

The Runner



Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Our next meeting will be held on **Thursday, 12 November 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 November 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.

***** November 2015 Program *****

The Confederate Economy

Dr. Melton McLaurin will expand on the concepts he began last November when he addressed “Could the South Have Won?” He will focus on the economy that both enabled the South to survive for four years and led the South to eventually succumb to the superior resources of the North. King Cotton, slavery, blockade running, and inflation will figure into the conduct of the four year conflict.

”It’s the economy, stupid!” was as important in 1861-1865 as it is today. Bill Clinton and Abe Lincoln had a better grasp of this fact than did George H. W. Bush and Jeff Davis.

Fayetteville area native Melton Alonza McLaurin received his Ph.D. in American history from the University of South Carolina in 1967 and taught at the University of South Alabama prior to joining the UNCW department of history as chairperson in 1977. From 1996 until 2003 he served as Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, retiring in 2004. He authored or co-authored nine books (*Celia, A Slave; The Marines of Montford Point: America's First Black Marines*) and numerous articles on various aspects of the history of the American South and race relations.



Melton McLaurin

Join the RT at the November meeting to learn about aspects of the Civil War that may have had too little discussion.

Editor

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

A special thanks to **Joe George** for supplying the trivia questions for this issue of *The Runner*.

1 – Wilmer McLean was too old to fight in the Civil War. But that did not stop the 47-year-old Virginia farmer and merchant from being involved in two of the most important events of the war. What were they?

2 - Although not unique to the Civil War, what were “Quaker Guns?”

3 – This state was a significant supplier to the Confederacy, providing much needed beef, pork, fish, fruit and particularly salt (which kept meat from spoiling). In addition, while other Confederate states recruited more and/or lost more soldiers in total, this Southern state provided the largest percentage (in terms of ratio of soldiers to total residents) of any of the other southern states. Name that state.

4 – Most of us are familiar with the term 4-F used in classifications given to new military registrants who are not acceptable for service in the Armed Forces due to medical, dental, or other reasons. Most people do not know the term 4-F originated in the Civil War. What did it mean at that time?

5 – This facility had two observation towers constructed for onlookers. Citizens could pay 15 cents to take a look. Concession stands next to the towers sold peanuts, cakes, and lemonade. What was this facility?

******* 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.

Marching Toward Freedom - Joe George

Why the South Lost the Civil War - Linda Lashley

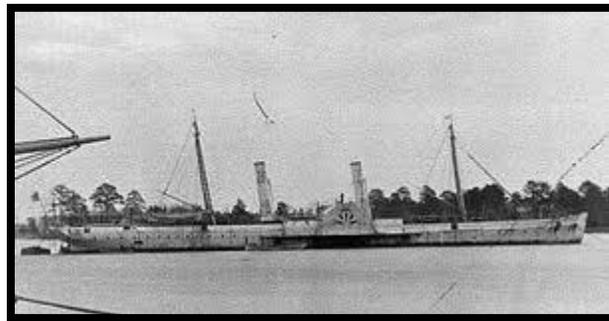
Maps of the Civil War - Linda Lashley

Grants Memoirs - John Bolger

Seasons of War - John Bolger



***** **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 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. Additional details about the dinner meeting will be forthcoming in a future issue of *The Runner*.

2 – **Latimer House**, 126 South Third Street (910-762-0492) – Saturday, October 31, Tours at 7:00, 7:30 & 8:00 PM – **In Memoriam** – The Victorian Mourning Program Learn how Victorian-era Americans grieved for their loved ones with exhibits about clothing, customs, food, and more featuring costumed interpreters. Tours of Latimer House may encounter Victorian spirits. Cost \$5 for CFCWRT members.

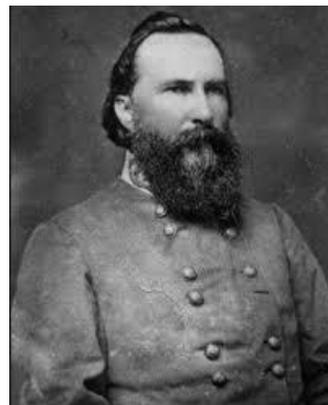
***** October Program *****

A Civil War Challenge



A great big game of Civil War Jeopardy took place at the October Meeting. **Brian Kraus**, A.K.A. Alex Trebek, took a wide variety of questions from those in attendance.

Among the subjects: **Actions of the 26th North Carolina at Gettysburg** (decimated in actions against the Iron Brigade and on the third day); **Longest continuous engagement during the war** (During the Battle of Spotsylvania in the Bloody Angle, the opposing forces of Lee and Grant endured approximately 24 hours of fierce hand-to-hand combat); **First land battle of the war** (The Battle of Philippi on June 3, 1861, in what became West Virginia, is credited as the first battle. George B. McClellan claimed the Union victory for his rising star); **Animosities between George McClellan and A.P. Hill** (George and Powell vied for the affections of the same woman and George won Marcy's heart and hand); **Comparison of casualties between USA and CSA officers** (the Southerners probably claimed this Pyrrhic victory by losing a lot of their brother officers – leading from the front); **The relationship between Robert E. Lee and George E. Pickett** (Their relationship was very cool following Pickett's poor showing at Five Forks during April 1865. After the war, John S. Mosby accompanied Pickett to a visit with Lee in Richmond. After Mosby and Pickett left Lee, Pickett remarked that Lee had had his division massacred at Gettysburg on July 3, 1863 – Mosby, perhaps trying to lift Pickett's spirits, remarked that Lee had made Pickett "immortal"); **Lee's preference: Jackson or Longstreet** (Lee never expressed his personal feelings; however, Lee most often located his HQ near Longstreet's 1st Corps camps.



Brian's format opened the floor for comments and thoughts. From the extended length of the meeting, it was apparent that those present had done more than doze through previous Round Table discussions. Lively discussions kept things moving!

Thanks to Brian for leading a spirited meeting and thanks for those present for sharing their knowledge of Civil War history.

Note: Thanks to Lance Blevins for his meeting notes and to Linda Lashley for her meeting photographs.

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

1 – Wilmer McLean was too old to fight in the Civil War. But that did not stop the 47-year-old Virginia farmer and merchant from being involved in two of the most important events of the war. What were they? The first major battle of the Civil War, the First Battle of Bull Run (First Manassas) took place on McLean's farm, the Yorkshire Plantation. Union artillery fired on his house that was being used as headquarters by Confederate General P.G.T. Beauregard. In the months following the battle, McLean was nearly bankrupt so he packed up his family and moved to what he hoped would be a more peaceful corner of his home state. But the Civil War was not through with Wilmer McLean. Four years later, Grant's Union forces commandeered McLean's house in Appomattox where Lee would surrender to Grant. After the surrender ceremony, Union soldiers ransacked the house leaving little but the structure itself behind. Financially ruined once again, Wilmer was forced to sell the home and find work, as of all things, a federal tax collector. Embittered, he would later claim that the war began in my front yard and ended in my front parlor.

2 - Although not unique to the Civil War, what were "Quaker Guns?" "Quaker Guns" were used by both the North and the South. However, due to its shortage of artillery, they were often used by the Confederacy. They were typically large logs, shaped to resemble cannon, painted black and positioned behind fortifications to delay assaults by overwhelmingly superior Union troops. Occasionally, a real gun carriage was placed beneath the log. These were used during the war for deception that a position was strongly held and sometimes, the ruse worked. The name comes from the Religious Society of Friends, or Quakers, who have traditionally held a religious opposition to war and violence.



3 – This state was a significant supplier to the Confederacy, providing much needed beef, pork, fish, fruit and particularly salt (which kept meat from spoiling). In addition, while other Confederate states recruited more and/or lost more soldiers in total, this Southern

state provided the largest percentage (in terms of ratio of soldiers to total residents) of any of the other southern states. Name that state. Florida. It was the third state to secede. It was the smallest of the eleven Confederate states with 140,000 residents of whom 60,000 of them were slaves. The 15,000 Floridians who fought in the war was the largest percentage (ratio of soldiers to non-slave residents) of all southern states. Of those 15,000 soldiers, almost 5,000, or one-third, died or were killed as a result of the war – a very disproportionate loss compared to Florida’s sister states. Many more who survived were disabled or had their lives shortened due to health issues directly related to their military service. While very little fighting actually took place on Florida soil, many Confederate troops were deployed to the major theatres of operations in Virginia and in the West. Little press is dedicated to the few battles that occurred in Florida – (Fort Pickens, The Tampa Bay Incident, Battle of Olustee, and the Battle of Natural Bridge. By most measures, none of these battles were extremely pivotal and had little effect on the war’s outcome. However, Floridians participated in many major battles with General Robert E. Lee’s troops in Northern Virginia. There were nearly 500 Florida soldiers who surrendered with General Lee when he surrendered the Army of Northern Virginia at Appomattox Court House.



OK, I got caught up in Joe’s Trivia questions and had to add this to his Florida information: Anyone know who this gentleman was? He became a Confederate brigadier general late in the war. Originally from Greenville, NC, he moved to Florida in 1844.

Editor

4 – Most of us are familiar with the term 4-F used in classifications given to new military registrants who are not acceptable for service in the Armed Forces due to medical, dental, or other reasons. Most people do not know the term 4-F originated in the Civil War. What did it mean at that time? It was used to disqualify army recruits who did not have four front teeth. Without four front teeth, soldiers would be unable to tear open gunpowder packages quickly; hence, making them ineffective riflemen, placing himself and his fellow soldiers at greater risk. Molars and premolars in the back of the mouth were not sufficient for the task of opening gunpowder packages. Only the incisors and canine teeth in the front could be used. So 4-F means “lacks Four Front teeth.”

5 – This facility had two observation towers constructed for onlookers. Citizens could pay 15 cents to take a look. Concession stands next to the towers sold peanuts, cakes, and lemonade. What was this facility? The Union prison camp at Elmira, NY. The towers

were erected around July 1864 by Elmira citizens. It was said that while the towers might have brought profit to some prison officials, they seem to have inspired humanitarian efforts from Elmira citizens. However, such efforts were often hampered by Federal authorities.

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

Should they stay or should they go?