



AUGUST 2021

THE RUNNER



VOLUME 3 ISSUE 7



August Presentation - Colby Stevens

On August 12 the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table will welcome Colby Stevens, site manager of the Bentonville Battlefield State Historic Site.

The Battle of Bentonville, fought March 19-21, 1865, was the largest battle ever fought in the state of North Carolina, dwarfing the size of battles such as Fort Fisher, New Bern and the Revolutionary War battle of Guilford Courthouse. Approximately 80,000 troops clashed, yet, it's often overlooked because the end of the war was so near and it seems anticlimactic.

The situation was, indeed, desperate for the Confederacy. Union Major General William T. Sherman had led his superb, veteran army on an audacious and destructive march through Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina. Unsupported by a conventional supply line, his forces cut a swath through the heart of the rebellious southern states, brushing aside ineffectual attempts to stop them and overcoming daunting physical obstacles such as winter rains, flooded streams and swamps in their path. Of Sherman's 60,000-man army, his opponent Confederate General Joseph E. Johnston said there "was no such army since the days of Julius Caesar."

As the fourth spring of the terrible Civil War arrived, Sherman's force neared the strategic railroad junction of Goldsboro where he would be resupplied and reinforced by about 30,000 additional federal troops arriving from Wilmington and New Bern.



Colby Stevens

To mislead Confederate forces and to move with maximum speed, Sherman divided his force into two wings. In a desperate gamble, Johnston gathered his forces from as far away as Tennessee and launched his 20,000 men at one of Sherman's wings at a point at which the two wings were relatively far apart and hoped to defeat one wing and then turn against the other.

The story of the battle is compelling and there are many questions regarding tactical decisions and the ultimate outcome of the clash.

The state of North Carolina administers the Bentonville Battlefield Historic Site and has done an excellent job with almost 2,000 acres saved, including an historic house that played an important role in the battle, a visitors center and an

(Continued on page 2)

June Meeting

Thursday, Aug 12, 2021

Presenter:

Colby Stevens

Site Manager

**Bentonville Battlefield
State Historic Park**

6:30 Social 7:00 Meeting

Harbor UMC, Rm. 226
4853 Masonboro Loop
Wilmington
(See map on page 3)



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August Presentation - Colby Stevens, cont.

expanding network of trails that add immensely to the observer's ability to interpret the battle.

According to the American Battlefield Trust, “thirty years ago, there were only a few acres of protected land at this incredibly important site, the last full-scale action of the Civil War. In hundreds of letters, diaries and reports, men on both sides bore witness to the ferocity of this three-day battle, saying things like ‘all agree that it was one of the hottest places we were ever in.’ “ The Trust currently has a campaign underway to preserve even more land. Colby Stevens, is going to fill us in on not only the history of the battle but the current state of the historic site, including recent improvements. Colby grew up in the small town of Coats, NC, in Harnett County, about half way between Fayetteville and Raleigh. Cody went on to earn a Masters Degree in Public History from Appalachian State and quickly rose through the ranks of the NC Division of State Historic Sites, and came to Bentonville in March of 2019.

What is “Public History”? Public historians come in all shapes and sizes. They may be historical consultants, museum professionals, government historians, archivists, oral historians, cultural resource managers, curators, film and media producers, historical interpreters, historic preservationists, policy advisers, local historians, and community activists, among many, many other job descriptions. All share an interest and commitment to making history relevant and useful in the public sphere.

Although public historians can sometimes be teachers, public history is usually defined as history beyond the walls of the traditional classroom. It's a very challenging and important field of intellectual endeavor and we're very lucky to have some great public historians in our area, including Colby Stevens.

As a student of the Carolinas Campaign Colby Stevens has always been fascinated with history of the lower Cape Fear region. His interest in the Civil War began as a spectator at the 143rd Anniversary of the Battle of Aversasboro. That initial interest, stoked by research, fueled by volunteer service at several historic sites, and funneled by earning a MA in Public History developed into a passion to learn and share the Civil War history of the Old North State. His first day at Bentonville, in March of 2019, was truly a homecoming. During grad school he served as the Buck Dunn Intern and after graduation returned as a temporary employee to the site. Before coming to Bentonville Battlefield he worked at Gov. Aycock Birthplace and House in the Horseshoe State Historic Sites. His time at Aycock Birthplace focused on 19th century farming and gardening. He spent his mornings working the land and evenings talking to the chickens/guineas/and sheep – thankfully they did not talk back! As manager of House in the Horseshoe he dove into the

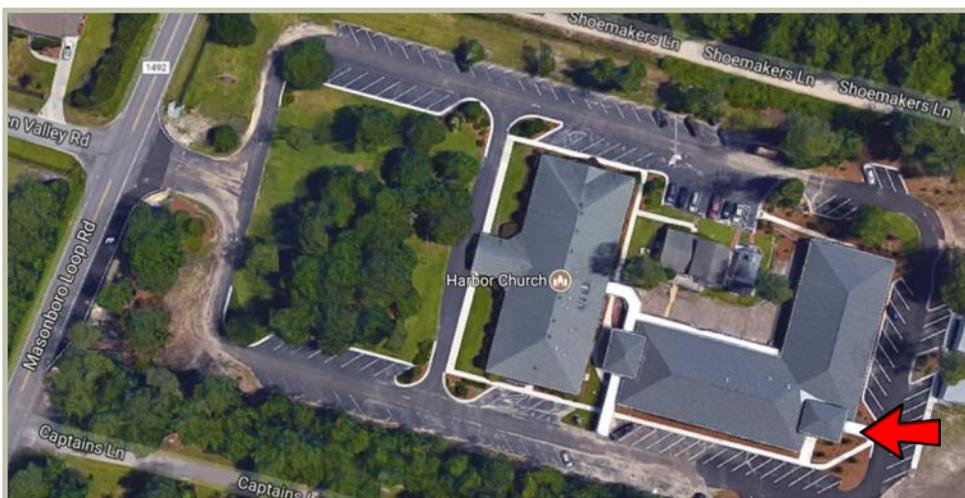
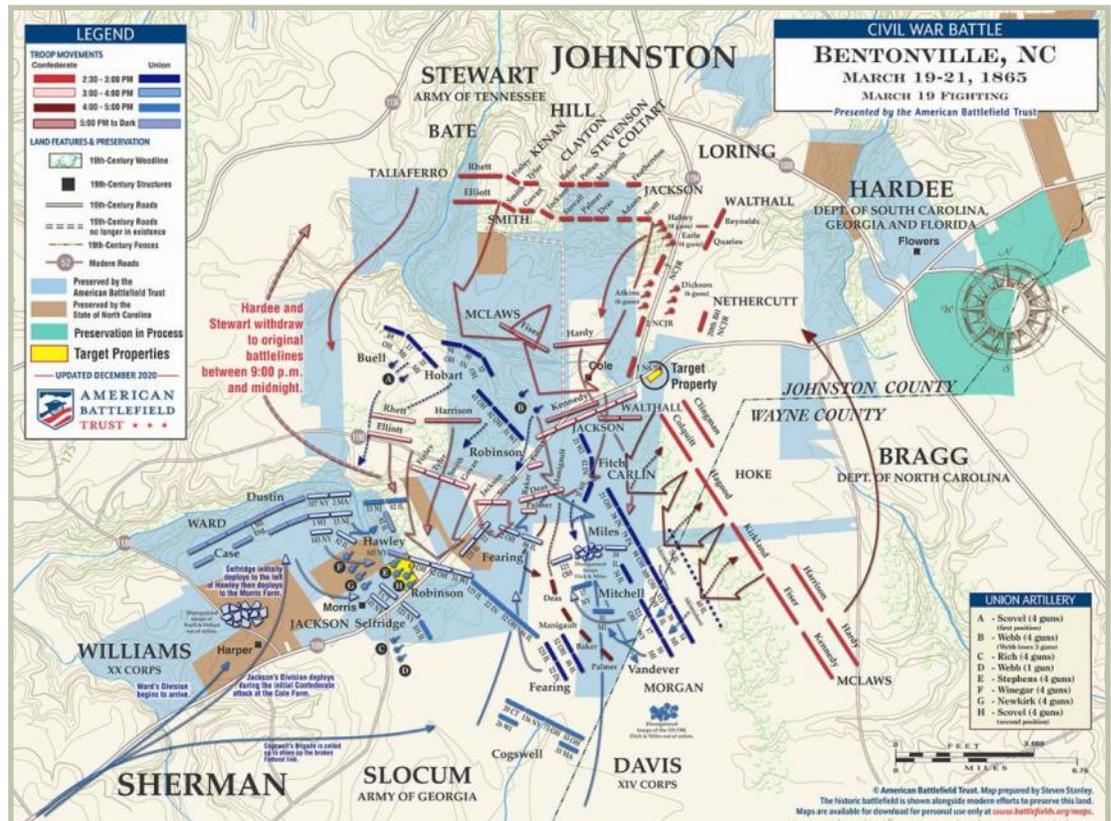
(Continued on page 3)



Michigan Engineers Original Field Works

August Presentation - Colby Stevens, cont.

struggles and bloodshed of the Revolutionary backcountry. Both sites helped mold and grow his passion of NC history. With guidance from the staff, community, and Friends of Bentonville Battlefield he has striven to continue the drive of battlefield preservation at Bentonville. Bentonville is more than a battlefield, it's a story – a story one can connect with in the Harper House, experience on the walking trails, and witness from the trenches – it is a story that he is grateful to share, and one that must be told for generations to come.



Harbor UMC
 4853 Masonboro Loop
 Wilmington

We are meeting in Room 226.
 Please use the entrance indicated
 by the red arrow.

June Presentation ~ Members Forum

Our June presentation was opened with a drum tattoo of the Star Spangled Banner by the 26th North Carolina Regiment Drummer David Jordan.



CFCWRT Member and former editor of *The Runner* **Tim Winstead** unraveled a fascinating story of his great-great uncle. A Confederate soldier from North Carolina, his relative, William Pearson, Company A, 55th North Carolina, was captured on the first day of Gettysburg, July 1, 1863. William H. Pearson never returned to North Carolina. With considerable sleuthing on Tim's part his resting place was located and restored.

Tim Winstead Tim is still researching his great-great-grandmother and her tireless efforts to free her sick husband from a Civil War POW Camp at Point Lookout MD.

Lower Cape Fear artist and CFCWRT member **Jim Horton**, discussed his search and discovery in the story of Elijah Hawke, his great-great-grandfather, who served in the 2nd Pennsylvania Heavy Artillery Regiment.



David Jordan



Elijah Hawke's Grave by Jim Horton



Jim Horton

Upcoming CFCWRT Events

September 9, 2021

Ken Rutherford: Civil War Mines and Torpedoes

October 14, 2021

Robert Browning: Union Blockade

November 11, 2021

Betty Vaughn: A Civil War Christmas

Echoes of Battle - Bentonville Battlefield

Nightfall, March 19, 1865, the first day of fighting is over. A Union stretcher bearer recalled that "all over the woods could be seen officers & men with pine torches in their hands seeking after some fallen comrade or friend to take him to a hospital if alive & bury him if dead..."

This scene and others will be recreated on the evening of **October 23, 2021** during "Echoes of Battle," a one of a kind program depicting the chaos and confusion of the early morning and nighttime on March 19 in Bentonville. Join us for a nighttime wagon ride and a candlelit walk through the woods featuring vignettes performed by Civil War reenactors. The program takes place from 7:00pm to 10:30pm. Tickets will go on sale October 1 for Friends of Bentonville Battlefield members only. Go to www.fobb.net for information about becoming a member. Remaining tickets will be sold to the public starting on October 11. A link for ticket information will be posted at www.fobb.net. Tickets for the night tours are extremely limited and cost \$20 each. As this is a time-limited, one-night only program, we will sell out of tickets. **Warning:** This program will simulate combat trauma and may not be suitable for all audiences.

Online Presentations

CWRT Congress - [All sessions start at 7pm Eastern](#)

August 11th - Bert Dunkerly & Doug Crenshaw Embattled Capital

August 18th - Craig Apperson Civil War Trauma: The Fire Inside

[The 40th Annual Fredericksburg Civil War Relic Show](#) **August 14th** Saturday 9-5

Fredericksburg Eagles Aerie
21 Cool Springs Rd.
Fredericksburg, VA

[Fall 2021 Richmond Virginia Military Antique Show](#) **November 13th** Saturday 9-5

Richmond Int'l Raceway Old Dominion Bldg.
600 E Laburnum Ave
Richmond, VA

In Memoriam - Daniel Geddie 1951 - 2021

Long-time member & former Treasurer of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table, **Dan Geddie**, passed away on July 19, 2021. Dan was a very active member of the Round Table who shared his love of Civil War history through his fellowship and leadership at numerous events and on field trips to Civil War battlefield and museums.

A search in THE RUNNER revealed many photographs of Dan and references to his efforts that ensured RT members enjoyed their association with this organization.



At the CSS Neuse in Kinston

L to R: Ed Gibson, John Winecoff, Dan Geddie, Bob Cooke, John Bolger

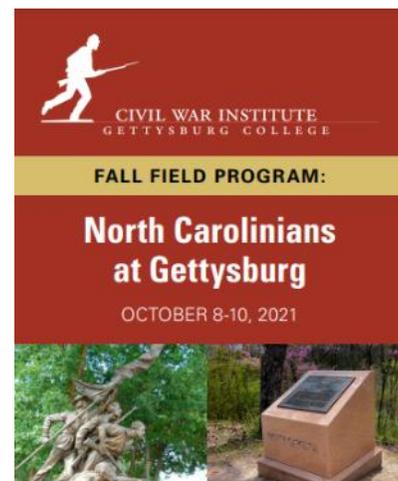
North Carolinians at Gettysburg - October 8-10, 2021

Civil War Institute. Gettysburg College is presenting a fall field program, featuring lectures and battlefield tours exploring life in the Old North State throughout the war, as well as the experiences of North Carolinians during the battle of Gettysburg.

Speakers and tour guides include:

- § Judkin Browning (Appalachian State University)
- § Peter Carmichael (Gettysburg College)
- § Scott Hartwig (Ind. Historian & retired Supervisory Historian, Gettysburg NMP)
- § Ashley Whitehead Luskey (Gettysburg College)
- § Christopher Gwinn (Gettysburg National Military Park)
- § Daniel Vermilya (Eisenhower National Historic Site)

For questions, please email civilwar@gettysburg.edu or call (717) 337-6590. A full schedule of events can be found on the [Gettysburg College website](http://www.gettysburgcollege.edu/civilwar).



...The Rest of the Story

Adelbert Ames was the great-grandfather of George Plimpton. John F. Kennedy, through George Plimpton, is indirectly responsible for a full-length biography of General Ames. In *Profiles in Courage*, Kennedy relied on Reconstruction-era historical texts to produce a brief but misleading, false, and devastating portrait of Ames's administration of Mississippi in his profile of Mississippi Senator Lucius Q.C. Lamar. Ames's daughter Blanche Ames Ames, a formidable figure in Massachusetts, bombarded the then-senator with letters complaining about the depiction, and continued her barrage after Kennedy entered the White House. President Kennedy then turned to his friend Plimpton to tell Blanche, Plimpton's grandmother, that she was "interfering with state business." Her response was to write her own book about her father, Adelbert Ames, in 1964.

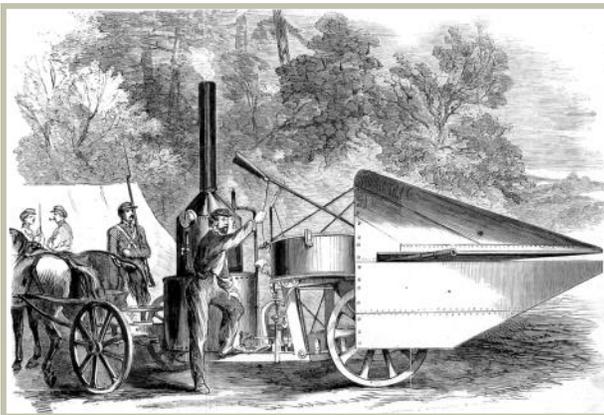
Adelbert Ames: 1835 to 1933, General, Senator, Governor by Blanche Ames Ames

Trivia Questions

1. What Virginia-born artilleryman named his four cannons Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John?
2. Who was the last surviving full-rank Civil War General?
3. In battle, while cavalry and artillery relied on buglers for directive signals, whom did the infantry rely on for directions of maneuvers?
4. What state provided the Union with only about 500 fighting men, who served in the Second Massachusetts Cavalry?
5. At what age did future rear admiral David D. Porter, USN, go to sea?

Answers of Page 10

Did you know...?



Wealthy Ross Winans of Baltimore, a strong backer of the Confederate cause, decided to invest part of his fortune in what became perhaps the most unusual heavy weapon in the era. His patented steam cannon attracted the interested attention of Abraham Lincoln. Reputedly, Lincoln offered amnesty to Winans in exchange for the plans from which his steam cannon was built. When it was assembled, trained horses bolted at the sight of it, and strong men shuddered. But there's no record that it produced a single battlefield casualty.



Winans Steam Gun

Arming the Confederacy: Virginia's Mineral Contributions to the Confederate War Effort
by Robert C. Whisonant



The American Civil War is often seen as the first truly industrialized total war, one that consumed enormous amounts of human and material resources. But the two opponents were not evenly matched; the North had a preponderant share of raw materials, manufacturing ability, and population. On the eve of battle in April 1861, most of the mines, forges, and foundries in America were located in Union states. Some 90 per cent of the manufacturing capacity resided there—their factories made 97 per cent of the firearms, 94 per cent of the cloth, 93 per cent of the pig iron, and over 90 per cent of the boots and shoes. The disparity in the capability to make items necessary to the conduct of hostilities rested primarily on the North's possession of more mineral riches, most particularly iron and coal, the foundation of heavy industry.

Within the Confederacy, Virginia had long been the foremost mineral producer. The greatest concentration of this natural wealth lay in the mountainous southwestern quarter of the state where large deposits of saltpeter, lead, salt, iron, and coal had been exploited for over a century. In addition, mines in the region yielded some copper, zinc, gold, and silver from time to time. To be sure, other parts of the South had mineral resources, notably Alabama with important iron and coal operations; none, however, rivaled the richness and variety of the troves in Southwest Virginia. This did not go unnoticed by Federal strategists intent on bringing down the Confederate war machine.

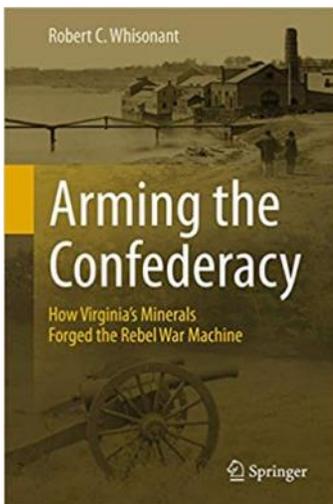
Part IV ~ Iron

Iron, a mainstay of warfare for thousands of years, became even more indispensable in the Civil War. Railroads, ordnance, armor plate for the new ironclad warships, and a host of tools and machines vital to both civilians and the military required huge quantities of iron and steel. When war came, the Richmond-Petersburg complex of iron and steel mills, highly dependent on the state's iron and coal resources, constituted nearly all of the Southern heavy industry. The crown jewel was the gigantic Tredegar Iron Works in the capital city, the only operation in the South that could make the big guns and iron plate needed immediately. It was a Tredegar mortar that lofted the signal shot opening the bombardment of Fort Sumter. Of the 48 pieces that shelled the fort, this company made at least 20. By the end of hostilities, Tredegar had manufactured almost half of the Confederate cannon and 90 per cent of the artillery ammunition.

Although not as well developed as Virginia's, some iron industry did exist in other Confederate states as the war got underway. Alabama in particular possessed considerable reserves of ore, and furnaces and forges had sprung up at Selma and elsewhere across the state in the antebellum years. In the course of the conflict, the Alabama iron operations expanded swiftly and managed to overtake the Virginia producers. In the end, the two states generated about 90 per cent of the Confederate iron. Smaller iron works were located in five other Southern states – North and South Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee, and Mississippi.

Though the domestic iron output increased during the war, the Confederacy never had enough. The amounts necessary just for the railroads completely overwhelmed the production system. To maintain and extend the lines would use an estimated 50,000 tons of rolled steel a year, yet the combined capacity of all the Southern furnaces totaled only about 20,000 tons a year. Moreover, the Confederate tracks and rolling stock began the war much inferior

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Arming the Confederacy: Virginia's Mineral Contributions to the Confederate War Effort
 by Robert C. Whisonant (cont.)

to the North's, and soon the persistent lack of iron made simply keeping the trains running the most pressing problem. As early as 1862, work crews routinely ripped out rails from smaller lines to replace those in the more valuable arteries. The last rail ever made in the Confederacy had been manufactured the year before.

Iron making began with the smelting of ore in charcoal-fired furnaces to produce the refined bars or "pigs" for shipment to the larger forges and foundries such as the Tredegar Works. The exact numbers and locations of the Southern furnaces are not known, but a detailed Niter and Mining Bureau report in January 1865 noted that the national government operated seven furnaces in 1864 – three in Virginia and two each in Alabama and Texas. Forty-five more privately-owned furnaces were in blast at one time or another that year, 20 of them in Virginia and nine in Alabama. About 80 per cent of the Virginia furnaces lay in the western mountains where they remained relatively safe from harm until late in the contest.

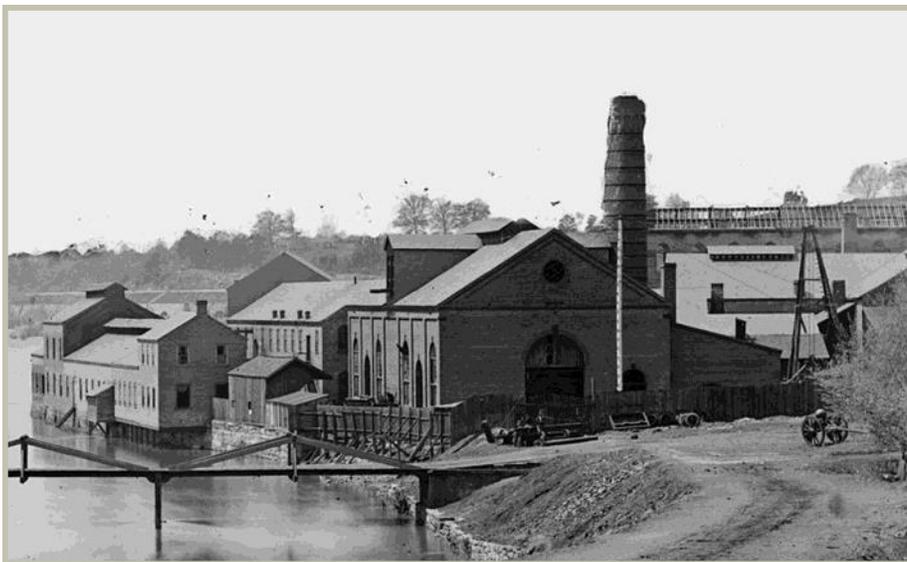
No Union campaign ever targeted the western Virginia iron furnaces as the single operational goal. Like the niter caves, the furnace sites were too numerous and too scattered to be the primary focus of an enemy offensive. Regardless, Federal raiders often found them when they penetrated deeper into the remote highlands as the war went on. In summer 1864, Union Major General David Hunter led a force into the southern Shenandoah Valley, hoping to take Staunton and then attack Lynchburg, an important industrial and rail center. Though driven away from Lynchburg, the Northern soldiers discovered three of the biggest and best Tredegar-owned furnaces during the foray which they reduced to smoldering ruins. In December 1864, General George Stoneman invaded Southwest Virginia to assault Saltville, the lead mines near Wytheville, and the Virginia and Tennessee Railroad. His troopers came upon and pillaged several iron operations.



**Union Major General
David Hunter**



**Union Major General
George Stoneman**



Tredegar Iron Works - Richmond, Virginia

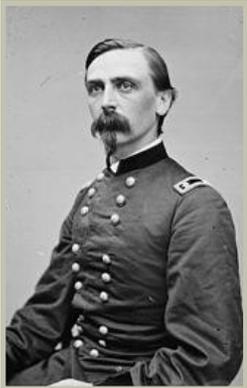
*Next month's issue
will share
Part V ~ Coal*



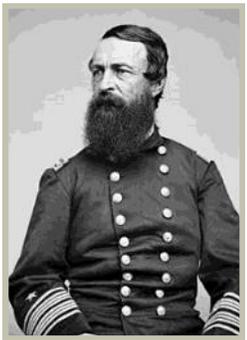
Trivia Answers



Brig Gen Wm Pendleton



Brig Gen Adelbert Ames



Rear Adm David D Porter

1. Brigadier General William Nelson Pendleton, an ordained Episcopal rector. William Nelson Pendleton was an American teacher, Episcopal priest, and soldier. He served as a Confederate general during the American Civil War, noted for his position as Gen. Robert E. Lee's chief of artillery for most of the conflict. After the war, Pendleton returned to his priestly duties and also wrote religious materials. Camp Pendleton in Virginia Beach, Virginia, is named in his honor.
2. Adelbert Ames, born in Maine in 1835 and dies in Florida in 1933. Adelbert C. Ames was an American sailor, soldier, and politician who served with distinction as a Union Army general during the American Civil War. A Radical Republican, he was military governor, U.S. Senator, and civilian governor in Reconstruction-era Mississippi.
3. Drummers. In the 19th century, drums were used as invaluable communication devices in camps and on battlefields. The drummers in both the Union and Confederate armies were required to learn dozens of drum calls, and the playing of each call would tell the soldiers they were required to perform a specific task.
4. California. California's involvement in the American Civil War included sending gold east to support the war effort, recruiting volunteer combat units to replace regular U.S. Army units sent east, in the area west of the Rocky Mountains, maintaining and building numerous camps and fortifications, suppressing secessionist activity (many of these secessionists went east to fight for the Confederacy) and securing the New Mexico Territory against the Confederacy.
5. Ten. Porter began naval service as a midshipman at the age of 10 years under his father, Commodore David Porter, on the frigate USS John Adams. For the remainder of his life, he was associated with the sea.

Trivia questions and answers from the *Civil War Trivia and Fact Book* by Webb Garrison.

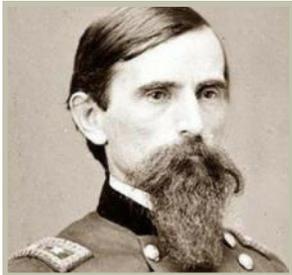
Did you know...?

The Rev. William N. Pendleton became a minister of Grace Episcopal Church in Richmond, VA in 1853 and retained that post until his death 30 years later. When the war broke out, he asked for and was granted a leave of absence. Without military experience, he was elected captain of the Rockbridge Artillery, where he named the four cannons of his battery Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

Each of the four evangelists roared so effectively that the pastor on leave, soon made a colonel, was chosen by Joseph E. Johnston to serve as his chief of artillery.

After the end of the Civil War whatever happened to...?

Union Major General Lewis Wallace

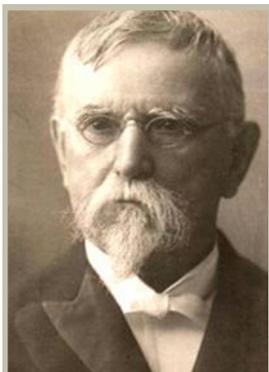


**Major General
Lewis Wallace**

Following President Lincoln's death, Wallace was appointed to the military commission that investigated the Lincoln assassination conspirators. The commission was dissolved in June 1865. In mid-August 1865, Wallace was appointed head of an eight-member military commission that investigated the conduct of Henry Wirz, the Confederate commandant in charge of the South's Andersonville prison camp.

Wallace returned to Indiana in 1867 to practice law, but he turned to politics. Wallace made two unsuccessful bids for a seat in Congress (in 1868 and 1870), and supported Republican presidential candidate Rutherford B. Hayes in the 1876 election. As a reward for his political support, Hayes appointed Wallace as governor of the New Mexico Territory, where he served from August 1878 to March 1881.

Wallace was involved in efforts to resolve New Mexico's Lincoln County War, a contentious and violent disagreement among the county's residents, and tried to end a series of Apache raids on territorial settlers. Wallace resigned from his duties as territorial governor in March 1881, and waited for a new political appointment.



His next assignment came in March 1881, when Republican president James A. Garfield appointed Wallace to an overseas diplomatic post in Constantinople, Turkey, as U.S. Minister to the Ottoman Empire. Wallace became a trusted friend of Sultan Abdul Hamid II. When a crisis developed between the Turkish and British governments over control of Egypt, Wallace served as an intermediary between the sultan and Lord Dufferin, the British ambassador. Although Wallace's efforts were unsuccessful, he earned respect for his efforts and a promotion in the U.S. diplomatic service. Wallace remained in this post until 1885.

The election of Grover Cleveland, the Democratic candidate for president, ended Wallace's political appointment.

Wallace confessed in his autobiography that he took up writing as a diversion from studying law. Although he wrote several books, Wallace is best known for his historical adventure story, *Ben-Hur: A Tale of the Christ*, which established his fame as an author.

In 1843, Wallace began writing his first novel, *The Fair God*, but it was not published until 1873. The popular historical novel, with Cortez's conquest of Mexico as its central theme, was based on William H. Prescott's *History of the Conquest of Mexico*. Wallace's book sold seven thousand copies in its first year. Its sales continued to rise after Wallace's reputation as an author was established with the publication of subsequent novels.

Ben-Hur made Wallace a wealthy man and established his reputation as a famous author. Only 2,800 copies were sold in the first seven months after its release, but the book be-

(Continued on page 12)



came popular among readers around the world. By 1886, it was earning Wallace about \$11,000 in annual royalties (equivalent to \$290,000 in 2015 dollars), and provided Wallace's family with financial security. By 1889, Harper and Brothers had sold 400,000 copies and the book had been translated into several languages.

In 1900, *Ben-Hur* became the best-selling American novel of the 19th century. At the time of *Ben-Hur's* one hundredth anniversary in 1980, it had "never been out of print" and had been adapted for the stage and several motion pictures. One historian, Victor Davis Hanson, has argued that *Ben-Hur* drew from Wallace's life, particularly his experiences at Shiloh, and the damage it did to his reputation. The book's main character, Judah Ben-Hur, accidentally causes injury to a high-ranking Roman commander, for which he and his family suffer tribulations and calumny.

Wallace wrote subsequent novels and biographies, but *Ben-Hur* remained his most important work. Wallace considered *The Prince of India; or, Why Constantinople Fell* (1893) as his best novel. Wallace was writing his autobiography when he died in 1905. His wife Susan completed it with the assistance of another author from Crawfordsville. It was published posthumously in 1906.

Wallace continued to write after his return from Turkey. He also patented several of his own inventions, built a seven-story apartment building in Indianapolis, The Blacherne, and drew up plans for a private study at his home in Crawfordsville. Wallace remained active in veterans' groups, including writing a speech for the dedication of the battlefield at the Chickamauga.

Wallace, seventy-seven years old, died at home in Crawfordsville on February 15, 1905. Wallace is buried in Crawfordsville Oak Hill Cemetery.



Following Wallace's death, the State of Indiana commissioned the sculptor Andrew O'Connor to create a marble statue of Wallace dressed in a military uniform for the National Statuary Hall Collection in the U.S. Capitol. The statue was unveiled during a ceremony held on January 11, 1910. Wallace is the only novelist honored in the hall. A bronze copy of the statue is installed on the grounds of Wallace's study in Crawfordsville.

Civil War Phrases

I.F.W. ~ An abbreviation for *In For the War*

Josh ~ A Confederate soldier from Arkansas. Short for Joshua.

Latin Farmer ~ Any one of the many German immigrants who had fled the 1840s European revolutions and, though well educated in such topics as Latin and Greek, had become farmers in America through necessity. Several became Civil War Generals, including the Union's Carl Schurz.

To open the ball ~ To start a battle

Pumpkin Rinds ~ A Union soldiers' term for lieutenants or lieutenantcies. So called because of the shape of the shoulder straps for that rank.

From Civil War Wordbook by Darryl Lyman

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CAPE FEAR CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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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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