



JUNE 2021

THE RUNNER



VOLUME 3 ISSUE 6



June Presentation - Member Forum - Forgotten Soldiers

CFCWRT Member and former editor of *The Runner* **Tim Winstead** will unravel the 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 and considerable sleuthing was necessary to discover his resting place.

Tim is still researching his great-great-grandmother and her efforts to free her sick husband from a Civil War POW Camp at Point Lookout MD. Their story started after meeting at a college he attended in Greencastle, Indiana in the mid 1850s. They married in 1856 and moved to a farm in Wilson County, NC. Life was good until war came to their world.

Join the CFCWRT meeting on June 10th when Tim completes the story of William and Rowena Pearson.

June Meeting
Thursday, June 10, 2021

Member Forum:
Jim Horton
Tim Winstead

6:30 Social 7:00 Meeting

Harbor UMC
4853 Masonboro Loop
Wilmington



William Pearson



Tim Winstead



Tim's Granny Let



Point Lookout Confederate Cemetery



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June Presentation - Member Forum, cont.

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



Jim Horton



Elijah Hawke's Grave by Jim Horton



2nd Pennsylvania Heavy Artillery by Jim Horton

May Presentation - Salmon P. Chase by Walter Stahr

Biographer sheds light on the relationship between Lincoln and Salmon P. Chase, one of the President’s “Team of Rivals”



Walter Stahr

Approximately two dozen members and friends of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table tuned in via Zoom on Thursday evening, May 13, to hear award-winning biographer Walter Stahr talk about his upcoming biography of Salmon P. Chase and the relationship between Lincoln and his ambitious Secretary of the Treasury.

Coming to us from California, Walter talked a little bit about the similarities between Lincoln and Chase—both lawyers, both Midwesterners, both defended fugitive slaves and were in favor of rights for black Americans. But there were also major differences: Chase was a well-educated member of a distinguished family with New England roots and Lincoln, of course, was self-educated and a son of the frontier.

Mr. Stahr’s biographies rely greatly on period writings rather than secondary sources such as memoirs written, in many cases, decades after the events. As a former governor and senator of Ohio and a longtime leader of the abolitionist movement, Chase was seen as a favorite for the Republican nomination in 1860, as was New Yorker W.H. Seward. It was realized, however, that in order for the Republican nominee to win the general election, he would have to carry almost all of the northern states. Both Chase and Seward were seen as “too radical” on slavery to sweep the northern vote and the nomination went to Lincoln.



*Abraham Lincoln and Salmon Chase
Conferring About the National Bank
Act of 1863*

*Courtesy of Library of Congress,
Prints & Photographs Division
Reference Number: LC-US26-33*

Rather than sulk, however, both Seward and Chase campaigned energetically for Lincoln and both became extremely successful cabinet members, contributing greatly to the success of the Union. As Secretary of the Treasury, Chase led and administered bond drives and the establishment of a national bank that controlled the flow of funds necessary to pursue the massive war effort. Before the Civil War and Chase’s term in office, there was no single currency in the country. States and banks issued their own currency, and the chaos of such a system could not support a successful war effort. Confederate efforts to finance the war effort varied by state and were largely ineffective, leading to runaway inflation.

Chase also became involved directly in some military affairs, including the celebrated expedition to Hampton Roads, Virginia, in May 1862 as McClellan finally began moving the Army of the Potomac up the Peninsula and after the momentous draw between the ironclad monsters, the *USS Monitor* and the *CSS Virginia* (aka *Merrimack*).

Lincoln led a group including Chase and Secretary of War Stanton to the war zone and, when McClellan was found to be “too busy” to speak to the Commander in Chief, the political leaders took matters into their own hands, quickly inducing Major General John E. Wool (like Lt. Gen. Winfield Scott, a veteran of the War of 1812) and Rear Admiral Louis Goldsborough to move on Norfolk, home port of the *Virginia*.

Chase and Lincoln quickly found landing places near Norfolk, on the southern shore of Hampton Roads, and ordered Wool to move several thousand Union soldiers across the waterway to gain control of the navy yard and the city of Norfolk. Union Brigadier General Egbert Viele, who accompanied the presidential party,

(Continued on page 4)

May Presentation - Salmon P. Chase by Walter Stahr, cont.

found the various regiments of the landing party in some disarray and Chase took control. The Treasury Secretary negotiated the surrender of the city in a meeting with the mayor and city council but not before retreating confederates burned much of the city and destroyed the navy yard much more thoroughly than the Union had done the job the year before when Confederates took over.

Rhetorically posing the question of whether Chase and Lincoln were political rivals, Walter said the answer was that the usual view of their rivalry was “only partly true.” In the “Cabinet Crisis” of December 1862, after the disastrous Union defeat at Fredericksburg, the Republican senatorial delegation worked to effect a reorganization of the cabinet, focusing their aim on Secretary of State Seward, who was portrayed as insufficiently abolitionist and somehow holding a mysterious influence over the president. Chase had given many senators to believe that there was a lack of unity within the cabinet and that Seward was at fault. Seward submitted his resignation to Lincoln on the grounds of removing himself as a distraction and an obstacle to the war effort. Lincoln refused to accept it. A subsequent meeting at the White House brought together the leading senators and members of the cabinet except for Seward. Lincoln directed the meeting to a point at which Chase was put on the spot and failed to back up his previous suggestion that Seward was a negative influence. Soon after, Chase told Lincoln that he had written his resignation and Lincoln quickly told Chase to give him the piece of paper. Lincoln asked both cabinet secretaries to withdraw their resignations and go back to their work. Both did.

Nonetheless, many “radical” Republicans favored Chase’s approach to abolition and black rights and, as the war dragged on through 1863 and 1864 a “boomlet” developed favoring Chase as the Republican nominee in 1864. Lincoln adroitly maneuvered through the shoals of the political crisis and by summer had been renominated. Once again, however, there arose difficulties in the relationship between the President and the Treasury Secretary and Chase again submitted his resignation. This time, Lincoln accepted it.

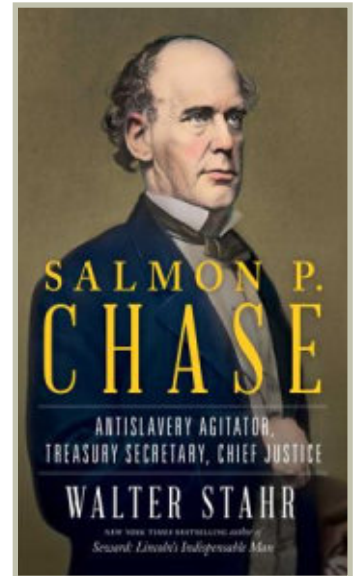
Still, however, Chase supported the party and the president and campaigned in the fall. When an opening occurred with the death of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Lincoln nominated Chase and he was quickly confirmed.

Reconstruction of the Union loomed as the war rapidly came to a victorious end for the Lincoln government and Chase was in a powerful position to help achieve quick and effective reunification. Tragically, of course, the assassin John Wilkes Booth once again plunged the nation into chaos.

Chase was a strong supporter of universal suffrage for all men, both black and former Confederates (except for some high-ranking officials) and, Mr. Stahr related an interesting story about Chief Justice Chase accompanying a Treasury Department fact-finding mission to southern ports and how he visited Wilmington in May of 1865, meeting with noted North Carolina anti-secessionist Bartholomew Moore and black leaders including Johnathan Gibbs, a Dartmouth College graduate. Although Chase worked to influence Lincoln’s successor, Andrew Johnson, he was unsuccessful. Johnson’s reconstruction program effectively disenfranchised blacks.

We thank Walter Stahr for his masterful presentation and his gracious response to the many questions from his interested audience. Much more of the story of the fascinating figure of Salmon P. Chase remains to be told in Mr. Stahr’s book, which will soon be available.

<https://walterstahr.com>





Did you know...?

When the Civil War broke out after the shots on Ft Sumter on April 12, 1861 many thought the war would start and be over in a matter of months. However, when the Union and Confederate armies showed up to fight the First Battle of Bull Run (Manassas) on July 21, 1861, they began fighting on retired Virginia militia Major Wilbur McLean's farm.

Concerned for his family's safety, he moved them to a place in Virginia called Appomattox Court House. Little did he know that four years later, General Robert E. Lee would surrender to General Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Court House on April 9, 1865, and would choose McLean's parlor to sign the surrender. Unable to escape the war it can be said that the Civil War started in McLean's backyard in 1861 and ended in his parlor in 1865.

Trivia Questions

1. What were some of the nicknames used for Major General George H. Thomas?
2. John L. Clem (b.1851) received fame as one of the youngest soldiers to serve in the Civil War. He served at Shiloh and later under General Thomas at Chickamauga and Chattanooga. What was his nickname?
3. General Thomas appointed the first woman physician who worked as an assistant surgeon on battlefields in Kentucky and Tennessee. She was later awarded the medal of honor for her service. What was her name?

Questions by Dave Mercado from the [General Thomas website](#).

Answers of Page 10

Upcoming CFCWRT Events

July 8th TBA

August 12th Colby Stevens, Bentonville Battlefield Site Manager

Colby Stevens will focus on an overview of the battle and an update on preservation and interpretation at the battlefield.

Online Presentations

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

June 2nd - Dana Zaiser Money Alternatives

June 9th - Leslie Goddard Civil War Battlefield Nurse

June 16th - Charles D. Ross The Creative Science & Technology of the Civil War

June 23rd - Mark Dunkelman Adventures of a Civil War Historian

June 30th - David Keller Military Prisons of the Civil War



The Confederacy's Most Modern General by Harold M. Knudsen

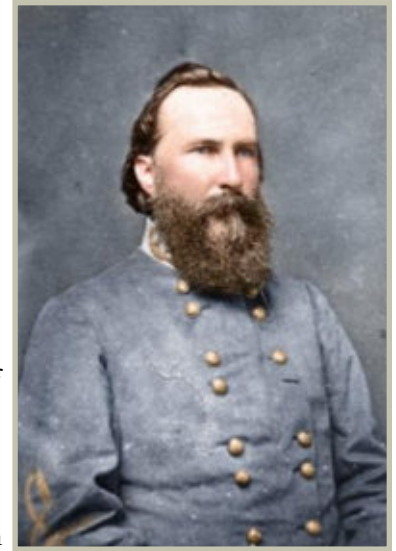
The Civil War is often called the first “modern war.” The Civil War spawned a host of “firsts” and is often looked upon as a precursor to the larger and more deadly 20th century conflicts. Confederate General James Longstreet made some of the most profound modern contributions to the art of war. Retired Lieutenant Colonel Harold M. Knudsen explains what he did and how he did it in *The Confederacy's Most Modern General: James Longstreet and the American Civil War*.

Initially, commanders on both sides extensively utilized Napoleonic tactics that were obsolete because of the advent of the rifled musket and better artillery. Some professional army officers, like Union Generals U. S. Grant and William T. Sherman, worked to improve tactics, operations, and strategies. On the Confederate side, a careful comparison of Longstreet's body of work in the field to modern military doctrine reveals several large-scale innovations. He understood early that the tactical defense was generally dominant over the offense, which was something few grasped in 1862. His thinking demonstrated a clear evolution beginning on the field at First Manassas in July 1861. It developed through the bloody fighting of 1862, and culminated in the brilliant defensive victory at Fredericksburg that December. The lethality with which his riflemen mowed down repeated Union assaults hinted at what was to come in World War I. Longstreet's ability to launch and control powerful offensives was on display at Second Manassas in August 1862, and his offensive plan at Chickamauga in Georgia the following September was similar, if not the forerunner to, World War II tactical-level German armored tactics. Other areas show progressive applications with artillery, staff work, force projection, and operational-level thinking.

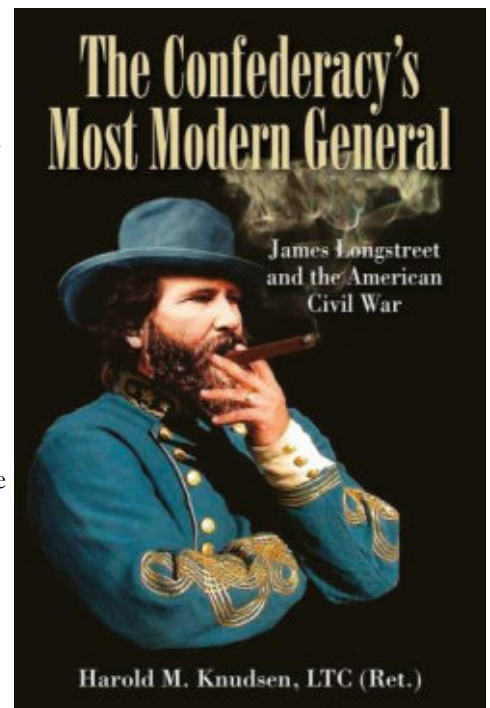
LTC Knudsen's thoughtful study ties comparatives from the Napoleonic era through World War II and beyond back to the Civil War, and in doing so, demonstrates that Longstreet evolved his thinking across several battles, and how his innovations appeared in future wars. Longstreet was not the sole agent of all modern change away from the Napoleonic method, but his contributions were very significant, executed on a large scale, and demonstrated that he was a modern thinker unparalleled in the Confederate Army.

Unfortunately, many Civil War students have a one-sided view of Longstreet. His legacy fell victim to bitter postwar Southern politics when “Old Pete” supported Reconstruction bills, accepted postings with the Grant Administration, and dared to criticize General Robert E. Lee. His military record was attacked by Lost Cause proponents who viewed his politics and actions as scandalous. More modern writers have taken up the cudgel with their pens, skewing the general's legacy.

The Confederacy's Most Modern General draws heavily on 20th Century Army doctrine, field training, staff planning, command, and combat experience, and is the first serious treatment of Longstreet's generalship vis a vis modern warfare. Not everyone will agree with LTC's Knudsen's conclusions, but it will now be impossible to write about the general without referencing this important study.



Gen James Longstreet



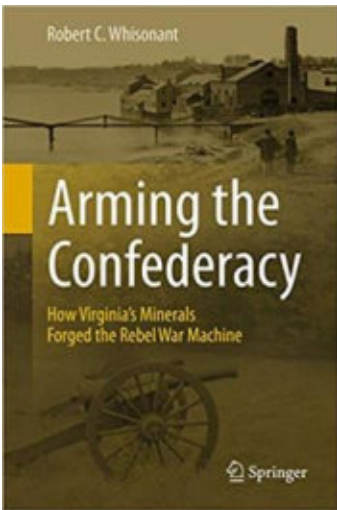
Arming the Confederacy: Virginia's Mineral Contributions to the Confederate War Effort
 by Robert C. Whisonant



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 percent of the firearms, 94 per cent of the cloth, 93 percent 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.

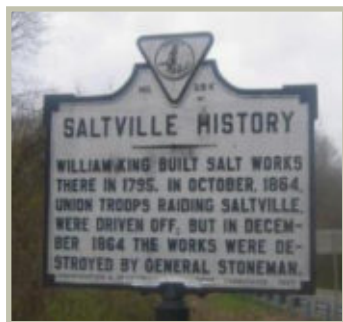
Within the Confederacy, Virginia had long been the foremost mineral producer. The greatest concentration of this natural wealth lay in the mountainous southwestern quarter of the state where large deposits of saltpeter, lead, salt, iron, and coal had been exploited for over a century. In addition, mines 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 III ~ Salt



Of all Virginia's mineral contributions, perhaps none held more importance to both the general population and the military forces of the Confederacy than salt. Early in the conflict, Union Major General William Tecumseh Sherman branded salt as a fundamental strategic resource: "Salt is eminently contraband, because of its use in curing meats, without which armies cannot be subsisted." Besides preserving meat and other perishables, salt is essential in the human diet and in the Civil War, every soldier's ration included it. Livestock required salt as well; a lack of it apparently fostered an outbreak of hoof and mouth disease among the cavalry horses of Lee's army in 1862. Treating animal hides to make leather involved salt. Armies of that day used tremendous amounts of leather for soldiers' shoes and accessories, and for horses' bridles and saddles. Salt had a host of other applications in manufacturing pharmaceuticals and other chemical compounds.

In Civil War times, salt production typically involved one of three methods: evaporation from saline springs or wells (the most common), boiling down sea water or water from salt lakes, and mining ancient layers of rock salt. At the outbreak of fighting, the Southern states had five noteworthy salt operations, these being on the Kanawha River near Charleston, Virginia (after June 1863, West Virginia); along Goose Creek in southeastern Kentucky; in Clarke County in southwestern Alabama; at Avery Island in southern Louisiana; and, most prolific of all, in southwestern Virginia at Saltville. The South lost the Goose Creek works almost immediately after the war commenced, as well as those on the Kanawha. The fall of Vicksburg on July 4, 1863, denied all of the extensive Louisiana sources to the eastern Confederacy. Thus, by mid-summer 1863, even though the Alabama brines still produced salt in the Gulf Coast area, Saltville was by far the major supplier to the states east of the Mississippi.



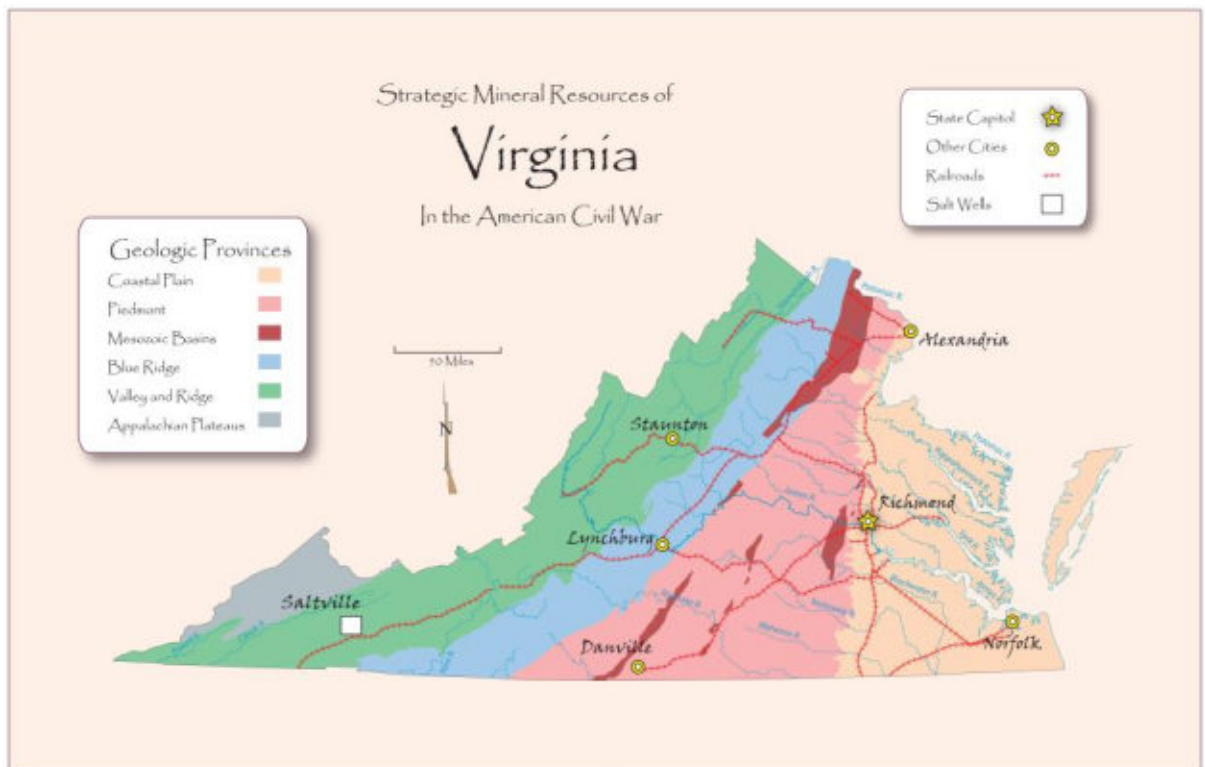
Arming the Confederacy: Virginia's Mineral Contributions to the Confederate War Effort
 by Robert C. Whisonant (cont.)

Native Americans took salt from the Saltville Valley's abundant briny springs and ponds for thousands of years before white settlers began commercial endeavors in the late 1700s. In subsequent decades, entrepreneurs dug numerous wells to bring more brines to the surface where they were heated in iron kettles atop brick furnaces to precipitate the salt. By 1860, Saltville had grown to be one of the three largest salt-making centers in the United States. (The Kanawha works in northwestern Virginia and the massive installations at the Onondaga springs near Syracuse, New York, were the other two.)

In late summer of 1861, Stuart, Buchanan, and Company, the prime Saltville enterprise, negotiated a contract with the national government to provide salt "to and for the uses of the Confederate State armies." Within the next year, Georgia, North Carolina, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, South Carolina, Florida, and Virginia all worked out separate agreements with local businesses to procure the mineral or erected their own operations. At the peak of wartime production, the physical plant at Saltville included as many as 300 buildings containing 38 furnaces and 2,600 kettles. Salt output reached a maximum of four million bushels (200 million pounds) in 1864.

Next month's issue will share Part IV ~ Iron.

Union sorties into the region to demolish the salt works began early, yet none reached Saltville before the fall of 1864. That changed on October 2, when a Federal unit from Kentucky that included a regiment of black soldiers, the 5th United States Colored Cavalry (5th USCC), stormed the defenses at Saltville only to be turned back. The Northerners withdrew in haste, leaving many of their wounded on the battlefield. The next day, Confederates sought out and shot the helpless still-living men of the 5th USCC left behind in what became known as the Saltville Massacre; a few whites were executed as well. The number of blacks murdered is in dispute, but something between 50 and 150 is commonly cited. Another Union command



(Continued on page 9)

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

returned on December 20, broke through the defenders, and devastated much, though not all, of the salt works. A few weeks later, Saltville was up and running again, this time making salt until peace returned.

Although salt shortages happened from time to time during the struggle, thanks to Saltville more than any other source, the scarcity was never severe enough to cause serious problems for the military. Confederate Commissary General Lucius Bellinger Northrop noted in January 1865 that "...the supply of salt has always been sufficient and the Virginia works were able to meet demand for the army." At the war's conclusion, Saltville had provided approximately two-thirds of the Confederate salt.

NC Soldiers in the Shenandoah Valley

"Tar Heels in the Valley"

[North Carolina Soldiers in the Shenandoah Valley](#)

A Civil War Conference

Saturday, October 23, 2021

North Carolina Museum of History

Raleigh, North Carolina

Far from home, North Carolinians played a pivotal role in many of the actions in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley during the Civil War, from Stonewall Jackson's early campaigns to the epic fights of the 1864 Shenandoah Campaign. On **Saturday, October 23, 2021**, the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation will present a Civil War conference, "Tar Heels in the Valley": North Carolina Soldiers in the Shenandoah Valley, that will look back on the experiences of those North Carolina soldiers.

Held at the North Carolina Museum of History in Raleigh, North Carolina, the conference will focus on famous personalities such as Gen. Stephen D. Ramseur, the experiences and hardships of everyday foot soldiers, and battles such as Harper's Ferry, Second Winchester, and Cedar Creek. Speakers will include Keith Bohannon, Michael Hardy, Scott Mingus, and Brian Steel Wills.

Cost: \$30; Pre-registration is required.

For more information call, 540-740-4545. To register, call 540-740-4545 or click on the title link above.



Trivia Answers

1. Pap or Uncle George

"Under the shadow of a spreading oak, near Snodgrass house, is a grizzled soldier, calm, silent, immovable, who resolves to hold the field until night comes ... hemmed in by appalling ruin yet supreme above disaster ... The Rock of Chickamauga."
 J. S. Ostrander
Two September Days

Fondly given by his men. His men trusted him not to needlessly risk their lives in no-hope attacks (unlike many other union generals who were pressured into doing some tragic things). His men knew he would have the odds in their favor with superior planning, tactics, and resources in place, and having done so, he would expect each of them to do their utmost to defeat the enemy and help end the war. This resulted in some spectacular actions such as the spontaneous charge up Missionary Ridge. Only a Thomas inspired army could pull off such a feat of arms. Thomas resisted Grant's urging for an early attack until he knew that Hooker's men were close to flanking Bragg's position from Lookout Mountain. With one eye on Hooker and seeing the daring frontal attack pressed home with vigor, the Confederate line dissolved. A similar attack was not successfully accomplished by any other army - North or South. At Nashville he was quite willing to be fired rather than send his men out to attack during an ice storm which would have needlessly raised the number of casualties and might lead to an inconclusive battle. He hated inconclusive battles because he knew that it only meant that another battle would need to be fought with additional loss of life.

The Rock of Chickamauga

The first usage of this term may have come from General James A. Garfield (future president). Garfield, after he had joined Thomas on Horseshoe Ridge, dispatched a message informing Rosecrans in Chattanooga that Thomas was fighting off the Confederates and was "standing like a rock". Reprinted in newspapers all over the country, the message made a national hero of Thomas, who would be known for the rest of his life as the "Rock of Chickamauga."

Also, Secretary of War Stanton later wrote: "You stood like a rock and that stand gives you fame which will grow brighter as the ages go by."

"There is nothing finer in history than Thomas at Chickamauga."
 Henry M. Cist,
The Army of the Cumberland

2. Johnny Shiloh or The Drummer Boy of Chickamauga

Johnny was a tag-along drummer boy and after proving his worth, he was enrolled as a volunteer soldier in the 22nd Michigan. He served as a courier and was wounded twice. He served ably at the Battle of Chickamauga where the 22nd Michigan fought well in the rear guard action. He was captured with his regiment but was able to escape. He later claimed he killed a Confederate officer during that action which was probably not true.

In 1871 President Grant approved his application for a commission. By 1903 he was a colonel and assistant quartermaster general. He retired as a major general in 1916 and died in 1937.

3. Mary Edwards Walker

We shared an article about her in the March 2019 issue of The Runner. You can find the past issues on the [Cape Fear Civil War Round table website](#).

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

Union Major General George H. Thomas

President Andrew Johnson asks the Senate to confirm Thomas to the rank of brevet Lt. General. President Johnson wants to replace U.S. Grant as Commander-in-Chief of the Army because Grant is openly running for president.

Johnson was the War Governor of Tennessee and knew Thomas well and held him in high regard. He was prepared to promote Thomas over Generals Grant, Sherman, Meade and Sheridan. Thomas, ever the honorable gentleman and soldier, quickly asks the President to recall the nomination as he knows it is inspired primarily by politics.

With the end of the Civil War, Thomas continued in military service, commanding the Department of the Cumberland through 1869 and leading the fight against the campaign of terror and intimidation of the newly formed Ku Klux Klan. In 1869, Thomas was transferred to San Francisco to command the Division of the Pacific.

General Thomas dies of a stroke in San Francisco on March 28, 1870, on duty at his headquarters of the Military Division of the Pacific. A very private person, he had no intention of leaving memoirs, but was content that in the fullness of time, history would do him justice. He was buried in his wife's hometown of Troy, New York with full military honors.



From Benjamin F. Scribner, *How Soldiers Were Made*:

The General frequently rallied me upon my large and increasing family, and said, "I think you might name one of your children for me." So when my next son was born I wrote to him announcing that "George Henry Thomas Scribner has this day reported in person for duty." The General was at Washington, and by return of mail I received a document bearing all the official marks of special orders, with the following extract: "George Henry Thomas Scribner having reported in person for duty, is hereby assigned to the care of his mother until further orders."

<https://generalthomas.com>

This web site is dedicated to the life of Major General George H. Thomas. He commanded the Army of the Cumberland after the Battle of Chickamauga, and he was one of the few great generals of the American Civil War. However today, for a number of reasons, General Thomas is relatively unknown to the general public. This website will address these issues.

Thomas was a Southerner and a career soldier who, at great personal loss, stood by the Union. George Henry Thomas was a man of honor and courage in a time of great turmoil. His story deserves to be known by future generations of Americans.

Civil War Phrases

Hell-fire stew - A blend of everything available and edible (and sometimes inedible!)

Hellhound - A Confederate term for a Northern gun-boat.

Here's your mule - A nonsense-slang expression used by Union troops to mean "We've been here."

Hunky - Fine, in good condition. This term became a popular slang expression just as the war was beginning. The word evolved from English dialectal *hunk* ("home base" in children's games), itself from Dutch *honk* ("home base"). Late in the war, or just after the war, the term expanded to *hunky-dory*.

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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