



# THE RUNNER



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## *After the War*

The Covid 19 pandemic has changed the fabric of this nation as well as the world. This is not the first time our nation has faced such a complete and drastic change. There have been many events that affected our nation but none as profoundly as the Civil War.

The Civil War had a greater impact on American society and the polity than any other event in the country's history. It was also the most traumatic experience endured by any generation of Americans. At least 620,000 soldiers lost their lives in the Civil War, 2 percent of the American population in 1861. More American soldiers became casualties at the Battle of Gettysburg than in the Revolutionary War and War of 1812 combined. For every three soldiers killed in battle, five more died of disease. Approximately one in four soldiers that went to war never returned home. It is estimated that one in three Southern households lost at least one family member. Thirty percent of Southern men between the ages of 24 and 35 died in the war. At the outset of the war, neither army had mechanisms in place to handle the amount of death that the nation was about to experience. There were no national cemeteries, no burial details, and no messengers of loss. The largest human catastrophe in American history, the Civil War forced the young nation to confront death and destruction in a way that has not been equaled before or since.

The long war was over, but for the victors the peace was marred by the assassination of Abraham Lincoln, the greatest figure of the war. The ex-Confederate states, after enduring the unsuccessful attempts of Reconstruction to impose a new society on the South, were readmitted to the Union, which had been saved and in which slavery was now abolished. The Civil War brought death to more Americans than did any other war, including World War II. Photographs by Mathew B. Brady and others reveal some of the horror behind the statistics. The war cost untold billions. It established many of the patterns, especially a strong central government, that are now taken for granted in American national life. Virtually every battlefield, with its graves, is either a national or a state park. Monuments commemorating Civil War figures and events are conspicuous in almost all sizable Northern towns and are even more numerous in the upper South.

Recruitment was highly localized throughout the war. Regiments of approximately one thousand men, the building block of the armies, would often be raised from the population of a few adjacent counties. Soldiers went to war with their neighbors and their kin. The nature of recruitment meant that a

*(Continued on page 2)*

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

ZOOM Meeting

Email from Bruce Patterson  
will be sent prior to Event

Speaker: **Dwight Hughes**  
**(Author)**

Topic: **CSS Shenandoah**



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>September Meeting</i>	2
<i>HR 7608</i>	3
<i>Ed Bears</i>	4
<i>Back Page</i>	5



## *After the War, cont.*

battlefield disaster could wreak havoc on the home community.

The 26th North Carolina, hailing from seven counties in the western part of the state, suffered 714 casualties out of 800 men during the Battle of Gettysburg. The 24th Michigan squared off against the 26th North Carolina at Gettysburg and lost 362 out of 496 men. Nearly the entire student body of Ole Miss--135 out of 139--enlisted in Company A of the 11th Mississippi. Company A, also known as the "University Greys" suffered 100% casualties in Pickett's Charge. Eighteen members of the Christian family of Christiansburg, Virginia were killed during the war. One in thirteen surviving Civil War soldiers returned home missing one or more limbs. Pre-war jobs on farms or in factories became impossible or nearly so. This led to a rise in awareness of veterans' needs as well as increased responsibility and social power for women. For many, however, there was no solution. Tens of thousands of families slipped into destitution. The fabric of this nation was forever changed.

After the War was over and the Peace begun, all the major forces of the Confederate States of America had surrendered, and President Davis was in prison. The people now were asking in massive chorus-what next? There must be a blending of the way of life of 1860 and the new ways of 1865. What would the new United States be like? The headlines of battles appeared no more, the bulletin boards with their chilling casualty lists had ceased.

## *CFCWRT September Meeting*

Our Thursday, September 10th meeting will take place via Zoom. About a week before that date, you will receive an email that includes a Zoom invitation for the CFCWRT meeting and a link to use for joining the meeting. Those of you that are already using Zoom for business or club or family meetings will be ready to go.

If you have not used Zoom before, you will need to download the [Zoom app](#) to the device you want to use. That device can be your smart phone, tablet, laptop or desktop computer. To download the app, use the internet on your device to go to [zoom.com](#), and then follow the instructions to perform the download. You should try to download the app now or at least several days before the meeting to avoid last minute issues and delays.

## *Online Presentations*

Chris Mackowski gave a Zoom presentation on "Grant's Last Battle," based on his book of the same name, to the Bull Run Civil War Roundtable. The roundtable recorded the presentation, which can be [viewed here](#).

Chris also did a video battlefield tour of Chancellorsville based on Stephen Crane's Red Badge of Courage as part of a virtual fund-raiser sponsored by Central Virginia Battlefields Trust (CVBT). You can see a preview of the tour on the [ECW YouTube page](#).

Excerpts for this article from:

The Civil War: Day by Day, An Almanac 1861-1865 by E. B. Long

American Battlefield Trust: Civil War Casualties

"In every battle there comes a time when both sides consider themselves beaten. Then he who continues the attack wins."

This quote by Ulysses Grant, general-in-chief of Federal forces, signifies the grand tactic of Continuous Contact.

## *HR 7608 Appropriations Act, 2021*

House Resolution 7608 passed in the House and was sent to the Senate on July 24, 2020. It was sent to the Appropriations Committee. Buried in this resolution is a section that authorizes the removal of Confederate commemorative works.

### [Title IV - General Provisions](#)

[Sec. 442. Notwithstanding any other provision of law or policy to the contrary, within 180 days of enactment of this Act, the National Park Service shall remove from display all physical Confederate commemorative works, such as statues, monuments, sculptures, memorials, and plaques, as defined by NPS, Management Policies 2006, §9.6.1.](#)

As a member of a Civil War Round Table, who's purpose is to promote, educate, and further stimulate interest in, and discussion of all aspects of the Civil War period, it seems unfitting to remove these items from national battlefields without further discussion and input from the American people. This is our history. These battlefields are in fact cemeteries for both Federal and Confederate soldiers. Historian Bernard DeVoto has stated that the Civil War is the crux of our history.

Our CFCWRT member Dale Lear contacted Senator Tom Tillis and received a response. Mr. Tillis shared that HR 7608 was opposed by 7 Democrats, 1 Independent, and every Republican.

Additionally, on June 10, 2020, Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) offered an amendment during the Senate Armed Services Committee (SASC) mark-up for the Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21) National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) which would direct the Department of Defense (DoD) to rename all DoD assets, including military installations, within 3 years if they were originally named after a Confederate figure.

He indicated that a thoughtful and constructive process that included input from local constituents' and consideration of historical context when it comes to replacing names, symbols or statues on public lands and in our national parks.

Of interest on this topic, June 20, 2020, President Trump signed an executive order Protecting American Monuments, Memorials, and Statues and Combating Recent Criminal Violence (EO). The EO holds any person accountable if they destroy federal property, damage monuments, memorials, or statues. Individuals that are arrested and found guilty may receive up to 10 years of prison under section 1361 Title 18, United States Code. Additionally, localities and states who fail to prevent anarchists from damaging property may have their federal grants withheld.

During Sherman's March to the Sea, the Union soldiers would heat up rail road ties and then bend them around tree trunks. They were nicknamed "Sherman's neckties".

The purpose of this was to prevent the Confederates from reusing the railroad ties to rebuild the railroad.



## *Ed Bearss Donations*

Ted Kunstling, President of the Raleigh CWRT, hopes you will consider the opportunity for your Civil War Round Table joining the North Carolina and Raleigh CWRTs in contributing to preserve additional land at Bentonville Battlefield Historic Site in honor of a man who has been so special to us, Ed Bearss. Ed has been incredibly supportive of Civil War Round Tables in North Carolina for over a decade, visiting our groups every January, supporting our efforts. Ed recently celebrated his 97th birthday on June 26. While his health no longer allows him to conduct his annual “Carolina Campaign,” his interest and enthusiasm remain unabated.

So far, over \$3,700 has been raised for this purpose from the NC and Raleigh CWRTs and from individual friends of Ed Bearss. We hope that your CWRT and individual members might join us in both honoring our friend and achieving recognition for your CWRT.

The money will be used when private property in the battlefield comes up for purchase. Checks may be made out to American Battlefield Trust (designated for Ed Bearss Bentonville Recognition) and mail to:

Tom Moore

Principal Philanthropic Advisor, American  
Battlefield Trust

1156 15th Street NW, Suite 900  
Washington, DC 20005

In Missouri at the beginning of the Civil War, volunteer Unionist Home Guard regiments were formed with the blessing of Federal authorities to oppose neutralist Governor Claiborne Jackson's state militia and his intention to discourage Missouri enlistments into Federal service.

Brigadier General Nathaniel Lyon was given authority by the War Department to organize the Home Guard on June 11, 1861.

By late 1861 most of the Home Guard regiments had been disbanded. They were replaced by a smaller Six-month Militia under state rather than Federal control. This too was disbanded in January 1862, to be replaced by the Missouri State Militia (almost entirely cavalry.)

## *Difference between State Troops, Home Guards, Militia, and Reserves*

**State troops** were commissioned and paid for by the state.

**Home Guards** were very informal groups of men who band together to fight insurgents and bandits, which were quite common in both Union border States and in Confederate States. They were either pro Confederate or Union.

**Militia** generally were not paid (some exceptions to the rule) and were under the control of the Governor of a state. The quality of training and equipment was quite variable.

The Missouri State Militia was the only federally funded full time Militia unit that mostly fought guerrillas but did fight as conventional Cavalry at the battles of Prairie Grove in Arkansas and during Confederate General Price's invasion of Missouri. Service in a Missouri militia was mandatory .

The United States did not have a reserve system as we know it today. The **National Guard** didn't evolve until decades later. King Fredrick the Great of Prussia invented the concept of modern military reserves decades before the American Civil War but the US didn't adopt reserves until well after the war.

## Mourning Rituals

Wartime convention decreed that a woman mourn her child's death for one year, a brother's death for six months, and a husband's death for two and a half years. She progressed through prescribed stages of heavy, full, and half mourning, with gradually loosening requirements of dress and behavior.

Mary Todd Lincoln remained in deep mourning for more than a year after her son Willie's death, dressing in black veils, black crepe and black jewelry. Flora Stuart, the widow of Confederate General J.E.B. Stuart, remained in heavy mourning for 59 years after the 1864 death of her husband, wearing black until she died in 1923.

By contrast, a widower was expected to mourn for only three months, simply by displaying black crepe on his hat or armband.

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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](#)

## Steering Committee—Officers

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