

# The Runner



## Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Our next meeting will be held on **Thursday, 8 October 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 October 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.

\*\*\*\*\* **October 2015 Program** \*\*\*\*\*

### A Civil War Challenge



The October Program will be a little different: **Brian Kraus** will conduct a Civil War challenge event. He will attempt to answer any questions posed by members of the audience about major events or major personalities of the American Civil War. How this challenge will work: Write your question on a slip of paper and drop into the Question Box when you arrive at our meeting. Brian will provide a short answer on each question posed to test his prodigious knowledge.

**Brian Kraus** is a Pittsburg, Pennsylvania native who attended East Carolina University. He is an artist, historian, teacher, re-enactor and Civil War Tour Guide who has long been fascinated by the history of our Civil War.

Join us on October 8<sup>th</sup> and participate in a reverse JEOPARDY – You get to challenge an “Alex Trebek” to answer a question.

**Editor**

**\*\*\*\*\* Trivia Questions for October \*\*\*\*\***

- 1 – When and why was the Ladies’ Memorial Association of Petersburg formed?**
- 2 – When was the Blandford Church renovated?**
- 3 – Three Confederate generals final resting place is in the Blandford cemetery. Can you recall their names?**

**\*\*\*\*\* 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 CFRCWRT to fund our activities and our speakers.* Please take part in our raffle by contributing items and/or purchasing tickets.



***THE LAST FULL MEASURE – Linda Lashley***

*BRUCE CATTON'S CIVIL WAR* – Tom Hewitt

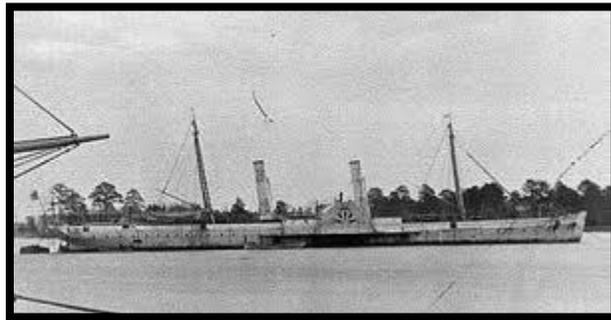
*AGE OF LINCOLN* – Joe Hack

*BATTLE CRY OF FREEDOM* – C Callen

*THE CIVIL WAR* – Jim Vaugh

*WHY THE SOUTH LOST THE CIVIL WAR* – John Parks

\*\*\*\*\* **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 – October 10-11 NC Living history and special programs, “Reunion & Remembrance” at Bennett Place State Historic Site in Durham. Free. [ncdcr.gov/events#!/](http://www.ncdcr.gov/events#!/)

2 – October 20 NC Lecture, “The Wilmington Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1862,” at the NC Maritime Museum in Southport. 7 pm. Free. <http://www.ncdcr.gov/events#!/>

\*\*\*\*\* **September Program** \*\*\*\*\*

**Blandford Church and Cemetery**



**Martha Atkinson** shared the history and purpose of Blandford Church and cemetery.

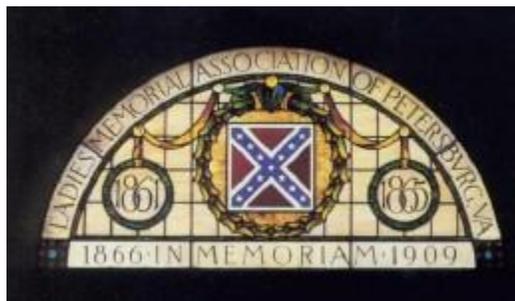
To experience the memorial and to see the beauty of the Tiffany windows, plan a visit with Martha and her staff at the Blandford Cemetery on 319 South Crater Road in Petersburg, Virginia.

**\*\*\*\*\* Trivia Questions for October \*\*\*\*\***

**1 – When and why was the Ladies’ Memorial Association of Petersburg formed?** On the 6<sup>th</sup> of May 1866, the Ladies’ Memorial Association was formed “to devise means to perpetuate their gratitude and admiration for those who died defending homes and loved ones.” One of the principal, active members of the Ladies Memorial Association was Miss Nora Fontaine Maury Davidson who had established a school for young women in Petersburg. On June 9, 1865, she took her students with her to Blandford Cemetery and decorated the graves of both Union and Confederate dead with flowers and flags.

Source: <http://www.memorialdayorigin.info/lma.html> (accessed September 30, 2015).

**2 – When was the Blandford Church renovated?** In 1901, the Ladies Memorial Association was authorized by the City of Petersburg which owned it to restore and transform the abandoned Episcopal Church in Blandford Cemetery into a memorial to honor the 30,000 Confederate soldiers buried in the cemetery. After raising considerable funds, the ladies had the old church, built in 1735, renovated and decorated with stained glass windows designed and manufactured by William Comfort Tiffany. Mr. Tiffany himself supervised the installation of the windows in the church and donated one window from his own funds. Each window commemorates the Confederate soldiers and sailors who died defending their homes and country. There is one window for each state of the Confederacy plus a window for each of the border states which were sympathetic to the states in secession but for various reasons stayed in the Union. The window donated by Mr. Tiffany completes the memorial. Blandford Church is now owned by the City of Petersburg; and it is open to the public who come from far and wide to see its beauty, calm dignity, and memorials to the fallen dead. Thousands of persons visit the church each year. Petersburg commemorates the National Memorial Day each May 30<sup>th</sup> and Confederate Memorial day each June 9<sup>th</sup>.



Source: <http://www.memorialdayorigin.info/lma.html> (accessed September 30, 2015).

**3 – Three Confederate generals final resting place is in the Blandford cemetery. Can you recall their names?** Per Martha Atkinson’s presentation, William Mahone, David Weisiger and Cullen Battle were buried among 30,000 comrades.

## \*\*\*\*\* Memoirs \*\*\*\*\*

Memoirs often make fascinating reading because they share a story of the recollections of one individual about a series of events. Usually that individual is not a trained historian who seeks to validate those events.

General William T. Sherman wrote volume 1 of his *Memoirs* in 1875 – prior to the availability of the *Official Records*. He received many public and private criticisms; hence, in 1885, Sherman revised his work to answer criticisms and to provide additional material. In his preface to the second addition, Sherman made a statement that I thought should be applied when considering all memoirs:

In this free country every man is at perfect liberty to publish his own thoughts and impressions, and **any witness who may differ from me should publish his own version of facts in the truthful narration of which he is interested**. I am publishing my own memoirs, not theirs, and we all know that no three honest witnesses of a simple brawl can agree on all the details. How much more likely will be the difference in a great battle covering a vast space of broken ground, when each division, brigade, regiment, and even company, naturally and honestly believes that it was the focus of the whole affair! Each of them won the battle. None ever lost. That was the fate of the old man who unhappily commanded.

Source: <http://www.gutenberg.org/files/4361/4361-h/4361-h.htm> (accessed October 1, 2015).

## \*\*\*\*\* Thoughts \*\*\*\*\*

**Memorials.** These seem to be a hot topic lately that are getting a lot of press time. I ran across the following while researching the Blandford Church. It is a rather long passage; however, I believe it shares a worthwhile thought about the meaning of our long standing observance practices.

During the Month of March 1868, just three years after the end of the Civil War, Mrs. Mary Simmerson Cunningham Logan, wife of General John A. Logan, Commander in Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic -- the Union Army Veterans Organization -- went to Petersburg. She recounted her visit in her article published in the *Los Angeles Daily Times* dated May 30, 1903, titled MEMORIAL DAY: A NOTED WOMAN'S STORY OF ITS ORIGIN AND GROWTH. According to Mrs. Logan:

*"...it is especially pleasant to know that the ideal of Memorial Day was unwittingly suggested by the devotion of the people of the South to their heroes. In the early spring of 1868 I was one of a party ... to make a pilgrimage to the battlefields of Virginia. Gen. Logan had long been anxious to make a personal inspection of this section of the country over which the great conflict raged in order to enlarge his knowledge of the entire course of the war .... Unfortunately, however, circumstances prevented him accompanying me and he did not see with his own eyes what really prompted the first Decoration Day. It is my pleasure to revert to it and to pay a just tribute to the gentle people whose acts gave me the inspiration that resulted in the Decoration Day of today."* Mrs. Logan talks about the difficulties of getting a guide and transportation, then:

*"But it is not of this that I would speak, but of the incident that gave me the inspiration that resulted in Decoration Day. We were in Petersburg, Virginia, and had taken advantage of the fact to inspect the oldest church there, the bricks of which had been brought from England. There was an old English air all about the venerable structure, and we passed to the building through a churchyard. The weather was balmy and spring-like, and as we passed through the rows of graves I noticed that many of them had been strewn with beautiful blossoms and decorated with small flags of the dead Confederacy. The sentimental idea so enraptured me that I inspected them more closely and discovered that they were every one the graves of soldiers who had died for the Southern cause. The actions seemed to me to be a beautiful tribute to the soldier martyrs and grew upon me while I was returning to Washington. Gen. Logan was at that time the Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, with his headquarters in Washington, and as soon as he met me at the station I told him of the graves of the Southern soldiers in the cemetery at Petersburg. He listened with great interest and then said: 'What a splendid thought! We will have it done all over the country, and the Grand Army shall do it! I will issue the order at once for a national Memorial Day for the decoration of the graves of all those noble fellows who died for their country.' ... He immediately entered into a conference with his several aides with a view of selecting a date that should be kept from year to year. He realized that it must be a time when the whole country was blooming with flowers, and May 30th was finally selected as the best season for the annual observance of the day." Following this discussion, Mrs. Logan goes on to quote essential parts of Grand Army of the Republic General Order No. 11 which was issued on May 5, 1868, designating May 30th "... for the purpose of strewing with flowers or otherwise decorating the graves of the comrades who died in defense of their country in the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village and hamlet churchyard in the land." Mrs. Logan adds a postscript:*

*"Time has shown how well that order has been obeyed, and although the observance of the day has grown as the years have glided into the past and every city and hamlet in the country assists in the noble work, the eyes of the nation are every year centered upon the great national cemetery on the Heights of Arlington where, lying under the emerald lawns and shaded by the great trees, are the bodies in whose honor the day was inaugurated. Nearby the graves of the men who wore the blue are hundreds of mounds that cover all that was mortal of those who wore the gray, and it is one of the most beautiful traits of forgiving humanity that none of them are overlooked on the most sacred day in the American calendar. In Dixie they garland with one hand the mounds above the ashes of the northern soldiers while with the other they strew beautiful blossoms on the graves of their own heroes. We of the north do the same, for they were all heroes, each dying for the cause he thought was right. They gave their all to prove their sincerity, and they all died true Americans whatever their political affiliations may have been...."*

Source: <http://www.memorialdayorigin.info/logan.html> (accessed September 30, 2015).

Thoughts about Mrs. Logan's writings?