



# THE RUNNER



NOVEMBER 2019

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 10



## *Janet Croon: The War Outside My Window, Diary of LeRoy Wiley Gresham, 1860-1865*

Your Cape Fear Civil War Round Table has scheduled an outstanding program for Thursday, November 14. Curt Schluep, Amazon's book review editor, has named *The War Outside My Window* one of the three best books of 2018.

Janet Croon, Editor, brings to life the spirit and character of a young, privileged, white teenager as he is witnessing the demise of his world even as his body slowly fails him. *The War Outside My Window* gives readers a very detailed look at how the war impacted daily life in Macon. LeRoy Wiley Gresham was born in 1847 to an affluent family in Macon, Georgia. After a horrific leg injury left him an invalid, the educated, inquisitive, perceptive, and exceptionally witty 12-year-old began keeping a diary in 1860 – just as secession and the Civil War began to tear the country apart. He tells us how people got war news and how they made sense of it all, be it from newspapers, telegraph, official reports, letters from soldiers in the fighting, or rumor; he soon learns to be skeptical. LeRoy talks about the hardships that his wealthy family is facing, with the full realization that there are others who are not as fortunate. He worries about their welfare as well, especially when horses and crops are requisitioned. He tells us what happened during Sherman's advance, when Macon was suddenly not as safe as it once was. She annotates his biographical outline with helpful footnotes and brings his story to life.

## *Living History - Civil War Reenacting*

These reenactors did a thought-provoking and informative presentation for our members.

<u>John Winecoff</u>	Officers
<u>Will Murray</u>	Regular Troops
<u>David Jordan</u>	Drummer Boy

John Winecoff, a member of the Round Table's steering committee, and a longtime member of the Cape Fear Living History Society, shared some of his 30+ years of experience reenacting with the audience. He advised anyone interested in starting reenacting should plan to do so slowly because of the high cost of uniforms, weapons, and accouterments. It takes study and dedication, too. When a reenactor talks about a fellow reenactor "going modern," it indicates that someone has broken character since good reenactors hew as closely as they can to period dress, mannerisms, language, and action. They are an extremely dedicated group of individuals. In the movie Gettysburg, producers heavily depended on reenactors to teach what day to day life in the war was really like. John also mentioned that there are numerous reenactors that produce various period items for use by other reenactors. This includes products from period foods (including actual Hardtack) to actually hand sewing histori-

(Continued on page 2)

## NEXT PRESENTATION

- ◆ Thursday, Nov. 14th
- ◆ **Janet Croon: The War from my Window**
- ◆ 6:30 Social 7:00 Meeting
- ◆ Harbor UMC  
4853 Masonboro Loop  
Wilmington



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## *Living History - Civil War Reenacting, cont.*



Will Murray, David Jordan,  
and John Winecoff  
Civil War Reenactors

cally accurate uniforms. When you consider that thousands participate in these endeavors, the dedication to their “hobby” is awe inspiring.

### Facts:

The 26<sup>th</sup> NC infantry regiment suffered approximately 588 casualties out of 820 men engaged at Gettysburg, a casualty rate that’s often cited as the highest regimental rate suffered by a Confederate regiment in the entire war.

Rank insignia for each army was different. In the Union army, two or more stars indicated a general officer, while all Confederate generals wore an insignia of three stars enclosed within a wreath.

Groups: Artillery, Cavalry, and Infantry

Numbering of NC infantry regiments: There were both state-organized regiments and volunteer regiments numbered 1st through 10th early in the war. The 1st through the 10th volunteers were later renumbered. For example, the 8th NC Volunteers from New Hanover County were re-designated the 18th NC and served in the NC brigade commanded by Col. Branch and then Col. Lane. The “NC State Troops” were organized by the state government and recruits came from throughout the state.

Uniform Identification Bars/Stripes

State sponsored – 2 bars/stripes

Volunteers – 1 bar/stripe

Cavalry: North – mounts were provided

South – provided their own mounts

Sharps Carbines were popular with cavalry troops on both sides. The Sharps company was headquartered in Hartford, Connecticut, and their weapons were used by many Union cavalry regiments. In many cases, the weapons were bought privately and issued to volunteer regiments. A factory in Richmond, Virginia, manufactured a “knock-off” Sharps Carbine for southern cavalymen.



David Jordan explaining  
the Drummer uniform

**David Jordan** presented in uniform and gave us an exemplary session on Drummer Boys. Drummer Boys were the radio of the Army. Boys were enlisted at 8 to 12 years old. When they reached 16, they were enlisted in the infantry. There were 3 ranks in the Drum Corps: Drummer, Sergeant, and Major. The Drum Corps consisted of 12 drummers and 18 fifes. Towards the end of the war, for the Confederacy, it was more likely to be 5 drummers and 2 fifes. David played several tattoos for the presentation. Their uniform consisted of:

Jefferson Boots

Jacket, these got lighter due to weather

Haversack, for personal belongings

Wooden canteen

Drum, made of wood (any but Maple which destroyed the drum head)

Drum Sash

Hat

*(Continued on page 3)*

## *Living History - Civil War Reenacting, cont.*



Will Murray demonstrating how the blanket roll was worn so it did not impede the soldiers ability to access his powder or cartridges, or fire his weapon.

Musicians Swords, these generally were only carried by Federal musicians

They played reveille, breakfast call, morning colors, end of the day retreat, etc. When time to travel they played a “packing song”. Cavalry also had fifes and buglers. Each Company had a drummer and a fife. During battle drummers were at the rear and served as stretcher bearers. There are 3 books of drumming music, which is written upside down compared to today’s music. During battles they played Forward March, About Face, etc. Tunes played by Northern drummers tended to be more complicated since they had better equipment.

On the march musicians were at the head of the columns. They averaged one death per battle and, sadly, were often targeted. Fifers were generally older and their tunes more complicated.

**Will Murray** gave us the nitty gritty on the regular army troops. He appeared wearing a North Carolina troop uniform. NC totally outfitted its troops by order of Governor Vance. NC Shell Jackets came at the end of the war.

Clothing was made of “Slave” cloth. It was a combination of wool and denim, durable and inexpensive. It was called Slave cloth because it was generally worn by slaves. It was cotton lined, had state seal buttons, “mule ear” pockets and a button fly. Button holes in those days were handsewn as there were no machines that did button holes then. Shirts were made of pillow ticking. Soldiers also wore cotton long underwear tied at the waist and ankles. (Northern uniforms were made of wool.)

Jefferson boots (brogans had no left or right – they conformed to whichever foot you wore them on) were laced up.

Hats – Slouch hats were worn since they kept the rain and sun off the soldiers. Kepi hats did neither and were traded out early by troops.

Belts were used to carry a cap box, bayonet socket, and cartridge box which held 40 rounds)

Bayonets - were used for cooking, as a hook for dragging bodies off the battleground, candle holders, etc. [Less than 1% of the battlefield deaths were due to bayonets.]

Haversack to carry personal items such as plate, cup, papers, etc.

Wooden canteens

Blanket Roll that included a half tent (also used as a poncho), ground cloth, and a blanket with personal items tucked in it.

1853 Enfield (English made rifle)

Troops were trained to load and drilled repetitively. They were taught 9 points to load. A good shooter could load and fire 3 rounds a minute!



John Winecoff in Federal Uniform briefing the citizenry of Wilmington

Next was a period briefing of Wilmington citizens by a Confederate Officer (John Winecoff) accompanied by a Confederate Soldier (Will Murray). This was a step back in time for a glimpse of life during the Civil War. This was followed by a briefing from a Union Officer and Soldier.

A variety of uniforms, weapons, and accoutrements were available for close up inspection. Overall it was an excellent presentation!

## *Veterans Day*

### **Civil War Veterans**

For 90 years after the last shot of the American Civil War was fired, the men who had fought for the Union and the Confederacy, respectively, continued to meet.

For the North, the **Grand Army of the Republic** (GAR) brought together Union soldiers, referred to as "veterans of the late unpleasantness." Starting in 1866, only one year after the war's close, and ending with the death of 109-year-old Albert Woolson in 1956, the GAR boasted 490,000 members at its peak in 1890. With one single exception, the GAR was a male body. That exception was Sarah Emma Edmonds, who was admitted to the GAR in 1897. Sarah had fought in the 2nd Michigan Infantry disguised as a man named "Franklin Thompson," from 1861 to 1863. She died in 1898.

For the South, the **United Confederate Veterans** (UCV) was inaugurated in 1889. Local Confederate veteran associations proliferated after the war. At the movement's peak, more than 1,500 such groups were listed in the UCV. The UCV's stated purpose was to promote "social, literary, historical and benevolent" aims. During the 1890s, around 30,000 veterans and 50,000 further guests were present at the annual UCV reunion. But in 1950, at the final reunion, a lone UCV member was present: 98-year-old James Moore of Alabama.

Estimates range up to 700,000 deaths in the Civil War including those who died in battle, deaths due to sickness and disease and civilian losses. The number is approximately two percent of the total US population at the time. If two percent of the current US population were to die in a war, the number would be 6.5 million. (Civil War deaths far, far exceeded all the deaths in previous wars. The number of deaths from the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, early Indian wars, and the Mexican War was less than 10,000.)

### **Modern Day Veterans**

As of 2017 there were 18.2 million veterans.

#### **World War II - 497,777**

(16 million served)

#### **Korean War - 2.25 million**

(5.7 million served)

#### **Vietnam War - 774,000**

(2.5 million served)

#### **Global War against Terrorism**

5.5 million have served or are serving

#### **To all our veterans:**

With gratitude for your service to America on Veterans Day and always. Thinking of you on Veterans Day, and thanking you for all you did for our country. Veterans Day is a good time to remember that our freedom isn't guaranteed. Those who live in freedom will always be grateful to those who helped preserve it. To those who secure our way of life... **thank you!**



## *CFCWRT Upcoming events*

**December 12th**      *Lori Sandlin*, Mgr. Southport Maritime Museum - Finding Post-War Confederate Sailor, Captain H. S. Leiby, Blockade Runner and Privateer

**NOTE:** *Our December meeting will be at the Cape Fear Museum.*

**January 9, 2020**      *Beckey Sawyer*: The Letters of Sidney Stockbridge, aboard the USS Pawtuxet, James River, April 1865

**February 13th**      *Bert Dunkerly*: The Richmond Bread Riots

## *Raffle Winners*

### **October Raffle Winners**



**Last Full Measure - Joe George**

**Smoke at Dawn - John Monroe**

**A Shower of Stars - Ed Gibson**

**Black Soldiers - John Bolger**

**The Civil War - Bill Jayne**

**Battle of Crater - Sherry Hewitt**

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.

**Reminder:** Annual dues for your Cape Fear CWRT membership were due the first of September. If you have not already renewed your annual membership, please do so by mailing your \$30 check to: CFCWRT, PO Box 15750, Wilmington, NC 29408. To the 52 of you who have already paid, we thank you. We promise another great year of Civil War dialog with like-minded friends.



## Member News

Cape Fear CWRT friend and guest speaker, Andrew Dupstadt, writes in the Fall, 2019 (Vol 7, No. 2) issue of **Civil War Navy**, about the officers who took part in successful Confederate action against the USS Underwriter (early 1864, before New Bern on the lower Neuse River) becoming the nucleus of the crew of the ill fated CSS Neuse. Specifically, Dupstadt writes of the heroic Lieutenant Francis Lyell Hoge in an article derived in a large part from the papers and memorabilia of Hoge, who had previously served, with distinction, aboard the CSS Patrick Henry.



CSS PATRICK HENRY

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Be sure to extend a warm welcome to our new members when you see them!

**Christine Grazer**

**Ralph Gevinson**

**Calvin McGowan**

**Katherine Schultz**

**John Weiss**

*Do you have a favorite Civil War regiment, regimental flag? Which one and Why? Just let The Runner Editor know and we will profile it in a future issue.*

## Upcoming Events

**December 7, 2019**     [A Civil War Christmas At Bentonville Battlefield](#)

Celebrate a Civil War Christmas during this Holiday open house event. Visitors can enjoy cookies and cider while listening to period music. Members from the 27th NC Co. D will demonstrate how soldiers spent their holidays.

**March 21, 2020**     [155th Bentonville Anniversary Reenactment](#)

Bentonville Battlefield State Historic Site is the largest state historic site in North Carolina, and they host the largest reenactment event in the state every five years. Visitors will learn that the Battle of Bentonville of March 19-21, 1865 was the last major Confederate offensive of the war as General Joseph Johnston fought the advancing troops of General Sherman's march across the south.



## *This Day in Civil War History - November 15, 1864*

One hundred and fifty-five years ago, Major General William T. Sherman begins marching his 60,000-man army eastward towards the Atlantic coast. He instructed his soldiers to “forage liberally” on the country and to inflict maximum damage to all those resources that helped to sustain the Confederate war effort. His strategic goal was summed up to Lt. General U.S. Grant: “If we can march a well-appointed army right through his [the enemy’s] territory, it is a demonstration to the world, foreign and domestic, that we have a power which Davis can not resist...there are thousands of people abroad and in the South who will reason thus: If the North can march an army right through the South, it is proof positive that the North can prevail.”

### QUOTE:

“SAVANNAH GEORGIA  
DECEMBER 22, 1864

TO HIS EXCELLENCY  
PRESIDENT LINCOLN,  
WASHINGTON, D.C.:

I BEG TO PRESENT YOU  
AS A CHRISTMAS-GIFT  
THE CITY OF SAVAN-  
NAH, WITH ONE HUN-  
DRED AND FIFTY HEAVY  
GUNS AND PLENTY OF  
AMMUNITION, ALSO  
ABOUT TWENTY-FIVE  
THOUSAND BALES OF  
COTTON.

W.T. SHERMAN, MAJOR  
-GENERAL “

Sherman believed that the Confederacy derived its strength not from its fighting forces but from the material and moral support of sympathetic Southern whites. Factories, farms and railroads provided Confederate troops with the things they needed, he reasoned; and if he could destroy those things, the Confederate war effort would collapse. Meanwhile, his troops could undermine Southern morale by making life so unpleasant for Georgia’s civilians that they would demand an end to the war.

To that end, Sherman’s troops marched south toward Savannah in two wings, about 30 miles apart. On November 22, 3,500 Confederate cavalry started a skirmish with the Union soldiers at Griswoldville, but that ended so badly—650 Confederate soldiers were killed or wounded, compared to 62 Yankee casualties—that Southern troops initiated no more battles. Instead, they fled South ahead of Sherman’s troops, wreaking their own havoc as they went: They wrecked bridges, chopped down trees and burned barns filled with provisions before the Union army could reach them.

The Union soldiers were just as unsparing. They raided farms and plantations, stealing and slaughtering cows, chickens, turkeys, sheep and hogs and taking as much other food—especially bread and potatoes—as they could carry. (These groups of foraging soldiers were nicknamed “bummers,” and they burned whatever they could not carry.)

About three weeks after they left Atlanta Sherman’s troops arrived in Savannah on December 21, 1864. The city was undefended when they got there. (The 10,000 Confederates who were supposed to be guarding it had already fled.) Sherman presented the city of Savannah and its 25,000 bales of cotton to President Lincoln as a Christmas gift. Early in February 1865, Sherman and his men left Savannah and repeated their march through Georgia as they built bridges, forded streams swollen with winter rains, “foraged liberally” and destroyed resources as they converged on Columbia. Retreating Confederates set fire to bales of cotton and Union troops destroyed military supplies but failed to control the fires, leaving South Carolina’s capital in ruins.

**Note:** Sherman and his army only feinted toward Charleston, they bypassed the city, continuing north toward NC.

## *1st Louisiana Special Battalion - Wheat's Tigers*

Screaming at the tops of their lungs as they charged the hapless Yankees, they were a vision straight out of hell. Some of them wore outlandish Turkish-style Zouave uniforms which made them easy targets, but they seemed to care not at all. They descended in a fury, killing without qualm. Above them flew their battalion flag, itself a deliberate mockery of the solemnity of war. On it were embroidered the words "Gentle as a ..." and the image of a lamb. They had been largely recruited from the wharves, gutters and dives of the New Orleans waterfront, and though their official designation was the 1st Louisiana Battalion, they were known and feared by Federals and Rebels alike as the Louisiana Tigers and were as tough and resolute as their combative commander, Major Roberdeau Wheat.

Chatham Roberdeau Wheat, born on April 9, 1826, in Alexandria, Va., studied law at the University of Nashville and then served in the 1st Tennessee Cavalry as a lieutenant during the Mexican War. After the war, he moved to New Orleans, where he began his career as a filibuster—or mercenary—participating in several expeditions to Cuba, Mexico, Nicaragua and Italy, and rising to the rank of general in both the Mexican and Italian armies.

At least some of the men, especially those in Harris' Walker Guards, were also former filibusters who had served with Wheat in Nicaragua back in 1857. They mustered into service in their old filibuster uniforms—off-white cotton drill trousers, white canvas leggings, red flannel battle shirts and broad-brimmed, low-crowned straw hats. Once enlisted, the men also wrote provocative slogans—such as 'Lincoln's Life or a Tiger's Death,' 'Tiger by Nature' or 'Tiger in Search of Abe'—on their hat bands."

By the time Wheat died, his Tigers had been drastically reduced in number, from an initial enrollment of 500 to fewer than 100 men. On Aug. 9, 1862, the battalion was disbanded by special order and its remaining troops reassigned to other Louisiana regiments. They had always fought with distinction and often just for the love of fighting. Perhaps the most accurate memorial to the Louisiana Tigers, and to Wheat himself, was written by Confederate Maj. David Boyd: "Wheat's Battalion was a unique body, representing every grade of society and every kind of man, from the princely gentleman who commanded them down to the thief and cut-throat released from parish prison. ... Such a motley herd of humanity was probably never got together before, and may never be again."

Further reading : This book is available from [Savas Beatie](#)

*The Civil War Memoirs of Captain  
William J. Seymour: Reminiscences of a Louisiana Tiger*

By Terry L. Jones



CHATHAM  
ROBERDEAU  
WHEAT



WHEAT'S TIGER  
TURKISH-STYLE  
ZOUAVE  
UNIFORMS



*Cape Fear Revolutionary War Round Table Annual Dinner*

Dear Members and Guests:

Our annual dinner meeting event on Wednesday, December 4th at 6:30PM will be held at Pine Valley Country Club, 500 Pine Valley Dr. We will host keynote speaker **Dr. Chris E. Fonvielle Jr.** giving a PowerPoint presentation (see below). A buffet dinner will be featured, prepared by the excellent on-site chef. Menu follows at the end of this post. **Please read complete post as payment and driving instructions are at the end.**

***“With Such Great Alacrity”: The Destruction of Fort Johnston and the Coming of the American Revolution in North Carolina***

*Dr. Chris E. Fonvielle Jr., professor emeritus in the Department of History at UNC Wilmington and vice president of the Cape Fear Revolutionary War Round Table, will discuss the brazen firebombing raid by Patriot forces on British Fort Johnston near the mouth of the Cape Fear River on July 19, 1775. Most historians of the American Revolution in the South recognize the Battle of Moore’s Creek Bridge in late February 1776 as the beginning of the war in North Carolina, but Dr. Fonvielle claims it started at Fort Johnston more than seven months earlier. Led by John Ashe, Cornelius Harnett, and Robert Howe, hundreds of armed Patriot militia burned the only serviceable British fort in North Carolina in an effort to deny Royal Governor Josiah Martin a base of operations from where he planned to launch a military campaign in the southern colonies in 1776. In doing so, however, they destroyed property owned by King George III. What, in the minds of the Patriots, gave them just cause to resort to such a blatant and bellicose course of action? Did they mean to burn Fort Johnston at all, or did they intend for their destructive attack to incite war in North Carolina in a powerful and public display of solidarity with other colonies already in rebellion? What kind of response did the people of the Lower Cape Fear anticipate from the British Government? How did their actions affect the coming of the American Revolution in North Carolina? “A splendid time is guaranteed for all!”*

Dr. Chris E. Fonvielle, Jr.  
Professor Emeritus, Department of History  
University of North Carolina Wilmington

Chris E. Fonvielle Jr. is a native Wilmingtonian with a lifelong interest in American Civil War, North Carolina, and Cape Fear history. He attended public schools, including New Hanover High School, class of 1971, where he was the first soccer-style placekicker in North Carolina football history. After receiving his B.A. in anthropology at the University of North Carolina Wilmington, Chris served as the last curator of the Blockade Runners of the Confederacy Museum. He subsequently received his M.A. in American history at East Carolina University, and his Ph.D. from the University of South Carolina. That makes Chris a Wildcat, a Seahawk, a Pirate, and a Gamecock.

After a brief teaching stint at East Carolina University, Dr. Fonvielle returned to his undergraduate alma mater at UNCW in 1996, where he taught courses on the Civil War, Wilmington and the Lower Cape Fear, and Antebellum America. His in-depth research focuses on coastal operations and defenses, and blockade running in southeastern North Carolina during the Civil War. He has published books and articles including *The Wilmington Campaign: Last Rays of*

*(Continued on page 10)*

## *Cape Fear Revolutionary War Round Table Annual Dinner, cont.*

Departing Hope; Wilmington and the Lower Cape Fear: An Illustrated History; Fort Fisher 1865: The Photographs of T.H. O'Sullivan.

In 2014, then-Governor Pat McCrory appointed Dr. Fonvielle to the North Carolina Historical Commission. Upon his retirement from UNC Wilmington in 2018, Chris was presented with the Order of the Long Leaf Pine for distinguished service to the State of North Carolina, signed by incumbent Governor Roy Cooper. He is also a regular tour guide for Wilmington Water Tours, featured guest on "Cape Fear Unearthed" podcasts, and contributor of articles on Cape Fear history for Salt Magazine.

Menu: Buffet serving Sliced Flank Steak with a Red Wine Mushroom Sauce and Sautéed Chicken Breast with a Picatta Sauce, vegetable medley, herb roasted potatoes with onions, salad, tea & coffee, rolls, dessert.

RSVP to Pres. Linda Lashley at (910) 395-0012 and leave message OR email to [LKL8@BELLSOUTH.net](mailto:LKL8@BELLSOUTH.net). Members = \$35 Non-members = \$40 **Please mail a check made out to CFRWRT to Linda Lashley, 2123 Quiet Ln., Wilmington, NC 28409 by Monday, November 23.**

Driving instructions: **Very important** - enter Pine Valley Dr. from S. College Rd. and **NOT FROM SHIPYARD BLVD.** Turn at the Fire Station at the corner of S. College Rd. and Pine Valley Drive. Continue traveling to the end of the street to enter the parking lot. If you turn off of Shipyard Blvd. you will end up behind the tennis courts with no access to the Country Club. We are able to use these private facilities through the generosity of Christine Lamberton, Museum Director Burgwin-Wright House and Gardens.

I hope to see you there! Dr. Fonvielle is always an interesting and exciting speaker. Don't miss it!

In Friendship,

Linda Lashley, President

Cape Fear Revolutionary War Round Table

## Links

[Civil War Reenactment Headquarters](#) The source for Civil War Reenactment Battles, Reenacting Units and Supplies since 2003.

[The Civil War Home Page](#) Links dedicated to the participants, both North and South, in the great American Civil War 1861 - 1865

[The Valley of the Shadow](#) In this digital archive you may explore thousands of original letters and diaries, newspapers and speeches, census and church records, left by men and women in Augusta County, VA and Franklin County, PA from the beginning of the Civil War to the resurrection period.

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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](#)

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## CAPE FEAR CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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