

The Runner



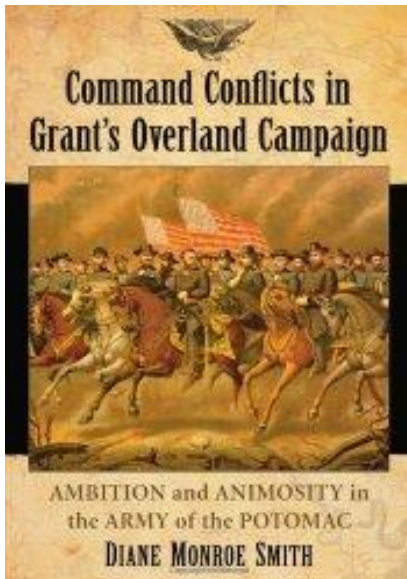
Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Our next meeting will be held on **Thursday, 14 May 2015** at St. Andrew's On-the-Sound Episcopal Church (101 Airlie Road). Social Hour begins at 7:00 p.m. (with light refreshments), meeting at 7:30.

Please join us at our May 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.

***** May 2015 Program *****

Command Conflicts in Grant's Overland Campaign: Ambition and Animosity in the Army of the Potomac

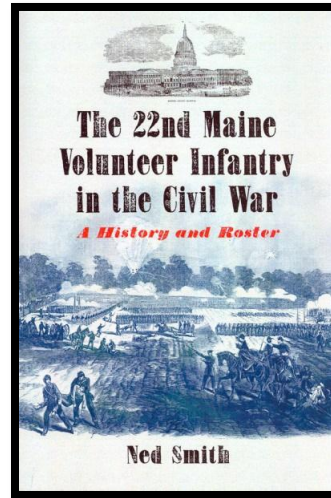
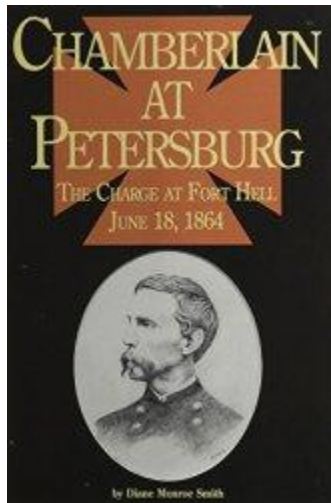
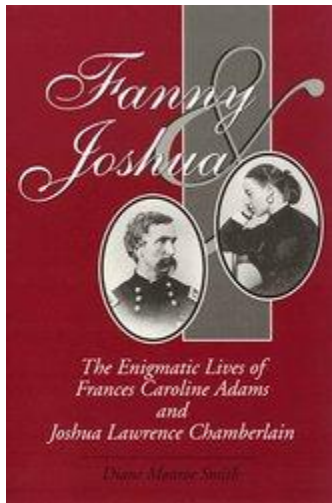


Ned Smith & Diane Monroe Smith

Diane Monroe Smith will speak about Lt. General U.S. Grant and his command efforts with the Army of the Potomac. Diane will explain the difference in standards that Grant may have used for officers who had served with him in the western theater and those who had served in with the army in the east.

In Leader-Member Exchange Management Theory, most managers have identified and “Out Group.” For whatever reasons, some subordinates are just not perceived as being as motivated or as energized as those closest to the boss. The theory supposedly helped the boss to modify his/her actions to treat all subordinates in the same manner.

Was Grant influenced by this management theory? Join us on May 14th. It should be an interesting presentation. **Ned Smith**, Diane’s husband, will also add to our meeting by discussing a couple of Maine regiments during the Civil War.



Diane Monroe Smith and **Ned Smith** are residents of the great State of Maine. They both have a long interest in the Maine’s involvement in the Civil War. Diane has written several books about the “hero” of Little Round Top – Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain. Ned focuses on regimental histories of the 22nd Maine Infantry Regiment and the 2nd Maine Cavalry.

Editor

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

1 – Who were some of the western theater men that Grant brought east in 1864?



The thick woods and bramble of the Wilderness

2 – What was Grant’s main objective when he became commander of all Union armies in 1864?

3 – On March 9-10, Grant interviewed Major General George G. Meade, commander of the Army of the Potomac (AoP). Meade had been the victor at Gettysburg, but was unsupported by the Lincoln administration for his perceived “slows” in attacking Lee after that victory.

Why did Grant choose to retain Meade at the head of the AoP?

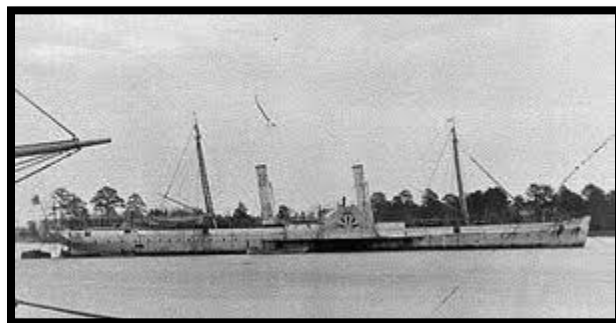
4 – On June 3rd at Cold Harbor, Grant attacked entrenched Confederate forces and was repulsed with many casualties. Why did Grant decide to attack at Cold Harbor?



Gordon Rhea leading Overland Campaign – June 2014

5 – Re-quiz: At least **twice four times** 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 - The CFCWRT had a presence at the Lower Cape Fear Coin Show during the annual Azalea Festival. Manning the publicity table the weekend of April 11-12 was a fierce looking Union soldier who looked suspiciously like our **President, Bob Cooke**.



Bob Cooke



Dale Lear

2 – Long-time member **Dale Lear** was an instrumental part of the Scottish Rite Fish Fry in April, benefiting Rite Care Speech Clinics, which help children with communication problems. After the lunch rush, he was seen chatting up our Round Table, so two big thank “yous” to Dale!

Linda Lashley

3 – Brunswick Civil War Round Table – Speaker: **Will Greene** Topic: “**The New Orleans Campaign.**” Date: **May 5th** 2015 – Registration at 6:30pm at Hatch Auditorium in the NC Baptist Assembly at Caswell Beach. Details at <http://www.brunswickcivilwarroundtable.com/meetings>.

******* April Program *******

The Overland Campaign: Grant and Lee

Wow!!!! The entire Overland Campaign presented in one hour. How was that even possible? Simple - Gordon C. Rhea was not only a skilled historian, but a fast-talking trial attorney. We received the benefits of years of experience in both disciplines.

Gordon traced the “cat and mouse” game that Grant and Lee played in Virginia in the spring of 1864. Rhea fairly discussed the strengths and weaknesses of both generals. Lee stopped Grant, but Grant immobilized Lee’s army. Grant won!

Editor



Gordon Rhea

***** Trivia Questions for May *****

1 – Who were some of the western theater men that Grant brought east in 1864? Phillip Sheridan, William “Baldy” Smith, Horace Porter, James H. Wilson, and John A. Rawlins came east with Grant. Horatio G. Wright had served in the east and the west, but was considered a Grant man.

If you get a chance, these guys should be “Googled” before our next meeting. Their relationship with Grant will be much talked about during that meeting.

2 – What was Grant’s main objective when he became commander of all Union armies in 1864? Per Gordon Rhea, Grant wanted to defeat the Confederate armies and not conquer territory. He wanted to destroy all Confederate armies by attacking each of those armies in coordinated actions that would prevent the Confederates from shifting forces along their interior lines. George Meade, William Sherman, Franz Sigel, Benjamin Butler and Nathaniel Banks were to open campaigns in May 1864.

Grant wanted to bleed the Confederacy. He wanted to use the Union’s superior resources to affect that end.

3 – On March 9-10, Grant interviewed Major General George G. Meade, commander of the Army of the Potomac (AoP). Meade had been the victor at Gettysburg, but was unsupported by the Lincoln administration for his perceived “slows” in attacking Lee after that victory.

Why did Grant choose to retain Meade at the head of the AoP? During their interview, Meade offered to step aside for a general of Grant’s choosing. Grant knew that the men of the AoP had respect for Meade. Grant was not going to stay in Washington but travel with the army. Grant was to set the strategy and Meade was to implement that strategy.

It did not work out quite like Grant intended. As the Overland Campaign unfolded, Grant did much more than just set strategy.

4 – On June 3rd at Cold Harbor, Grant attacked entrenched Confederate forces and was repulsed with many casualties. Why did Grant decide to attack at Cold Harbor? After the battles from May 4th until June 3rd, Grant had been much reinforced and Lee but little. Grant thought the Army of Northern Virginia was weakened to the point that another overwhelming attack would finish Lee’s army.

Grant was to later state that he regretted the last assault at Cold Harbor.

5 – Re-quiz: At least twice four times 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 site of Upton’s attack on the Muleshoe on May 10th, North Carolina Brigadier General Robert Johnston’s troops told Lee that they would retake the lost lines if Lee went to the rear. At the Mule Shoe on May 12th during the Union Corps attack at Spotsylvania Court House, Lee tried to lead Confederate troops into the counterattack. John B. Gordon’s Georgians and Virginians chanted for Lee to go

to the rear. At short time later, Lee once again tried to lead Brigadier General Nathaniel Harris' Mississippians into the counterattack. Lee told the troops that he would retire only if they promised to drive "those" people from the Confederate works.

Source: http://encyclopediavirginia.org/media_player?mets_filename=evm00001417mets.xml (accessed March 23, 2015). 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]171-172, 269-270.

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

Gordon Rhea's presentation was just plain great!



Bob & Gordon (new CFCWRT hat

As we end the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table 2014-2015 Program Year, the members of the Steering Committee should be congratulated for lining-up the speakers who we have heard during this final year of the Sesquicentennial. Also, a special thanks to those speakers: **Richard Triebe, John Waugh, Dr. Melton McLaurin, Emmanuel Dabney, Sam Hood, Dr. Chris Fonvielle, Kelly Hinson, Gordon Rhea, and Diane & Ned Smith.**

Editor