

The Runner



Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Our next meeting will be held on **Thursday, 10 December 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 December meeting as we continue our 2015-2016 Program Year. 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.

******* December 2015 Program *******

I Give Them 'til Christmas: The Hard Luck Career of the CSS *Neuse*

Andrew Duppstadt will share the many frustrations that attended the building, outfitting, and brief career of the Confederate ironclad stationed at Kinston. The building of the *Neuse* will reveal a microcosm of the difficulties experienced throughout the Confederate Navy. In the end, the life of the CSS *Neuse* will be viewed as one long, continual string of bad luck.



Andrew Duppstadt is the Program Development & Training Officer for the North Carolina Division of State Historic Sites. He has a BA in history and an MA in public

history from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. Previously, he has worked at the CSS Neuse State Historic Site, Fort Fisher State Historic Site, Tryon Palace Historic Sites and Gardens, and the Carteret County Historical Society.

Andrew also serves as an Adjunct Instructor of History at UNC-Pembroke, Coastal Carolina Community College, and Craven Community College. He is a founding member and President of a living history group called the Carolina Living History Guild. He is also a member of the Company of Military Historians, the North Carolina Military Historical Society (where is a Board member and Treasurer), and the Southern Historical Association. Andrew resides in Kinston, NC.

Editor

******* Trivia Questions for November *******

- 1 – Who was responsible for the Confederate efforts to produce ironclad warships?**
- 2 – What major material limited the South’s ability to produce ironclad warships?**
- 3 – What % of the nation’s industrial base was in the southern states in 1860?**
- 4 – Who was Thomas Prentice Kettell?**

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

Raffle Master: Ed Gibson

If you have books, prints, or other items that you would like to donate to the 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 raffle by contributing items and/or purchasing tickets.

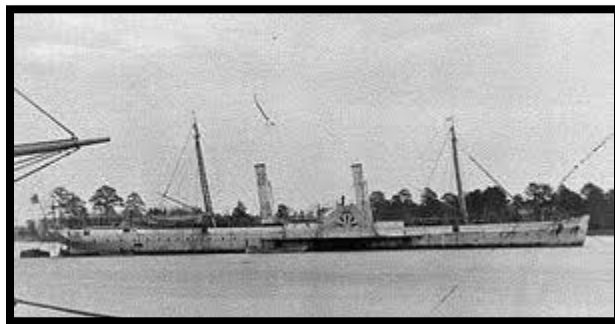


Thank you to everyone who purchased tickets to the book raffle and a special thank you to Mike Budziszewski for sharing from the liquidation of some of his extensive Civil War collection.

Shattering of the Union
Our Lincoln
Lamson of the Gettysburg
Ulysses S. Grant
Atlas of the Civil War
Irish Brigade

Holston
Hodges
Buggein
Cooke
Holston
-

***** **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 – Wishing each of you and your family a **Happy Thanksgiving** and a very **Merry Christmas!**

2 – *The February Dinner will change date and venue.* The meeting will be on **February 4, 2016** at the **Blockade Runner** in Wrightsville Beach. **Kelly Hinson** will return in: **An Evening with Mrs. Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson.**



Mark your calendar and save this date. The cost is \$35/person (includes meal and a raffle ticket for some excellent Civil War related items). Space is limited to 80 attendees, so get your reservation to Bruce Patterson via mail (**P.O. Box 15750, Wilmington, NC 28408**), phone (**910-794-8905**) or at the next RT meeting. An additional opportunity exists for this meeting: If you want to celebrate an early Valentine’s Day, Bruce has negotiated a special rate with the Blockade Runner for that nite – sound-side rooms \$100 or ocean-front rooms \$110.

If you missed Kelly’s last visit with our RT, this is your chance to experience how well interpretive history can be performed.

3 – **Cape Fear Revolutionary War Round Table** – Annual Dinner Meeting, **December 2, 2015**, 6:00PM: Dinner at 6:30, St. Johns Masonic Lodge, 4712 Oriole Drive. Speaker: Lieutenant General John “Gentleman Johnny” Burgoyne (Dr. Bruce M. Venter) Contact **Connie Hendrix at 910-278-6705** for additional information. \$25/Members; \$30 Guests.

4 – **Fort Fisher State Historic Site** events – Saturday, **December 5th** – “**We Kept Our Courage Up.**” The site commemorates the first attack with artillery program. Dr. Chris Fonvielle speaks at 12:30 in the auditorium. 10am to 4pm. Tuesday, **December 8th** – **Holiday Open House** from 10am to 4pm.



The 32# cannon will “roar” at 10am, 12noon, 2pm, and 4pm on December 5th

5 – “**Help Wanted**” - We thought we would send out a notice to the area Civil War Roundtables letting you know that we are **seeking volunteers at Fort Fisher**. We are seeking people interested in history to assist us with giving tours of the fort and to help with group tours, as well as those who have experience in retail to help in the museum store. In the spring, we will also be seeking volunteers to work in the garden. Contact Becky Sawyer (becky.sawyer@ncdcr.gov) or John Moseley (john.moseley@ncdcr.gov).

******* November Program *******

The Confederate Economy

Dr. Melton McLaurin shared an economics lesson about the United States in 1860 and how the Civil War exposed the inherent weaknesses in the South’s agricultural dependent system. Cotton may have been king during the 1850’s, but cotton alone was not the solution to the deficiencies in the South’s efforts to forge a separate nation.

Among the subjects discussed were: credit arrangements for planters, industrial output, food production (North and South), the place of taxes in the creation on infrastructure, specie (gold and silver), land and slavery, Confederate bonds, inflation, raw materials, taxes in kind, and Reconstruction.

“Gone with the Wind” took on a different meaning after Dr. McLaurin’s presentation. The South was poor before the war with much of its wealth concentrated in the hands of a few individuals (and their creditors). With the loss of 9% of its white population during the war, it was poorer still afterwards.



***** Trivia Questions for December *****

1 – Who was responsible for the Confederate efforts to produce ironclad warships?

Stephen R. Mallory. In April 1861, the United States became engaged in a civil war which would last for four years. As the Southern states entered the conflict, they were faced with obvious disadvantages in lack of manpower, supplies, and facilities to coordinate an extensive war effort. To offset the Union's advantages in manpower and industry, resourcefulness became a key word in the Confederacy.

When Stephen R. Mallory was appointed Secretary of the Confederate Navy in February 1861, he was convinced that his navy could equalize the superior numbers of the Union navy through the construction and employment of ironclad warships. Mallory had only two months to organize his department before war broke out, and he was faced with the task of creating a navy from virtually nothing. Moreover, the secretary had to constantly substantiate the importance of his new department. Jefferson Davis, a former army officer and President of the Confederate States, expressed little interest in the Navy Department. Mallory, nevertheless, instigated a formidable shipbuilding program, much of it centering around the construction of ironclads.

On assuming his duties, the secretary stressed the importance of these new vessels for the Confederacy. Two months after the war began, Mallory predicted that

Naval engagements between wooden frigates, as they are now built and armed, will prove to be forlorn hopes of the sea, simply contests in which the question, not victory, but of who shall go to the bottom first, is to be decided.

Source: <http://www.nchistoricsites.org/neuse/background.htm> (accessed November 20, 2015).

2 – What major material limited the South’s ability to produce ironclad warships? Iron.

As a raw material, iron was not plentiful in the South after the rich ore fields in Tennessee and Kentucky fell into Union control during the early stages of the war. Iron was either not available for the ships or was delayed in transport to the various shipyards. This was because railroad lines were tied up in transporting troops and supplies for the armies. Subsequently, delays in the construction of ironclads became a way of life for individual contractors, a fact painfully demonstrated during construction efforts in North Carolina.

Source: <http://www.nchistoricsites.org/neuse/background.htm> (accessed November 20, 2015).

3 – What % of the nation’s industrial base was in the southern states in 1860? Per Dr.

McLaurin’s presentation, the southern states accounted for just 8% of the industrial capacity of the United States. The southern economy was dominated by the agricultural products that were shipped to northern and European manufacturers.

4 – Who was Thomas Prentice Kettell? A political economist, magazine editor and author

who in 1856 published *Southern Wealth and Northern Profits, as exhibited in Statistical Facts and Official Figures; showing the Necessity of Union to the Future Prosperity and Welfare of the Republic*. Kettell tried to show the dependence of the sections upon one another – the Southern secessionists and the Northern anti-slavery people took exception with his arguments.

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

Should they stay or should they go?

Should Civil War memorials be removed to only displays in museums or cemeteries? Would that case be limited to only locations in the former Confederate states or would it also apply to all states?