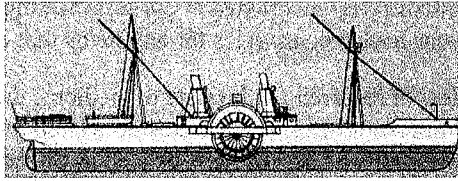


THE RUNNER



Newsletter of The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

December 2002 P.O. Box 10535, Wilmington, N.C. 28404 Editor: Bob Cooke

**Our next meeting will be Friday, 13 December at St. Andrew's On-The-Sound
Social Hour 7 p.m. Meeting, 7:30 p.m.**

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Our December Speaker will be Mr. Sam Martin, his subject will be Hugh Judson ("Kil-Cavalry") Kilpatrick. Mr. Martin, a graduate of Bowling Green and Indiana University, he received a Masters Degree in Business. After service in the U.S. Army, he entered upon a career in business, working for G.E., RCA, Masco and Southwestern Bell. While still working, he started writing articles about the Civil War, including ones for *Civil War Times Illustrated*, *American Civil War*, *The Kepi* and *Virginia Country*. After retiring in 1990, he began writing biographical books. His works include: *The Road to Glory* (Richard S. Ewell,) followed by *Kil-Cavalry* (H.J. Kilpatrick,) and *Southern Hero* (Matthew Calbraith Butler.) Mr. Martin is presently working on his as-yet-untitled fourth book about another Confederate, Braxton Bragg.

Robert E. Lee honored in Greece!

The largest building at the Near East Relief's orphanage in Syra, Greece, will henceforth be known as the Robert E. Lee Memorial, in recognition of large contributions made towards its erection by the people of the State of Virginia. The building was dedicated with impressive ceremonies. A memorial tablet in the hallway bears a biography of Lee, written by one of the Armenian orphan boys....[It] recounts Lee's public career[.] (*Confederate Veteran*)

Our November speaker, Paul Anderson, spoke (and has written a book, titled *Blood Image*) on a worthy Son of Virginia, Turner Ashby. Beginning his talk with a quote from "Stonewall" Jackson's letter to Robert E. Lee, he asked the question why did Jackson back down from his confrontation with Ashby. Jackson, the stern disciplinarian and Ashby the Knight Errant, who couldn't or wouldn't control his men. These were two men whose view of the war was totally different. The answer, he indicated, lies in Ashby's view of that war (plus his influence over his men.) Commanding Partisan Rangers, a fiercely independent band of unknown numbers that melted away after their battles, Ashby saw only the Shenandoah Valley as their battleground. His job was to find Yankees and kill them! He never saw the "big picture" as did Jackson and Lee and he had no sense of conventional warfare, no strategic sense. While Jackson expected his cavalry to be at hand, for courier duty, screening and reconnaissance missions, Ashby was only concerned with finding and attacking the enemy, burning bridges and destroying railroads. To him, the war was bloody, brutal and personal, especially after the death of his brother. A confrontation was inevitable. Yet when Ashby not only threatened to resign, but wrote it out, Jackson backed down. Ashby was very symbolic to the citizens of the Valley, as Dr. Anderson stated, he represented the values of the war, as seen by those in the Valley. He also represented the very best of Virginia culture and after his untimely death in June 1862, a myth grew up around him and his status increased with time. Judging by the questions Dr. Anderson's talk was extremely interesting and thought provoking.

The Winners of last month's raffle: Civil War Video, Dale Lear; *Confederate Goliath*, Robert Jones; *The Civil War*, Dick Covell; *Civil War Facts*, Richard Long; D-Day lighter, Palmer Royal; framed picture of Uncle Sam, Becky Jones. Mike Budziszewski mentioned at our last meeting just how important the raffle is as a fund-raiser. Please search your bookshelves/attics for any items that could be donated. Thanks!

Jim McCallum has done a great deal of research on the state of medicine during the Civil War, and in Wilmington in particular. He has discovered a lot about the doctors (well over 75 of them, the highlights of whom we will present in another issue) who served here, as well as the hospitals themselves. Consider the following Part I, other parts will cover the Doctors and the Federal hospitals in Wilmington.

Medical Facilities, Wilmington 1861-1865.

By Jim McCallum

Dr. Shepard (Joseph Christopher Shepard) was in the midst of a leg amputation when he was captured by the Federals at Fort Fisher in January 1865. He was allowed by his captors to finish the operation before being shipped off with other prisoners to Governor's Island, in New York Harbor. Before the battle he had been at the "Hospital Bombproof," the post's hospital. It was located near "The Pulpit," where the commanding officer, Colonel William Lamb, had his headquarters. It was but one of many hospitals serving Confederate soldiers in the area. There were several hospitals located in the Wilmington area during the war (there were two at Confederate Point, one at Fort Fisher, the other at Camp Wyatt.)

As Captain John Wilkinson wrote, "The staid old town of Wilmington was turned topsy-turvy during the war." This statement was no less true for the Medical community than all other people of the Lower Cape Fear. Many of the young doctors abandoned their civilian practices to become military "Surgeons" (the 19th century term for a doctor) and most were sent to different locations. The town's remaining civilian physicians continued to serve the townspeople as well as offering their services to the military whenever needed. As a result they were hard-pressed to meet the needs of all the patients. Doctors from other areas assigned to troops stationed in the environs assisted the community during their off-duty hours. A considerable number of medical officers served the local military installations, many of whom stayed after the war. Some of the local physicians who took part in the fighting, returned wounded or otherwise changed for the rest of their lives. To say the period 1861-1865 brought dramatic changes is an understatement.

At the onset of the "War for Southern Independence" (Civil War if you wish) there were two hospitals in the area. This is how they came into being. In 1835, Wilmington, a town of less than 2,000 souls, was an active seaport. A group of citizens met in May of that year to organize "The Wilmington Marine Hospital Association." It was formed solely for the relief of sick and suffering sailors who had no family or funds. Mount Terza, a plantation about three miles south of the city (on the east bank of the Cape Fear opposite Cat Island and a short distance south of Dram Tree Point containing about 150 acres) was selected for the hospital. The association failed and the property was conveyed to the "Seaman's Friend Society," an organization formed in 1853 with the same goals. A two-story wooden structure was built by November 1859. It contained a library, chapel and rooms, all neatly furnished. After the onset of hostilities in 1861, this structure was used as a hospital and was known as General Hospital number 4; but continued to be known locally as the Seaman's Hospital. The main building was located at the southwest corner of Front and Dock Streets and Captain Richard P. Paddison gave this description:

About this time (1862) I was appointed hospital steward....I remained at Fort Johnston during the epidemic of yellow fever in 1862...after this I was transferred to General Hospital No. 4...which comprised the Seaman's Home building and buildings on the opposite side of Front Street. Thomas M. Rittenour was surgeon and A.E. Wright and Josh Walker, assistant surgeons. This was one of the largest and best equipped hospitals in the State.

Yet another newspaper article told the story of a man at the hospital who was "under treatment for delirium tremens," and:

under some hallucination, raised the window of the third story, corner Front and Dock St. and pitched out, falling on the pavement and injuring himself so severely that he will probably not recover. As he went out he said he was told to get the horses, and he was going after them.

During the 1862 yellow fever epidemic, this hospital was relinquished by the military for use as a civilian hospital, for the victims of the disease. It was said the wards were clean, airy and comfortable. As might be expected, sometimes even the best intentions went awry. In August, 1863, a blockade runner donated "for the use of the sick in your Hospital," two barrels of limes. A letter to the editor of the *Journal*, from the Surgeon-in-Charge, told the rest of the story:

The following is a copy of a note accompanying a very valuable donation from Mr. Abe Cohen, Purser of the steamship *Arabia*... for the comfort of the sick under my charge, for which they tender Mr. Cohen sincere thanks, but complain... very justly, that these luxuries have been forced from them by... Maj. T.B. Venable, and placed in the hands of the Medical Purveyor for distribution, thus diverting them from the destination that the kind donor intended. (signed) M. Ritenour.

It would appear that not only medicine was a precious commodity! Gifts of fruits and other foodstuffs, as well as bandages, medicines and even money were donated to the sick throughout the war.

The second hospital was the United States Marine Hospital, begun in 1857. The U.S. Government had purchased, on the edge of Wilmington, a tract called the Miles Costin farm for the sum of \$6,500. This land covered all the area beginning at present-day Eighth and Ann Sts., continuing south along 8th St. to Castle, up to 13th St., thence westerly to Ann St. and down Ann St. back to the beginning. On this property the government erected a masonry structure consisting of a basement and two floors, crowned with a cupola. The building faced 8th St. and on the north side of the wards were placed the tents for outdoor patients, with a laundry building located at the rear of the complex. It had a capacity for about 250 patients and was designated General Hospital No. 5 (locals still called it the Marine Hospital.)

As the war wore on and medical supplies dwindled in the face of a growing number of wounded, military officials determined that steps be taken to decrease the patient population of crowded military hospitals. It was decided to send convalescing soldiers home by rail; however they still needed stopover points for food, change of dressings and bathing. "Wayside" Hospitals were set up along the railroad routes including one at Wilmington. The Wilmington and Weldon Railroad depot (which measured 280 by 80 feet) was selected, as it would minimize moving the men, so cots and bathing and kitchen facilities were installed. The ladies of Wilmington were essential in the smooth operation of moving the men to the facility, feeding and nursing them before they continued on their way. One of the townspeople (Walker Meares) recalled:

[T]he trains were delayed for two hours, to bathe and dress wounds and for a first class meal. By order of the General-in-command... Surgeons were detailed, while the medical men of the city voluntarily offered their services... A telegram from Weldon [by the Virginia border] informed the ladies as to the number on the way, so that on the arrival of the train, all preparations had been made for their comfort among these comforts, not the least was furnishing... clean underclothing.... The Ladies never failed in giving this hospital daily attention, and not until the fall of Fort Fisher, and capture of our city, was this hospital abandoned.

Many of the men who passed through town this way recollected the kindness shown them and remarked that it was the only place they received a meal while being transported from Richmond. This hospital was shut down in the winter months when there was a lull in the fighting in Virginia.

Of the four hospitals located here, there is less information available on the Naval Hospital. In

the Official (Naval) Records there is a notation listing 135 patients admitted (90 discharged, 3 died) for the 2nd and 3rd quarters of 1864, in the Wilmington Naval Hospital. It also stated that the average daily cost per man was \$4.96. It was located on Chestnut, between Water and Front Sts. The Surgeon-in-Charge was Dr. Sandford (likely Dr. John W. Sandford, Jr., stationed here from 1862 to 1864.) This hospital was probably a former residence taken over for hospital use, nowhere near as large as the other facilities.

On 15 January 1865, Fort Fisher fell to the Federals. Thirty-eight days later Wilmington was evacuated and Captain Paddison's narrative continued:

After the fall of Fort Fisher, we had orders to send our sick and wounded to Fayetteville and Goldsboro...we succeeded in getting all except thirty-two removed to safety. These were so badly wounded that it was impossible to move them. I placed these wounded in Ward No. 2 (General Hospital No. 4, Seaman's Hospital) with Mrs. [John] McCauslin, matron, in charge. Supplies were very scarce. Dr. Josh Walker was the last to leave. He went out on Tuesday night and Wednesday morning the streets were swarming with Federal soldiers. About 10 a.m. a surgeon came to our hospital and inquired who was in charge. I replied that I was....He said: 'I want you to move everything out. I want this hospital for our use.' I replied that I had nowhere to go, and no way to move. 'You must find a house,' he replied, 'and at once, and report to me at headquarters. I will furnish you with transportation.' I did not stand on the order of my going. I found a house on Fourth Street near Red Cross, owned by David Bunting, whose family had left the city. I made the report and the Federal surgeon ordered three ambulances. The transfer was soon made. I wish to state that we had courteous treatment from the authorities, but of course we were very short on supplies.

In 1882 (9 June) there appeared the following article in the (Wilmington) *Morning Star*:

The recently vacated dwelling of Mr. John C. Heyer now being moved from its late position on the corner of 4th and Red Cross Streets to a lot on Red Cross between 6th and 7th Streets, has some historical association connected with it. We learn from the surgeon in charge that it was being used at the time of Lee's surrender at Appomattox as a Confederate Hospital, and from its walls went forth the convalescents to their homes. One informant thinks it was in fact the last Confederate Hospital in use in North Carolina at the close of the war.

[Wouldn't it be interesting if that house is still around? Ed.] Dr. McCallum consulted the following works for his research: *The Lonely Road* (Diane Cashman, et. al., Eds.; *Land of the Golden River*, Lewis Phillip Hall; *Chronicles of the Cape Fear*, James Sprunt; *Medicine in North Carolina*, Dorothy Lang, Ed., *History of the Confederate Navy*, J. Thomas Scharf and the *Wilmington Journal*.)

RIGHT TO THE POINT.

Headquarters Second Corps, A.N.V.

To Gen. Jubal A. Early, commanding Division.

General: General Jackson's compliments to General Early, and he would like to be informed why he saw so many stragglers in rear of your Division to-day.

Respectfully,

A.G. Pendleton, A.A.G. Second Corps.

Headquarters Early's Division, A.N.V.

To Col. A.G. Pendleton, A.A.G. Second Corps.

Colonel: General Early's compliments to General Jackson, and he takes pleasure in informing him that he saw so many stragglers in rear of my Division to-day probably because he rode in rear of my Division.

Respectfully,

Jubal A. Early, Commanding Division.

(Confederate Veteran)