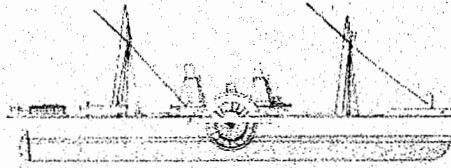


THE RUNNER



Newsletter of The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

September 2003 P.O. Box 10535, Wilmington, N.C. 28404 Editor: Bob Cooke

**Our next meeting will be Thursday, 11 September at St. Andrew's On-The-Sound
Social Hour 7 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) Russ St. George, Dale Lear, David Norris.

Dr. David Long will be the first speaker of the season. Dr. Long is presently professor of history at East Carolina University, "teaching courses about the Civil War, reconstruction, the constitutional history of the U.S., and World War Two. He came to that position by way of the Florida judicial system! It seems as though there was a murder case that didn't seem right to a young prosecutor looking at the facts some twenty years after the trial. When the States' Attorney refused to listen to him, he resigned in protest and returned to graduate school where he attained his PhD. in history. Dr. Long's latest work is titled: *The Jewel of Liberty: Abraham Lincoln's Re-election and the End of Slavery*, a book that has been nominated for the top five awards given for historical monographs (the Pulitzer, Bancroft, Parkman, Bevendge and Lincoln prizes.) He has written articles for *The Civil War Times Illustrated* and *Columbiad* magazines and has appeared on the (six-hour) PBS documentary *Abraham and Mary Lincoln: A House Divided*. Dr. Long also serves on an advisory group for the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission and is preparing an international conference (to be held at ECU) on *Lincoln and the Emancipation Proclamation*. The subject of his talk will be the Dahlgren Raid on Richmond (1864.) And by the way, that murder case was looked at by a special prosecutor who agreed with Dr. Long. That prosecutor was Janet Reno and the case propelled her to fame.

Preliminary Schedule of Speakers:

September 11	David Long	The Dahlgren Raid on Richmond
October 9	William C. ("Jack") Davis	Jefferson Davis
November 13	TBA	TBA
December 11	TBA	TBA
January 8	Ray Flowers	Southern Exposure (from a decidedly Southern perspective)
February 12	Russ St. George	James Lane's N.C. Brigade
March	Our Spring Trip!	
April 8	Greg Biggs	Confederate Flags
May 13	Gordon Rhea	Cold Harbor (Meeting to be held at the Cape Fear Club, bring a guest & your appetite.)

Please note, that in an effort to accommodate our members, we have changed our meeting night to the second Thursday of the month!

We would like to introduce the new members of the Steering Committee: Dale Lear, David Norris and Russ St. George.

Winners of our last raffle! (9 May)

Gold of the Americas- David Norris; *Civil War Sites in Virginia*- Steve Gunter; *Soldiers in Gray* (CD) Marshal McMillan; *Tarnished Scalpels*- Ed Gibson; *Confederate Florida*, Richard Crouch; *Civil War, A to Z*- Richard Covell; *Glory in the Name, The Story of the Confederate Navy*- Bruce Patterson; *Southerners, Portrait of a People*- Jim Bailey.

Remember we need items for our raffles! Please speak to Dale Lear (our new Raffle Chairman) about any items you may have to offer. We do raise most of our funds in this manner, so thanks again to all those who have donated books and other "things!" for our raffle. And while we're on the subject, you can't win unless you play the game! Buy a few tickets at our meetings, it's a cheap way to add to your Civil War collection.

Our speaker at our May meeting, Mr. Eric Wittenberg discussed J.E.B. Stuart's "Ride At Gettysburg." Upon Stuart's return, it was for certain, said Mr. Wittenberg, that Stuart received a severe "tongue-lashing" from none other than General Robert E. Lee. But was it deserved, questioned Mr. Wittenberg? Up to that point, Stuart had done a creditable job, even as a Corps commander after Stonewall Jackson's wounding in May (1863.) Upon the reorganization of the Army, Stuart did not retain command, so perhaps his "Ride at Gettysburg" was his way of redeeming his reputation. After reviewing the months prior to the battle in Pennsylvania (where Stuart's men successfully thwarted Union efforts to find Lee's Army) Mr. Wittenberg spoke of the orders given to J.E.B. Stuart by Lee. He was to "collect all supplies you can for the use of the Army;" he was to link up with Ewell's Corp and "get between Ewell and Washington." Although there were delays (both weather and Union resistance) which certainly affected Stuart's mission, when all was said and done, he had obeyed his orders "to the letter!" Lee, however didn't see it that way. He saw Stuart not available when he needed him most and that is what most people remember about Stuart's ride!

Throughout this year (2003) we are in the midst of Civil War anniversaries! One hundred and forty years ago (January 1863) President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation while Burnside's troopers slogged through the mud along the Rappahannock River. February- the *U.S.S. Vanderbilt* seized the British merchant vessel *Peterhoff*, setting off yet another international incident. March- The draft becomes law in the North (conscription was already a fact of life in the South, since April 1862) causing the New York riots in July of that year. In April- Acting Rear Admiral David Dixon Porter runs twelve ships past the Vicksburg batteries (only one fails to get through.) May- Chancellorsville and the death of Stonewall Jackson. June- The cavalry battles at Brandy Station, Middleburg, Upperville Thoroughfare Gap and Aldie. July- Gettysburg. August- Lawrence, Kansas is sacked by Quantrill's Raiders. September- Battery Wagner (Charleston) is evacuated and in the west, Federal troops enter Chattanooga. October- At Charleston, a Confederate torpedo boat ("David") attacked the *U.S.S. New Ironsides*, damaging her severely. In November- Lookout Mountain and Lincoln's Gettysburg Address. December- CSA General Braxton Bragg, unable to work with his subordinates, resigns his command.

For that special Christmas gift, see Steve Gunter! He will be at our September meeting with our RT hats, shirts and windbreakers! Steve will show us what is available and can take your order.

Crime and Punishment

Major Alexander MacRae, commanding the First Battalion (Heavy Artillery) stationed near Wilmington, was incensed. Discovering that several of his men had been severely punished by Major Wilton L. Young, MacRae preferred charges against Young. Young, who commanded the 10th Battalion, (the unit that garrisoned the town) had meted out punishment to two of MacRae's men, for various infractions. Private Robert Bullard often complained of being sick, so after being examined by a doctor, who pronounced him fit for duty and informed the Major that "Pvt. B was in the habit of feigning sickness," Bullard had been lodged in the guard house. On the following day, Major Young had the man hung by his thumbs. Such a penalty involved stringing up the culprit so that his toes just barely touched the ground. It was indeed a form of torture and was quite painful. One writer has recorded that, "the general practice was to tighten the rope until only the toes touched the ground, thus placing a great strain on the wrists or thumbs and causing the cord to cut into the flesh. Little wonder that men subjected to this torture after a while groaned and screamed in agony and that comrades, incensed by the brutality, angrily demanded their release[.]" Major Young wrote:

I then had him in all during the day tied up by the thumbs (5) five hours, two at one time & one hour the last & for the next three days following, I ordered him to carry 2 twenty four Pdr. cannon balls for each two alternate hrs. throughout the day, which punishment I think he richly deserved.

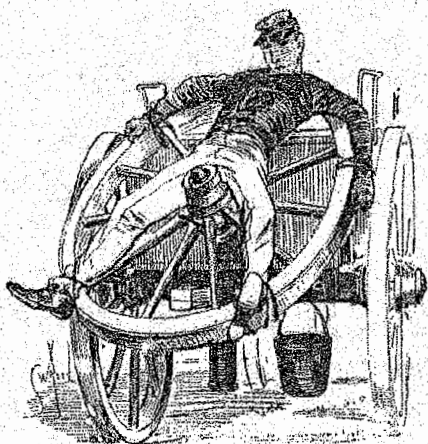
The second man, Private Hugh Flowers (who had joined the army only two months earlier) had been absent without leave. Although he was not strung up, he was forced to carry cannonballs as well; two 24 pounders for several hours a day for six days. Both Confederate and Union officers dealt such punishments and more, out, in what today seems an extremely harsh punishment. But discipline had to be maintained and as Major Young wrote in response to MacRae's charges:

Major MacRae is laboring under a great hallucination of the mind if he thinks enforcing strict obedience to orders with promptness and correcting great abuses will disorganize a command. The great step towards disorganizing a command is for an officer to sympathize with his men.... This officer must know but little about his command if he supposes the course I have pursued will cause his men to become hardened and careless, but on the other hand I have found that it had quite a beneficial effect on the men and with but few exceptions the men have obeyed orders with promptness.

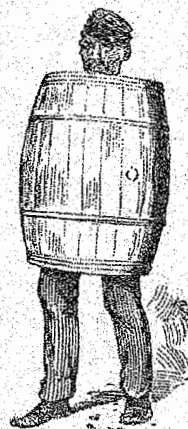
Many officers were quick to inflict severe punishment for a variety of crimes. Drunkenness and insubordination were seen as offenses that required immediate attention. The penalties for such infractions however, were not evenly distributed and depended mainly on the whim of the commanding officers. To see a soldier "bucked and gagged" was a common sight during the war. In this, the miscreant was sat down with his hands tied together with a pole placed, "beneath the knees and over the arms and tying a stick or bayonet in the mouth with a string." When tied in this manner for several hours, the soldier usually couldn't walk and had to be carried to his tent. Another sight to be seen was a soldier perched upon a plank, six inches wide. This was known as "riding the sawbuck" and was most uncomfortable and quite embarrassing. Wearing a barrel "shirt" was also quite embarrassing and usually brought howls of laughter from the unfortunate soldier's comrades. Also inflicted upon those who dared question authority was to be placed spread-eagled upon the spare wheel of an artillery caisson. If the transgression was mild enough, the man might be left upright and not suffer too much. But if the wheel was turned and the wagon driven over the rough roads, it turned into torture.

Desertion was a much more serious matter; but even for that, punishment was seldom uniformly administered. If caught, the men faced prison and hard labor; some spent weeks in jail while others spent

years! As desertions increased, the penalty became stiffer. Those that were caught might face the branding iron. If he were to be branded, the soldier would first be shaved and then forever marked with the four-inch letter "D," perhaps on the hip, hand, forehead or cheek. In December 1863, three men of the 13th N.C. battalion were sentenced to two years hard labor and were to be branded as well. Because of a petition of citizens from their home county, the branding was dispensed with, but the final judge as to whether or not the iron was to be used remained in the hands of the officer in command of the district.



Spread-eagled on a wagon wheel.



Wearing a barrel.

Some deserters faced the firing squad. Early in 1864, when the 10th Battalion was ordered to Fort Campbell, at the mouth of the Cape Fear River, desertions increased dramatically. Several men were caught trying to slip away to the Union blockaders and having been captured, languished in the town's military prison. Ransom Gallimore, Calvin Cole and Sam Burton of Major Young's command awaited the outcome of a Court-martial convened to decide their fate. Gallimore, convicted of desertion, was shot in January of that year, while Cole escaped the firing squad only because he lie dying in a hospital (he died on 6 April 1864.) Burton escaped from prison and, in company with two others from his company, escaped to a Federal gunboat. As for Private Bullard (one of the men Young had punished) he bided his time and then he too deserted to the enemy (6 August 1864.)

Kilpatrick and Wade Hampton Have a Quarrel.

Wade Hampton reclined on a bench in front of the farmhouse, while Generals Sherman and Johnston consulted inside. Major General Barry (Sherman's Chief of Artillery,) and General Kilpatrick approached Hampton for friendly converse. The South Carolina cavalryman presented a very frigid surface to both, and General Barry left him. Kilpatrick, however, commenced a conversation with him, which finally resulted in a wrangle. The deeds and merits of their respective commands were warmly discussed. Each indulged in reminiscences of thrashings he had given the other, and each desired nothing more than that the settlement of the whole thing should be left to the cavalry in a fair fight. The contagion spread among the respective cavalry staffs, and these gentlemen parted with no increased love for each other. This was the only incident that occurred to mar the harmony of the meeting on the first day. It is consoling to reflect that this bitter feeling is confined to the cavalry of both armies. The prospects for bloody times are dim.

(From *Herald of the Union*, 3 March 1865)

Please remember that it is that time of year. Dues (\$25) can be sent to our P.O. box (see page 1 for our mailing address) or given to Dan Geddie at the next meeting. Bring a friend to the next meeting!