial. A reception followed Mr. Bearss' talk.







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# The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

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## The *RUNNER*

### Newsletter of The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Editor **Bob Cooke**

January 2009

Our next meeting will be 08 January 2009



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Our speaker for the New Year (January) will be **Tom Belton**, who will guide us (via a slide presentation) through the vast Alfred May Collection. May, who enlisted from Pitt County, served with the 61st North Carolina and at war's end brought home all his accoutrements. Donated by descendants of May to the N.C. Museum of History, this collection "makes up the biggest collection of artifacts associated with a N.C. enlisted soldier (and perhaps from any southern state.)" Mr. Belton is the president of the North Carolina Military History Society.

Tom is a native of Mt. Airy, NC. and attended public schools in Raleigh. He has a BA and MA in American History from NCSU. He has worked at the NC Museum of History for the past 30 years as curator of military history. He has a special interest in the museum's Confederate flag collection, which is the second largest in the South.



### **Reminder!**

Committee member - Dan Geddie

An evening with Wade Hampton

Date: February 12, 2009

Place: **Cape Fear Club** 206 Chestnut St Wilmington, NC



Time: 6:30 pm

This meeting will take place in historic downtown Wilmington, and the cost for dinner will be **\$27.00**. Please send all payments to the Round Table PO box: **CFCWRT PO Box 15750 Wilmington, NC 28408**

If you have any questions, please contact **Dan Geddie** : Work: **(910) 962-3144** Home: **(910) 799-5338**

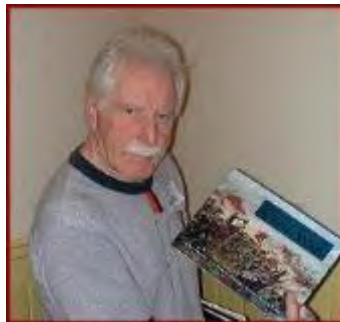


## Raffle Winners

Committee member - Ed Gibson

Civil War Print- **Jack McGarrie** *Scouts and Spies*- **Gary Maxwell**  
Civil War Map- **Bill Henderson** Civil War Jigsaw Puzzle- **Palmer**  
Royal CFCWRT Cap- **Ed Gibson** *Chattanooga*- **Sid Bowman**

*Witness to the Civil War*- **Gary Henderson**



**Grand Prize- Don Troiani's Civil War**  
**Gary Maxwell**





**Al Denn**



What an excellent choice for a "change of pace" meeting we had in December! Al Denn enlightened us to medicine, surgery and surgeons in America's "first civil war." It was quite apparent that not much had changed, at least in medical advances, between the Revolutionary War and the Civil War. General anesthesia (laudanum) had been found to be quite useful in operations during the Civil War, but before that, patients had to be restrained or plied with alcohol to ease their plight. As Al pointed out, many times during the Civil War, anesthesia was unavailable to surgeons and older methods had to be employed.

After a quick recap of medicinal advances throughout the ages, from the ancient healers who successfully performed "trepanning" (drilling a hole in the skull to relieve the pressure from head injuries) to the Greeks and Romans, Al brought us right into the world of 18th century medicine. By the 1700's practitioners used several forms of treatment including "scientific methods", folk lore, home remedies and Indian cures. One of the major problems at that time was a lack of shared knowledge between physicians, surgeons and even apothecaries. The physician, he explained, was usually of the gentlemanly class, who practiced among the gentry. The surgeon was the common folks' caregiver while the apothecary, who, of necessity had to be skilled in botany, gathered his herbs on his wanderings through the woods.

Al talked about hospitals- "Don't go there!" was the attitude of many patients. Indeed, with a 75% death rate, hospitals of the 18th century (quite basic) were to be avoided at all costs. Surgery was "very rudimentary and superficial", limited to the removal of tumors, amputations and the removal of bullets. One of the qualifications of a doctor was to be able to perform an amputation in three minutes or less. There were epidemics to fight, small pox, typhus, typhoid fever, yellow fever, diphtheria, dengue fever, malaria as well as the common cold and influenza, all plagued the colonist (as well as the Civil War soldier.)

Together with his slide presentation and his display of medical instruments, (which included very primitive dental tools) Mr. Denn's talk was most enjoyable and enlightening. Many attendees

were most thankful he did not ask for volunteers to show how some of those instruments (or leeches) were used!

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## For Sale

In conjunction with member **Lance Bevins**, Bruce Patterson can now offer Don Troiani's (Civil War) masterful book of Civil War prints for sale at our meetings. We have purchased several copies of the work which normally retails for \$50 and are offering the work at the special (post-Christmas) price of \$25

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## We Hardly Knew You, Ed.

It is with profound sadness we report the death of one of our long-time members, **Mr. Edward B. Russ, Jr.** Although in ill health recently, Ed attended a meeting not long ago and seemed to be on the road to full recovery. He passed away on December 19th at the age of sixty-two. A Vietnam veteran who served fourteen years in the Air Force, he had worked at Wal-Mart as a greeter (the perfect job for him, many would agree). Ed was an avid Civil War buff who went on nearly every spring trip and very rarely missed a meeting.

He will be sorely missed by our group. After a family service held at the home, at which several members of our RT were present, Ed's ashes were scattered at dawn over the grounds of Fort Fisher.

In memory of Ed Russ, an honorarium was made to the Round Table. Many thanks to the donor who wishes to remain anonymous.

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We would like to also make note of the passing of yet another member, **Tom Carr**, who died on October 28th. Tom, another Civil War enthusiast, was also a WWII veteran and will be interred in Arlington Cemetery.

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# The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

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## The *RUNNER*

### Newsletter of The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Editor **Bob Cooke**

December 2008

Our next meeting will be 11 December 2008



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Our speaker for December will be **A.C. Denn**, who will speak about 18th Century Surgery and Surgeons (and Apothecaries.) Al is a retired medical research biologist and educator with nearly thirty years of service with such organizations as the National Institutes of Health, the National Cancer Institute, the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology and the U.S. Army Research Institute for Infectious diseases. Al did his undergraduate work at Temple University (Philadelphia, Pa.) and his postgraduate work at the University of Maryland (Baltimore) as well as the University of Texas at San Antonio.

Al has combined his two great interests, medical science and history into a fascinating hobby. Al is now semi-retired and lives here in New Hanover County with his wife, Sandy, where they enjoy the beach, gardening and visiting historic sites.



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## Reminder!



**Committee member - Dan Geddie**

**An evening with Wade Hampton**

**Date: February 12, 2009**

**Place: Cape Fear Club 206 Chestnut St Wilmington, NC**

**Time: 6:30 pm**

**This meeting will take place in historic downtown Wilmington, and the cost for dinner will be \$27.00. Please send all payments to the Round Table PO box: CFCWRT PO Box 15750 Wilmington, NC 28408**



**If you have any questions, please contact Dan Geddie : Work: (910) 962-3144 Home: (910) 799-5338**

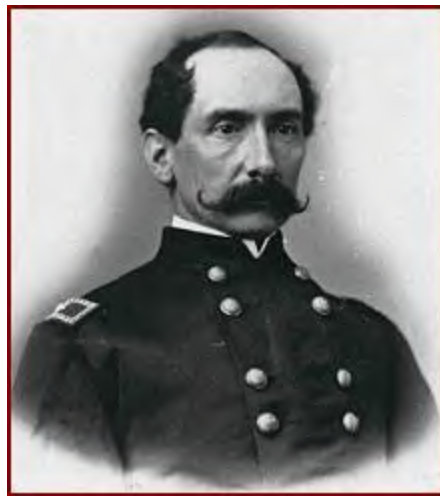


**Raffle Winners**

**Committee member - Ed Gibson**

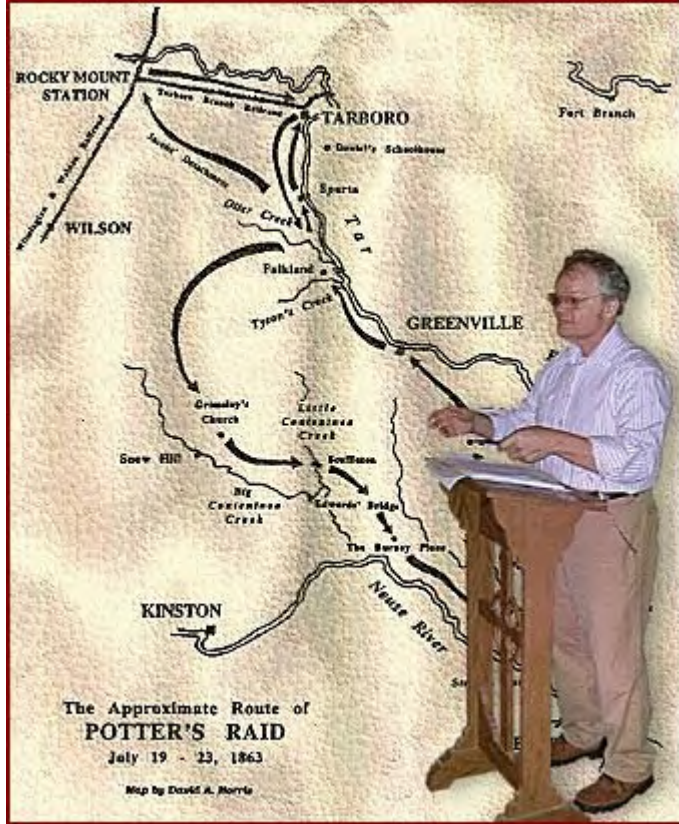
**2009 Gettysburg Calendar- Mark Lewis, The Battle of Bentonville- Dale Lear, Private Ryan- Al Hines The Stonewall Brigade- Charles Watson, The March- Ed Russ, Derelicts- Ed Russ, Civil War Print**

**of Fort Fisher- Jim Vaugh**



**General Edward E. Potter**

**Potter's Raid Revisited**



**David Norris** entertained our group with an account of General Edward E. Potter's raid into eastern North Carolina in July 1863. The raid, which was the Union cavalry's boldest foray to date, made the headlines of the New York Times, as well as several Southern papers! With about 800 men from units stationed at New Bern, including the 3rd and 12th



N.Y. cavalry (3 companies), a detachment of the 1st N.C. Colored Volunteers (that acted as pioneers), the 1st N.C. Union Volunteers and Battery H of the 3rd N.Y. Artillery, he left that city on 17 July with the aim of cutting the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad at Rocky Mount. Striking Greenville and Tarboro before he split his forces, Potter moved on to his target, the railroad bridge across the Tar River.

Catching everyone by surprise at the rail station, Union forces quickly went to work pulling up the rails. The men even captured a train coming from Tarboro in a vain attempt to save Confederate supplies. In a scene reminiscent of the old west, Private George White of the 3rd N.Y., mounted on the unit's fastest steed, pursued the backing engine and leaped from his horse onto the locomotive. When White presented his revolver to the engineer, the man quickly applied the brakes.

The conductor, Bob Watson recounted after the war, when he met two veterans of the 3rd N.Y. that he had lost \$1,000 in gold during the raid, but managed to escape on Private White's horse. Neither the gold nor the horse was ever returned to their rightful owners. In addition to successfully burning the not only the railroad bridge, the men also destroyed the county bridge. Federals burned nearly everything of use, including boxcars, the largest cotton mill in the state (the six-story Battle mill), cotton and quartermaster stores, a blacksmith shop, saw mill, grist mill and also a ram being built on the Tar River.

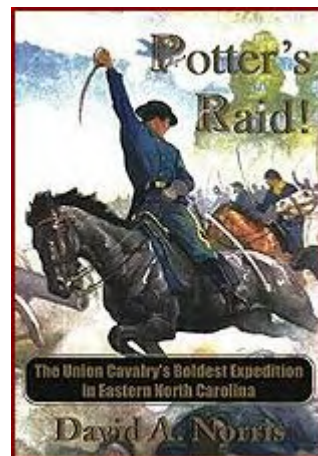
It did not come without cost, however. Confederates rallied to the scene and pursued the raiders who were hampered with all the stolen loot they could carry. When Union soldiers had hit Greenville and Tarboro, some of the men became drunk and robbed the citizens of their money and watches. The Confederates, also slowed by stopping to pick up the items strewn along the retreat route, gave time for the raiders to get away.

An ambush was set up by the Southerners at a site called Daniel's Schoolhouse, south of Tarboro. Seeing a small number of Confederates, Lt. Col. Clarkson received permission to chase them. They proved to be the bait for the trap and Clarkson's 12th N.Y. was "shattered" by Confederate volleys.

In his handout, David mentioned several notable facts about the raid: Col. Joel R. Griffin, commander of the 62nd Georgia, became the first superintendent of the Andersonville National Cemetery after the war. Capt. George Gouraud became a business partner of Thomas Edison and his voice can be heard on many early gramophone records. Go to: [http://www.nps.gov/edis/edisonia/very\\_early.htm](http://www.nps.gov/edis/edisonia/very_early.htm) to hear the voice of a veteran of Potter's Raid.

Major George W. Cole became infamous when he shot and killed N.Y. State Senator L.H. Hiscock to death. Cole believed Hiscock was having an affair with his wife and was acquitted when he used the defense of temporary insanity.

**David's** book, *Potter's Raid: the Union Cavalry's Boldest Expedition in Eastern North Carolina* will be available in November 2008 from [Dram Tree Books](#).



## **This Just In!**

In the February 2009 issue of Civil War Times is a "sneak preview" of our March trip. Entitled "Battlefield, Barbeque and Burnside", the article is a Field Guide to the New Bern battlefield that our RT will be visiting. Containing an excellent map of downtown, the article is a must-read for those who will be going on the trip.



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## **Fork's Road Reenactment**

Thanks to Johnny McCoy for on Saturday February 20th and on Sunday 21 February, there will be a reenactment of the Battle of Fork's Road held on the actual site of the engagement, the Cameron Art Museum (17th Street and Independence Blvd.) Those of us who have attended this event in the past know it is well worth attending. Bring the family and let yourself be transported back to February 1865!

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## **New Members!**

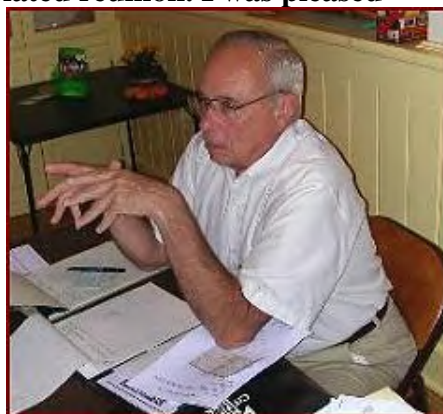
Committee member - Bruce Patterson

We gained two NEW members at the November meeting. Our paid membership, as of 23 November, is 55 with the addition of **John Craft** and **John Gary Maxwell**, both of whom introduced themselves at the November meeting.

Another note.....

## Finding Civil War Museums

I recently traveled to Knoxville, Tennessee to attend an Army related reunion. I was pleased when our reunion organizer suggested that we visit a local Civil War Museum. I was surprised when we entered the Farragut, Tennessee City Hall and found the Farragut Folk Life Museum chuck full of Tennessee folk life memorabilia plus a room devoted to the life and exploits of Admiral David Farragut, the hero of the Battle of Mobile Bay who, lashed to the mast of the USS Hartford, uttered that famous command Damn the torpedoes . . . full speed ahead.



The Admirals naval exploits were well documented. His uniforms and related equipment were well displayed.? The exhibit included models and pictures of the USS Hartford which in turn reminded me of still another (off the beaten path) museum, The Civil War Naval Museum in Columbus, Georgia.

It was in Columbus, Georgia that I discovered a Civil War Naval Museum in a somewhat unusual place, Columbus being some 100 miles from open water. The Columbus museum displays the skeletal remains of the CSS Jackson, but also includes a full sized mid-ship replica of the USS Hartford which I never fully appreciated until I visited Farragut.

Both museums are accessible. Farragut is located just south of Knoxville on I-40. City Hall and the museum are located just two blocks east of I-40. The Civil War Naval Museum is located on the south side of Columbus, GA just north of Fort Benning. Both are well worth your time.

Bruce Patterson





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# The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

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## The *RUNNER*

### Newsletter of The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Editor **Bob Cooke**

November 2008

Our next meeting will be 13 November 2008



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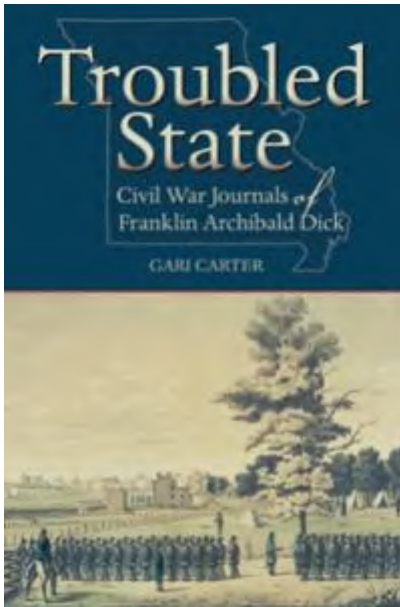
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Please join us for a pre-publication talk on **Potter's Raid** and learn more about not only the raid itself, but many of the participants, including Edward E. Potter (who, according to David, was enumerated in the 1860 census as a 'gentleman') and his superior, John G. Foster.



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Our October speaker, **Ms. Gari Carter**, 'who grew up surrounded by oral stories of her family' told us about one of her ancestors, Franklin Archibald Dick. Franklin Dick graduated in 1842 from the University of Pennsylvania and following in his father and grandfather's footsteps, became a lawyer. Shortly before the war he moved to St. Louis, Missouri and began a practice with a partner by the name of Frank Blair. In a tantalizing twist of history, Ms. Carter was given Dick's remaining wartime journals. Unfortunately, only two volumes out of ten remain, those covering 1861 and a part of 1865.



As a Unionist, Dick was very concerned about the pro-Confederate leanings of his adopted state. Holding secret meetings with not only Frank, but his brother Montgomery (who would serve as Postmaster General in Lincoln's cabinet) and Nathaniel Lyon (Connecticut born- USMA class of 1841). While Dick and the Blair's mapped out the political future of the state, Lyon handled the military end of things. Knowing that Southern sympathizers, aided by the Governor



Clairborne F. Jackson and his militia, were set to takeover the capital, the men acted quickly to prevent that occurrence. Gathering his forces, which included the local German organization, the Unionists surrounded the pro-Confederates in their camp (Camp Jackson, in the western part of the city). Lyon, described as 'Violent, sometimes almost wild, in his patriotism,' led seven thousand Unionists against the seven hundred

sympathizers in the camp. The Southerners, commanded by General David M. Frost (a native New Yorker and also a graduate of the Military Academy, class of 1844) surrendered without firing a shot.

[The following is from *The Civil War, Day by Day*, by E.B. Long] : During the march back to the arsenal, the prisoners were guarded by the Germans and the regulars. Excitement had been extreme in the city for days, with cries of 'Hessians' against the Germans, and equally strong anti-Southern feelings expressed. A crowd of the curious and agitated viewed the march, including one William T. Sherman and his son, and of course it happened: someone pushed or shoved, a shot or two rang out, and then more and more, with the unionists firing on the crowd .... When it was over some twenty-eight or twenty-nine people were dead or mortally wounded, including, reportedly, a child in arms. Mobs stormed through the streets of St. Louis that night; all saloons were closed. A strange sort of war the 'battle of St. Louis'.

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The Round Table has purchased several copies of Ms. Carter's book on Missouri and St. Louis in particular during these times. The book, aptly entitled, *Troubled State*, will be offered at our raffles. If you would like to purchase a copy directly from Ms. Carter, visit her website at <http://www.garicarter.com>.



From *The Knapsack*, newsletter of the Raleigh RT, by way of Bruce Patterson:  
**Battles with Dual Names-** The South generally named battles after some handiwork of man (a town, a building, etc.) while the North gave names based on something natural, such as a river, mountain, etc.

Confederate Name	Federal Name
First Manassas	Bull Run
Leesburg	Mill Springs
Logans Crossroads	Balls Bluff
Elkhorn Tavern	Pea Ridge
Shiloh	Pittsburg Landing
Gaines Mill	Chickahominy
Second Manassas	Second Bull Run
Ox Hill	Chantil
Boonesboro	South Mountain
Sharpsburg	Antietam
Perryville	Chaplin Hills
Murfreesboro	Stones Riverbed
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Mansfield	Sabine Cross Roads
Winchester	Opequon Creek

One Virginia battle had seven names: White Oak Swamp, Frayser's Farm, Glendale, Charles City Cross Roads, Nelson's Farm, Turkey Bend and New Market Cross Roads. [From the *Rebel Yell* ].

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# The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

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## The *RUNNER*

### Newsletter of The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Editor **Bob Cooke**

October 2008

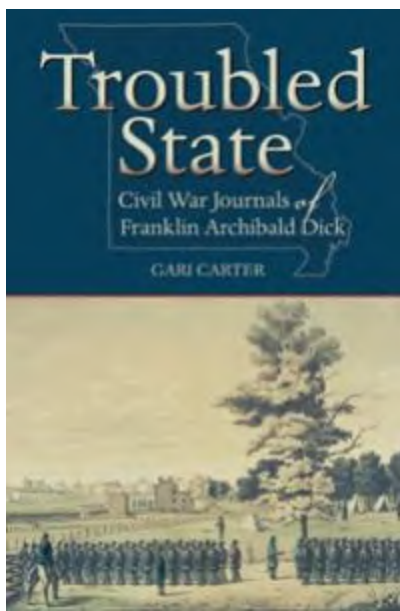
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# The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

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## The *RUNNER*

### Newsletter of The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Editor **Bob Cooke**

August 2008

Our next meeting will be 11 September 2008 (Patriot Day)



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Welcome Back! Our programs for the upcoming season are sure to please you. Beginning with Jeff Bockert, whose talk is titled “Band of Brothers, West Point Graduates in the Civil War” our season will also cover such diverse topics as Potter’s Raid in eastern North Carolina (by our own David Norris), the Battle of New Bern (which is scheduled to be our March trip next year), Civil War Surgery, and even a talk on the crew of the *C.S.S. Hunley*. Our next newsletter will finalize speakers and dates, so tune in then for more information.

For those that do not know him, Jeff Bockert is a native of California who currently serves as the Civil War Specialist for the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources based in Goldsboro, N.C. He is also Chairman of the North Carolina Civil War Tourism Council and has worked in the historic site and museum field for over sixteen years. Mr. Bockert has worked in the National Archives in Washington, D.C., on the Battleship North Carolina as an Associate Curator, has taught history at the Brunswick Community College and Wingate University.

He is the author of several works on presidential and military history and has been published in *White House Studies*. He received both his undergraduate degree in American History and his master’s degree in History from UNC-Wilmington.

We recently received a note from former member “Black Jack” Travis who at present resides in Florida. Mr. Travis has penned a work on a familiar subject: Major James Reilly of the Rowan Artillery. Titled, *Men of God, Angels of Death*, Black Jack has studied and written about Major Reilly and Captain John A. Ramsey and in his words in reading this book one would: “Follow their footsteps from the start of the war to the fall of Fort Fisher in the words of an experienced re-enactor!”

**Mr. Travis will be in our area in September; his schedule is as follows: Saturday, 20 September at Fort Fisher from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. At this time the great-grandsons of Major Reilly, Captain Ramsey and Captain Moore will be there with personal military items from their ancestors.**

**Saturday 20 September at the Federal Point Historical Society at 7 p.m. (The building is located on Lake Park Blvd. next to the Carolina Beach Town Hall.**

**Thursday 24 September, 7 p.m. in the Stanback Room, Rowan County Public Library, Salisbury, N.C.**

**In the latest issue of the Watch Fire, newsletter of the N.C. Tourism Council, a plea is made for any information on men who served in the Confederate States Navy or Marine Corps during the War Between the States. The information is being collected to be added to the Military Collection of State Archives (N.C. Cultural Resources) and will be consolidated into an alphabetical roster. Records for the Navy and Marine Corps are not nearly as complete as those for army personnel. If you have any information that you would like to share, please contact:  
LTC (Ret.) Sion H. Harrington  
Military Collections Archivist  
Archives and Records Section  
4614 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, N.C. 27699-4614**

**Or you may contact Mr. Harrington via e-mail at [sion.harrington@ncmail.net](mailto:sion.harrington@ncmail.net), or by telephone at 919-807-7314.**

**Please remember to renew your membership, see Bruce Patterson at the September meeting. Regular membership dues are \$30, effective 2 September.**





# The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

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## The *RUNNER*

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Editor **Bob Cooke**

June 2008

Our next meeting will be 11 September 2008 (Patriot Day)



Are you having a good summer? Your Round Table Committee would like to take this opportunity to extend their wishes for a happy and safe summer. There will be no meetings until 11 September (Patriot Day) but here is a letter to (hopefully) keep your interest going strong until then!



**Dr. Everard Smith** gave about 35-40 members a talk on his especial interest: letters and diary entries from the North Carolinians serving in the Army of Northern Virginia. It was an interest that began, he related, when he was an intern at UNC-Chapel Hill's Southern Historical Collection. His work, *Marse Robert's Men: Voices from the Army of Northern Virginia*, is based on his examination of 650 items from 240 soldiers. His soon-to-be published work is over two thousand pages long, divided into thirteen chapters. Dr. Smith has indicated that it is indeed the voices of the men, with a minimum of editorial input. He has made some interesting discoveries; certainly his relation of the wounding of "Stonewall" Jackson sheds new light on that tragedy. His theory that the men of the 18th North Carolina had no idea they had

fired on their own general until well after the battle. The letters examined indicate that the men were sure they had "repulsed" a Yankee cavalry charge. If the men had known they had wounded Jackson, the letters home would have been full of references to that event.

After the battle of Gettysburg the popularity of Robert E. Lee, seemingly never questioned, comes in for a closer look as Dr. Smith has discovered that Lee's generalship was questioned by many of his own troops. Blamed in large part for the loss in Pennsylvania, his reputation after the war changed dramatically; indeed, by October of that year, at Bristoe Station, "everyone is to blame except Lee." After the war, Lee was (and is) revered with Southerners pointing their fingers at others who they felt were more suitable scapegoats.

### Raffle Winners

*These Honored Dead*- **Bruce Patterson**; *Vicksburg Campaign*, **Mike Budziszewski**; *Phantom Army of the Civil War* - **Richard Rianno**; *The Stonewall Brigade* - **Ed Gibson**; *Scouts and Spies of the Civil War*- Dale Lear; *Mr. Lincoln's Army* - Dick Covell. Our Grand Prize, *The Illustrated History of the Civil War* was won by **Gary Henderson**. Thanks once again to all who have donated items for our raffle; this is how we raise some of our monies to pay for the programs we present throughout the season. Please look through your book collection, or at library or garage sales for any suitable items that you may wish to donate for the raffle.

#### One other thing!

If, in your summer travels, you come across a speaker, author or tour guide that you feel would deliver an interesting talk to our RT, please obtain their contact information so that we may contact them for a possible appearance at a meeting. Thanks!

In reading the recent issue of the Civil War News, there are many articles about the loss of Civil War battlefields, i.e. a cell tower to be built at Antietam; mining at Cedar Creek and a trash incinerator at Monocacy battlefield. It is important to preserve these sites for future generations, but we must also realize that rapid development is also striking a lot closer to home. Brunswick County has been among the "hottest" real estate markets in the country for some time and although it looks like the "bubble is bursting", that county shows no sign of abatement. Battlefields, of course should be preserved, but we must also be aware of the local (usually small) cemeteries and possibly historic houses that dot the county. Some builders will gladly work with those interested in keeping history alive, whether it is college students or a local history group (such as CFCWRT) but some would just rather ignore a historic site and bulldoze it out of existence. Let's keep our eyes and ears open and if you know of such a site, you may want to check on it every so often.





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# The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

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## The *RUNNER*

### Newsletter of The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Editor **Bob Cooke**

May 2008

Our next meeting is Thursday, 8 May 2008



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You may recognize our speaker for May, **Dr. Everard H. Smith**, a native of Washington, D.C., but for the last thirty-five years a resident of North Carolina, (the last eighteen here in Wilmington) will speak about the Tar Heels in the Army of Northern Virginia from a new perspective. Dr. Smith, a graduate (B.A.) of Yale University and UNC-Chapel Hill (Ph.D.) will tell us about the subject of his upcoming book, *Marse Robert's Men: Voices from the Army of Northern Virginia*. Dr. Smith began this "long-term research project" when, working his way through college, he was employed at the Southern Historical Collection and began to examine the many diaries and letters of North Carolina's soldiers in Virginia. Arranging them "more or less" chronologically, he has allowed these men to tell their stories in their own way. The book, which is soon to be published, will quickly be a necessary addition to many of our bookshelves. The members of our RT will have an opportunity to hear about it first at the May meeting!

**Dr. Smith** has served as senior administrative officer and adjunct professor of history at UNCW (1991-1993) and has been employed since 1994 by the N.C. Office of Information Technology Services as a senior networking analyst in voice, video and data communications. He is quite active in community affairs as well as local history activities. It is not only the Civil War that has attracted Dr. Smith's interest: it is military history in general: he was co-host of a University-sponsored trip to Normandy in 1994 to attend the 50th Anniversary Celebration of D-Day and in 1999, served on the steering committee of the Wartime Wilmington Commemoration, which honored the WW II generation with 170 events. He is a director of the Home Front Heritage Coalition (you may have seen their WW II maps around town) and has spoken to numerous organizations. He has written extensively; he has published articles in *Civil War Times*, *Civil War Magazine*, *The North Carolina Historical Review*, *The American Historical Review* and has served as a consultant to the N.C. Center for Public Television.





### Raffle Winners:

*Civil War Battlefields*- **Ed Gibson**; *Ironclads and Columbiads*- **Gary Henderson**; *Civil War Treasury of Tales, Legends and Folklore* - **Bob Cooke**; *Chicago's Battery Boys*- **Charles Watson**; *Shipwrecks*- **Mary Royal**.

Thanks to all who donated items for our raffle....Take another look around your library and see if you have anything that you could contribute to our raffle. Thanks again!



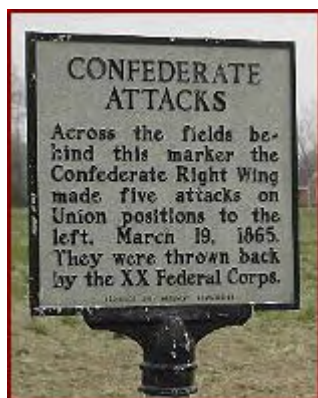
Kudos to **Dale Lear** for arranging our spring trip to the Bentonville Battlefield; Dale gave a brief report in reference to the trip and **Bruce Patterson** has penned the following article about the trip itself.

### Bentonville Battlefield Tour



It was cold, windy and threatening rain on Saturday 29 March 2008 when 28 members, friends and guests of your Cape Fear Civil War Round Table traveled by chartered bus to the Bentonville Battlefield. In fact, the weather was not unlike the conditions that existed in that remote location on 19 March 1865 when one of the final land battles of the Civil War was fought.

A historical marker summarized the battle as the engagement that “checked” the Union advance towards Goldsboro. In fact, Confederate General Joseph E. Johnston stopped the advance of Major general William T. Sherman, but only for a short time.



Our group of stalwart travelers had been prepared for the tour with a presentation by member **John Winecoff** at our regular 13 March meeting. John provided maps thus setting the stage for

what we were to see on the very ground fought over and virtually unchanged some 143 years earlier.

The first stop on the tour was the Harper House, the residence of the Harper family, used first by the Union and subsequently by Confederate forces as a military hospital. The vivid exhibits at the house were reminders of the ferocity with which this war was fought.

The bus then took us to several observation points from which Assistant Park Director Fred Burgess described the first (of three) day's battle.



This observer was surprised at the complexity of this particular battle thus illustrating the value of a guided battlefield tour. Throughout, Fred provided a vivid narrative.

Our chartered bus tour had been arranged by member extraordinaire Dale Lear who not only made travel arrangements but provided custom box lunches (as well as coffee, pastries, fresh fruit and soft drinks) which we

enjoyed aboard the bus and between field treks of the day two and day three battlefields.



As usual, this was a most enjoyable day of Civil War history shared by friends with like interests. As has become a tradition, the tour group enjoyed an opportunity to restock their home library with a visit to the Visitor Center Gift Shop and Book Store. Remaining on schedule throughout, the bus, filled with tired, windblown historians arrived back in Wilmington on time with thanks, particularly to Dale, but to all who made this very enjoyable day possible.

As was noted at our meeting, the North Carolina Military Historical Society will be hosting their annual symposium at the N.C. Museum of History in Raleigh on 10 May, 2008. Guntis Goncarovs will present *A Brief History of the Crew of the C.S.S. Hunley*. Nora Marie Brooks will give a first-person impression of Miss Mildred "Millie" Lee, daughter of General Robert E. Lee. Our own Dr. Chris E. Fonvielle will speak on *The Wilmington Campaign of 1865*. The meeting, which is free, is open to the public. For reservations call Si Harrington at 919.807.7314 (e-mail: ncmilhistoc@yahoo.com). A reservation for lunch, at a cost of five dollars can also be made and there will be raffle drawings throughout the day. The meeting will end at about 1:30 p.m.



The Blockade Runner Project

At our last meeting a new member, former Piedmont Airline pilot, **Gary Henderson**, was introduced and mentioned that he was involved in the “Blockade Runner Project.” Their Mission Statement is:

The Blockade Runner Project is dedicated to building a fully-functional replica of a blockade runner ship that would fulfill a variety of educational purposes and serve as a “living” museum and symbol of Wilmington’s rich maritime history to visitors and local residents. When completed, the ship would serve as a unique educational tool and would support the local tourism industry.

Ship specifications: Length: 90’ Beam: 30’ Power: Two 75 h.p. steam engines driving two side-mounted paddle wheels. Electricity: Diesel powered generator. Classrooms: As needed to be designed with help from teachers. Accommodations: Full galley and sleeping quarters for 20 students, plus crew. The ship will also be equipped with sails, propane stoves for cooking, showers and bathrooms of course. The construction cost is estimated to be around four million dollars. Community participation and financial contributions are vital to make this project a success! For more information, please contact: Dick Hitchcock at 910.395.7037 or rhitchcock@ec.rr.com



## The Forensic Photographer



**Mr. John Kelley’s** presentation, *Embedded With the Troops: Photojournalism in the Civil War* opened with the statement that there were at least three hundred photographers active in the Civil War. “It was a growing industry” that in 1860 saw about three thousand photographers in the United States. **Mr. Kelley** admitted that **Ken Burns’** *The Civil War* sparked a great interest in that conflict, an interest that historians would be hard pressed to match. He also pointed out that Mr. Burns utilized photographs from that time period to illustrate “or engender the mood of the period.” Many of the pictures used, however, as indicated by Mr. Kelley were misidentified or misused. This, Mr. Kelley stated, has “created a distortion of our visual

understanding” of that conflict. Photographs are “primary source materials” and as such should be treated just as letters, drawings and diaries are. Much can be learned from a careful examination of these wartime photos and John showed us the impact such an examination can have: the famous photo of President Abraham Lincoln and General George McClellan taken by Alexander Gardner in October, 1862, after the battle of Sharpsburg. In a blow-up of the photo, the tension between the two men is quite discernable. Mr. Kelley pointed out that many such images have now been digitized by the Library of Congress and are available on-line.

Concentrating on what he termed Chancellorsville - Fredericksburg II (April 8 to May 3, 1863, Mr. Kelley stated that between the seven months from 17 November, 1862 until 13 June 1863 there were over 48,000 casualties from those two battles. Photographers were active during this period and several in particular, Captain Andrew J. Russell (the only military photographer in the war), Timothy O’Sullivan and (lesser known) Egbert Fowx.

## The Photographs of April and May, 1863

**Mr. Kelley** told the group that he uncovered a misdated image (plate 32) in Alexander Gardner's *Photographic Sketch Book of the War* and went on to inform us that it was one of the earliest images of the Gettysburg campaign. The photo was that of the Union pontoon bridges spanning the Rappahannock River, but the image immediately preceding it (plate 31), that of Battery D, 2nd U.S. Artillery was correctly dated as May, 1863. Indeed, Battery D is also in plate 32. *Hidden in Plain Sight*, an article written for the newsletter *Battlefield Photographer* was the outcome of that discovery. There were other photos shown and Mr. Kelley led an enthralled group through several other discoveries pointing out the different variations of foliage of the trees in the photos (bare trees indicated a June date, trees at full foliage showed a May date), a snow bank nestled behind a building, the hazy image of the Lacy house or the number of pontoon bridges across the Rappahannock River. He even showed an image of a "doctored" photo in which a tree mysteriously disappeared! He stressed once more that these Civil War photos should not be treated as mere "ornaments" in a book, but placed in their correct historical context and accurately described. Thanks again to Mr. Kelley for a most interesting talk!



## Confederate Memorial Day

May 10, 2008 - 4:00 PM

### Memories of the War: The Battle of Fort Fisher

Jeff Bockert - Guest Speaker

In conjunction with the local chapter of the **United Daughters of the Confederacy**, this program includes a wreath laying ceremony at the **UDC monument** located at Battle Acre.

Free admission

Fort Fisher State Historic Site, Kure Beach. 910-458-5538

[www.fortfisher.nchistoricsites.org](http://www.fortfisher.nchistoricsites.org)



Finally, anyone interested in Civil War photography may want to contact CCWP- The Center for Civil War Photography at [www.civilwarphotography.org](http://www.civilwarphotography.org) or at 813.951.4962. Their mailing address is CCWP, P.O. Box 1740, Oldsmar, Florida, 34677.

Due to health problems, our scheduled speaker for May, Jim Steele, Director of the Fort Fisher State Historic Site, will be scheduled to speak next year.



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# The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

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## The *RUNNER*

### Newsletter of The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Editor **Bob Cooke**

April 2008

Our next meeting is Thursday, 10 April 2008

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#### Photojournalism in the Civil War

April's speaker, **Mr. John Kelley**, hails from Poughkeepsie, New York. He was born, as he says, in 1928, the “year of the last encampment at Gettysburg.” He attended Randolph-Macon College in Ashland, Virginia and graduated with a degree in History. After a short stint as a Teaching Assistant he became an Educational Sales Representative for Prentice-Hall. It was in this position that he began to develop a strong interest in photographic history “as the basis for a visual understanding of 19th Century American history, especially the Civil War.” He had a strong desire also to make sure that “these incredible photographic images...were not to be misused or mislabeled as page adornments in American history texts.” Retired since 1999, Mr. Kelley has devoted his time to the study of American photographic history as well as his own family history.

John has spoken to many Round Tables, high schools, educational organizations and the State University of New York. His topic- “**Embedded With the Troops: Photojournalism in the Civil War**”. This talk was the highlight of the August, 2004 Seminar, at the Center for Civil War Photography, in Fredericksburg, Va.

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The Battle of Bentonville

Member **John Winecoff** delivered a hit with his discussion of events and characters leading us up to the Battle of Bentonville. A quick look at the characters involved - Generals W.T. Sherman, Joseph Johnston, D.H. Hill, O.O. Howard and President Jeff Davis- and you could be sure that things would not go smoothly! Davis and Johnston often quarreled; after the Battle of Atlanta, it led to Johnston's removal. But Johnston still had friends in the Confederate Congress and when it came down to it by February 1865, General Johnston was all Davis had left (except P.G.T. Beauregard, another Davis enemy). Placed in command of any and all Southern troops (from Savannah, Charleston and Wilmington, a total of about 20,000 men) he gathered his men outside Goldsboro (an important rail center). He would be facing his old nemesis, Union General W.T. Sherman, who, with over 60,000 soldiers, was cutting a swath through the South. Indeed, as John related, when asked where he was going, Sherman replied, "Anywhere I want to!"

Passing through Fayetteville, Sherman sent one of his Corps (under General Howard) towards Goldsboro, while Slocum feinted to Raleigh. Directed by General Robert E. Lee to prevent Sherman from joining forces with U.S. Grant at Petersburg, Johnston set up delaying actions at Monroes Crossroads and Averasboro. The action worked to split Sherman's columns and gave the Confederates an opportunity to strike on more even terms. That opportunity came at the little hamlet of Bentonville. From 19 March to 21 March the armies met in what would be the largest land battle in North Carolina.

Placing his troops along the Goldsboro Road and after an initial success was thwarted by stubborn resistance (and counterattacks) from the Union army. The Confederate army was forced to pull back to their original positions. For two days the armies fought over the ground; on the 21st, General Mower flanked the Confederate line and Johnston (who was nearly captured by Mowers advance) later abandoned his position and retreated to Smithfield. Sherman declined to pursue Johnston, instead moving on to Goldsboro where his army was resupplied. Only thirty-six days later, Johnston and Sherman sat down at the Bennett Place to discuss peace terms. Bentonville was important because it was the only major Confederate attempt (after Atlanta) to halt Sherman; it was the last major offensive where the Confederates chose the time and place and made the initial attack.

Enjoy the spring trip to **Bentonville!**



### Friends of the Wilderness Battlefield

Friends of the Wilderness Battlefield will commemorate the 144th Anniversary of the Battle of the Wilderness on the weekend of May 9th-11th, 2008. Highlights of the weekend will be the 6th annual Dinner and Auction on Saturday and a Civil War conference (Fri. May 9th-Sun. May 11th). Guest speakers include **Chief Justice Frank Williams, Dr. John Simon, Gordon Rhea, Clark Hall** and **Greg Mertz**. Visit [www.fowb.org](http://www.fowb.org) for complete event details, including a flier describing the weekends activities.



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**The North Carolina Military History Historical Society** is hosting their annual symposium in Raleigh on 10 May, 2008. The subject is the **Civil War** & there will be three speakers, one of whom will be **Dr. Chris Fonvielle** (*The Wilmington Campaign of 1865*); also speaking will be **Nora Marie Brooks**, she does a first-person impression of Gen. Lee's daughter ("Millie"). Finally, **Guntis Goncarovs** will speak on the crew of the **CSS Hunley** ("A Brief History of the Crew of the H.L. Hunley") Admission is free, but you might want to make a reservation. Call **Si Harrington** (919-807-7314 or 910-897-7968-evenings before 9 p.m.) for reservations. The symposium will be held at the NC Museum of History, 5 E. Edenton St. There will be raffles held throughout the day and a lunch (\$5.00-call to reserve a meal!) served at noon.



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### **Raffle Winners!**

Fort Fisher Ferry print- Gretchen Kozen; Fort Fisher print- Bob Quinn; Civil War Stories- Charles Watson; Chattanooga- Richard Riano; Sandie Pendleton- Ed Gibson; New Market Battlefield video- John Moore.







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# The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

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## The *RUNNER*

### Newsletter of The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Editor **Bob Cooke**

March 2008

Our next meeting is Thursday, March 13th, 2008

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For our upcoming trip to Bentonville, member **John Winecoff** will present us with the basics (and more) of the battle. It was the largest land battle fought in the State and John has studied the battle (as well as participated in quite a few reenactments there.) For more information about the trip, go to the "**Events**" section of *The Runner*.

"**Knocking on the Gates of Hell**" was the title of **Mr. Jim Jordan's** talk at our February meeting.



It covered the five months after Abraham Lincoln's election and South Carolina's secession from the Union. Beginning with a short history lesson covering land acquisitions in the early part of our country's history, he showed how precarious was the "balance of power" between Slave and Free States (i.e., 1820- The Missouri Compromise, 1850- the admittance of California as a free state and the promise of the Federal Government to enforce the Fugitive Slave Act and in 1854 the Kansas-Nebraska Act.) With a split in the Democratic Party, the Republican candidate was elected President. Interestingly, Lincoln only garnered 39% of the popular vote, but with 180 electoral votes, his majority jumped to nearly 60%.

The day after Lincoln's election, a square in Savannah saw a jubilant crowd, now happy that they could secede. Counting down the months to war, Mr. Jordan pointed

out that there were still more slave states in the Union than out of it! In January, the balance was 19 free, 9 slave still in the Union, while 6 states had seceded. Indeed, as of 30 April 1861, there were 19 free and 8 slave states in the Union, while only 7 slave states had left. In mid-April, the crisis came to a head at Fort Sumter in Charleston harbor. Once the cannons opened fire, there was no turning back. With Lincoln's call for 75,000 troops, N.C. would join the Confederacy, soon after Virginia and Tennessee joined her.

And now a word from our sponsors! We wish to (belatedly) thank **Brian Kraus** for donating his print entitled "**Bold Reconnaissance**" at our November meeting. Brian has been producing limited edition prints since 2000 when that print was introduced. Formally trained in the field of Art at East Carolina University, he majored in painting and minored in drawing. After receiving a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree, he earned a Bachelor of Science in Art Education degree. Devoting the next twenty-five years to the study of the Civil War, he has read numerous books pertaining to all aspects of the conflict. He has visited many sites of the battles and engagements of the war in both the eastern and western theaters. Indeed, Mr. Kraus has not produced a work unless he has "walked the ground in question" at or near the same date of the action. The battles in North Carolina are of paramount importance, along with the participation of N.C. in the campaigns in the east.

Mr. Kraus lives along the coast in the Morehead City area of Carteret County. A native of Pittsburg, Pa., he has lived there, as well as in Miami, Florida before settling in Morehead City. Mr. Kraus teaches art in neighboring Craven County and also operates a successful landscape business (which, as an artist he says, makes sure he pays attention to details of terrain and plant species in his works!) When around Morehead City be sure to call Brian and stop in for a visit.

Member Rich Triebe has come out with yet another book (you remember his first: *On a Rising Tide*. This time he goes into a different genre. *Port Royal*, he says, is a horror story in the vein of what Stephen King might write. The story takes place in 1692, Port Royal, Jamaica and then moves to the present day. In the 17th century, Port Royal was taken over by pirates and became known as 'The Wickedest Place on Earth.' On 17 June 1692, a catastrophic earthquake caused the city to sink into the sea, killing more than three-quarters of its population. When a team of archeologists recovers a gold pocket watch from the sunken city....Enough! But check out his book to find out what happens next!

#### Raffle Winners!

Civil War Calendar- **Ed Gibson**; Shipwreck Poster- **Mary Royal**; *Tarnished Scalpels*- **Palmer Royal**; *Scout and Spies of the Civil War*- **Bruce Patterson**; *Grant Comes East*- **John Moore**.





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# The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

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## The *RUNNER*

### Newsletter of The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Editor **Bob Cooke**

February 2008

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, **21 February 2008** at **St. Andrew's On-the-Sound** (Airlie Rd.). **Social hour- 6:30 p.m., meeting- 7:30 p.m.**

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Our speaker for February will be **Jim Jordan**, who hails from South Carolina; actually, Jim is a native New Yorker who, upon retirement, moved South to Callawassie Island to relax and play golf! He has instead become an author, tour guide and public speaker. His first novel, *Savannah Grey, A Tale of Antebellum Georgia*, has been well received and will be available for purchase at our meeting. Jim's topic is titled: "**Knocking on the Gates of Hell: The South Ponders Civil War.**" Please join us on 21 February in welcoming Jim and his wife Kathleen to the Port City! Also please note that this meeting will be on the **THIRD THURSDAY** of the month.

Fittingly, at our January meeting, **Andrew Duppstadt** took us back to January 1864 when the C. S. Navy made plans to mount a secret mission to capture a U.S. ship, the **U.S.S. Underwriter**. It took time to gather men and equipment for the attack, which was to be made in conjunction with a planned attack on the Union enclave of New Bern. That town had been taken by the Federals in March 1862. The plan was to seize the vessel and utilize her to attack other Union ships around New Bern. Selected to lead the attack on the Underwriter was Lieutenant John Taylor Wood, a grandson of President Zachary Taylor and close confidant of President Jefferson Davis. While the North had William B. Cushing as its daring hero, the South

Excitement Comes to Kinston:  
The USS *Underwriter* Expedition  
and the Officers of the CSS *Neuse*

Andrew Duppstadt  
Assistant Curator of Education  
NC Historic Sites

had Wood! Wood, a veteran of the Mexican War was an instructor at the U.S. Naval Academy when Civil War came; he resigned his commission and served aboard the C.S.S. Virginia and later; (holding the rank of Colonel) commanded army troops in Virginia. He had already proven his ability to conduct a raid such as was planned; he had captured several Union vessels, including two men-of-war. Gathering together a mixed force of marines (from Richmond, Savannah, Charleston and Wilmington) and sailors over 250 men (thirty-three officers and 220 enlisted men) were to secretly rendezvous at Kinston. Secretly is a relative word however; the boats, with the sailors and marines seated in them, were loaded onto railroad flats and, "it was a novel sight to see a train like that- Jack sitting up on the seats of the boats and waving his hat to the astonished natives, who never saw such a circus before." (Clark, V:326) Several of the boats to be used in the attack were "impressed" (seized) from the few blockade-runners in port at the time by the military at Wilmington! It was early in February before Lieutenant Benjamin P. Loyall (second-in-command) and Captain (his naval rank) Wood started the men in two groups, on their 40-mile sojourn down the Neuse River. The surprise attack was to be at night; so all the men tacked pieces of white cotton cloth on their left arms for easier recognition. Hiding out close to the town, Wood awaited the arrival of the second group while the distinct sounds of battle could be heard. General George Pickett, in command of the attack on New Bern would fail in his attempt to retake the town, but Wood and his stalwart band would continue their water-borne attack.



Mr. Duppsatd described the target of that attack: a former New York "heavy ocean tugboat" commandeered by the **U.S. Navy** and armed with two 8" guns, one 3" rifle and a 12-pdr. howitzer; she was a 186' long side-wheel steamer, 325 tons with a 35' beam. Nominally manned by 12 officers and 72 sailors, her compliment that night was somewhat less; one Union report had only 40 men aboard. At 2:30 a.m. Wood's men headed for the ship. As they neared her, a voice rang out, "Boat ahoy!" Wood responded, "Give way, boys!" The battle was on. Rifle fire rained upon the men as they climbed aboard. The battle was savage and little quarter was given. Writing in 1901, Lieutenant Loyall said the "cracking of fire arms and the rattle of cutlasses made a deafening din." After a short but fierce fight, the ship was in Confederate hands. After determining that it would take too long to get the steamer's boilers up to pressure, Wood decided to set the ship

afire. Another compelling reason to move quickly was that nearby Fort Stevens had opened fire upon the *Underwriter*. Fires were set and the raiders once again manned their launches and rowed away from the scene. Wood, not seeing the vessel on fire, sent back Lieutenant Francis L. Hoge to ensure that they were set properly. Braving the fire once more, Hoge boarded the steamer and set even more fires, this time the blaze could clearly be seen and as the Confederates oared upstream, the sounds of explosions made sure the *Underwriter* would no longer be of any use to the U.S. Navy. The loss to the raiders was six killed, twenty-two wounded while the Federals lost nine, with 18 wounded. U.S. Admiral D.D. Porter, when writing of the attack, said, "This was rather a mortifying affair for the navy, however fearless on the part of the Confederates. This gallant expedition was led by Commander John Taylor Wood. It was to be expected that with so many clever officers, who left the Federal navy and cast their fortunes with the Confederates, such gallant action would often be attempted."

## Raffle Winners!

**Dale Lear** - *Shower of Stars* , **Ed Gibson** - *Sandie Pendleton*, **Keith Ward** - *Gettysburg*, **Ed Hickman** - *Most Fearful Ordeal*, **Charles Watson** - *Testament*





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# The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

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## The *RUNNER*

### Newsletter of The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Editor **Bob Cooke**

January 2008

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, **10 January 2008** at **St. Andrew's On-the-Sound** (Airlie Rd.). **Social hour- 6:30 p.m., meeting- 7:30 p.m.**



Our next meeting will be on Thursday, **10 January 2008** at **St. Andrew's On-the-Sound** (Airlie Rd.). **Social hour- 6:30 p.m., meeting- 7:30 p.m.**

Our speaker for the New Year will be **Andrew Duppstadt**, who will speak to us about the expedition to capture the U.S.S. *Underwriter*. Mr. Duppstadt, who is well known to many of our members, is the Assistant Curator of Education as well as the Historic Weapons Program Coordinator for all North Carolina Historic Sites. He is also president of the Eastern North Carolina Civil War Round Table (Jacksonville) and secretary of the North Carolina Civil War Tourism Council. A graduate of UNCW (Andrew has a BA and an MA in history), Andrew is now based in Kinston at the C.S.S. *Neuse* site.



We were presented with a dual speaking arrangement at our December meeting! Kicking the meeting off, Chairman **Ed Gibson** showed us via his laptop and a wonderful power-point presentation on the various (upwards of several million) sites. Starting off with our own RT web site and showing how to maneuver around the links, he took us through some great web sites, including the National Park Service (for a listing of most soldiers and sailors), National Archives, Pennsylvania records- you see, Ed's interest in the Civil War began when he discovered that his great-great grandfather served in the 147th Pa. Infantry. We were taken on virtual tours of the National Civil War Naval Museum, Grant's

Tomb, the battlefields of Manassas, Gettysburg, Fort Fisher, Bentonville and Bennett Place; the

SCV and SUVCW sites were not ignored either! We went traveling via the Civil War Traveler's maps and photos, to the Museum of the Confederacy and the GAR Museum (where resides the head of "Old Baldy", mascot of a Pennsylvania unit). When we returned home, (still rested!) Ed mentioned that many of the sites could be used for genealogical research as well.

Turning the program over to RT president **David Norris**, we were treated to a philatelic history of the Confederacy. "Every stamp tells a story", and our story began at Charleston. With the firing on Fort Sumter, the breach between the States had come. Or had it? Even after the outbreak of war, the U.S. Post Office was still sending mail South, while the Postmaster at Charleston was forced to nail the mailboxes closed because people there were still using them! After a brief history of the U.S. Mail system, it was back to 1861, May 21 to be exact. In the South, that was the date set for the last use of U.S. stamps. As early as January 1861, the Confederacy had its own Postal system, under its own Postmaster General John H. Reagan.



Throughout 1861 however, there was a dire lack of stamps throughout the country; local postmasters began to make their own stamps until October, when the first batch arrived from Richmond. During the war, the soldiers lament was often, "send stamps!"

Stamps were ordered from abroad and the first stamps brought in came via the *C.S.S. Nashville* to Beaufort. Many other runners were not so successful. Captured stamps became souvenirs for the offshore naval crews. Some of those that got into the country bore the likeness of President Jeff Davis and the story of Davis being approached by a soldier as he walked the streets. The soldier gazed at Davis and asked, "Are you Jeff Davis? You look like a postage stamp!" Davis was not the only figure to be immortalized in that manner. Likenesses of George Washington and Stonewall Jackson were also used.

Davis also informed us that it was during the Civil War that home delivery of mail began. Prior to that, the letters remained at the post office and people would drop in to see if they had mail. Postmasters also cancelled mail; many times by using home made hand stamps made of corks from wine or medicine bottles ("postmasters had a lot of time on their hands"). As the war dragged on and coins became scarce, stamps were often used as currency. Delving into the postal system a bit further, David told us why postal carriers, bidding on routes, often bid so low that the routes were unprofitable to them. Mail carriers were exempt from military service, so while the carries were not making money, the Post Office Department was!

Mail also increased dramatically during the war. In 1860, citizens received an average of five letters per year, but when the war started, a vast number of letters went to and from soldiers at the front. Patriotic covers appeared during the war, more so in the North; in the South, paper was folded and used as envelopes ("covers" in philatelic terms!) Mail could, of course, be sent North or South via Bermuda or the Bahamas. Inserted in an outer envelope, the smuggled letter would be addressed to a "drop" in the Islands where it would be opened and sent via a steamer to the recipient. Rounding out a wonderful presentation, David also touched upon the various express companies as well as revenue stamps (on such items as photos, checks, financial documents, patent medicines, powers of attorney and even the lowly friction match!) which were introduced in the North and garnered one million dollars per year for the government.

## **The Confederate Signal Service At Wilmington.**

Recently (15 November 2007) there was an article about the Confederate Signal Corps in *The Long Roll*, the newsletter of the Piedmont Civil War Round Table (from *The Confederate Soldier in the Civil War*). At the close of the article, it mentioned that the Service, very active on all fronts throughout the conflict, was also quite active here in Wilmington. It is reported that the lighthouse at Price's Creek was a signal station as was Fort Fisher's Mound Battery:

*An indispensable condition to the prolongation of the war was the running of the blockade...by the swift cruisers built...expressly for the purpose.... No life could be more adventurous and exciting than that of a blockade-runner. The Signal Corps played its part also. Every blockade-runner had its signal officer, furnished with signaling apparatus and the key to the secret cipher. The coast was lined with stations for thirty or forty miles up and down on either side of the blockaded port. The blockade-runners came in close to shore at nightfall and fitfully flashed a light, which was soon answered from the shore station. Advice was then given of things off the port, the station and movements of the hostile fleet, etc. If the word was "go in" the beacon lights were set and the...runner boldly steamed over the bar and into the port. A naval officer was in charge of the office of orders and details at the several ports, whence proceeded all orders and assignments in relation to pilots and signal officers.*

In Wilmington, during the course of the war, there were several officers involved in securing both pilots and signal officers for the many runners reaching the port. One of the most significant soldiers to be stationed in the Cape Fear area was John Baptist Smith, who arrived at Fort Fisher in July 1862. Smith, a native of Caswell County, invented a much-improved system of signaling vessels at sea. Prior to this, signal officers relied on flags (by day) and torches (at night). Aboard ship, waving torches around in the wind and spray was difficult at best. Smith's system used a pair of old ship lanterns. He later wrote: "One day while in the Ordnance Department of the Fort, I chanced to spy a pair of shipboard starboard and port lanterns, and

this thought flashed into my mind, 'Why not by the arrangement of a sliding door to each of these lanterns, one being a white, the other a red light, substitute flashes of red and white lights for the wave of torches to the right and left, to form a signal alphabet and thus use the lanterns at sea as well as upon land.' I at once communicated my plans to Col. Wm. Lamb.... They met with his approbation and I was instructed to submit them to General [W.H.C.] Whiting...who most readily [aided] in fitting up my lanterns." Smith, recognized by Richmond for his achievement, was assigned to General Whiting, who in turn allowed Smith to choose a vessel upon which he wished to serve. Smith picked the S.S. Advance and performed the duties of Signal Officer aboard the State-owned steamer until February 1864, when he was commissioned and sent back to Virginia. Smith later wrote: "[My system of] signaling by flash lights so impressed a British Ship Captain...that he urged me to go to England...and take out letters patent.... I declined his...offer...although...[it] would have been a source of great profit..., as it has formed the basis of the present [1896] system now used in the Naval service.

By 1864, Lieutenant (later Captain) George C. Bain was in command of the Signal Corps. While most of his men were quartered at Smithville (Southport) he maintained an office at Wilmington and telegraphed his orders down river. Under his command were the Lanier brothers Sidney, (well-known for his music as well as his poetry) and his brother Clifford. The men, transferred to the Signal Corps after seeing action in the Seven Days Battles, were eventually sent to Southport



for blockade-runner duty. In August, 1864, Mary White, daughter of North Carolina's Commissioner in England (John White) was at Southport awaiting the next available runner. While there, she wrote:

*Aug. 19, 1864 - Smithville, N.C. Last night we had a most delightful serenade. The serenaders were a Mr. Everett and his violin, and two Mr. Laniers...one with a flute and the other a guitar.... They played... very spirited waltzes. Aug. 20, 1864 Last night our serenade was repeated but one of the strings on the serenader's guitar broke and we didn't have many tunes.*

The last Mary White saw of her troubadours was the following evening when "the serenader's" were on duty near her hotel. Sidney Lanier would be assigned to go out on the runner Anna in December and, captured by the U.S.S. *Santiago de Cuba*, wound up in Point Lookout. While in prison, Lanier continued to play the flute that he had concealed "in his coat sleeve" Lanier would later compose poems, many of which were based on his wartime experiences.

Colonel Lamb, in command at Fort Fisher, lavish in his praise for many of those in the Corps, had occasion to report an incident at Fort Anderson. In late August, 1864 the C.S.S. *Tallahassee*, fresh from her highly successful foray against Northern shipping (she scuttled or burned over thirty vessels) reached safety and anchored under the guns of Fort Fisher. Shortly afterwards, the vessel weighed anchor and steamed towards town. As the *Tallahassee* followed the channel upriver, she passed directly in front of Fort Anderson on the west bank of the Cape Fear River. Suddenly a shot rang out and an officer aboard was wounded. A few days later, an irate Colonel Lamb telegraphed headquarters about the "want of vigilance on the part of the signal corps at Ft. Anderson." His signalman had tried to contact Fort Anderson to alert that post of the arrival of the raider, "but could not for some reason call the signal station at that point. Owing to this inattention the ship was fired at ...by the sentinel.... Such neglect should not go unpunished."

Another young Signal Officer, Private J.M. Royall, of Virginia was suffered the fortunes of war. After having been through fifteen engagements in Virginia and having been wounded twice (Bull Run and Chancellorsville) he was transferred to the Signal Corps. In June 1864, as his vessel, the *Old Dominion* approached the safe haven of Wilmington; Royall exchanged signals with Fort Fisher's Mound Battery. Suddenly she was spotted and fired upon. Royall, "was down below, drinking a cup of tea in the steward's pantry. While there, a shell burst over him, and 'took off his head as clean as a whistle.'" Royall was only twenty-two years old and was one of the very few fatalities among the elite Signal officers aboard blockade runners.

There was also the story of the Stevenson brothers, Daniel and James. Daniel was aboard the runner *Little Hattie*, struggling to outrun the several U.S. Navy steamers chasing them. He mounted the paddle box and began signaling to the station at Fort Fisher. Soon, the guns of the fort began throwing missiles back at the warships, forcing them to back off from New Inlet. That presented an opportunity for the runner and she took it! Soon safe within the harbor, it was realized that Daniel had been exchanging signals with his brother James, also a signal officer!



Raffle Winners!

**Al Hines** - *A Year in the South 1865*, **Jack McGarrie** - *Gettysburg*, **Palmer Royal** - *Glorious Cause*, **Ed Gibson** - *Hallowed Ground*, **Gene Jones** - *Burnside Bridges* -





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# The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

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## The *RUNNER*

### Newsletter of The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Editor **Bob Cooke**

December 2007

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, **13 December** at **St. Andrew's On-the-Sound** (Airlie Rd.).  
**Social hour- 6:30 p.m., meeting- 7:30 p.m.**



Our December meeting will include a dual presentation by our members **David Norris** (president) and **Ed Gibson** (raffle chairman). David, as many know, is a freelance writer and artist, with a BA degree from ECU. He lived in Greenville for a number of years after graduation and has made Wilmington his home for several years now. David's articles have appeared on **CNN.com**, and in magazines including *American Civil War*, *American History*, *Our State*, *the North Carolina Review*, *History Magazine*, *Family Chronicle*, *Internet Genealogy*, *Linn Stamp News*, *American Philatelist*, *South Carolina Magazine*, *True West* and *Military Images*. In addition, he has contributed articles to the *Encyclopedia of the American Civil War*, *Encyclopedia of North Carolina History* and the upcoming *Mississippi Encyclopedia*. David will speak on a little-known aspect of the Confederacy- stamps! When the South declared independence, many things had to be made from scratch- flags, currency and stamps among them.

Committee chairman, **Ed Gibson** born into a Marine Corps family at Camp LeJeune and discovered early on that he had a great interest in the American Civil War. As he said: My great-grandfather emigrated from England and served in Pennsylvania units. He was at Gettysburg and then on the Sherman March. He was present at Bentonville but was not involved in the fighting. Ed has developed a keen interest in the War (as well as in our local area) and is a charter member of our RT. Ed is also a member of the **Anna M. Ross Camp** of the Pa. SUVCW (the camp associated with the Pa. regiment with which his great-grandfather served). Ed will discuss the interesting subject of internet resources available to researchers.

Congratulations to **John Moore** (winner of Brian Kraus *Bold Reconnaissance*) and Cathy Snavely (another winner of Mr. Kraus prints!)

Upcoming events: Saturday, 12 January 2008- come to the **143rd** anniversary of the Second Battle of **Fort Fisher**! On Saturday, January 12th 2008, Ft. Fisher State Historic Site will hold its program commemorating the 143rd Anniversary of the Second Battle of Ft. Fisher. This event will be open to the public from 10:00 am to 4 pm. The Ft. Fisher 32lb. rifled and banded cannon will be fired from atop Sheperd Battery; field artillery and muskets will be fired inside the fort. Come experience camp life and learn about Civil War artillery through demonstrations by site staff and reenactors dressed in period costumes. Talks will be given on civilian life during the war, particularly focused on shortages. Listen to music played by local musician **John Golden**! Learn about field artillery and watch firings of the 12 lb. bronze Napoleon gun and others. Watch reenactor demonstrations of drill and tactics and learn about Confederate uniforms and equipment. Cap off your visit with a demonstration of the 32 lb. cannon as you learn about the assault on the Western bastion and the fall of Ft. Fisher. Tours will be given at scheduled times during the event and focus on the Second Battle of the Fort, January 13-15, 1865. For more information, please contact the site at (910) 458-5538, or [Amy Thornton](mailto:amy@nchistoricsites.org) Please visit the Fort's website at <http://www.nchistoricsites.org/fisher>

**Fort Anderson/Brunswick Town:** February 15th will see the arrival of reenactors at the site. During the weekend (**Saturday the 16th and Sunday, Feb. 17th**) there will be talks, musket demonstrations (on the half-hour) as well as cannon demonstrations (on the hour). Please call (910) 371-6613 for more information.

Civil War Living History Weekend- "**The Battle of Forks Road**" will take place on Friday **February 22 through Sunday February 24, 2008** at the **Cameron Art Museum** (corner S. 17th St. and Independence Blvd.) Bring your entire family to the 143rd anniversary of the battle of Forks road. The reenactment will take place on the museum's historic site, the original battlefield of the final fight for Wilmington on February 20, 1865. Held in conjunction with the **U.S. Colored Troops Symposium**, this third annual event features encampments, artillery and cavalry demonstrations, workshops, storytellers and children's games. Reenactors interested in participating may contact **Richard Long** at fireboss35@hotmail.com or (910) 619-4128. You may also contact the Museum (910) 395-5999 for more information.

Our November speaker, **Colonel Keith Gibson**, Director of VMI Museum Operations (and also

Architectural Historian), presented a knowledgeable discussion on **Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson's** formative years (1851-1861) at the **Virginia Military Institute**. Calling those years "the most mature years" of Jackson's life, Colonel Gibson pointed out that those were the years when Jackson became a husband, father, deacon and professor. When Thomas Jackson (not yet known as "Stonewall") first reviewed the corps of cadets, he was the object of derision as he was outfitted in his finest uniform, complete with a double-breasted frock



coat, white pants, white gloves and brand-new hat. One cadet who saw the gangly new officer hollered at him, “Come out of them boots. They are not allowed in this camp!” Cadet Thomas Munford, at that time the adjutant of the cadet corps, was mortified and apologized to the new instructor. In 1862, as a Colonel in the Confederate Army, Munford would command Jackson’s cavalry. As an instructor, he was not well liked by many who took his courses. As professor of Natural and Experimental Philosophy, his students were often beset with his explanations of the subject. He would pick up various nicknames such as “Square Box”, “Old Tom-foolery” and “Old Hickory.”

Indeed, these were the years during which Jackson matured: he met and married Elinor (“Ellie”) Junkins, but would lose both his wife and newborn son who would die during childbirth; he would again marry, (in 1857, Mary Anna Morrison) and after the loss of yet another child, would become a father. Deeply religious, he became a deacon in the Presbyterian Church but was always the soldier.

The story related by **Colonel Gibson** about Jackson’s final hours at **VMI** was compelling: the cadets, ordered to Richmond when the war began, had already formed on the parade ground, in anticipation of their march to war. Jackson appeared at noon in the very finery he had worn ten years earlier, but this time there were no remarks, only quiet. An officer requested that the cadets begin their trek to the capitol, even though it was somewhat earlier than they had been ordered to depart. Jackson refused and waited as the minutes ticked by until the appointed hour. Finally, after a wait of a half-hour, promptly at 12:30 p.m., he gave the command (his very first wartime order) and the VMI cadets and faculty marched off into history.





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# The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

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## The *RUNNER*

### Newsletter of The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Editor **Bob Cooke**

November 2007

Our next meeting is Thursday, 8 November at the Cape Fear Club (206 Chestnut Street)

**Social Half hour begins at 6:30 p.m. Dinner at 7:00 p.m..**



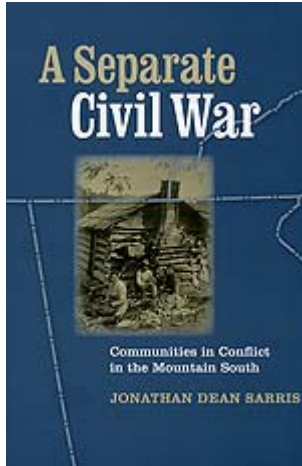
Please join us at the **Cape Fear Club** for both dinner and our guest speaker. The cost is still just **\$26.00** and those who have dined at the Club know it is worth every penny!

Our speaker for our dinner meeting in November will be **Colonel Keith Gibson**, Executive Director of Museum Programs and Architectural Historian for the Virginia Military Institute. Col. Gibson will discuss **Thomas Jackson's** years at VMI (1851-1861) "the decade that made the man who went to war in 1861". As Director of Museum Programs, Col. Gibson is responsible for the operation and development of the **VMI Museum** in Lexington, Virginia and the **New Market Battlefield State Historic Site** in New Market, Virginia. Growing up near Richmond, "on land hotly contested during the Civil War" kindled Col. Gibson's interest at an early age. Col. Gibson received his bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from the VMI in 1977 and after a brief tour of duty as a **Naval Officer**, he returned to VMI as Curator of Exhibits for the Museum. He prepared for a museum career after graduate work in Early American History at James Madison University and Museum Studies with George Washington University and an internship at the Museum at Strawberry Banke, Portsmouth, New Hampshire in 1983. Col. Gibson has worked as a consultant on several films (for both TV and feature films) and appears frequently on both radio and television as a spokesperson for historic preservation. In addition, he has written numerous book reviews, articles on the Civil War era (and VMI) and is an author in his own right. He has written *The VMI Spirit: A Portrait of VMI*. Col. Gibson has also contributed to several other books and is also active in several professional organizations including The Historic

Lexington Foundation and The Center for the Study of the Civil War and has served two terms as president of the Rockbridge Historical Society.



**Jonathan Sarris** kept his rapt audience well entertained with his “comparative analysis” of two counties in northern Georgia during the war. Beginning with a “vignette”



describing an officer walking through a village with his troops, confronting angry townspeople who wanted them out of their village, the soldiers left within a month in the area. “Decidedly not pacified” was the judgment of the officer as he left. It could have been, said Mr. Sarris, the **Balkans in 1990** or even **Vietnam in 1968**. The town was located in the mountains of northern Georgia where allegiances were divided and “confused”. The people of Fannin (a portion of which borders North Carolina) and Lumpkin counties, in Appalachia, fought what Mr. Sarris termed the “inner war”; a war not visited by Ken Burns “Civil War”. Soldiers from these counties fought for hearth and home on a local level. It was a brutal guerilla war, divided along community lines, exacerbated by many deserters (and draft dodgers) who flocked to the area to “lay low” (to avoid service). Mr. Sarris cited the case of the Woody brothers, in which pro-Confederate Josiah testified against his brother John Wesley for being pro-Union. John was acquitted and later fled to East Tennessee to join the Union army. Class divisions appeared to be a contributing factor in the strife as Lumpkin County, supposedly more pro-Confederate than it’s neighbor to the northwest and thought to be more “cosmopolitan”, viewed Fannin County as full of simple “mountaineers” who were responsible for all the atrocities committed (civilians tortured, houses and barns burned) in northern Georgia. In short, Mr. Sarris brought to light the fact that the Civil War was fought not only on the **Virginia** fields but also in the fields along the **Blue Ridge mountains**.



There was an interesting article in the *Star-News* recently (September 27) in described The Museum of the Confederacy’s idea to expand their collection to Fort Monroe, Virginia. That army base is due to be closed and they are looking for ideas for the area. The Museum at present has only enough room to display about ten percent of its collection, so the move would not only open up more items for public viewing, but would likely increase tourism to the area. It certainly looks like a “win-win” situation for both parties! The Museum has also mentioned two other possible sites, Chancellorsville and Fredericksburg Battlefields. In any event, the Museum hopes to have an “off-campus” location up and running by 2011, the sesquicentennial of the American Civil War.



**Raffle Winners!**

***Grant Comes East- Tommy Morgan; Battlefields of the Civil War- Maury Snavely; McPherson's Ridge- Ed Gibson; Shower of Stars- Bob Cooke; The Battle of Franklin- John Winecoff; Presidential Courage- Ed Hickman.***







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# The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

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## The *RUNNER*

### Newsletter of The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Editor **Bob Cooke**

October 2007

Our next meeting is Thursday, 11 October at St. Andrew's On-the-Sound  
Registration desk opens at **6:30**, the social (half) hour begins at **7:00** and the program starts at  
**7:30**.



Our speaker for October will be **Jonathan Sarris**, who “hails from the border state of Maryland. He grew up in the suburbs of Washington D.C. and attended Washington College in Chestertown, Maryland. ‘After a blessedly short career in government’ (his words) he returned to graduate school. In 1998 he received a PhD in history from the University of Georgia, where he studied with Robert E. Lee biographer, Emory M. Thomas. He has taught at the University of Georgia and Appalachian State University. He is currently an Associate Professor of History at North Carolina Wesleyan College in Rocky Mount, N.C. In addition to his book, *A Separate Civil War: Communities in Conflict*, (his topic for our October meeting) he has written several articles and book reviews on Civil War topics. His book looks at two counties in northern Georgia, where a ‘local Civil War’ was taking place as mountaineers became ‘disaffected’ with Confederate policies.” [The above taken from [The Knapsack](#) newsletter of the Raleigh Round Table.]



Some forty or so attendees (which included the speaker's mother, Linda Rhodes!) at our September kick-off meeting were treated to a great presentation by Mr. Jeff Bockert who talked about: *Lessons Learned in Battle: The Mexican War as a Precursor to the Civil War*. Beginning with a quick summation of the events which led up to that conflict, Mr. Bockert went on to note the similarities between the two wars.



When trouble with Mexico seemed imminent, General Zachary Taylor was dispatched to the disputed region. When war began, Taylor marched into Mexico and the first battle (and American victory) soon followed. Taylor, who often dressed in common soldier's garb, used the strategy of continuing to pursue the enemy, to give him no time to rest and reorganize. On his staff was a young officer by the name of U.S. Grant. Grant, who would also dress as a common soldier, would use those same tactics against the Confederates.

Also sent to Mexico was General Winfield Scott, who mounted the largest amphibious operation at that time, to attack the coastal city of Vera Cruz. Scott, (who was a meticulous dresser) planned the landing and subsequent movement inland very carefully. On his staff was a young officer named George McClellan. "Little Mac" would also recall his Mexican War experiences and not attack until everything was in place.

Mr. Bockert also compared the role of the Presidents: James K. Polk (born in Mecklenburg County) "directly managed the day-to-day operations" of the military; he appointed Colonels and argued with the generals. Lincoln (as did Polk) expanded the role of the Presidents; they became "subservient" to their Commander-in-Chief. Both were "party" men and while Polk argued with General Scott during the Mexican War, it was Lincoln who went head-to-head with McClellan during the Civil War. Interestingly, Mr. Bockert also pointed out that Confederate President Jeff Davis was very much like Polk; both men "distrusted competitors" and were more than willing "to sacrifice military success for loyalty."

Other innovations were seen during the Mexican War. The role of the Navy changed as ships were now put on blockade duty (against Mexican ports); at Vera Cruz offshore bombardment and a beach assault were developed (which would later be used by Union forces at Fort Fisher); the role of the volunteer soldier was expanded; at the battle of Palo Alto, new artillery tactics (for example, the use of "Flying Artillery") were developed which made that arm the "King of Battle."

In short, many officers who were of junior grade during the Mexican War recalled their experiences when called upon to serve in the American War. Captain Robert E. Lee, who might have been termed General Taylor's engineering "scout" learned the value of flanking maneuvers with Scott as he battled his way to Mexico City: "Good intelligence and outwitting the enemy wins battles". He also remembered to never overestimate the strength of the enemy. Judging by the numbers of questions that were asked of Jeff, interest in this subject remains high!

**Please note that the meeting date in February is the THIRD Thursday of that month. It was necessary to change the date due to a conflict. Also, a date for the March meeting has not yet been determined.**







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# The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

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## The *RUNNER*

### Newsletter of The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Editor **Bob Cooke**

September 2007

Our next meeting is Thursday, 13 September at St. Andrew's On-the-Sound  
Registration desk opens at **6:30**, the social (half) hour begins at **7:00** and the program starts at  
**7:30**.



Welcome back!

We hope you had a great summer and are prepared for a great season of speakers! Kicking off our season will be **Jeff Bockert**. Mr. Bockert's topic will be Civil War Generals and the Mexican War. Mr. Bockert, presently a resident of Goldsboro, is a California native who currently serves as the Civil War Specialist for the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources and as Chairman of the North Carolina Civil War Tourism Council. Mr. Bockert has worked in the historic site and museum management field for over fifteen years. Prior to arriving in Goldsboro, he was the manager of the President James K. Polk Birthplace near Charlotte, N.C. He has worked for the National Archives in Washington, D.C. and also as Associate Curator of the Battleship North Carolina in Wilmington. He has taught history at Brunswick Community College and at Wingate University. He is the author of several works on presidential and military history and has been published in works such as White House Studies. Mr. Bockert received both his undergraduate degree in American History and his master's degree from UNC-Wilmington.

His talk will center on the history of the Mexican War- "delving into aspects of that war that served as precursors to the Civil War. Included in this will be overviews of military tactics, advances and uses in weaponry, battlefield experience of future Civil War commanders, the relationship between the military and the civilian government, the integration of joint Navy-Army campaigns and cooperation, and the relationship between the volunteers and the regular army."

Please join us at our September meeting (and bring a friend) for what promises to be a great talk.

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Just who was John Summerfield Staples and what was his Civil War “claim to fame”? The answer lies below, read on! (Click [here](#) for the answer)

We have compiled a great slate of speakers for this season. (Click [here](#))! Please note that the meeting date in February is the **THIRD** Thursday of that month. It was necessary to change the date due to a conflict. Also, a date for the **March** meeting has not yet been determined.

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### **General Pierre G.T. Beauregard?**

Beauregard was involved in many pivotal events during the war, which began at Fort Sumter. Davis blamed him for the defeat at Shiloh. He was relieved of command. He was later sent to Charleston, S.C. where he was given the responsibility of protecting the coasts. After the war he returned to New Orleans, refused high command in the Egyptian as well as the Rumanian armies and went into railroading. His reputation was tarnished when he was associated with the Louisiana Lottery and he died in 1893 in New Orleans.

### **Major General Daniel Harvey Hill?**

He was Stonewall Jackson’s brother-in-law. He became embroiled in a controversy with Bragg claiming Bragg was incompetent. He served the rest of the war in command of Volunteers in North Carolina. In 1877, Hill became president of the University of Arkansas, later headed the Georgia Military Academy and died in 1889. (From website- <http://dburgin.tripod.com>)

Finally: **Ed Bearss**, the rock star of Civil War tour guides will lead the fifth annual “**Best of Bearss**”, expedition with a seven-day look at the 1863 East Tennessee Campaign, beginning in Chattanooga....Tour participants know they must do their to keep up with Bearss. Even in his 80's. he still can out walk just about anybody....This tour is sponsored by **History America Tours** and if you are interested, they can be reached at 800-628-8542 or [www.historyamerica.com](http://www.historyamerica.com).

### **A note from your president .....**

I've reserved our usual meeting room at St. Andrew's for next year. It's the usual "second Thursday" except for February, when we meet on the 21st so as to avoid conflicting with Valentine's Day.

One of St. Andrew's charitable programs is a monthly collection of food for their Inner City Ministries. We could just leave some cans, packages, etc. of non-perishables in a carton with a note when we meet, and they'll distribute them. I thought it would be a nice way to give the church a little extra thanks besides our usual annual check.

**Sincerely,**

**David Norris**





# **The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table**

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## **The *RUNNER***

**Newsletter of The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table**

**Editor Bob Cooke**

**December 2006**





December 2006

## Newsletter of The Cape Fear Civil War Roundtable

Editor **Bob Cooke**

[Click here for Steering Committee Contact Numbers.](#)

**Speaker's Schedule:** [click HERE](#)

The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table was treated to a very special evening on November 9, when we met at the **Cape Fear Club** for our annual dinner meeting.

The venue was elegant (we were treated to the more intimate setting of the downstairs dining room) and the food, as usual, was outstanding.

Of course, the reason for the gathering was neither the food nor the historical setting but rather to hear the presentation by **Kevin P. Duffus**, *The Lost Light The Mystery of the Missing Cape Hatteras Fresnel Lens*. For an hour, following dinner, Kevin unraveled the mystery of what happened to the first-order Fresnel lens that had been removed from the Cape Hatteras Light.

It was the summer of 1861. The Federal Navy, realizing the importance of the lighthouse system on the Carolina Coast, began military action to capture and control the all-important navigational lights as part of what was to become the Northern Squadron Blockade. The Confederates, also realizing the importance of the lights, took action to remove the light lens and thus render the lights inoperable.

**Kevin Duffus** began his quest as a young boy of 17. It took over 30 years for him to locate and document what happened to the first order Hatteras lens. Oh yes, the Federal Navy ultimately replaced the first order lens with the more common second order Henry-Lepaute lens (The first order Cape Lookout lens was replaced with a third order lens) all of which may well have contributed to the destruction of the Burnside fleet, off Cape Hatteras in January of 1862 which included the loss of the *USS Monitor*.

The lens, being a series of finely ground glass prisms, had an interesting journey. Properly wrapped, the lens would fill a boxcar, thus it became a Herculean task to conceal such a load. Indeed, the lens was split in order to more easily conceal their existence. For the next 140 years, the Federal Lighthouse Service, historians and enthusiastic lighthouse researchers sought to locate



the lens. The journey included an icehouse in Tarboro, select individuals to whom individual lens had been sold for \$35 and finally, and most appropriately, to the newly built Hatteras light.

It was an intriguing and most interesting journey for **Kevin Duffus** and for us as he told his story in a well illustrated most interesting and compelling manner. Our November meeting was most memorable and one, this reporter, is glad he did not miss.



Most of us are aware of what happened at Fort Fisher and the who, what and when related to Blockade Runners and the Northern Blockade Squadron.

How many of us know what was happening in our hometown of Wilmington from 1861 through to the fall of our fair town in the early spring of 1865?

Wilmington, once the Capitol of North Carolina was a bustling seaport before the Civil War. It became critical to the success of the Confederacy, once the blockade became effective along the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts.

Attend our 7 December Round Table and learn more about the local events of that traumatic era. Our own **Bob Cooke**, who is writing a book on the subject, will weave a story of intrigue, and some personalities as he describes the War in Wilmington, 1861- 1865.

The registration desk opens at 6:00 PM; refreshments (supplied by our new food guy Charles Watson) and Social Hour begin at 7:00. The program begins promptly at 7:30.

Please note that we are meeting the First Thursday in December (rather than the second) in order to avoid conflicts with Holiday parties. Please try to attend. This is one presentation you do not want to miss.

**Bruce Patterson**



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*Al Hines - Webmaster*



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# The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

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## The *RUNNER*

### Newsletter of The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Editor **Bob Cooke**

November 2006



**Our speaker this month will be Kevin Duffus.** In less than a decade, Kevin Duffus has published two books and produced four award-winning documentary films comprising seven hours of television programming, all on Outer Banks history. Through extensive research, he solved the long-standing mystery of the missing 1854 Cape Hatteras Lighthouse Fresnel lens, discovered the lost history of the builder of the 1870 Cape Hatteras Lighthouse, preserved the amazing personal story of the WWII “baby born in a lifeboat” and oral histories of island residents, Coast Guard crews, Navy sailors and Merchant Marines, all who survived “Torpedo Junction.” Mr. Duffus will speak on the lost Fresnel lens and its “rediscovery!”

Please join us for our annual dinner meeting at the Cape Fear Club (201 Chestnut St.). The registration desk (manned by Bruce Patterson) will be open at 6 p.m., while the cost for the dinner and meeting (a package deal only, please!) is \$26. Payment must be remitted to the RT at the above P.O. Box by November 3rd. The dress for this meeting is “business casual.” Remember, guests, as well as new members are welcome!

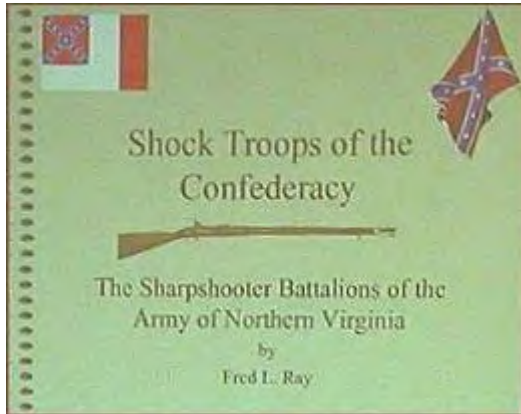
**Raffle Winners:** (September’s meeting) *Decision At Sea*, Bob Quinn; *Dawn Over Baghdad*, Keith Ward; *Reveille*, Mary Royal; *The Crater*, Ed Gibson; *Gettysburg*, Bruce Patterson.

(October’s meeting) *Civil War Battlefield Guide*, Ed Gibson; *Ironclad of the Roanoke*, John Wyncoff; *Battlefield*, John Moore; *Co. Aytch*, Ed Russ; *Advance and Retreat*, Bruce Patterson.



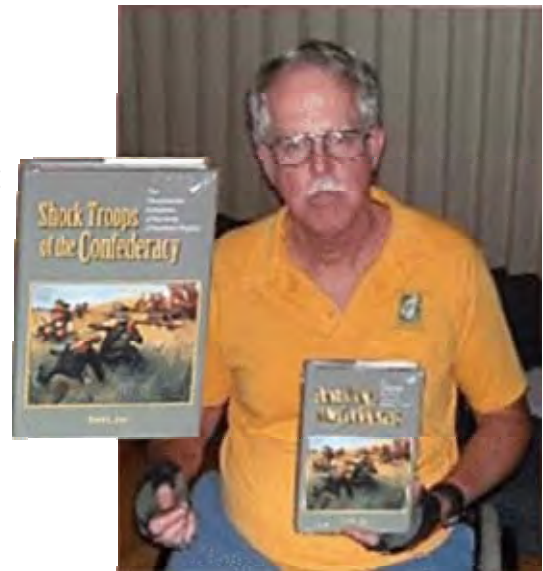
We were informed that there is still a chance to participate in the clean up at the Cameron Art Museum, site of the **Fork's Road Battlefield**. Bring your wheelbarrow, shovel, rake, axe & bush hog to the site (17th St. & Independence Blvd.) on Saturday, 9 December. For more information, call Johnnie McCoy at 620-5134.

**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 acting 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. Their success rate attracted the attention of R.E. Lee, who ordered the formation of a Sharpshooter Brigade in every Division of the ANV. 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!

At our November meeting, we will continue to sell raffle tickets for Brian Kraus' *Bold Reconnaissance*. When 100 are sold, we will have the raffle. Come early and buy a few tickets (\$5 each).





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# The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

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## The *RUNNER*

### Newsletter of The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Editor **Bob Cooke**

October 2006



**Speaker's Schedule:** click [HERE](#)

Our next meeting is on Thursday, 12 October at St. Andrew's On-The-Sound  
Social Hour 7:00 p.m. Meeting 7:30 p.m.



**October's speaker comes to us from Asheville, N.C. Fred L. Ray, author of *Shock Troops of the Confederacy: The Sharpshooter Battalions of the Army of Northern Virginia*, will speak to us about his research into a much-neglected subject. To quote from a press release, his work "breaks new ground in military history, and in the Civil War, while reinterpreting many of its major battles. Characterized...as 'the most significant small unit tactical analysis of the Army of Northern Virginia ever written,' the book tells the story of the elite group of men who, whether screening Stonewall Jackson's flank march at Chancellorsville or leading the last desperate assault at Fort Stedman, led the Army of Northern Virginia in the advance, protected it at rest, and covered its retreat." Describing himself as a "micro-publisher" Ray became intrigued with these units while researching one of his ancestors. Mr. Ray has also written several books on**

another of his favorite subjects, white water rafting. He began paddling in the late 1970s and soon became a raft guide.

Also at our October meeting, we will display the work of art created by New Bern artist Brian Kraus. The painting of General “Stonewall” Jackson astride his horse Little Sorrel, at the Battle of Second Manassas, has been donated by Mr. Kraus to benefit our Round Table. The incident depicted (where Jackson was seen by Union troops, but dismissed as an old farmer, because of his clothes and the horse he rode) was described by James I. Robertson in his work on Jackson (*Stonewall Jackson: The Man, The Soldier, The Legend.*) Raffle tickets will be sold for \$5 at this and our November meeting (see Ed Gibson) and there will be only 100 tickets made available. When all tickets are sold, the raffle will be held. Come early and buy one or two tickets for the chance of a lifetime!



Our annual dinner meeting at the historic Cape Fear Club (201 Chestnut St.) is scheduled for Thursday, November 9th. Please bear in mind that the attire for this meeting is “business casual.” Guests, as well new members are welcome. We are trying to keep the cost down, but it is dependent on how many members attend, so please mark your calendars and let us know you are coming!

The speaker for our “kick-off” meeting was member Richard Triebe. Mr. Triebe, author of the novel, *On a Rising Tide*, which was set in Civil War Wilmington, described what it was like back then. Using newspaper articles (having read several of the originals, thanks to Richard for transcribing them,



Ed.!) Richard showed us some of the little-known aspects of blockade running (no Seamen were allowed in town after sundown, e.g.) Soldiers, sailors, speculators, saloons and prostitutes soon flooded the little town, many of them winding up near the railroad depot, in a location which became known as “Paddy’s Hollow.” It was in this area, in September 1863 that Texan troops of General Hood’s Brigade, on their way to Chickamauga, visited the saloons and soon became drunk and disorderly. When the Town Guard attempted to arrest them, a serious altercation took place, with the Guard coming out on the losing end! Richard also delved into a bit of “what if” when, in his



novel, he placed the visit of the Ladies' Aid Society to Fort Fisher closer to the time of the January (1865) attack. The slides of news articles about Fort Fisher were very interesting and informative as were Richard's artifacts from his own collection. Thanks again to Richard for a great talk!.

While on the Internet, please visit the website of the North Carolina Maritime History Council, ([ncmaritimehistory.org](http://ncmaritimehistory.org)). Their annual symposium will be held in Southport on October 26th-28th (Thursday through Saturday). Scheduled are tours of [Brunswick town/Fort Anderson, Fort Fisher](#), the [Underwater Archaeology Lab](#), a Cape Fear River boat tour and even a wine reception! Speakers include Dr. Chris Fonvielle (we all remember him!), Burt Felton, Dr. Everard Smith, Gordon Watts, Richard Lawrence and the keynote speaker, Dr. Stanley South. There is a fee charged, for more information call the [N.C. Maritime Museum](#) at 910-457-0003. The Museum is located in Southport on North Howe Street.







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# The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

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## The *RUNNER*

### Newsletter of The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Editor **Bob Cooke**

September 2006

Our next meeting is on Thursday, 14 September at St. Andrew's On-The-Sound  
Social Hour 7:00 p.m. Meeting 7:30 p.m



Our speaker for September will be our own Richard Triebe. Mr. Triebe, who moved to Wilmington from Chicago in 1987, became fascinated with the area's history. His reading and research led him to write the Civil War novel *On A Rising Tide*. While studying copies of the *Wilmington Daily Journal* from the war, he discovered many obscure articles and facts which he will share with us. Sometimes notices would appear in the paper about the fate of a soldier after the battles of Fort Fisher. These stories led him to uncover some startling information about the ultimate destiny of the soldiers at Fort Fisher. Richard will also discuss the Federal Naval blockade and how it affected Wilmington.

Please join us for our September meeting as we "kick-off" the Civil War season and also introduce our new RT President, David Norris. David, of course is well known to the RT, as he has been speaker, member and Steering Committee member for some time now!

We know you join us in wishing the best to outgoing President Chris E. Fonvielle, who will now have time to work on his many Civil War-related projects. Dr. Fonvielle has headed our RT for several years (and prior to this he was Program Director) and deserves a well-earned break. Chris has volunteered to remain "on tap" and remains a member of the Steering Committee.

Please review our schedule of speakers for the upcoming season, it promises to be a very interesting one!





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# The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

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## The *RUNNER*

### Newsletter of The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Editor **Bob Cooke**

March - April 2006

Our next meeting is on Thursday, 13 April, St. Andrew's On-The-Sound  
Social Hour 7:00 p.m. Meeting 7:30 p.m.

**Note: There will be no meeting in March, we'll be on our spring trip!**



**Our speaker for April** will be **Richard Zawacki**. Mr. Zawacki, who moved recently from Massachusetts to Southport, is “a semi-retired physical therapist.” Working part-time nowadays, Richard was formerly the physical therapist for the Boston Red Sox for twenty years. His interest in Elon Farnsworth “began with a trip to Gettysburg” where he read a plaque describing Farnsworth’s (last) charge. He began to delve deeper and has been researching young Farnsworth’s life “on and off” for the past five years and hopes one day to write a biography based on his research.

**Raffle Winners:** *Strange Battles of the Civil War*- James MacLaren; *Piedmont Soldiers and Their Families*- Bob Quinn; *Annie Between the States*- John Gordon; *Carrying the Flag*- Jack Kuske; *The Monitor Chronicles*- Dale Lear; *The South Vs. The South*- Bill Hacker; Drawing of CSS (Ironclad Ram) Jackson- Ed Russ.

**Speaking about our March trip**, we will board our bus at 7:30 A.M. at the Pine Valley United Methodist Church, corner of Shipyard Blvd. And Stonewall Jackson Drive. We should arrive at Fort Bragg about 10 A.M. Since Monroe’s Crossroads is on Fort Bragg property, please be sure to bring a photo ID. If you plan to go, please send your money (\$75) in ASAP! The tour begin at about ten and go until 5 P.M. We should return to the Church parking lot at about 7 P.M.

**Mark Bradley** brought us up to speed on the battle that took place at a small North Carolina town named Averbosboro. He took us back to March 1865 when General William T. Sherman

was advancing through the Carolinas. On 8 March, with 60,000 veteran troops, Sherman crossed into North Carolina. On the move towards Fayetteville, with the aim of moving on to Goldsboro, Sherman's men were divided into two wings, with cavalry general "Kil-Cavalry" Kilpatrick guarding the left flank. That column was commanded by General Henry Warner Slocum. They will face Confederate General Joe Johnston, who is gathering a sizable force to contest Sherman's advance. His cavalry is led by Lieutenant General Wade Hampton, who was frantically returning from Columbia, South Carolina. Kilpatrick, in an attempt to prevent Hampton from slipping by him, will divided his force of 4,300 troopers and cover the roads to Fayetteville.

General Kilpatrick, believing he has covered all bases, settled in for the night at the Monroe plantation, not knowing that the Confederates are moving on him. Lieutenant General William Hardee's ("Old Reliable") Corps prepare to attack at dawn. With no pickets out, the attack is a complete surprise and the Federals are routed. One of the cavalrymen, Captain Bostic has a special mission: to capture General Kilpatrick. Approaching the Monroe house, Bostic hails a Yankee in his nightshirt and asks him where the general is. The man points off to the distance and yells back, "There he goes!" Bostic and his men ride off after the man pointed out, but it is the wrong man! It is Kilpatrick himself who showed Bostic where to go and narrowly avoided capture due to his quick-thinking. This event will go down in history as "Kilpatrick's Shirttail Skeddadle!"

The Confederate victory is short-lived however, Union soldiers have been forced back to Nicholson's Creek, a swampy area, where they rally and throw back the attackers. "Although the battle was small and indecisive, it nevertheless had the effect of dividing or spreading out Sherman's army." Given time to concentrate, Johnston will launch another attack at Bentonville on 19 March, which was the largest battle of the war fought in North Carolina. Mr. Bradley's maps and thorough understanding of the battle helped enormously and will contribute greatly to our trip on 25 March.

**We were not able to go to the Fort Anderson** reenactment (18-19 February) but we understand it was a huge success and has brought needed attention to the Historic Site. If any members did attend, please feel free to pen us a note and if possible, we'll post it on the website!

**The Fork's Road event** is to take place this weekend (25-26 February) at the Louis Wells Cameron Art Museum at the intersection of Independence Blvd. And 17th Street. The delaying action, meant to give Braxton Bragg an opportunity to destroy government stores and get out of Wilmington, pitted nearly 1,000 Confederates against the Union juggernaut. There will be artillery and small arms demonstrations as well as several presentations on the battle (Dr. Chris Fonvielle), African-American soldiers (Dr. Edward Keith) and a "Civilian Woman's Interpretation in the museum.

NOTE: Last update - **April 15, 2006**

### **Our Spring Trip!**

At 7:30 sharp (or shortly after-thanks again to all for waiting for me!) the stalwart band of twenty-four members and guests left Wilmington by chartered bus for Fort Bragg. We were off to meet Mark Bradley for a tour of the Monroe's Crossroads and Averasboro Battlefields. As an

added attraction, Mark invited Jeff Irwin, of Fort Bragg's Cultural Resources Program. Their function, as explained by Mr. Irwin, is to "identify, evaluate and protect historically significant properties" situated on Fort Bragg property. There are over 4,200 archaeological sites (which includes nearly 400 buildings and 27 historic cemeteries.)

Hampton, Wheeler, Butler, Kilpatrick and Sherman. These were just a few of the names that we heard at last month's meeting as Mark Bradley briefed the Round Table on the battles of mid-March 1865. We were given a battle study (Cavalry Clash in the Sandhills, by Kenneth Belew) which we used as a guide when we arrived at the Charles Monroe house site. Unfortunately, there is nothing left of the house, but it is pretty well known where it is. It was at the Monroe house that "Kilpatrick's Shirrtail Skedaddle" took place and while the recounting of that was humorous, it was balanced by the Union and Confederate graves that dot the area. Before leaving the military reservation, Mr. Irwin gave us a package which contained several prints, including one of Union Lieutenant Stetson firing canister at attacking Confederate cavalry. We also swung by one of the historic cemeteries on Fort Bragg and then visited Oak Bluff Church (ca. 1850s.)

After lunch we continued on to the Averagesboro Museum, but alas, we arrived a little late and the museum was closed. The grounds were open however and Mark led our group to all three Confederate lines. It was, as he pointed out, based on an earlier battle: the Revolutionary battle of Guilford Court House! Before long it was time to head back to Wilmington. The bus was equipped with a DVD player and before the movie Sahara ended, we were home!

Kudos again to Dale Lear and Bruce Patterson for arranging the tour- it was excellent, as was lunch, beverages, (coffee and Dunkin' doughnuts also), apples and chocolate cookies. Everything was thought of, right down to the hand wipes before and after lunch!





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# The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

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## The *RUNNER*

### Newsletter of The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Editor **Bob Cooke**

February 2006

Our next meeting is on Thursday, 9 February - St. Andrew's On-The-Sound

Social Hour 7:00 p.m. Meeting 7:30 p.m.

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Our speaker for February will be Mark Bradley. Mark received his B.A. in History from N.C. State and his M.A. in History from UNC-Chapel Hill. He is currently writing his doctoral dissertation on civil-military relations in North Carolina during Reconstruction. Mark is the author of two books, *Last Stand in the Carolinas: The Battle of Bentonville* and *This Astounding Close: The Road to Bennett Place*. He has written numerous articles for North and South, Blue and Gray and the North Carolina Historical Review, among other publications. Mark lives in Graham, N.C.

The title of Mark's program is "Monroe's Crossroads and Averagesboro: A Sneak Preview." As the title indicates, Mark will provide us with an overview of our upcoming tour in March. The Battle of Monroe's Crossroads and Averagesboro occurred during William T. Sherman's Carolinas campaign of 1865 and demonstrated that the Confederate army under Joseph E. Johnston was far from defeated. This will be Mark's third appearance before the CFCWRT.

### **Upcoming News!**

As mentioned in our last letter, there will be a reenactment at Forks Road (behind the Louise Wells Cameron Art Museum.) This will take place on Saturday 25 February (10 am until 5 pm) and again on Sunday from 10 am until 3 pm. It will mark the 141st anniversary of the battle and military and civilian reenactors will present living history exhibits which will include small arms and artillery demonstrations, artifact exhibits as well as children's activities. Our own Dr. Chris

**Fonvielle will speak on the battle which opened the road to Wilmington for the Union army. Cameron Art Museum is located at the intersection of S. 17th St. and Independence Blvd. and admission to the event is free. For more information call (910) 395-5999 or online at [www.cameronartmuseum.com](http://www.cameronartmuseum.com)**

**Raffle Winners: Unlikely Allies- Bob Quinn; With My Face to the Enemy- Dale Lear; The Illustrated Confederate Reader- John Moore; Gettysburg- Steve Gunther; A Stillness At Appomattox- Palmer Royal.**

**At our last meeting “Kim” Kimball gave us a blow-by account of the daring raid by that nemesis of the Cape Fear, Union Naval Lieutenant William Barker Cushing. Billed as “the longest unsupported Union raid” of the Civil War, it (and the sinking of the dreaded ram Albemarle) bolstered Cushing’s reputation to the point where by war’s end, he was, together with Admiral David G. Farragut, the most widely known naval figure of the war. After describing the armament as well as the U.S.S. Ellis itself, Mr. Kimball indicated by the fall of 1862, how much the North needed a victory. Cushing, it might be said, was following the guidelines of Navy Secretary Gideon Welles, who ordered that the Navy “descend vigorously” against the Confederacy, burn vessels, seize stores and in general, be aggressive. Selecting the New River as a good avenue for his venture, Cushing (who was only 20 years of age) pushed off into the river on 23 November 1862. As they made their way upriver, they were spotted by Confederate pickets, stationed nearby “to watch for Union incursions.” The alarm went out but it would take time for the Confederates to rally to the endangered point. There was no time to even warn the citizens of Jacksonville, Cushing’s likely target, of the impending attack. By 1 p.m., Cushing had made his way to the city’s wharf and landed a party of tars who immediately “captured twenty-five stand of public arms”, the Wilmington mail and 6 slaves. Also captured were two schooners and after running up the U.S. flag at the courthouse square, they decided it was time to depart! As they slowly made their way down river, they were closely hounded by cavalry; Cushing fired and drove off his pursuers, but he realized they would have to anchor at some point in the river, as the twisting river, with it’s shoals could only be navigated during the day. This delay gave the Confederates time to bring up several pieces of artillery and sight them on the gunboat, now anchored for the night. As dawn approached, the rebels opened with artillery, but were driven off by Cushing’s return fire. When the Ellis grounded, Cushing shifted his men to one of the schooners but, with 6 volunteers, remained aboard his stranded steamer. When the Confederates began peppering his vessel with the deadly accurate 12 pdr. Whitworth gun, Cushing loaded his cannon, set fires on his vessel and set off for the prize schooners. Upon his return to the fleet, he believed he would be reprimanded for having lost his ship, but was instead commended for his actions. As the “Scourge of the Carolina Coast”, his name would be used to scare Confederate children, but this bogeyman was real and would again thwart Southerners when, in October 1864, he sunk the ram Albemarle!**

### **Events, events, events!**

**Fort Anderson: The reenactment of the battle for Fort Anderson will take place on the very dates the actual battle took place 141 years ago: February 18th and 19th (Saturday and Sunday). The battle will take place about 2 p.m. on both days. There will be food sutlers, a bake sale and the raffle of a reproduction of the garrison flag now on display at the site. The (facsimile) flag has been meticulously crafted by Ben Tart (a 19th century fabric and material expert). Our own Dr. Chris Fonvielle will speak on Sunday.**

**The Onslow County Museum will host their 9th Annual Civil War Encampment on April 1st and 2nd (10 A.M. until 5 P.M.). Activities will include Infantry, Artillery, Cavalry and Navy demonstrations; Life on the Home Front; children's activities; a fashion show; period music; special guest speakers and even a community dance! For more information call (910) 324-5008 or visit the museum online at [museum@co.onslow.nc.us](mailto:museum@co.onslow.nc.us) The Museum is located at 301 S. Wilmington St., Richlands, N.C.**

**If you are in the Lynchburg, Va. area, Liberty University, (Lynchburg, Va.) Will sponsor the 10th Annual Civil War Seminar on March 24-25 and the subject is "Blood on the Canvas: The History of Civil War Art." Featured speakers will include well-known Civil War artists Keith Rocco and Bradley Schmehl, sculptor Gary Casteel and photography expert Rob Gibson. Also included in the program are authors Harold Holzer and Hunter Lesser. There will also be a performance "unique to 19th century Victorian audiences." The event will be held in the University's DeMoss Hall and reservations are required to be made by 22 March. Admission to the seminar is \$55 (which includes everything, Friday night banquet and luncheon on Saturday). For other pricing, contact the University at (434) 592-4031 or on line at [gsaxon@liberty.edu/civilwar](mailto:gsaxon@liberty.edu/civilwar).**

### **Cooke's Corner**

**Sometime ago, we ran an article on the execution of John Yates Beall. That research fanned a more detailed look into the Lincoln assassination. As mentioned in the article there was a mysterious visit from "two friends...from Baltimore" Beall was hung. Was one of the visitors John Wilkes Booth? It was later said that Booth and Beall had been college roommates at the University of Virginia (and were such close friends that they were known as "Damon and Pythias") and that Booth had gone to see President Abraham Lincoln to plead for Beall's life. It was further said that Lincoln agreed to commute his death sentence, but when later confronted by Secretaries Stanton and Seward, who opposed it. When Beall was executed, Booth decided to kill Lincoln (and Stanton and Seward also). This version of the assassination was put forth after the war by several people, (usually in the pages of the Confederate Veteran) including Dr. George A. Foote, who was captured at Fort Fisher and confined in a cell at Fort Columbus near Beall. (Interestingly, Major General W.H.C. Whiting, also captured at that battle, lay wounded in his prison cell in the same jail. Beall's scaffold, it was reported, was built outside his cell window.)**

**Anyway, a quick visit online turned up a whole lot of Lincoln Assassination theories:**

- 1. Andrew Johnson was involved with Booth. Approximately 7 hours before shooting the President, Booth dropped by the Washington hotel where Vice-president Johnson was staying. When he learned that Johnson was out, he left a card and wrote on it: "Don't wish to disturb you, are you at home? J. Wilkes Booth." Mary Todd Lincoln always felt Johnson was involved in the death of her husband. She wrote "...that, that miserable inebriate Johnson, had cognizance of my husband's death- Why was that card of Booth's found in his box[?]"**
- 2. Lincoln's Assassination was the result of a Confederate Plot. Coded letters found in Booth's trunk back at the National Hotel tied him to the Confederacy. Supposedly George Atzerodt (a fellow conspirator) made a statement that Booth knew "of a Confederate plot to blow up the White House. After the failed Dahlgren raid (in which C.S. President Jeff Davis was a target)**

**Lincoln, it was felt, was fair game for assassination. Judah P. Benjamin, Confederate Secretary of State was said to be the prime mover for an attempt on Lincoln's life. When an explosives expert was captured en route to Washington, Booth had to act.**

**3. Lincoln's Assassination was the result of a conspiracy of powerful international bankers. In this theory, Booth is nothing more than a hired gun. The theory is that Lincoln needed money to finance the war and was offered the capital at very high rates by the Rothschilds of Europe. Rather than accept the harsh terms, Lincoln found other funds to continue the war. It was also said that British bankers opposed Lincoln's protectionist policies.**

**4. The Roman Catholic Church was behind Lincoln's Assassination. In 1886, an ex-priest (Charles Chiniquy) wrote a book which maintained that Jeff Davis had offered \$1,000,000 if someone would "kill the author of the bloodshed." It was written that the Jesuits were involved and "were to select the assassins, train them, and show them a crown of glory in heaven." It turns out that Chiniquy, was at one time defended in a lawsuit against the Church, by none other than Lincoln! Chiniquy's book goes on to recite a long list of reasons why the Vatican wanted Lincoln dead.**

**5. Secretary of War Edwin Stanton was the mastermind behind Lincoln's assassination. Stanton was against Lincoln's mild Reconstruction policies, is the main reason given in a book that was written in 1897. This theory also implicates Lafayette Baker (chief of the National Detective Police) as well as several Congressmen.**

**There are several other theories put forth. Is it any wonder there are so many Kennedy Assassination theories around.**







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# **The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table**

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## **The *RUNNER***

### **Newsletter of The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table**

**Editor Bob Cooke**

**January 2006**

**Our next meeting is on Thursday, 12 January - St. Andrew's On-The-Sound Social Hour 7:00 p.m. Meeting 7:30 p.m.**



**Our speaker for January will be L.J. (“Kim”) Kimball, who hails from Lajunta, Colorado. The son of a career Air Force officer, he graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1965 and went on to receive a Masters degree in Nuclear Physics from the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School; he is also a graduate of the Naval War College. Kim retired as an infantry officer from the U.S. Marine Corps in 1991, having commanded units from Platoon to Battalion and garnered specialties as a Parachutist, Ordnance System Engineer and Foreign Area Specialist.**

**After retiring, Kim settled in Onslow County where he continues to promote the history and proud heritage of that County. He is the author of three books dealing with local history and currently has two additional works in progress. He sits as a member of the N.C Civil War Tourism Council, the Onslow County Museum Foundation and vice-chairman of the Onslow County Museum Advisory Board. Kim is also the past president of the Civil War Round Table of Eastern North Carolina, the Onslow County Historical Society and vice-chairman of the Onslow County Tourism Advisory Board. He is a charter member of Camp 1302 of the SCV. Kim has been selected as the Historian for the proposed Marine Corps Museum of the Carolinas. He and his wife, the former Dorothy Bumar of Latrobe, Pa. Have five children. The topic of his talk will be “Cushing’s New River Raid,” (the subject of one of his books.)**

**We hope you all had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! We are looking forward to another great RT year as well!**

**Upcoming News!**

**There are several events taking place in the near and immediate future. One is the annual reenactment of the battle of Fort Fisher. This will take place on Saturday, January 14th and will begin at 10 a.m. There will be artillery and musket demonstrations (artillery will fire on the hour, muskets on the half-hour) and please remember to take a look at the Armstrong gun behind the Visitor's Center. It will soon be heading back to Trophy Point (at West Point.) The firing will be interrupted for a short time for Bobby and Marsha's wedding (about 2:45 p.m.)**

**In February there will likewise be a reenactment at Forks Road (behind the Louise Wells Cameron Art Museum.) This will take place on the last weekend in February. Our RT has a special interest in this as we took up the mantle of preservation and worked to clear and restore the earthworks constructed there. We will (soon) head out to further restore the site, probably sometime in March. We will be seeking volunteers for the day, stay tuned for more information.**

**Our speaker for December, Tonia Smith, gave an excellent presentation on her latest article, ("Gentlemen, You Have Played This Da\*\*ed Well") which appeared in the August issue of North and South Magazine. What may well have been a "lark" that two Confederate officers started out on, quickly turned deadly serious when they were charged with spying for General Braxton Bragg in Tennessee. Col. Orton Williams and Lt. Walter Peters were two unlikely spies. Dressed in Union uniforms, however, they may well have been attempting to penetrate General William S. Rosecrans lines to determine what he was up to in the spring of 1863. What made matters more important to both sides was the fact both men were cousins of General Robert E. Lee. Ms. Smith pointed out that their arrival at Fort Granger aroused suspicion from everyone except the commanding officer, (Col. J.P. Baird) especially since they wore havelocks, an item of clothing long since discarded by Federal soldiers in the field. Upon being discovered, (after having secured passes to continue their journey) they were arrested and quickly court-martialed (a court was convened within an hour!) Although the two maintained their innocence, they were found guilty of spying and condemned to death. The telegraph lines heated up as messages from the fort to the headquarters at Nashville went back and forth. A Union officer who had recognized Williams as a pre-war member of his unit tried unsuccessfully to prevent the execution. Finally ordered to "hang them," Colonel Baird was also ordered not to send any more messages to Nashville. The following day, the men were brought out in front of the garrison and were hung. Williams, it was said, took more than twenty minutes to die; at one point, he lifted himself up by his hands in a vain attempt to free himself. The repercussions were not as great as many thought they should have been. Indeed, Lee, upon hearing the news, initially stated that they got what they deserved. Upon reflection, Lee became angry and assumed the hanging was a retaliatory measure because before the war, Williams had been an aide to General Winfield Scott. William's sister, however, took a different tack. Once a year (every year) she wrote Rosecrans to tell him he was a murderer!**

**From The Civil War News- Plans are in the works to restore "Ellwood [the] battlefield house used as a Union headquarters. Stonewall Jackson's amputated arm is buried in the family cemetery at Ellwood." the money, \$165,000, will be used to restore the parlor, entry hall and the north room on the first floor. Presently, the walls are in poor condition; for more information write: FOWB, P.O. Box 756, Locust Grove, Va. 22508-0576 (or [www.fowb.org](http://www.fowb.org))**





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# The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

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## The *RUNNER*

### Newsletter of The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Editor **Bob Cooke**

December 2005

Our next meeting will be Thursday, 8 December, at St. Andrew's On-The-Sound Church Social Hour 7:00 p.m. Meeting 7:30 p.m.



#### Steering Committee Contact Numbers.

President-Dr. Chris E. Fonvielle-792-9091; Treasurer-Dan Geddie-799-5338; Webmaster-Al Hines-799-7284, or via our website [runner.html](http://runner.html) Newsletter-Bob Cooke-792-1601; Sales-Steve Gunter-686-4025; Publicity-John Moore-256-6328.

Our speaker for December will be Tonia Smith. Ms. Smith lives in Pinehurst, North Carolina and is a native-born Tar Heel. Her first Civil War experience came at age twelve when she accompanied her father on a visit to the Stone's River National Battlefield in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. She is a free-lance researcher for various Civil War authors and has recently begun writing for herself as well. Her article, "Gentlemen, You Have Played This D\*\*\*ed Well" (about the execution of two Confederate spies) appeared in the August issue of *North and South Magazine*. Tonia is moderator of the on-line Civil War Discussion Group. She is also the founder, past president and current program chair of the Rufus Barringer CWRT in Pinehurst.

#### An excerpt from Ms. Smith's article:

In the late spring of 1863, while U.S. Grant was laying siege to Vicksburg and Robert E. Lee was planning his move northward, Gen. Braxton Bragg and Maj. Gen. W.S. Rosecrans were locked in a stalemate in Tennessee. Both of their respective governments were pushing them for a decisive forward movement but both generals seemed reluctant to make the first move.

Rosecrans wanted to wait until he was certain that troops from his army would not be sent to support Grant. Bragg was concerned that he had been unable to penetrate Rosecrans' cavalry screen, which denied him an accurate assessment of his adversary's strength. Repeated efforts on Bragg's part to get inside Rosecrans' defenses had failed. Not even the mighty Nathan Bedford Forrest had been able to accomplish much beyond harassing the enemy at Franklin, Tennessee.

On the evening of June 8<sup>th</sup>, 1863, two fine-looking gentlemen dressed in uniforms made their way into Fort Granger. From the moment they entered the gates of the fort that protected the town of Franklin, until some eighteen hours later, one of the more unusual spy stories of the

Civil War....Enough for now- Ms. Smith will fill us in on the rest of the story at our meeting!

### Dispelling some of the Myths of Cold Harbor.

At our last meeting, Mr. Gordon Rhea led us back to the summer of 1864, a time when the fate of the nation depended on the outcome of a major battle. President Abraham Lincoln was not sure of victory, indeed, he was not even sure he would be his party's nominee. With the advent of U.S. Grant, fresh from his victories in the west, the strategy changed somewhat. No longer would the Federals merely seek to occupy territory, but would now concentrate on beating the ANV. A more profound change came when it was realized that Grant intended to continue battling Lee continuously. Mr. Rhea pointed out that at this point of the war many of the early Northern volunteers had left the army, their places were filled by conscripts. Grant outmaneuvers Lee by a downstream crossing of the North Anna River, but Lee will react quickly and attack at Totopotomoy Creek. Grant now realizes that the ANV has been weakened and it is only a matter of time (and casualties.) Both sides reinforce; Lee digs in and Union troops prepare for battle.

Here the first myth of Cold Harbor was shattered: There was not a wholesale pinning of names on jackets, Horace Porter wrote this well after the war. On 3 June the assault begins, many veteran troops move out 100 yards or so and dig in. Some of the "band-box" regiments, in combat for the first time (and perhaps wishing to prove themselves) enter the killing zone "like a pencil into a sharpener" and are mowed down in droves. It was these untried soldiers, placed in front of the veteran regiments, that suffered the most casualties. Mr. Rhea has set the total casualties at fifty-five thousand Union and thirty-five thousand Confederates, but disputes the figures of seven, ten or fifteen thousand killed in the first few minutes of the engagement. Those Southerners killed or wounded were, by 1864, virtually irreplaceable. Mr. Rhea also informed us that neither general accomplished his objective: Grant did not destroy the ANV and Lee did not drive Grant back across the North Anna River, nor did the battle change the outcome of the election.

**Winners of the Raffle:**

**Al Hines- *Personal Memoirs of U.S. Grant*; David Norris- *Yankee Correspondence*, and also  
Janene Van Der Molen's painting of *Fort Fisher- As It Was.*'A; Bob Cooke- *The Civil War: The  
North*; Candace McGreevy- *The Civil War Book of Lists*.**

**Thanks once again to all who have donated items for our raffle...Keep up the good work!**





# **The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table**

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## **The *RUNNER***

**Newsletter of The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table**

**Editor Bob Cooke**

**November 2005**

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November-2005

## Newsletter of The Cape Fear Civil War Roundtable

P.O.Box 10535 Wilmington, NC 28404

Editor **Bob Cooke**

Our next meeting will be Thursday, 10 November at the Cape Fear Club

Social Hour 6:30 p.m. Meeting 7:00 p.m.

NOTE: Last update - **October 25th 2005**

[Click here for Steering Committee Contact Numbers.](#)

Our speaker for November will be Gordon Rhea. The author of several works including *The Battle of the Wilderness: May 5-6, 1864*; *The Battles for Spotsylvania Court House and The Road to the Yellow Tavern: May 7-12, 1864*; *To the North Anna River: Grant and Lee, May 13-25, 1864* and continuing the Overland Campaign, *Cold Harbor, Grant and Lee, May 26-June 3, 1864* has titled his talk 'The Myths of Cold Harbor.' 'Rhea knows his topic and writes about it in stunning terms!' So said one reviewer of Mr. Rhea's latest work, *Carrying the Flag*. Gordon Rhea lives in St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands and Mt. Pleasant, S.C. with his wife and two sons. This is our big meeting of the year, so please try to make it!

Please remember that our meeting will be held at the Cape Fear Club (206 Chestnut, corner of Second & Chestnut Sts.) Dress is business casual and money for this meeting (\$25) can be sent to our PO Box and needs to be in by Monday, 7 November.

Winners of Our Raffle:

*Naval Strategies*--Ed Gibson; *Ken Burns Civil War*--Charles Watson; *Dahlgren of Natchez*--James MacLaren; *Petticoat Affair*--Palmer Royal; *Diary of a Contraband*--James MacLaren.

Speaker's Schedule: [click HERE](#)

Everything You Wanted To Know About Artillery!

Civil War artillery, that is! Our own Jack Travis enthralled the audience at our last meeting with descriptions of the various types of artillery in use during the Civil War. Smoothbores, rifled guns, 20 pdr. Parrotts, 12 pdr. Napoleons, explosive shells and solid shot, tables of fire, all terms were explained and many types of ammunition were on display to further interest us. It was interesting to realize that at least 25 men were required to keep a gun in action. Carpenters and wheelwrights were among those needed, as well as the men who actually operated the gun. His explanation of the problems of Confederate artillery at the battle of Gettysburg (their guns were fired before the infantry attacked and fired much more quickly than did the Federals—two rounds per minute vs. 1 round every three minutes) went a long way to explain the decimation Pickett's Division. Even E. Porter Alexander, (Longstreet's chief of artillery) said later, that given Federal artillery and Southern infantry, he would be able to "whip the world!"



Fort Anderson Garrison Flag - The Cake Was Delicious!

Although there was extensive flooding (from Orphelia) at Brunswicktown/Fort Anderson, the flag is safe. On a plaque honoring the donors, the CFCWRT was conspicuously noted for its donation. Again, Thanks!

From Bruce Patterson!

Smithsonian Magazine, in honor of their 35th anniversary, has selected 35 individuals who have made a difference over that time period. Selectees include Steven Spielberg, Bill Gates, Wynton Marsalis, Richard Leakey AND our own Ed Bearss. Bruce informs us that the article can be found in the November issue of Smithsonian and that he will bring it to the November meeting. Thanks Bruce!

The Lower Cape Fear Historical Society will be hosting a reenactment of **Alexander's Battalion Field Hospital** at the Latimer House on Saturday (12 November, from 10 A.M. to 5 P.M.) and Sunday (13 November) from 10 A.M. to 2 P.M.

Editor

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Al Hines - Webmaster







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# The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

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## The *RUNNER*

### Newsletter of The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Editor **Bob Cooke**

October 2005

Our next meeting will be Thursday, 6 October at St. Andrew's On-the-Sound



Our own Jack Travis will be the guest speaker at our next meeting on 6 October. Jack has recently relocated his business to the Cape Fear region but has long had ties to the area. Jack is well known in the reenacting world, (since 1990) having risen to the rank of Brigadier general before hanging up his uniform. He specialized in muzzle-loading artillery and has provided his services "too numerous to mention," to many UDC and SCV grave marker memorials. He has been a member of the MOSB and SCV since 1985 and is past commander of Camp 166, Wake Forest. "Blackjack," who admits to having a special interest in General E. Porter Alexander and Major James Reilly (both artillerists, of course!) will discuss not only the different types of artillery, but their tactical use as well. Jack's subject is appropriately titled, "Civil War Artillery." Please join us for our "social hour" at 7 p.m.

**!!!Attention All Members!!!**

At our next meeting we will hand out a questionnaire which will help us to determine the wants of our membership. Please be on hand and give us your input. Thanks!

If you have not yet been to Fort Anderson to view the returned Garrison Flag, you should do so as soon as you can. Please note the donor's plaque, you will see the Cape Fear Civil War RT conspicuously listed among those honorees. Thanks to you, the members who made it all possible!

Mark your calendar: Oakdale Cemetery, 30 October from 2p.m. to 5 p.m., "Gossip, Graves & Grapes." Sponsored by the Friends of Oakdale, this tour will tell the stories of several lesser-

**known graves in the cemetery (call 762-6417 for more information and 762-5682 for reservations.)**

### **Wild Rose**

Just when you thought there was nothing else to learn about Rose O’Neale Greenhow, along comes Ms. Ann Blackman to show us just how little we really knew about that lady (we did not know she had at least 8 children!) Ms. Blackman, who addressed a meeting jointly sponsored by the Round Table and the Friends of the Library, “rediscovered” Rose’s diary, only to find it was virtually unreadable (one researcher told her it was written in code!) She found Dr. Jones in Chapel Hill, who had for many years, been transcribing the document. After persuading him to “loan” her his notes, she was able to piece more of the puzzle together. The result is her new book, “Wild Rose: Rose O’Neale Greenhow, Civil War Spy, A True Story.” Ms. Blackman took us through Rose’s life and how the “grand dame of antebellum Washington” was able to operate an espionage ring out of her very home in that city. Her unfortunate demise came as she returned from a diplomatic mission to Europe in 1864, on the shores near Fort Fisher, when she drowned while trying to escape a federal blockader. Found by a soldier with the unwieldy name of Doctor J.J. Prosper Formayduval, she was waked in Wilmington (at the Seamen’s Bethel) and buried in Oakdale Cemetery. Her grave continues to attract visitors who admire this “Heroine of the Lost Cause.”

