



The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

The *RUNNER*

Newsletter of The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Editor Tim Winstead

September 2012

Our next meeting will be **Thursday, 13 September 2012** at St. Andrew's On-the-Sound (101 Airlie 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.

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

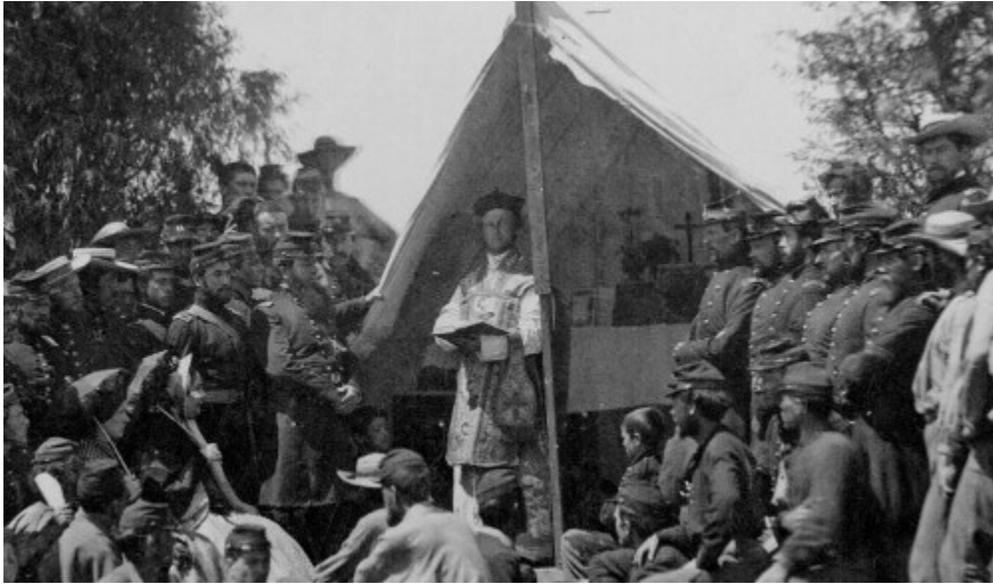
**Chaplains, Priests, Rabbis & Volunteers
of the United States Christian Commission
Who Served During the
War Between the States**



Christian Commission

On September 13th, the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table will begin its 2012 – 2013 program year. Chaplain **Alan Farley**, D.D. will present a program that focuses on the men and volunteers who served the religious needs of the soldiers who fought in the Civil War.

A native Virginian, **Alan Farley** developed his lifelong interest in the War Between the States during the centennial commemoration of that struggle. He began his close association with the living history of the war when he became a re-enactor in 1979. In 1984, Alan “laid down his musket and picked up God’s sword and became the first, full time, chaplain to Civil War re-enacting.” Alan, joined by his wife and two children, began full time mission work that included the **Re-enactor’s Missions for Jesus Christ**. Farley co-founded the **National Civil War Chaplain’s Museum and Research Center** in Lynchburg, Virginia – the museum, which opened in January 2010, is dedicated to the memory of the chaplains, priests, and rabbis who served in the US and CSA armies during the war. Alan received his doctorate of Divinity from Antioch Baptist Bible College (Marietta, Georgia) in 2011.



Soldiers at worship

The Farley's travel over thirty-five thousand miles a year and participate in twenty to twenty-five Civil War re-enactments. Alan speaks about the role of religion in a soldier's life to SCV camps, UDC meetings, Round Tables, and other interested groups.



Asking for God's Protection

Join us at the September meeting when re-enactor, author, producer, collector and Civil War chaplain, **Alan Farley**, will share his story of those who ministered to the spiritual needs of the soldiers who faced the hell that was the Civil War. This will be an opportunity to learn about a facet of the war that may have been little studied until recently.

Editor

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

Raffle Master: Ed Gibson

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

June Meeting:

Congratulations to the winners of the raffle.

<i>Grant Comes East</i>	- Tom O'Donnell
<i>Grant Takes Command</i>	- John Bolger
<i>Undaunted Courage</i>	- Linda Lashley
<i>Vicksburg</i>	- Dick Covell
<i>Lincoln</i>	- Ed Gibson
<i>Diary from Dixie</i>	- Martha Watson

***** **Trivia Questions for September 2012** *****

- 1 – What was the United States Christian Commission?
- 2 – What rank did a chaplain, priest or rabbi hold in the Union and Confederate Armies?
- 3 – What Northern Congressman objected that chaplains must be “regularly ordained clergyman of some Christian denomination?”
- 4 – In which battle did Hood’s Texans solidify their reputations as wild and fearless fighters?
- 5 - Who was “Howdy” Martin?
- 6 – At what battle did the 1st Texas Infantry suffer the highest casualty rate for any Confederate regiment during the war?

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

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

1 – Membership renewals – Thanks to all who took advantage of the “early-bird” sign-up period. If you forgot to sign-up, you and your membership dues are very important to the CFCWRT being able to provide programs of interest. Send \$30 payment either to **CFCWRT, PO Box 15750, Wilmington, NC 28408** or see **Linda Lashley** at the September 13 meeting.

2 – If you have perused this issue of *The Runner*, you have probably noticed that there are several articles about Hood and his Texans. The selection of these articles was probably influenced by my participation in a June 26-29 tour with members of **Hood’s Texas Brigade Association, Re-Activated** as we toured many places in Virginia where the reputation of the brigade was forged in battle. Leaders of the tour included Dr. Susannah Ural, Col. Rick Eiserman, Col. John Favors, Dr. John Goddard and Ed Bearss. Great tour, great leaders, and great participants.

3 – Tom & Karen Morgan shared an interested memoir written by Karen’s great grandfather J.M. Johnston (1844-1917) of Bladen County. Mr. Johnston served with Co. H, 36th Regiment NCV (2nd Artillery) in coastal North Carolina where he took part in the first and second battles of Fort Fisher. Mr. Johnston was captured at Fort Fisher and spent the rest of the war at Point Lookout, Maryland.

..... All day long that Christmas day shot and shell poured thick and fast. Twas my first experience in a battle. To tell how I felt would be impossible. I don't think I felt like a coward or that I wanted to run away but I imagined I would have felt more comfortable some where else

Thanks to Tom & Karen for sharing this intriguing document.

******* September 1862 *******

The Confederate army under Robert E. Lee continued to threaten Washington in September 1862. However, September saw Lee faced a set-back at Sharpsburg and at the Battle of Antietam, which Lincoln declared a victory for the North.

September 1st: The Second Battle of Bull Run ended when sections from both sides clashed at Ox Hill. They came across one another just before nightfall during a thunderstorm. In the clash, Union Generals Isaac Stevens and Philip Kearney were killed.

September 2nd: General McClellan was recalled to Washington DC by President Lincoln to take charge of the capital's defences. "If he can't fight himself, he excels in making others ready to fight."
(Lincoln)

September 5th: Robert E Lee took his army into Maryland. At the same time the Union's military hierarchy could not make its mind up as to who should lead the Union's army in the field. Maryland was a tempting target for Lee as its fields were full of crops and any move north that he made would bring fear to those who lived in the capital who would have rightly believed that the city was his priority target.

September 6th: Within just four days, McClellan managed to get together an army of 90,000 men to defend the capital. This feat confirmed to Lincoln his excellent administrative skills. However, McClellan was known to lack tactical ability and someone was needed to command these men in a decisive manner. Lee was well aware of McClellan's failings as a commander.

September 7th: Lee crossed the Potomac River at Leesburg, Virginia. His move north caused the expected panic in the capital and ships were placed on standby to take the President and his Cabinet out of the city to safety. McClellan was given command of the 90,000 men in the Army of the Potomac.

September 8th: The cause of the Union was not helped by dissension in the most senior ranks of the Union Army. General Pope openly blamed other generals for the failure at Bull Run, while they (Generals Franklin and Porter) cited his incompetent leadership during the battle. Leaving this dispute behind in the capital, McClellan marched his men out to meet Lee away from the city. His army of 90,000 was twice as large as Lee's Army of Virginia but the men in it were very demoralized after the Second Bull Run while Lee's men were full of confidence.

September 9th: The people of Maryland did not greet Lee's army with any enthusiasm despite his proclamation that his intention was to return the state to the Confederacy – which Lee assumed would sell his cause. The expected provisions were not forthcoming and Lee's army remained short of supplies.

September 10th: McClellan marched his men to where he knew Lee's army had encamped – Frederick. However, Lee's army marched off on the same day as McClellan gave his order. Lee split his men in two with Jackson ordered to capture Harper's Ferry while he would lead his men to Hagerstown.

September 13th: In an astonishing twist, two Union soldiers found some cigars where Lee had made his camp. They were wrapped in paper. On this paper was written Lee's next plans for his army – their targets, which part of his army was marching where etc. This was Lee's Special Order 191. The Confederates knew that they had lost one copy but must have assumed that it was never going to be found by the North.

September 14th: The North, with the knowledge of where Lee was and where he was heading, made a series of attacks on the Confederates at South Mountain. The speed of McClellan's chase unnerved Lee and forced him into changing his plans at the last minute. The problem Lee would face was to ensure that his change of plans got out to his commanders in the field and that they all understood them.

September 15th: Harper's Ferry fell to Jackson who captured 12,000 Union troops. Jackson left behind an occupying force and then marched at speed to rejoin Lee to consolidate the Army of Virginia once again.

September 16th: Lee's army was at Sharpsburg – as was McClellan's. Lee faced two serious problems. First, he only had 18,000 men with him against 75,000 Union troops. Second, behind where his men were gathered was the Potomac River. So if Lee needed to withdraw, he would have to cross the river. McClellan started his attack with an artillery bombardment. Lee was reinforced when Jackson's 9,000 men arrived. No decisive impact was made one way or the other on this day.

September 17th: The battle continued at 06.00 with a Union attack at Antietam Creek but in a series of skirmishes as opposed to one great battle. The reason for this is that large parts of the Army of the Potomac did nothing, as their commanders had not received orders to do anything. The reason that the commanders in the field had not received orders was that McClellan had not issued any. By the end of the day, the Confederates had held their line despite the North's overwhelming superiority in terms of manpower.



The Dunker Church at Antietam

September 18th: The two armies continued to face one another at Antietam Creek. Two fresh Union divisions arrived but they were ordered to “rest” by McClellan. Lee started to make plans to withdraw his men.

September 19th: In the early hours of the 19th, Lee withdrew his men across the Potomac River. Though McClellan believed Lee would strike across the river again, he was wrong. Lee had ordered his men to the relative safety of Winchester in the Shenandoah Valley.

September 20th: McClellan kept his men at Sharpsburg and showed no inclination to pursue Lee’s men. However, any thoughts Lee had of taking Maryland were killed off in what McClellan called “a very great battle”.

September 22nd: Lincoln expressed his belief that the Battle of Antietam was a victory for the North in the sense that it stopped any plans Lee had for capturing Washington DC. In the same speech, Lincoln declared his intention of abolishing slavery throughout the United States and that this was now a major aim of the Union’s war effort.

September 24th: Lincoln suspended habeas corpus for those who tried to evade the militia draft.

September 28th: Lee’s army of 50,000 men gathered at Winchester in the Shenandoah Valley.

Source: <http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/september-1862-civil-war.htm>, accessed May 21, 2012.

***** September 1862 cont’d *****



Artillery Hell at Antietam

The terrifying impact of artillery fire was deeply felt by both infantry and artillery batteries at Antietam. Confederate Colonel Stephen D. Lee later referred to this battle as being an “Artillery Hell” in which his men received severe damage from Union artillery counter-fire and infantry rifle fire. The following passage was taken from Colonel Lee’s after-action report:

The action commenced about 3 a.m. on the morning of the 17th, between the skirmishers. Woolfolk's, Parker's, and Rhett's batteries were placed in position in front of the church, on the right of the Sharpsburg and Hagerstown pike, and opened on the enemy at daylight. These batteries were compelled to fire over our infantry, but fired with effect. A continuous fire was kept up until about 8.15 a.m., when the enemy gave way and our firing ceased as our infantry followed in pursuit. The batteries above mentioned while engaged were exposed to an enfilade fire of about twenty rifled guns from across the Antietam, two batteries in their front, and the fire of the infantry of the enemy, most of the time about 500 yards distant. They suffered very heavily and had exhausted most of their ammunition.....

About this time, 9 a.m., Moody's battery, which had been engaged near the center of our line, arrived and reported, and I placed it in position on the ground previously occupied by Parker's battery. General Hood's division, which followed the enemy when he gave way, not being supported, was compelled to fall back before their overwhelming numbers. The enemy having gained his rear, and occupying a position almost between his retiring troops and Moody's battery, his troops fell back so sullenly, and were so near to the enemy, that it was impossible to use the battery. This being the case, I advanced two guns of Moody's battery some 300 yards into a plowed field, where I could use them. They remained in this position and did good service for about fifteen minutes, under Captain Moody and Lieutenant [John B.] Gorey. This section was exposed to a most galling infantry fire, and retained its position until the infantry on its right and left retired, when I ordered it to the rear. The gallant Lieutenant Gorey was killed, being shot in the head by a Minie-ball as he was sighting his piece for its last discharge. The section with which he was serving was not his own, but, seeing it was going to an exposed position, he asked permission to accompany it. A more gallant officer was not in our service.

Colonel Lee’s report on the beginning of the bloodiest day in American military history revealed that Hood and his Texas Brigade were heavily involved in that conflict.

Source: <http://civilwartalk.com/threads/stephen-d-lee-s-artillery-at-sharpsburg-artillery-hell.74863/>, accessed August 20, 2012.

Editor

***** June Program *****

The Rise of Hood's Texans: Recruitment through Antietam

Those members and guests who attended the June meeting of the CFCWRT were treated to a lively discussion about the men who became Hood's Texans. **Dr. Susannah J. Ural** enthusiastically shared her passion for the men of the Texas Brigade and she presented supporting details that shared stories about the men, their families, and the reasons for their particular views on the events of 1861 – 1862.



Dr. Susannah Ural

Why are so many people interested in the Civil War and especially the men who fought it? What made these men and their families endure severe hardships and separation from their loved ones? Who were these men?

Dr. Ural answered these questions and many others during her presentation about the Texas Brigade and its leaders and soldiers. Susannah related how Robert E. Lee came to love and count on their resolve, how North Carolina General William Dorsey Pender used them as an example to train his own troops, and how Douglas Southall Freeman referred to them as Lee's favorite shock troops. She shared examples of the Texans and how they gained their reputations as "wild and fearless fighters" who were made of "sterner stuff" than many of their contemporaries.

Men such as "Howdy" Martin, Malachiah Reeves, Val. C. Giles, J.B. Polley and other members of the 1st, 4th or 5th Texas Infantry Regiments left written records of their experiences that made fascinating reading. That the Texas Brigade and its members were far from their homes and families and that they had little opportunity for furloughs made their letters and memoirs especially informative. Further information about the Texans who served in the Army of Northern Virginia can be found on the website for Hood's Texas Brigade Association, Re-Activated (<http://www.hoodstexasbrigade.org/>)

Editor

***** **Why They Joined** *****

Malachiah Reeves (1843-1929) was caught up the patriotic fervor of the moment. In 1860 when he was 17 years old, Malachiah attended a subscription school in the Texas community in which he then worked. This was his first formal schooling. The following June, he was again enrolled in a subscription school and was intent on furthering his education. In this classroom setting, the teacher, Mr. McHenry, shared his thoughts about the perceived rights that were being violated by the actions of the Northern states. When a parade of his peers came by the school, Malachiah excitedly answered a call to arms and joined the parade. As had Paul Bäumer in *All Quiet on the Western Front*, Malachiah was destined to learn harsh realities during the next four years.

Malachiah served in Company I, 1st Texas Regiment Infantry, Hood's Brigade. His daughter, Leila Reeves Eades, recorded her father's stories of his service with the Texas Brigade during the Civil War. The following passages were from "Some Memories of a Daughter of the Confederacy" provided by Malachiah's great grandson, Rick Featherston.

I was doing well in my studies. It was a summer session and there were ___ students; in this situation I was getting extra help from the teacher. Then one day in June we were out on the school ground and a group of fire-eating boys came marching across the school yard led by Dr. E. Currie of Alto. He was enlisting every boy who would join into the Confederate Army. We had been listening to our teacher tell of the troubles between the North and the South and were very much in sympathy with our own Southern States; we were ready to go and sign up with Dr. Currie for three years, or the duration.....

As I told you, I joined up in the Confederate cause at the eager, uninformed age of 18 – even as many another boy did – I wanted to follow the others and our leaders in the fight for what we thought were our rights.....

I'm not too sure I knew all the reasons, but I wanted my land free of the taint of accusations put upon it. So, I fought through the years with determination to bring honor to our Southland. With that conviction I willingly fought along with my comrades sometimes terribly disheartened, but never ready to give up.....

Reeves returned to Texas where he farmed, married twice, raised twelve children, continued to further his education, and became an ordained Baptist minister. Malachiah's value on learning was continually shared with his family.

The Civil War story is not a pretty picture story with "all lived happily ever after" – *Little Women* and some of your Grimm's and Anderson Fairy tales are much better for little girls to hear, perhaps – but since you need to know the history of your great country, read well the pages of your books. Real life stories make for better qualities of character for our children than does fiction. You must read our Bible and your school books with zeal to know more of our heritage and see why it is necessary for us to go as far as possible in our striving for education.

Source: Leila Reeves Eades, *M. Reeves and his family: containing the autobiographical sketch written by Rev. Reeves with historical and genealogical addenda which fill out the story of this pioneer farmer-missionary-preacher* [Midland, Texas, 1966]

Source: <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fre22> accessed August 17, 2012.

Editor

******* 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 September 2012 *******

1 – What was the United States Christian Commission? Soon after the start of the Civil War, YMCA leaders became concerned with the religious and spiritual needs of the soldiers in the nearby camps. Vincent Colyer, a member of the New York City YMCA, had begun spending time visiting nearby encampments where soldiers were stationed temporarily on their way to the battle front. Colyer mingled with the soldiers, offered words of encouragement, and handed out religious tracts. Since few camps had chaplains, the chaplaincy then being in its infancy, Colyer's ministrations were welcomed by both the soldiers and their officers. As a result of these activities, and the apparent need to extend them, the New York Association established an "Army Committee" with Colyer as chairman, with its mission to provide preaching services, individual religious visitation, and publications for soldiers. In November, 1861, at the instigation of members of the board of the New York City YMCA, a special convention of fifty delegates representing fifteen YMCAs met in New York. A "Christian Commission" of twelve members was appointed to devise a plan for the Associations to act as a clearinghouse for all religious work in the armed forces. The work of the Commission was organized at the national level. Local Associations were encouraged to support the Commission while maintaining their own activities. Many Associations merged into local branches of the Christian Commission or resolved themselves into army committees in order to facilitate the work of the Commission. The national organization established an office in Philadelphia and the Associations of Baltimore, Boston, Buffalo, Chicago, Louisville, New York, St. Louis, and St. Paul became regional clearinghouses for the various activities channeled through the Commission. George H. Stuart, founder and first president of the Philadelphia Association, and then chairman of the YMCA's Central Committee, was designated as Chairman of the Commission, a post he held throughout the war. The method of operation was the appointment of "delegates" who served on a volunteer basis for terms averaging six weeks.

The general aim of the Commission was "to promote the spiritual and temporal welfare of the soldiers in the army and the sailors in the Navy, in cooperation with the Chaplains." Its early activities included publication of a collection of familiar hymns, bible readings and prayers, devotional meetings in the camps, the organization of a "working Christian force" in every regiment, and aiding and supporting chaplains. Though originally devised to provide spiritual sustenance, the activities of the Commission soon expanded into the physical and social realm, making the Commission a valuable agency of wartime relief. A newspaper report of its first annual meeting described the objects of the organization as, "the promotion of the intellectual, moral and religious welfare of the Army and Navy, by suggesting needful national legislation and administration, securing well-qualified chaplains, encouraging Sabbath observance, promoting temperance, multiplying libraries, reading-rooms, and gymnasiums, and endeavoring to arouse the sentiment of the nation to a sense of its obligations to this class of citizens. Delegates, serving both at the front and behind the lines, established tents as social centers with stationery and periodicals provided, distributed emergency medical supplies, food, and clothing, and operated canteens and lending libraries. A special work of compassion performed by

delegates of the Commission was the assembling of records of those buried from prisons and in certain major battle areas. Prisoner-of-war work, which was to figure more prominently in YMCA war work in later conflicts, also began during the Civil War.

Source: <http://www.nwuscc.org/OldUSCC.html>, accessed August 15, 2012.

2 – What rank did a chaplain, priest or rabbi hold in the Union and Confederate Armies? In the Union Army after October 1864, the War Department awarded chaplains the rank of captain of cavalry. In the Confederate Army, chaplains held no rank, but they received half pay of a first lieutenant.

Source: <http://www.cyberneticlight.com/REDESIGN/Chaplain.htm> , accessed August 17, 2012.

3 – What Northern Congressman objected that chaplains must be “regularly ordained clergyman of some Christian denomination?” **Clement Vallandigham.** The Ohio Democrat urged that the requirement be changed to a “regularly ordained clergyman of some *religious society*” and made a surprisingly impassioned plea to his colleagues: “There is a large body of men in this country, and one growing continually, of the Hebrew faith ... whose adherents are as good citizens and as true patriots as any in the country ... While we are in one sense a Christian people, and yet in another sense not the most Christian people in the world, this is not yet a ‘Christian Government,’ nor a government which has any connection with one form of religion in preference to another form.”

Vallandigham would later lead the Copperheads and became the spokesman for their anti-war sentiments.

Source: <http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2011/12/11/rabbi-chaplains-of-the-civil-war/> , accessed August 17, 2012.

4 – In which battle did Hood’s Texans solidify their reputations as wild and fearless fighters? On June 27, 1862, John Bell Hood led his Texas Brigade against the Union Army’s Fifth Corps of Fitz-John Porter at Gaines Mill. Porter had successfully repulsed Lee’s attacks for five hours before Hood personally led the 4th Texas, with the 18th Georgia supporting, in a bayonet attack against the entrenched Union troops. As the other regiments of Hood’s Brigade joined in the fight, Porter was forced to retreat across the Chickahominy River. Hood’s Texas Brigade gave Robert E. Lee his first victory of the war.

The renowned Stonewall Jackson, who seldom gave praise without good reason, remarked that, “The men who carried this position were soldiers indeed.”

Source: <http://historyengine.richmond.edu/episodes/view/3869> , accessed August 20, 2012.

5 - Who was “Howdy” Martin? **William Harrison Martin** was a lawyer, Confederate officer, and congressman who served in Company K, 4th Texas Infantry. There were several stories concerning “Howdy” Martin and the origination of his nickname. Some said that Martin, on the occasion of seeing Robert E. Lee, stood up in his stirrups and greeted Lee with a big “Howdy!” Other stories reported that Martin never got the hang of saluting but resorted to “Howdy” as his military acknowledgement.

Whatever the source of his moniker, it was Martin who made the request to Jefferson Davis, in Lee’s presence, that the depleted Texas regiments not be merged into other units and thus lose their Texas Brigade identification. Lee added that he had never given the Texans an order to hold a place, that the Texas Brigade did not hold it. Davis granted Howdy’s request.

Source: <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fma62> , accessed August 17, 2012.

6 – At what battle did the 1st Texas Infantry suffer the highest casualty rate for any Confederate regiment during the war? The First Texas Infantry lost 82% of their men killed, wounded and missing while fighting in the Cornfield at Antietam, the highest casualty rate for any Confederate regiment in one battle of the Civil War.

Source: <http://www.nps.gov/anti/historyculture/artty.htm> , accessed August 17, 2012.