

# The Runner



## Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Our next meeting will be held on **Thursday, 14 January 2016** 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 January 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.

### \*\*\*\*\* January 2016 Program \*\*\*\*\*

### **Everything You wanted to Know about Confederacy Currency: but were Afraid to Ask\***

**David Meisky** will present a program at our January meeting that will share his knowledge of Confederate currency and its history. Per David:

There is an old saying, “save your Confederate money boys...” and many people are aware of Confederate paper money but what is the real story behind these pieces of paper? How much was printed and by who? What was backing this currency? What do the bills look like? There are other stories as well. Did the Confederate States mint their own coins? Were Confederate coins minted in the north? Were Confederate bills printed in the north? Were US coins minted by the Confederacy? Who is Samuel Upham and Winthrop Hilton and how are they connected to Confederate currency? These and a number of

other questions will be answered as I show and explain not only Confederate currency but also state, local, and private issue bills.



A history graduate of George Mason University, **David Meisky** retired from the Fairfax County Public Library. He has re-enacted for a number of years and started appearing as “Extra Billy” Smith in the spring of 2008, after a good deal of study. He has also performed a first person portrayal of Captain David Meade, a Confederate army paymaster, which allowed him to display and discuss his collection of period money. As an infantry private, he has served for a number of years with the Fairfax Rifles, Company D of the 17th Virginia Infantry Regiment.

**Editor**

*\*Owners of period bills are encouraged to bring them to the January meeting where David will provide information about your currency.*

**\*\*\*\*\* Trivia Questions for January \*\*\*\*\***

- 1 – When did the Confederate government first issue currency?**
- 2 - Who were Samuel Upham and Winthrop Hilton and what was their connection to Confederate currency?**
- 3 – Where was the initial construction of the C.S.S. *Neuse* and by whom?**

**\*\*\*\*\* 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](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 raffle by contributing items and/or purchasing tickets.

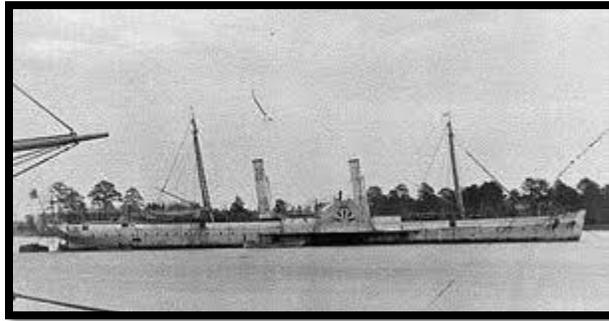
Thank you to everyone who purchased tickets to the book raffle.



*Pickett's Charge: The Last Attack at Gettysburg*  
*Lee's Young Artillerist: William R.J. Pegram*  
*Southern Storm: Sherman's March to the Sea*  
*Grant: A Biography*  
*A Chain of Thunder: A Novel of the Siege of Vicksburg*  
*Images of the Civil War*  
*Last Flag Down*

Marie Winzinger  
Jim Gannon  
Walt Bullard  
Jim Gannon  
Joe George  
John Moore  
Linda Lashley

\*\*\*\*\* **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 very **Merry Christmas** and a **Happy New Year!**

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.



**Fort Fisher**

3 – **“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](mailto:becky.sawyer@ncdcr.gov)) or John Moseley ([john.moseley@ncdcr.gov](mailto:john.moseley@ncdcr.gov)).

**\*\*\*\*\* December Program \*\*\*\*\***

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

**Andrew Duppstadt** told the story of the C.S.S. *Neuse* from its beginning on October 17, 1862 until it was scuttled by its crew after Kinston fell to the Union army in March 1865. Between those dates, the efforts of the Confederate navy were frustrated by shortages of resources of every type. Andrew then told the story of the *Neuse* from its sinking in 1865 until its initial salvage efforts in 1956 and its display as a NC Historic Site in 1964. He continued the *Neuse* story as its outdoor displays were hit by multiple hurricanes during the 1990s. Hard Luck continued to

follow the *Neuse* until it was moved to its current location in 2012.



Today the C.S.S. *Neuse* rests comfortably in the fully-enclosed Civil War Interpretive Center at 100 North Queen Street in Kinston, NC. At last, the C.S.S. *Neuse* is no longer plagued by hard luck.

The Center is open to the public and is well worth the two hour drive up I-40.

### \*\*\*\*\* Trivia Questions for January \*\*\*\*\*

**1 – When did the Confederate government first issue currency?** Per Dr. Melton McLaurin during his November 12, 2015 presentation, the Confederate government in Montgomery, Alabama issued \$1,000,000 in paper currency in March 1861. By August 1861, the government printers cranked out \$100,000,000. By the war's end, the Confederacy has issued \$1,700,000,000 in paper notes.

Again per Dr. McLaurin, as the Confederates suffered increasing military defeats, the government had no way to support the value of its currency. The typical Confederate citizen lost faith in its notes as inflation destroyed its buying power.

**2 - Who were Samuel Upham and Winthrop Hilton and what was their connection to Confederate currency?** David will tell you much more about these resourceful Yankee businessmen, but for the purpose of this question, they were counterfeiters of Confederate currency.



**3 – Where was the initial construction of the C.S.S. *Neuse* and by whom?** On October 17, 1862, a contract was signed between the Confederate Navy Department and the shipbuilding firm of **Howard & Ellis** to construct an ironclad gunboat. The vessel *Neuse*, as it would later be identified, was one of 26 ironclads constructed and commissioned by the Confederate Government. The hull of the ship was to be turned over to the Navy Department by March 1, 1863, "complete in all respects ready to receive the engine and machinery . . . and fasten iron plating on said vessel."

Work on the *Neuse* was begun shortly after the contract was signed. The building of the ship commenced at **White Hall**, North Carolina (now Seven Springs), on the banks of the Neuse River.



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

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

**Should they stay or should they go?**

New Orleans City Council officials have decided that Confederate memorials in their fair city will be removed. Someone has volunteered \$144,000 to support the city's decision to remove General Lee and other Confederate persons from city locations.

Do you think this was the most important issue facing New Orleans officials?