

Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

April, 2001

NEWSLETTER

Editor: George Slaton

WILLIAM DORSEY PENDER Major General, CSA

**Thursday, April 19
St. Andrew's On-The-Sound Episcopal Church
Social Hour 7:00 pm...Program 7:30 pm**

Students of the Civil War who hail from North Carolina are fond of a native son, William Dorsey Pender, who was one of the most capable combat generals in Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. A full-length biography of this superb officer, long overdue, is scheduled to be published this spring.

Edward Longacre, well-known historian and author of thirteen previous books on the Civil War, has penned this new work on Pender. Ed won his Ph.D. in American History from Temple University and, since 1980, has been employed as an historian for the US Air Force. Since 1992, he's been stationed at Langley Air Force Base, Virginia. His home stands adjacent to the outer line of Confederate works in Yorktown.

Ed's interest in the Civil War dates from his discovery, at age 16, in the attic of his New Jersey home, several books that his great-grandfather, a sergeant in the Union army, had "borrowed" from the home of the mayor of Williamsburg VA in 1862! He soon began his study of the war by researching his ancestor's regiment, the 5th Pennsylvania Cavalry. Thirty years later, after moving to Virginia, he was offered an adjunct position in the history department of the College of William & Mary and taught there for three years. He considers this a generous gesture on the part of the college considering that his great-grandfather's regiment looted the campus in 1862 and burned down the science building and the library!

We look forward to learning more about William Dorsey Pender at our April meeting. We're also excited to learn that we can anticipate additional biographies on CSA commanders, Wade Hampton and Fitzhugh Lee, as well as a history of the 4th US Colored Troops.

OAKDALE CEMETERY TOUR Sunday, April 22

Wayne Carver will complete his tour of Oakdale Cemetery, featuring gravesites of Confederate soldiers and officers, on the Sunday morning following our April meeting. The tour begins at 9:30 am. Participants should meet at the cemetery entrance. Wayne estimates that the tour should be concluded by noon.

THE WILMINGTON CAMPAIGN SPRING TOUR

This excellent conference, sponsored by the CFCWRT, began Friday evening with a dinner at *The Oceanic* where a choice of seafood, chicken, or steak platter was served. Members enjoyed a social hour and an overview by tour leader, Ed Bearss. Ed discussed the various personalities who figured prominently in planning and executing the Wilmington Campaign.

Next day, the group toured the remaining Confederate defense line near Dow Road, as well as Fort Fisher, Fort Johnston, Fort Anderson, the Battle of Town Creek, and the Battle of Forks Road. Ed Bearss has declared that Fort Anderson is "the finest earthen fort in North America." Group members trekked a total of 4.6 miles that Saturday!

The Oakdale Cemetery tour, led by Wayne Carver, was postponed on the following day due to rainy weather, but was held the next Sunday.

Members and friends who attended the conference and tour were: David Barefoot, Joyce Binkley, Sylvia Bowles, Mike Budziszewski, Walter Bullard, Wayne Carver, Cameron Coburn, Bob Cooke, James Dugan, Bob Farrell, Phil Farrell, Chris Fonvielle, Dan Geddie, Ed Gibson, John Golden, Steve Gunter, Charles Harrison, Bush and Barbara James, Tommy King, John Krohn, Dale Lear, Richard Long, James MacLaren, Michael McMillan, Ed Mahoney, Tom Morgan, Palmer and Mary Royal, Ed Russ, Gene Van Der Molen, John Moore, Linda Rand, Walter and Majel Reinheimer, and John Wessel.

BATTLE OF TREVILIAN STATION

Civil War Preservation Trust

!!! Your Chance to Save A Battlefield !!!

At Trevilian Station, on June 11 and 12, 1864, CSA cavalry under the command of General Wade Hampton met and stopped the advance of USA cavalry forces led by General Philip Sheridan. This large and decisive engagement prevented the Union forces from making a strategic link with a corresponding force in the Shenandoah Valley, a combination which might have forced Lee from his defenses around Petersburg and Richmond, thereby ending the war much earlier. Wade Hampton, who had just been given command of the Confederate cavalry corps by RE Lee following the death of Jeb Stuart a month earlier, proved his ability in a two-day struggle between 13,000 cavalymen, each side suffering more than 1000 casualties.

Located in Louisa County, Virginia, west of Richmond, Trevilian Station is one of those virtually unprotected Civil War battlefields threatened by development. Already, homes and industrial structures are encroaching on the site.

The Civil War Preservation Trust, the nation's largest CW preservation organization, has joined with a local preservation group, The Trevilian Station Battlefield Foundation, already the owner of 245 acres at the site, to purchase 521 acres of the core battlefield. TSBF has secured considerable funding from federal and state grants to buy the property. CWPT is seeking to raise \$136,000 by June 30, 2001 to finalize the purchase.

CWPT is requesting contributions from CW buffs. Any contribution, of course, will be appreciated. However, contributors of \$50 or more will receive a copy of the soon-to-be-published *Battle of Trevilian Station* by cavalry historian, Eric Wittenburg, and an autographed and numbered Special Preservation Edition of *Glory Enough For All: Major General Philip H. Sheridan's Trevilian Raid*. That's obviously a great deal!

Contributions can be forwarded to Civil War Preservation Trust, Box 1477, Hagerstown MD 21741. It's also an opportunity to join this premier CW battlefield preservation organization.