

# *The Runner*



## **Cape Fear Civil War Round Table**

**July - August 2014 Summer Issue**

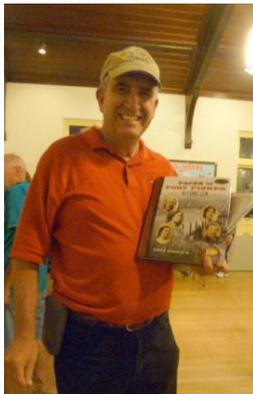
This issue of **The RUNNER** is intended to provide our members and friends with an update of Civil War events that may be of interest during the last summer of the Sesquicentennial. Special events are being held far and wide to commemorate the military, political, and civilian actions that forever changed this country's history.

**Editor: Tim Winstead**

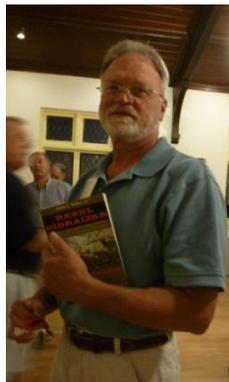
**\*\*\*\*\* Raffle Winners \*\*\*\*\***

**Raffle Master: Ed Gibson**

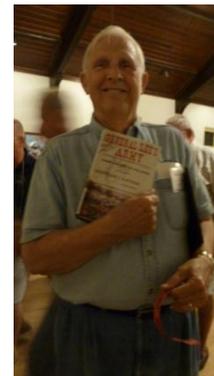
If you have books, prints, or other items that you would like to donate to the CFCWRT Raffle, contact Ed Gibson ([egibson759@aol.com](mailto:egibson759@aol.com)) before our next meeting. The raffle is one of the components which allow the CFCWRT to fund our activities and our speakers. Please take part in our raffles by contributing items to the raffle or purchasing tickets.



*The Warrior Generals*



*The Civil War A- Z*



*General Lee's Army*

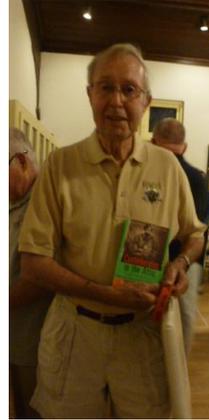
- **Ed Gibson**
- **Bob Cooke**
- **Dale Lear**

*Confedrate in the Attic*

- **Dick Covell**

*Rebel Gibraltar*

- **Chris Mowrey**



*The Last Generation*

- **John Bulger**

*Faces of Fort Fisher*

- **John Winecoff**

### **Winners All!**

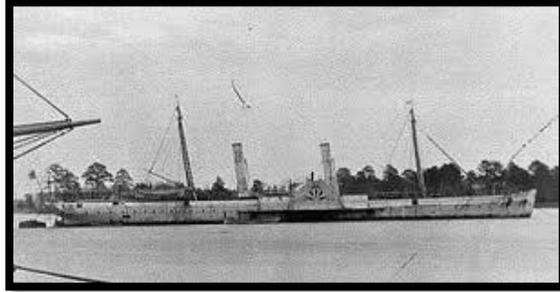
**Thank all of you for supporting the raffle – this event helps ensure that we can continue to attract a variety of speakers to our meetings.**

### **\*\*\*\*\* Trivia Questions for July & August \*\*\*\*\***

- 1 – The Third Confederate Conscription Act of February 1864 established what ages for service in the Confederate Army?**
- 2 – Where and when was a sitting president of the United States subjected to direct fire from an enemy combatant?**
- 3 – On June 15, 1864, units of Grant's army arrived before Petersburg in a move that gained the advantage over Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. General William (Baldy) F. Smith led 10,000 Union soldiers in an attempt to overwhelm the Confederate defenders before Lee could move his army south of the James River. Who led the successful defense of the Confederate positions?**
- 4 – The Battle of Moores Creek Bridge took place on February 27, 1776 in a remote area located about 20 miles north of Wilmington. A force of Americans defeated British loyalists who were marching to the coast to meet elements of the British army. This victory effectively ended British authority in North Carolina and was a stimulus for North Carolina to become the first colony to back independence from Great Britain.**

**During the brief battle, one patriot was killed. Who was this first North Carolinian to lose his life during the Revolutionary War?**

\*\*\*\*\* **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 - Early Bird Dues Payments:** As has been our practice for several years, your Round Table Steering Committee authorized an Early Bird payment period ending on **31 August**. The regular family rate for dues is \$30 but an Early Bird rate of \$25 applies until 31 August (postmark rules). Save \$5 by paying early and then purchase 6 raffle tickets which are then, effectively, free.

Next meeting, Thursday evening, **11 September, 2014**.

**2 -** On May 18, the 145th Annual Confederate Memorial Service was held at the Confederate Mound in Wilmington's Oakdale Cemetery. Flowers and wreaths were placed by several groups in remembrance of the soldiers in this mass grave, many from Ft. Fisher.

The CFCWRT was represented by President Bob Cooke and Ed Gibson. Bob placed a wreath at the mound on behalf of our members. Also present were our members Linda Lashley, Martha Watson, Yvonne Brown and Judy Ward reenacting the "Mourning Ladies" of the United Daughters of the Confederacy Chapter 3.

**Linda Lashley**



**3** – Lance Bevins and Tim Winstead joined members of **Hood’s Texas Brigade Association Re-Activated (HTBAR)** for the third year of following in “The Footsteps of the Brave.” This year’s tour (June 3rd – 7<sup>th</sup>) followed the Texas Brigade throughout the 1864 Overland Campaign. **Rick Eiserman**, our April speaker, organized an excellent tour as **Gordon Rhea, Bobby Krick** and **Dr. Richard Sommers** provided expert commentary on The Wilderness, Spotsylvania Court House, North Anna River, Cold Harbor, Fort Harrison, and Darbytown & New Market Roads.

I have been on all three tours and have thoroughly enjoyed them. From approximately 4,000 men in 1862, the Texas Brigade was reduced to less than 500 men by October 1864. From their initial success at Gains Mill to their last charge at Darbytown & New Market Roads, the Texas Brigade experienced some of the most vicious fighting of the war. The Texas Brigade, its commanders, its soldiers and their stories have provided a most enlightening experience.

**4** – On June 21<sup>st</sup>, numerous members of the CFCWRT/BCWRT joined other members of the **Cape Fear Revolutionary War Round Table** on a tour of Bladen County colonial plantations, churches and cemeteries located along the banks of the Cape Fear River. On a seasonally warm and humid day, the attendees learned about events and people who helped shape the early history of this area. Connie Hendrix, Linda Lashley, Kitsey Lackey, Mary McLaughlin, Mike Powell, Wally Rueckel, and Tim Winstead were among those who attended.



**5** – If you cannot get enough regional history, you might consider joining the **Cape Fear Revolutionary War Round Table**. Learn of the Revolution and the people in the area who fought for or against the British Empire. Check out the RT’s Facebook page for additional information. Contact Connie Hendrix with questions about membership: [Hend5678@ec.rr.com](mailto:Hend5678@ec.rr.com)

The events that occurred in this area before, during and after the Revolutionary War influenced the actions taken in this area during the Civil War. Southern grandfathers and fathers, who experienced the Revolution, sent their sons and grandsons to the Second War of Independence based upon their beliefs as to what independence meant.

**6** – **CSS Neuse & Gov. Caswell Memorial – July 12 – 10AM – 4PM. Weapons of the Civil War.** During the Civil War weapons technology changed dramatically. The program will showcase an extensive collections of Civil War small arms and weapons; ranging from large to small and common to obscure items including marlin spikes, torpedoes, grappling hooks, Enfield rifles, a Dresden rifle, and many more. There will also be outdoor firing demonstrations throughout the day. Admission is free, and open to the public.

**7 – Fort Anderson State Historic Site – August 9 – 10AM - 4PM. Mine Games: Torpedo Warfare in the Cape Fear River.** Visitors will learn about the role torpedoes played in the Cape Fear Defense System during the Civil War. These deadly water mines were more feared by the Union Navy than most of the forts. Demonstrations will be held on the hour. The event is free, and open to the public.

**8 – First Annual Emerging Civil War Symposium at Stevenson Ridge, “The Civil War 1864”** August 15-17, 2014. Stevenson Ridge is located on the Spotsylvania Court House Battlefield.

**Lecturers and Tour Guides:**

- Daniel T. Davis—”More Desperate Fighting Has Not Been Witness on this Continent.”: Ulysses S. Grant and the Overland Campaign
- Phillip Greenwalt—From “Old Bald Head” to “Lee’s Bad Old Man”: A Study of the Second Corps, Army of Northern Virginia in 1864
- Chris Kolakowski—1864: The Last Stand of the Confederate Navy
- Chris Mackowski—An in-depth tour of the Spotsylvania Court House Battlefield
- Meg Thompson—A Bad Month for the President: Campaigning the Election of ’64
- Kristopher White—A tour of the Wilderness and Spotsylvania Court House Battlefields
- Lee White—”To die like men”: Patrick Cleburne and the Tennessee Campaign of 1864
- Eric Wittenberg—The Trevilian Station Raid
- (Also joining us for the Friday roundtable discussion is author David A. Powell and publisher/author Theodore P. Savas.)

For a complete list of speakers, subjects, cost, etc:

<http://emergingcivilwar.com/emerging-civil-war-symposium-at-stevenson-ridge/>

**\*\*\*\*\* June – August 1864 \*\*\*\*\***

**Editor Note:** June – August 1864, was a critical period during the American Civil War. The relentless and simultaneous military actions ordered by General Grant began to reveal the deficiencies that the Confederate government faced.

In **June 1864**, the plight the South found itself in was highlighted when the Confederate government ordered that men up to the age of 70 could be conscripted into the army. Grant lost a considerable number of men at Cold Harbor but they could be replaced. Any loss for the South now was of much greater harm.

June 1<sup>st</sup>: The **Battle of Cold Harbor** started. Grant attacked Lee’s position near to the 1862 Seven Days battlefields.

Sherman sent out nearly 7,000 troops (3,000 cavalry and nearly 4,000 infantry) to hunt down the cavalry of Bedford Forrest, who continued to be a serious problem along Sherman’s supply lines. It was Bedford Forrest’s cavalry that was associated with the Fort Pillow, Tennessee, incident.

June 2<sup>nd</sup>: Grant spent the day improving the entrenchments of his army.  
Having captured the Allatoona Pass, Sherman was able to speed up his drive to Atlanta.

June 3<sup>rd</sup>: At 04.30 Grant launched a major attack on Lee's positions at Cold Harbor. However, Lee's men were well dug in and in just one hour the Union force lost 7,000 men. The Confederates lost 1,500 men. At 12.00 Grant called off the attack. If the attack had been successful nothing would have stopped Grant and the Army of the Potomac getting to Richmond – just eight miles away. Those living in the city could hear the cannon fire.



**Lance Bevins, Rick Featherston, and Tim Winstead** before Confederate Fortifications  
At Cold Harbor – June 5, 2014

June 5<sup>th</sup>: The South suffered a major defeat at Piedmont in the Shenandoah Valley. A Confederate force of 5,000 suffered 1,500 casualties, including the loss of their commanding officer, General W E Jones. The Confederate army was incapable of sustaining a 30% loss.

June 6<sup>th</sup>: Union troops commanded by Major-General David Hunter destroyed much private property in the Shenandoah Valley.

June 8<sup>th</sup>: Lincoln received the nomination from the National Union Convention to stand for president in the forthcoming election. The party platform was that there should be no compromise with the South.

June 10<sup>th</sup>: The Confederate Congress introduced military service for all men in the South aged between 17 and 70. (**Editor Note:** The Third Conscription Act of the Confederate Congress on February 17, 1864, established ages for service between 17 and 50. Conscription laws, with its

system of exemptions, substitutes and state government interference were controversial throughout the war.)

Bedford Forrest defeated a large Union force at Brice's Cross Roads, Mississippi. Forrest had 3,500 men under his command while the Union cavalry force, commanded by General Samuel Sturgis, stood at 8,000. The Union army suffered over 25% casualties (a total of 2,240) to Forrest's total loss of 492 men.

**June 11<sup>th</sup>: Union General David Hunter occupies Lexington, Virginia and on June 12<sup>th</sup> Hunter ordered VMI burned.**

June 12<sup>th</sup>: After some days of military inactivity, the Army of the Potomac moved out of its lines at Cold Harbor. However, while the army had not been fighting, it had been constructing better roads and pontoons to allow for the swifter movement of men and supplies. Such planning paid off.

June 13<sup>th</sup>: Lee withdrew his army to Richmond in the belief that Grant had built the roads and pontoons to allow his army to get behind the Army of Northern Virginia and attack Richmond. Lee was wrong in his assessment.

June 14<sup>th</sup>: The South lost one of its top generals, Leonidas Polk. Killed by artillery fire on Pine Mountain, Polk was not a great strategic commander but he was popular with his men and his loss was a bitter blow to the morale of the Army of the Tennessee.

June 15<sup>th</sup>: The North started a major assault on Petersburg, the 'backdoor to Richmond'.

June 16<sup>th</sup>: More units from the Army of the Potomac joined the attack on Petersburg. Against the odds, the defenders held out.

June 17<sup>th</sup>: The defenders of Petersburg managed a counter-attack. It was not successful, but it did stop the Union troops from advancing any nearer to Petersburg.

June 18<sup>th</sup>: Lee's main army arrived at Petersburg to bolster the city's defences. The North carried out the last of its attacks – the four days fighting for Petersburg had cost the Union 8,000 men.

June 20<sup>th</sup>: Grant decided to besiege Petersburg. He concluded that even the Army of the Potomac could not sustain further heavy losses.

June 21<sup>st</sup>: President Lincoln paid a visit to the Army of the Potomac. Grant enlivened the command of the army by appointing new generals. He hoped that new blood would invigorate the way the Army of the Potomac is led. One of his appointments was General David Birney who was given the command of II Corps.

June 22<sup>nd</sup>: The Confederates launched a ferocious attack on Birney's II Corps at Jerusalem Plank Road. Birney lost 604 killed, 2494 wounded and 1600 captured. The Confederates lost in total 500 men.

June 25<sup>th</sup>: Union forces started to build a tunnel underneath one of the main Confederate redoubts in Petersburg.



June 27<sup>th</sup>: Sherman launched a major attack against Confederate positions at Kennesaw Mountain. The North's forces were stopped just short of the Confederates front line. Union losses were 2,000 killed or wounded out of 16,000 men.

June 28<sup>th</sup>: Though they held Sherman at Kennesaw Mountain, the South knew that it was only a matter of time until it fell, such was the size of the force they were facing. Their commander here, Johnston, decided to pull back to the Chattahoochee River.

**July 1864** was a curious month in the American Civil War. While it should have been clear that the South was in dire straits militarily, a rumour went round Washington that the capital was about to be attacked. In reality this was never an option open to Lee at this time. However, the panic in the city served Lee well. Sherman continued his relentless march to Atlanta.

July 1<sup>st</sup>: President Lincoln appointed Senator William Pitt Fessenden as Secretary of the Treasury. Though Fessenden was reluctant to take up the position, he soon proved to be a very good choice.

July 2<sup>nd</sup>: Lee ordered that Confederate troops had to destroy the Baltimore to Ohio railway. If this was successful, it would greatly hinder the movement of Union troops should they be required to defend the capital.

July 3<sup>rd</sup>: Washington DC was awash with rumours that the South was about to launch an attack on it; the numbers talked about were grossly inflated but this would have fitted in with Lee's desire to destroy the Ohio-Baltimore railway.

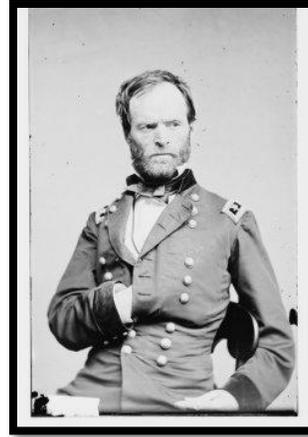
Sherman continued his advance on Atlanta.

July 4<sup>th</sup>: Lincoln vetoed the Wade-Davis Bill that would have introduced harsh settlements for rebel states. He was still convinced that a policy of reconciliation was required, not retribution

Having outflanked his opponents, Sherman's force was actually nearer to Atlanta than

Southern troops. This forced the South's commander in the area, Johnston, to make a hasty withdrawal so that Atlanta was better protected. Johnston set up his line of defence along the Chattahoochee River.

Editor's Note: Total War was a concept that Sherman believed was the quickest way to bring the war to a close. Only by making the civilian population feel the hurt, would the South yield.



July 5<sup>th</sup>: Panic ensued in Washington DC as many believed that the city was just about to be attacked.

Lincoln suspended habeas corpus in Kentucky, as he believed that the South was receiving too much help from the state's citizens. Martial law was introduced throughout the state.

July 6<sup>th</sup>: Thousands of Union troops were rushed to Washington. This is what Lee had hoped for as it relieved the pressure on his army.

July 7<sup>th</sup>: General Johnston, tasked with facing the seemingly unstoppable force of Sherman's, received a letter from Jefferson Davis that criticised his decision to withdraw to the Chattahoochee. He also informed Johnston that he would receive no more reinforcements.

July 8<sup>th</sup>: Part of Sherman's army outflanked the defences at Chattahoochee and Johnston decided to withdraw to Atlanta.

July 9<sup>th</sup>: A hastily assembled Union force of 6,000 fought the South by the banks of the River Monocacy. The South's 10,000 men, most were experienced and battle-hardened, overwhelmed the Union troops. But the advance of the South was crucially delayed for a day – enough time to better organise the defences of Washington.

Johnston withdrew from his positions along the Chattahoochee and withdrew to Atlanta.

July 10<sup>th</sup>: Sherman took the decision not to make a full-frontal assault on Atlanta.

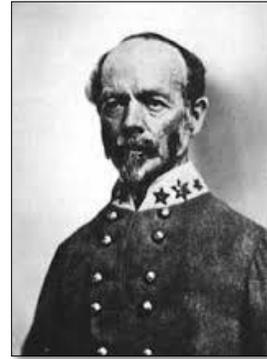
July 11<sup>th</sup>: Confederate troops commanded by General Early arrived on the outskirts of the capital. However, the impact of the summer heat had reduced the number he commanded from 10,000 to 8,000. Early was also lightly armed with small artillery guns. The delay at the River Monocacy was vital for the defenders as it allowed a force of 20,000 to gather in the city and to build more defences. Scouts informed Early as to what he faced and he decided to abandon his original plan to assault the capital. In fact, Early did the opposite – he ordered his men to withdraw from their positions.

July 12<sup>th</sup>: Lincoln observed the withdrawal of Early's troops from Fort Stevens.

July 14<sup>th</sup>: Pursued by Union troops, Early's men withdrew to the Shenandoah Valley. Lincoln expressed his belief that the pursuit had not been vigorous enough.

July 16<sup>th</sup>: Sherman started his advance on Atlanta.

July 17<sup>th</sup>: Jefferson Davis relieved Johnston of his command and appointed John B Hood in his place. Hood was the youngest commander of an army in the war aged 33 years. He lost his left arm at the Battle of Gettysburg and his right leg at the Battle of Chickamauga. Davis hoped that his fighting spirit and undoubted bravery would rub off on the men tasked with the defence of Atlanta.



July 18<sup>th</sup>: Lincoln rejected tentative peace talks with the South as they based their proposals on the basis that there would be an independent South.

July 19<sup>th</sup>: Sherman spread out his army in an attempt to surround Atlanta. Three separate Union armies faced the defenders in Atlanta - the Armies of the Tennessee led by McPherson, Cumberland led by Thomas and Ohio led by Schofield. Hood determined that his best approach was to attack one and inflict overwhelming damage on it before moving on to the next. Hood resolved to attack the Army of the Cumberland.

July 20<sup>th</sup>: Hood attacked the Army of the Cumberland with 20,000 men at Peachtree Creek. Thomas had a similar number of men. However, the South's army in Atlanta had spent months on the defensive and not the offensive. The attack was a major failure: the South lost four brigadier-generals in the attack and 4,000 men – 25% of those who fought for the South in the attack. The Union lost 300 dead and 1300 wounded – less than 10% of the total number of Union troops who fought at Peachtree Creek. For Hood and Atlanta, the failure at Peachtree Creek was a huge one.

July 21<sup>st</sup>: Union troops took a Confederate redoubt at Bald Hill, outside of Atlanta.

July 22<sup>nd</sup>: Undeterred by Peachtree Creek, Hood still believed that being offensively minded was his best approach. He ordered an attack on the Army of the Tennessee commanded by McPherson who was killed in this battle. Both sides claimed victory in the battle. The North lost a total of 3772 men (1333 wounded) while it is thought that the Confederates lost 6,500 men killed and wounded with another 2,000 missing. However, Hood claimed the battle as a victory as his men captured 13 artillery guns. But the defenders of Atlanta could not afford to lose 8,500 men in one battle.

July 23<sup>rd</sup>: Union forces suffered a major defeat at Kernstown losing 1,200 men (600 killed) and fled in disarray towards Bunker Hill, West Virginia.

July 27<sup>th</sup>: Sherman sent large cavalry units south of Atlanta to cut off the railways there.

July 28<sup>th</sup>: Hood attacked the Army of the Tennessee again. This was also a failure as the South lost 4,600 men while the Union lost just 500.

July 31<sup>st</sup>: Lincoln met with General Grant to discuss the war. Grant was acutely aware that Lincoln's political survival depended on how well the Union forces in the field were doing.

In **August 1864**, Sherman started his attack on Atlanta. The Confederate general in the city was effectively surrounded. In an attempt to divert Sherman's attention away from Atlanta, a Confederate force attacked the Unionists at Jonesboro. What interested the North the most about this attack was the poor showing of the Southern troops who seemed to show little interest and resolve.

August 9<sup>th</sup>: Atlanta was attacked by artillery fire for the first time. Sherman had no intention of making a frontal assault on the city. He planned to surround the city as best as he could, ensure no trains could supply the city and thus starve it out.

August 10<sup>th</sup>: Confederate units tried to disrupt Sherman's supply line but he had already thought of that. Sherman had stockpiled supplies near to his front.

August 11<sup>th</sup>: Sherman continued the bombardment of Atlanta while his troops dug towards the defenders trenches.

August 18<sup>th</sup>: For the second time Grant refused an exchange of prisoners.

Sherman ordered an attack on the Macon and Western railway.

August 23<sup>rd</sup>: Fort George surrendered to Union forces. Though the port of Mobile remained in Confederate hands, the North controlled the bay. As such, Mobile could not operate as a port. Therefore the only working port left to the Confederates was Wilmington in North Carolina.

August 26<sup>th</sup>: Hood was effectively cut off in Atlanta.

August 27<sup>th</sup>: Sherman's army effectively surrounded Atlanta. A few railways still existed but they would have been unable to supply the whole city nor would they have been able to supply Hood's army.

August 28<sup>th</sup>: Sherman further tightened his grip on Atlanta by destroying ten miles of the West Point Road that led from Atlanta to the Alabama state line.

August 30<sup>th</sup>: The railway from Atlanta to Montgomery was cut. Now the city only had one railway to serve it, from the city to Macon.

August 31<sup>st</sup>: General George McClellan was nominated the Democrat Presidential candidate for the November election.

Source: [http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/Jun \(July, August\) -1864-civil-war.htm](http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/Jun%20(July,%20August)-1864-civil-war.htm) (Accessed May 21, 2014).

### **\*\*\*\*\* USPS Announces 2014 Civil War Commemorative Stamp Design \*\*\*\*\***

In 2011, the US Postal Service began issuing a pair of commemorative stamps to commemorate the sesquicentennial of the Civil War. The first set (1861) illustrated Fort USPS Civil War commemorating Fort Sumter and The First Battle of Bull Run. The Civil War 1862 set reflected the Battles of New Orleans and Antietam followed by (1863) the Battles of Vicksburg and Gettysburg.

The Postal Service has released the design for the current year issue (1864) which will be issued in the now familiar forever (current rate) design of a pair of stamps with an illustration and appropriate quotes and a total of 12 forever stamps to a double-sided commutative pane.

The 2014 stamps will be issued on 30 July and contain illustrations of the Battle of Petersburg (16 June '64 – 3 April '65) and the Battle of Mobile Bay (5 August '64). With first day ceremonies in both Petersburg and Mobile, stamps should be available at your local post office the following day or by 1 August at the latest.

**Bruce Patterson**

### **\*\*\*\*\* Trivia Questions for July & August \*\*\*\*\***

**1 – The third Confederate Conscription Act of February 1864 established what ages for service in the Confederate Army?** The first conscription law has called for all men between 18 and 35. In 1862, the age was raised to 45. The 1864 act raised the age to 50. The Confederacy was being bled to death.

**2 – Where and when was a sitting president of the United States subjected to direct fire from an enemy combatant?** At Fort Stevens on July 12, 1864, President Lincoln stood atop a parapet to observe Jubal Early's attack against the Washington defenses. Confederate sharpshooters directed fire against those exposed on that parapet. A young Union officer supposedly offered advice to Mr. Lincoln. "Get down, you damn fool!"

That young officer was Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr. – future justice on the United States Supreme Court from 1902-1932.

**3 – On June 15, 1864, units of Grant's army arrived before Petersburg in a move that gained the advantage over Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. General William (Baldy) F. Smith led 10,000 Union soldiers in an attempt to overwhelm the Confederate defenders before Lee could move his army south of the James River. Who led the successful defense of the Confederate positions? P.G.T. Beauregard** may have performed the most successful efforts of his career as he cobbled

together a force of old men and boys to resist the XVIII Corps attack. Beauregard position was supported by formidable fortifications and the XVIII Corps had been stopped, with heavy losses, on the Confederate fortifications before Cold Harbor. Beauregard's resolve and Smith's hesitation combined to ensure that the war would continue into 1865.

**4** – The Battle of Moores Creek Bridge took place on February 27, 1776 in a remote area located about 20 miles north of Wilmington. A force of Americans defeated British loyalists who were marching to the coast to meet elements of the British army. This victory effectively ended British authority in North Carolina and was a stimulus for North Carolina to become the first colony to back independence from Great Britain.

During the brief battle, one patriot was killed. Who was this first North Carolinian to lose his life during the Revolutionary War?

