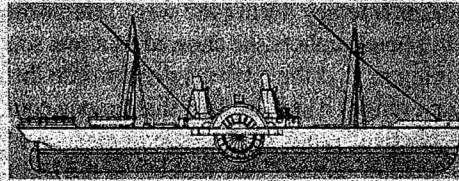


THE RUNNER



Newsletter of The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table
April 2003 P.O. Box 10535, Wilmington, N.C. 28404 Editor: Bob Cooke

**Our next meeting will be Friday, 18 April at St. Andrew's On-The-Sound
Social Hour 7 p.m. Meeting, 7:30 p.m.**

Please note: the meeting date is the third (3rd) Friday of the month, for this meeting only!

Steering Committee Contact Numbers

Dr. Chris E. Fonvielle (792-9091) Mike Budziszewski (458-1370) Dan Geddie (799-5338)
Bob Cooke (792-1601) Steve Gunter (686-4025) John Moore (256-6328) Tommy King (762-2930)
John Krohn (799-6014) George Slaton (452-7448)

Our speaker for April (the 18th) will be Dr. Max Williams, who will answer the question, "Was Confederate Defeat Inevitable?" Dr. Williams, a native of High Point, N.C. graduated from Duke University and obtained his MA and Ph.D. from UNC Chapel Hill. He spent 34 years teaching at Western Carolina and is now Professor Emeritus of History. His primary teaching fields were Civil War and Reconstruction and the American South. He co-founded, with Peter Carmichael, the Western North Carolina Civil War Round Table and is currently a member of the N.C. Historical Commission. We look forward to his talk!

Winners of the last raffle:

Jackson and Staff (print)- John Moore; Civil War Battlefields- Ed Mahoney; *Images From the Storm*- Sam Daniluk; Civil War Magazines- Ed Russ and Don Patience; *New Market Campaign*- Ed Russ.

Once again we call upon our members to donate items for our raffle. Remember, the donations don't necessarily have to be about the Civil War, other items (military oriented preferred) are also welcome.

Did you get a chance to see "Gods and Generals?" What did you think of it? Although it was panned by many critics and Civil War buffs as well, it was a whole lot better than the last movie we viewed ("Jungle Book II.") Let's hope the final film in the trilogy will be made!

Note: Our March trip failed to come off due to low numbers. We seem to have a better response when we schedule our trips to actual battlefields! Maybe we should only visit battlefields? Give us your feedback at the next meeting. In keeping with our cavalry theme this year, Eric Wittenberg will return for another visit and will be our speaker in May. His topic then will be "Stuart's Ride Before Gettysburg: Who Was to Blame?"

Message From the President

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as president of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table for the past three years. Having also served as vice president for as many years, and as program director, however, it is now time for me to step down. I do so with confidence that the organization is in good shape. We continue to bring in some of the finest Civil War historians in the country for presentations, which has always elicited the enthusiastic support of the membership. But the time has come for new ideas and perhaps a new direction from a new leader. I extend my deep appreciation to my fellow members of the steering committee for their hard work and dedication, as well as my best wishes and thanks to the devoted members of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table.

Our February speaker, Jack Thomson, broke out the slide projectors (two of them) and gave us a tour of Charleston, from early in the war through its end. It is surely well known that Charleston was one of the most heavily bombarded city in the Confederacy during the war. Interposing modern-day photographs with those taken by several different photographers, he showed us street scenes of bombed-out homes, offices, shops and churches. Informing us that the city was divided into three artillery zones, (effective range, annoying range and maximum range) it was evident that no one could live in the lower part of the town; that part within the deadly "effective" range of the Federal guns on Morris Island. What was most interesting was something termed "shadow dating." By looking at the length of the shadows cast by the sun, one can determine the approximate month and time of day. Other clues are then examined: trees in bloom or the uniforms of the soldiers in the pictures. Mr. Thomson was able to pinpoint the month, day and hour of one such photo! Several views of the huge 13" Blakely gun (which was mounted on Charleston's Battery) had been taken to create different "saleable" pictures by simply moving the photographer's equipment to another location. Exploded by retreating Confederates, a 500 pound piece of the gun's breech remains to this day, in the roof of one of the houses on the Battery.

As there are very few "combat" photographs of the Civil War, it was most interesting when Mr. Thomson showed a beach scene that at first glance appeared to be not of much interest. Upon a second look, and by blowing up portions of the picture, it became evident that it was indeed, a combat photo! The ironclad New Ironsides was firing at a target. The figures in the shot have all halted to watch the action as smoke pours from the vessel, which has just loosed a broadside! A great piece of detective work and a great show! Thanks Jack!

Exhibits and Events From the *Civil War News*.

No Closing Date, Virginia. Ironclads Exhibit

"Battle of the Ironclads: Eyewitness to History exhibit at The Mariners' Museum, Newport News. Featuring engravings, oil paintings, lithographs, blueprints, newspapers, primary accounts on Hampton Roads battle between the *USS Monitor* and *CSS Virginia*. For information, (757) 591-7739 or email info@mariner.org also www.mariner.org.

Through Jan. 4, 2004, D.C. West Point Exhibit

"West Point in the Making of America, 1802-1918" exhibition at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History in honor of the military academy's bicentennial. Includes graduates Grant, Lee, Reynolds, Warren, Sherman, Jackson and Custer. Open daily 10-5:30. For information, (202) 357-2700. Or email: <http://americanhistory.si.edu>.

April 12-13, Virginia. Civil War Weekend

"Civil War Weekend," Pamplin Historical Park, Petersburg. Soldiers' experience from enlistment to battle, tactical demonstrations. For information, Pamplin Historical Park & National Museum of the Civil War Soldier, (877) PAMPLIN; www.pamplinpark.org.

May 4-7, Virginia. Ed Bearss Tour

Ed Bearss Essential Civil War, Stop 8, Chancellorsville Battlefield in Fredericksburg. Fee charged. Sponsored by Blue & Gray Education Society. For information, (888) 741-2437, blue-graysoc@mindspring.com or www.blue-and-gray-education.org.

June 14-15, Georgia. Civil War Show

8th Annual Historic Savannah Civil War Relic Show and Sale. Savannah Civic Center, Saturday 9-5, Sunday 9-3:30. \$6 over 12. For information OSO Promotions: Larry Owens, (912) 231-9437.

Too late for publication was a local event which took place early in April: The School of the Piece (Artillery School) was held at Fort Anderson on April 5th. At that event one could be certified in all positions, including gunner. If you are interested in learning where the next school might be, call 1st Sgt. Jim McKee, (910) 512-7619.

A Letter To Governor Vance.

Weldon, N.C.
Oct. 21st 1863

Your Excellency Gov. Vance,

Sir, I am under the necessity of asking you to let me have four yds. Army cloth. I am unable to get any unless it would be from heartless speculators, whose prices my salary will not enable me to pay. I have been commissioned for three months and have not been able to get cloth to uniform myself. I can get a furlough to go to Raleigh provided I can get the cloth. I understand you have a small quantity, [I] hope you will oblige. Please let me know, my address D. P. Glass Lt. Co. "K" 35th Regt State Troops Ransom's Brigade,] Weldon, N.C.

Very respectfully Yours &c.

D.P. Glass

David P. Glass was one of the first to answer his country's call and enlisted in the First N.C. Regiment in 1861, for six months. In May, 1862, he was again signed up, "for the war." He was wounded at Malvern Hill and was later returned to duty. He was promoted to Sergeant that year and was afterwards promoted to Second Lieutenant in June, 1863. He must have been one of those soldiers who was missed, because North Carolina was one of the few States to clothe their own troops. Hopefully, he was able to get an officer's uniform!

[Vance Papers, UNCW; Manarin, *North Carolina Troops*.]

The Confederate Treasure

Nine miles from this place, on the Danburg road, a small oak tree was blown down by yesterday's storm. Mr. John Frank saw something shining as he was passing and examined the roots of the same. In the hole left by the tree, he claims to have found almost a peck of gold. The jewels were diamonds, rubies and pearls, and parties who have seen them say they are worth \$15,000 to \$20,000. The belief expressed by the few who have been fortunate enough to see them is that they are a part of the lot lost by the Confederate Cabinet, as they were on that road when it was lost. It is supposed that the party who buried it was killed soon after, and consequently it was never unearthed.

[*Washington (Ga.) Gazette*, copied in the *Wilmington Morning Star*, 3 January, 1884.]

Would You Believe This?

[From *The Dispatch*, Newsletter of the CWRT of NY]

Australian journalist Dorothy June Hopkins of Sydney published a book, *Hop of the Bulletin*, back in 1929. In the book she made several mentions of her father Livingston York Hopkins, a famous Australian magazine illustrator. He had served in the 139th Ohio before emigrating to Australia. His daughter reported on his world tour which included a visit to China.

At Hong Kong he noticed the American flag flying over the American consulate and decided to go in and pay his respects to the representative of his country. He was ushered into the presence of the consul. Sitting at the table was a wizened, feeble old man, his eyes dull with age and lack of interest. The old consul was the terrible, rough-riding, ruthless Colonel (John S.) Mosby. My father confessed that the sight of him made the old bitterness and hatred flare up once more, but it soon gave place to pity for the doddering old man.

[Original Source-*The Minie News* from the CWRT of Australia.]

Tidbits From the Closet

Although our speaker's themes have been the cavalry, it seems the newsletter has concentrated (this year anyway) on medical aspects of the war, so in keeping with that topic, here's a few more stories:

Medical Examinations for Union Recruits During the Civil War:

General Order #51, dated August 3, 1861 stated "when volunteers are to be mustered into the service of the United States, they will at the same time be minutely examined by the surgeon and assistant surgeon of the regiment, to ascertain whether they have the physical qualifications necessary for the military service." The questions asked were: Have you ever been sick? When and of what diseases? Have you any disease now, and what? Have you ever had fits? Have you ever received an injury or wound upon the head? Have you ever had a fracture, a dislocation, or a sprain? Are you in the habit of drinking? Are you subject to the piles? Have you any difficulty in urinating? Have you been vaccinated, or had the smallpox? Then there was space for any comments on: Head, Ears, Face, Eyes and Appendages, Nose, Organs of Mastication and Voice, Neck Chest, Abdomen, Genital and Urinary Organs, Vertebral Column, Superior Extremities and Inferior Extremities. At the bottom of the form was space for "Remarks" and the examination was signed and dated by the surgeon.

[From *The Ramrod*, newsletter of The North Carolina Civil War Round Table. The above sounds pretty comprehensive, but then, how did all those women get in the army? Ed.]

[Vaccination against smallpox has been in the news lately and sooner or later we may all have to be vaccinated or revaccinated as the case may be. The following is certainly not meant to scare anyone; it was done at a time of limited medical knowledge among common people. It is taken from a Union surgeon's report, which was delivered to the U.S. Sanitary Commission. The information comes from *The U.S. Sanitary Commission Records*, microfilm at UNCW's Randall Library.]

[In May 1863] while the regiment [the 100th Illinois Volunteers] was encamped at Mt. Vernon, Kentucky, a member of the Reg't. came from the hospital at Lexington, Ky. With a large ulcer...on his arm, obtained, he said, by vaccination from a fellow patient at the hospital, which vaccination he had performed himself; several members from his company vaccinated themselves from this arm, including the Capt.

In all these case the pustule degenerated to an unhealthy looking ulcer, from the size of a half-dime to a dime, discharging much pus...the surrounding surface being inflamed & swollen. These ulcers proved very obstinate to treatment, finally requiring cauterization with Nitrate of Silver...some of them not healing for two months or more. They finally healed, however, leaving [a scar] far different from the usual scar after vaccination....But every one of those thus vaccinated, who had not been protected by previous vaccination, were seized with variola, in its confluent form & all died, including the Capt. This could not have been vaccination, as it did not possess any of its protecting powers nor could it have been syphilis alone, as no...effects followed[.]

[Apparently the original infected patient was also suffering from syphilis and the others, using what was called "spurious," or self-inoculation also contracted the disease. Spurious vaccination was also practiced by Confederate soldiers, Ed.]

[Report of Camp Inspector Robert Colyer, August 28th 1861. From *U.S. Sanitary Commission Records*.]

5th New York, Sickles Brigade

This regiment is in poor condition. There is no chief surgeon. The Colonel is in New York recruiting. The men are poorly clad but expect to get their clothes this week. The ground round the camp is very dirty. There is no pride or care of camps or tents; no ambulances, stretchers, surgical instruments, little medicine, no stores for the hospital. The men are so on the damp ground that they must get sick. The Assistant Surgeon is sick [and] there are those nasty cooking pits as usual waiting to kill their percentage of men. This regiment must be seen to closely.

Lastly (and certainly not the least) let us pray for the safe return of all our troops and indeed, give thanks to all who served and who are serving our country.