

Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

September, 1996

NEWSLETTER

Editor: George Slaton

BLOCKADE RUNNING DURING THE CIVIL WAR September 5 Meeting

The first program of the 1996-1997 year of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table will feature blockade running, a topic of great interest to many of our members. And we are fortunate to have as our guest speaker, **Stephen R. Wise, Ph.D.**, the leading authority on the Confederacy's use of blockade runners.

Throughout the Civil War, the Confederacy was forced to sustain its armies through the use of innovative steam-propelled blockade runners. Dr. Wise will provide an overview of the extensive supply system that allowed the Confederacy to wage a successful war effort. Not only was blockade running vital to the South's war effort, but it also provided the nation with a folklore that centered around daredevil captains, brave women and fearless crews. The talk will cover the individuals involved in blockade running, the specialized vessels, how the system was financed and what it did to support the South. Special emphasis will be placed on Wilmington and its position as the Confederacy's primary blockade running port.

Dr. Stephen R. Wise, an historian who lives in Beaufort, SC, is the director of the museum at Parris Island SC, and the Cultural Resource Manager for the Marine Corps Recruit Depot located at Parris Island. A native of Toledo, Ohio, Dr. Wise received his bachelor degree from Wittenberg University and a masters degree from Bowling Green State University. Drawn to the University of South Carolina to study under the direction of the late Thomas L. Connelly, a noted author and CW historian, Wise earned his doctoral degree in 1983.

Dr. Wise's first book, *Lifeline of the Confederacy: Blockade Running During the Civil War*, was highly acclaimed as a comprehensive account of the Confederate effort to deliver supplies through the northern blockade. A second book entitled *Gate of Hell: The Campaign for Charleston Harbor 1863*, which covers the 1863 campaign that found northern troops battling on Morris Island for the control of Charleston harbor, was published by the University of South Carolina Press in June, 1994. *Gate of Hell* was given an award by the South Carolina Historical Society as the best book written in 1994 on South Carolina history. A future work will feature photographs of Beaufort, SC during the Civil War.

A well-known lecturer, Dr. Wise has been the featured speaker on Cunard passenger liners and Windspirit cruises. He has appeared on the Arts and Entertainment Channel as a featured speaker for the television show *Civil War Journal* and in various South Carolina Education Television productions. In 1996, he received the Daughters of the American Revolution History Medal for his service in promoting the history of the United States. Dr. Wise also teaches history as an adjunct professor at the Beaufort campus of the University of South Carolina and serves on the board of the Historic Beaufort Foundation and the South Carolina Battlefield Preservation Trust. He is also active in Civil War Round Tables and local historical societies.

Don't miss this first program of the year! It will be a super one, the first in a great lineup of Civil War programs for the RT in 1996-1997. We urge you to bring a friend or two along.

!!! NEW ROUND TABLE MEETING SITE !!!

This year, our monthly meetings will be held in Cameron Hall, Room 132, at UNC-W. Cameron Hall is located 200-300 hundred yards east (or behind) King Hall, where our meetings were held last year. Parking Lot R is just in front of Cameron Hall, while Parking Lot S is the next closest to our new location. The meeting room is semi-circular in shape with graduated rows which we hope will provide for greater camaraderie and discussion during our programs.

THE YEAR AHEAD A Preview of RT Programs

The September meeting will mark the beginning of our third year! Last year, the RT grew to 85 members. And, there's an exciting year ahead! The steering committee, composed of Tommy King, Dan Geddie, Ted Lynch, Chris Fonvielle, Jim McCallum, James McLaren, and George Slaton, has been meeting during the summer months to plan events for 1996-1997. You'll enjoy

More opportunities for getting to know each other.....

This year, members will be furnished with a printed nametag at each meeting. Visitors will be given a nametag as well. We feel that nametags will give members a better chance to get to know each other, while we can all more easily welcome visitors to the meetings. Even better, we're going to have at least two dinner/program meetings during the year. This more informal setting should help us have a more user-friendly Round Table!

A raffle at each meeting.....

Tom Broadfoot of Broadfoot Publishing Company is once again providing the RT with quality Civil War books for the raffle we hold at our monthly meetings. The raffles have been a lot of fun! Ted Lynch will be offering raffle tickets at \$1.00 each before the meetings begin; then we'll have a drawing at the end of the evening. Thanks once again to Tom Broadfoot for his support and generosity!

Some stellar programs.....

September's program will feature the top historian in the field of CW blockade-running. Then, the October 16 program will give us the rare opportunity to meet and hear the leading authority on the CSA Army of Tennessee, Richard McMurray, a well-known historian of the war in the Western Theater and biographer of John Bell Hood. This October meeting will be a pig-pickin' at a choice location (to be announced)! Tom Prisk, licensed Gettysburg battlefield guide, will be with us again on November 14, sharing a program about the lives of Union and Confederate generals before the war, especially their relationships at West Point and during the Mexican War. You'll remember Tom from his well-attended program last year on the Battle of Gettysburg. Wow! Ready for more? On December 5, Charles Peery, M.D. of Charleston, SC, one of the world's authorities on Confederate naval history will present a stirring program. And, at our January 9 meeting, Chris Fonvielle, our own resident CW expert, will be our program speaker; Chris will also have a signing of his forthcoming new book on the Wilmington Campaign.

And then there's the spring weekend bus tour.....

The weekend of March 21-23 will find our RT members in Richmond enjoying a tour of the Seven Days Campaigns, touring CW sites in Richmond, and battlefields at Beaver Dam Creek, Gaines' Mill, Savage Station, Fraysers' Farm, and Malvern Hill! We're taking a roomy and comfortable 47-passenger bus and we've booked rooms at the Sheraton Inn.

So renew your membership by.....

Mailing the form below along with \$20.00 membership fee (Cape Fear Civil War Round Table, Box 10535, Wilmington NC 28405) or present to Treasurer, Dan Geddie at the next meeting!

Name _____ Phone Ofc. _____ H. _____

Address _____

Any special CW interests _____