

# The Runner



## Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Our next meeting will be held on **Thursday, 12 February** at 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 \$26 each which includes dinner and the program. Secure your place at this event by mailing your check to CFCWRT, PO Box 15750, Wilmington, NC 28408 **prior to 9 February** or by contacting Bruce Patterson (910-794-8905 or [bpatterson@earthlink.net](mailto:bpatterson@earthlink.net)) Guests are most welcome. For additional details, visit [www.cfcwrt.com](http://www.cfcwrt.com).

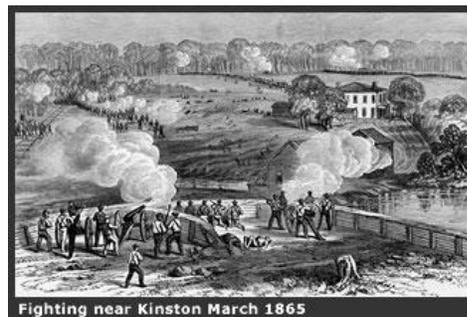
\*\*\*\*\* February 2015 Dinner Program \*\*\*\*\*

### The Forgotten Theater of War: The Civil War in Eastern North Carolina

**Dr. Chris Fonvielle** will share his insights into the largely ignored history of the Civil War in Eastern North Carolina. Chris will go beyond his normal explanation of the war around Wilmington and explore the impact of the war on the people caught between Union forces in the coastal plain and the Confederate forces that opposed them.



Battle of New Bern



Fighting near Kinston March 1865

**Chris Fonvielle**, college professor, author, lecturer and past president of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table, is a Wilmington native who is the authority on the Civil War in the Cape Fear region. Dr. Fonvielle's *The Wilmington Campaign: Last Rays of Departing Hope* is the most complete history of war as it relates to Wilmington, Fort Fisher and collapse of Confederate resistance that precipitated the end of the war.

Join the Round Table as we enjoy a good meal and an excellent talk about an interesting period in North Carolina's Civil War history.

**Editor**

**\*\*\*\*\* First and Second Battles of Fort Fisher \*\*\*\*\***

The First Battle of Fort Fisher in December 1864 had ended in a debacle for the Union Army and Navy. General Benjamin Butler and Admiral David Dixon Porter had failed to coordinate their efforts against the last major blockade running port open to the Confederacy. The Union troops that had landed north of the fort had been rescued without serious challenges from Braxton Bragg's troops assembled at Sugar Loaf. Even as the dispirited Union forces returned to their bases, General Grant had begun to formulate a plan that would quickly return Union forces to the Cape Fear. General Bragg, unlike Chase Whiting and William Lamb who feared a quick Union return, ordered that the troops at Sugar Loaf be returned to Wilmington and other locations. Seldom had two generals reached such different conclusions about the same set of events. For Wilmington and Fort Fisher, Grant and Bragg would soon test whether the Union or Confederate conclusions were sound.

On January 6, 1865, a newly appointed Union general, Alfred Terry, and his Union Army transports sailed south from Hampton Roads toward Fort Fisher. Admiral Porter's fleet was delayed by rough seas; however, by 10:00 p.m. January 12, fifty-eight warships and twenty-two army transports began their rendezvous off New Inlet at Fort Fisher. Colonel William Lamb, at the Pulpit in Fort Fisher, saw an increasing number of twinkling lights as they appeared in the dark ocean off the coast. Lamb, having received no warning from headquarters in Wilmington, notified General Bragg of the Union fleet's presence. As Lamb had feared, the Union fleet and army were back.

General Robert Hoke had his entire 6,424 man division in route from Wilmington to Sugar Loaf by steamer and march by 1:00 a.m. on the 13<sup>th</sup>. Colonel Lamb had 800 artillerymen of the 36<sup>th</sup> North Carolina Regiment to defend the fort from the coming assault. The overall Confederate commander, General Bragg, had done little since the December attack to strengthen Fort Fisher with men or equipment.



Hoke reached Sugar Loaf just as the first Union troops came ashore. Kirkland's Brigade and Thomas Lipcomb's 2<sup>nd</sup> South Carolina Cavalry were the initial Confederates

in position to oppose the landing. As the rest of Hoke's division arrived after their march from Wilmington, Hoke entrenched them on Sugar Loaf and deployed only Kirkland's Brigade as skirmishers. Hoke declined to mount an all-out assault against Terry's exposed men because of his concern for the massed guns of the Union Navy and the Myrtle Sound and swamp that intervened between his force and the landing party. Hoke also remembered his assault against Fort Harrison outside Richmond the previous September. For whatever reasons, Hoke only watched the landings proceed and positioned his force to block any Union move north toward Wilmington. Hoke's actions did nothing to relieve the anxiety that Colonel Lamb experienced in the now increasingly isolated Fort Fisher.

By 8:30 a.m. on the 13<sup>th</sup> when Lamb ordered his Cumberland Battery to fire on the *New Ironside*, the fate of the fort was sealed. This first projectile struck the *New Ironside* and fell harmlessly into the ocean. The battle that followed saw heroic struggles by the defenders and the attackers; however, the force brought to bear against Fort Fisher was simply too powerful for the defenders to repulse. By 10:00 p.m. on January 15<sup>th</sup>, General Grant's conclusions about the first Battle of Fort Fisher had proven correct. The Editor of the *Richmond Examiner* had also proven correct, "General Bragg to Wilmington. Goodbye Wilmington."

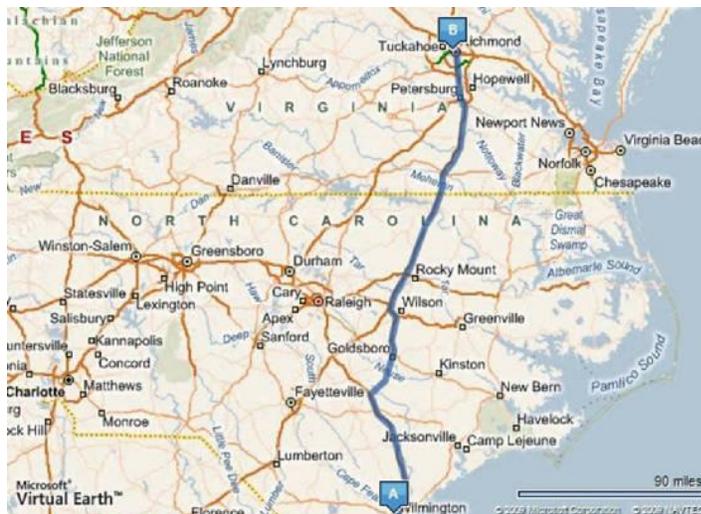
### Editor

Source: Chris E. Fonvielle, Jr., *The Wilmington Campaign: Last Rays of Departing Hope*, [Campbell, California: Savas Publishing Company, 1997], 129-296.

### \*\*\*\*\* Trivia Questions for February \*\*\*\*\*

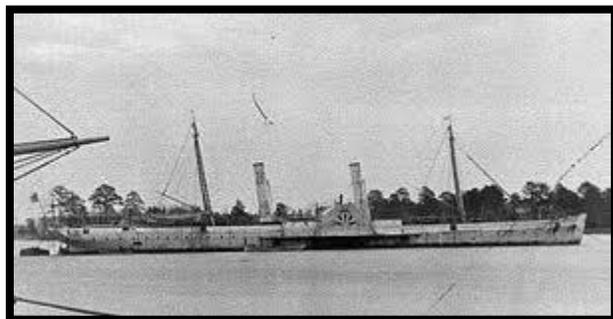
**1 – Among the earliest Union victories during the Civil War, the actions against Confederate positions at Fort Hatteras and Fort Clark in August 1861 committed Union forces to take North Carolina's coastal plain. Why were these earlier actions important?**

**2 – After Burnside's Expedition in 1862 secured much of Eastern North Carolina, why did Union forces fail to mount stronger expeditions against the Wilmington & Weldon Rail Road?**



**3 – John Bell Hood was seriously wounded at Gettysburg and later at Chickamauga. He surrendered to Union forces at Natchez, Mississippi on May 31, 1865. What was Hood's fate after the end of the war?**

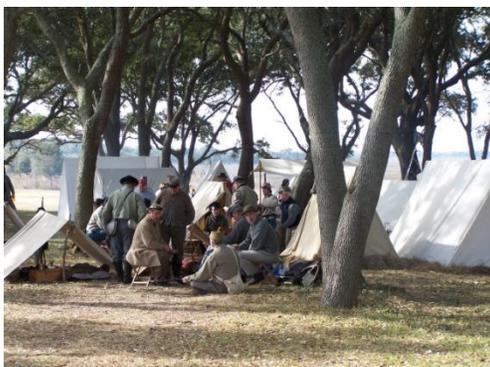
**\*\*\*\*\* Member News & Activities \*\*\*\*\***



**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 – The **CFCWRT traditional dinner meeting** will be on Thursday, **12 February, 2015**, in the Madeline Suite, UNCW. Tickets are priced at \$26 each and will be available by mailing your check to the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table, PO Box 15750, Wilmington, NC 28408 **prior to February 9th.**



2 – **February 6-8, 2015:** Blue & Gray Society presents **The Wilmington Campaign:** A Sesquicentennial Appraisal and Tour from Wilmington, NC with Dr. **Chris Fonvielle**

*A Weekend Warrior Tour*

Join us on Friday evening at 6 PM for an introductory lecture and two great days touring the December/January 1864/1865 operations at Fort Fisher, Sugar Loaf and Fort Anderson concluding with the surrender of Wilmington. The trip includes access to private homes and a cemetery walk. This program works well with both our Sherman's March programs in SC and NC. The detailed itinerary and registration information is here: [Wilmington and the Wilmington Campaign](http://www.wilmingtonandthewilmingtoncampaign.org).

Additional details: <http://www.blueandgrayeducation.org/> or 434-432-0596.

3 – Fort Anderson/Brunswick Town State Historic Site – **Last Stand on the West Bank: The 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Fall of Fort Anderson** February 14 and 15. Saturday from 9am to 8pm and Sunday from 9am to 5pm. Additional details at <http://www.nchistoricsites.org/brunswic/brunswic.htm>

4 – February 27 – 28 – Symposium co-hosted by the N.C. Department of Cultural Resources – “**What a Cruel Thing is War: Sacrifice and Legacies**. On February 27<sup>th</sup>, **William C. Davis**, historian and author of more than two dozen Civil War books, will speak at Murrow Hall in Southport at 7:00pm. On February 28<sup>th</sup>, **Craig Symonds**, noted naval historian, will speak at Morton Hall at UNCW at 9:00am.

Registration is \$10 for Friday and \$25 for both dates. Additional details at [www.ncdcr.gov](http://www.ncdcr.gov) (Events) or call the N.C. Department of Cultural Resources at 919-807-7333.

5 – On January 17-18, the CFCWRT had a presence at the Sesquicentennial Commemoration of the Second Battle of Fort Fisher. Member **Judy Ward** is shown visiting **Ed Gibson, Bob Cook, John Winecoff, John Bolger, Tim Winstead** and **Dale Lear** as they manned the display and talked to the visitors about the benefits of membership. (Not pictured were **Joe Hack** and **Bruce Patterson**).

**Linda Lashley**



6 – Brunswick Civil War Round Table – Speaker: **Rod Gragg** Topic: **Johnny Reb in Field and Camp: May Such Sights Never Be Seen Again**. February 4<sup>th</sup> 2015 – Program at 7:00pm at Trinity Methodist Church, Southport. Details at <http://www.brunswickcivilwarroundtable.com/meetings>.

**\*\*\*\*\* February 1865 \*\*\*\*\***

February 1865 saw the first official political meeting between the North and the South when Lincoln met members of the Confederacy to discuss peace. Lincoln rejected what they offered. Throughout the whole of the American Civil War, Lincoln had held the simple belief that America was one nation and that it would remain so.

February 1<sup>st</sup>: Illinois became the first state to ratify the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment.

Sherman continued his advance through South Carolina.

February 3<sup>rd</sup>: Lincoln met the three Confederate representatives (Stephens, Turner and Campbell) on the 'River Queen' in Hampton Roads. Lincoln rejected their peace plan based on an independent south. He told them bluntly that America was one nation and one nation only. Lincoln insisted that the Union had to be restored before anything else was discussed.

February 5<sup>th</sup>: Union troops made further inroads into Confederate defences around Petersburg. If Petersburg fell, Richmond would be the next target. Therefore Petersburg had major significance for both sides in the war. Desertion was a major issue in the Confederate Army and the main cause of desertion was lack of food. Lee's request for more food for the Army of Northern Virginia was met with silence in Richmond. This was more because they had no way of addressing Lee's request more than indifference to the suffering of the soldiers.

February 7<sup>th</sup>: Lee's men drove back Union troops at Boydton Plank Road but by now he only had 46,000 men to defend 37 miles of trenches – about 1200 men per mile.

February 8<sup>th</sup>: Sherman's men continued their policy of destroying empty buildings as they advanced through South Carolina. This resulted in the Confederate general, Wheeler, complaining to Sherman that accommodation was being destroyed. However, Sherman had given orders that no building that was occupied should be destroyed but unoccupied ones should be.

February 9<sup>th</sup>: Jefferson Davis offered an amnesty to anyone who deserted the Confederate Army as long as they returned to their regiment within 30 days.

February 11<sup>th</sup>: Sherman cut off Augusta from Charleston by cutting the Augusta-Georgia railway. One of the Confederates few remaining armies was based in Charleston and it was in danger of being surrounded.

February 14<sup>th</sup>: Jefferson Davis urged the defenders of Charleston to hold until the last possible moment.

February 15<sup>th</sup>: Sherman's army approached Columbia.

February 16<sup>th</sup>: Sherman's troops arrived on the south bank of Columbia and the city was evacuated. Charleston prepared to evacuate.

February 17<sup>th</sup>: Columbia was occupied by Sherman's troops. Most of the city was burned to the ground. Some said the fires were started by retreating Confederate cavalry units but most accept it was men from Sherman's army. Men from Sherman's army were actively pursued by Sherman's provost guard, which would seem to indicate their guilt. Sherman later refused to express his sorrow for the destruction of Columbia. Charleston was also evacuated.

February 18<sup>th</sup>: Charleston surrendered.

February 20<sup>th</sup>: The Confederates House of Representatives passed a bill authorising the use of slaves as soldiers.

Wilmington, the last port that the Confederates possessed, was bombarded by Union forces.

February 21<sup>st</sup>: A sign of the divided opinion within the Confederacy: the Senate postponed a debate on whether the Confederacy should use slaves as soldiers.

The defenders of Wilmington prepared to evacuate the port.

**February 22<sup>nd</sup>: Union troops entered Wilmington.**

Lee began to plan his last campaign.

February 27<sup>th</sup>: Union troops started a major move up the Shenandoah Valley. 10,000 Union cavalry advanced against severely depleted Confederate units.

February 28<sup>th</sup>: One of the Union cavalry divisions in the Shenandoah Valley was commanded by George Armstrong Custer.

Source: <http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/February-1865-civil-war.htm>  
(Accessed January 6, 2015).

**\*\*\*\*\*January Program \*\*\*\*\***

### **John Bell Hood's Tennessee Campaign: In His Own Words**

As he had begun at our January 2014 meeting, **Stephen M. "Sam" Hood** revealed additional details contained in the recently discovered papers of General John Bell Hood. His focus during this meeting was the Tennessee Campaign and General Hood's actions and reasons for making the decisions he followed during the course of that campaign. Using the words and records of the likes of Jefferson Davis, Stephen D. Lee, Alexander P. Stewart, U. S. Grant, and P.G.T. Beauregard, Sam laid out the plan and the need for the Confederate's plunge into Tennessee. Unlike what some historians have written, the need for the Confederate Army of Tennessee to take offensive action was supported by Davis and ranking officers in that army.

If you have interest in this part of Civil War history, Sam's next book, *The Lost Papers of Confederate General John Bell Hood*, will be released during February 2015. As Sam did in *John Bell Hood: The Rise, Fall and Resurrection of a Confederate General*, his new book will likely change perceptions held about General Hood and his place in Civil War history.



**Editor**

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

**1 – Among the earliest Union victories during the Civil War, the actions against Confederate positions at Fort Hatteras and Fort Clark in August 1861 committed Union forces to take North Carolina's coastal plain. Why were these earlier actions important?** They helped Union morale and established bases for the Union Navy to stop privateering against Union merchant ships.

**2 – After Burnside's Expedition in 1862 secured much of Eastern North Carolina, why did Union forces fail to mount stronger expeditions against the Wilmington & Weldon Rail Road?** The Wilmington & Weldon became a critical link to supply the Confederate armies in Virginia. Several attempts were made to cut the rail road with quick strike raids; however, major strikes were not attempted by the Union Army.

Why? Join the CFCWRT on February 12<sup>th</sup> as Dr. Fonvielle will explain his thoughts about Eastern North Carolina and its place in Union war planning.

**3 – John Bell Hood was seriously wounded at Gettysburg and later at Chickamauga. He surrendered to Union forces at Natchez, Mississippi on May 31, 1865. What was Hood's fate after the end of the war?** Hood had planned to permanently reside in Texas, but economic necessity made him pursue commercial ventures in a less war-torn New Orleans. A soldier from early in his life, Hood had to seek his livelihood in the business world. After borrowing \$10,000 from friends in his native Kentucky, Hood established J.B. Hood and Co., Cotton Factors and Commission Merchants with partners, John Barelli and Fred Thayer.

On April 30, 1868, Hood married Anna Marie Hennen. Anna, educated in Paris, was a member of a prominent New Orleans family. In the next ten years, John and Anna had eleven children – three sets of twins. Lydia was born in 1869. Oswald, the tenth, was born in 1879.

The cotton business initially struggled and in 1869, Hood took over James Longstreet's insurance business. From 1870 until 1878, the fortunes of both enterprises improved. Hood was successful and devoted himself to his family, to business affairs, and to gatherings for Confederate veterans. Hood, Anna, and their growing family lived in an elegant home in the Garden District and Hood traveled frequently throughout the South.

It was also during this period that Hood became embroiled in conflict with Joseph E. Johnston and other Confederate officers about the causes of Southern failures during the war. Hood's *Advance and Retreat* was published in 1880.

In 1878, the people of New Orleans were exposed to a yellow fever epidemic. Businesses failed as people fled the city. By early 1879, Hood was financially ruined. The yellow fever returned in 1879 and Hood was unable to take his family out of the city to safer environs. Anna Hood died on August 24, 1879, one month after the birth of Oswald. Lydia and Hood followed Anna in death on August 29<sup>th</sup> and August 30<sup>th</sup>.

The surviving ten children were adopted by families throughout the country. Organizations of Confederate veterans, especially the Texans of his old brigade, raised funds for the children's future support and education.

Source: <http://counter.johnbellhood.org/bio-05.htm> (accessed November 27, 2013).

\*\*\*\*\* **Thoughts** \*\*\*\*\*

So many opportunities abound to hear excellent Civil War historians in the Cape Fear region during early 2015. When does one get to listen to historians like **Ed Bearss, Craig Symonds, Rod Gragg, Chris Fonvielle** and others in such close locations? Only on the Civil War's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary – Take the opportunity that is afforded us during the next several months.

**Editor**