



The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

The *RUNNER*

Newsletter of The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Editor **Tim Winstead**

November 2012

Our next meeting will be **Thursday, 8 November 2012** 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 2012 – 2013 Program Year. Visitors are more than welcome. Each of our speakers is selected 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.

***** **November Program** *****

Phantom Pain:

North Carolina's Artificial Limbs Program for Confederate Amputees



McDowell at Lane Street, Raleigh

Ansley Wegner will join us on 8 November when she will present her findings about North Carolina's program to render assistance to men who had lost limbs during the Civil War. At a time when the state's economy was in shambles, North Carolina cared for its soldiers who had returned home with severe physical handicaps.

Ansley's presentation will examine the program to find amputees located throughout the state and subsequently, to supply and fit them with artificial arms and legs. She will relate amputation's place in Civil War era medical science as well as document the challenges the disabled men will face as they try to resume their post-war lives. After discussing the different type of artificial limbs available to amputees, Ansley will address the experiences of some amputees, positive and negative, and North Carolina's response to those experiences.



Ansley Wegner

Ms. Wegner, a native of Wilson, has worked in the Office of Archives and History since 1994. She graduated with BAs in Psychology and English from UNC Chapel Hill and worked in various jobs, including as a private investigator, before deciding to return to school. Ansley earned a master's degree in Public History from NC State and began her career in the State Archives search room. Wegner has been with the Research Branch since 2000. She is the author of two books, *History for All the People: One Hundred Years of Public History in North Carolina* and *Phantom Pain: North Carolina's Artificial-Limbs Program for Confederate Veterans*, and contributed to *The Governors of North Carolina* and William S. Powell's *Encyclopedia of North Carolina*. Wegner is the editor of *Carolina Comments*, the quarterly newsletter of the Office of Archives and History and writer of the North Carolina Time Traveler blog at <http://nccultureblogger.wordpress.com/author/ansleywegner/> and This Day in North Carolina History at <http://nchistorytoday.wordpress.com/>

I checked out both of the sites listed above and I found them very informative. Take a look.

Editor

***** **Claude-Etienne Minié & James Burton** *****

Nearly 75% of all surgeries performed during the Civil War were amputations. What factor had significantly resulted in this gruesome statistic?

In 1849, French army officer Claude-Etienne Minié developed an improvement that made it effective to utilize the improved range and accuracy of the rifle-musket. The Minié ball was a cylindrically shaped projectile that was of smaller diameter than the rifle-musket bore – when the weapon was fired, the hollow base expanded, gripped the spiral riflings, and the bullet spun down the length of the barrel - this spinning motion allowed the bullet to extend the killing range of an individual soldier.

In 1855, the United States military adopted an improved Minié ball developed by James Burton of the armory at Harper's Ferry. Burton's design simplified the manufacture; hence, the bullet was massed produced at a cheaper cost. The large caliber soft-lead design not only could kill at extended range, the lead projectile flattened upon hitting its intended target. If the Minié ball hit a bone in an arm or leg, the victim experienced a traumatic wound that effectively destroyed that section of bone. Civil War doctors, to save the soldier's life, were forced to amputate the limb above the impact area.

Unfortunately, technology had surpassed the tactics used in the early days of the war. At Fredericksburg, Virginia in December 1862, Burnside's massed troops made a series of frontal attacks against Lee's well entrenched army. The scene was best described as slaughter. Lee remarked that it was good that war was so horrible or man would grow fond of it. Lee, unfortunately for his soldiers, forgot the lesson of Fredericksburg and used the massed assault on July 3, 1863 to attack Meade's well entrenched troops at Gettysburg. Same tactic, same result – slaughter.

Claude-Etienne Minié and James Burton's contribution to the technology of warfare may have slipped from memory, but those who experienced amputation as a result of wounds would forever live with the consequence of Minié and Burton's developments.

Source: <http://www.history.com/topics/minie-ball> (accessed October 18, 2012).

***** Hood's "Lost Opportunity" – 2012 Update *****

On the night of November 29, 1864, Union General John Schofield's soldiers stealthily moved past Confederate General John Bell Hood's soldiers who were trying to block their path at Spring Hill, Tennessee. What followed this escape was one of the most controversial battles of the Civil War – Franklin, Tennessee. What followed the Battle of Franklin was a long and contentious argument about what had really caused Hood's "Lost Opportunity." How had an army and its train moved by a waiting adversary without detection? Who was to blame?

On October 19, 2012, The Battle of Franklin Trust Chief Operating Officer Eric A. Jacobson announced the discovery of several hundred documents of Confederate General John Bell Hood. The announcement was made at historic Carnton Plantation.

The discovery is noted as one of the most significant Civil War discoveries in recent history. The documents range from personal letters, letters regarding the war and military records, some signed by major historical figures like signed by Jefferson Davis, James Longstreet, Stonewall Jackson and Robert E. Lee.

Sam Hood, a collateral descendent of General Hood and a career student of the general's career, discovered the documents while conducting research for his upcoming book about his ancestor.

"I felt like the guy who found the Titanic, except for the fact everyone knew the Titanic was out there somewhere, while I had no clue that some of the stuff I found even existed," said Hood.

"General Hood is certainly no stranger to controversy," he added. "During his colorful military career and with historians ever since, he has remained a controversial and tragic figure of the Civil War."

General Hood has been long noted for the loss of Atlanta and what some consider reckless behavior at the Battle of Franklin after a lost opportunity for possible victory at Spring Hill. General Hood has often been the subject of ridicule and blame for the demise of the Confederacy in the West.

In light of this discover, new information may change the way General Hood has been portrayed

Hood is set for a spring release of his detailed point-by-point defense of General Hood's career.

Source: http://franklinhomepage.com/battle-of-franklin-trust-announces-new-general-john-bell-hood-documents-discovered-cms-9810#.UIQsgW_A-So accessed October 21, 2012).

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

Raffle Master: Ed Gibson

Cleaning out your Library? Downsizing? Or just making room for more books? If you have books, prints, or other items that you would like to donate to the CFCWRT raffle, see Ed Gibson at our next meeting.

October Meeting:

<i>Marching Thru Georgia</i>	- Martha Watson
<i>The Crater</i>	- Richard Cowell
<i>The Blue & the Gray</i>	- Ed Gibson
<i>In War and Peace</i>	- Tom Hodges
<i>Decisive Battles of the Civil War</i>	- Judy Ward
<i>Reville in Washington 1860-1865</i>	- Ed Gibson

******* Trivia Questions for November *******

- 1 – When did the state government begin the limb replacement program?
- 2 – Who was George B. Jewett and what was his role in helping Civil War amputees?
- 3 - How much did the limb replacement program cost the state? How many veterans took part in the program?
- 4 – This Matthew Brady photograph was taken at Gettysburg around July 15, 1863. What do you know about the photograph and the identity of these men?



Confederate POWs

5 – The Confederate government, whether provided by state or national quartermasters, sought to provide its soldiers two uniform changes per year. How long did these uniforms last during hard campaigning?

6 – Did the government of North Carolina ever provide clothing to Union prisoners held in North Carolina?

******* Member News *******

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

1 – A warm welcome to all returning and new members of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table. Thank you for your support and attendance at our meetings.

2 – Friends of Fort Fisher Annual Meeting – November 10, 2012, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. Celebrate accomplishments & hear plans regarding the future of the historic site, Open to members, guests and the public.

3 - GREAT DEAL! Christmas gifts for your Civil War buff or for yourself! The Historical Publications Section of the N.C. Office of Archives and History announces a 60 percent to 70 percent discount of the popular and well-respected "**North Carolina Troops, 1861-1865: A Roster**" series, volumes 1 through 18.

Regularly priced at \$50 per copy, volumes 1-15 are sale priced at \$15 per copy and volumes 16-18 are sale priced at \$20 per copy.

To purchase please visit [online](#) or call (919) 733-7442, extensions 0 or 225.

***** November 1862 *****

President Lincoln finally lost patience with General McClellan and he was relieved of his command in November 1862 and replaced by General Burnside. Lincoln had won the November election but not in a spectacular manner and he blamed the lack of any Unionist victory for this.

November 2nd: Grant started his campaign against Vicksburg. However, he faced a major problem in that his lines of communication were too extended and he needed to 'drop off' troops along his route to defend them. This meant that his force was weakened the nearer Grant got to Vicksburg.

November 4th: There was an election for Congress in the states loyal to the Union. The lack of any major Unionist victory was reflected in the results, which showed that the opposition picked up more support than Lincoln's government. In the Senate, Lincoln's supporters, who prior to the election had a majority of 41 seats, saw this slashed to the opposition having a majority of 10 seats.

November 5th: The blame for the government's poor showing in the election was blamed on McClellan and his lack of action. A decision was made to replace him.

November 7th: McClellan had placed his army less than ten miles from Lee's army. Lee's force was split in two and McClellan was confident that he could deal a mortal blow against the Confederacy. However, at the same time as he was finalising his plan of attack, he received two messages.

The first stated: "By direction of the President of the United States, it is ordered that Major General McClellan be relieved from the command of the Army of the Potomac, and that Major General Burnside take command of the army. By order of the Secretary of War."

The second from General Halleck stated: "General; on receipt of the order of the President, sent herewith, you will immediately turn over your command to Major General Burnside, and repair to Trenton, New Jersey, reporting on your arrival in that place, by telegraph, for further orders."

November 8th: General Butler was also relieved of his command of New Orleans. General Banks replaced him. No one was quite sure why Butler was replaced but it is thought that the political hierarchy in the capital believed that he was using his command to boost his own wealth.

November 9th: General Burnside officially took control of the Army of the Potomac. McClellan left the following day.

November 11th: Burnside immediately changed McClellan's plan of attack. He believed capturing Richmond was more important than taking on Lee's army. Burnside therefore ordered the Army of the Potomac to Richmond via Fredericksburg. He probably lost the best opportunity the North had of dealing the South a knockout blow by failing to take advantage of Lee's army that was still split in two.

November 14th: Burnside announced that he had reorganised the Army of the Potomac into three “Grand Divisions”. Each Division was assigned its own commander and tasked to defend either the left or right flanks or the centre of Burnside’s force.

November 15th: The newly reorganised Army of the Potomac started its march on Fredericksburg. The army marched away from where Lee had based his army. There was logic in Burnside’s strategy. By marching on Fredericksburg, his army was still close enough to Washington DC to protect the capital. He could also use the Potomac River to bring up supplies to his men via Acquia Creek. Richmond was also only 75 miles from Fredericksburg.

November 17th: An advance force of Burnside’s men reached the outskirts of Fredericksburg but could not cross the Rappahannock River to get into the town because they had no pontoons with them. The Unionists swiftly dealt with a brief Confederate artillery bombardment, which indicated to them that the town was poorly defended. However, Burnside had ordered that no Unionist unit could enter Fredericksburg until suitable communication lines had been established. This gave Lee the opportunity and time to send two divisions to the town.

November 20th: General Lee arrived in Fredericksburg.

November 21st: Burnside called on the mayor to surrender Fredericksburg. This was refused and non-combatants were sent from the town.

November 23rd: Bridging equipment finally arrived at Fredericksburg to allow the North to cross the Rappahannock River but in the course of five days, the Confederate force in the town had done a great deal to fortify it. Any attempted crossing would be fraught with difficulties.

November 27th: President Lincoln visited Burnside at his headquarters. Whereas Lincoln had despaired at McClellan’s lack of urgency, he expressed his reservations to Burnside about his commander’s desire to launch an attack against a well dug-in enemy while having to cross a river. However, Burnside was not willing to change his plan.

November 30th: ‘Stonewall’ Jackson arrived with his men at Fredericksburg bringing the total number of Confederate soldiers in the town to 80,000.

Source: <http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/november-1862-civil-war.htm> (accessed October 12, 2012).

***** October Program *****

Arms & Equipment of the North Carolina Soldier at Antietam 1862

Jeff Bockert, Associate Curator of Education for the North Carolina Division of Historic Sites, shared his recent research into the logistical system that supplied North Carolina soldiers as they marched into Maryland where they were to face the Union army in September 1862. Jeff related how his research was a “work in progress” and he was still learning from the North Carolina Quartermaster records. He explained his “Material Culture” analysis of the Army of Northern Virginia as it invaded the North – the study of supply to determine a soldier’s effectiveness in battle, its impact on this campaign, and even its role in Lee’s decision to invade Maryland. He explained how he used analysis of Civil War

photographs of Tar Heel soldiers to determine how well the North Carolinians were supplied at this point in the war. By his analysis, he dispelled popular beliefs that early in the war North Carolina troops were well equipped to meet their foe in battle.



**Confederate troops in column
Frederick, Maryland – September 12, 1862**

The North Carolina Depot System concentrated the output of 39 cotton mills and 9 woolen mills to the manufacture of uniforms by the Raleigh government’s contracted producers. The uniforms of 1861 were costly to produce due to their complex design and the amount of cloth needed in their manufacture. The North Carolina quartermasters redesigned the uniforms to require less material – they did not provide the same martial bearing as the 1861 uniforms, but they were serviceable. As the war progressed, the state government, led by the efforts of Governor Zebulon Vance, improved its ability to marshal resources.



Jeff explains “Material Culture” Analysis

North Carolina’s government improved its logistics performance to the position that they were able to supply troops from other states with uniforms.

******* Comments and Suggestions *******

Comments and suggestions to make the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table and “The Runner” more relevant to your Civil War experience are welcomed. Send them to me at tpwinstead@gmail.com. Please include “CFCWRT News” in your Subject line.

***** Trivia Questions for November *****

1 – When did the state government begin the limb replacement program? The program began in January 1866 when the legislature asked Governor Jonathan Worth to make a contract with a manufacturer of artificial limbs to supply the state's needs. A factory was established in Raleigh under the direction of George B. Jewett. The factory remained in operation until June 18, 1867 when demand had mostly been met. North Carolina's program was the first in the South and it served as a model for other states.

Source: <http://www.ncmarkers.com/Markers.aspx?ct=ddl&sp=search&k=Markers&sv=H-112%20-%20ARTIFICIAL%20LIMBS> (accessed October 17, 2012).

2 – Who was George B. Jewett and what was his role in helping Civil War amputees? Amputations accounted for roughly three-quarters of all battlefield surgeries during the Civil War, which meant that artificial limbs were much in demand after the bitter conflict's end. Captain Ahab-style wooden stumps were an easy fix, but they tended to severely curtail a man's productivity. Fortunately for the shattered nation, then, a Massachusetts linguistics professor named George B. Jewett enjoyed dabbling in prosthetics whenever he had a spare moment. His great innovation, patented just months after the Confederacy's surrender at Appomattox, was a novel artificial leg that featured something truly remarkable: a self-oiling mechanism, which allowed the limb to maintain maximum flexibility despite inclement weather or owner neglect.

Jewett's company, headquartered at the corner of Park and Tremont Streets in Boston, did a brisk business with the Union's former enemies, as states below the Mason-Dixon line launched public programs to supply veterans with artificial legs. North Carolina led the way.

Source: <http://www.microkhan.com/2010/07/26/the-yank-who-helped-save-the-south/> (accessed October 17, 2012).

3 - How much did the limb replacement program cost the state? How many veterans took part in the program? The program cost the state \$81,310.12. In today's dollars, that equals \$1,178,405.80. Over 1500 veterans took advantage of the program

Source: <http://www.newsobserver.com/2012/03/13/1938161/treating-wounded-troops-on-the.html> (accessed October 17, 2012).

4 – This Matthew Brady photograph was taken at Gettysburg around July 15, 1863. What do you know about the photograph and the identity of these men? In one of the most famous photographs of the American Civil War (1861–1865), three captured Confederate soldiers, likely from Louisiana, pose for Mathew Brady on Seminary Ridge following the Battle of Gettysburg (July 1–3, 1863). The extraordinary clarity of the image allows viewers to study the soldiers' uniforms and accoutrements, but the historian Shelby Foote has focused more on their body language. "You see something in his attitude toward the camera that's revealing of his nature," he told the filmmaker Ken Burns, "... as if he is having his picture made but he's determined to be the individual that he is." Other scholars have challenged this romantic view. Brady, who made about thirty images at Gettysburg and arrived after the dead had been buried, likely took the photograph on or about July 15. If that's true, as Thomas A. Desjardin has argued, then these soldiers—none of whom seems to be wounded—were likely deserters

captured well after the battle. (Prisoners taken in the fighting were marched off the field immediately.) Meanwhile, a closer look at their uniforms reveals the soldiers to be much better dressed than tradition would have it. According to legend, the Battle of Gettysburg began only when barefoot Confederates entered the town looking for shoes. But Richard Pougher has used this photograph as evidence that "the common Confederate soldier in the Army of Northern Virginia was well dressed in Southern military uniforms, well-shod, and well accoutered ... He was not the ragged, barefoot, poorly equipped individual in nondescript mix-and-match clothing so many have come to see him as."

Source: http://encyclopediavirginia.org/media_player?mets_filename=evm00001203mets.xml (accessed October 17, 2012).

NOTE: Jeff Bockert thinks the men in Brady's photograph were from North Carolina because of their uniforms; however, Jeff said that there is support for them being from Virginia, Mississippi, or Florida units. Whether they were deserters, unlucky stragglers or hospital stewards left behind to care for the wounded will probably never be known.

5 – The Confederate government, whether provided by state or national quartermasters, sought to provide its soldiers two uniform changes per year. How long did these uniforms stand up during hard campaigning? Typically, during the rigors of campaigning, a soldier wore out his uniform, shoes, and other clothing within **three months**. By the end of the Peninsular Campaign (March – May 1863), Seven Days Campaign (June – July 1862) and the Second Battle of Manassas Campaign (August 1862), the Confederate soldiers who moved with Lee into Maryland were almost a ragged mob in their appearance.

As Jeff related in his presentation, the North Carolina soldier in September 1862 was faced with an inadequate quartermaster system to supply their needs. This was the Valley Forge of these soldiers. They endured worn-out uniforms, shoes, blankets and knapsacks, fought with fewer modern rifle-muskets than their foes, and subsisted on scarce rations. Only their ability to supply many of their needs from the Union quartermaster corps allowed them to survive until Confederate efforts improved.

After late 1863, North Carolina supply efforts improved significantly. The state owned interest in blockade runners and successfully brought in English goods – weapons, munitions, shoes, medicines and clothing.

6 – Did the government of North Carolina ever provide clothing to Union prisoners held in North Carolina? Toward the end of the war and under Governor Vance's direction, North Carolina supplied clothing and blankets to Union prisoners of war incarcerated at Salisbury. This was done on the condition that equivalent supplies were given to a like number of Confederate prisoners incarcerated in the North.

Zebulon Vance took this action to assist prisoners that were living in poor conditions in the Confederate camp at Salisbury. Vance took this action for a number of reasons: 1) It was the right thing to do for humanitarian reasons. 2) This action benefitted North Carolina prisoners of war who fared badly in Union prisons, 3) His brother, General Robert Vance, was held in a Union camp. 4) The Union government was probably going to seek retribution for the treatment of captured soldiers.

Source: Gordon B. McKinney, *North Carolina's Civil War Governor & the Gilded Age Political Leader* [Chapel Hill and London: The University of North Press, 2004], 147-148.