

# The Runner



## Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Our next meeting will be held on **Thursday, 14 September 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](http://cfwrt.org)** for details of future speakers and their subjects

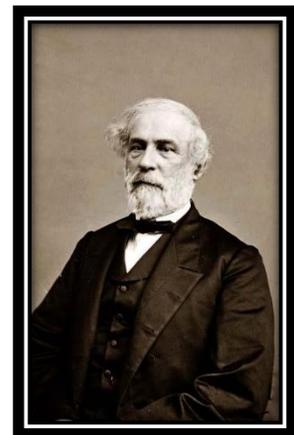
Please join us at our first meeting of the 2017-2018 Program Year. Visitors are always welcome – ***bring a friend***. Each of our speakers strives to enlighten, entertain, and add to our knowledge of Civil War history. This serves our mission of encouraging education and research into that historic conflict.

\*\*\*\*\* September 2017 Program \*\*\*\*\*

### Lee's Post-War Visit with his Tar Heels

Recently much has been made about Lee's post war activities and his elevation to god-like status in the South. **Chris Meekins** will speak to our membership and guests about a supposed event that took place during Lee's 1870 visit to North Carolina. Chris will reveal another side of Lee during his last years.

In 1911, the Semicentennial of the American Civil War brought the war and the people who fought in it to the forefront. State and national events commemorated and celebrated the battles and the soldiers. Memories of the war and connections to battles and great men of the war were told and retold - some memories and celebrations were carved in stone. Amid the return of captured flags and the erecting of monuments, newspapers also ran stories of remembrances and connections to the war and the soldiers.



In an article in The Roanoke News (published in Weldon, N.C.), Mrs. Fannie White Garlic shared her alleged connection with no less a soldier than General Robert E. Lee. Garlic relates that Lee, a purported family friend, gave her a small token of affection (a gold ring) during his stay in NC in 1870. Details in the story, however, give one pause as to whether or not the incidents recounted are true. Come and listen as Chris Meekins unravels what he calls "The

Curious Case of Mrs. Fannie White Garlic and General Robert E. Lee: The Ring of Truth?." We will examine her story and review Lee's time in NC. In the end we will determine if Mrs. Garlic will be remembered for her veracity or her audacity.

**Chris Meekins** holds an MA in History from NCSU. He has worked with the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources for more than 17 years, 13 of those as a Reference Archivist. Chris studies North Carolina History, the Civil War and African American History. He is currently president of the North Carolina Military Historical Society.



**Editor**

**\*\*\*\*\* Trivia Questions for September \*\*\*\*\***

- 1 – What occupation did Robert E. Lee pursue after the war?
- 2 – Which newspaper called for Lee to be trialed for treason? Who defended Lee against those charges of treason?

**\*\*\*\*\* Raffle Winners \*\*\*\*\***

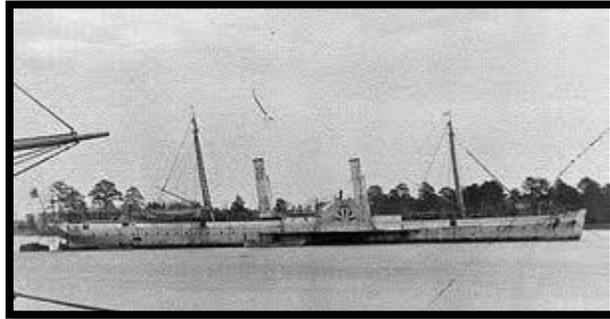
**Raffle Master: Ed Gibson**

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.



*Forts and Artillery: Al Anderson*  
*Surviving the Confederacy: Bill Jayne*  
*Framed Print - Returning Home - Joe Hack*  
*Bloody Crucible of Courage: Ed Gibson*  
*Shrouds of Glory: Jim Gannon*  
*Battle of Nashville: Gary Anderson*

\*\*\*\*\* **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 CFCWRT has a new meeting place!!!!** After many years at St. Andrews On-the-Sound Episcopal Church, we have a new home at **Harbor United Methodist Church, 4853 Masonboro Loop Road.**

**2 –** 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.

**3- Bill Jayne** has taken the position as the Vice-President of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table.

Bill retired from the Federal government on December 31, 2010 after more than 30 years of service. He spent most of his career in the National Cemetery Administration (NCA), one of three operating elements of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

From 1990 to 2010, working in public affairs, state cemetery grants and NCA construction management, he had a role in the establishment of more than 50 new veterans cemeteries across the country.

He was born and raised in the Hudson Valley of New York State and graduated from Highland High School in Ulster County in 1964, earning a New York State Regents Scholarship. He enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1966 and served in Vietnam with the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 26<sup>th</sup> Marine Regiment, 3<sup>rd</sup> Marine Division during the Khe Sanh campaign of 1968. He received the Purple Heart and the Presidential Unit Citation and was honorably discharged from the Marine Corps in 1968.

His interest in the Civil War began with Memorial Day parades in the 1950s that stopped at two Civil War memorials in the small village of Highland for wreath-laying ceremonies and

speeches. A high school trip to Gettysburg and reading Lee's Lieutenants one warm summer intensified that interest. Finally, working in the National Cemetery Administration, an arm of the government that was founded as a direct result of the Civil War, deepened that interest.



**4 - Bruce Patterson**, CFCWRT Treasurer, has donated an astounding 6,273 stamps to the United Daughters of the Confederacy. They were acquired from the Wilmington Philatelic Society and will be distributed to the VA Medical Center in Fayetteville, NC. Borders are left on the stamps and are used as hand therapy for the veterans as they use scissors and other hand/eye coordination skills to build stamp collections. Many thanks to Bruce, a retired U.S. Army Colonel, for remembering our Vets.

If you have stamps you would like to contribute, please see Linda Lashley at the Membership Table. You may also donate coupons, which go to the UDC and are sent to the Army Community Service in Ft. Bragg. Any metal drink can tabs are also appreciated, as they are donated to the Ronald McDonald House. **(Linda Lashley)**



**5 -** May 20 found several of our CFCWRT members in Raleigh for the North Carolina Military Historical Society's WW1 Symposium. Attending were Bruce Patterson (manning the Registration Table and not available), Bill Jayne, Cindy Richards, John Winecoff, Linda Lashley and our President Bob Cooke. John set up the monument presentation he and Ed Gibson presented to the Round Table awhile back and Linda attended as a WW1 Army Telephone Operator. **(Linda Lashley)**



\*\*\*\*\* May 2017 \*\*\*\*\*

## The Earth is Weeping: The Epic Story of the Indian Wars for the American West

**Peter Cozzens** shared the findings contained in his latest book. He described the era as “an epoch shrouded in myth.” The Regular Army and the Indian Wars were uniquely affected by mythology: Good versus Evil. From the 1850s until Wounded Knee in the 1890s, the Army was the White Knight seeking to destroy evil – the movie *She Wore a Yellow Ribbon* with John Wayne reflected that view. During the 1970s, the pendulum on who was good and who was evil swung: Dee Brown’s *Bury my Heart at Wounded Knee* and the movie, *Dances with Wolves*, changed the public’s perception to an Army tasked with extermination of the Indians.



Cozzens stated that three myths affected perceptions: 1) The Army was hell-bent on its mission to conquer the West; 2) The U.S. Government official policy called for the extermination of the indigenous people; 3) The Indian tribes were united in their resistance to invasion of their territories. Cozzens proceeded to de-myth these three items one by one.

General William T. Sherman remarked, “We do our duty according to our means.” The Army was tasked to protect a huge area in the West. Sherman blasted his critics for their failure to understand that there were too few troops for such a large job. Congress did not help the Army – they voted to reduce troop levels from 54,000 in 1869 to 25,000 in 1876.

General George Cook did not like his job. Cook thought that the Indians were usually in the right in disputes with the White man. Adding to the territorial tensions and the ability of the Indians to feed their families, buffalo hunters killed millions of buffalo. Cook also acknowledged that when the Indians saw their families starving, they went to war. General John Pope proposed helping the Indians exterminate the buffalo hunters. Pope realized that, “Indians, like white men, are not reconciled to starve peacefully.”

There was no official government policy to exterminate the Indian tribes. Most Army officers desired to Christianize and make farmers of the Indians. President Grant appointed Ely Parker, a Seneca Indian and former staff member, as Commissioner of Indian Affairs. (With the exception of the Lakota Indians and Black Hills gold, Grant desired peace with the Indian tribes.)

The various Indian tribes never united to systematically oppose the Army. Some tribes supported the Army; other tribes fought the Army and intrusion of white settlers until late in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The Army and the U.S. Government did break many promises. An elderly Lakota chief remembered the events that had transpired. “The [government] made us many promises,” he told a white friend, “more than I can remember, but they kept but one; they promise to take our land, and they took it.”

**Editor**

**\*\*\*\*\* Trivia Questions for September \*\*\*\*\***

**1 – What occupation did Robert E. Lee pursue after the war?** Lee became president of Washington College in Lexington, Virginia. As he had done in 1861, Lee remained in Virginia and shared its fate. He wrote to the college trustees that he believed, “it is the duty of every citizen, in the present condition of the Country, to do all in his power to aid in the restoration of peace and harmony.”

Source: vahistorical.org, accessed September 6, 2017.

**2 – Which newspaper called for Lee to be trialed for treason? Who defended Lee against those charges of treason?** *The New York Times* was a major proponent of seeking treason charges against Lee. In a *NYT* editorial on June 4, 1865, “He levied war against the United States more strenuously than any man in the land, and thereby has been specially guilty of the crime of treason, as defined in the Constitution of the United States.” President Andrew Johnson supported charges against the Confederate generals. On June 7, 1865, District Judge John C. Underwood in Norfolk, Virginia, issued indictments against Lee, James Longstreet, Jubal Early and others.

**U.S. Grant** stepped forward to defend Lee and the others. Grant had included a provision in the Appomattox terms of surrender that the conquered could return to their homes and if they abided the terms of their paroles, “not to be disturbed by United States Authority.” Grant interceded with President Johnson. Grant offered to resign his commission **if** the terms of surrender were not honored. In June 1865, U.S. Grant was the most popular man in the United States. Johnson bowed to Grant’s arguments//threats. Fearing public opinion, Johnson soon sent word to Judge Underwood ordering that the proceedings be dropped.

Source: civilwarprofiles.com, accessed on September 6, 2017.

**\*\*\*\*\* National Cemetery Administration \*\*\*\*\***

Bill Jayne prepared the following article to explain the NCA.

**FEDERAL STEWARDSHIP OF THE CONFEDERATE DEAD**

The National Cemetery Administration (NCA) is one of three operating bureaus in the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The Veterans Health Administration manages the

hospitals and clinics and other health programs, and the Veterans Benefits Administration manages programs such as disability compensation, educational benefits and the home loan program.

NCA is much the smallest of the three administrations and it also the newest to VA, having been established in 1973 when most of the national cemeteries were transferred from the Army to VA. Yet, NCA was the first of the three organizations to establish a historian's office and that office has accomplished some very important work.

One of the newest projects to be completed by the NCA History Program is an on-line publication called *Federal Stewardship of Confederate Dead*. The publication is 311 pages long, contains 233 photographs, maps and drawings and 12 illustrations of various Confederate flags. It's an excellent reference work and it can be easily downloaded at <https://www.cem.va.gov/cem/history/index.asp>

The work evolved out of a historic resource study that NCA initiated in 2008 as one of several activities to commemorate the Civil War sesquicentennial. The basic purpose of the project was to compile primary historic information about a significant group of NCA properties—the Confederate cemeteries and memorial sites as well as the Confederate burials within national cemeteries that were established for the burial of Union dead.

A contractor, Labat Environmental, Inc., completed the book project with most of the research accomplished by Joseph E. Brent and Maria Campbell Brent located appropriately enough in the historic border state town of Versailles, Kentucky.

The photographs, maps and diagrams are outstanding. It's easy to put a personal spin on a written statement but a period photograph provides a powerful and objective piece of evidence. The photograph below shows the prisoner of war camp at Camp Morton in Indianapolis during the winter of 1864. A Union Army surgeon wrote a scathing report of the conditions at Camp Morton in October 1863 and a new superintendent was appointed but in spite of adequate supplies of food, good water and wooden barracks, disease was rampant and approximately 1,763 prisoners died at Camp Morton.



Figure 86. Camp Morton prison camp at Indianapolis, winter 1864. The ditch (foreground) was an unnamed creek the prisoners called the "Potomac." Library of Congress.

The study focuses on 18 cemetery facilities with more than 400 burials each. Arlington National Cemetery plays an important role in the study but it's not one of the 18 covered in depth

because Arlington National Cemetery was retained by the Army in 1973 when almost all of the other national cemeteries—and Confederate cemeteries—were transferred to VA.

NCA also tasked the authors of the study with providing answers to some specific questions including the use of individual headstones versus group memorials and verification of the number of Confederate dead interred in each of the sites in the study. NCA also asked the authors to address the question of commemorative activities such as Memorial Day ceremonies and the use of Confederate flags at the sites.

The study is organized into two sections: Part I addresses the “Historic Context” of the Confederate burial sites, specifically trying to answer the questions “how and why some Confederate soldiers came to be interred in national cemeteries and others in private or community cemeteries, and who authorized them.” Part II is a compilation of histories of the individual sites. These are not brief summaries, but rather essays averaging about 10 pages each that cover each site in greater depth than I have seen in any other publication.

Both sections are well footnoted, making this study an extremely valuable research tool. A detailed 25-page bibliography contributes to the research value of this work.

Bill Jayne