

The Runner



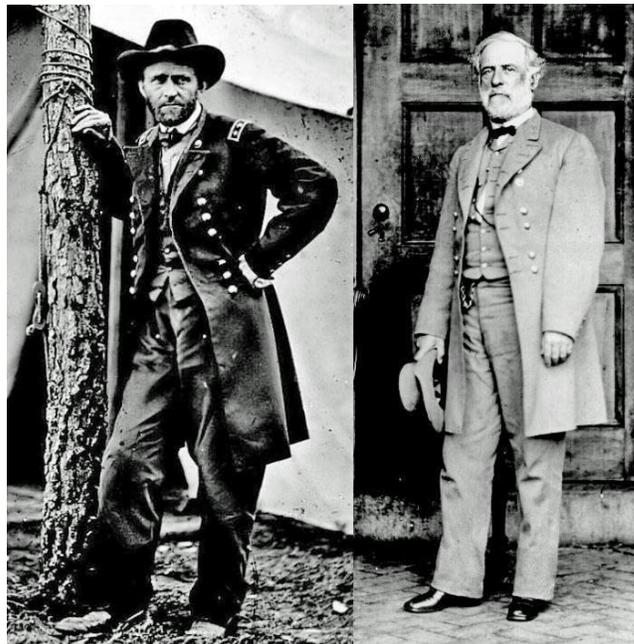
Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Our next meeting will be held on **Thursday, 9 April 2015** at St. Andrew's On-the-Sound Episcopal Church (101 Airline Road). Social Hour begins at 7:00 p.m. (with light refreshments), meeting at 7:30.

Please join us at our April 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.

******* April 2015 Program *******

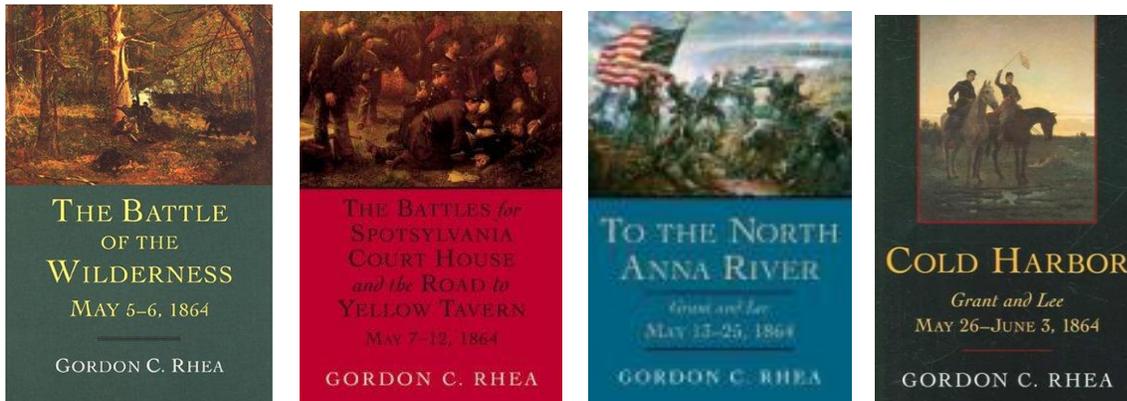
The Overland Campaign: Grant and Lee



Gordon C. Rhea will discuss the generalship of Grant and Lee during the battles of May and June 1864. Rhea will examine the battles at The Wilderness, Spotsylvania Court House, the North Anna River, and Cold Harbor. Grant and Lee will be pitted against one another for the first time during the war. Rhea will follow the generals as they match wits

for forty days of combat that will result in 55,000 Union and 35,000 Confederate casualties.

Gordon Rhea is a skilled litigator who is also a noted Civil War historian. His books about the Overland Campaign are the standard for the history of those conflicts.



Gordon Rhea explains his fascination with the Civil War and his particular interest in the Overland Campaign:

I developed an interest in the Civil War when I was a child. My father was born in 1901, in a small town in southern Tennessee, and the old men sitting around the country store were Confederate veterans. He grew up listening to their stories and passed that interest along to me. When I was growing up, we used to take family trips to places like Gettysburg and Chancellorsville. My father was also an avid reader, and I can recall him reading passages from Freeman’s Lee’s Lieutenants to me in the evening, before putting me to bed. I majored in history as an undergraduate, and also earned a Master’s Degree in history. When I was working with the United States Attorneys Office in Washington, D.C., in the mid-1970’s, I would often drive down to the Wilderness to take my mind off of my cases. That is when I developed an interest in the initial battles between Grant and Lee. I discovered that very little had been written about those battles — judging from the books I could find, the civil war seemed to have culminated at Gettysburg, then ended in the spring of 1865. What happened in between those events had engaged the attention of very few writers. So that is how I got the idea of writing my first book, on the Battle of the Wilderness.

Source: <https://toappomattox.wordpress.com/2011/10/05/interview-with-historian-and-historical-adviser-gordon-c-rhea/> (accessed March 23, 2015).

Editor

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

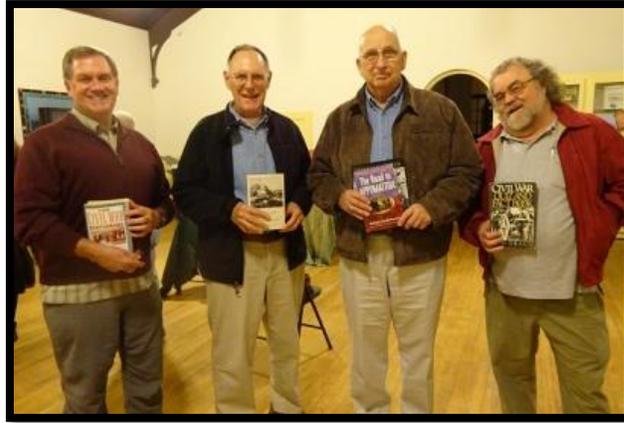
Raffle Master: Ed Gibson

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.

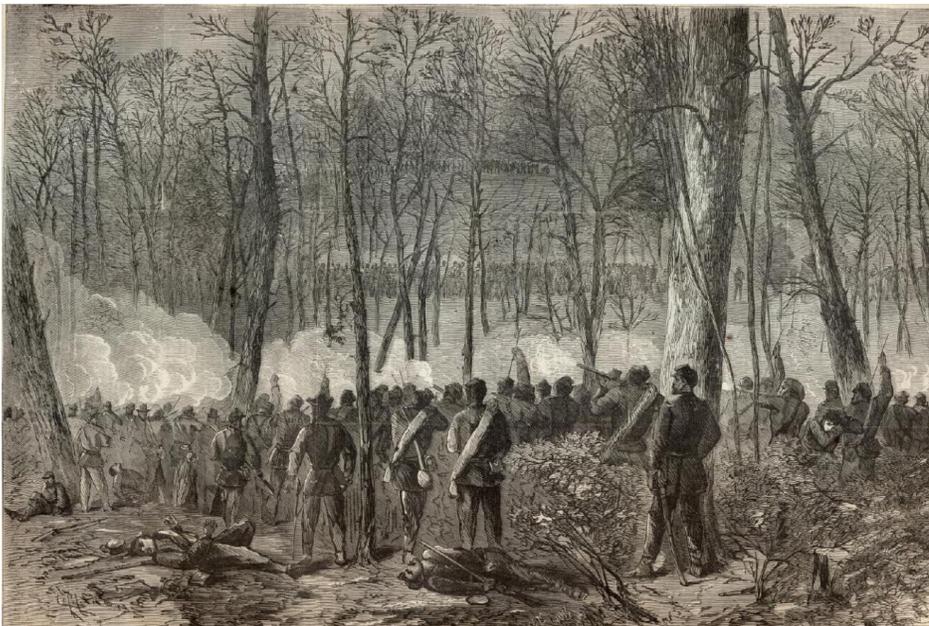
The Civil War Dictionary
Ironclads and Columbiads
The Road to Appomattox
Generals South & Generals North
Major General Robert E. Rodes
Civil War Quiz & Fact Book

- Charlie Calder
- Bill Jayne
- Joseph Hack
- Joseph Hack
- Dennis Wrynn (no photo)
- John L. Poulin



***** Trivia Questions for April*****

1 – As the Battle of The Wilderness reached bloody stalemate, both Grant and Lee considered their next move. Grant was determined to get Lee out of his strong defenses. Lee, bled of his offensive power, thought Grant was going to withdraw to Fredericksburg; however, Lee hedged his bets. What action did Lee take that would prove most advantageous for his army?



The thick woods and bramble of the Wilderness

2 – To bring Lee out of his entrenchments and force him to confront Grant’s superior force in more open countryside, Grant ordered his army to begin movement south toward Spotsylvania Court House. What actions by Lee’s army prevented Grant from gaining the advantage on their march?

3 – As the Army of the Potomac marched away from the Wilderness Battlefield, what action did Grant take that drew cheers from his men?

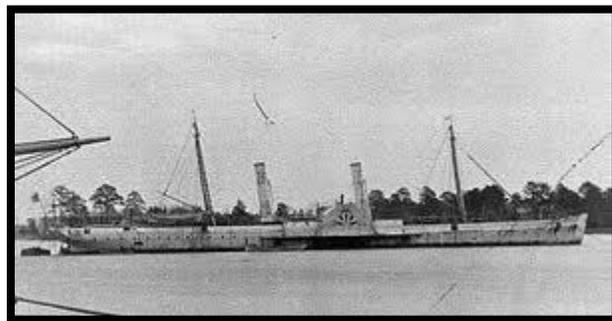
4 – How long did the fighting continue at “Bloody Angle” during the struggle at Spotsylvania Court House?



Gordon Rhea leading Overland Campaign – June 2014

5 – At least twice during the Overland Campaign, Robert E. Lee tried to lead Confederate troops in counterattacks against Union forces. Where did Lee’s actions occur?

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



Blockade Runner the *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. Thank you.

1 – Ed Gibson attended the 150th reenactment at Bentonville and reported that it was fantastic.

2 – **Bennett Place State Historic Site** is observing the 150th observance of “The Dawn of Peace: Surrender at Bennett Place.” April 17 - 26, 2015. For details: <http://www.bennettplacehistoricsite.com/special-events/150th-surrender-anniversary/>

3 – Brunswick Civil War Round Table – Speaker: **Eric J. Wittenberg** Topic: “**Plenty of Blame to go Around: Jeb Stuart’s Controversial Ride to Gettysburg.**” April 7th 2015 – Registration at 6:30pm at Hatch Auditorium in the NC Baptist Assembly at Caswell Beach. Details at <http://www.brunswickcivilwarroundtable.com/meetings>.

***** **March Program** *****

Reflected Glory: Letters to Anna

While some people find history as nothing more than the boring repetition of dull, cold and little cared-about facts, those members and guests in attendance at our March meeting were treated to a special performance. As **Kelly Hinson** “read” the letters that Stonewall Jackson had written to his wife, a tear came to many an eye (or at least a lump to several throats). For a while on that Thursday night, history became entertainment.

If you missed the March meeting, do not despair too much. I think Kelly will probably make a return to the CFCWRT as another character from Civil War history.



Kelly Hinson and daughter as Anna & Julia



Anna and some RT members

Editor

***** **Trivia Questions for April** *****

1 – As the Battle of The Wilderness reached bloody stalemate, both Grant and Lee considered their next move. Grant was determined to get Lee out of his strong defenses. Lee, bled of his offensive power, thought Grant was going to withdraw to Fredericksburg; however, Lee hedged his bets. What action did Lee take that would prove most advantageous for his army? Lee knew that Grant’s army had been hit hard. Lee also knew that Grant was an aggressive commander and that he may continue the fight by moving south toward Spotsylvania Court House. To counter any Grant move in

that direction, Lee ordered Brigadier General William Pendleton, Chief of ANV Artillery, to construct a trail south from the 1st Corps (Anderson) right flank toward Spotsylvania. This rough cut trail, through the dense forest, would shorten the route Richard H. Anderson's 1st Corps could take to reach Spotsylvania Court House.

Source: Gordon C. Rhea, *The Battles for Spotsylvania Court House and the Road to Yellow Tavern: May 7-12, 1864* [Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1997], 22-23.

2 – To bring Lee out of his entrenchments and force him to confront Grant's superior force in more open countryside, Grant ordered his army to begin movement south toward Spotsylvania Court House. What actions by Lee's army prevented Grant from gaining the advantage on their march? Around 7:00pm on May 7th, Lee ordered Richard Anderson to prepare to move Longstreet's 1st Corps on Pendleton's trail toward Spotsylvania. Anderson was to move his men a little distance out of their lines until he found a place to rest his weary men. The 1st Corps began the move over the rough trail around 10:00pm. Anderson made a decision to continue his march further into the night – his reason was to escape the smoke of the still burning fires in the Wilderness and to also escape the stench of death that hung over the battlefield. Anderson's decision was one of the most fateful of the campaign.

Fitzhugh Lee's cavalry also aided the Confederate cause in blocking Sheridan's efforts to clear the path for Grant's army to march to Spotsylvania Court House.

Source: Gordon C. Rhea, *The Battles for Spotsylvania Court House and the Road to Yellow Tavern: May 7-12, 1864* [Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1997], 28-37.

3 – As the Army of the Potomac marched away from the Wilderness Battlefield, what action did Grant take that drew cheers from his men? Grant turned south on the Brock Road. For the first time, the army did not retreat after being roughly handled by Lee's army.

Source: Gordon C. Rhea, *The Battles for Spotsylvania Court House and the Road to Yellow Tavern: May 7-12, 1864* [Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1997], 39.

4 – How long did the fighting continue at "Bloody Angle" during the struggle at Spotsylvania Court House? On May 12 – 13, hand-to-hand combat continued for nearly twenty hours as Lee's Army fought for its life in the Mule Shoe.

5 – At least twice during the Overland Campaign, Robert E. Lee tried to lead Confederate troops in counterattacks against Union forces. Where did Lee's actions occur? At Tapp's Field in the Wilderness, Texas troops refused to advance until "Lee to the Rear" was accomplished. At the Mule Shoe during the battle at Spotsylvania Court House, Lee again tried to lead Confederate troops into the counterattack. Georgians and Virginians chanted for Lee to go to the rear.

Source: http://encyclopediavirginia.org/media_player?mets_filename=evm00001417mets.xml (accessed March 23, 2015).

******* Thoughts *******

The March meeting with **Kelly Hinson** was great. History came alive and that is what a Civil War Round Table is about..... to enlighten, to educate, and to add to our knowledge of Civil War history.

Editor