



The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

The *RUNNER*

Newsletter of The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Editor **Tim Winstead**

October 2012

Our next meeting will be **Thursday, 11 October 2012** at St. Andrew's On-the-Sound (101 Airline Road). Social Hour begins at 6:30 p.m., meeting at 7:30..



Please join us as we continue our 2012 – 2013 Program Year. 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.

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

North Carolina Arms & Equipment at Antietam



North Carolinians

Jeffrey L. Bockert will be our speaker at the 11 October meeting. Jeff's subject will be **North Carolina Arms and Equipment at Antietam**. By reviewing North Carolina Quartermaster records, photographs, and first-person accounts, Jeff gained an idea of how the average Tar Heel was equipped as he and his unit fought at the bloody Battle of Antietam (Sharpsburg) in September 1862. Jeff's research revealed that North Carolina units were faced with shortages of uniforms, shoes, and modern weapons as they marched into Maryland and took part in some of the fiercest actions during the entire campaign.



Jeff Bockert

Jeff Bockert currently serves as the Associate Curator of Education for the North Carolina Division of Historic Sites based in Kinston, N.C. and as Vice-Chairman of the North Carolina Civil War Tourism Council. In addition, Jeff serves on the N.C. Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee as well as the N.C. War of 1812 Bicentennial Committee.

Editor

******* North Carolina Troops after Antietam *******

Jeff's presentation will provide us with a better understanding of what the soldiers faced at Antietam and afterwards.

The following letter was written to North Carolina Governor Zebulon B. Vance in October 1862. It clearly and strongly detailed the condition of the 48th Regiment North Carolina Troops.

Camp Near Winchester Va. Oct 11th, 1862.

Govr. Z. B. Vance,

I lay before you for your consideration the destitute condition of our Regt. with the hope that you, who have experienced some of the severe trials of a soldiers life, may hasten up the requisite relief—

We have present Six hundred & nineteen men rank & file in the 48th Regt. N.C. Troops—There are of that number Fifty one who are completely & absolutely Barefooted—& one hundred & ninety four who are nearly as bad off, as Barefooted,

& who will be altogether so, in less than one month. There are but Two hundred & ninety seven Blankets in the Regt. among the 619 men, which is less than one Blanket to evry two men.

In truth there is one Compy (I) having 66 men & only Eleven Blankets in the whole company—The pants are generally ragged & out at the seats—& there are less than three cooking utensils to each Company—This sir is the condition of our Regt. upon the eve of winter here among the mountains of Va. cut off from all supplies from home & worn down & thinned with incessant marchings, fighting & diseases—can any one wonder that our Regt. numbering over 1250 rank & file has more than half its no. absent from camp, & not much over one third 449 of them fit for duty? The country is filled with Stragglers, deserters, & sick men & the hospitals are crowded from these exposures. A spirit of disaffection is rapidly engendering among the soldiers which threatens to show itself in general Straggling & desertion, if it does not lead to open mutiny.

Add to this that our surgeons have no medicines & don't even pretend to prescribe for the sick in camp, having no medicines & you have an outline of the sufferings & prospective trials & difficulties under which we labor....

Want we most pressingly need just now is our full supply of *Blankets*, of *Shoes* & of *pants* & *socks*. We need very much all our other clothing too. But we are in the greatest need of these indispensable articles & *Must* have them, & have them *Now*. Otherwise how can the Government blame the soldier for failing to render service, when it fails to fulfil its stipulated & *paid for* contracts? A contract broken on one side is broken on all sides & void....

The soldiers of the 48th N.C. & from all the State will patriotically suffer & bear their hardships & privations as long as those from any other State, or as far as human endurance can tolerate such privations, But it would not be wise to experiment to far in such times & under such circumstances as now surround us upon the extent of their endurance. With Lincolns proclamation promising freedom to the slaves, What might the suffering, exhausted, ragged, barefooted, & dying *Non* slaveholders of the South, who are neglected by their government & whose suffering families at home are exposed to so many evils, begin to conclude? Would it not be dangerous to tempt them with too great trials?

Dear Sir...I feel the very earnest & solemn responsibility of my position as commander of this Regt. at this critical period & under these trying circumstances & wish to do all I can...to remove the evils by seeking a speedy supply of Blankets, Shoes & clothing. & therefore beg your earnest attention to the premises & your zealous & I hope efficient aid to supply our necessities....

Your Excellencys most obt Servt.
S. H. Walkup Lt. Col. [Commanding]
48th Regt. NC Troops

Source: Governors Papers, State Archives, Raleigh

******* Trivia Questions for October *******

- 1 – Why were North Carolina soldiers supplied so poorly during the early stages of the war?
- 2 – North Carolina brought more materials through the blockade than any other state. How many blockade-runners did the state own?
- 3 – Who was Uncle Lewis Nelson?
- 4 - How many Union chaplains were awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor during the Civil War?
- 5 – A Union Chaplain was executed during the war. Who was he?

******* 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 – GREAT DEAL! 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 one 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](tel:(919)733-7442), extensions 0 or 225.

***** **October 1862** *****

October 1862 saw Robert E Lee move his army away from Washington and for the time being the capital was safe. At the end of October 1862, the armies of McClellan and Lee were only two miles apart near the Blue Ridge Mountains.

October 1st: The Confederate press portrayed Lincoln's emancipation declaration as a recipe for slave insurrection.

October 4th: The Confederates launched a major attack on Corinth. It was not a success as the Unionists were well dug in and the Confederates lost many men – 1,423 killed, 5,692 wounded and 2,248 missing. The North lost 315 dead, 1,812 wounded and 232 missing.

October 5th: As the Confederates withdrew from Corinth, their rearguard clashed with a Unionist force at Metamora by the Big Hatchie River. In this action, the Union lost over 500 men while the South lost about 400.

October 8th: A battle at Perryville in Kentucky led to heavy casualties on both sides. The North lost 916 killed, 2943 wounded and 489 missing while the South lost 500 killed, 2635 wounded and 251 missing out of their total of 16,000 men.

October 10th: Jefferson Davis requested to the Confederate Congress that 4500 African Americans be drafted in to build defences around Richmond.

October 11th: The Confederate Congress agreed with Davis but stipulated that anyone who owned twenty slaves or more was exempt from this call-up. This decision was not well received and the less well-off slave owners in the Confederacy started to comment that it was "a rich man's war and a poor man's fight".

October 13th: Lincoln wrote again to McClellan to urge him to do something. "You remember my speaking to you of what I called your over-cautiousness. Are you not over-cautious when you assume that you cannot do what the enemy is constantly doing? Should you not claim to be at least his equal in prowess, and act upon that claim? If we do not beat the enemy where he now is, we never can, he again being within the entrenchments of Richmond."

October 14th: While the Confederates had failed in Kentucky, they had taken vast amounts of booty that was vital to their supplies. While the Confederate press almost certainly exaggerated what was taken – the claim was that the wagon train was over 40 miles long – large amounts of barrelled pork and bacon were taken along with an estimated 1500 horses and 8000 cattle.

October 19th: In New Orleans, where the Unionists held power, General Butler passed two important pieces of legislation. The first was to raise three regiments of “free coloured men” and the second was to introduce the legal precedent that ‘blacks were equal to whites’ in the eyes of the law.

October 25th: Lincoln once again expressed his concern that McClellan appeared to be doing nothing.

October 26th: McClellan marched the Army of the Potomac back into Virginia. Whether this was part of a plan he already had or if it was in a direct response to Lincoln’s criticisms is not known.

October 28th: To avoid getting encircled by the Army of the Potomac, Robert E Lee moved his Army of Virginia further south and, therefore, further away from Washington DC. Lee’s army numbered 70,000 men while McClellan could call on 130,000 men – so it was a wise move. Sections of Lee’s army were ordered to maintain a close observation of McClellan’s men and for two days both sides were less than 2 miles apart but separated by the Blue Ridge Mountains.

Source: <http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/october-1862-civil-war.htm>, (accessed September 9, 2012).

******* The Great Locomotive Chase *******

In April, 1862, James J. Andrews, a civilian spy for Union General Don Carlos Buell, led a group of twenty-four Union volunteers into Confederate territory in a daring attempt to sever the railroad that ran between Atlanta and Chattanooga. Andrew’s raid was to be made in coordination with a Union army effort to take Chattanooga and disrupt Confederate rail service between Virginia and the middle and lower South. Andrews’s plan was bold; he intended to take his raiders 100 miles into Confederate territory, overwhelm a train crew in Georgia, and take the high-jacked train on a journey of destruction north towards Chattanooga.



The General

At 5:00 a.m. in Marietta on April 12, 1862, Andrews and nineteen of his men, singly and in small groups, boarded the *General* for the rail journey north. The *General* stopped at Big Shanty for a twenty minute breakfast stop. Conductor William A. Fuller, Engineer Jeff Cain, and Fireman Andrew J. Anderson joined the other passengers for meal at the Lacy Hotel. Andrews, accompanied by three of his men who were also experienced locomotive engineers, made their way to the engine. Upon Andrews's signal, the remaining men uncoupled the passenger cars and boarded the three empty boxcars behind the *General*. An 87 mile scramble to the north was about to begin – it was the beginning of The Great Locomotive Chase.

Conductor Fuller and his crew began the chase for their train on foot, later found a hand cart, and finally found a small engine, the *Yonah*, to pursue the *General*. Initially, Fuller thought the train had been taken by conscripts from a local training camp. As they continued the chase and encountered track damage and cut telegraph wires, Fuller and his crew knew they were chasing Union raiders. Fuller and Andrews played a cat and mouse game as the chase moved north. The raiders had to stop several times as southbound trains were encountered; the pursuers changed pursuit trains, first the *William R. Smith* and finally the *Texas*, to avoid track damage and traffic blockages. Andrews used a cover story of that the *General* and its 3 boxcars contained a special munitions shipment for General Beauregard. Fuller, after abandoning the *William R. Smith* due to track damaged, continued the pursuit on foot for another three miles until, he stopped the southbound *Texas*.

After the *Texas* left its cars on a siding, Fuller and his increasing number of pursuers raced the *Texas* in reverse gear after the fleeing and increasingly alert raiders. One of those Fuller picked up on the *Texas* included a telegraph operator from Dalton who had come south to investigate the lost service south of his station. Andrews and his men placed obstacles, tried to burn the bridge over the Oostanaula River, released boxcars – all in an attempt to slow the *Texas*. The pursuers were so close at Green's Wood Station that the *General* was unable to take on a full load of wood and water. After the *General* quickly passed through Dalton, Andrews stopped again to cut the telegraph line. Fuller had put his telegrapher, Edward Henderson, off-board at Dalton and Henderson was able to get part of an alert telegram to Confederate authorities before the raiders had cut the line. The race was almost over.

The *General* roared through Tunnel Hill and Ringgold, but the *Texas* was within sound and sight. Andrews knew that with fuel and water for the *General* almost exhausted, he had to give up the raid. Two miles north of Ringgold, Andrews ordered his men to jump off the train and scatter to avoid capture.

Within a twelve day period, all the raiders who escaped the *General* were captured. On June 7, 1862, James J. Andrews was hung in Atlanta. Seven others were also hung.

Source: <http://www.greatlocomotivechase.com/aftermat.html> (accessed September 29, 2012).

******* October 1862 cont'd *******

On October 16, 1862, fourteen surviving raiders from James J. Andrews's unsuccessful attempt to disrupt Confederate rail communications between Chattanooga and Atlanta tried an escape from the Fulton County jail. Eight of the Union soldiers made their escape by effort of great will, courage, and physical effort. The remaining six, still confined in the Fulton County jail, were exchanged later during the war.

Secretary of War, Edwin Stanton, met the six exchanged soldiers on March 25, 1863. These men, William Bensinger, Robert Buffum, Elihu Mason, Jacob Parrott, William Pittenger, and Robert Reddick, were to be the first six recipients awarded the Medal of Honor. Seventeen year old, **Jacob Parrott, received the first medal from Stanton.** The other five men received their medals from President Abraham Lincoln in a meeting at the White House.

Nineteen of the original 24 volunteers were eventually awarded the Medal of Honor. James J. Andrews and William Campbell had been civilians; hence, not eligible for the medal.

Source: http://www.homeofheroes.com/moh/history/history_first.html (accessed September 29, 2012).

******* That Another May Live *******

There have been many examples of soldiers who aided their comrades during the Civil War. As the war lengthened into 1864, the cruelty of total war made itself felt.

Pvt. Albert G. Willis, Co. C, Col. John S. Mosby's Partisan Rangers (43d Battalion, Virginia Cavalry) and at least one other Ranger were captured about 13 Oct. 1864 near Gaines Crossroads by Union Brig. Gen. William H. Powell's U.S. 2nd Cavalry Division. During the Civil War, many Federals considered partisans civilian bushwhackers, not regular soldiers. Powell, in reprisal for what he called the "murder" of a U.S. soldier by alleged partisans, ordered a Ranger executed. According to some postwar sources, Willis, a ministerial student before the war, offered his life in place of a married cohort, "I have no family, I am a Christian, and I am not afraid to die." He was hanged nearby on 14 Oct. and buried at a Baptist church in Flint Hill.

Source: http://www.dhr.virginia.gov/hiway_markers/marker.cfm?mid=3799, accessed September 15, 2012.

The story of sacrificing for a friend did not end with the death of Willis. Mosby's men happened upon Willis's body almost before he was cold. After burying Willis and with vengeance in their hearts, the partisans rode forth to exact revenge upon their foes. They quickly captured **Francis Marion White** of the 22nd Pennsylvania Cavalry Ringgold Battalion. The partisans prepared to hang White, just as Powell had hung Willis – an eye for an eye, a hand for a hand.

White had a noose tightened around his neck when an unexpected event occurred:

.....some of [John Hanson] McNeill's men arrived on the scene, in a friendly mood, ready to join forces temporarily with Mosby. But their attitude changed when they learned the man about to be hanged was a Ringgolder. For any member of this outfit they had a soft spot, so they argued long and loud that the man was entitled to go free, that members of his battalion treated Valley residents with respect and had even kept some of them from starving. Stoutly they gave voice in his defense, without indication of letup. The argument went back and forth, never waning, until finally the McNeill boys lost patience and backed up, guns drawn, to form a ring around the prisoner, announcing they were prepared to die with him. This put an entirely different slant on the matter and, after a few more futile words, the rope was removed from White's neck.

Source: Virgil Carrington Jones, *Gray Ghost and Rebel Raiders* [New York: Henry Holt and Company, 1956], p. 312.

******* The Rest of the Story *******

From Samuel Clark Farrar's *The Twenty-Second Pennsylvania Cavalry and the Ringgold Battalion* [Pittsburg: The New Werner Company, 1911], p. 405.

Francis Marion White. of Company A, 22d P.V.C. was captured by Moseby near Upperville, Va., Oct. 10, 1864, and was about to be hanged in retaliation from the execution of a Confederate by General Powell a few days before. Some of

McNeill's Rangers, who were with Moseby, learned that White was a member of the Ringgold Cavalry, **interceded and had him sent off a prisoner**, declaring that the Ringolds against whom they had warred for three years, were honorable soldiers, who had respected and protected their homes and families, when in possession of Moorfield, and that no captive from that command would be executed in retaliation, if they could help it.

Francis Marion White survived the war; however, his was not a good ending. In a pension application by his mother on February 25, 1889, it was revealed that White died on July 5, 1865. Information found on the USGenWeb Archives, revealed that White spent time in Andersonville prison prior to his release and his return to Beallsville, Pennsylvania. White died at home; the victim of the harsh conditions encountered while he was a prisoner-of-war.

I can only speculate about the events that White confronted after McNeill's men saved him from hanging. I don't want to do that; hence, I will continue to search for more information about what happened to him after that day in October, 1864.

***** **September Program** *****

Men of Peace, Who went to War: The American Civil War Chaplain's Story

Chaplain Alan Farley, D.D., in the loud and booming voice of a Civil War era preacher, shared the story of the efforts made by chaplains, priests, rabbis and volunteers to bring the word of God to the soldiers, North and South, who fought in the most cataclysmic event in American history. Sharing in the horrors of the battlefields, in the unimaginable suffering in the hospitals, and in the privations of camp, these men (and woman) of the cloth brought refuge in a time of great need. That refuge was faith.



Chaplain Alan Farley

Alan began his presentation with the story of a request that Robert E. Lee made to Dr. J. William Jones after the war. Lee wanted Jones to write a book about the impact of religious revival in the Army of Northern Virginia. Lee thought it important that the record of the service and accomplishments of the Confederate chaplains be recorded. Jones, a former chaplain in the ANV, responded to Lee's request and *Christ in the Camp or Religion in the Confederate Army* was published in 1887 and reissued in 1904. Jones used numerous memoirs and letters of the war's survivors to witness the efforts that were made to bring comfort of the spirit to Southern soldiers.

The Chaplain Farley then related the efforts made by both the Union and Confederate governments to meet the religious habitudes of their soldiers. Both congresses passed legislation to address the need and the advisability of placing chaplains among their soldiers. As was the case in every other logistical need, the Union was better organized in implemented these laws; however, the Confederacy proved resourceful in responding to this crisis of the spirit. Protestant, Catholic, and Jewish faiths were served during the war – 2,387 men and 1 woman, Ellen Hobart, served as chaplains with the Union Army – 94 of them died; 1,303 men served in the Confederate Army and among them was slave Louis Napoleon Nelson who served as chaplain of Co. M, 7th Tennessee Cavalry – 41 died.

As the war continued into its third and fourth years, the chaplains became increasingly important in administering to the spiritual needs of the soldiers in both armies. Chaplains shared the hardship of battle campaigns by going into action with their troops – numerous examples of “fighting chaplains”

were related. The chaplains were instrumental in holding regular religious services in chapels built by the soldiers while the armies were in their winter camps.





Ella Hobart - - Uncle Lewis Nelson

After the Battle of Antietam and especially during the winter of 1862-1863, a revival movement began among the soldiers of both opposing armies. The battles became bigger, the casualties became heavier. Many soldiers sought solace in the religious services and reaffirmed their faith in a higher power. During the war, Alan estimated that 250,000 to 350,000 soldiers received the message of their revival ministers.

******* 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 October *******

1 - Why were North Carolina soldiers supplied so poorly during the early stages of the war? When North Carolina seceded from the Union on May 20, 1861, Governor John Ellis attempted to bring a very ill-prepared state to a war footing. Ellis, who had been governor since 1858, was an experienced administrator and should have been able to concentrate resources to meet the crisis. Unfortunately for the state, Ellis died on July 7, 1861. Ellis’s successor, Henry Toole Clark, was a wealthy and educated man. Clark was; however, very suspicious of extensions of government authority when the government

needed to fill its role as a supplier of its soldiers needs. The policies of Ellis and Clark tended to divide the state between ardent secessionists and those who had reluctantly left the Union. At a time when a common goal and direction was needed, Ellis and Clark had tried to exclude many needed allies from the war effort.

After Zeb Vance became governor in September 1862, his vigorous leadership moved North Carolina onto a much more efficient war footing. Vance began state efforts to clothe and arm its soldiers. Vance secured exemptions for men needed to run state enterprises and to staff state agencies. He bought state-owned blockade runners to bring needed supplies – medicines, clothing, and weapons – through the blockade.

Source: <http://www.northcarolinahistory.org/encyclopedia/208/entry/> (accessed October 3, 2012).

2 - North Carolina brought more materials through the blockade than any other state. How many blockade-runners did the state own? The state-owned blockade runner [Advance](#) made eight successful runs between Bermuda and Wilmington between July 1863 and August 1864. The state also owned 25percent interest in four other blockade runners owned by Alexander Collie and Company of England. Through successful blockade running and skillful management of smuggled goods, North Carolina's soldiers were likely the best equipped in the army. Vance did more than any other southern governor to bring supplies into the Confederacy from Europe and later recounted that North Carolina's blockade running enterprise accounted for

Source: <http://civilwarexperience.ncdcr.gov/narrative/narrative-3.htm> (accessed October 4, 2012).

3 – Who was Uncle Lewis Nelson? Jefferson Davis delegated the appointment of chaplains to Confederate States Army field commanders. The first noted African-American "honorary" chaplain of the Confederate States Army was [Louis Napoleon Nelson](#) who was appointed by the 7th Tennessee Cavalry field officers during The Battle of Shiloh (April 1862). Based on this date, [Louis Napoleon Nelson](#) was the first African-American chaplain to serve during the American Civil War. Note: The 7th Tennessee Cavalry, Company M supposedly served under the command of Nathan Bedford Forrest. Nelson had accompanied the sons of his owner, James Oldham, to war as their cook and body servant. Louis was a religious man who had memorized portions of the Bible.

The account of Louis Napoleon Nelson's appoint as chaplain is documented in the *Religious Herald* (September 10, 1863).

Source: http://www.blackconfederatesoldiers.com/jefferson_davis_35.html, accessed September 15, 2012.

4 - How many Union chaplains were awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor during the Civil War? **Chaplain John M. Whitehead** of the 15th Indiana Infantry won it for carrying wounded to the rear under very heavy fire at Stone River, Tennessee, in 1862. **Chaplain Francis O. Hall** gained his at Salem Heights, Virginia, in 1863, while serving as regimental chaplain to the 16th New York Infantry. The third Medal of Honor was won by **Chaplain Milton L. Haney** of the 55th Illinois Infantry during fierce fighting near Atlanta in 1864. Unlike chaplains Whitehead and Hall, Haney, according to his citation, "voluntarily carried a musket in the ranks of his regiment and rendered heroic service in retaking Federal works which had been captured by the enemy."

Source: http://www.chapnet.army.mil/usachcs/origins/chapter_3.htm, accessed September 15, 2012.

5 – A Union Chaplain was executed during the war. Who was he? Chaplain U.P. Gardner of the 13th Kansas Infantry was shot down after identifying himself as a chaplain on November 22, 1864, by a member of Quantrell's guerilla raiders. The shooter was a 17-year-old boy by the name of Jesse James.

Source: <http://voices.yahoo.com/the-role-chaplains-civil-war-8472413.html?cat=37>, accessed September 15, 2012.