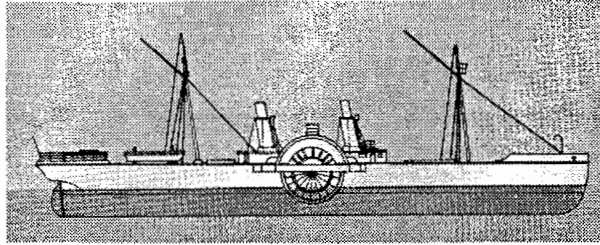


The Runner



September 2004 P.O. Box 10535, Wilmington, N.C., 28404

Editor: Bob Cooke

**Our next meeting will be 9 September at St. Andrews-On-the Sound (Airlie Rd.)
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) Dale Lear (686-2418) Ross St. George (254-4385) David Norris.

Welcome Back! It may be hard (for some of us, at least) to believe we are entering upon our tenth year as a Round table, but its true! It was in September 1994 that the first meeting of the RT was held. Fittingly, our first speaker was our current president, Dr. Chris E. Fonvielle. Much credit for getting the whole ball rolling, has to be given to George Slaton, Kemp Burpeau and Gerry Partrick; also deeply involved in those formative years were Ted Lynch and Tommy King. Thanks again to these people for seeing the desire (some might say need) for such a group here in the Lower Cape Fear!

To kick off our season, we present Jack Travis, who will speak on E. Porter Alexander, (Longstreet's Chief of Artillery.) Colonel "Black Jack" Travis, who has been a Confederate reenactor since 1990, specializing in muzzle loading artillery, has served as Battalion Artillery Commander at the 135th Sharpsburg and Gettysburg events (among many others!) Colonel Travis is also a member of the Raleigh Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution, past president of the Wake Forest Rotary Club, past president of the Wake Forest Fourth of July Celebration Committee, and has owned and operated a safety supply business since 1991.

Our (tentative) program of speakers is as follows:

9 September	Jack Travis	E. Porter Alexander
14 October	TBA	TBA
11 November	Buddy McNeil	"Masters of the Shoals"
9 December	Ann Hertzler	Civil War Cookfest
13 January	Paul Branch	Fort Macon
10 February	Wiley Sword	"Bloody Shiloh"
March	Chapter II: Our spring trip to Spotsylvania and The Wilderness.	
14 April	Bob Cooke	The Wilmington and Weldon Railroad
12 May	A special "behind the scenes" trip to the Cape Fear Museum.	

The Power To Heal.

John S. Robinson of the 52nd Virginia Infantry, became a one-legged Rebel in October 1864, at the battle of Cedar Creek. During the fight he was acting as a mounted courier for General John Pegram, a division commander under General Jubal Early.

After his wounding and subsequent amputation, Robson was sent to a large military hospital to recuperate. While in this facility, he noted that the teasing and joking between patients and doctors seem to do more for the health of the soldiers than the medicine they were given. To illustrate this belief, and to highlight the fun-loving attitude of the staff, he told this little anecdote:

One case...reported was that of a man brought in, dangerously wounded in three places. After the examination by the surgeon, an assistant asked: 'Doctor, is the man badly hurt?' 'Yes,' said the surgeon, 'two of the wounds are mortal, but the third can be cured, provided the man is kept perfectly quiet for six weeks.'

[From *Rebel Humor*, by Gregory A. Coco].

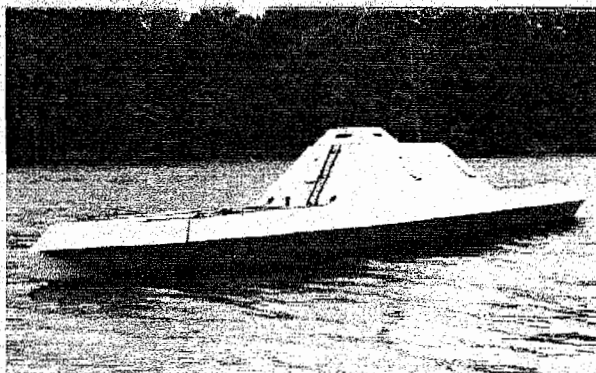
At a Committee meeting on 6 July, Treasure Dan Geddie presented our balance sheet for the year ending 30 June 2004. A brief synopsis indicates that total expenses (\$8,371.46) were greater than revenues (\$8,055.60). Revenues are brought in by membership fees, clothing and tour sales, raffles (and gifts); while expenditures go for the newsletter, meeting and speaker's expenses, dinner and tour expenses. We ended the year with a balance of \$1,777.01. Copies will be available at the next meeting.

NEW MEMBERSHIP DUES!

Membership dues (still \$25) are not due until December-January, but we are now offering two new membership categories: **Student** and **Family**: a Student membership is \$10; Family (per couple) \$35, if you know anyone who might be interested, please pass this information along to them!

HOW WE SPENT OUR SUMMER!

We visited the ram Albemarle, located on the waterfront at Plymouth; unfortunately, the museum was not open when we were there, but we did examine the 63 foot replica gently rocking out back in the Roanoke River. We also took a look at the replica (fiberglass) 6.4 Brooke Rifle out in front. Towards the end of June, we were at Oakdale Cemetery to attend a commemorative ceremony for Union Sergeant William Broughton, a member of the 2nd Virginia Infantry (Union), who died in Wilmington after being released from Andersonville. The occasion was the dedication of a memorial stone and was attended by several RT members, one of whom (Wayne Carver) did much of the research which culminated at Oakdale. We also attended a screening (at Cameron Art Museum) of *Confederate Goliath*, a documentary film on the Battles at Fort Fisher. The film will air "sometime" in the next few months!



One-eighth scale version of the *CSS Albemarle*
(Plymouth, N.C.)



Gravestone at Oakdale Cemetery

(Sgt. William Broughton)

That Indispensable Civil War Coffee!

Ann Hertzler

In 1832 President Andrew Jackson ordered coffee and sugar substituted for the daily liquor ration in the military, thereby introducing into soldier's lives a habit that helped them through the difficult times of the Civil War. During the war, speculators bought up all the coffee for Northern armies in order to charge the U.S. government a high price, but agents in England purchased ship-loads and prevented the action. A Southern woman described the shock in home life when President Lincoln blockaded Confederate seaports on 19 April 1861; by 1862 coffee supplies were exhausted. Coffee prices escalated, often higher in areas densely populated, invaded or occupied by the Union. Price per pound in 1861 was \$3.00; in 1862, \$1.50 to \$4.00; in 1863, \$5 to \$30.00. By 1864, coffee was going for \$12 to \$60!

In the 1860s, coffee recipes were written for both the "hearth" and the new "iron stove". Recipes were by weight (one ounce of powder to 3/4s of a pint of boiling water, to make three full "dishes") or household measure ("two great spoonfuls" or "two heaped tablespoonfuls" to each pint of water). Florence Nightingale's 1861 *Directions for Camp and Hospital Cooking*, used by both the South as well as the (Northern) U.S. Sanitary Commission had a coffee recipe for 100 men. Although water resources (rivers, ponds, puddles) often added to dysentery problems, coffee making was a safety factor because the boiling process killed water-borne pathogens.

In The Camp.

Officers were given a cash allowance to purchase supplies. The Army of the Potomac figured camp rations for every 100 soldiers as "ten pounds of green coffee, or eight pounds of roasted and ground". Inexperienced camp cooks usually made coffee of inferior quality. The same pots used to boil meat, potatoes and soup were used to wash clothes and to boil tea and coffee. Two to three day's marching rations of coffee and sugar were apportioned in piles as soldiers received them and mixed them together in paper, oil-silk, cloth or rubber bags before getting wet, spilled or stolen. At noonday halts or at the end of a days march, the soldier kindled a campfire and brought water to a boil in his tin dipper or "mucket" held on the end of a stick by a wire bail. He then boiled the coffee-sugar mixture to the desired hue, usually getting darker and strong enough to float an iron wedge the longer a man served in the army! A little hot coffee might be poured into his plate to clean it; perhaps hardtack was crumbled into the coffee also.

In the second year of the war, the Union commissary distributed a coffee extract mixed with sugar and milk which looked like axle grease. Called "essence of coffee" and packed in half-gallon tins, a teaspoonful mixed with a cup of hot water produced "instant coffee", a beverage the men would not drink. It was soon discontinued. The Union bought large quantities of the "new" (1856) canned condensed milk from Lewis or Borden, an item seldom available to troops on the march. Soldiers could purchase condensed milk from the sutler or receive it in boxes from home or get milk from the army's dairy herds. Stray cows were even occasionally milked occasionally but were more likely slaughtered for food.

Men under Grant in 1862 in eastern Tennessee and Mississippi confiscated a huge coffee mill in which they ground hard corn, using the meal for making mush, giving most of them the "Miss Quick Step".

In The Hospital.

In 1864 in Richmond's general Hospital No. 9, coffee was served on the "regular" but not on the special diet. Inspection records of Richmond's Jackson Hospital noted that supper consisted only of bad imitation coffee and one slice of baker's bread; breakfast only 3 or 4 ounces of cold coffee in a cup instead of the usual allowance of one pint. In view of scarcity, Confederate Surgeon General Moore directed on 2 December 1863, that coffee should be used solely for medicinal effects as a stimulant. Chimborazo Hospital in Richmond had a barrel of coffee donated by women of the South when food supplies were cut off and sold at exorbitant prices. A July 1863 report said: At Gettysburg we moved up to the depot, close by the town,...a first-rate camping ground, in a large field directly by the track, with unlimited supply of delicious cool water. Here we set up two stoves, with four large

boilers, always kept full of soup and coffee....Men (including the Rebels) who missed the trains of ambulances to Harrisburg had their wounds attended to and were bathed and fed. We varied our dinners with custard and baked rice puddings, scrambled eggs, codfish hash, corn-starch, and always as much soft bread, tea, coffee, or milk as they wanted”.

The U.S. Sanitary Commission describes improvising coffee preparation in hospital menus in camp kettles suspended from long poles; in cast iron caldrons to boil soup, vegetables, meat and tea in succession ; in fireplaces, on small sheet iron stoves and on small army stoves.

Coffee Substitutes.

Coffee Houses, homes and armies extended coffee with other ingredients or used no coffee beans at all because of availability or to economize. Some described adulterated coffee as delicious, others as nauseating. An 1853 “receipt” book said that no coffee substitute had been found to have the flavor of true coffee.

Doctor Thomas F. Wood noted that the hotels in Richmond were not providing genuine coffee but only miserable rye substitutes. In the North:

The diet-kitchen manager of a large military hospital in Madison, Indiana, discovered that the surgeon-in-charge was tampering with the hospital coffee supply, having kitchen workers dry and reuse the grounds, which they occasionally mixed with logwood. Wittenmyer appointed a USCC woman colleague to the task of determining if charges were true....Ultimately, the investigation resulted in the surgeon’s resignation.

In 1833, Mrs. Child offered alternatives for the “frugal housewife”- roasted dry brown bread crusts, rye grain soaked in rum, or peas the same as coffee. Chicory was used as a substitute by poorer classes or to improve flavor. Acorns, barley, beans, beets, bran, chestnuts, chicory, corn meal, cotton seeds, dandelion, okra seeds, sweet potatoes, peas, peanuts, persimmons, rice, rye sorghum molasses, sugar cane seeds, watermelon seeds and wheat berries were parched, dried, browned or roasted to make ersatz coffee.

Recipes

To prepare **sweet potato coffee** we pared the potatoes, cut into small bits, dried and parched, adding a little butter before taking from the oven and grinding. Tubers, like **carrots or yams** were cut into small pieces, dried, toasted and ground up. A “receipt” for coffee from **ripe acorns** was to wash them in the shell, parch until they open, remove the acorns and roast with a little bacon fat. A recipe for **rye coffee** (1 cup rye= about 1 1/4 cups ground extra fine) was 1 or 2 tbsp. Ground rye/serving; add boiling water and boil 10 minutes. Hunt’s breakfast powder consisted of rye (boiled, dried and roasted with a little butter) ground like coffee. Dandelion coffee directions were to cut the roots into small pieces, roast in the oven until brown and crisp as coffee, and grind. **Peanut coffee** called for ½ cup peanuts, ½ cup wheat or rye and ½ cow peas. Roast all to a rich coffee brown; grind and make as for postum. To more or less habitual coffee drinkers, one-third or one-half real coffee will make the above recipe more acceptable.

[For more information on coffee, see: <http://www.uttyl.edu/vbetts/coffee.htm>]

Then of course, there was the opinion of the *Macon (Georgia) Telegraph*:

TO CHEAPEN COFFEE:- Don’t use the stuff. There isn’t one cook in five hundred who ever did anything else than abuse it. Some of the papers are recommending substitute- parched beans, peas, rye, breadcrusts, acorns, etc. Swamp mud will blacken water just as effectually, but neither of will make coffee....coffee fills your stomach with mud banks and shoals, against which the bark of human life is often wrecked. The greatest humbug in the world...is coffee! Think of paying forty cents a pound for charcoal to embitter and blacken the water you drink. The practice should be suppressed by the Board of Health, if there were no war to do it. [Quoted in the *Wilmington Daily Journal*, 3 October 1861.]

The RT still has golf shirts (\$30), caps (\$15), denim shirts (\$35) and jackets (\$50) available for sale. See Steve Gunter at our next meeting (or call him at 686-4025) for details!

John A. Richardson: Reluctant Lieutenant Colonel of the 36th N.C. By Ray Flowers.

Shortly after coming on board at Fort Fisher State Historic Site in 1997, I came across a curious passage in an article by Colonel William Lamb of the 36th North Carolina. Simply entitled "Fort Fisher", Lamb inadvertently posed a riddle within the story that has since proven a Gordian knot to unravel. In relating a pregnant anecdote he wrote, "I had been sent to Fort Fisher to discipline the garrison against the temptations incident to blockade-running. My first act on taking command, July 4th, 1862 was to suspend an officer for being intoxicated and I had him cashiered" Now, who was this intemperate officer? With no other account of this episode known to exist, positively identifying the offender is thus far impossible. However, after following a long circuitous trail of circumstantial evidence, I have since arrived at the conclusion that the officer in question *might* well have been none other than Lamb's own reluctant Lieutenant-Colonel, John A. Richardson.



Col. John A. Richardson
1826-1872

The genesis of this investigation began where most research for Confederates posted along the Lower Cape Fear begins, with a perusal of Fort Fisher's secular bible: Manarin's North Carolina Troop Roster, 1861-1865, Vol. I, Artillery. Under Richardson's name, his titillating entry as Lieutenant-Colonel reads, "Transferred from 2nd Company I of this regiment upon election as Lieutenant-Colonel May 14, 1862. Dismissed by General Court Martial November 17, 1863. Dropped from rolls January 23, 1864." Unfortunately, though Richardson's inexplicable court martial might be unique, it does not appear immediately damning; after all, Lamb took command of Fort Fisher in July '62 and Richardson was not court-martialed until November '63, almost a year and a half later.

Further convoluting the issue is Lamb's history of the 36th found in Clark's North Carolina Regiments 1861-1865. Assuming the third person, he wrote, "Colonel Lamb remained at Fort St. Phillip, Old Brunswick until 4 July 1862 when he relieved Major John J. Hedrick in command of Fort Fisher and defenses of Confederate Point, including Zeek's Island." This pronouncement beggars the question, if a Lt. Col. (Richardson) was present, why would a Major (Hedrick) be in command? At this point Richardson all but vanished for another five years. In fact, under closer scrutiny, the reluctant Lt. Col. is barely visible throughout his tenure. In September 1862, as commandant of Fort St. Phillip, he wrote a letter of complaint to Governor Vance concerning regimental organization. Then, there is Lamb's succinct explanation for John D. Taylor's promotion and his (Taylor's) superseding Richardson as Lt. Col., "January 23, 1864 Major Taylor was promoted to Lt. Col. in place of Richardson dropped." Little else appears; he is not even mentioned in the *Official Records*. In post war years, Lamb wrote several histories extolling the exploits of comrades and acquaintances associated with his old command, but nary a word about Richardson. The silence is deafening.

Evidently there was a rift between the Colonel and his Lieutenant, but what was the bone of contention? Like Lamb, Richardson was an attorney, though nine years older; and unlike Lamb, he was a North Carolinian, as were most of the troops and company commanders of the regiment. However, when Major Lamb arrived in Wilmington in October 1861, on the staff of fellow Virginian General Joseph Reid Anderson, he already ranked Captain Richardson. In May 1862, just prior to the regimental elections, Lamb's adjutant, Lt. Thomas Rowland (though born in Michigan, he was raised in Virginia), wrote his mother that his good friend Captain George Parker was to be Lamb's Lieutenant Colonel. Rowland was a talented engineer, a West Pointer and eventually promoted and rotated to another theater of war. Obviously Lamb thought something of the young man, Fort Fisher's Battery Rowland was almost certainly named in his honor and as late as November 1864, his old Colonel remembered him with a gift box of wine and oranges. But where did Rowland get the impression that Parker was to be promoted to the Lieutenant-Colonelcy? Parker was not a Virginian, though he was a graduate of Virginia Military Institute and had relations in Lamb's home town of Norfolk. And while Parker would never be the Lt. Col., he did ultimately assume Rowland's vacated position as adjutant. Could it be that Richardson was a victim of the Old Dominion clique?

For the longest time, it seemed that history had successfully ostracized Richardson. Then about a year and a half ago, several new pieces of the puzzle appeared and helped to flesh out the reluctant Lt. Col. considerably. First, Mr. Chad Johnson, a Fort Fisher employee, UNCW graduate student and Lower Cape Fear Civil War enthusiast

acquired a compilation of Richardson's Registers, Returns and Rolls from the National Archives. Two of the documents are compelling: One, a Field and Staff Muster Roll for July and August 1862, dated 31 August reads, "Transferred to Fort Fisher per Special Order No. 345 from District Hd. Qr. Date July 3rd." The other, a Return dated July 1862 reads, "Transferred to Fort St. Phillip July 6, 1862 by order of Brig. Gen. French." Clearly these papers place Richardson at Fort Fisher on 4 July 1862 and almost as important, show him leaving soon after. And while the Return does not indict him for drunkenness, the information did make me a bit giddy!

Next, in January, 2003, an out-of-state researcher, whom I had assisted earlier, reciprocated, sending me a copy of Richardson's Service Record, again from the National Archives. It states in part, "Attempted to resign, letter in record, on 1-20-63 because he had not received his appointment and the Col. And Major had receiver theirs. There is an endorsement, apparently by Lee, that he knew of no reason why the appointment should be denied. Whiting made the appointment on 2-18-63. On 18 August 1864, Richardson wrote to the AIGO (Adjutant and Inspector General's Office) requesting a copy of his CM (Court Martial) transcript in order that he might defend himself. Unfortunately there is no information as to the General Order (number, department and the like) that published the court's findings. Once more, the records are devoid of detail or explanation; yet one can't help but feel that somebody (or bodies) just didn't like Richardson.

This sentiment was confirmed shortly thereafter when Mr. Bob Cooke, Fort Fisher employee (and Lower Cape Fear Civil War enthusiast) produced another letter from Richardson to Governor Vance, two news clippings and yes, a photograph! In the letter, dated 26 November 1863, one week after his court martial, Richardson requests permission to resign his position as well as an exemption from conscription. His excuse for the exemption being that he could not support his family on a private's pay of eleven dollars a month, nor could he afford to hire a substitute. Equally empathetic is his reason for resigning, which he gives as, "...the relation existing between myself and certain of the officers of the Reg't. to which I belong is unpleasant, as much so, indeed to render it exceedingly disagreeable to me to remain longer with the Reg't." In closing, Richardson assures the Governor that should his "Excellency" act favorably upon his request, "I promise to enter the ranks whenever the enemy attempts to attack us in the vicinity of Wilmington." Obviously unimpressed, Vance scribbled his laconic response on the back of the letter. "The Gov. Has no power to excuse him from conscription, ZV".

Less than three months later, Richardson submitted an advertisement to the *Wilmington Journal* that appeared on 8 February 1864. Apparently, he had been accused of skimming money from the soldiers' bounties. In retaliation, he denied the charges vehemently and offered a one thousand dollar reward to any man who would swear differently in a court of law. "This offer will stand good as long as I live....," he pledged. Was this accusation linked to his court martial, or was it part of the flotsam and jetsam of malicious gossip that followed in its' wake? Moreover, are the alcohol-related incident of 1862 and the court martial in 1863 unrelated issues? Once more, the Lt. Col. Is reluctant to say.

The last we hear of the former Lt. Col. During the war appears in the *Journal* on 16 January 1865. He was in Wilmington to relinquish five escaped Yankee prisoners that had been recaptured near Elizabeth Town. Ironically, Fort Fisher had fallen the day before and Colonel Lamb and most of the 36th were now prisoners of war. Could Richardson's auspicious appearance in Wilmington be attributed to his promise to the Governor that he would, "...enter the ranks whenever the enemy attempts to attack us in the vicinity..."? If so, he had arrived just a little too late. Perhaps for once, Richardson's reluctance had paid off.
[Special thanks to Mr. Al Hines, Mr. Chad Johnson, Mr. Bob Cooke and Mr. Perry Halford for assistance and contributions to this article.]

We have received the thanks of **Ms. Beverly Tetterton** of the New Hanover County Public Library for our gift of \$260 towards the purchase (from the National Archives) of the Civil War Wilmington Hospital Records.

The answers to the puzzle on page 2: (A-6) (B-10 and 7) (C-8) (D-9-anyone who missed this one can leave the room!) (E-2) (F-3) (G-5) (H-1) (I-4).