

The *RUNNER*

Newsletter of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Editor **Tim Winstead**

***** April 2013 *****

Our next meeting will be **Thursday, 11 April** at St. Andrew's On-the-Sound (101 Airlie Road). Social Hour begins at 7:00 p.m., meeting at 7:30.

Please join us as we continue our Program Year with our fourth meeting of 2013. Visitors are always welcome – *bring a friend*. Each of our speakers strives to enlighten, entertain, and add to our knowledge of Civil War history. This serves our purpose of encouraging education and research into that historic conflict

***** April Program *****

Soldiering in the Army of Northern Virginia: A Statistical Portrait of the Troops Who Served under Robert E. Lee



Dr. Joseph T. Glatthar (“GLAD-har”) will speak to our members on April 11th about his study of the Army of Northern Virginia. In his sophisticated quantitative study, Glatthar will provide a comprehensive narrative and statistical analysis of many key aspects of General Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. Serving as a companion to Glatthar's *General Lee's Army: From Victory to Collapse*, Glatthar's will present supporting

data and major conclusions in extensive and extraordinary detail.

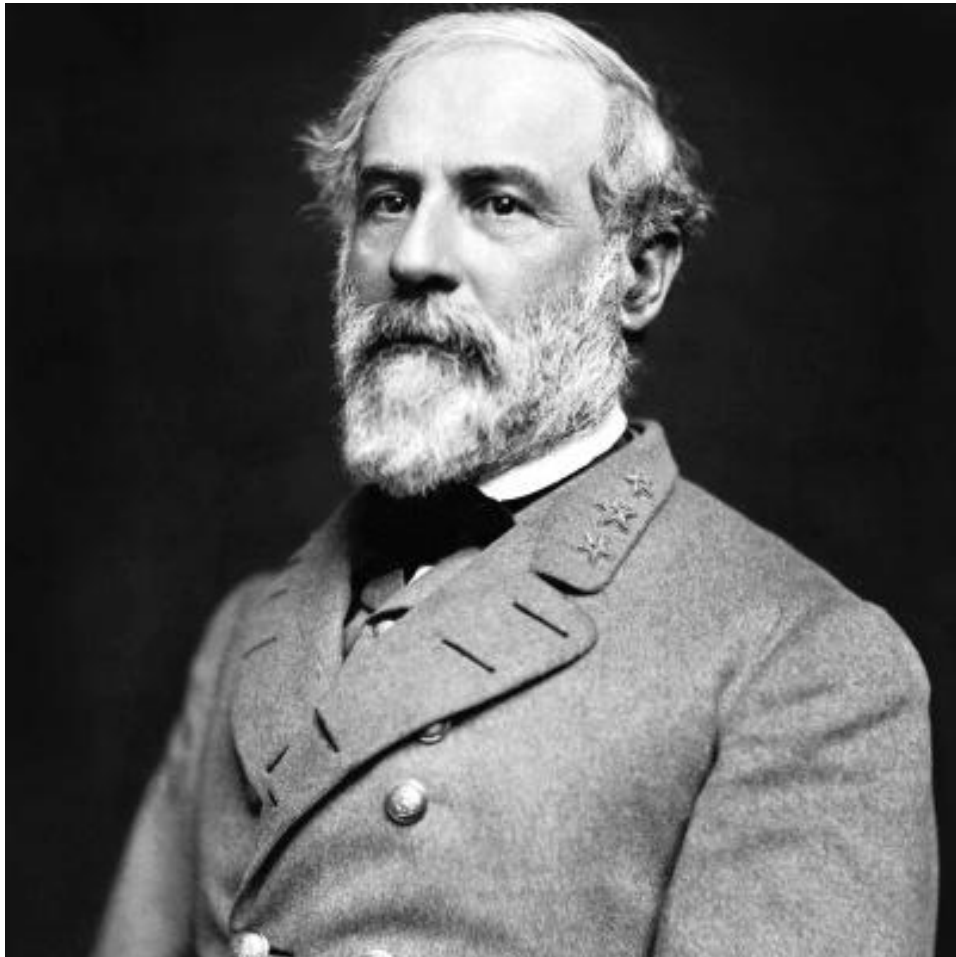
While gathering research materials for *General Lee's Army*, Glatthar compiled quantitative data on the background and service of 600 randomly selected soldiers--150 artillerists, 150 cavalymen, and 300 infantrymen--affording him fascinating insight into the prewar and wartime experience of Lee's troops. *Soldiering in the Army of Northern Virginia* presents the full details of this fresh, important primary research in a way that is useful to scholars and students and appeals to anyone with a serious interest in the Civil War. While confirming much of what is believed about the army, Glatthar's evidence challenges some conventional thinking in significant ways, such as showing that nearly half of all Lee's soldiers lived in slaveholding households (a number higher than previously thought), and provides a broader and fuller portrait of the men who served under General Lee.

Source :<http://www.amazon.com/Soldiering-Army-Northern-Virginia-Statistical/dp/>, accessed 3/21/2013.

Dr. Glatthaar received a B.A. from Ohio Wesleyan University, an M.A. in history from Rice University, and a Ph.D. in history from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He has taught at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, the U.S. Army War College, the U.S. Military Academy, and the University of Houston. He is currently the Stephenson Distinguished Professor of History and chair of the Curriculum in Peace, War and Defense at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

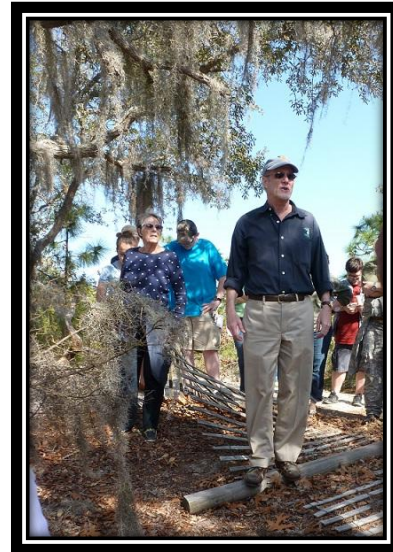
Dr. Glatthaar is the author of numerous books and articles, including: *The March to the Sea and Beyond: Sherman's Troops in the Savannah and Carolinas Campaigns* (New York University Press, 1985), *Forged in Battle: The Civil War Alliance of Black Soldiers and Their White Officers* (The Free Press, 1989), *Partners in Command: Relationships Between Leaders in the Civil War* (The Free Press, 1994), *Forgotten Allies: The Oneida Indians in the American Revolution* (Hill & Wang, 2007) with James Kirby Martin, *General Lee's Army: From Victory To Defeat* (The Free Press, 2008), and *Soldiering in the Army of Northern Virginia: A Statistical Portrait of the Troops Who Served under Robert E. Lee* (University of North Carolina Press, 2011).

Editor

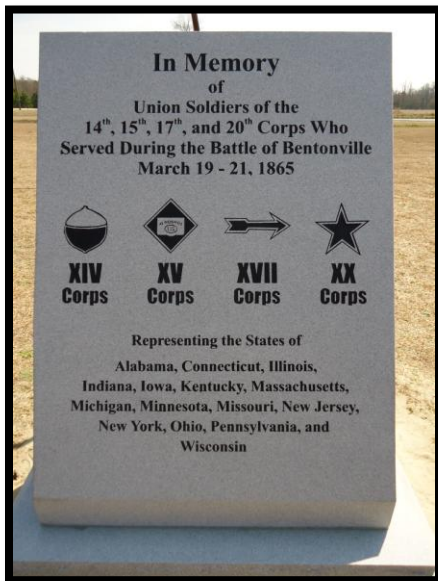


******* A Walk in the Park *******

On March 16, **Dr. Chris Fonvielle**, led a narrated walk to Sugarloaf, north of Ft. Fisher. This was part of the Confederacy's defense between Ft. Fisher and Wilmington. The group of roughly 30 people met at the Federal Point History Center in Carolina Beach and was given access to several parcels of private property where significant remnants of entrenchments remain, along with an original roadbed. The group continued onto Carolina Beach State Park property and eventually reached the highest point in New Hanover County. Another 250 yards further brought them to the prize: Sugarloaf! The tired trekkers trudged back to the History Center to end their 4 mile hike. It was a very worthy spring afternoon. **Linda Lashley**



******* Bentonville Dedication *******



On March 16, 2016, The Department of North Carolina, Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War, dedicated a monument to the 4 army corps, 14th, 15th, 17th and 20th, which served with Major General William T. Sherman's army during the time of the Battle of Bentonville. This project has taken several years to bring it to the dedication and a number of individuals and organizations were responsible. The Department of NC, SUVCW, formed a Monument Committee which was able to develop a design, guide it through State regulations and bureaucracy, and have it placed on the battlefield.

Speakers taking place in the ceremony included Mr. Donny Taylor, Bentonville Battlefield Site Manager; Dr. Gerard Devine, Commander of the Department of North Carolina; Mr. Keith Hardison, Director of the State Historical Sites; and Mr. Mark Day, representing the National Commander of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. Mr. Taylor remarked that while it had been 148 years since the battle, it was 118 years since the first marker was placed on the site. Dr. Devine described the events leading up to the battle, the battle itself, and the aftermath. Special mention was made of the Cape Fear Living History Society and the Bentonville Battlefield Historical Association which donated funds for the Monument. These funds had been

held in trust from fundraising efforts during the 1990s for a monument to the Union troops. Mr. Hardison noted that General Joseph E. Johnston and Sherman later became friends and Johnston caught a bad cold, which caused his death, because he refused to cover his head while serving as a pallbearer at Sherman's funeral. He said that, therefore, he believed that Johnston would approve of the placing of this monument on the field. Mr. Day brought greetings from the national Commander of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Perley Mellor. He stated that it was especially significant for him to be here as his ancestor was here with the 150th New York Infantry in the 20th Corps. The ceremony was capped with the unveiling of the Monument, the skirl of bagpipes playing *Amazing Grace*, and *Taps* played by a US Army Sergeant. Re-enactors clad in the blue and the gray rendered artillery and infantry salutes.

Dennis St. Andrew, Commander of the Major General Thomas H. Ruger Camp #1, Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War, located in Fayetteville stated that the placement of this Monument means that the Union soldiers at Bentonville are finally being recognized for their service. **Ed Gibson**

******* Raffle Winners *******

Raffle Master: Ed Gibson

If you have books, prints, or other items that you would like to donate to the CFCWRT raffle, see Ed Gibson at our next meetings.

March Meeting:

<i>Sherman: The Fighting Prophet</i>	- Bob Cooke
<i>Battlefields of the Civil War</i>	- Richard Covell
<i>The Confederate States of America</i>	- Tom Taylor
<i>Civil War Usage</i>	- Martha Watson
<i>H. L. Hunley</i>	- Dale Lear
<i>Soul of the Lion</i>	- Linda Lashley

******* Trivia Questions for April *******

- 1 – How large was the Army of Northern Virginia at its largest?**
- 2 – What percentage of the Army of Northern Virginia were conscripts?**
- 3 – What percentage of the Army of Northern Virginia lived in households that were slave-owning before the beginning of the war?**
- 4 – How much more likely was an officer to be killed in action than an enlisted man?**
- 5 – Sometimes after December 20, 1860, a locomotive of the Wilmington & Manchester Rail Road were stopped at the North Carolina/South Carolina border. Who stopped this locomotive and why?**

6 – During the Civil War, the Wilmington & Weldon set up a repair yard in what location?

***** Member News & Activities *****

If you have member news that you think would be of interest to CFCWRT membership, let me know about it.

1 – Welcome to new member of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table: **Bill Ouzer**

2 – **Ladies Forum-BCWRT** - On February 26, Connie Hendrix, Linda Lashley, and Carla Ann Yeager attended a forum in Southport, hosted by our good friends and colleagues, the Brunswick Civil War Round Table. Charen Fink, Co-Director of the BCWRT, presented a power point program, "Women in the Civil War." She brought along her collection of mourning jewelry, antique and authentic clothing, cosmetics, medicine, and pictures to help tell the story of women's life and hardships during the war. A special guest was "Lizzie," an elaborately prepared dress form who was happy to oblige the speaker as she peeled back each layer of clothing to show the many facets of the well dressed lady of the era. Refreshments were offered, consisting of goods baked using period recipes. The BCWRT plans to offer additional forums in the future and we anticipate they will be as informative as this forum was. - **Linda Lashley**

3 – **Philip Gerard**, the February 21st speaker at the CFCWRT, narrated a March 3 river tour aboard the Wilmington Water Tours' 46 ft. catamaran in order to launch his latest book, *Down the Wild Cape Fear*. As mentioned in our meeting, Philip and his party put canoes into the river at Buckhorn Dam, and let the river bring them to the mouth of the Cape Fear. His journal is written in a first person diary format detailing the trip, but it also contains historical commentary along the way, beginning with the 1700's. Members Carla Ann Yeager, Connie Hendrix, and Linda Lashley were among the 46 attendees and crew on the 90 minute cruise which culminated in a dockside reception and book signing. Philip and his wife Jill were gracious hosts and everyone agreed it was a valuable educational experience to hear Civil War and Revolutionary War history from the "other side" of the riverbank. - **Linda Lashley**

4 – **Fort Fisher State Historic Site** - April 6: Civil War Preservation Trust "Park Day" Saturday 8:30 am - 1 pm. Interested in helping to beautify Fort Fisher? Volunteer for Park Day 2013! This is a great project for service clubs, scout troops, and youth groups, but we are looking for volunteers of all ages. All volunteers must register in advance by calling (910) 458-5538 or emailing [John Moseley](mailto:John.Moseley@fischer.org).



5 – North Carolina Military Historical Society Symposium, May 11, 2013, 0930 – 1500 Hours, Museum of History, Raleigh, NC. **North Carolina and the War of 1812**. Contact Bruce Patterson for additional details or <http://www.ncmhs.net/>. – **Bruce Patterson**

***** **April 1863** *****

April 1863 saw the start of the third year of the American Civil War. The economic plight of the South was taking a heavy toll. Coupled with this, the Army of the Potomac started to finalise plans for an attack on Richmond, the Confederacy's capital.

April 2nd: Riots occurred in Richmond where people were becoming desperate at the economic plight of the Confederacy. Food in particular was in short supply. The riot was termed a “bread riot” by locals though it turned into a general looting session. It was only quelled when the rioters listened to Jefferson Davis who spoke to them in person and then threw the money in his pockets at them. It was a sufficient gesture to disperse the rioters.

April 3rd: Lincoln visited Hooker and pressured him into an attack on Richmond. In response Hooker put in for 1.5 million ration packs.

April 4th: Hooker prepared the Army of the Potomac for an attack on Richmond. The Army's Secret Service Department was ordered to prepare updated maps on the defences at Richmond.

April 5th: Several Confederate ships were detained in Liverpool docks, as it was believed that they were blockade-runners.

April 10th: Lincoln reviewed the Army of the Potomac at its winter quarters in Falmouth, Virginia. The troops he met expressed their full confidence in Hooker – a view not totally shared by the president. Lincoln had to dampen down Hooker's rhetoric about capturing Richmond and remind him that defeating Lee's Army of Virginia was far more important and that Richmond was the bait to lure Lee into battle.

April 13th: General Burnside issued his General Order Number 38, which threatened the death penalty for anyone found guilty of treasonable behaviour.

April 17th: This day saw the start of Colonel Ben Grierson's Union legendary raid into the Confederacy. With 1700 cavalymen, Grierson roamed 600 miles during his raid deep into the South. The raid lasted 16 days and within the Union army Grierson became a legend.

April 20th: Lincoln announced that West Virginia would join the Union on June 20th 1863.

April 21st: Hooker finalised his plan of attack. He hoped to fool the South into thinking that Fredericksburg was his main target while moving three corps of troops against Lee's left flank. 2000 mules were acquired by Hooker to speed up the movement of his army.

April 24th: The Confederate Congress passed a tax set at 8% on all agricultural produce grown in 1862 and a 10% tax on profits made from the sale of iron, clothing and cotton. There was much public hostility to these new taxes but a general acceptance that they were needed. The biggest problem facing the South's economy was the fact that much land was used for the growing of cotton and not for food.

April 26th: Hooker's offensive against Lee's Army of Virginia and Richmond started. However, torrential rain turned many of the roads/tracks he used to mud and made movement very difficult.

April 28th: The rain has made movement so difficult that engineers had to lay logs on the surface of roads/tracks to allow wagons to move.

April 29th: Lee's scouts informed him that it was their belief that the attack on Fredericksburg was a feint and that their observed movement of many men on Lee's left flank was the real target of Hooker. Lee accepted the advice of his scouts and ordered Stonewall Jackson not to attack Union troops at Fredericksburg – despite Jackson's request to do just this.

April 30th: Hooker ordered 10,000 cavalymen to raid Lee's communication bases. The raids, while impressive with regards to the number of men involved, achieved very little and if anything served to boost the confidence of Lee's Army of Virginia.

Source: <http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/april-1863-civil-war.htm> (accessed February 26, 2013).

******* April 1863 cont'd *******

The April 2, 1863, Bread Riot in Richmond received much press coverage concerning the plight of the civilian population as the war entered its third year. Two factors contributed to this increasingly serious condition: 1) The shortage of farm labor had an adverse impact upon the food supply to feed the army and the civilian population. 2) The wearing out of the rail systems to transport food, equipment, and the army was making it difficult for the Confederacy to take advantage of its interior lines of communications.

The following letter from a soldier in the 11th Regiment (Bethel Regiment) of North Carolina Troops provides a good feel for the conditions that soldiers and their families at home were facing in April 1863. William A. Elliott enlisted on July 7, 1862. He was killed on July 1, 1863 at the Battle of Gettysburg.

*Camp near Hookerton North Carolina
April 27 1863*

Dear Father I take my pen in hand to rite you a few lines to let you know that I am well and I hope these few lines may find you all enjoying the same good blessings of health. I receive a letter from you a few minits ago and I was glad to heare from you all and to hear you was all well. I had not got a letter from you

*in two weeks. You sed you could hardly read my last letter. That was the best I could do at that time for I neither had no paper nor ink with me and thot you would be glad to heare from me if it was badly done. You sed you wanted me to rite you all the particulars of the battle. I have rote you three or four letters sence the battle. I got your letter of the fifth of April. **You sed they was presing all the corn and bacon that there was in the country,. You had better sell yours and not let them prefs it and sell ever thing you can for we don't get mutch to eat no how. Our Regt gets one pound of meal a day to the man and half pound of meat. I can eat my meat at twice. I was glad to hear you was getting a long so well with your crop. You say that wheat looks well. If there are in good wheate crops made I think we will have plenty to eat a nother year. Some of the pore soldiers only gets a quarter of a pound of meat to the man. There is going to be a regimental inspection this evening sotues I will send I W Jamison letter. I could rote you a heap more but I did not have time and we have bin cleaning up our guns all day. Henry Hill sends you all his best respects. The boys is all well at this time. I rote uncl George a letter the other day but I don't know whether he has got it or not. **Tell George R to keep his age hid and not let them find out how old he is for this armyis a hard place to be.** We have to bake our bread on bords before the fire. We havent but about three pans and lids in our Co so I will close for this time. Nothing more remains. Your true son until death.***

W A Elliott

Source: <http://www.civilwarhome.com/elliottletters12.htm>, accessed March 21, 2013.

***** **March Program** *****

On March 14, **Dr. James C. Burke** shared with our members the research he had undertaken to write his second book, *The Wilmington & Weldon Railroad in the Civil War*, concerning the railroad that became the “Lifeline of the Confederacy.” Burke provided details of the railroads that served Wilmington before and after the war, the succession movement and Wilmington events during the 1860-1861 crisis, the freight hauled by those railroads, the difficulties encountered in war-time Wilmington, the Union raids and their impact on the Wilmington & Weldon’s operation during the war, the aftermath of the fall of Wilmington to Union forces, and the rebuilding of the WWRR and its economic

impact on North Carolina during the Reconstruction and later years.



Burke provided details about the men who were instrumental in the operation of the railroad during the Civil war and the challenges they faced as the shortages of railroad materials made their jobs exponentially more difficult. William S. Ashe, Stephen D. Wallace, R.R. Bridgers and S.L. Freemont were men whose lives were intertwined with the railroad.

Stephen D. Wallace, president of the W&WRR, closed his 1865 report to the stockholders with the following statement concerning the future and value of the railroad to North Carolina:

One thing is certain, the work is of too much importance to the public and the stockholders to be abandoned, and as there must be a commencement, the sooner that is entered upon the sooner will the desired benefits be realized. We have never appreciated the true value of Rail Roads to the communities until now. Having enjoyed their advantage and then being deprived of their use, we forcibly realize their worth.¹

For those who want to know the “nuts and bolts” of the Wilmington & Weldon, the appendixes in James’ book should provide details of Locomotives and Company Shops inventories; Railroad Employees Living in Wilmington, 1865-1871; and Freight Shipments for the Confederate Government, 1861. *The Wilmington & Weldon Railroad in the Civil War* is available from www.mcfarlandpub.com or McFarland order line (800-253-2187).

Editor

1 James C. Burke, *The Wilmington & Weldon Railroad in the Civil War* (Jefferson, North Carolina and London: McFarland & Company, 2013), 157.

***** Trivia Questions for April *****

1 – How large was the Army of Northern Virginia at its largest? In June 1862, the army had slightly more than 90,000 officers and men. Nearly half of the men who served in the Army of Northern Virginia resided in either Virginia or North Carolina, and another quarter came from Georgia and South Carolina. The average year of birth for soldiers in the Army of Northern Virginia was 1835. The median birth year was 1838. More than half were farmers and nearly all of them (94 percent) came from rural areas. One in seven was a student in 1860, and nearly half resided with parents or an older sibling.

2 – What percentage of the Army of Northern Virginia were conscripts? More than five of nine (56 percent) soldiers who served in the Army of Northern Virginia enlisted in 1861, and another three in ten (30 percent) enlisted the next year. In April 1862, the Confederate Congress passed the Conscription Act, and three of four who enlisted in 1862 did so prior to its enforcement. Because of poor record keeping, no one knows how many of the army's troops were conscripted. Most likely, **the percentage of conscripts ranged from 6 to 8 percent.** Less than 1 percent were hired as a substitute for someone else.

3 – What percentage of the Army of Northern Virginia lived in households that were slave-owning before the beginning of the war? Soldiers tended to come from comfortable backgrounds. Their median personal and family wealth (if they still lived with parents or other immediate family members) was \$1,295, placing them solidly in the middle class. Slightly more than one in eight soldiers owned slaves, but 37.2 percent either owned slaves or their parents and family with whom they resided did. Four in nine (44.4 percent) lived in slaveholding households, demonstrating a strong connection to the institution of slavery. As a result, these soldiers had an investment in slavery that influenced their decision to fight.

On average officers were a couple of years older than their enlisted men. They tended to be wealthier; their combined personal and family median wealth was \$3,000, compared to \$1,200 for enlisted men. Almost half of all officers or their parents with whom they resided owned slaves, a figure that contrasted with 36 percent of enlisted men. Yet these distinctions were not as one-sided as they initially appeared. One in five officers and their families had a total wealth of less than \$400, and almost nine of ten (89 percent) soldiers who owned slaves or whose families owned slaves served the entire war as enlisted men.

4 – How much more likely was an officer to be killed in action than an enlisted man? After two years of fighting under Lee, the officer corps alone suffered 1,600 killed and 6,000 wounded. Officers were two-and-a-half times as likely to be killed in action as enlisted men.

Sources for 1 - 4: http://encyclopediavirginia.org/Army_of_Northern_Virginia#start_entry, (accessed March 21, 2013). Contributed by Joseph Glatthaar.

5 – Sometimes after December 20, 1860, a locomotive of the Wilmington & Manchester Rail Road were stopped at the North Carolina/South Carolina border. Who stopped this locomotive and why? South Carolina became an independent nation after it seceded from the United States on December 20, 1860. South Carolina Customs Agents were installed on the Wilmington & Manchester sometimes after this date. These agents were to charge custom duties on goods entering or leaving South Carolina.

6 – During the Civil War, the Wilmington & Weldon set up a repair yard in what location? The small town of Magnolia in Duplin County was the site of this inland repair yard. S.L. Freemont sent all the company's rolling stock to Magnolia after the fall of Wilmington on February 22, 1865.