

# Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

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NEWSLETTER

Editor: George Slaton

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## PETERSBURG CAMPAIGN & LEE'S RETREAT March 8-10

Since the bus tour to Virginia is the RT program for March, there will be no regular scheduled meeting during the month at UNC-W. The April program will be announced in the next newsletter.

The RT is leasing a smaller bus than the large one we originally planned to use, and the seats on this bus are sold out. We're anticipating a great tour with Chris Calkins, noted Petersburg/Appomattox author and historian. A summary of the tour will be included in the April newsletter.

## MAPS FOR THE BENTONVILLE STUDY

(Many of you have already acquired a copy of Mark Bradley's recently published *Last Stand in the Carolinas: The Battle of Bentonville*. If you've seen the book, you've no doubt been impressed by the number and, especially, the quality of the battlefield maps. This collection of maps is probably the best I've ever seen in a Civil War battle or campaign study. They're very detailed and trace the movements of US and CSA regiments across the battlefield, enabling readers as well as visitors to the site to have a clear picture of the flow of battle. Mark Moore, whom some of you met last March during our bus tour to Bentonville, is the author of these exceptional maps. I asked Mark to describe his cartographic research of Bentonville, and here is his account).

Mark Bradley and I began our independent research on Bentonville for the same reason: nothing already published on the subject provided the level of understanding each of us craved. Interestingly enough, we adopted polar approaches to the study. While Mark Bradley began a massive compilation of diverse and neglected resources on the battle, I opted for a cartographic approach to clarify my understanding (and misunderstanding) of what happened on the field. There is no better way to find out what you know - and don't know - about a Civil War battle than to draw a map of the action. The limitations of your knowledge will shine immediately. This is an effective method because it allows you to "visually" represent the holes in your information, and therefore keep research goals clear.

I started with a complete dissection of the Bentonville material in the Official Records, drawing section-maps and location sketches. As I gained a passable understanding of these accounts, I could slowly incorporate additional sources I'd collected from various places. (I had also talked a great deal with John Goode of Bentonville battleground who, by the way, gets the credit for introducing two independently-working Bentonville students named Mark!).

Our different avenues of study allowed the best possible circumstance for a collaboration. We were both surprised at how quickly the different pieces of the "puzzle" began falling into place. As work progressed, we swapped sources and walked the battlefield more times than I can count, and eventually I graduated from hand-drawn to computer-generated maps.

Luckily, Mark Bradley and I have forged a highly productive working relationship, and I am continually amazed by his insight and instinctive writing ability. The wealth of information he's amassed is impressive in the extreme. (Mark A. Moore)

## **\$1.7 MILLION RAISED FOR MALVERN HILL Another APCWS Success!**

The Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites (APCWS) has successfully completed a \$1.7 million fund-raising campaign for 500 acres of the Malvern Hill battlefield, in what APCWS President Dennis Frye called "the largest grassroots fund-raising effort in the history of Civil War battlefield preservation."

"We are absolutely elated," said Frye. "Nothing compares to this success." The drive, begun in late 1993, was completed in December, nearly two years ahead of schedule.

Frye said he expected to close on the property at once. He thanked the owners, the Jack Ferguson family, for "recognizing the value of this property" and allowing APCWS to structure a successful deal. APCWS will eventually donate the open pastureland, cropland, and woods to Richmond National Battlefield Park.

Malvern Hill is recognized by Congress as a "priority one" Civil War site, signifying the battle's importance as well as the extreme threat of development in the Richmond area. The National Park Service currently preserves about 100 acres at Malvern Hill.

The property acquired by APCWS comprises the majority of the ground at the foot of Malvern Hill and the sloping hillside itself where Confederates assaulted Union artillery and infantry on July 1, 1862, in the last battles of the Seven Days. On APCWS's tract occurred "the vast proportion of Confederate casualties" that were suffered in the bloody assault into the cannons' mouths, of which Confederate General D.H. Hill declared, "This is not war; this is murder."

Frye said APCWS received "thousands" of contributions from its 10,000 individual members, totaling about \$1.1 million. "This epitomizes the commitment and caring of our members," he said. "Their loyalty to the cause is demonstrated by their willingness to give."

Major funding, \$419,000, came from the sale of U.S. Mint's 1995 issue of CW commemorative coins. The grant was made by the Civil War Trust. Another quarter of a million dollars came from APCWS's raffle of a painting donated by military artist Don Troiani, "The Southern Cross," depicting fighting at neighboring Glendale. APCWS also provided prints of the painting to CW Round Tables and reenactor organizations, generating an additional \$50,000, Frye said.

Funds also came in the form of several \$50,000 matching grants from philanthropist Richard Gilder, a member of APCWS's national advisory board and a man whom Frye said is "one of our staunchest believers in the power of APCWS and its members to protect historic battlefields;" a preservation march last fall in which 500 participants generated \$50,000 for the campaign; and a \$100,000 donation by a Richmond foundation that Frye said wished to remain anonymous in its support of preservation.

Frye indicated that there would be no haste in transferring the tract to the park. The property has changed in appearance since the time of the battle, he noted, and APCWS has drafted a landscape restoration plan, reviewed by NPS, that will involve cutting some woods and replanting others on a total of about 50 acres.

Frye stressed that the public will have immediate access to the new tract. APCWS hopes to implement later this year an interpretive plan for a self-guided trail with brochures and wayside exhibits.

Frye said APCWS had moved quickly to buy the property, despite the fact that it was "ten times larger than any previous APCWS obligation. We were willing to assume the risk based on the faith in our loyal members," Frye said. "We believed firmly that they would answer the call. This proves beyond doubt that we can assume risk and meet our obligations."

"Success goes beyond the property lines at Malvern Hill," he added. "This \$1.7 million acquisition is a project we can take into a corporate or foundation board room and show with pride. Success breeds success."

APCWS is also working to buy 250 contiguous acres associated with the battle of Glendale. Frye said about half that \$750,000 purchase cost has been raised.

APCWS, Box 1862, Fredericksburg VA 22402, (540) 371-1860, founded eight years ago, has preserved land at 39 battlefields in 11 states.

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