

The Runner



Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Our next meeting will be held on **Thursday, 14 December 2017** at Harbor United Methodist Church located at **4853 Masonboro Loop Road**. Come early – the meeting starts promptly at 7:00p.m. See cfwrt.org for details of future speakers and their subjects.

***** December 2017 Program *****

Forged in Battle: Mexican War as a Civil War Proving Ground

Jeff Bockert will discuss how training and tactics learned in the Mexican War affected Civil War leaders' decisions and strategies during the Civil War. In addition, Jeff will discuss how tactics and lessons learned sometimes depended on whether one served with General Winfield Scott or General Zachary Taylor while in Mexico.



General Scott's Grand Entry into the City of Mexico, September 14th, 1847.

Source: <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/resource/pga.05227/> (accessed November 27, 2017).

Jeffrey Bockert currently serves as the East Region Supervisor for the North Carolina Division of Historic Sites based in Kinston, North Carolina. He has worked in the historic site and museum field for over twenty years and prior to arriving in Kinston, he served as the Civil War Specialist for the N.C. Department of Natural & Cultural Resources. Jeff's previous work experience includes manager of the President James K. Polk Birthplace, Associate Curator on the Battleship North Carolina and work at the National Archives in Washington, D.C. He is the author of several works on presidential and military history and has published in works such as *White House Studies* and *Public Historian*. Jeff received both his undergraduate degree in American History and his master's degree in European History from UNC-Wilmington.

******* Trivia Questions for December 2017 *******

1 – Which side did Santa Claus favor during the Civil War?



2 – Which Civil War general had a song written about his Mexican-American War deeds?

3 – Which general commanded both the campaigns to defeat the Mexicans in 1847 and the Confederates in 1861?

4 – How did Confederate General Daniel Harvey Hill feel about substitutes and exemptions?

5 – Who was J. Summerfield Staples?

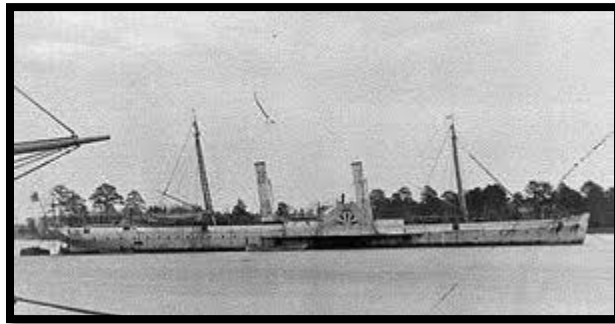
******* Raffle Winners *******

Woops - To be Posted Next Month -

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.

***** 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 to tpwinstead@gmail.com. Thank you.

1 – **Merry Christmas!**

We wish all members and friends of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table a blessed Christmas and New Year.

2 - Cape Fear 3 and the **Blockade Runner** Chapters of the United Daughters of the Confederacy will be collecting old medicine/pill bottles for overseas uses in medical missions.

Remove the labels and donate bottles to this worthy cause. Please give used bottles to **Linda Lashley** at our next RT meeting.

3 – If you have plans to do some traveling and want to know about upcoming Civil War events in that area, check out *civilwar.travel*. This site is for 2017 events.

4 - December 2, 2017 Bentonville Battlefield

A Civil War Christmas - Holiday Open House

Saturday, 10 am - 4 pm

Come celebrate a Civil War Christmas during this Holiday Open House event. Costumed interpreters will decorate the kitchen in festive themes using natural materials such as holly, magnolia, fruits, and popcorn strands. Visitors can enjoy cookies and cider while

listening to period music. Costumed military interpreters will be available to discuss how the common soldier spent his time on furlough with friends and family. This event is free, and open to the public.

Source: <http://www.nchistoricsites.org/bentonvi/bentonvi.htm>

5 - December 9, 2017

Fort Fisher State Historic Site

Victorian Christmas Open House

Saturday, 10 am - 3 pm

Enjoy the delightful sounds of Masonboro Parlor and John Golden, and learn 19th century dance steps as well. A guest presenter will examine "Santa Claus: the Man, the Myth, and the Legend." Also, shop in the museum store while enjoying light refreshments. This event is free, and open to the public.

Open House is sponsored by Fort Fisher Chapter 2325 of the UDC, the Friends of Fort Fisher, New Hanover County, the town of Carolina Beach and the town of Kure Beach.

Linda Lashley

Source: <http://www.nchistoricsites.org/fisher/>

6 – December 10, 2017

Brunswick Town/Fort Anderson

An 18th Century Christmas

Sunday, 1 - 5:50 pm

Join us once again this holiday season, as we explore how the American colonists celebrated Christmas. Costumed interpreters will provide guided tours of St. Philips Anglican Church on the hour. During the program, you can enjoy Colonial refreshments in the Visitor Center, participate in traditional games, or try your hand at Moravian paper stars and other 18th century crafts. The highlight of the evening will be an authentic period candlelit service in the ruins of St. Philips Church. The service will begin at 5:00pm and will conclude by 5:30pm. Parking for this event will be \$5 per car.

<http://www.nchistoricsites.org/brunwic/brunwic.htm>

7 – Two Weeks of Fury – Wise’s Fork, Monroe’s Crossroads, Averagesboro, Bentonville - September 28-30, 2018

The Two Weeks of Fury Symposium will begin with an optional half-day on Friday, Sept. 28, in Kinston. Friday evening will include a key-note lecture at The Barn at [Broadslab](#). Saturday's tours begin with a rare trip to Monroe's Crossroads battlefield and a guided tour of Civil War Fayetteville and Averagesboro. Saturday will wrap with an intimate meet and greet at Bentonville Battlefield featuring heavy hors d'oeuvre and drinks. Sunday will conclude with a guided tour of Bentonville Battlefield.

Only 100 tickets will be sold, with a limit of 25 being sold for the optional Friday, half-day. Tickets include two meals, snacks, water, soda, and Saturday evening hors d'oeuvre and drinks. Your price includes venue admissions and a copy of Mark Moore's *Historical Guide to Bentonville*, an excellent map guidebook of the Carolinas

Campaign. The price for the event will be \$350 or \$395 if you include the Kinston trip on Friday afternoon.

Contact (910) 594-0789 amanda.brantley@ncdcr.gov

I attended a similar symposium some years ago with many of the same speakers. I highly recommend this event.

9 - Cape Fear Civil War Round Table - Dinner Meeting at 7:00p.m. – February 8, 2018 – Blockade Runner: Wrightsville Beach – Nighthawk Room– Speaker: Rod Gragg, Subject: “Up Close & Personal: Witnesses to the War.” Dinner and Presentation \$35 per attendee: An early & reasonably priced evening that your Valentine will enjoy. Please put this on your calendar. Contact Bruce Paterson at 910-794-8905 or bpatterson@earthlink.net

***** November 2017 *****

Confederate Conscription: An Introduction



William “Bill” Brown shared the history of North Carolina’s efforts to raise troop levels to resist the invasion of their state and to support the efforts of the Confederate government to effectively counter Lincoln’s strategy to maintain the Union. Among the many subjects covered, Bill discussed the Militia Code of 1861, the effect of exemptions had on troop levels, the North Carolina Line and Volunteer Corps, the Constriction Act of April 1862, Bounty Pay, Substitutes, the Militia Code of 1863, the Home Guard, the Conscription Act of 1864, Robert E. Lee’s General Order No.54 – Amnesty for deserters to return to the ranks without punishment (Governor Zebulon Vance’s proclamation on Order No.54).

Editor

Note: Thanks to **Linda Lashley** for her notes on Bill Brown’s presentation. As reflected in her notes: The exemptions in the Conscription Acts almost caused a class war – “A Rich Man’s War, A Poor Man’s Fight.”

***** Letters from an Old Soldier *****

William H. Langley was a member of Co. E, 7th Regiment North Carolina Troops. Langley enlisted in Northampton County at age 18, June 10th, 1861. He was wounded at Ox Hill, Virginia on September 1, 1862 and at Chancellorsville May 1-4, 1863. Langley was captured at the Wilderness on May 6, 1864. He was confined at Point Lookout, Maryland until transferred to Elmira, New York, August 10, 1864. Langley was released from Elmira, NY on June 12, 1865.

The 7th Regiment served under Brigadier General James Lane and the regiment saw some hard fighting, At Chancellorsville, “It is admitted here that Lane’s boys were a bad, quarrelsome set of fellows and too fond of a fight altogether.”

On June 6, 1903 at a tobacco barn in W.H. Langley’s grove about one mile west of Elm City, 39 Confederate veterans assembled for a reunion and barbeque. There was no regular program, but each person was called on to make a few remarks.



Langley was the man with his arms crossed: library.digitalnc.org

The following letters share Langley’s thoughts on his old comrades and the fellowship they shared.

Letter from W.H. Langley to Editor (P.D.Gold) of the Wilson Daily Times March 14, 1914

Dear Mr. Gold: Will you please publish this in your paper:

I have been very sick. I have been here in my room what you may say helpless for five weeks and I am an old soldier. I have [given] several dinners to my old soldier

friends, and up to this day there have [sic] not been a single old soldier to see me, but tonight I am feeling some better and if I do live to see the 8th day of August which is my 71st birthday I am going to continue to be their friend by giving them another dinner. I am here tonight almost helpless, eating out of an old tin plate and a cup which was used in the time of the war. I will be pleased if you will publish this for me and fix it right.

Yours truly,
W. H. Langley

Elm City, N.C. March 3, 1914

Mr. Gold editorialized;
We trust that not only the old soldiers who are able to do so but others will visit my good friend who is a good farmer, a good citizen, a valiant soldier and in whose heart is the milk of human kindness. We have always appreciated the friendship of Mr. Langley. He has been ever kind and true to the editor of the Times and many has been the words of encouragement said to us when he came in to pay his subscription or to make a friendly call. Whenever he has given a dinner he has sent a special invitation to the editor, but much to our regret pressure of work has kept us from attending, but now we are going to leave our business and make him a visit and we want you to do the same. –Ed. Times.

Wilson Daily Times, April 30, 1914.

We were honored today by a visit from Mr. W. H. Langley of Elm City. Mr. Langley who has been quite ill for several months, has a host of friends in the community who will rejoice at his recovery. This venerable old man has had a very remarkable career, having been “killed” four times during the civil war and was declared dead twice during his recent illness. Mr. Langley smiled as he told us of the times during the war when, with a bullet hole through his shoulder, neck and abdomen he was carried to the “deadhouse” and prepared for interment. He is now quite lively and is today shaking hands with his many friends in this city.

Note: William H. Langley was my Great-Grandfather. He died in 1918, a victim of Spanish influenza.

If you have a Civil War ancestor that you would like to share their experiences, send to me and I will include in a future edition of *The Runner*. tpwinstead@gmail.com.

Editor

Source: Editorial, *Wilson Daily Times*, March 14, 1914, April 30, 1914.

***** **“keep green the memory”** *****

My Great-Grandmother, my Grandmother, and my Mother were members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy. I grew up with knowledge of the organization, its activities and many of its members. I had no knowledge of a similar organization for Union Daughters, nor had I ever thought of the possibility until yesterday (November 21st).

“The National Alliance of the Daughters of Veterans of the United States of America” was incorporated on December 12, 1885, in Massillon, Ohio.

“National Society Daughters of the Union 1861-1865” was founded October 9, 1912 in New York City, New York by Mrs. Frank Crowell.

From what I discovered on-line, these Daughters established organizations to honor Union soldiers and women who served during the war. I thought that idea sounded similar to the UDC goals. Admittedly, I knew little about the activities of these organizations; hence, I emailed both organizations to inquire about their activities after they organized and those activities today.

Hopefully, I will hear back so I can update this subject next month.

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

1 – Which side did Santa Claus favor during the Civil War? Thomas Nast, a German immigrant and illustrator for the *Harper’s Weekly*, drew his first Santa Claus in 1862.

His first Santa (in the postdated January 3, 1863 issue) is a **small elf distributing Christmas presents to Union soldiers in camp**. **Santa dangles by the neck a comical jumping jack identified in accompanying text as Jefferson Davis, the Confederate president. There was no doubt in Nast’s illustration whose side Santa favors in the war.** Besides the military context, the cartoon is set off from later ones in that the gift giving is for adults, not children (except for the drummer boys). The other two Christmas illustrations of Nast’s published during the Civil War emphasize family scenes, with Santa relegated to the background.

Source: <https://www.archives.gov/> (accessed November 9, 2017).

2 – Which Civil War general had a song written about his Mexican-American War deeds? None other than that famous and much loved North Carolinian – **Braxton Bragg**. At the Battle of Buena Vista on February 23, 1847, General Zachary Taylor supposedly told Captain Bragg to give the Mexican troops “a little more grape Captain Bragg.” William J. Lemon wrote the song, “*A Little More Grape Captain Bragg: A National Song*” Lemon dedicated the song to General Taylor, but it was forever linked to the deeds of the young Captain Braxton Bragg.

Source: <https://www.loc.gov/resource/sm1847.430520.0?st=gallery> (accessed November 9, 2017).

3 – Which general commanded both the campaigns to defeat the Mexicans in 1847 and the Confederates in 1861? General Winfield Scott, a Virginian, directed the campaign that captured Mexico City and he came up with the strategy that would strangle the Confederacy. Early in the Civil War, Scott offered command of the Union army to one of his staff officers from the Mexican-American War: Robert E. Lee, another Virginian.

Source: <http://www.sonofthesouth.net/mexican-war/mexican-war-generals.htm> (accessed November 9, 2017).

4 – How did Confederate General Daniel Harvey Hill feel about substitutes and exemptions? General Hill was well known for his strong views on many issues. His views on furloughs for men serving in his command were classics of his well formed thoughts.

When members of a regimental band requested a furlough, Hill denied their application with a short remark, “Shooters before Tooters.”

Hill’s views on **substitutes** and **exemptions** were clearly declared in furlough request that had been disapproved by one of Hill’s Division commanders. “Approved for the reason that a brave soldier ought to be allowed to go home whenever practicable, else all the children born during the war or within the usual period afterwards will be the offspring of the cowards who remain at home by reason of **substitutes or other exemption.**”

Source: B.A. Botkin, *A Civil War Treasury of Tales, Legends and Folklore* [New York: , Promontory Press, 1960] 332.

5 – Who was J. Summerfield Staples? Staples was a 19 year old Pennsylvanian who served as a substitute for Abraham Lincoln. President Lincoln, even though he was overage and exempt, felt he needed to help the war effort; hence, he paid \$300 to hire his substitute.

Source:http://www.slate.com/blogs/the_vault/2013/01/10/abraham_lincoln_the_president_paid_a_substitute_to_enlist_in_the_union_army.html (accessed November 16, 2017).