



THE RUNNER



OCTOBER 2020



VOLUME 2 ISSUE 10

Edwin (Ed) Bearss, June 1923 - September 2020

We mourn the loss of Ed Bearss, who at the age of 97, passed away last month. Ed was, perhaps, the greatest Civil War historian of our age. He spent the war years with the USMC, became chief historian with the National Park Service and influenced generations of historians, many of whom are members of this and other Civil War Round Tables. His booming voice will be missed but perhaps even more significant was his boundless energy and enthusiasm for our discipline. Many of our number, especially in the Lower Cape Fear, will miss his friendship, his leadership and wise council. Rest in Peace Sir !



For those of you who may not have had the pleasure of attending an event with Ed, there are many [YouTube videos by Ed Bearss](#) - all well worth watching. Here are a few:

[Sacred Trust Talks](#)

[Arlington Virginia's role in the Civil War](#)

[Fort Sumter and the start of the Civil War](#)

[Paducah and the Western Waterways](#)

[Battle of the Wilderness](#)

[General Meade's role at The Battle of Gettysburg](#)

[Ed Bearss' life lessons and historical recollections](#)

October meeting
Thursday, October 8,
2020 - 7:00 P. M.

ZOOM Meeting

Email from Bruce Patterson will be sent prior to Event

Speaker: J. Ken Brandau
Topic: Lions of the Dan



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CFCWRT Announces Christmas Wreath Drive

As in years past, the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table will support the **Wreaths Across America** effort to cover **every veteran's grave** in the Wilmington National Cemetery, with a Christmas Wreath. Our effort will run from 1 October, 2020 until 15 November. Wreaths will be delivered for distribution on **Saturday 19 December**. We, along with other community organizations have a goal of some 5,172 wreaths, thus covering all veteran's graves.

This year, due to meeting limitations, we will be totally dependent upon our membership to remit funds by mail. The process is simple. Please submit your contribution, in \$15 increments, by check, payable to CFCWRT, c/o PO Box 15750, Wilmington, NC 28408.

Should you prefer to donate by credit card, please go directly to the WAA web site and navigate to Wilmington National Cemetery and donate through our CWRT (NC0240P). Should you desire to donate to another cemetery, go to the WAA web site and select your location, donating through your favorite (listed) organization. Sponsoring organizations, such as our CFCWRT, will receive \$5 for each wreath purchased.

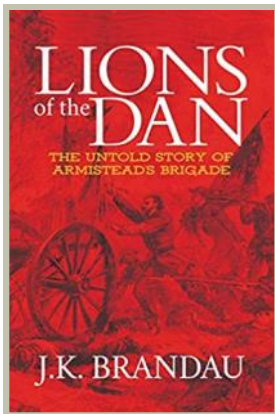
Folks, this has been a difficult year. What better way to complete the annual cycle than by honoring the memory of those veterans who experienced difficult years, many more difficult than this one.



CFCWRT October Meeting



J. Ken Brandau



Due to the continuing situation with regard to the Covid19 "thing", we have effected a change to our scheduled speakers. Ken Rutherford who speaks on Civil War Mines & Torpedoes, will now make his presentation in February and our February speaker, J. Ken Brandau, will make a Zoom presentation of his book, *Lions of the Dan* on October 8th.

Lions of the Dan, is the previously untold story of Armistead's Brigade and chronicles those men of Pickett's Charge over the full course of the Civil War. Time honored celebrations of Armistead and Pickett focus narrowly on those moments at Gettysburg yet primary sources declare the untold story of the best of men caught up in the worst of times. *Lions of the Dan* refutes the Lost Cause myths surrounding Armistead and Pickett. J. Ken Brandau, for the first time, widens the aperture to introduce real heroes and amazing deeds.

Mr. Brandau was born in Richmond, VA and grew up on Richmond's Southside. This Son of the South, graduated from Old Dominion with a B.S in Chemistry and spent a career with the Newport News Shipbuilding Co.

He has written several books and journals reflecting his love of history, especially Civil War history. His meticulous research and dramatic writing style make for an enjoyable read and in the case of a Zoom presentation, makes for dramatic viewing.

Time and place are Thursday, 8 October (our usual meeting date) beginning at 7:00 PM. Zoom Master Ed Gibson will begin receiving your calls at 6:45 (1845). President Bill Jayne will begin the broadcast with remarks and speaker introduction, promptly at 7:00 PM. Details, complete with registration numbers and link will be provided a day (or so) prior to the presentation.

Our initial experience with a Zoom presentation (September - Dwight Hughes) was superb but missed by far too many members. We will, I'm sure, do better in October.

Cape Fear Civil War Round Table Upcoming Events

2020

November 12th **Betty Vaughn**, A 19th Century Christmas Celebration

December 10th **Andrew Duppstadt**, Lt. Francis Lyell Hoge, CSN (CSS Patrick Henry)

2021

January 14th **Rodney Steward**, Confederate Sequestration Act

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

For more information go to the [CFCWRT website](#).



Benjamin Huger 1805 - 1877

Benjamin Huger (November 22, 1805 - December 7, 1877) was a career U.S. Army ordnance officer and a Confederate general in the American Civil War.

Huger was born in Charleston, South Carolina. His grandfather, also named Benjamin Huger, was a patriot in the American Revolution, killed at Charleston during the British occupation. Huger graduated from the U.S. Military Academy in 1825 and was commissioned a second lieutenant in the 3rd U.S. Artillery. He served as a topographical engineer until 1828, then took a leave of absence to visit Europe. Upon his return, he became an ordnance officer and spent the majority of his career at that occupation. He commanded Fortress Monroe arsenal for twelve years, and was a member of the U.S. Army Ordnance Board for seven.

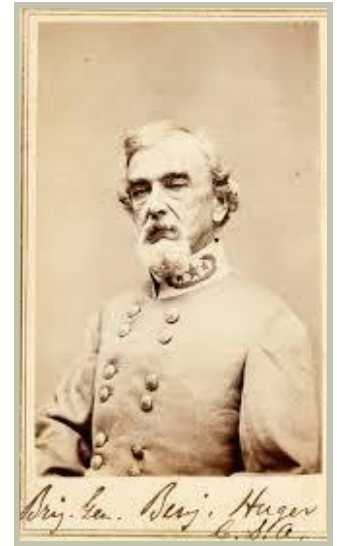
In the Mexican-American War, Huger was chief of ordnance on the staff of Winfield Scott, and received brevets to major, lieutenant colonel, and colonel, for gallant and meritorious conduct at Vera Cruz, Molino del Rey, and Chapultepec. In 1852 he was presented a sword by South Carolina in recognition of the honor his career had cast upon his native state. After this war he served on the board that prepared a system of artillery instruction for the army, and was in command of the armories at Harpers Ferry, Charleston, and Pikesville, Maryland

At the start of the Civil War, he was commissioned colonel of artillery in the Confederate States Army. On May 23, 1861, he was assigned to command the Department of Norfolk, with defensive responsibilities for North Carolina and southern Virginia. By October 7, 1861, he achieved the rank of major general. In May of 1862, when Union troops were approaching, Huger ordered the destruction of the Norfolk works and naval yard at Portsmouth. He dismantled the CSS Virginia ironclad and evacuated the area. While in command of Roanoke Island, he failed to reinforce his position, and his command had to surrender to the Union expeditionary force. Although the Confederate Congress investigated Huger's part in this defeat, Confederate President Jefferson Davis assigned him to division command under Gen. Joseph E. Johnston in the Army of Northern Virginia.

Huger led his division at Seven Pines and in several of the Seven Days Battles (now under the command of Robert E. Lee). He was criticized for his lackluster leadership in battles such as White Oak Swamp and Malvern Hill. Lee relieved of him duty on July 12, 1862, part of his wider purge of generals who did not meet Lee's expectations for aggressive tendencies in battle.

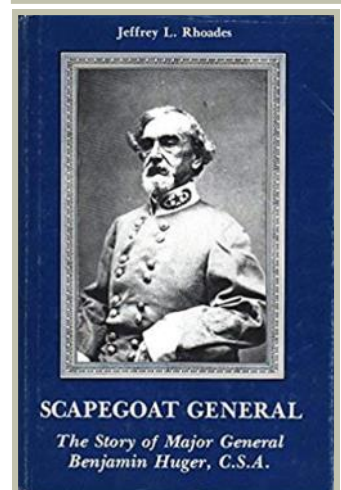
Following combat service on the Virginia Peninsula, Huger was assigned to be Assistant Inspector General of artillery and ordnance for the Confederate Army, and in 1863 was appointed Chief of Ordnance for the Trans-Mississippi Department. After the war, he was a farmer in North Carolina and Virginia, finally returning in poor health to his home in South Carolina.

Huger died in Charleston in 1877 and is buried in Greenmount Cemetery, Baltimore, Maryland. He was memorialized when the U.S. Army constructed "Battery Huger" inside the historic walls of Fort Sumter for the Spanish-American War.



Gen. Benjamin Huger CSA

For further reading about General Huger, check out *Scapegoat General* by Jeffrey L. Rhodes.





Did you know? Confederate Flags

P. G. T. Beauregard served as adjutant general for the Louisiana state militia, 1879–88. In 1888, he was elected as commissioner of public works in New Orleans. When John Bell Hood and his wife died in 1879, leaving ten destitute orphans, Beauregard used his influence to get Hood's memoirs published, with all proceeds going to the children.



Confederate Flag known as Stars and Bars



Confederate Battle Flag

Confederate General P.G.T. Beauregard was instrumental in creating the battle flag that has come to be synonymous with the Confederacy. Following the First Battle of Bull Run in 1861, he approved a new flag design for the Army of Northern Virginia after recognizing that the original Confederate flag—known as the “Stars and Bars”—looked too similar to the U.S. flag when seen in the confusion of battle.

Online Presentations

Civil War Round Table Congress

Oct 8th 7pm Eastern - David Dixon - Radical Warrior

Radical Warrior: August Willich's Journey from German Revolutionary to Union General (University of Tennessee Press 2020) is the biography of a Prussian army officer who renounced his nobility and joined in the failed European revolutions of 1848. He emigrated to America, edited a daily labor newspaper in Cincinnati, and became one of the most accomplished generals in the Union Army. This story sheds new light on the contributions of 200,000 German-Americans who fought for the Union in the Civil War.

Oct 14th 7pm Eastern - Len Riedel Interview - Blue and Gray Education Society

Oct 15th 7pm Eastern - Garry Adelman - Photo Extravaganza

During this event, he will use then-and-now techniques and examine photographic details buried deep inside the images to tell the story of the Civil War in a format you aren't likely to experience anywhere else. He will also work to bust myths about period photos and will labor to convince viewers that photographers of the past were way ahead of us in many ways.

Dues Reminder

Members:

September is our normal dues renewal month and although the Steering Committee extended the Early Bird period, dues, in the amount of \$25, are still due.

Realize please that the Round Table continues to have expenses (speaker honorariums, post office box, zoom and internet expenses etc.) and without raffles and silent auctions, we have no income other than dues and your generosity.

Our thanks to those of you who have renewed for this new year (Sept 2020-Aug 2021).

Please make payments to CFCWRT, c/o PO Box 15750, Wilmington, NC 29408.

Did you know?

Confederate Brigadier General J.E.B. Stuart was known for his larger-than-life behavior both in and out of combat.

After one raid on Union forces in northern Virginia in which he claimed over 150 horses and mules, Stuart personally sent a gloating telegraph message to the U.S. Army's quartermaster general mocking him about the lost supplies.

Battle of Carnifex Ferry - September 10, 1861

The Battle of Carnifex Ferry took place in the opening months of the Civil War at Nicholas County, Virginia (now West Virginia). The Union Army, under the direction of Brig. Gen. William S. Rosecrans sought to stop the advancing Confederate Army, under the direction of Gen. John B. Floyd. The battle took place near Summersville at an important crossing of the Gauley River and resulted in a strategic Union victory. The battle was an impetus to the movement that helped portions of Western Virginia break away to become the 35th state of West Virginia. Two future U.S. presidents, Rutherford B. Hayes, and William McKinley were among the soldiers who fought at Carnifex Ferry.



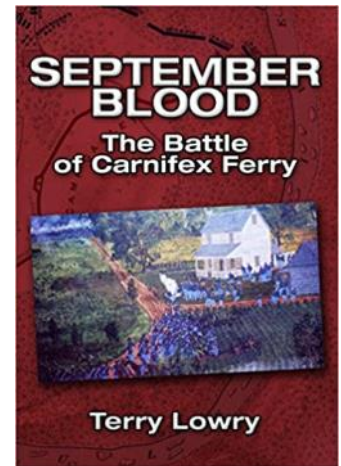
Patterson Home

Events leading up to the Battle of Carnifex Ferry had been unfolding for weeks. Confederate troops had advanced into the Kanawha Valley and launched an attack at Kessler's Cross Lanes (just over a mile from the ferry crossing) on August 26th. Proceeding to Carnifex Ferry, they drove Henry Patterson and his family from their farmhouse which overlooked the Gauley River. Some 2000 Confederate forces then set up a defensive position on the Patterson farm and along the steep cliffs overlooking the ferry.

In order to take control of the area, Rosecrans assembled a large army of 7,000 to push the Confederates southward. As the Federals advanced, the leading brigade encountered Floyd's pickets about 3:30 p.m. on the afternoon of September 10th at the ferry.

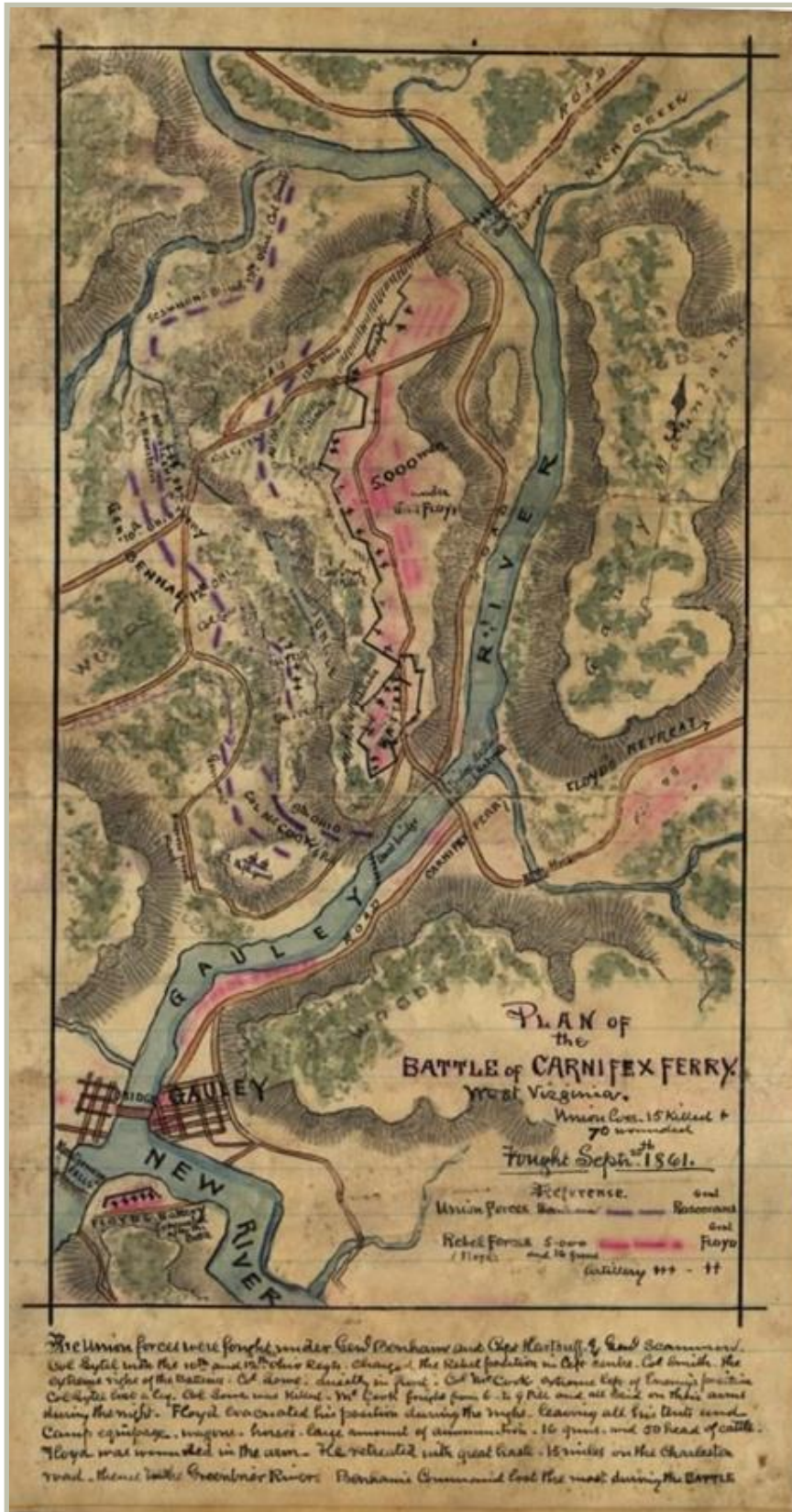
Rutherford B. Hayes, 38, and William McKinley, 18, both served in the Ohio 23rd Infantry. For many soldiers in the Ohio 23rd, this was their first battle experience (the unit mustered in just three months earlier). During the battle, the 23rd found themselves caught in a friendly fire incident while trying to flank the Confederate line. In the confusion and fleeting daylight, they started firing on their own men, killing two and wounding 30. The Patterson home was also caught in the crossfire from both armies and riddled with bullets. The structure still stands today at the Carnifex Ferry Battlefield State Park.

(Continued on page 7)



For further reading about the Battle of Carnifex Ferry, check out *September Blood: The Battle of Carnifex Ferry* by Terry Lowry.

Battle of Carnifex Ferry - September 10, 1861, cont.



Fighting continued until dark, at which point the Confederates withdrew and the Union soldiers settled in for the night, prepared to resume the battle at daylight. During the night, Floyd, realizing that he was outnumbered and facing heavy Union artillery, decided to retreat his army across the ferry to the south side of the Gauley River and continue eastward to Meadow Bluff near Lewisburg. The Federals, exhausted from their march to Carnifex Ferry and the ensuing battle and facing adverse weather, decided against pursuit.

The conflict resulted in Union losses of 17 dead and 141 wounded. Confederate losses totaled 30 wounded with an unknown number of deaths. The Battle of Carnifex Ferry allowed the Federals to secure the Kanawha Valley and its tributaries which gave protection to those who favored secession from Virginia. Six weeks after the battle, residents of areas controlled by Union forces voted to form their own state, and in 1863, West Virginia joined the Union.



Embalming

As a result of these desires—to maintain familial control over the final resting place and, if possible, to have one last look before the body vanished—a new form of treating the dead appeared on the social scene, and paved the way for the birth of an entirely modern funeral industry.

Undertakers who contracted with Northern families began to experiment with innovative means to preserve bodies that had to be shipped long distances on train cars, often during the hot summer months.

The revolutionary practice that emerged in this context, embalming, provided both the military and Northern communities with a scientific, sanitary, and sensible way to move bodies across the land.

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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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