



The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

The *RUNNER*

Newsletter of The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Editor **Bob Cooke**

November 2007

Our next meeting is Thursday, 8 November at the Cape Fear Club (206 Chestnut Street)

Social Half hour begins at 6:30 p.m. Dinner at 7:00 p.m..



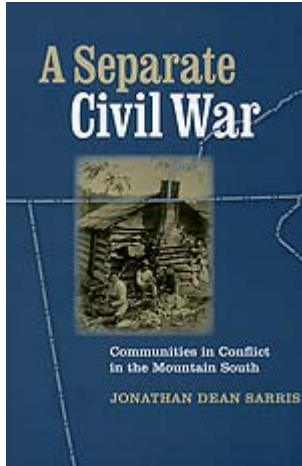
Please join us at the **Cape Fear Club** for both dinner and our guest speaker. The cost is still just **\$26.00** and those who have dined at the Club know it is worth every penny!

Our speaker for our dinner meeting in November will be **Colonel Keith Gibson**, Executive Director of Museum Programs and Architectural Historian for the Virginia Military Institute. Col. Gibson will discuss **Thomas Jackson's** years at VMI (1851-1861) "the decade that made the man who went to war in 1861". As Director of Museum Programs, Col. Gibson is responsible for the operation and development of the **VMI Museum** in Lexington, Virginia and the **New Market Battlefield State Historic Site** in New Market, Virginia. Growing up near Richmond, "on land hotly contested during the Civil War" kindled Col. Gibson's interest at an early age. Col. Gibson received his bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from the VMI in 1977 and after a brief tour of duty as a **Naval Officer**, he returned to VMI as Curator of Exhibits for the Museum. He prepared for a museum career after graduate work in Early American History at James Madison University and Museum Studies with George Washington University and an internship at the Museum at Strawberry Banke, Portsmouth, New Hampshire in 1983. Col. Gibson has worked as a consultant on several films (for both TV and feature films) and appears frequently on both radio and television as a spokesperson for historic preservation. In addition, he has written numerous book reviews, articles on the Civil War era (and VMI) and is an author in his own right. He has written *The VMI Spirit: A Portrait of VMI*. Col. Gibson has also contributed to several other books and is also active in several professional organizations including The Historic

Lexington Foundation and The Center for the Study of the Civil War and has served two terms as president of the Rockbridge Historical Society.



Jonathan Sarris kept his rapt audience well entertained with his “comparative analysis” of two counties in northern Georgia during the war. Beginning with a “vignette”



describing an officer walking through a village with his troops, confronting angry townspeople who wanted them out of their village, the soldiers left within a month in the area. “Decidedly not pacified” was the judgment of the officer as he left. It could have been, said Mr. Sarris, the **Balkans in 1990** or even **Vietnam in 1968**. The town was located in the mountains of northern Georgia where allegiances were divided and “confused”. The people of Fannin (a portion of which borders North Carolina) and Lumpkin counties, in Appalachia, fought what Mr. Sarris termed the “inner war”; a war not visited by Ken Burns “Civil War”. Soldiers from these counties fought for hearth and home on a local level. It was a brutal guerilla war, divided along community lines, exacerbated by many deserters (and draft dodgers) who flocked to the area to “lay low” (to avoid service). Mr. Sarris cited the case of the Woody brothers, in which pro-Confederate Josiah testified against his brother John Wesley for being pro-Union. John was acquitted and later fled to East Tennessee to join the Union army. Class divisions appeared to be a contributing factor in the strife as Lumpkin County, supposedly more pro-Confederate than it’s neighbor to the northwest and thought to be more “cosmopolitan”, viewed Fannin County as full of simple “mountaineers” who were responsible for all the atrocities committed (civilians tortured, houses and barns burned) in northern Georgia. In short, Mr. Sarris brought to light the fact that the Civil War was fought not only on the **Virginia** fields but also in the fields along the **Blue Ridge mountains**.



There was an interesting article in the *Star-News* recently (September 27) in described The Museum of the Confederacy’s idea to expand their collection to Fort Monroe, Virginia. That army base is due to be closed and they are looking for ideas for the area. The Museum at present has only enough room to display about ten percent of its collection, so the move would not only open up more items for public viewing, but would likely increase tourism to the area. It certainly looks like a “win-win” situation for both parties! The Museum has also mentioned two other possible sites, Chancellorsville and Fredericksburg Battlefields. In any event, the Museum hopes to have an “off-campus” location up and running by 2011, the sesquicentennial of the American Civil War.



Raffle Winners!

Grant Comes East- Tommy Morgan; Battlefields of the Civil War- Maury Snavely; McPherson's Ridge- Ed Gibson; Shower of Stars- Bob Cooke; The Battle of Franklin- John Winecoff; Presidential Courage- Ed Hickman.

