

Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

December, 2001

NEWSLETTER

Editor: Bob Cooke

**December 11 Meeting, St. Andrews On-The-Sound Episcopal Church
Social Hour, 7:00p.m., Program, 7:30 p.m.**

Our featured speaker, Mr. Rod Andrews Jr., will speak on a subject that has long begged research: Southern Military Academies. These were the schools that turned out many of the young leaders of the Confederacy. The Citadel and the Virginia Military Institute are two of the better known schools, but there were more and Mr. Andrews will share his research with us.

Rod Andrews Jr., is a native of Wilmington and a graduate of Hoggard High School. He has degrees in history from UNC-Chapel Hill and Clemson University and received his PhD from the University of Georgia in 1997. He has taught at Georgia and The Citadel and is now an assistant professor of history at Clemson University. Andrew served on active duty in the Marine Corps from 1987 to 1991 and is now a Major in the U.S.M.C. Reserve. He is the son of Rod Andrew Sr., (of Wilmington's Andrew and Kuske, Consulting Engineers.) His book, which uses the history of southern military schools to examine the "southern military tradition," is *Long Gray Lines* (UNC Press, 2001)

At our November meeting, Dr. Fonvielle spoke about one of his favorite people: William Barker Cushing. How did Cushing, who in 1861 (six weeks before graduation) was thrown out of the Naval Academy, become, by war's end, the country's "Darling?" Born in 1842, he entered the Academy at age fourteen and quickly gained a reputation as a prankster and problem child. With the coming of war, he was allowed to re-enlist as a Midshipman.

Spending most of his naval career with the North Atlantic Blockading Squadron, off Cape Fear, it was here that he began to exhibit that daring that brought him to the attention of higher-ups. It was Cushing that captured the first Blockade Runner (a tobacco schooner) in the area and of course, most of us know about his encounter with the "Albemarle." Cushing enjoyed remarkable success (with a large helping of luck) throughout the war, rising to the rank of Lieutenant Commander, but his luck ran out after the war. By 1868, his health began to fail and by 1874, Cushing had become violent and abusive to those around him. Confined to an institution, he died in Washington, D.C. on December 17, 1874. Dr. Fonvielle's slides (some of which have never been published) were exceptional and contributed greatly to his talk.

Raffle Winners:

Lincoln's Commando—**Jim McLaren**; *Guns of 62*—**Les Harris**; *Confederate Goliath*—**Les Harris**; *The Embattled Confederacy*—**Walt Bullard**; *Chancellorsville*—**Ed Gibson**; Flag Pins—**Palmer Royal, Bob Quinn**; Embroidered Flag—**Les Harris** (Give us a break, Les!); N.C. Flag—**Ed Gibson**; United We Stand (sticker)—**Bob Quinn**. Thanks to those who donated the gifts for our raffle!

Reminder!! Dues are Due!!

We would like to remind those that have not yet paid their dues that the time has come! You can send a check (for \$25) to the **Cape Fear Civil War Round Table**, c/o Mr. Dan Geddie, P.O. Box 10535, Wilmington, N.C. 28405. Considering the quality of speakers we have scheduled, as well as planned activities, this is a bargain!

Alternate Date for Fort Anderson

We will be going to Fort Anderson on Saturday, January 19, 2002. Our original date in December couldn't be accommodated (we should have listened to those members who said to put it off until after the holidays!) There will be more on this project in the January newsletter.

Gettysburg Trip

There is a slight change in the itinerary. Paul Cooksey will give his presentation on Rode's division on Thursday evening rather than Friday evening, since we will be following that division's maneuvers on the battlefield on Friday.

News From Other Departments

Washington, D.C. :

The Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT) praised House and Senate conferees for including a provision in the Fiscal Year 2002 Interior Appropriations Act (H.R. 2217) for Civil War battlefield Preservation. The funding bill allocates \$11 million over three years for a competitive grant program to save endangered Civil War battlefields. [The Central Virginia Battlefields Trust has bought 20 acres of the Spotsylvania Courthouse battlefield, including Confederate earthworks. From *The Civil War News*, ed.]

Gettysburg, Pa.:

In a cooperative effort between Historic Gettysburg-Adams County (HGAC) and the Hospital and Healthsystem Association of Pennsylvania, 17 Union and 18 Confederate Civil War hospital signs have been erected at sites which were known to have served as field hospitals after the battle of Gettysburg....A "field" hospital was, as the name suggests, a place in the battlefield area, such as barns, shops, homes, schools and churches which were used to give medical attention to the wounded....A tour booklet titled *Gettysburg Civil War Field Hospital Tour* prepared by HGAC gives tour instructions and distances and times for those wishing to visit the hospital sites. The booklet has more than 40 pages of illustrations....Copies of the 56 page brochure are available from HGAC, P.O. Box 4611, Gettysburg, Pa., 17325; (tel. 717-334-5185)

Woodbridge, N.J.:

The first Dr. James I. Robertson Jr. prize for Confederate History will be awarded to **Rod Gragg** for *Covered With Glory: The 26th North Carolina Infantry At The Battle of Gettysburg* during The Civil War Literary and Research Center's third annual dinner on Nov. 10....The Robertson prize is given annually to the author of the best original work of published scholarship in the field of Confederate history--military, political or social.

Middleburg, Va.:

A newsy "Mosby Chronicle" newsletter was published recently by the Mosby Heritage Area Association. It introduced new board members, told about driving tour tapes, seminar, fundraising and preservation activities in the designated northern Virginia area. For information about the association write: P.O. Box 1497, Middleburg, Va. 20118 (tel. 540-687-6681)

[*The Civil War News*, November, 2001]

I notice that there is a new booklet published entitled *Tar Heels: How North Carolinians Got Their Nickname*, by Michael W. Taylor. It is 24 pages and is available from the Historical Publications Section, Division of Archives and History, 4622 mail Service Center, Raleigh, N.C. 27699-4622. The price is \$9.50 ppd. The term originated during the Civil War and was originally a term of derision, but gradually was accepted by hard-fighting Carolinians as a source of pride. [*The Civil War News*, December, 2001]

[A Letter From President Jefferson Davis to Governor Zebulon Vance]

His Excellency Z.B. Vance, Governor of North Carolina Richmond, Va. August 19th, 1863

Sir:

In the action of the 1st July near Gettysburg, the sharpshooters of Brig. Genl. Ramseur's brigade under command of Lt. F. Harney, 14th N.C. Vols. dispersed the 150th Penn. Regt. That gallant officer with his own hands wrested the standard from the color-bearer of the Penn. Regt. and soon afterwards fell, mortally wounded.

Gen. Ramseur...informed me that it was Harney's last request that the flag should "be presented in his name to the President." The wish of the dying hero has been complied with. The flag is in my possession and will be treasured by me as an honorable memento of the valor and patriotic devotion which the soldiers of North Carolina have displayed on many hard fought fields.

I have thought it due to the lamented officer...to express through you to his State, his comrades, and his family the sincere sympathy I feel with them for the loss of one so worthy of their admiration and esteem. Such deeds illustrate a people's history, justify a people's pride and sustain a country's cause.

I remain,

Very Respectfully & Truly Yours,

Jefferson Davis

[Vance's Reply to Davis]

His Excellency Jefferson Davis, President, C.S. Raleigh, N.C. August 28th, 1863

Sir:

Your letter of the 19th inst. has been received, informing me of the gallant conduct, and heroic death of Lt. F. Harney, 14th N.C. Troops, on the field of Gettysburg; and asking me to make known to his family your sympathy with them for the loss of one as brave and worthy of their esteem.

I do not know, Sir, that he has any relatives whatever in N.C. He was born in Kentucky and saw some service as a soldier under Gen. William Walker, during his campaign in Central America. At the commencement of hostilities he was residing in the town of Ashville N.C. pursuing his occupation of carpenter, and joining the company which I had the honor to raise, he was made Orderly Sergeant, and by good conduct and hard fighting, won his way to 1st Lieutenant. Though without kindred in this, his adopted State, I assure you She will be proud to see his name placed on the long list of her heroic dead, and all will welcome his memory among their bravest sons, and mourn him as a noble brother slain for her defense

I am Sir,

Very Respectfully Yours,

Z.B. Vance

(Harney was killed in the first day's action, northwest of Gettysburg. Ramseur's Brigade attacked the Union XI Corps, driving them off. They continued the attack, pushing to an unfinished railroad cut. It was probably in this area that Lt. Harney met his death. In Clark's *North Carolina Regiments*, it was recorded that Lt. Harney and his sharpshooters "...pursued the enemy, and Harney captured with his own hand the colors of the Sixty-eighth Michigan [this is an error, the captured flag was likely from the 150th Pa. Regiment, of the "Bucktail Brigade"] and sent the captured flag to President Davis with his last breath.")

Flag Of Truce

The *Wilmington Journal* of Tuesday says: On Sunday morning, the 21st instant, a boat with a flag of truce, and containing seven persons, came ashore near Fort Caswell. The seven persons were Lieutenant Lynch, one midshipman and five sailors, all belonging to the Federal steamer *Daylight*, commanded by Capt. Lockwood, now off the mouth of the Cape Fear River. The object of the visit was to give the commandant of Fort Caswell, (Col. Iverson) official notice of the fact that our port is now in a state of actual blockade.

[The (Tarboro) Southerner, August 3, 1861]

(Some thought the name *Daylight* was appropriate, since it was in such condition that daylight could be seen through the vessel, ed.)

Member Ray Flowers has brought to our attention that there is a new book out about the Confederate hero of Fort Fisher, Colonel Lamb. Titled, *The Life and Times of Colonel William Lamb, 1835-1909*, the book is authored by Lamb's "true grandson and namesake" William Lamb! Detailing Lamb's life, from his upbringing in Norfolk, Virginia, through his schooling (he obtained a law degree from William and Mary College), to his service in the Confederate army, as well as his life after the war, this book is, as Ray states, a must for Wilmington and Lower Cape Fear Civil War enthusiasts. Containing many "vignettes and obscure anecdotes," the 195 page paperback sells for \$19.95 and is available only at the Fort Fisher State Historic Site gift shop. (Tel. 910-458-5538) Thanks Ray!

Who was Gutzon Borghlum and what has he got to do with North Carolina? See our January newsletter for the answer.

Below are the Answers to the crossword puzzle in the last issue. If you completed the puzzle, give yourself 100 points, plus 10 extra points for working around the errors! It was a homegrown effort, I promise not to do another one until I can get a computer program for crosswords!

