

# Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

January, 2002

NEWSLETTER

Editor: Bob Cooke

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**January 8 Meeting, St. Andrews On-The-Sound Episcopal Church  
Social Hour, 7:00p.m., Program, 7:30 p.m.**

## THE GUNBOAT CSS NEUSE

**Our guest speaker, Mr. Andrew Duppstald**, Assistant Site Manager of the CSS Neuse State Historic Site will speak about the vessel, its career as a Confederate ironclad and later as a state historic site. Mr. Duppstald has a BA in history and an MA in public history from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. Previously, he has served as a part-time historic interpreter at both Fort Fisher and Tryon Palace and was also the Executive Director of the Carteret County Historical Society. Along with his duties at the CSS Neuse, he is also an adjunct instructor at Coastal Carolina Community College and Campbell University.

**Construction** of the Neuse, one of twenty-two Confederate Navy ironclads, was begun at White Hall, N.C., in 1862 and completed (at Kinston) by late 1864. It's fate was similar to that of the CSS *North Carolina* (and to some extent, the CSS *Raleigh*), in that all were plagued by bad luck. Near war's end, the Neuse was scuttled in the river of the same name and remained there for nearly one hundred years. The hull (about three-quarters of it) was raised, preserved and is now on display in Kinston. Along with the remains of the vessel are many of the artifacts recovered at the site.

**Have southerners always been** more "militaristic" than the rest of the country? That question was part of Rod Andrews presentation at our December meeting. The author of *Long Gray Lines* pointed out that prior to the outbreak of war in 1860, there were over ninety-six military academies in the south and only fifteen in the north. Throughout the 1850's northerners were quick to make the charge that the south was preparing for war, but a look at the curriculum shows that only regular academic topics were the norm. Indeed, many of the graduates became lawyers, teachers, surveyors and farmers, not soldiers!

Those academies produced what the south wanted: young men who had courage, a respect for authority, men of character with high moral values. Since southern youths were felt to be "wilder," many of them were sent to military schools to instill discipline. It was realized, he commented, that southern boys would only obey the rules only if they were in uniform and armed! It is obvious that Mr. Andrews has really done his research, which centered from the early 1840's up to the first World War.

His talk also covered the actions of the students during the war. Much of the time they were given (boring) provost duty or guarded prisoners. They were quite useful in drilling new recruits as well, but it was at New Market, Virginia (May, 1864) that the cadets of the Virginia Military Institute were thrust into the war. When the Corps of Cadets reported for duty, they were teasingly serenaded by musicians playing "Rock-a-Bye-Baby." Soon ordered to attack, by General J.C. Breckenridge (who stated, "Put the boys in and may God forgive me for the order!") they lost ten killed and forty-seven wounded, but became part of the war's legends (the names of the ten are part of a stained-glass window in the Institute's "Hall of Valor"). It was also interesting when we were reminded that General George C. Marshall attended VMI (while another soldier named George S. Patton went there for a year).

## A Proud Poverty Now Proudly Overcome

**Gutzon Borglum** jumped in his car and roared down the road. The man was fleeing for his life! It was 1925 and Borglum had been in Atlanta working on a massive sculpture at Stone Mountain. Due to a conflict with the Stone Mountain Executive Board, the impetuous artist had destroyed the casts for the project. The Board quickly obtained a warrant for his arrest, hence Borglum's quick departure from Georgia! Racing to the haven of North Carolina, he later wrote:

I...picked up my personal effects hastily, got into a car, and got...out of there. I was pursued by these men who fired several shots at my car...and only by the grace of God, Josephus Daniels...and [North Carolina Governor] Angus McLean (who said he would call out the militia if necessary), did I escape them.

Borglum was safely ensconced in North Carolina. He would never finish the Stone Mountain project, but did go on to carve a national monument at a place called Mount Rushmore. But what has this got to do with the War Between the States, and with North Carolina in particular? Well, Borglum was the artist chosen to execute the memorial to those valiant North Carolinians who fought at Gettysburg. Dedicated on 3 July, 1929, (former Governor) McLean delivered the dedicatory address and recognized that it was mainly through the efforts of the Daughters of the Confederacy that the project was completed. He also acknowledged that the work was long overdue. It was due to a "proud poverty now proudly overcome," and went on:

The memorial...is the work of Gutzon Borglum, who has...interpreted in bronze the spirit and purpose of the North Carolinians engaged in this great battle. The heroic group represents five typical North Carolina soldiers. Four of the group have just emerged from a small wooded area. As they come out into the open, they suddenly see the awful struggle in front of them....The field has been torn with shot and shell. The leader...pushes forward...the younger man just behind him is stunned momentarily at the awful sight; the bearded soldier to his left, realizing what is taking place in the youth's mind, draws close to him and whispers confidence. The color bearer in the rear presses forward....At their right, one knee on the ground, is an officer encouraging his men, his presence and wounds indicating that the struggle has been in progress some time.

Situated on Seminary Ridge, where Longstreet's assault began, the memorial is acknowledged to be the most beautiful on the battlefield. Near this spot, the "high water mark of the Confederacy," stands the statue of General Lee. Across the expanse stands the statue of Union General George G. Meade. Borglum said that "the face of each of the five figures was carved on the lines of pictures of Southern soldiers, the color bearers face being modeled from an old daguerreotype of Orren Randolph Smith of Henderson, N.C., who designed the stars and bars of the Confederacy."

If you visit the Vicksburg National Park, be sure to look for the N.C. memorial there, it was also done by Borglum. Don't think, however, that he sculpted only southern themes; he also did "Sheridan on Horseback," (located in Chicago) as well as a bust of Lincoln (in Newark, N.J.) and many others. Interestingly, when Borglum "refugeed" in N.C., there was talk of him carving a Confederate war memorial on "the granite cliffs of Chimney Rock." Unfortunately, talk is all it was. As for Stone Mountain, he never went back, but the work, depicting the likenesses of Davis, Lee and Jackson, was finally finished in 1970.

**Seen in a bookstore recently!** "The Idiot's Guide to the Civil War," and "The Civil War for Dummies." Well, I guess it had to happen sooner or later!

### **Past Tidbits**

In our **November** issue, there was a story about Pvt. James Keelari, the man who single-handedly defended the railroad bridge over the Holsten River. We have been informed that for his actions, "The South's Horatius" was awarded the Confederate Medal of Honor on 20 August, 1994. It is on permanent public display in the UDC Confederate Museum in Knoxville, Tennessee. [See *Valor in Gray* by Gregg S. Clemmer]

In our **December** issue, there was a story of Lt. F. Harney, who captured the colors of the 150<sup>th</sup> Pa. Regiment at Gettysburg. That flag was sent to President Davis, as Harney had requested. When Davis fled from Richmond, it was in his luggage and was found when Davis was captured. The flag was on display in the state Capital Building in Harrisburg, Pa. as late as 1978. [A *Pictorial History of the Battle of Gettysburg*, 1978]

### **Governor Vance's Visit to Fort Fisher**

We sometimes had our fun in camp. Zeb Vance visited us not long after his election as Governor of North Carolina. He wore a black stove-pipe hat on the side of his head as he came sauntering through the Fort. It was the first appearance of a beaver in the garrison. He had not gone far before, from behind the barracks came the command, "Come out of that hat! I see your legs! Come out of that hat!" and presently concealed voices in different directions caught up the cry, "Come out of that hat! I see your legs! Come out of that hat!" Good natured Zeb rather enjoyed the joke, but it was not the reception I desired to give the Governor of the State, and I had the drums beat the quarters and the battalion formed for review, which effectively squelched the fun.

Next evening, at dress parade, an order was read threatening any soldier with condign punishment who should call out to a visitor to "come out of his hat." Everything remained serene and quiet after that order despite the visits of several clerical gentlemen to the garrison with rusty stove-pipe hats, until one morning I espied a bowlegged blockade running captain, who had got safely in during the night, coming up from the beach with a great shade hat on his head, which looked for all the world like an inverted coal scuttle. He was about opposite one of the barracks when a sepulchral voice growled out, "Stay in that hat!" "Against orders to come out of that hat!" "I see your legs!" "Stay in that hat!" which was repeated along the line with startling emphasis as the bewildered Britisher made haste to reach headquarters. I surrendered with discretion and never issued another order on that hat question.

[Courtesy of Ray Flowers, from *The Life and Times of Colonel William Lamb 1835-1909*, in the Federal Point Historic Preservation Society newsletter]

### **Your Attention Please!**

If you have not paid your dues by this issue, we know you must have forgotten, so if you wish to remain a member, please remit your check or money order to The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table, c/o Mr. Dan Geddie, P.O. Box 10535, Wilmington, N.C. 28405. **Don't let this newsletter be your last!**

## Fort Anderson

**As mentioned** in our last newsletter, we'll be meeting at the fort on Saturday, 19 January. Chainsaws, rakes, bushhogs (and whatever else you can think of!) will be needed, so bring 'em if you've got 'em! Let's hope for a good day for a great project. We will meet at 10 a.m. and will soon transport Battery "A" back in time. It may be interesting to note that we will be doing the same sort of labor the soldiers themselves did 140 years ago, they did it out of necessity, ours will be a labor of love!

**The Raffle Winners were:** Ed Russ, *Jacob's Ladder*; Les Harris, *Paintings of Mort Kunstler*; Ed Hartz, *Maps of Civil War Battlefields*; Park Downing, *To Take Charleston*; Palmer Royal, *Century Magazine War Book (1894)*; Ed Russ and David English, *C.S.S Hunley Christmas ornaments*.

## Spring Trip

There are a few members whose wives want to attend the dinners, but don't want to go on the tour (there is plenty of shopping available in Gettysburg). Tommy King has gone back and juggled the figures and if your wife (or husband) wants to come along for the dinners (and speakers) on Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings they can do so for \$75. Please remember to make your hotel reservations by 20 February (2002) and have all your money (\$150) to Dan Geddie by 19 February.

**General Stonewall Jackson** was well known for his disdain of those who took the oath of loyalty to the United States. On one occasion:

A sergeant brought in a 'plain simple minded old man.' The soldier informed Jackson that the man had freely taken an oath of loyalty to the United States. 'Is that so?' Jackson asked. The man answered: 'Why you see Mister, the Yankees came to my house.' 'I don't wish to know about the Yankees,' Jackson interrupted. 'Have you taken the oath?' The man persisted. 'Why you see, Mister, the Yankees came to my house and made my wife get a rope and....' Again Jackson broke the conversation.

'I do not wish to know anything about your wife or the rope. Did you or did you not take the oath?' 'Well Mister, I suppose I did.' Jackson snapped, 'You have no business being on this side of the Potomac River.' Several of the man's neighbors were present. They were quick to tell Jackson that the Federals had threatened to hang the man if he did not sign the loyalty pledge. In addition, the man had two sons then in Confederate service.

A pause, then Jackson asked, 'Will you take the oath of allegiance to the Confederate States?' Back came the quick reply, 'Why Mister, I'll take two or three of them!' Jackson smiled and sent the man home.

[From James I. Robertson, *Stonewall Jackson, The Man, The Soldier, The Legend.*]