

The *RUNNER*

Newsletter of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Editor **Tim Winstead**

Our next meeting will be **Thursday, 13 February** at the **Madeline Suites on the campus of UNCW**. Registration will begin at 6:30, Dinner at 7:00, and Program at 8:00.

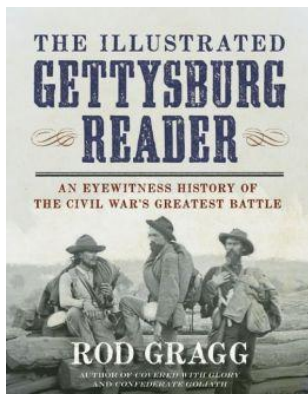
Purchase your ticket and join us at our February dinner meeting. Tickets are \$30 each which includes dinner, the program and a raffle ticket. Raffle items include books, and three prints including a rare Kurz & Allison print (circa 1890) entitled *The Capture of Fort Fisher*. Secure your place at this event by mailing your check to CFCWRT, PO Box 15750, Wilmington, NC 28408 **prior to 3 February** or by contacting Bruce Patterson ([910-794-8905](tel:910-794-8905) or bppatterson@earthlink.net) Guests are most welcome. For additional details, visit www.cfcwrt.com.

******* February Program *******

The Illustrated Gettysburg Reader: An Eyewitness History of the Greatest Civil War Battle

“power, intimacy and poignancy....”
Booklist Magazine

Our **CFCWRT Annual Dinner Meeting** will be held in the Madeline Suites on the campus of UNCW on Thursday evening, **13 February, 2014**. The featured speaker is noted historian and author, **Rod Gragg**. He will discuss his latest work: *The Illustrated Gettysburg Reader: An Eyewitness History of the Greatest Battle of the Civil War*.



The confrontation at Gettysburg was the most important battle of the Civil War. For the Confederacy, success at Gettysburg would yield Southern Independence. For the Union, the battle was an opportunity to fight on Northern soil and destroy the seemingly invincible Army of Northern Virginia. For three days, the battle raged and more men died

during this epic struggle than in any other battle. Rod examined the drama that was Gettysburg as it was documented by its participants – North and South.

Rod Gragg is a former television news director, anchorman and reporter who is the director of the Center for Military Veteran Studies at Coastal Carolina University in Conway, South Carolina. Rod also serves as an adjunct professor of history at that school. As a noted Civil War Historian (*Confederate Goliath, Covered with Glory*), Rod is author of books about the American Revolution (*By the Hand of Providence, Forged in Faith*), the American West (*Lewis and Clark on the Trail of Discovery*), and World War II (*From Foxholes and Flight Decks, Lessons in Leadership from the Greatest Generation*). The winner of numerous literary awards for several of his 19 history books, Rod also hosts a regional television program, “Military Memoirs,” which features interviews with American military veterans.

Rod, his wife, Cindy, and their family reside in Conway, South Carolina.

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, contact Ed Gibson (egibson759@aol.com) before our next meeting. The raffle is one of the components which allow the CFCWRT to fund our activities and our speakers. Please take part in our raffles by contributing items to the raffle or purchasing tickets.

<i>Bloody Ground</i> (Bernie Cornwell)	- Thomas E. Taylor
<i>Avenger Takes His Place</i> (Howard Means)	- Thomas E. Taylor
<i>Gettysburg: Day Three</i> (Jeffrey D. Wert)	- Dale Lear
<i>Women at War</i> (L.P. Brockett)	- Thomas E. Taylor
<i>The Civil War Day by Day</i> (E.B. Long)	- Ed Gibson
<i>The Rock of Chickamauga</i> (Freeman Cleaves)	- John Winecoff

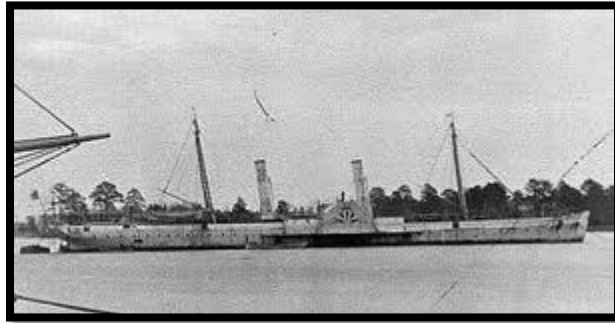
***** Trivia Questions for February *****

1 – A.P. Hill’s Corps arrived at Cashtown, 8 miles west of Gettysburg, on June 29, 1863. On the morning of the 30th, Division commander, Henry Heth, ordered one of his subordinates to take three of his regiments and advance on Gettysburg where the Confederate forces were to collect commissary and quartermaster stores. Who was this Confederate commander?

2 – Two Confederate generals are buried at Arlington National Cemetery. Who were these men?

3 – Per Sam Hood’s research, who was responsible for the failure of the Confederate troops to attack John Schofield’s retreating Union Army at Spring Hill?

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



Robert E. Lee

If you have member news or news about Civil War events that you think would be of interest to CFCWRT membership, send me an email with the details. Thanks.

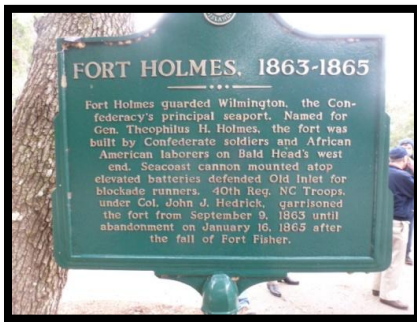
1 - **Dr. Chris E. Fonvielle Jr.** led a tour to Bald Head Island and its, Ft. Holmes, on Jan. 9 on behalf of the BCWRT for the annual **Ed Bearrs** visit to the Cape Fear region. They always try to take Ed somewhere he has never been when they host him as a speaker. I am attaching a picture of a marker that tells the story, if you want to add some history of the area in there.



Ed and Chris

CFCWRT members attending: Linda Lashley, Tom Hodges, John Munroe. Reciprocal members attending were Pat Steele, Charen Fink, Bob Maffitt, Wally Rueckel and, Mike Powell.

Linda Lashley



Fort Holmes



Bald Head Island tour participants

2 – On January 18, several members of the **CFCWRT** and the **North Carolina Military Historical Society – Wilmington Chapter** joined the activities at the 149th Anniversary of the Second Battle for Fort Fisher. These hardy folks, after all it IS January at Fort Fisher, shared information about both the CFCWRT and NCMHS with general public.



(L-to-R) Joe Hack, Dale Lear, John Winecoff, Linda Lashley, Dennis Wrynn, Bruce Patterson, Bob Cooke, and Dan Geddie

The members of the NCMHS man a recruiting and exhibit table that shares the story of the Society's Museum at the former Air Force base north of the Civil War site. Below members show off the latest addition- circa **1950 M1 Garand Rifle** - to the museum's impressive collection of small arms. The museum's collection also includes military gear, books, maps, equipment, etc. that documents North Carolina's military tradition from Pre-Civil War to the current period.



(L-R) Dale Lear, Dan Geddie, John Bolger, Joe Hack, Bob Cooke, John Winecoff, Dennis Wrynn

3 – The Museum of the Confederacy and The American Civil War Center will combine to become **The American Civil War Museum: Confederacy, Union, Freedom**. The American Civil War Museum comprises The Museum and the White House of the Confederacy, The American Civil War Center at Historic Tredegar, and the Museum of the Confederacy – Appomattox. When completed in early 2016, the museum will be located at Historic Tredegar, an 8.9 acre National Historic Landmark. Further details www.moc.org.

4 – The **Brunswick Civil War Round Table** will meet on **Tuesday, February 4th** - registration and refreshments: 6:30pm. Program will begin at 7:00pm. They will meet at the **Trinity Methodist Church**, 209 E. Nash Street..

Gerald Prokopowicz, Associate Professor of History at East Carolina University, will speak about “**Did Lincoln Own Slaves?**”

******* Difference Makers *******

Marcus Joseph Wright

Marcus Joseph Wright, aged 91, who held the rank of Brigadier General in the Confederate Army, died December 26, 1922 at his home in Washington, D.C. He was the author of a number of histories and memoirs of the South. Since 1878 he had been an agent for the War Department for the collection of Confederate military papers.

"He was born at Purdy, Tennessee, and had practiced law in that State. He was one of the foremost writers on the Confederate side of the Civil War, and had contributed fifty sketches of Southern commanders to Appleton's Cyclopedia of American Biography. With General A. L. Long, he prepared "Memoirs of Robert E. Lee," and has written half a dozen other books dealing with United States Military history."

His memorial in Section 16 of Arlington National Cemetery, at the base of the [Confederate Memorial](#), reads:

Marcus Joseph Wright
Cheatham's Brigade

Source: <http://www.arlingtoncemetery.net/mjwright.htm> (Accessed January 19, 2014).

******* February 1864 *******

February 1864 saw the start of what was to become one of the most controversial acts of the American Civil War. General Sherman started what was to eventually be known as his 'March Through Georgia' - though in this case it was a march on a major railway but with the intention of destroying anything that could be of use to the South once his army had moved on.

February 1st: President Lincoln ordered another 500,000 men to be drafted to serve for three years or for the duration of the war.

February 3rd: Life in the Confederacy became more difficult when on this day Jefferson Davis suspended habeas corpus for those accused of spying, desertion or association with the enemy. Such a move increased Davis' unpopularity.

Sherman started his march to destroy the Mobile/Ohio railway. His army consisted of 20,000 men. Sherman had by now decided to destroy as much Southern property as he could. When the war started any deliberate attack on civilians was all but unheard of. Now it was to form a specific part of Sherman's tactics in the South. He believed that by inducing fear and terror, he could bring the war to a swift end. Confronting Sherman's army was a Confederate force that also numbered 20,000. But they were demoralised, poorly equipped and poorly fed.

February 5th: Sherman's army reached Jackson, Mississippi. His final target was Meridian.

February 6th: The South banned the import of all luxury goods.

February 9th: 109 Union officers escaped from Libby Jail in Richmond. It was the largest escape of its kind during the war. 59 made it back to Union lines, 48 were recaptured and 2 men drowned.

February 14th: Sherman's army entered Meridian and started to systematically destroy it. Hotels, hospitals and storehouses (once what was in them was removed) were set alight.

February 16th: The Confederates under General Polk made a half-hearted attempt to confront Sherman. However, Sherman was so confident of success that he left half his men – 10,000 – in Meridian to complete their destructive work.

February 17th: Conscription in the South is extended to all white 17 to 50 year olds. Opposition to this was widespread and included the Confederacy's Vice-President!

February 20th: A Union force of 5,500 men confronted a similar number of Southern troops at Olustee, Florida. The Confederates were successful as the Union troops (many of whom were 'substitutes') turned and fled. Many of the Union troops were armed with the new Spencer rifle and nearly 1,600 of these were left behind.

February 24th: Congress agreed to reinstate the rank of lieutenant general. Grant is given this rank and became the supreme military commander of the army, though still answering to the commander-in-chief – Lincoln. The president also agreed to a plan to compensate farmers to the tune of \$300 for every slave they allowed to go free and who enlisted in the Union Army.

Jefferson Davis appointed his friend, General Bragg, to have full control of all the South's military operations. Many senior Confederate officers expressed their opposition to this appointment.

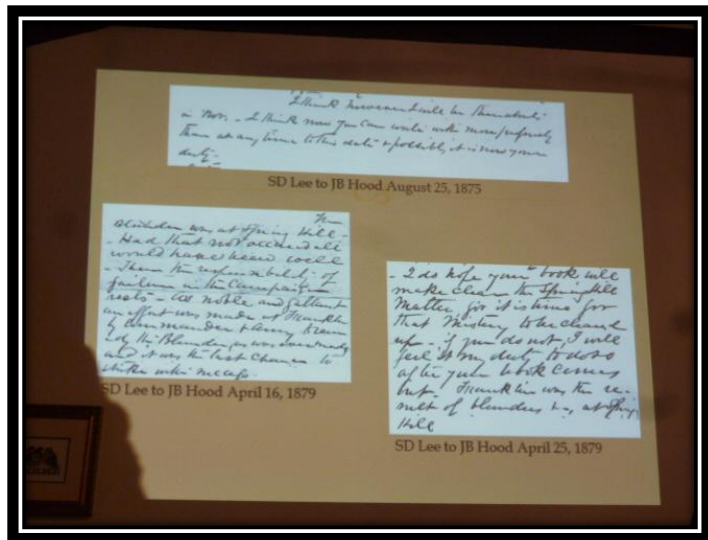
February 27th: Union prisoners started to arrive at the stockade at Andersonville, Georgia. Conditions and treatment there meant that by the end of the war, this prison was to have a notorious reputation.

February 28th: The North launched a cavalry attack against Richmond. The idea was to free Union prisoners held at Belle Isle and race back to Union lines. Lincoln considered that such a raid would have enormous propaganda value if it succeeded. It was to go wrong from the start.

Source: <http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/february-1864-civil-war.htm> (accessed December 12, 2013).

***** January Program *****

John Bell Hood: The Rise, Fall, and Resurrection of a Confederate General



Stephen M. “Sam” Hood shared a most interesting presentation about the research he did in preparation for his recent book about General John Bell Hood. Part of this research involved verifying the multiple sources that had been used by several historians in their treatment of General Hood. Sam reached somewhat different conclusions than some previous writers. Up front, Sam told the audience that being a distant relative of General Hood made his research more personal and more diligent in tracking perceptions to their core sources.

Sam was most enthusiastic when he recounted the first examination of General Hood’s personal papers that had been saved – and kept private - by one of Hood’s children. Letters, commissions, and other artifacts revealed information that General Hood had collected during

and after the war. Several of these documents shed a different light on events during the Atlanta Campaign and the invasion of Tennessee.

Sam shared many of his findings with our members; however, I hoped that his presentation whetted your appetites to learn more about a man who maybe was not “the most destructive American of all time” nor “All Lion and no Fox.” *John Bell Hood: The Rise, Fall, and Resurrection of a Confederate General* changed many perceptions I had held about General Hood and his place in Civil War history.

Editor

******* Winter Wanderings III *******

February and the final month of our local Winter Wanderings.

My selection this month is not all that local BUT is an absolute “must see” for any Civil War historian. The **Mariners’ Museum** (America’s National Maritime Museum) is home to 500 years of Seafaring Adventure but it is its Civil War exhibit AND the USS Monitor Center that makes the trip to Newport News, VA worth your time and effort.

Your trip from Wilmington to Newport News will take just under five hours (via I-40, I-795, I-95 and I-64) but please leave yourself not less than two hours to visit the museum.

The Civil War section of the museum properly devotes significant space to the Federal Blockade, to Blockade Runners and the importance of Wilmington to the Southern war effort. It is Monitor exhibit however that makes your visit memorable.

A full-scale replica of the USS Monitor is moored outside the exhibit. You are invited on board and this visitor was amazed at the size of that first iron clad. Back inside, you visit the carpentry shop of the shipwrights as they convert the USS Merrimack into the CSS Virginia. Appealing to all senses, you can hear the action, see the effort and smell the freshly hewn oak planks as they form the new hull.

Leaving the CSS Virginia you then visit several exhibits that are, in fact, full scale replicas of the Monitors interior. Amazed? You bet, particularly at the furnishing used in the officers’ quarters, at the completeness of the galley and at the raw power of the cannons on the cannon deck.

Finally, as you leave the replicas behind, you then view the remains of the recovered hull, cannon, turret and steam engines as they remain in the climate controlled salt water tanks, much the same as is the hull of the CSS Hunley (Charleston, SC).

The quick way home is to retrace your path on the Interstates but should you want to enhance your historical experience, take US 17 South as it parallels the Chesapeake-Elizabeth City Canal, though (little) Washington and New Bern and finally to Market Street in our own Port City.

***** Trivia Questions for February *****

1 – A.P. Hill’s Corps arrived at Cashtown, 8 miles west of Gettysburg, on June 29, 1863. On the morning of the 30th, Division commander, Henry Heth, ordered one of his subordinates to take three of his regiments and advance on Gettysburg where the Confederate forces were to collect commissary and quartermaster stores. Who was this Confederate commander? North Carolinian **James Johnston Pettigrew** was ordered to Gettysburg to drive away the home guard and collect the needed supplies. In the unlikely event, he encountered any organized troops or elements of the Army of the Potomac, he was to disengage and not bring on a fight.

While on the way to Gettysburg, Pettigrew met Henry Thomas Harrison (Longstreet’s spy). Harrison informed Pettigrew that 3,000 Union cavalry commanded by Brigadier General John Buford was in possession of the town. Pettigrew shared this information with Heth (and Hill). Following his orders, Pettigrew led his men back toward Cashtown.

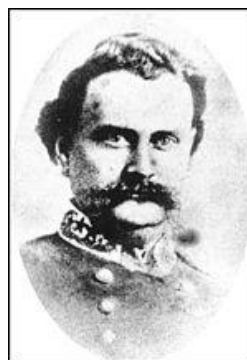
Heth reported to Lee that Pettigrew had not been willing to “hazard an attack.” Heth and Hill failed to believe what Pettigrew had seen; hence, against Lee’s orders to NOT bring on an engagement, the greatest battle of the Civil War began with its commanders blind to what was about to transpire.

Source: Rod Gragg, *Eyewitness to Gettysburg: The Biggest Battle of the Civil War – As Told by Those Who Fought It* [Washington, DC: Regnery History, 2013], 56-60.

2 – Two Confederate generals are buried at Arlington National Cemetery. Who were these men? **Joseph Wheeler** and **Marcus Joseph Wright**. Both of these men made a contribution to the United States Army after the Civil War. “Fighting Joe” Wheeler served as a Major General of Volunteers during the Spanish-American War. Supposedly during an attack on Spanish troops during that war, Wheeler uttered, “We’ve got the Yankees on the run.” Marcus Wright was employed by the War Department for over 30 years as the collector of Confederate documents used in the Official Records.



Joseph Wheeler



Marcus Wright

Source: <http://www.civilwarhome.com/wheelerbio.htm> , <http://www.arlingtoncemetery.net/mjwright.htm> (accessed January 8 & 20, 2014).

3 – Per Sam Hood’s research, who was responsible for the failure of the Confederate troops to attack John Schofield’s retreating Union Army at Spring Hill? Frank Cheatham was given Hood’s orders to block the road at Spring Hill by members of Hood’s staff. Cheatham was opposed to a night attack and apparently Patrick Cleburne agreed with Cheatham. The failure to cut-off Schofield’s escape resulted in the Battle of Franklin.

From Sam Hood’s notes:

In my new book "John Bell Hood: The Rise, Fall, and Resurrection of a Confederate General" I release the contents of two letters among the cache of the newly discovered personal papers of Hood. One letter from Major WW Old identified Frank Cheatham as having intentionally disobeyed Hood's orders to attack at Spring Hill because he disapproved night attacks. This letter corroborates previously known similar letters from Major Joseph Cumming and Major James Ratchford. Another letter from SD Lee to Hood, also previously unknown, states that AP Stewart also identified Cheatham as disobeying Hood's orders, because he didn't approve of night attacks.

AP Stewart also stated that Patrick Cleburne concurred with Cheatham, and upon learning of Schofield's escape the next morning, felt personal remorse and responsibility, and "in that feeling" lost his life at Franklin. This explains Cleburne's purportedly anomalous behavior at Franklin.

This information is not my interpretation or opinion, but the words of Major William W Old and Gen. AP Stewart. Unless these officers (and Cumming and Ratchford) are not to be believed, this should close the book on who was responsible for the Confederate failure at Spring Hill.

In yet another letter, SD Lee wrote to Hood, explaining that when Cheatham (not Hood) ordered Ed Johnson's division's night attack at Franklin to support William Bate, they were ordered not to fire until they reached the works for fear of hitting Bate's men. Johnson's men held their fire, were decimated, but upon arrival at the front, found Bate's division was gone. Lee stated that Bate was not there, "nor were many of his dead." Lee further said that he looked for Bate's division during the evening but could not find them, nor Bate himself. Lee asked Hood how Bate's casualties compared to the other divisions. I don't know if Hood provided the information to Lee, but records indeed reveal that Bate's division suffered the lowest casualties of the six Confederate divisions involved in the initial attack, and much lower casualties than Johnson's division.

Source: <http://www.civilwarinteractive.com/forums/forum36/3388.html> (Accessed January 19, 2014).