

# Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

May, 1995

NEWSLETTER

Editor: George Slaton

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## MAY 11 MEETING

The May meeting will be the last regular one before our summer break. We will hold a general business meeting and discussion to summarize our first year's experience and to solicit suggestions for programs, events, and projects for the coming RT year which begins in September. Members of the steering committee will lead the discussion and **Tommy King** will give a Treasurer's report. Plan to attend this relaxed meeting and to share your thoughts and ideas for the RT. The meeting will be Thursday, May 11, 7:30 pm, King Hall, Room 101, University of North Carolina at Wilmington.

## CFCWRT NOTES

The inaugural year of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table has been a good experience for many of us. The steering committee, currently composed of **Dan Geddie, Ted Lynch, Tommy King, Kemp Burpeau,** and **George Slaton** is beginning to plan programs for the coming year and is seeking to put together a balanced agenda which will reflect the many interests of RT members.

Thanks to **Kemp Burpeau** for arranging Roger DeMik's visit to the RT last month. Thanks also to **Paul Laird** who contributed *Confederate Goliath* for our book raffle.

Several of our RT members had a memorable tour of Virginia battlefields in March. **Tom Craven, Conway Ficklen, David Barefoot,** and **Tommy King** journeyed to Fredericksburg where they engaged a National Park Service guide for a two-day comprehensive tour of the field at Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville. They explored the Prospect Hill area in Fredericksburg, south of Marye's Heights, where Lee's defenses were temporarily penetrated by Meade's attack and they followed the route of Jackson's flank march which preceded his legendary attack on Hooker's right.

Our new RT year will begin with the September 7 meeting. Meetings and publication of the newsletter will cease through the summer. In late August, you'll be receiving the next issue of the newsletter.

Remember that the New Hanover County Public Library and the UNC- W library both have superb collections of CW books. The summer months will be a good time to catch up on your CW reading! (See the reading list in this newsletter).

## BATTLE AND CAMPAIGN STUDIES Best Books

In recent years, students of the American Civil War have witnessed a new era of CW scholarship as one definitive study of the war after another has become available. We're fortunate to have some gifted historians who are bringing fresh interpretation and insight to every aspect of the Late Unpleasantness. More original material ...letters, diaries, reports...has surfaced in the last couple of decades, adding to our understanding of the war. Scholars are taking a more objective approach in researching their subjects. As a result, the new accounts of CW battles and campaigns are generally more exhaustive and authoritative than those of just two decades ago. In fact, many of the

more recently published works have easily supplanted earlier studies. At the risk of being presumptuous, I'd like to suggest, in no particular order, some recent books which are generally accepted to be definitive. I'll probably leave something out, but here goes!

- Seven Days Campaign.** To the Gates of Richmond: The Peninsula Campaign, Stephen W. Sears. Ticknor & Fields, 1992.
- Atlanta Campaign.** Decision in the West: The Atlanta Campaign of 1864, Albert Castel. University of Kansas, 1994. Contains fresh interpretation of Sherman's generalship.
- Franklin, Spring Hill, Nashville.** Embrace An Angry Wind: The Confederacy's Last Hurrah, Wiley Sword. Harper/Collins, 1994. The narrative account of the Confederate charge at Franklin is one of the most riveting I've ever read.
- Second Manassas.** Return to Bull Run: The Campaign and Battle of Second Manassas, John J. Hennessy. Simon & Schuster, 1993.
- Chickamauga.** This Terrible Sound: The Battle of Chickamauga, Peter Cozzens. University of Illinois, 1992.
- Brice's Crossroads.** Forrest at Brice's Crossroads and North Mississippi in 1864, Edwin C. Bearss. Morningside, 1990.
- Gettysburg.** Gettysburg: Culp's Hill & Cemetery Hill, Harry W. Pfanz. University of North Carolina, 1993.
- Gettysburg.** Gettysburg: The Second Day, Harry W. Pfanz. University of North Carolina, 1987. Unbelievably exhaustive in its description of Longstreet's flank attack.
- Bentonville.** Last Stand in the Carolinas: The Battle of Bentonville, Mark L. Bradley. Savas/Woodbury. To be published June, 1995. You may order a copy at the pre-publication price of \$25.00 before May 31 from SW Publishers, Suite 204, 1475 South Bascom Avenue, Campbell CA 95008. (800) 848-6585.
- Five Forks.** Battle of Five Forks, Edwin C. Bearss and Chris Calkins. H.E. Howard, 1987.
- Wilmington Campaign.** The Last Rays of Departing Hope: The Campaign for Wilmington, Chris E. Fonvielle. Savas/Woodbury. To be published in Fall, 1995.
- First Manassas.** Battle at Bull Run, William C. Davis. publisher not known, 1985.
- Chattanooga, Missionary Ridge.** The Shipwreck of Their Hopes, Peter Cozzens. University of Illinois, 1994
- Antietam.** Landscape Turned Red: The Battle of Antietam, Stephen W. Sears. Ticknor & Fields, 1983.
- Fort Fisher.** Confederate Goliath: The Battle of Fort Fisher, Rod Gragg. Harper Collins, 1991. Includes wonderful first-person narratives.
- Cedar Mountain.** Stonewall Jackson at Cedar Mountain, Robert K. Krick. University of North Carolina, 1990. ~~Anything by Krick is not likely to be improved on!~~
- Spotsylvania.** If It Takes All Summer, William Matter. University of North Carolina, 1988.
- South Mountain.** Before Antietam: The Battle for South Mountain, John M. Priest. White Mane, 1992.
- The Wilderness.** The Battle of the Wilderness, Gordon C. Rhea. Louisiana State University, 1993.
- Stones River.** No Better Place to Die, Peter Cozzens. University of Illinois, 1990.
- Vicksburg.** The Vicksburg Campaign, Edwin C. Bearss. Morningside, 1986. 3 volumes
- Shiloh.** Shiloh: Bloody April, Wiley Sword. Original publisher not known, revised 1993.
- New Market.** The Battle of New Market, William C. Davis. Stackpole, 1993.
- Charleston.** Gate of Hell: Campaign for Charleston Harbor, 1863. University of South Carolina, 1994.

**HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!**