

Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

February, 1998

NEWSLETTER

Editor: George Slaton

BATTERY WAGNER: THE BATTLE AND THE SIEGE Friday, February 13 Meeting

Tim Bradshaw, author of *Battery Wagner: The Siege, The Men Who Fought, and The Casualties*, will present a program on the fighting at Battery Wagner during the Charleston Campaign, a subject which has received growing interest in recent years.

Tim is a native of Hamlet, NC and now resides in Elgin, SC. He served in the US Marine Corps and worked in the Public Affairs Office at Quantico, VA. His great-great grandfather served in the 51st North Carolina Regiment, was wounded at Battery Wagner, and subsequently suffered the loss of his leg by amputation. Tim's investigation of his ancestor's fate led to his extensive research and writing on the campaign.

Battery Wagner was the site in July, 1863, of bitter and bloody combat as Union troops stormed the Confederate garrison which served as a key to the defense of Charleston. A series of Union attacks, one spearheaded by Colonel Robert G. Shaw's 54th Massachusetts, failed to carry the fort. A siege of nearly two months led to a final Confederate evacuation.

Copies of Tim's book on Battery Wagner will be available for sale and signing.

The meeting will be held on Friday, February 13, in Room 123, Cameron Hall, UNCW. (A good map of the UNCW campus is in the center section of your BellSouth directory). The room will open at 7:00, and the program begins at 7:30. As always, you're encouraged to bring interested friends along with you.

WILMINGTON CAMPAIGN TOUR Saturday, February 28

A bus tour of sites associated with the Wilmington Campaign will be led by our own Dr. Chris Fonvielle, leading authority on the campaign and author of *The Wilmington Campaign: Last Rays of Departing Hope* which most of you have in your CW library!

The bus will depart at 8:30 am from the parking lot on the west side of Roses at the corner of Oleander and Independence Drives. We'll visit the sites of the Battle of Forks Road, Sugar Loaf, Fort Fisher, Fort Anderson, the Battle of Town Creek, and stop in at the Cape Fear Civil War Shop. The bus should return to Roses about 4:00 pm.

Cost for the tour is \$25.00 and includes a box lunch. Bus seats are first come-first served, and your check for \$25.00 is your registration. You can bring payment to the February meeting or mail to Dan Geddie, Treasurer, CFCWRT, Box 10535, Wilmington NC 28405.

Don't delay in submitting your check! About forty people have shown a strong interest in going on the tour, so the seats (only 47!) should go fast. This will be the only written notice of the tour.

LEE AND JACKSON...LEXINGTON, VIRGINIA
Spring Bus Tour
! Sign Up Now !

In keeping with our RT tradition of offering a weekend tour each spring, members will travel to Lexington, Virginia March 20-21 to see sites associated with both Lee and Jackson. Our bus will leave early Friday morning. In Lexington we'll see the Friday 4 pm parade of VMI cadets, tour the VMI campus, visit the museum where many of Jackson's possessions are on display, tour Lee's Chapel where Lee is interred and visit Lee's W & L College office. Our tour leader, Richard Lewis, will speak after dinner on Friday night. We'll tour Jackson's home and see the church where Jackson worshiped, as well as Jackson's grave in a cemetery where many CSA notables are also buried. Then we'll depart for Wilmington on Saturday at 5 pm.

The cost for the tour is \$175.00 (double occupancy) and \$205.00 (single occupancy). This will cover transportation, motel, three meals, and tour guide. You can sign up for the tour by giving your check to Dan Geddie, Treasurer, at a RT meeting or mailing it to him at Cape Fear Civil War Round Table, Box 10535, Wilmington NC 28405.

This will be another great RT tour, so don't miss it! The one-night stay should be convenient for most RT members.

THE LIFE & CULTURE OF BILLY YANK & JOHNNY REB
A Social Study of Civil War Soldiering
Wilbur D. Jones, Jr.

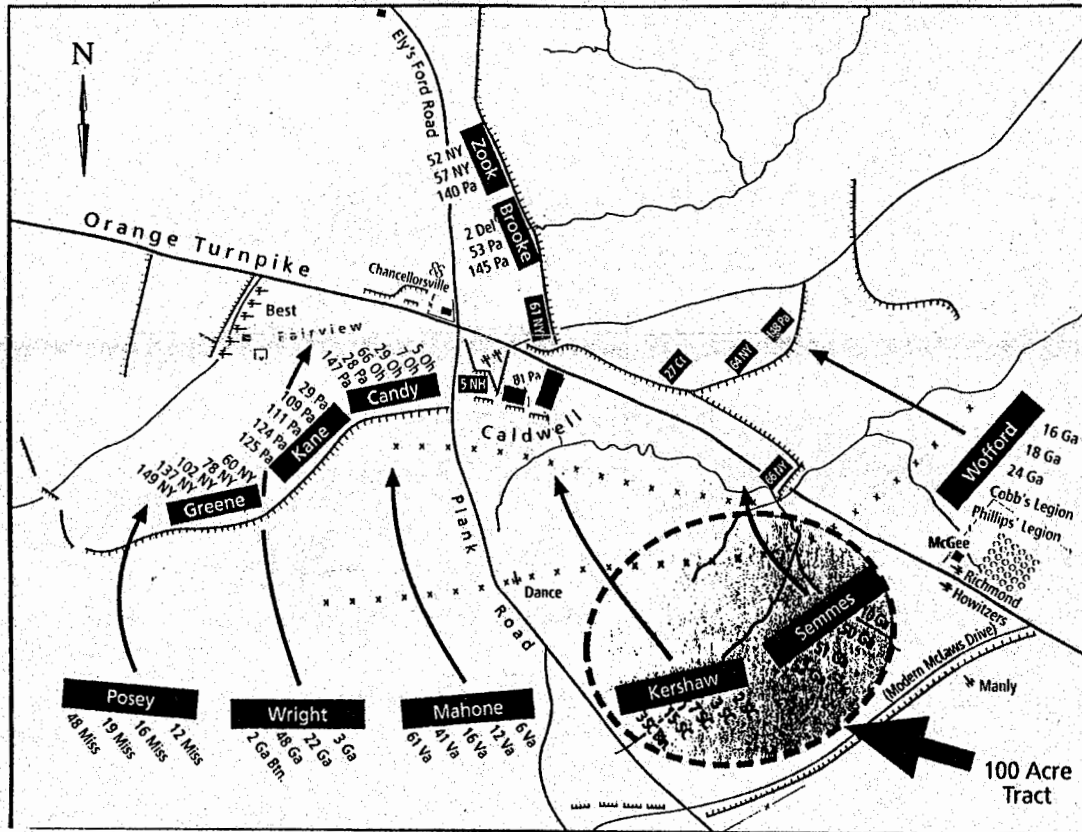
The Division for Public Service and Extended Education at UNC-W is presenting this lecture series on Mondays, March 9-April 13 (six sessions) from 7:00-9:00 pm. Wilbur, an active member of the RT, is the author of *Giants in the Cornfield: The 27th Indiana Infantry* and *Who Lost the Lost Orders?: Stonewall Jackson, His Courier, and Special Orders No. 191*. The latter is a fascinating article which appeared in a recent issue of *Civil War Regiments*.

The cost for the series is \$60.00. For more information or for registration, call 962-3195 at the University. Flyers featuring a sign-up form will be available at the February meeting.

STATES RIGHTS TO SECESSION
THE SOUTH'S ELOQUENT AND FIERY ROAD TO FORT SUMPTER
Civil War Conference...Charleston SC...August 19-23 1998

An important Civil War conference sponsored by the American CW Institute of Campbellsville University and focusing on the South's movement toward a four year conflict with the North will be held at The Mills House in Charleston in late August. The conference will feature such notable historians as Kent Masterson Brown, William C. Davis, Dennis Frye, Gary Gallagher, Charles Roland, Clyde Wilson, and John Simon who will discuss particular political issues facing the South, such as secession, slavery, states'rights, and the formation of the Confederate government. Registration for this event is \$395.00. Further information is available from the University's Office of Advancement (800) 264-6014. Thanks to John Krohn for bringing this conference to our attention.

CHANCELLORSVILLE CHALLENGE
!!! Round Table Member Pledges \$250.00 Matching Gift !!!
Your Chance to Save a Battlefield



The Central Virginia Battlefields Trust of Fredericksburg, VA, a 501 (c)(3) not-for-profit preservation group has a contract to secure 100 acres of property in the heart of the Chancellorsville battlefield for \$450,000.00. A \$100,000.00 down payment was made in 1997. CVBT made another purchase agreement payment of \$50,000.00 on January 20, 1998. The remaining \$300,000.00 is due by March 20. CVBT is prepared to mortgage the property as it continues its fund-raising efforts.

Robert K. Krick and Edwin C. Bearss, both leading CW historians, sent an appeal to RT's across the country asking for help with this effort. The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table steering committee voted to challenge our membership to raise \$1000.00 for Chancellorsville.

Seven RT members have sent tax-deductible gifts and/or memberships to CVBT, as of January 30, totalling \$440.00! Originally, proceeds beyond expenses for the January Band Concert were to go to Chancellorsville; however, our expenses exceeded our income.

So let's raise the remaining \$560.00 or more! It shouldn't be difficult. One of our RT members has anonymously offered a matching gift of \$250.00. So every contribution we receive will be matched by this generous member up to \$250.00.

Make a tax-deductible contribution of \$10, \$15, \$25, or more! Bring your check made to "CVBT" to the February 13 meeting or send to: CFCWRT, Box 10535, Wilmington NC 28405. (An Annual Membership in CVBT is \$35).

This is your chance to help save a Civil War battlefield! Robert K. Krick has written that "Robert E. Lee personally directed the Southern units that fought across the ground, and gained what has aptly been called Lee's greatest victory."

Contributors' names will be listed in a forthcoming issue of this newsletter. Let's meet the challenge of our fellow RT member and join together to save this hallowed ground!

THANKS TO BAND CONCERT SPONSORS!

The 11th North Carolina Regiment Band Concert sponsored by the RT and held at UNC-W's University Center was attended by 192 people, about twenty-five of whom were RT members. The band gave its usual excellent rendition of music dear to the hearts of soldiers and civilians both North and South. Many of those who attended lingered afterwards for coffee and dessert and socializing with friends. Our thanks to Chris Fonvielle and Wilbur Jones who contributed \$60.00, a portion of sales from their books, to the RT.

We are grateful to the following generous sponsors who made this event possible!

**Ted Lynch
Hanover Iron Works
Cooperative Bank for Savings**

JOHN R. KROHN Gettysburg Licensed Battlefield Guide

Congratulations to RT member, John Krohn, for his entrance into the elite ranks of the Association of Licensed Battlefield Guides of Gettysburg, PA! This is indeed a real honor, both for John and for our RT. Beginning in 1915, the federal government began testing and licensing battlefield guides to ensure that visitors receive accurate tours and information. The required written examination is extremely rigorous. Most applicants study the minutest details of the Battle of Gettysburg for years before undergoing the test, and very few applicants pass the test when it's administered every three years. As a result, the guides are virtual "walking encyclopedias" of the battle! Each guide must serve a minimum of 80 hours a year, guiding visitors on the battlefield. Our RT can now boast of two Gettysburg LBG's in its membership. Tom Prisk of Raleigh, who has presented several programs for us, is also a licensed guide. John, a retired physician, is an active member of the RT and serves on the steering committee.

A PARTING SHOT

By some hook, or crook, or blockade running, or smuggling, or Mason and Slidell, or Raphael Semmes, or something of the sort, the Confederate States Government had come in possession of a small number of Whitworth guns, the finest long range guns in the world, and a monopoly by the English Government. They were to be given to the best shots in the army. One day Captain Joe P. Lee and Company H went out to shoot at a target for the gun. We all wanted the gun, because if we got it we would be sharpshooters, and be relieved from camp duty, etc.

All the Generals and officers came out to see us shoot. The mark was put up about five hundred yards on a hill, and each of us had three shots. Every shot that was fired hit the board, but there was one man who came a little closer to the spot than any other one, and the Whitworth was awarded him; and as we just turned round to go back to camp, a buck rabbit jumped up, and was streaking it as fast as he could make tracks, all the boys whooping and yelling as hard as they could, when Jimmy Webster raised his gun and pulled down on him, and cut the rabbit's head entirely off with a minnie ball right back of his ears. He was about two hundred and fifty yards off. It might have been an accidental shot, but General Leonidas Polk laughed very heartily at the incident, and I heard him ask one of his staff if the Whitworth gun had been awarded. The staff officer responded that it had, and that a certain man in Colonel Farquharson's regiment - the Fourth Tennessee - was the successful contestant, and I heard General Polk remark, "I wish I had another gun to give, I would give it to the young man that shot the rabbit's head off."

- from *Company Aytch*, Sam R. Watkins, Private, First Tennessee