

## The *RUNNER*

### Newsletter of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Editor **Tim Winstead**

\*\*\*\*\* September 2013 \*\*\*\*\*

Our next meeting will be **Thursday, 12 September** 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 begin our 2013 – 2014 Program Year with our September meeting. Visitors are always welcome – ***bring a friend or two***. Each of our speakers strives to enlighten, entertain, and add to our knowledge of Civil War history. This serves our mission of encouraging education and research into that historic conflict

Led by President Bob Cooke, the Steering Committee has worked to ensure that the programs for 2013-2014 accomplish our mission. Included among our speakers were a diverse group: **Cathy Wright** – Curator, Museum of the Confederacy, **Andrew Dupstadt** – Assistant Curator of Education for the North Carolina Division of State Historic Sites, **Jeff Bockert** – East Region Supervisor for the North Carolina Division of State Historic Sites, **Becky Sawyer** – Historic Site Interpreter at Fort Fisher, **Rod Gragg** – historian, teacher and author of numerous books including *Confederate Goliath and Covered with Glory, etc.*, **Peter Cozzens** – historian, retired Foreign Service Officer, U.S. State Department and prolific author – *Shenandoah 1862: Stonewall Jackson's Valley Campaign, This Terrible Sound: The Battle of Chickamauga, etc.*, **Rick Eiserman** – historian, retired Lieutenant Colonel U.S. Army who taught at Army Command and General Staff College and the Army War College, and **Dr. Chris Fonvielle** – past President of the CFCWRT, historian, teacher, and author/promoter of the Cape Fear's history – *The Wilmington Campaign: Last Rays of Departing Hope, Fort Anderson: Battle for Wilmington, etc.*

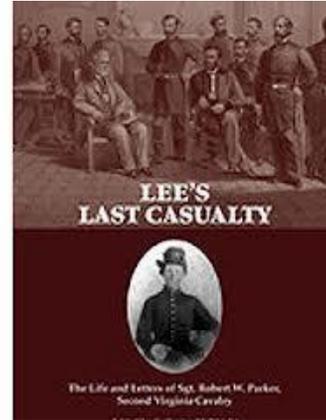
\*\*\*\*\* September Program \*\*\*\*\*

#### **Lee's Last Casualty: The Life and Letters of Sgt. Robert W. Parker, Second Virginia Cavalry**

Join us on September 12, 2013 when **Catherine Wright, Curator at the Museum of the Confederacy** in Richmond, will present the Civil War experiences of a Virginia cavalryman who served throughout the four years of this conflict.

The letters of Sgt. Robert W. Parker, 2<sup>nd</sup> Virginia Cavalry, provide a window into the daily life of an enlisted cavalryman, as well as highlight the unique story of the soldier believed to be the last man killed in action in the Army of Northern Virginia. In many ways, Parker was representative of the average Confederate soldier: a modest farmer in the antebellum years, his patriotic fervor spurred him at the beginning of the war to enlist

in the Confederate cavalry. His letters reveal how home front and battlefield were closely intertwined, and the importance of correspondence in sustaining that connection and the will to fight. The role of the cavalry and Parker's tragic death are also highlighted in the program.



**Catherine M. Wright** was born in Kansas City, Missouri, and grew up there and in Norfolk, Virginia. She received bachelor's degrees in English and History from Truman State University (2003), and a master's degree in American History with a concentration in museum studies from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro (2006). She is the editor of *Lee's Last Casualty: The Life and Letters of Sgt. Robert W. Parker, Second Virginia Cavalry*

(University of Tennessee Press, 2008) and is a contributing historian to the online *Encyclopedia of Virginia*. Various national media outlets have interviewed her, including NPR and CNN, and she has appeared on the PBS program "History Detectives" and twice on the Travel Channel program "Mysteries at the Museum". She was formerly the curator at the Stonewall Jackson House in Lexington, VA.

**Editor**

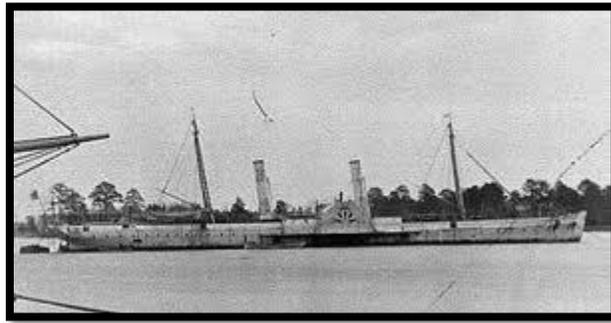
**\*\*\*\*\* Trivia Questions for September \*\*\*\*\***

- 1 – What was and is the goal of the Museum of the Confederacy?**
- 2 - Among the 550 flags in the Museum of the Confederacy collection, which one last flew over a Confederate unit?**
- 3 – Who was known as “Old Steadfast?”**
- 4 – What Union officer made a visit to Fort Anderson before the fall of the fort to Union troops?**

5 – What was the U.S.S. *Old Bogey* and what role did it play in the battle for Fort Anderson?

6 - Fort Anderson's garrison flag was at the center of a fascination series of events. What were those events?

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



*Robert E. Lee*

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

1 – Welcome to the 2013 – 2014 Program year of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table. If you made any visits to Civil War sites that you think other members would enjoy hearing about, please send me the particulars and I will share with our membership.

2 – **Lance Bevins** and **Tim Winstead** joined **Hood's Texas Brigade Association Re-Activated (HTBAR)** tour of South Mountain, Sharpsburg, and Gettysburg in early June. The tour traced the actions of the Texas Brigade during these battles. Tour guides and speakers included knowledgeable and enthusiastic individuals: **Dr. Tom Clemens, Rick Eiserman, Dale Gallon, Martha Hartzog, Stephen M. (Sam) Hood, Wayne Motts,** and **Jeff Werts.**

3 – Our Round Table is not the only one beginning their 2013-2014 Program Year during September. Our friends at the **Brunswick Civil War Round Table** begin their year on Tuesday, **September 3<sup>rd</sup>** at 6:30pm. They meet at the Trinity United Methodist Church, 209 E. Nash Street, Southport.

**Dr. Brian S. Wills** will make a presentation about Union General George Henry Thomas: “**The Rock of Chickamauga.**”

4 – **North Carolina Civil War Symposium, September 14-15**, Smithfield and Bentonville State Historic Site. Great speakers – for additional information: [www.fobb.net](http://www.fobb.net) or call 910-594-0789.

\*\*\*\*\* **Difference Makers** \*\*\*\*\*

As the war entered into its third year, many men, Confederate and Union, had been stigmatized for less than stellar achievement both on the fields of battle and in the leadership of the men under their command. These men had been removed from command, shunted to less important locations, returned to political office, or been removed from the army. A few others had begun to be perceived as men who could be counted on as battlefield commanders and leaders – these men were those who made a difference – a positive difference. One of these “difference makers” was **Union Brigadier General John Buford, Jr.**



**John Buford, Jr.** was born in Woodford County, Kentucky on March 4, 1826 to John and Anne Bannister Howe Watson Buford. His family was a large one for both parents had previously been married; hence, John had two brothers and thirteen half-brothers and half-sisters. His grandfather, Simeon Buford, had served under “Light Horse Harry” Lee during the

American Revolution. Simeon Buford had also married into the Early family of Culpepper County, Virginia. John Buford and Jubal Early were fourth cousins who would fight on opposite sides during the Civil War.

In 1835 following Anne Buford’s death during a cholera epidemic, the Buford family moved to Rock Island, Illinois. John’s father became a successful businessman and politician. It was in Illinois where Buford acquired the skills that would stand him well in later years – horsemanship, marksmanship, and a calm and composed manner.

John decided on a career path taken by an older half-brother, Napoleon Bonaparte Buford, who had been an 1827 West Point graduate. John attended college in Cincinnati and Galesburg, Illinois prior to being accepted into West Point in 1844. He graduated 16<sup>th</sup> in a class of 38. John was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the First Dragoons and later joined the Second Dragoons. He remained in the army and

served in Indian wars, in Bloody Kansas, and in the Mormon Expedition in 1857. Buford won praise from several of his commanding officers and made many acquaintances of officers who would have future impacts on Buford's career.

Buford was on service in Utah when the news of Fort Sumter was received. As a Kentucky native, Buford was conflicted between duty to Kentucky and the government he had served since he graduated from West Point. When a message from the Governor of Kentucky arrived in Utah, Buford was offered a post with that government. Buford related to his friend and future Union General, John Gibbon, that his reply had been, "I sent him word I was a captain in the United States Army and I intended to remain one."

Buford initially served as a major in the inspector general's office until pre-war friend, John Pope, promoted Buford to brigadier general of cavalry in Pope's Army of Virginia. Buford was one of the few Union officers who served with distinction during the Second Manassas Campaign. Buford's personal leadership at Lewis Ford gained Pope time to escape from Lee's determined efforts to destroy Pope's Army.

Wounded at Lewis Ford, Buford served in mainly administrative positions under McClellan and Burnside. It was only after Joe Hooker assumed command of the Army of Potomac that Buford again returned to field command of the Reserve Brigade, 1<sup>st</sup> Division, Cavalry Corps. Buford took part in the failed Stoneman's Raid during the Chancellorsville Campaign; however, Buford performed well in his service. Hooker relieved Stoneman and considered Buford as overall cavalry command; however, the more ongoing Alfred

Pleasanton was chosen over the competent but quiet-natured Buford.

At Brady Station on June 9, 1863. Buford commanded Pleasanton's right wing during the attack on J.E.B. Stuart's Confederate forces. Buford and his men drove the Confederates until Pleasanton ordered the Union forces back into their own lines. Stuart and his Confederate cavalry were dealt a serious blow to their feelings of superiority over their foe - the Union cavalry had given as good as it had received. The action at Brandy Station was to have serious implications for the coming Confederate offensive.

John Buford gave even more reliable service and gained lasting fame for his actions at Gettysburg. It was Buford who recognized the importance of the high ground south of the town. It was Buford who dismounted his men and delayed Henry Heth's infantry until John Reynold's men arrived on the field to challenge the Confederate advance. Buford's decision to use his smaller cavalry unit to block the larger Confederate force changed the course of the Civil War.

Buford took an active part in the pursuit of Lee's army as it returned to Virginia. He remained in the field through the Bristoe and Mine Run campaigns in late summer and fall of 1863. The demands of continued campaigning weighed heavy on Buford's health. In November, Buford contracted a severe case of typhoid and he was forced to leave his command.

Buford went to Washington where he stayed at the home of his former commander, George Stoneman. As Buford's health worsened, Stoneman appealed to President Lincoln for Buford's promotion to major general. Lincoln approved this request; unfortunately, this

was a deathbed promotion for John Buford died around 2:00 PM on December 16, 1863. He was 37 years old.

John Buford was not the gaudy showman as was George Armstrong Custer,

nor was he like the blustery commander, Hugh Judson Kilpatrick. Buford was a quiet man, a reliable man, a man who sought neither fame nor glory – John Buford was a difference maker.

### Editor

Source: <http://www.gdg.org/Research/People/Buford/bufbio.html>,  
<http://militaryhistory.about.com/od/americancivilwar/p/john-buford.htm>,  
<http://www.gdg.org/Research/People/Buford/wittidx.html> (accessed May 13, 2013).

### \*\*\*\*\* September 1863 \*\*\*\*\*

The Battle of Chickamauga was fought in September 1863. The battle was bad for the North in terms of men lost but they could recover from this. For the South, a 25% loss of manpower at Chickamauga was a disaster. September 1863 also saw the North specifically target Chattanooga.

September 1<sup>st</sup>: Six more Union gun ships sailed into Charleston Harbour to assist with the attack on the city.

September 2<sup>nd</sup>: Union forces captured Knoxville, Tennessee. This cut in half the railroad from Chattanooga to Virginia and meant that the South would have to supply its men in Virginia via railways through Atlanta.

September 4<sup>th</sup>: General Grant was injured falling from his horse. Observers claimed that it was because he was drunk – possibly with some justification. Allegations of drunkenness were to follow Grant for many years.

September 5<sup>th</sup>: An infantry assault on Battery Wagner started after the “sub-surface torpedo mines” had been cleared. General Rosecrans started his attack on Chattanooga. The British government seized two ironclads being built for the South in Liverpool after strenuous pressure from Washington DC.

September 6<sup>th</sup>: Chattanooga was evacuated on the orders of General Bragg.

September 7<sup>th</sup>: A full-scale infantry assault on Battery Wagner was planned for 09.00. However, by this time the battery had been evacuated.

September 9<sup>th</sup>: President Davis ordered 12,000 troops to Chattanooga, as he believed that the city could not be allowed to fall. They were to come from Lee’s Army of Northern Virginia.

September 10<sup>th</sup>: The South’s commander at Chattanooga, Bragg, ordered an attack on the Union forces as they approached the city. However, he was unaware of the size of

Rosecrans force or where they all were. The dense forests that surrounded the city hid many Union soldiers. Bragg chose not to use trained scouts. He used his own cavalry for reconnaissance and they failed to spot that the Union army approaching Chattanooga had split into three.

September 12<sup>th</sup>: General Polk was ordered by Bragg to attack the Union's known positions. Polk refused to do so. No one accused Polk of cowardice, as he had a reputation for enjoying battle, such was his fiery temperament. What stopped Polk was his lack of information – he did not know the size of the army he was meant to attack. Polk also knew from past experience that Bragg was rarely keen to gather as much intelligence as was possible. Even Bragg did not know the whereabouts of the main force of Union troops and his subordinate generals started to think that he was bewildered by what was going on around Chattanooga. It did not help matters that Bragg pointed the finger of blame at everyone except himself.

September 13<sup>th</sup>: Bragg was informed by officers on the ground that Rosecrans force was scattered and any one section was open to a concerted attack. Bragg refused to accept this and planned for an attack against a sizeable and concentrated enemy. If he had followed the information given to him by his subordinates, the outcome of the battle to come may have been different. As it was, Bragg's indecision allowed Rosecrans the time to move his XX Corps commanded by General McCook to the frontline. XX Corps was the furthest away of Rosecrans army. McCook's men had to march 57 miles to reach where the bulk of Rosecrans force was.

September 15<sup>th</sup>: Bragg planned for an attack on September 18<sup>th</sup>. However, chaotic communications within the Confederate camp meant that there were delays in getting this information to the generals in the field.

September 17<sup>th</sup>: Rosecrans correctly guessed what Bragg planned to do. He moved his units accordingly. The move took place at night to ensure that they were not seen.

September 18<sup>th</sup>: Bragg issued his orders to attack. With the additional men, he had an army that had numerical supremacy over Rosecrans – 75,000 troops against 57,000.

September 19<sup>th</sup>: Neither side had made any ground against the other. Just before midnight both Rosecrans and Bragg met with their junior generals to discuss the battle.

September 20<sup>th</sup>: The battle recommenced at Chickamauga. On this day Ben Hardin Helm was killed fighting for the South. He was brother-in-law to President Lincoln's wife. A major misinterpretation of orders sent by Rosecrans left the Union's middle front line exposed to attack after the men who had been there were moved to the Union's left flank – not what Rosecrans had wanted. The attack duly came when three Southern divisions attacked and inflicted major casualties on the Union forces in front of them. The senior Union commander in the field, Major-General Thomas stopped the rout from becoming a disaster by a valiant and well coordinated rear guard action that earned him the nickname "The Rock of Chickamauga". The battle cost the Union 1,656 dead, 9,749 wounded and

4774 captured – 28% of Rosecrans’ total force. The South lost 2,389 killed, 13,412 wounded and 2,003 missing – 24% of the Army of Tennessee’s total.

September 21<sup>st</sup>: Union forces headed for Chattanooga. Observer’s for Bragg sent him word that Rosecrans Army of the Cumberland was disorganised and scattered and that a robust chase could destroy what was left. Brigadier-General Nathan Bedford Forrest wrote to Bragg “every hour (lost) is worth a thousand men”. Bragg did not seem to fully comprehend the magnitude of the South’s victory. Some elements of the Confederate Army did attempt a follow up but it was piecemeal and Rosecrans was let off of the hook.

September 22<sup>nd</sup>: Rosecrans informed President Lincoln about the scale of his defeat. Lincoln had put a great deal on capturing Chattanooga and viewed Rosecrans’ failure as a bitter blow.

September 23<sup>rd</sup>: Rosecrans informed Lincoln that he could hold Chattanooga unless he had to face a much superior force in terms of numbers.

September 24<sup>th</sup>: Lincoln, believing that Chattanooga had to be held, ordered that 20,000 extra men should be sent there. However, supplying Rosecrans would be problematic, as Bragg had captured Lookout Valley cutting in half the Union’s supply line.

September 25<sup>th</sup>: Lincoln described Rosecrans as “confused and stunned like a duck hit on the head”. 20,000 Union troops started their journey to support Rosecrans.

September 28<sup>th</sup>: Rosecrans brought charges against some of his commanders - Generals McCook and Crittenden. Both were ordered to face a court of inquiry. Conditions in Chattanooga were becoming worse as food was in short supply.

September 29<sup>th</sup>: General U Grant was ordered to direct towards Chattanooga as many men as he could spare. Grant had pre-empted this command and sent a force led by Sherman.

Source: <http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/september-1863-civil-war.htm> (accessed April 28, 2013).

#### \*\*\*\*\* May Program \*\*\*\*\*

### Fort Anderson: Then and Now

On May 9th, **Jim McKee**, provided a description of Fort Anderson as it has evolved into a premier site to reflect the art of Civil War military engineering.

In 1862, General Samuel G. French decided a fortification at the Brunswick Town site would make a valuable addition to the defenses along the Cape Fear River. Major Thomas

Rowland was placed in charge of the construction of an earth fortification on the site of the ruins of the St. Phillips Church. Rowland began construction on March 24, 1862 and he called the fortification Fort St. Phillips. Battery

A ran parallel to the river and Battery B ran perpendicular to the river. The ordinance at the fort consisted of rifled 32 pounders, smoothbore 32 pounders, smoothbore 24 pounders, and Whitworth breech loading guns. The fort was enlarged and extended westward under the command of Major William Lamb and Major John J. Hedrick.



The preservation of the Civil War site was begun in 1958 when archeological efforts began to uncover the secrets of the Brunswick Town site. Clearing of the virtual jungle that encompassed the site revealed that the colonial site had also been occupied by a Civil War fortification. Stanley South led those early archeological efforts at the site where both colonial and Civil War era artifacts were discovered.

Ed Bearss was an early visitor to the site in 1962 – His interest in the fort and its history has led him back to this historical site on numerous occasions. Ed’s most recent visit came in January 2013.



Members, Connie Hendrix and Linda Lashley, took advantage of a January tour of the site led by Jim McKee, Chris Fonvielle and Ed Bearss.

Archeological efforts continue until the present. Recent work by Jim and others reveal that powder stored in magazines built into the fort’s walls may still be potent. Efforts continue to learn more about the fort, its garrison, and its part in the lore and history of the Cape Fear.

**Linda Lashley**

**\*\*\*\*\* Trivia Questions for September \*\*\*\*\***

**1 – What was and is the goal of the Museum of the Confederacy? Education.** The exhibits, past and present, were designed to further understanding of not only the Confederate nation but all aspects of Southern life. Students from 8 to 80, 50 states, and 73 countries have enjoyed and learned from materials at the MOC. The original museum was located in Richmond and an Appomattox location was opened in 2012.

The Museum of the Confederacy maintains the world’s most comprehensive collections of **artifacts, manuscripts, and photographs** from the Confederate States of America. While the Museum is best known for its military collections, it also holds significant collections

of domestic objects and decorative arts, personal papers and diaries, postwar memorial period materials and museum archives. The object collections total approximately 15,000 items. Among these are:



- 1,500 decorative arts objects featuring rococo revival-style furniture from the Confederate White House;
- 1,000 memorial period artifacts including badges and ribbons from postwar veterans Confederate Uniforms reunions and souvenirs of monument dedications throughout the South;
- 550 flags, including non-regulation oil-painted silk flags and government issue national colors;
- 300 edged weapons and 177 firearms representing Southern wartime manufacture and European imports;
- 215 uniforms including prewar militia uniforms, plantation-made garments, late-war issues from the CSA's Richmond depot and the uniforms of well-known officers;
- 3,000 military accoutrements and 1,000 military buttons;
- 150 paintings featuring a series of 31 oil-on-board paintings of Charleston Harbor by Conrad Wise Chapman, E.B.D. Julio's heroic painting, "The Last Meeting of Lee and Jackson," and wartime paintings by William D. Washington;
- 25 sculptures including busts of Jefferson Davis and "Stonewall" Jackson by Frederick Volck and work by Moses Ezekiel; and
- 5,000 domestic items featuring wartime "ersatz" goods such as plantation wooden shoes and homemade soap, slave-woven coverlets and baskets, and articles associated with the employment of women in government bureau.

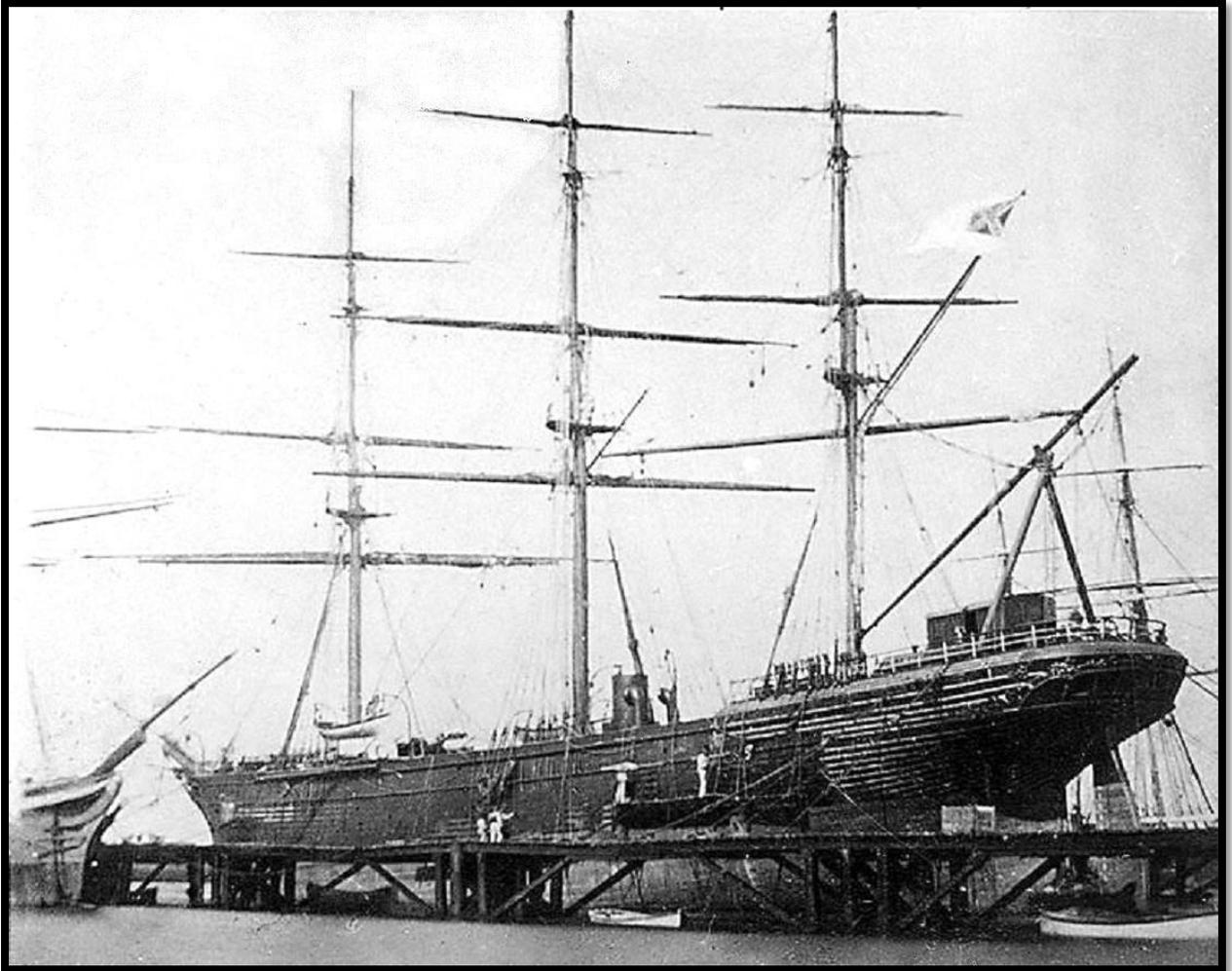


The Museum of the Confederacy fulfills its mission by collecting, displaying and preserving historic objects associated with the Confederate States of America including military and civilian items related to the

secession of Southern States and the subsequent war; post-war activities of Confederate veterans organizations; the White House of the Confederacy; the Confederate Memorial Literary Society (CMLS); other Confederate memorial and descendants organizations; and social, cultural and political history of the Confederate States of America. The Museum has continued to build its world-class collection through generous donations from people who wish to have their Confederate objects, photographs, and documents preserved and displayed for posterity.

Source: <http://www.moc.org/collections-archives/collections> (accessed May 15, 2013).

**2 - Among the 550 flags in the Museum of the Confederacy collection, which one last flew over a Confederate unit?** The flag of the C.S.S. *Shenandoah*. James Iredell Waddell commanded the *Shenandoah* and turned her over to the British Navy at Liverpool in November 1865.



The C.S.S. *Shenandoah* being repaired at Williamstown, at the mouth of the Yarra River near Melbourne in Victoria, Australia in February 1865. Since, many fine Royal Australian Navy Warships have been built close to this site.

**3 – Who was known as “Old Steadfast?”** Major General John Buford, Jr.

**4 – What Union officer made a visit to Fort Anderson before the fall of the fort to Union troops?** Lt. Comdr. William B. Cushing came ashore on February 11, 1865 and heard speeches given by Confederate officers to boost the morale of their troops.

When you visit Fort Anderson, ask Jim McKee or other staff to show you the location of Cushing Cove.

**5 – What was the U.S.S. *Old Bogey* and what role did it play in the battle for Fort Anderson?**

William Baker Cushing suggested that a “fake” monitor be used against Fort Anderson’s torpedo defenses. Cushing hoped the Confederates would mistake the fake for the U.S.S. *Montauk* and detonate their torpedoes in an attempt to destroy the ironclad.

How successful was *Old Bogey*? According to the Union Navy, especially Admiral Porter and Cushing, the fake was a resounding success. Cushing related the story to President Lincoln when Cushing was in Washington on February 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Source: Chris E. Fonvielle, Jr., *The Wilmington Campaign: Last Rays of Departing Hope* (Campbell, California: Savas Publishing Company, 1997), 375 – 376.

**6 - Fort Anderson’s garrison flag was at the center of a fascination series of events. What were those events?** Soldiers of the 140th Indiana entered Fort Anderson as the last Confederate troops made their escape toward Wilmington. The Federals took possession of the flag as it lay on the ground having fallen off a hastily departing wagon. This flag was later presented to Indiana Governor Oliver P. Morton in a ceremony in Washington, DC on March 17, 1865.



In attendance at this flag ceremony, was President Lincoln. Lincoln had changed his plans to attend a play at a hospital located near his summer cottage. His change of plans foiled a kidnapping attempt planned by conspirators led by John Wilkes Booth.

The rest of the story is history.

Visit Fort Anderson and view the garrison flag. Through the efforts of Dr. Chris Fonvielle and the donations of many individuals, the garrison flag was returned to its rightful home.

Source: Chris E. Fonvielle, Jr., *The Wilmington Campaign: Last Rays of Departing Hope* (Campbell, California: Savas Publishing Company, 1997), 379, <http://historiccamdencounty.com/ccnews142.shtml> (accessed May 23, 2013), <http://civilwarexperience.ncdcr.gov/brunswic/narrative-anderson3.htm> (accessed May 23, 2013).