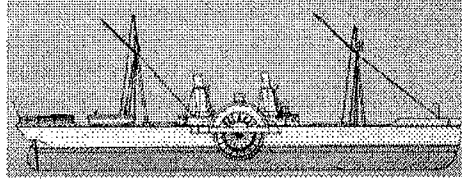


THE RUNNER



Newsletter of The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table
February 2004 P.O. Box 10535, Wilmington, N.C. 28404 Editor: Bob Cooke

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Social Hour 7:00 p.m. Meeting 7:30 p.m.**

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) Ross St. George, Dale Lear (686-2418) David Norris.

In preparation for our spring trip, our speaker for February will be Ross St. George. Mr. St. George, an RT and Steering Committee member, was born in Lumberton, grew up in Norfolk and Arlington, Virginia, attained his BA (Political Science) from Catholic University, Washington, D.C., his MA from UNCW and is working on his PhD at the University of Houston. Presently he is teaching (U.S. History) at Houston Community College and also at UNCW (U.S. History and Military History). Mr. St. George has also taught at Campbell College and at the USMC Command and Staff College. He has published several articles and is working on his PhD. Dissertation, "A Scrambling Kind of War: Irregular Warfare in the Southern Campaign of the American Revolution, 1778-1782." His Master's Thesis was entitled: "Security from Phantoms: The Department of the Rappahannock and the Campaign for Virginia in the Spring of 1862." Mr. St. George will speak on Lanes' Brigade at Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville.

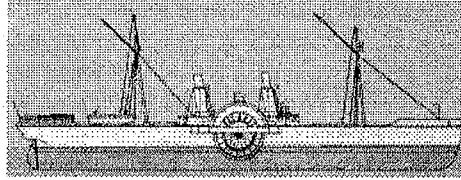
Raffle Winners! *C.S.S. Hunley* print- Ed Russ; *Dancing Along the Deadline*- Bob Quinn; *This Hallowed Ground*, Al Hines; *The Blue and the Gray, Undercover*- David Norris; *Folk Medicine in America*- Jim Bailey; *The All-True Travels and Adventures of Lidie Newton*- John Golden; The Southern Army Album- Bill Walton; Gettysburg Videotape/C.S.A. car badge- Ed Mahoney; Revolutionary War print- Mary Royal; 2004 Gods and Generals calendar- Ed Gibson; CWPT Coffee thermos- Harry Clements. Thanks to those who have donated books and other items for our raffle.

As we mentioned in our last newsletter, there are various projects that are being worked on around town. One of these is the restoration of the fencing around the Oakdale Cemetery Confederate Monument (it really needs a good painting!) The local chapter of the UDC has taken up the cause and our RT has donated a total of \$404 to them for this project.

There were six officers that were in the Civil War who later became President of the United States. Can you name them? Hint: none were Confederates! The answer is on page four. [By the way, General U.S. Grant visited Wilmington in early December 1865. He stayed in town for six hours and had breakfast at a local hotel, then boarded a train taking him southward.]

Civil War Naval Living History-Saturday 7 February 2004 in downtown Elizabeth City. Displays on shipbuilding and navigation, medical exhibit, artillery and ropemaking demonstrations! For more information call the Museum of the Albemarle at (252-335-1453).

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Answer to the question on page one: (Plus a little Presidential humor!) The six men who served as Union officers during the Civil War and later became President were: **U.S. Grant** (we know everyone got him!) Grant served two terms as President, from 1869 to 1877. It was Grant who said, "I know only two tunes; one of them is 'Yankee Doodle' and the other isn't."

Rutherford Birchard Hayes (1877-1881) enlisted as Major of the 23rd Ohio and rose to the rank of brevet major general. Hayes was severely wounded at South Mountain but continued in the war; he was at 3rd Winchester, Fisher's Hill and Cedar Creek. Later, as President, Hayes wrote to his wife, "The Boston Post says 'Mr. Hayes will, during the absence of Mrs. Hayes, be acting President.'"

James Abram Garfield (1881) who said, "A pound of pluck is worth a ton of luck," was appointed Lieutenant Colonel of the 42nd Ohio and came out of the war as a major general. He survived the battles of Shiloh, Corinth, Chattanooga and Chickamauga only to be assassinated four months into his Presidency.

Chester Alan Arthur (1881-1885) assumed the mantle upon the death of James Garfield. He had served as Quartermaster General for New York State.

Benjamin Harrison enlisted as a second lieutenant in the 70th Indiana and left the army as brevet brigadier general. It was said that "within a month he fought more battles [as part of Sherman's army] than his grandfather [William Henry Harrison, also President] saw in a lifetime." At a veteran's reunion in 1890 he said, "I cannot recall the names of all of you. You recognize me because there were not so many colonels as there were soldiers- fortunately, perhaps for the country."

William McKinley (1897-1901) also felled by an assassin's bullet, enlisted as a private at the age of eighteen in the 23rd Ohio (do you see a pattern here?) He saw action at South Mountain and Sheridan's Valley Campaign; while under fire at Antietam, he "performed a minor exploit" by taking a wagon full of hot food to the troops; he was soon promoted and was on Hayes' staff. McKinley left the army with the rank of major. As President, he once commented on the state of military affairs, "The Spanish fleet is in Cuban waters and we haven't enough ammunition to fire a salute."

All were Republicans and it is readily apparent that after the war, veterans dominated the nation's highest office, with the exception of Democrat Grover Cleveland's two terms (1885-1889, 1893-1897). This was an indication of the political power of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR); however, by the turn of the century, the organization's political clout had diminished.

Another Presidential Visit?

We neglected to notice in our issue of yesterday the arrival in our city of Brig. Gen. Harrison, of Indiana, who is on his way to Gen. Sherman's army. He is stopping at Bailey's hotel. We understand he expects to leave, in company with Gen. Prince, for the front to-day. [*Herald of the Union*, 15 April 1865]

One more U.S. Grant story! When a son was born to Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Grant on April 27, 1822, they were faced with an important decision; what to name their child. It was decided that the family should be consulted in the matter, so a month after the child's birth, Jesse Grant hitched up his horse and wagon and took his family on the ten mile trip to visit the baby's grandparents. When they arrived, they were greeted by not only the grandparents, but also two of the baby's aunts. Everyone knew the purpose of the visit, and they had each chosen a name they thought would be appropriate, but when the time came for them to voice their opinions, each had chosen a different name. After some discussion, a compromise was reached whereby the name would be chosen by ballot. The favorite name of each relative would be written down on a piece of paper and then deposited in a hat. One of the aunts drew a name from the hat and it was announced that the child's name would henceforth be Ulysses. His grandfather so liked the name Hiram that he was displeased with the decision by ballot, and in the end Jesse and his wife consented that it would be part of his name as well. Forty-six years later, Ulysses Grant would once more become involved with the system of casting ballots with his name on them. This time it was not for a name, it was for the office of president of the United States. [*Campfires and Campaigns of the Civil War*]

This ends our history lesson for this month!

Hang Down Your Head, Tom Dooley.

At our last meeting someone mentioned that a private by the name of Tom Dula was present (at Sugar Loaf) during the battles for Fort Fisher. Indeed, young Tom Dula, born in Wilkes County, N.C., enlisted on 15 March 1862 at 17 years of age and was a member of Company "K," 42nd N.C.T. (Kirkland's Brigade). After two years in the ranks as a private, he was "rated as 'Drummer,'" and the records indicate that he was hospitalized at Williamsburg, Va. on 10 August 1864 and was captured at Wise's Forks. Sent to Point Lookout, Md. he was released on 11 June 1865. The records are quite stark when it comes to young Dula; he returned to Wilkes County and took up with a married woman, Ann Melton (with whom he had an affair before the war). Eventually he lived with yet another young lady, Laura Foster, by whom he contracted syphilis, which he gave to Ann (the song didn't mention any of this!) In May 1866, Laura was last seen riding her father's horse and when asked by a neighbor where she was going, she replied that she was off to meet Dula. The horse returned home, riderless. Several days later, her body was found and it was determined she had been murdered and had been pregnant. A search was begun for Tom and he was found and arrested in Tennessee. Although convicted, he appealed. The North Carolina Supreme Court reversed the conviction; he was retried and again found guilty. After several delays, he was hung in Statesville on 1 May 1868. Even before he died, there was a ballad being sung about Tom, but it would take the Kingston Trio to make Tom Dula's plight known nationally.

Humors of the March

When a company of Home Guards on the Mississippi River had fired upon a gunboat the boat acknowledged by opening on them with shell. The guards immediately got down close to the ground, and one of them said, "Boys, if I ain't flat enough won't one of you please get on me and mash me flatter?"

In the [spring of 1863]...we engaged in a lively little skirmish with Grierson's Federal cavalry. At first they gave way before us in a very satisfactory manner, but being reinforced they sent our boys back...after the latest improved double quick style. A red-headed corporal...dashed by me, and as he halted exclaimed, "Well, Captain, we made one of 'em holler." "What did he say, Tom?" the Captain inquired. Tom looked up, squinted his gray eyes and replied, "He said, 'Forward, skirmishers.'" "

[*Confederate Veteran*, I: 216, July 1893]

Last To Smoke the Peace Pipe

The surrender of Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia on April 9, 1865 signaled the end of the contest for the Confederacy. Without hope of victory, the other Southern leaders gradually followed his example and surrendered their forces. One Confederate general was in no hurry to go off the war path, as it were. That man was Stand Watie, a chief of the Cherokee Nation, who finally surrendered on June 23rd, the last general officer of the Confederacy to do so.

[From *Campfires and Campaigns of the Civil War*, Robert P. Broadwater, Editor]

Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville Battlefield Tour

Our trip will be on March 20th - 21st and will cover two of Lee's greatest triumphs. We suggest arriving at the hotel on Friday (March 19th) as the tour will commence at 8 a.m. on Saturday. Please remit the \$150 cost by 19 February and remember that the special room rate is available (\$75, at the Wingate Inn, 800-228-1000) only until that date also. Supper on Saturday night will be at Smythe's Tavern in Fredericksburg. The tour will continue Sunday morning when we wind up our visit to the Chancellorsville battleground.

Another reminder! Our final meeting for the season will be (Thursday) 13 May at the Cape Fear Club. The speaker will be Gordon Rhea, one of the best-known author and speaker "on the circuit." We are informed that Lynn O'Connell, a professional singer, will entertain us with several Civil War melodies! The dress is business casual and the cost will be \$25.