



The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

The *RUNNER*

Newsletter of The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Editor **Bob Cooke**

March - April 2006

Our next meeting is on Thursday, 13 April, St. Andrew's On-The-Sound
Social Hour 7:00 p.m. Meeting 7:30 p.m.

Note: There will be no meeting in March, we'll be on our spring trip!



Our speaker for April will be **Richard Zawacki**. Mr. Zawacki, who moved recently from Massachusetts to Southport, is “a semi-retired physical therapist.” Working part-time nowadays, Richard was formerly the physical therapist for the Boston Red Sox for twenty years. His interest in Elon Farnsworth “began with a trip to Gettysburg” where he read a plaque describing Farnsworth’s (last) charge. He began to delve deeper and has been researching young Farnsworth’s life “on and off” for the past five years and hopes one day to write a biography based on his research.

Raffle Winners: *Strange Battles of the Civil War*- James MacLaren; *Piedmont Soldiers and Their Families*- Bob Quinn; *Annie Between the States*- John Gordon; *Carrying the Flag*- Jack Kuske; *The Monitor Chronicles*- Dale Lear; *The South Vs. The South*- Bill Hacker; Drawing of CSS (Ironclad Ram) Jackson- Ed Russ.

Speaking about our March trip, we will board our bus at 7:30 A.M. at the Pine Valley United Methodist Church, corner of Shipyard Blvd. And Stonewall Jackson Drive. We should arrive at Fort Bragg about 10 A.M. Since Monroe’s Crossroads is on Fort Bragg property, please be sure to bring a photo ID. If you plan to go, please send your money (\$75) in ASAP! The tour begin at about ten and go until 5 P.M. We should return to the Church parking lot at about 7 P.M.

Mark Bradley brought us up to speed on the battle that took place at a small North Carolina town named Avasboro. He took us back to March 1865 when General William T. Sherman

was advancing through the Carolinas. On 8 March, with 60,000 veteran troops, Sherman crossed into North Carolina. On the move towards Fayetteville, with the aim of moving on to Goldsboro, Sherman's men were divided into two wings, with cavalry general "Kil-Cavalry" Kilpatrick guarding the left flank. That column was commanded by General Henry Warner Slocum. They will face Confederate General Joe Johnston, who is gathering a sizable force to contest Sherman's advance. His cavalry is led by Lieutenant General Wade Hampton, who was frantically returning from Columbia, South Carolina. Kilpatrick, in an attempt to prevent Hampton from slipping by him, will divided his force of 4,300 troopers and cover the roads to Fayetteville.

General Kilpatrick, believing he has covered all bases, settled in for the night at the Monroe plantation, not knowing that the Confederates are moving on him. Lieutenant General William Hardee's ("Old Reliable") Corps prepare to attack at dawn. With no pickets out, the attack is a complete surprise and the Federals are routed. One of the cavalrymen, Captain Bostic has a special mission: to capture General Kilpatrick. Approaching the Monroe house, Bostic hails a Yankee in his nightshirt and asks him where the general is. The man points off to the distance and yells back, "There he goes!" Bostic and his men ride off after the man pointed out, but it is the wrong man! It is Kilpatrick himself who showed Bostic where to go and narrowly avoided capture due to his quick-thinking. This event will go down in history as "Kilpatrick's Shirttail Skeddadle!"

The Confederate victory is short-lived however, Union soldiers have been forced back to Nicholson's Creek, a swampy area, where they rally and throw back the attackers. "Although the battle was small and indecisive, it nevertheless had the effect of dividing or spreading out Sherman's army." Given time to concentrate, Johnston will launch another attack at Bentonville on 19 March, which was the largest battle of the war fought in North Carolina. Mr. Bradley's maps and thorough understanding of the battle helped enormously and will contribute greatly to our trip on 25 March.

We were not able to go to the Fort Anderson reenactment (18-19 February) but we understand it was a huge success and has brought needed attention to the Historic Site. If any members did attend, please feel free to pen us a note and if possible, we'll post it on the website!

The Fork's Road event is to take place this weekend (25-26 February) at the Louis Wells Cameron Art Museum at the intersection of Independence Blvd. And 17th Street. The delaying action, meant to give Braxton Bragg an opportunity to destroy government stores and get out of Wilmington, pitted nearly 1,000 Confederates against the Union juggernaut. There will be artillery and small arms demonstrations as well as several presentations on the battle (Dr. Chris Fonvielle), African-American soldiers (Dr. Edward Keith) and a "Civilian Woman's Interpretation in the museum.

NOTE: Last update - **April 15, 2006**

Our Spring Trip!

At 7:30 sharp (or shortly after-thanks again to all for waiting for me!) the stalwart band of twenty-four members and guests left Wilmington by chartered bus for Fort Bragg. We were off to meet Mark Bradley for a tour of the Monroe's Crossroads and Averasboro Battlefields. As an

added attraction, Mark invited Jeff Irwin, of Fort Bragg's Cultural Resources Program. Their function, as explained by Mr. Irwin, is to "identify, evaluate and protect historically significant properties" situated on Fort Bragg property. There are over 4,200 archaeological sites (which includes nearly 400 buildings and 27 historic cemeteries.)

Hampton, Wheeler, Butler, Kilpatrick and Sherman. These were just a few of the names that we heard at last month's meeting as Mark Bradley briefed the Round Table on the battles of mid-March 1865. We were given a battle study (Cavalry Clash in the Sandhills, by Kenneth Belew) which we used as a guide when we arrived at the Charles Monroe house site. Unfortunately, there is nothing left of the house, but it is pretty well known where it is. It was at the Monroe house that "Kilpatrick's Shirrtail Skedaddle" took place and while the recounting of that was humorous, it was balanced by the Union and Confederate graves that dot the area. Before leaving the military reservation, Mr. Irwin gave us a package which contained several prints, including one of Union Lieutenant Stetson firing canister at attacking Confederate cavalry. We also swung by one of the historic cemeteries on Fort Bragg and then visited Oak Bluff Church (ca. 1850s.)

After lunch we continued on to the Averagesboro Museum, but alas, we arrived a little late and the museum was closed. The grounds were open however and Mark led our group to all three Confederate lines. It was, as he pointed out, based on an earlier battle: the Revolutionary battle of Guilford Court House! Before long it was time to head back to Wilmington. The bus was equipped with a DVD player and before the movie Sahara ended, we were home!

Kudos again to Dale Lear and Bruce Patterson for arranging the tour- it was excellent, as was lunch, beverages, (coffee and Dunkin' doughnuts also), apples and chocolate cookies. Everything was thought of, right down to the hand wipes before and after lunch!

