

The Battle of Cedar Creek

The Battle of Cedar Creek - Hybrid Presentation by Bill Jayne

Originally scheduled as a classic round table discussion for our June meeting, then postponed to August, it's now the end of the absurd year of 2020 and we find that the COVID 19, novel coronavirus phenomenon is still with us and we haven't yet heard much about the Battle of Cedar Creek. We're still unable to hold a normal meeting in the auditorium style arrangement of the Harbor Church sanctuary because the Governor of North Carolina has limited meetings like ours to a limit of ten attendees.

Given these facts, we're going to hold a "hybrid" presentation before a small, live audience at Harbor Church AND Zoom the presentation to those who want to tune in online.

Bill Jayne, who was planning to lead the round table discussion, will instead deliver a presentation with slides, etc., and take questions after the presentation. Following is a quick reminder about the topic.

The battle took place on October 19, 1864, in the Shenandoah Valley between the powerful Federal Army of the Shenandoah led by Maj. Gen. Philip Sheridan, and the much less powerful Confederate Army of the Valley led by Lt. Gen. Jubal Early. An audacious surprise attack by the Confederates drove the Union forces back with great losses but led by Sheridan the Army of the Shenandoah recovered and delivered a counterattack that destroyed the Army of the Valley and ended Confederate presence in the valley.

The powerful and fascinating personalities who guided and moved this dramatic battle are central to analysis of the battle. Union General Philip Sheridan, was an 1853 graduate of West Point from Ohio. An Irish Catholic, he was an undersized and very aggressive leader who rose to the pinnacle of his profession as the commanding general of the U.S. Army in the 1880s. Grant sent Maj. Gen. Sheridan to the Shenandoah Valley as commander of the newly consolidated Middle Division of the Army. Known as the Army of the Shenandoah, Sheridan brought unified, focused command to a large, extremely powerful force of three infantry corps plus a provisional division and a superbly equipped cavalry corps of more than 8,000 men. He commanded a total force of about 31,600 effectives at Cedar Creek, including 1,856 artillerymen serving 90 guns.

Much older than Sheridan, Lt. Gen. Jubal Early, graduated West Point in 1837. He was a Virginia native connected to many of the most prominent FFVs (First Families of Virginia). He left the Army after brief service in the Seminole War and then studied law and rose to political prominence in Virginia. He volunteered for the state militia in the War with Mexico but his unit arrived in Mexico too late to see combat. His aggressive style of leadership brought him to the attention of Robert E. Lee and he soon rose through the command structure as attrition removed leaders such as Thomas J. Jackson

(Continued on page 2)

December meeting
Thursday, December 10,
2020 - 7:00 P. M.

Hybrid Meeting

Email from Bruce Patterson
will be sent prior to Event

Speaker: Bill Jayne
Topic: Battle of Cedar Creek



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The Battle of Cedar Creek, cont.

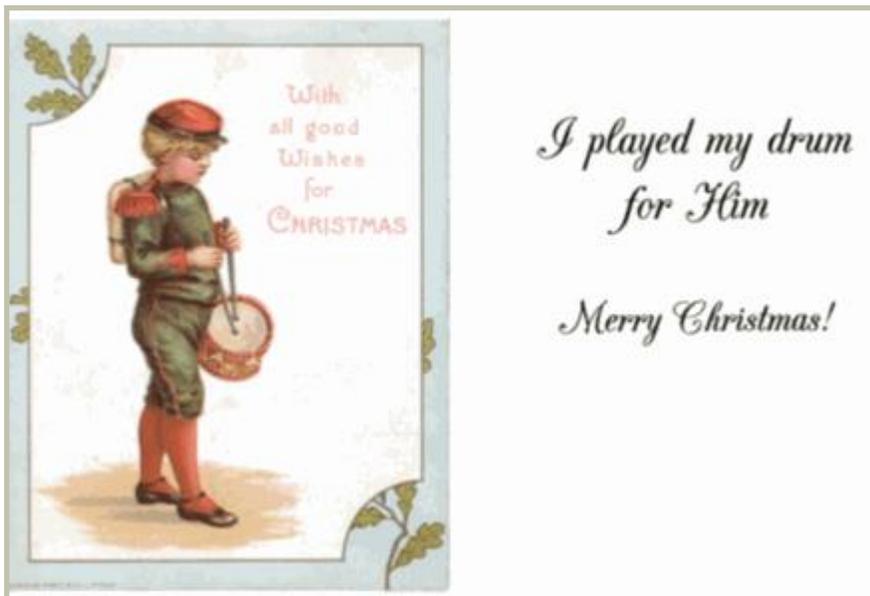
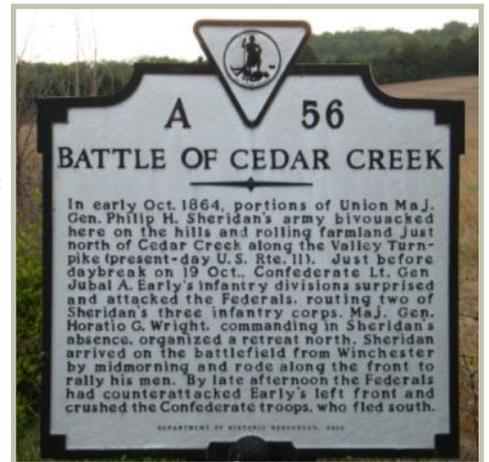
and Richard S. Ewell. By 1864, Lt. Gen. Early commanded the “Army of the Valley,” composed primarily of the redoubtable II Corps of the Army of Northern Virginia. Estimates vary but his strength was approximately 21,000 at Cedar Creek including 5,300 cavalry and 1,100 artillerymen serving more than 40 guns. Some estimate Confederate strength as low as 12,780. The National Park Service estimates the size of the Army of the Valley as “14,000-15,000 men.”

Some other personalities are also of great interest and importance to the conduct of the battle. On the Confederate side, Maj. Gen. John B. Gordon of Georgia was crucial. Maj. Gen. Horatio Wright played an important role in Sheridan’s army but many other generals such as Crook, Geary, and Custer added to the complexity of the engagement. Col. Rutherford B. Hayes (yes, that Rutherford B. Hayes who later became president of the United States) commanded a brigade caught up in the initial surprise of the Confederate assault.

The weather also played a role in the battle. Typical of autumn in the Shenandoah Valley, the weather was generally dry with warm days and cool nights. However, the battlefield is enveloped by the Shenandoah River and Cedar Creek and overshadowed by the imposing land form of Masanutten Mountain. In the crucial hours around dawn on October 19, 1864, fog prevailed over much of the battlefield.

The distinctive geography of the valley was, of course, an important factor in the battle as was, as always, politics. The U.S. presidential election of 1864 was just a few weeks away and although Lincoln had pulled ahead of his rival former general George B. McClellan, a Federal defeat in the valley would have been received as terrible news in the north and might have threatened Lincoln’s reelection.

Tune in on December 10, or contact Bill Jayne or Bruce Patterson about attending in person.



CFCWRT News

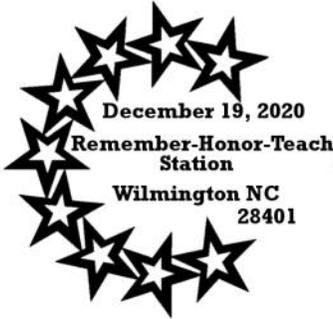
Wreaths Across America

The Wreaths Across America wreath purchasing effort, conducted by the Round Table and joined by the Wilmington Chapter, NCMHS and the Wilmington Philatelic Society was highly successful with a total of 76 wreaths being purchased for the Wilmington National Cemetery, thus exceeding our unit goal in this very unusual year.

The wreath laying ceremony, scheduled for Saturday, 19 December is usually an open event, however this year it is by reservation only and all slots have been filled as of this writing.

The Wilmington Philatelic Society has prepared a cachet for the event with a cancellation specifically designed for Saturday, 19 December. (example to the left) Instructions for obtaining the cachet will be provided prior to the 19th and will remain in effect for the following 30 calendar days, by mail, from the main Post Office. We expect final instructions from the Wilmington Postmaster by 10 December.

Our thanks for all who took part in this years efforts.



Cape Fear Civil War Round Table Upcoming Events

2020

December 10th Bill Jayne, The Battle of Cedar Creek

This will be a hybrid meeting with a limited attendance (10) and a ZOOM presentation for those who can't attend in person or prefer an online venue. Details will be sent prior to the meeting.

2021

January 14th Rodney Steward (Author), Confederate Sequestration Act

February 11th Kenneth Rutherford (Author), Mine Warfare and the Civil War

For more information go to the CFCWRT website.



Ed Gibson

CFCWRT Zoom Presentations

A special thanks to our Zoom Master, Ed Gibson. He has embraced this duty which has allowed us to continue our monthly presentations in spite of gathering restrictions due to Covid-19.

Thank you

November's Presentation: Lt. Frank Hoge by Andrew Dupstadt

November's Presentation on the Interesting Story of a Young Confederate Naval Officer



Lt. Francis Lyell Hoge

On November 12, Andrew Dupstadt, historic sites specialist for the State of NC, delivered to our round table an extremely interesting and quick-paced presentation about Confederate Navy Lt. Francis Lyell “Frank” Hoge. We’re proud to note that Andrew, who is also treasurer of the North Carolina Military Historical Society, is a member of our round table.

While researching the taking of the *USS Underwriter*, a Union gunboat posted near the city of New Bern, N.C., Andrew learned that descendants of Lt. Hoge still held numerous letters, orders, commissions and artifacts belonging to the young officer.

Francis Lyell Hoge, known as “Frank,” was born in Moundsville, Virginia, in January 1841. Moundsville is a small city on the Ohio River in what is today the state of West Virginia.

Andrew traveled to West Virginia to meet with Mr. Laurence Evans II, Frank Lyell’s descendant who owned the papers and artifacts.

Appointed to the U.S. Naval Academy in 1856, Frank wrote many letters home, especially to his siblings, about day-to-day life in the new academy in Annapolis, Md. He wrote of being awakened by cannon fire and drum rolls but he quickly became accustomed to academy life and even comfortable as a young “acting midshipman” who enjoyed Sunday down time lounging in slippers while sitting in an easy chair reading letters from home.

Upon graduation he was assigned to the *USS Susquehanna*, a large side-wheel frigate in the Mediterranean Squadron. He received excellent reviews from his commanding officer, Captain George Nicholas Hollins, Sr., born in Baltimore, he was a citizen of Florida who considered himself a southerner. Captain Hollins resigned his U.S. Navy commission in 1861 and escaped to the south. He held many posts in the Confederate Navy, including command of the Wilmington, N.C., naval station. He died in 1878 in Baltimore.

Young Frank Lyell, although born in the most northwestern part of what is now the state of West Virginia, near Pittsburgh, PA, chose to side with the



Shadowbox of Lt. Hoge Artifacts



(Continued on page 5)

November's Presentation: Lt. Frank Hoge by Andrew Dupstadt, cont.

Confederacy and compiled an outstanding record in the fighting on the sounds and rivers of eastern North Carolina.

The youthful officer proved his mettle in several difficult engagements, including a cutting out expedition on the Rappahannock River in Virginia and survived a near fatal wound in August 1863. He served under the command of Colonel John Taylor Wood, the grandson of President Zachary Taylor, and was recommended for promotion.



Lt. Hoge's Sword

Recovered from his wound thanks in part to the solicitous care of a Virginia surgeon and his family (he wrote glowingly of the doctor's daughters who helped nurse him back to health), Col. Wood picked him to play a pivotal role in the famous expedition to attempt to commandeer the *USS Underwriter* off New Bern. The expedition comprised 33 officers and 220 men in 12 boats and two large launches, each of which carried a 12-pounder howitzer. The "joint services" expedition included men from all over the south, soldiers, sailors and Marines. Hoge, based in Wilmington, was in charge of much of the logistical preparation for the expedition. Such expeditions were exceedingly dangerous in the 19th Century and young Hoge was the first to board the enemy vessel.

Although much of the crew of the *Underwriter* was ashore and the raiders outnumbered the Union tars, fighting was fierce and chaotic. The Confederates prevailed but steam in the ship's boilers was low and it became clear that they would not be able to sail the boat away and outfit it for Confederate service. Under fire from Union forts on shore, it was decided to burn the ship to deny it to the Federal forces. Hoge was chosen for the extremely dangerous mission of firing the ship and boarded it twice while under fire to make sure the fires would take hold and destroy the ship. He was successful and the Confederates retreated back up the Neuse River to Kinston.

At Kinston, Hoge became the executive officer of the formidable *CSS Neuse*, the Confederate ironclad under construction in the river. The ship, of course, took a great deal of time to be built and properly outfitted because of shortages of iron, machinery, and other essential materials. In March of 1865 it helped cover the movements of Confederate Army divisions under Generals Robert Hoke and D.H. Hill in the battle of Wyse's Forks prior to Bentonville and then was scuttled.

At the end of the war, Hoge was paroled but fearing retribution, he travelled to Halifax, Nova Scotia, in Canada where he worked with other Confederate officers including Col. John Taylor Wood to retrieve his fortunes.

Eventually he returned home to his family in West Virginia and ultimately became the city engineer of Moundsville where his most notable achievement was the building of an important bridge that still exists in the old town on the Ohio River. He died in 1901, a bachelor, who was always known as an "able and true officer."

Andrew's presentation engendered a number of interested questions from viewers eager to learn more about this interesting story. Perhaps ZOOM has a future after all!



Francis L.
Son of
Isaac & R M Hoge
1841 - 1901

My father served under both Lee and Grant

In the August 1961 issue of Civil War Times, Mabel Tidball, daughter of Captain John C. Tidball, a very fine and oft-overlooked Army of the Potomac artilleryman wrote a letter to the editor.

How interesting to have the daughter of a prominent Civil war officer reading about her father in the Civil War Times a century after his exploits, Mabel was so pleased to have found her father's photo on the cover of the June 1961 issue that she decided to write in and share some details about his life.

Tidball was an 1848 graduate of West Point, making a career in the military and was seemingly at every major eastern battlefield during the Civil War. He earned five commissions, rising to the rank of Brevet Major General of Volunteers. He published a heavy artillery tactics textbook. Served as the third Commander (Governor) of the Department of Alaska. Even still Tidball is one of those unsung heroes of the Civil War.

Mabel was born in 1875 to Tidball's second wife, the daughter of Major General Napoleon J.T. Dana. That essentially makes Mabel Tidball akin to Civil War royalty in 1961. She would live to just a few days short of her 99th birthday, passing away in 1974! We aren't so far removed from the Civil War.

In her letter to the editor, Mabel identifies each soldier posed in the most recognizable of Tidball wartime photos, taken at Fair Oaks on July 1, 1862. She even points out the out-of-focus soldier in the back as her father's orderly, holding Tidball's horse, which was killed later in the war.

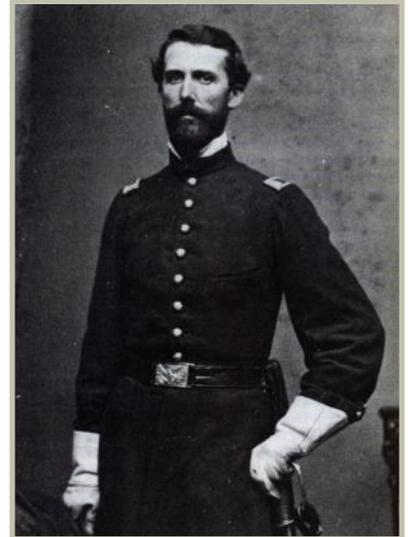
"My father, J.C. Tidball, was Virginia-born, same as Robt. E. Lee, and had served under both Lee and Grant."

In October 1859 Tidball was in command of Battery B, 2nd U.S. Artillery at Fort Monroe. With news of John Brown's Raid at Harpers Ferry, President Buchanan ordered a detachment of Marines under the command of Colonel Robert E. Lee to proceed to the ferry and quell the uprising. Buchanan likewise ordered three companies of artillery to the scene, among them Battery B. Tidball made it as far as Baltimore before learning that the raid had been suppressed, and was ordered back to Fort Monroe.

On arriving back at the fort, the guns were immediately turned around and again ordered to Harpers Ferry with orders to garrison there as a deterrent to any further violence. Tidball would recall...

"When we arrived, the men were quartered in vacant warehouses or any buildings where space could be found for them, while officers took up their abodes wherever they could find room, chiefly in office rooms of the shops amid the whirl of machinery and the grime and dust of work going on. The armory was in full operation, turning out muskets, rifles, pistols and swords to its utmost capacity..."

Tidball's guns would remain at Harpers Ferry until December 1859. And who was in command at the ferry during that period, you ask? Colonel Robert E. Lee. Tidball would later write of Lee during this period...



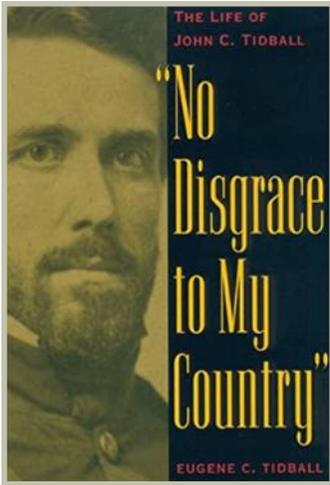
Captain John C. Tidball, 1861
(USMA Archives)



Tidball (center) at Fair Oaks,
July 1, 1862 (LOC)



My father served under both Lee and Grant, cont.



“He was then in the prime of mature manhood, being fifty-two years of age. With a fine masculine figure, perfect in every proportion, he had a handsome, manly face. Altogether he was a perfect specimen of manhood. The dignity of his bearing, devoid as it was of all arrogance or affectation, arrested the attention of all who came within its influence. The affability of his manners made him approachable and agreeable under all conditions. He was exceedingly punctilious in points of etiquette, and I well recall that although we officers were quartered around in the buildings in the most inconvenient places, he took special pains to seek us all out and make a friendly call upon each one. His pleasing manners put everyone at ease, and his conversation was gentle and mild. Although scrupulously particular in dress and personal neatness, he had none of the airs of foppishness about him.”

At Harpers Ferry Lee would institute daily dress parades on the armory grounds, instilling pride in the artillery and infantry troops there. On being ordered back to Fort Monroe that December, Tidball was seated next to Lee on the train out of Harpers Ferry. He would later recall their conversation as *“most charming, and little then did I then think that within less than five years he would be marching his Rebel hosts over this region for the purpose of dismembering the union which he had for so many years honorably served.”*

Alfred Pleasanton said of him that Tidball was *“performing the duties of (a) general officer with only the rank of captain, and I most urgently recommend that (he) be promoted to the rank of Brigadier General. The Artillery arm requires organization in the higher grades. There are no general officers who by their service are so much entitled to this distinction as Captain Tidball.”*

Online Presentations

Raleigh Civil War Roundtable

- ◆ December 14th Zoom Meeting: [Michael Brantley Galvanized - The Odyssey of a Reluctant Carolina Confederate](#)

This book details the extraordinary tale of Michael’s great-great-grandfather, Wright Stephen Batchelor, a North Carolina farmer who fought for both sides in the Civil War, spent time in a horrific POW camp, walked halfway across the continent, and later became a Radical Republican before being involved in a bizarre murder.

CWRT Congress

All presentations are at 7pm ET. [Click this link to register.](#)

- ◆ December 11th: Living historian Curt Fields tells about the Battles of Chattanooga.
- ◆ December 16th: Cory Pfarr will analyze the historiography of General James Longstreet at Gettysburg.
- ◆ December 18th: Living historian Curt Fields tells of his being promoted as Lieutenant General.



Civil War Definitions

Abatis: (pronounced ab-uh-tee, ab-uh-tis, uh-bat-ee, or uh-bat-is) A line of trees, chopped down and placed with their branches facing the enemy, used to strengthen fortifications.

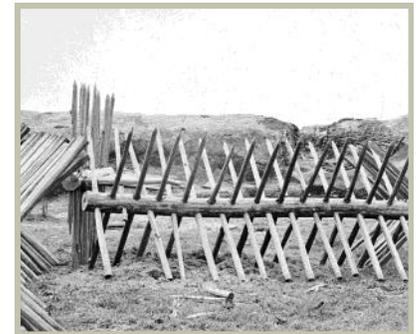


Breastworks: Barriers which were about breast-high and protected soldiers from enemy fire.



Abatis

Chevaux-de-Frise: (pronounced sheh-VOH-de-freez) A defensive obstacle constructed by using a long horizontal beam pierced with diagonal rows of sharpened spikes. When several cheval-de-frise (singular, pronounced she-VAL-de-freez) were bolted together they created an effective barrier for roads and fortifications.



Chevaux-de-Frise

Copperhead: Term for a Northerner who opposed the war effort

Nom-de-guerre: (pronounced nahm-duh-gair) Literally, in French this means “war name”. A nom-de-guerre is a nickname earned in battle, such as “Stonewall” Jackson or “Fighting Joe” Hooker.

“Peculiar Institution”: Another term for slavery in the South.

“Infernal Machine”: A term of contempt for torpedoes (either the land or the water variety). This term was also used to describe the Confederate vessel H.L. Hunley- the first successful submarine.

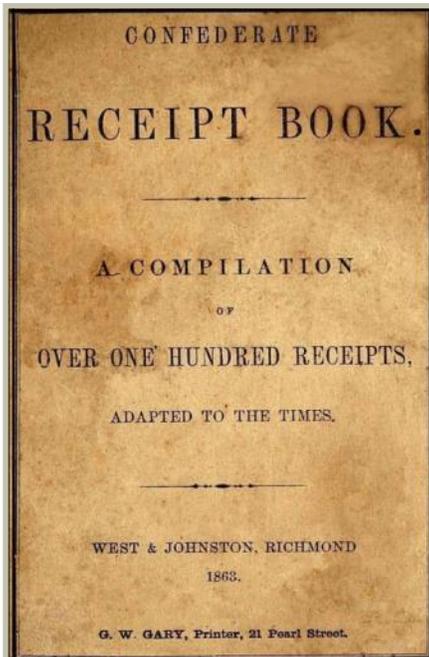


Santa Claus by Thomas Nast

He is generally credited with creating our version of Santa as a jolly old man with white hair and beard during the Civil War.



Confederate Receipt Book



Tough Meat

Those whose teeth are not strong enough to masticate hard beef should cut their steaks the day before using into slices about two inches thick, rub over them a small quantity of soda, wash off next morning, cut them into suitable thickness, and cook according to fancy. The same process will answer for any description of tough meat.

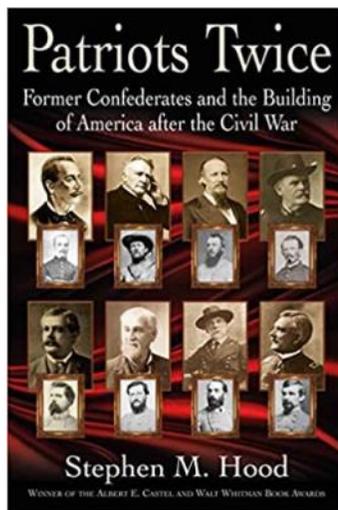
Blackberry Wine

Measure your berries and bruise them; to every gallon add one quart of boiling water, let the mixture stand twenty-four hours, stirring occasionally, then strain off the liquor into a cask; to every gallon add two pounds of sugar, cork tight, and let it stand till following October, and you will have wine ready for use without any further straining or boiling, that will make lips smack as they never smacked under similar influence before.

To Keep Arms and Polished Metal from Rust

Dissolve one ounce of camphor in two pounds of hog's lard, observing to take off the scum, then mix as much black lead as will give the mixture an iron color. Fire arms & polished metal rubbed over with this mixture, left twenty-four hours, and then dried with a linen cloth, will keep clean for many months.

Book Review: Patriots Twice by Tim Winstead



If you are a trivia buff, PATRIOTS TWICE is a great read and resource. I find myself jumping all over the book reading about different people. Sam (author Stephen M. "Sam" Hood) follows so many individuals who made lasting contributions to this nation before, during and after the war..... This book is a most welcome addition to my library.

Henry Thompson Douglas was my favorite newly identified Confederate. As an engineer myself, Henry's service during the war greatly interested me. The fact that a Confederate became chief engineer of the B&O Railroad, after the damage the B&O endured during the war by various Confederate units, was an outstanding achievement. To me, Henry's position signified two things: 1) He was technically competent and 2) Henry had to have had a great skill with both the written and spoken word.

As with all of Sam's books, I feel his delight with the discovery of "stories" which reflect on the personalities, great and small, who shaped the United States during this incredible period in our history.

Tim Winstead
Cape Fear Civil War Round Table
Wilmington, North Carolina

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

He received the Medal of Honor on July 23, 1892. As Colonel of the 61st NY, Nelson Miles received the MOH for his valor in covering the Union retreat to the Chancellor House after Stonewall Jackson's famous flank attack. Miles was wounded twice in the action. By the end of the war, he was a Brigadier General commanding a division in the II Corps in the Appomattox Campaign.

Miles played a leading role in nearly all of the U.S. Army's campaigns against the American Indian tribes of the Great Plains. In the winter of 1877, he drove his troops on a forced march across eastern Montana to intercept the Nez Perce band led by Chief Joseph after the Nez Perce War. For the rest of his career, Miles would quarrel with General Oliver O. Howard over credit for Joseph's capture.

He was named Commanding General of the United States Army in 1895, a post he held during the Spanish American War. He rose to the leadership of the Army even though he wasn't a professional soldier and entered the service as a volunteer at the beginning of the Civil War.

To show that he was still physically able to command, on July 14, 1903, less than a month before his 64th birthday, General Miles rode the 90 miles from Fort Sill to Fort Reno, Oklahoma, in eight hours' riding time (10 hrs. 20 mins total), in temperatures between 90 and 100 °F (32 and 38 °C). The distance was covered on a relay of horses stationed at 10-mile intervals; the first 30 miles were covered in 2 hours, 25 minutes. This was the longest horseback ride ever made by a commanding general of the army.

Miles nevertheless retired from the army in 1903 upon reaching the mandatory retirement age of 64. Upon his retirement, the office of Commanding General of the United States Army was abolished by an Act of Congress and the Army Chief of Staff system was introduced.

Miles died in 1925 at the age of 85 from a heart attack. Nelson was one of the last surviving general officers who served during the Civil War on either side. He is buried at Arlington National Cemetery in the Miles Mausoleum. It is one of only two mausoleums within the confines of the cemetery.

Medal of Honor Citation

Rank and Organization:

Colonel, 61st New York Infantry.

Place and date: At Chancellorsville, Va., May 3, 1863.

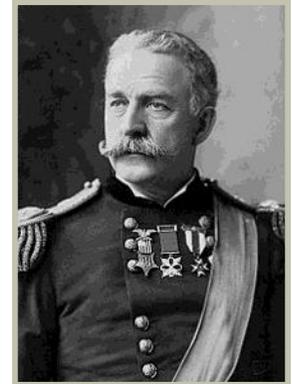
Entered service at: Roxbury, Mass.

Birth: Westminster, Mass.

Date of issue: July 23, 1892.

Citation:

Distinguished gallantry while holding with his command an advanced position against repeated assaults by a strong force of the enemy; was severely wounded.



Nelson A. Miles



Quotes

Philip Sheridan

“I have never in my life taken a command into battle and had the slightest desire to come our alive unless I won.”

John B. Gordon

“General Lee, this is no place for you. These men behind you are Georgians and Virginians. They have never failed you and will not fail you. Will you boys?”

Jubal Early

“The People of the United States will find that under the pretense of saving the life of the nation and upholding the old flag, they have surrendered their own liberties into the hands of that worst of all tyrants, a body of senseless fanatics.”

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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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