

# Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

September, 1995

NEWSLETTER

Editor: George Slaton

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## SEPTEMBER 7 MEETING Photographs of North Carolina Confederate Soldiers

The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table begins the year with a fascinating program led by **Henry Mintz**, a member of our RT, who will lecture and present a slide show featuring photographic images of Tarheel soldiers. The program will be a rich introduction to a wonderful new book just published by N.C. Division of Archives & History, *State Troops and Volunteers: A Photographic Record of North Carolina's Civil War Soldiers*, authored by Greg Mast. This sumptuous collection is comprised of over 600 images of soldiers gathered from private and public collections.

**Henry Mintz**, in collaboration with Greg Mast, spent several years scouring the countryside for soldier photographs and contributed a large portion of those images for this book. For those of you who don't know Henry, he's an inveterate Civil War historian who is currently traveling for the *Time-Life* series hunting down Civil War material in archives across the land. Weymouth Jordan of NC Archives & History describes Henry as a researcher "of whom it can be truly said that if he did not exist, he would have to be invented!"

The slide show, highlighting many of the images in the book, is a real treat! The interesting stories Henry will share, gathered from intensive research about each soldier, adds a poignancy to these haunting images.

Henry will also have on hand a number of copies of *State Troops and Volunteers* for sale at the list price of \$50. The meeting will be held Thursday, September 7, at 7:30 pm in Room 101 of King Hall at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. Come and bring a friend!

## THE ROUND TABLE BEGINS ITS SECOND YEAR!

Our RT membership reached 84 during the first year. Current members should send in renewals as soon as possible. This September issue of the newsletter is an invitation for prospective members to join our ranks!

The steering committee...**Dan Geddie, Ted Lynch, Tommy King, Kemp Burbeau** and **George Slaton**...has been meeting every two weeks since May to plan upcoming programs. The October and November programs will focus on the Battle of Gettysburg and will be led by Tom Prisk of Chapel Hill who is a licensed Gettysburg guide and an authority on the battle; his programs will provide an in-depth look at this pivotal event in the war. Joe Mobley, of Archives & History in Raleigh, will present December's program on Zebulon Vance, the wartime governor of N.C.; Joe has recently edited the Vance papers. In January, we'll host the 11th Regiment North Carolina Band in concert at UNC-W! RT members and the community-at-large will have the opportunity to socialize after the concert. Abraham Lincoln will be the focus of Bob Toplin's program in February; Bob is a professor of history at UNC-W and a frequent speaker to RT's around the country. Then in March, we'll take a two-day bus tour to Petersburg and Lee's Retreat Route to Appomattox led by Chris Calkins, foremost authority on this last chapter of the war in Virginia. And on and on.....!

We hope this tempting line-up of programs will lead you to join the Round Table with its focus on CW scholarship, unique tours led by CW historians, and battlefield preservation. We're an informal group of serious CW buffs who want to deepen our understanding of the war, its personalities, battles, campaigns and politics. So fill out the membership form on the reverse and send it in or bring it and yourself to the September meeting!

## CIVIL WAR STUDY GROUP

Several RT members have suggested the formation of a study group within the RT of approximately six to twelve members which would meet on a regular basis to discuss subjects, books, etc. of CW interest on an informal, yet focused, basis. Jim McCallum has offered to co-ordinate and moderate this group.

Jim, a retired physican from Elizabeth City and one of the prime movers in the creation of the CSA Fort Branch site on the Roanoke River, has been very active in the RT and has a long-standing interest in studying the war. If you're interested in this small discussion group opportunity, call Jim at 686-1597 (home) or see him at the September meeting.

## WHERE WAS THE WAR WON?

### APCWS Annual Conference Panel Discussion

In early May, I attended the annual weekend conference of the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites held in Tupelo, Mississippi. Friday night, we were treated to a panel discussion led by CW historians, William C. Davis, James McPherson, Wiley Sword, Wilson Greene, Shelby Foote, Larry Daniel, and Herman Hattaway. The question from the audience, "Where was the war won?" elicited some interesting responses.

William C. Davis felt that the war was actually won in the Western Theater, arguing that the war in the East was a four-year stalemate. In the West, he said, the Confederacy lost territory on an almost daily basis. Larry Daniel had a similar view. He held that the turning point of the war was the Union capture of Forts Henry and Donelson; with the loss of these forts in early 1862, CSA General Albert Sidney Johnston lost a third of his force, leading to his weakness at Shiloh and subsequent defeat there. James McPherson argued that the timely Union victories at Gettysburg and Vicksburg won the war because they prevented an impending erosion of public support in the North. The turning point theory should be downplayed, responded Herman Hattaway. For Hattaway, the Confederate loss of Atlanta led to the re-election of Lincoln in 1864, thus ensuring a final Union victory.

The APCWS conference featured tours of the Battles of Brice's Crossroads and Corinth, Mississippi. APCWS has recently bought for preservation 90% of the site of the Battle of Brice's Crossroads where Nathan Bedford Forrest won his brilliant victory over superior Union forces. The site, still farm and woodland just as it was at the time of the battle, will eventually become a park open to the public. More on APCWS in a later newsletter.

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### Membership Form

Cape Fear Civil War Round Table, Box 10535, Wilmington NC 28405-3757

Name/Address \_\_\_\_\_  
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Phone numbers Home \_\_\_\_\_ Office \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed \$20.00 One Year Membership \_\_\_\_\_ Friends you can suggest as possible members: