



MARCH 2020

THE RUNNER



VOLUME 2 ISSUE 3



The Greatest Battle in the Western Theater

Everard H. Smith, Ph.D., will discuss the pivotal battles of Chickamauga and Chattanooga in the fall of 1863. Dr. Earl H. Hess, author of *The Civil War in the West*, pronounced Chickamauga as “the greatest battle in the western theater” of the Civil War. In spite of the size of the forces involved and the great strategic value of the sites, the battles are relatively little known. Dr. Smith, a native of Washington, D.C., received his B.A. from Yale and a Ph.D. in history from UNC Chapel Hill. He has been a resident of North Carolina for more than 45 years and has lived in Wilmington since 1991 when he joined the staff of UNCW. He later became a senior networking analyst for the N.C. Department of Information Technology. A highly acclaimed local speaker, Dr. Smith specializes in the history of the Civil War and World War II. He is a former member of the Wilmington Historic Preservation Commission and past chairman of the City Advisory Board of the Hannah Block Historic USO building. He is also a specialist in Shakespeare and has been the stage manager for several productions of the Cape Fear Shakespeare, Ltd., which presents the annual summer Shakespeare festival at Greenfield Lake.

Why are the battles little known? For one thing, the topography of the battlefields is very complicated. William Glenn Robertson, retired from the staff



*Snodgrass House, headquarters of General Thomas,
“The Rock of Chickamauga” 1902*

NEXT PRESENTATION

- ◆ Thursday, March 12th
- ◆ **Dr. E. V. Smith:** Chickamauga
- ◆ 6:30 Social 7:00 Meeting
- ◆ Harbor UMC
4853 Masonboro Loop
Wilmington



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The Greatest Battle in the Western Theater, cont.

of the US Army Command and General Staff College at Ft. Leavenworth, KS, wrote that at Chickamauga “the woods limited maximum visibility to 150 yards...and made it almost impossible to control linear battle formations. Similarly, the terrain provided few fields of fire to the armies’ artillerymen.” Additionally, both commanders were ultimately relieved and came down through history as failures.

General Braxton Bragg, who would later preside over the fall of Wilmington in 1865, commanded the Confederate Army of Tennessee. Maneuvered out of Chattanooga and into nearby northwestern Georgia, he gathered reinforcements and struck the Union Army of the Cumberland commanded by Major General William S. Rosecrans.

The Battle of Chickamauga on September 18-20, 1863, resulted in more than 34,000 casualties to the two armies and saw the Union forces nearly destroyed. Yet a little more than a month later, a reinforced Union army now led by Major General Ulysses S. Grant, routed Bragg’s forces and pushed them back into north Georgia opening the road to Atlanta.



Lithograph showing Confederate attack at Chickamauga 1890

Richmond Bread Riot - Presented by Bert Dunkerly

On the mild evening of February 13, more than 40 members of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table assembled at Harbor Church in Wilmington to learn about the Richmond Bread Riot, declared the “largest antiwar demonstration in the Confederacy.”

Historian, author and National Park Service Ranger **Bert Dunkerly** presented a fact-filled, illuminating story of the home front in the Civil War. A ranger at Richmond National Battlefield Park, Bert mapped the route of the riot and showed “then-and-now” photographs of the important sites, such as stores looted by the rioters.

Setting the stage, we learned that Richmond’s population had ballooned from about 38,000 residents in 1861 to an estimated 100,000 in 1863. Soldiers, bureaucrats, industrial workers, refugees all poured into the Confederate capital and, yet, the police force numbered 26 officers.

Bacon rose from about 12 cents a pound to \$1. Coffee skyrocketed from 12 cents a pound to \$5. The Confederate government tried to control the prices charged to the government but merchants charged civilians whatever the market would bear. Bad winter weather, conscription, and unsafe working conditions all contributed to a situation in which people were unable to buy essential food, clothing, and fuel.

This powder keg erupted in the spring of 1863. Mary Jackson, a produce seller at the 1st Market had called a meeting the previous night and dissatisfied residents assembled at George Washington’s statue on April 3, 1863. Moving from the statue to the nearby Governor’s Mansion, the group sought a meeting with Governor John Letcher. He ignored them and they then headed toward the stores and markets of old Richmond.

Confederate diarist John Jones estimated the crowd at more than 1,000 and it grew during the day as they marched through downtown Richmond, breaking into stores and taking whatever they wanted. A jewelry store was looted as well as other stores selling necessary items such as shoes. Many were armed, and police and militia sent to try to restore control could only arrest those who separated themselves from the crowd.

At Cary and 14th Street, Mayor Joseph Mayo called on the rioters to disperse. He was ignored. Observers described the marchers—mostly women—as acting with “terrible earnestness.” Some called them “Amazonian.”

Confederate President Jefferson Davis, accompanied by Gov. Letcher, stopped them at around 15th and Main and gave them five minutes to disperse or be fired upon by the militia.

The crowd then dispersed and 43 women and 25 men were arrested. According to our speaker, neighbors turned in neighbors and many were sent to the penitentiary. The incident illustrated the class and ethnic divisions in the society of Richmond, as many well-to-do observers seemed to feel that the rioters were not really affected by the inflation and lack of food stuffs. Some described the rioters as “Irish and Yankee hags.”



Bert Dunkerly engaging members of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

In 1863, women took to the streets in order to protest a lack of resources - including flour and bread - in the capital of the Confederacy.

During the Civil War, Southerners were generally capable of producing enough food; however, distributing the resources could become extremely difficult.

The government tried to send as much food as possible to the soldiers. When battles raged in Virginia, local sources for grain were quickly exhausted.

Richmond Bread Riot - Presented by Bert Dunkerly, cont.



The Mobile Bread Riot was spurred by drastic food shortages during the Civil War. Mobile, Mobile County, September 4, 1863

Similar riots occurred in other southern cities, including Salisbury, N.C. After the riots, the government took some steps to set up a system of relief for the families of soldiers and to reduce food prices.

The story was largely untold in the years after the war but the newspaper accounts, court documents and personal accounts ensured that the events would not be lost to history.

Collapse of the Southern Economy

Inflation spiraled into a situation of hyperinflation, in which the value of the Confederate dollar dropped rapidly, sometimes even from hour to hour.

Meanwhile, because of drought conditions, food became scarce in some areas. In 1863, things got so bad that a group of Virginians, many of them women, looted the Confederate capital in the **Richmond Bread Riots**, searching for food and taking out their frustration on their government.

Trivia Questions



1. Who was the first black war correspondent?
2. Who was the youngest general in the Civil War?
3. How many times was Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr. wounded during the Civil War?
4. Which US Senator had sons fighting on both sides of the war?
5. Which battle took place at the "River of Death"?

Answers on page 9

MARCH 11, 1862

IN RICHMOND, PRESIDENT DAVIS REFUSED TO ACCEPT THE REPORTS OF BRIGADIER GENERALS FLOYD AND PILLOW, WHO FLED FORT DONELSON BEFORE THE SURRENDER. BOTH OFFICERS WERE RELIEVED FROM COMMAND.

September 20, 1863 - Battle of Chickamauga, Second Day

Except from *The Civil War Day-by-Day, An Almanac 1861-1865* by E. B. Long

Daybreak on this fall Sunday in the Georgia woods was supposed to see the Confederate drive renewed from the right, commanded by Polk. Then other divisions were to join in. There was no attack until about 9:30am, when Breckenridge's division moved forward. The Union left under Thomas fell back, but held at the breastworks. Neither side gained or lost much from the heavy Confederate attacks until shortly before noon. Longstreet came in opposite the Federal Center, to find that by a blunder of orders Thomas J. Wood's Union division had been pulled out and left a gap in the Northern line. Longstreet hit, driving two divisions away, thus cutting the Federal line and causing a major portion of it to flee in considerable disorder. Rosecrans, McCook, and Crittenden were caught up in the retreat toward Chattanooga. Only Thomas' corps, aided by a few units, remained.

Thomas managed to form a new line on a rounded eminence know as Snodgrass Hill. Here the Federals held through the afternoon, repelling assault after assault. Thomas' men and fragments of other units joined later by Gordon Granger's reserve, fought a great defensive battle which later earned for Thomas his famous nickname "Rock of Chickamauga." For a while it seemed as if Confederates would take the hill, so furious and desperate were the charges. However, there were not enough Confederate reinforcements. They fought until night, when, obeying orders, Thomas withdrew toward Rossville and the mountain gaps that led to Chattanooga. Splendid as the Union defensive was, the battle was a great Confederate tactical victory.

The estimated figures are:

	Federal Effectives	Confederates
	58,000	66,000
Killed	1,657	2,312
Wounded	9,756	14,674
Missing	4,757	1,468
Total Casualties	16,170	18,454

The casualty rate on both sides was about 28 percent. A dispatch from General Rosecrans increased President Lincoln's anxiety for further details.



Thomas J. Wood

Thomas John Wood was a career United States Army officer. He served in the Mexican–American War and as a Union general during the American Civil War. During the Mexican–American War, Wood served on the staff of General Zachary Taylor, and later joined the 2nd Dragoons.

Born: Sept. 25, 1823 Munfordville, KY

Education: US Military Academy

Died: Feb. 26, 1906 Dayton, OH

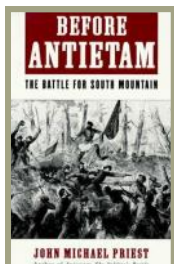
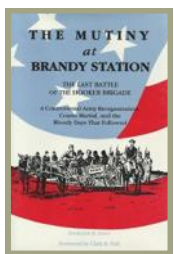
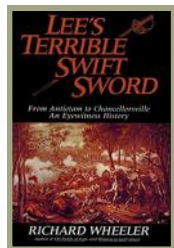
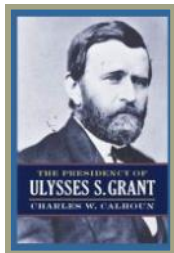
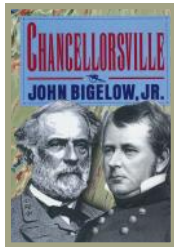
Buried: West Point Cemetery, West Point, NY

Member News

CFCWRT Upcoming Events

- April 9, 2020 *William Brown* - Wartime N C Governor Zebulon Vance
 May 14, 2020 *Douglas Waller* (Author) - Lincoln's Spies
 June 11, 2020 *Battle of Cedar Creek, VA* Bill Jayne, Moderator

March Raffle Winners



- Chancellorsville* - Ed Gibson
U. S. Grant - Jim Gannon
Lee's Terrible Swift Sword - Braxton Williams
The Mutiny at Brandy Station - Jim Horton
Before Antietam - Jim Wagner

If you have books, prints, or other items that you would like to donate to the raffle, contact Raffle Master [Ed Gibson](#) before our next meeting. The raffle is one of the components which the CFCWRT uses to fund our activities and our speakers. Please take part in our raffle by contributing items and/or purchasing tickets.

New Member - Welcome!

Thomas (Tom) Christianson, Kure Beach, spent several military tours, followed by a civilian career with DOD, as a historian and frequent battlefield tour director. Welcome Aboard !

MARCH 14, 1862

IN WASHINGTON, MR. LINCOLN TRIED TO EXPLAIN THAT COMPENSATED EMANCIPATION OF THE SLAVES "WOULD NOT BE HALF AS ONEROUS, AS WOULD BE AN EQUAL SUM, RAISED NOW, FOR THE INDEFINITE PROSECUTION OF THE WAR."

Member News, cont.

The 155th Anniversary of the Fall of Fort Anderson

Winter of 1865. The Gibraltar of the South, Fort Fisher, had just fallen to Union forces. The end of the Civil War was in sight. Before the break of dawn on February 19, 1865, Confederate troops were forced to evacuate the last major defensive fortification on the lower Cape Fear, Fort Anderson.

CFCWRT Members attending the 155th anniversary of the fall of Fort Anderson on February 22nd.



Bryan Hovey participated all weekend as a Confederate Ambulance Driver



Ed Gibson was at the Information Tent for the *Sons of Union Veterans* and Linda Lashley helped with the *United Daughters of the Confederacy* Information Table. Linda, also, had an ancestor in the western part of the state who fought in the Union army.

Check it out

American Battlefield Trust

[Civil War 1864 - Virtual Reality Experience - Full Version on YouTube](#)

12 minutes

Upcoming Events

March 14, 2020 [Hoop Skirts and Gun Powder](#)

Museum of the Cape Fear (Fayetteville): Saturday, 2:00PM, 2nd floor at the Arsenal Exhibit

March is Women's History Month. It is also the month where a lot of history happened at the

Fayetteville Arsenal. In combining both observances, the Museum of the Cape Fear, is pleased to present for a second consecutive year Hoop Skirts and Gunpowder: A Woman of the Fayetteville Arsenal. Admission is free.



United States Arsenal
at Fayetteville

Hoop Skirts and Gunpowder: A Woman of the Fayetteville Arsenal is one-of-a-kind, one-woman show by Lee Ann Rose of Williamsburg, VA. The presentation will include describing what women did in the arsenals, the jobs women performed in the Civil War, and comparisons between the freedoms and dangers arsenal workers had with the continued responsibility of domestic life. Was the danger worth this new experience of working outside the home, which allowed her a little more independence? Hear from one of the women who took to the arsenal's work and away from her domestic life.

experience of working outside the home, which allowed her a little more independence? Hear from one of the women who took to the arsenal's work and away from her domestic life.

April 4, 2020 [Reconstruction Symposium](#)

Enjoy three lectures, a panel discussion, and lunch in beautiful Southport, NC. Registration required. **Dr. Angie Zombek** (UNC - Wilmington), *Competing Visions of the Post-War World: Military Reconstruction and Southern Resistance in North Carolina*. **Dr. Adam Dombey** (College of Charleston), *North Carolina's unique memory of reconstruction*. **Dr. Stephen West** (Catholic University of America), *Reconstruction in the Carolinas in the Eyes of the Nation*. [NC Maritime Museum at Southport](#), 204 E. Moore St. Southport, NC 28461

April 25-26, 2020 [Annual Living History Weekend](#)

Washington County Historical Society is now celebrating its 30th anniversary, the Annual Living History Weekend is one of North Carolina's premier Civil War events.

April 25th - 11:00 am to 9:00 pm and April 26th 2:00 pm to ???

For more information, go click the link, call the Port o' Plymouth Museum at (252) 793-1377, or send an [email inquiry](#) . Advance ticket sales begin March 1, 2020.

June 12-17, 2020 [Civil War Institute 2020 Summer Conference](#)

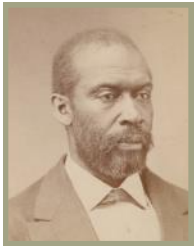
The Civil War Institute is hosting a premiere annual summer conference bringing leading historians and diverse public audiences together for lectures, battlefield tours, small group discussions, and roundtable conversations about the Civil War era.

For 2020, we are excited to feature leading Civil War scholars, Harold Holzer, Catherine Clinton, Brian Wills, Jeffrey Wert, Carol Reardon, and Scott Hartwig within our lineup of more than 40 distinguished speakers and tour guides. The conference will feature a wide range of topics, including POW prison escapes, soldier impressment, the Civil War in the West, the guerrilla experience, and more. The 2020 program will also debut debates between leading scholars about Civil War generalship. This year's topics include George B. McClellan at Antietam, James Longstreet, and Nathan Bedford Forrest.



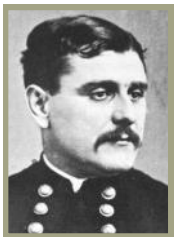


Trivia Answers



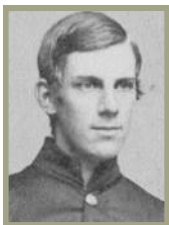
Thomas Morris Chester

1. Thomas Morris Chester was offered the opportunity by the Philadelphia Press in August 1864 to serve as a reporter on the frontlines, focusing especially on black troops, he took the assignment immediately. He was the first African American to serve as a war correspondent for a major daily newspaper. What was probably uppermost in his mind was the chance to tell a large white audience the truth about black men in combat. And he wasn't about to let that opportunity slip by. Assigned to the frontlines, Chester spent most of his time with the Army of the James, which had large numbers of black troops, fighting near the cities of Petersburg and the Confederate capital, Richmond. His numerous dispatches covered in detail the clashes between both armies, the extraordinary bravery of the Union soldiers, white and black, and the names of the men killed and wounded.



Galusha Pennypacker

2. Galusha Pennypacker is to this day the youngest person to hold the rank of Brigadier General in the US Army. During the Second Battle of Fort Fisher at Wilmington, North Carolina, on January 15, 1865, Colonel Pennypacker was severely wounded while crossing enemy lines. In spite of his wounds, he continued to lead his men in a charge over a traverse, captured the fort and planted the colors of the 97th Pennsylvania Infantry Regiment in the Confederate compound. For gallantry in the face of the enemy, he was awarded the Medal of Honor. After convalescing, he was promoted to Brigadier General at age 20, making him the youngest officer to hold the rank of general in the US Army to this day. For his war service, he was brevetted Major General US Army on March 13, 1865.



Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr.

3. Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr., a future justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, was wounded three times during the Civil War at Ball's Bluff, Antietam, and Chancellorsville. Holmes graduated from Harvard College in 1861, but the most formative influence on his life was his service in the Civil War. Serving for two years in the 20th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, Holmes was shot just above the heart at Ball's Bluff and then in the neck at Antietam; sick with dysentery, he missed the fighting at Fredericksburg, where his unit suffered calamitous losses. At the battle known as the Second Fredericksburg, he was shot again, this time in the foot. After recuperating for eight months at home, he took a position in the Sixth Corps and witnessed the unspeakable carnage of the campaign known as the Wilderness, where the losses averaged, he calculated, about 3,000 a day. Discharged in 1864, he was forever changed. He was seriously wounded three times, experiences that led him to develop a harsh, unsentimental view of life as endless conflict, with an individual's destiny in the hands of an almost whimsical Fate.

4. Senator John J. Crittenden of Kentucky had two sons who became major generals during the Civil War--one for the North and one for the South. One of Crittenden's sons, George B. Crittenden, became a general in the Confederate Army. Another son, Thomas Leonidas Crittenden, became a general in the Union Army.

5. The Battle of Chickamauga, fought on September 18-20, 1863, was the most significant Union defeat in the Western Theater, and involved the second-highest number of casualties after the Battle of Gettysburg. In popular histories, it is often said that Chickamauga is a Cherokee word meaning "river of death".



Books

The Real Horse Soldiers Benjamin Grierson's Epic
1863 Civil War raid through Mississippi

Author: Timothy B. Smith

The Petersburg Regiment in the Civil War A history of
the 12th Virginia Infantry from John Brown's
hanging to Appomattox, 1859-1865

Author: John Horn



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CAPE FEAR CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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Visit us on Facebook: [CFCWRT](https://www.facebook.com/CFCWRT)



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THE RUNNER is the official monthly newsletter of the CFCWRT.

If you have member news or news about Civil War events that you think would be of interest to the CFCWRT membership, send an email with the details to the editor, [Sherry Hewitt](#). Thank you.

The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table is a non-profit organization made up of men and women who have a common interest in the history of the Civil War. The meetings include a speaker each month covering some aspect of the Civil War. This serves our purpose of encouraging education and research into that historical conflict.

Click here for membership information: [Membership Application](#)