

Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

November, 1995

NEWSLETTER

Editor: George Slaton

THE BATTLE OF GETTYSBURG - THE SECOND AND THIRD DAY November 9 Meeting

The second program focusing on the Battle of Gettysburg will once again be led by Tom Prisk of Chapel Hill, a member of our RT and a Licensed Gettysburg Battlefield Guide. The October program was attended by a large crowd of members and visitors who listened as Tom led us step-by-step through the first, and part of the second, days of the fighting at Gettysburg, introducing us to little-known and interesting new facts and perspectives about the battle. The two-hour program was riveting as Tom lectured, as panel members John Krohn and Ted Lynch posed provocative questions and as RT members added their own comments and interpretations.

The November meeting will explore the struggle for Culp's Hill on the second day and the Pickett-Pettigrew assault on the third day. Tom is extremely knowledgeable and gives an outstanding presentation. You can be sure you'll learn something new!

Join us at 7:00 pm (earlier than our usual meeting time) on Thursday, November 9, in Room 101 of King Hall at UNC-W. Feel free to bring a guest. The meeting will last til 9:00.

THE SALE OF CIVIL WAR CALENDARS WILL BENEFIT THE ROUND TABLE!

Several months ago, the RT steering committee entered into an arrangement with Beverly Tetterton and the Friends of the Public Library to jointly publish a 1996 calendar illustrated with graphics and engravings depicting events of the Wilmington Campaign. Beverly brought copies of the new calendar to the October meeting for members to see and to purchase.

These calendars are full of great Wilmington Civil War scenes with captions written by Chris Fonvielle and Bill Reaves! They're priced at \$10.00 each. Plan to buy a copy for yourself and consider buying additional copies for Christmas gifts.

Profits will be divided evenly between the Round Table and the Friends of the Public Library. Both organizations are listed on the calendar as sponsors.

You can purchase your calendars at our RT meetings (see Dan Geddie) or at the public library in the North Carolina Room (on the second floor).

Our thanks to Beverly Tetterton for providing this opportunity for us to educate the public about the Civil War in Wilmington and about the activities of the RT as well as to raise some revenue!

BENTONVILLE BATTLEGROUND HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION Recent Battlefield Land Purchase

The BBHA recently purchased a three-and-a half acre portion of the Bentonville battlefield which contains well-preserved trenches in an area where Union and Confederate troops clashed on the second and third days of the battle. The land was bought at public auction by BBHA, paid for with a grant from the North Carolina Natural Heritage Trust, and turned over to the State of NC.

The BBHA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization devoted to the preservation and interpretation of the Battle of Bentonville. You can join the Association by sending \$20.00 to BBHA, Box 432, Newton Grove NC 28366. Your \$20.00 will buy one square foot of land at Bentonville and you'll receive a frameable certificate of ownership. This is a superb local preservation group which will focus greater regional and national attention on the significance of the Battle of Bentonville!

SOME CIVIL WAR HUMOR

At the Expense of the General We All Love to Hate

Two old ladies were recently conversing on the Battle of Chickamauga. Said one, "I wish, as General Bragg is a Christian man, he were dead and in heaven. I think it would be a Godsend to the Confederacy." "Why, my dear," said the other, "if the General were near the gates of Heaven and invited in, at the critical moment he would fall back!"

After the battle of Chickamauga, a soldier who had been within the enemy's lines and escaped, was carried before General Bragg and questioned in relation to what he saw. He said the rout was complete and the enemy in full retreat when he left. The general asked him if he knew what a retreat was? He looked at the general with surprise and said, "Why, General, haven't I been with you in your whole campaign?" *Wilmington Journal*, November 12, 1863

CFCWRT NEWS

This issue of the newsletter is enhanced by the addition of a wonderful first-person account of a special battlefield visit provided by member, **Jerry Partrick**. Jerry is one of the founding members of the RT and spends his leisure time (readily available now that Jerry has recently retired!) traveling to archives where he researches various CW interests and to battlegrounds where, as you can tell from his article, he can still hear the guns! You'll enjoy Jerry's article. We invite other members to submit similar articles about CW ancestors, battlefield visits, etc. etc.

Our treasurer, **Dan Geddie**, tells me that 75 members have joined for the 1995-96 year. Many of these are new members whom we heartily welcome to our ranks! By the way, we're grateful that Dan has agreed to serve as treasurer of the RT. It's a more time-consuming job than you might think.

Our thanks also to **John Krohn** and **Ted Lynch** who are serving on the panel for the Gettysburg programs! Both Ted and John have particular expertise on Gettysburg and visit the battlefield frequently. In fact, Ted is the steering committee member who originally conceived of the twin programs on Gettysburg and arranged with Tom Prisk to serve as leader. Thanks, Ted!

Tommy King worked hard through the summer months to put together our Petersburg and Appomattox bus tour coming up in March. He's taken this tour with **Chris Calkins** of the Petersburg National Battlefield and knows firsthand how fascinating this jaunt will be for RT members. Be sure to put this March 9-10 tour on your calendar. We'll be publicizing the tour over the next weeks. Remember, the cost is only \$150.00 per person (if we fill up the bus); this covers the bus trip, the guided tour by **Chris Calkins**, two nights at the hotel, and two meals.

We're pleased that **Chris Fonvielle**, RT member and professional historian with particular interest in the Wilmington Campaign, and his family have moved back to Wilmington where he belongs! Chris is doing historical consulting work from his office downtown.

The article about the RT by **Lee Roberts** in the *Wilmington Star-News* in early September really put us before the public. Many visitors came to our first meeting as a result of that article. Lee has researched some of his own CW forebears; most of you saw his very moving article about a Confederate ancestor who surrendered at Appomattox which appeared last spring in the *Star-News* on the anniversary of the surrender.

Mark Bradley's book, *Last Stand in the Carolinas: The Battle of Bentonville*, should be coming out from the printer any day now! You can order a copy by calling the publisher (800) 848-6585.

Thanks to **Ed Russ** for donating CW materials for upcoming raffles at our RT meetings. We'll try to resume the raffles soon.

George Slaton was recently elected to the Board of Directors of the Bentonville Battleground Historical Association.

Several members reported that they didn't receive last month's newsletter. The mailing of the newsletter is timed so that it will reach you on Thursday-Saturday the week before each meeting. If you don't receive a newsletter, please let me know.