

The official newsletter of the Cape Fear Civil War Roundtable.

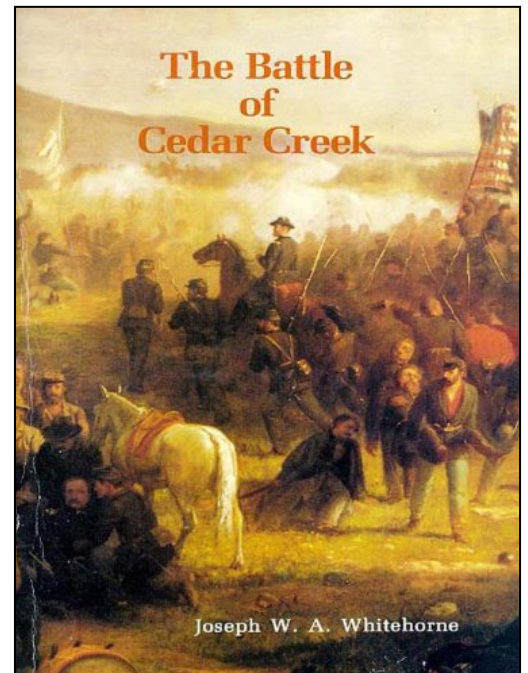
Cedar Creek and the Significance of Contingency

By Bill Jayne, President

Our next meeting on July 13 will be a classic round table discussion—something like a seminar—in which all members in attendance will have the opportunity to talk about the Battle of Cedar Creek, October 19, 1864, in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. The Civil War Round Table movement began in Chicago in the 1940s in something like this format. See ground rules for the discussion in the box nearby.

The question before the club is: Was the Battle of Cedar Creek a case of the Union “snatching victory from the jaws of defeat,” or a case of the Confederate army allowing victory to slip from its grasp and, in effect, “snatching defeat from the jaws of victory.”

What’s the significance of this question? One of the preeminent Civil War historians of the last half century is James M. McPherson, professor emeritus of History at Princeton



Membership Report

By Bruce Patterson, Secretary

We are pleased to report, at this mid-way point of the year, that our paid membership remains at 87.

We have entered our *member forum* season. These summer months are ideal for members to bring a friend and/or neighbor to our regularly scheduled monthly meeting, as attendance is predictably lower during those months and your invitee may then experience how a traditional CWRT operates.

July renewing members (you have been duly notified) may send their \$30 annual membership renewal fee to **CFCWRT, 8387 East Highcroft NE, Leland, NC 28451** or better still, just bring your renewal fee to our July 13th meeting. You may also pay on-line at <http://www.cfcwrt.org> or by credit card at our monthly meeting. We thank you for your support.

Roundtable Ground Rules

Civility at all times

Listen Respectfully

No sidebars

One person speaks at a time

Moderator will call on people

Moderator may ask people to conclude

Questions may be posed to those who have spoken

University. His *Battle Cry of Freedom* is, quite likely, the most influential volume of Civil War history published in the last 50 years.

The last chapter of *Battle Cry of Freedom*, “Epilogue: To the Shoals of Victory,” analyzes the reasons for Confederate defeat and Union victory. He wrote: “Most attempts to explain southern defeat or northern victory lack the dimension of *contingency*—the recognition that at numerous critical points during the war things might have gone altogether differently.”

He then names four “major turning points”:

1. The summer of 1862 when Jackson and Lee in the east, and Bragg and Kirby Smith in the west, “arrested the momentum of a seemingly imminent Union victory.”
2. The fall of 1862 when “battles at Antietam and Perryville threw back Confederate invasions, forestalled European mediation...and set the stage for the Emancipation Proclamation.”
3. Summer and fall of 1863 when Vicksburg, Gettysburg and Chattanooga “turned the tide toward ultimate northern victory.”
4. Finally, “one more reversal of that tide seemed possible in the summer of 1864 when appalling Union casualties and apparent lack of progress especially in Virginia brought the North to the brink of peace negotiations and the election of a Democratic president. But the capture of Atlanta and *Sheridan’s destruction of Early’s army in the Shenandoah Valley* (emphasis added) clinched matters for the North.”

When Professor McPherson writes of “Sheridan’s destruction of Early’s army in the Shenandoah Valley,” he’s talking about the Battle of Cedar Creek. In other words, Cedar Creek is of vital importance because it was one of the critical turning points of the war when what followed was contingent on the outcome of this particular battle.

Read up on Cedar Creek and come to the meeting on

July 13 ready to enjoy a challenging and interesting opportunity to discuss this critical battle.



Members of the Cape Fear CWRT participate in an earlier roundtable discussion on the Battle of Fort Fisher. Rules of “decorum” are used.

Here are a few books to give you some detail on the Battle of Cedar Creek.

The Shenandoah Valley Campaign of 1864, edited by the renowned historian

Gary W. Gallagher, is an excellent thematic over- view of the context of the Battle of Cedar Creek and includes two very enlightening chapters on Cedar Creek itself. A very important chapter by Joseph T. Glatthaar looks at the campaign through the lens of General U.S. Grant’s strategy. **From Winchester to Cedar Creek** by Jeffrey D. Wert is a more straightforward, chronological battle history that provides much useful information about the three Confederate defeats that occurred before the Battle of Cedar

Creek. **The Guns of Cedar Creek** by Thomas A. Lewis is a battle history that focuses more on Cedar Creek. **The Battle of Cedar Creek** by Jonathan A. Noyalas is a more recent battle history prepared for the Civil War Sesquicentennial Series. A book I have found very useful is a self-guided tour of the battlefield by Col. Joseph W. A. Whitehorne, U.S. Army (ret.).

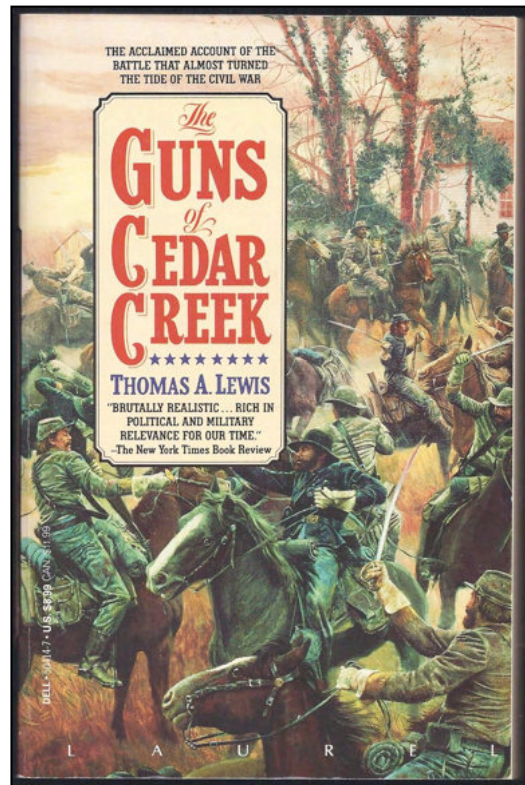
The powerful and fascinating personalities who guided and moved this dramatic battle are worth reading about either in their own memoirs, biographies or anthologized writings in books like **Battles and Leaders**. Their personalities are central to analysis of the battle. Union General Philip Sheridan, was an 1853 graduate of West Point from Ohio. An Irish Catholic, he was an under- sized 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. His command was 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, according to Col. Whitehorne.

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 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. Col. Whitehorse estimates his strength as approximately 21,000 at Cedar Creek including 5,300 cavalry and 1,100 artillerymen serving more than 40 guns. He notes, however, that 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 landform of Massanutten Mountain. In the crucial hours around dawn on October 19, 1864, fog prevailed over much of the battlefield.



The Union counter-attack took place later that day from about 4 - 5 p.m.

FRIENDS OF BENTONVILLE BATTLEFIELD AND THE
BENNETT PLACE SUPPORT FUND PRESENT:

BENTONVILLE BENNETT PLACE & BEYOND

THE CIVIL WAR'S CONCLUSION IN NORTH CAROLINA
SYMPOSIUM

SEPTEMBER 29-OCTOBER 1, 2023

FEATURING:

GARRY ADELMAN · SUZY BARILE · MARK BRADLEY
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ERIC WITTENBERG · ANGIE ZOMBEK · AND MORE!

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BENNETT PLACE · BENTONVILLE BATTLEFIELD
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NC MUSEUM OF HISTORY · OAKWOOD CEMETERY

FOR MORE INFO:

REGISTRATION OPENS
JUNE 1ST!



Area Historic Association Events

By Yelena Howell, Tours and Trips Committee

Saturday, July 1, 2023, 7:30 pm-10:05 pm. New Hanover County Public Library, Pine Valley Branch parking lot. **Carpool Cinema!** A free screening of the beloved movie National Treasure will recall the days of drive-in theaters. Event capacity is 200 people. For more information, feel free to call (910) 798-6391.

Friday, July 7, 2023, 2-4 pm. New Hanover County Public Library, Main Branch. Senior Game Day. Board games, refreshments, and fellowship. Ages 50+. Registration is encouraged. Contact Frances at 910-798-6347.

Thursday, July 13, 2023, 6:30 pm-8 pm (doors open at 6 pm): Bellamy Mansion. Summer 2023 Jazz Series continues with Terry Burgh Trio. Proceeds benefit the musicians, the Bellamy Museum, and the Cape Fear Jazz Society. Tickets sold at the door (no pre-sales). Cost: **\$25.00** general admission; **\$20.00** member and volunteer; **\$15.00** student/active Military (please bring ID). Subject to fair weather. Contact: (910) 251-3700.

Family-friendly activities every Saturday in July at Fort Fisher. For all site events here, please note that all ages are welcome. In the event of adverse weather, an alternative indoor activity will take place in the Visitor Center. Cost: free, but donations always appreciated. Contact: Kaitlin O'Connor, (910) 251-7347 or kaitlin.oconnor@ncdcr.gov

Sat, July 1, 2023, 10am - 2pm: Fort Fisher State Historic Site. School of the Soldier, a Junior Reserves activity to teach kids about Civil War uniforms, weapons, equipment, drills, and camp life.

Sat, July 8, 2023, 10am - 2pm: Fort Fisher State Historic Site. Ready, Aim, Fire! The next activity in the July Junior Reserves series will teach kids about the basics of firing a Civil War cannon by exploring the underlying principles of physics and firing biodegradable water balloons.

Sat, July 15, 2023, 10am - 2pm: Fort Fisher State Historic Site. "I, Spy". This junior program will discuss Civil War spies and coding techniques.

Sat, July 22, 2023, 10am - 2pm: Fort Fisher State Historic Site. "Inked". Kids of all ages will learn about Civil War tattoos and can choose a temporary tattoo to sport until it washes away.

Sat, July 29, 2023, 10am - 2pm: Fort Fisher State Historic Site. Junior Reserves Signal Flags. Come learn the wig-wag alphabet and try your hand at sending messages with signal flags.

For additional events of interest, be sure to follow Cape Fear Civil War Round Table on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1696952227331256>

Jim Horton’s Guns of Fort Fisher Echo on the National Scene



Combat veteran and the author of *The Confederacy’s Most Modern General: James Longstreet and the American Civil War*, Harold Knudsen, LTC (Ret.) was a much-anticipated presenter at the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table meeting in September 2022. On the behalf of our organization, President Bill Jayne gifted Col. Knudsen a print of Jim Horton’s remarkable watercolor, *Guns of Fort Fisher*. The print continues to grace Col. Knudsen’s office and draws positive feedback from visitors, sparking conversations about

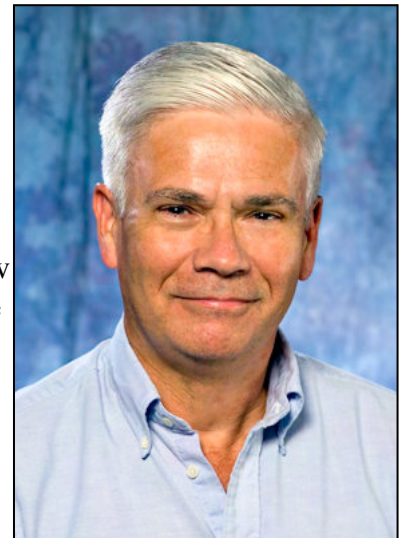
the role of Fort Fisher in the great conflict. We appreciate Col. Knudsen keeping in touch with CFCWRT on our Facebook page and treasure the far-reaching impact of art, writing, and our tradition of gathering in fellowship to learn more about many facets of the American Civil War experience.

8/10/23: CFCWRT Audience Participation Program “A War Game of Sorts” led by John Weisz

The game will focus upon the options available to Major General John Buford leading a division of US cavalry and searching for the main Confederate force which has invaded southern Pennsylvania and Maryland. The audience will play the role of General Buford and will be presented four possible courses of action available to Buford.

After our audience discussion we will poll the participants and then review the actual decision made by Buford and why he made that choice. Was he following or disregarding his orders? Did he understand his new boss’ (General Meade’s) plan? What information did he have? What information did he lack?

If you were John Buford what would you do?



John Weisz is a former Army Officer, graduate of the US Military Academy at West Point and a Six Sigma Black Belt. John is an accomplished speaker and well known for his work with the Remembering Our Heroes organization.

Remember to patronize our merch. and book sales. It helps us to raise money for our programs.

CFCWRT Fall 2023 Programs

By James Gannon, Programs Committee

9/14/23 John Quarstein

CSS Albemarle and the actions at Edenton, Plymouth and New Bern

John V. Quarstein is a nationally known speaker and an award-winning historian, preservationist, and author. John served as the director of the Virginia War Museum until his retirement and is now Director Emeritus of the USS Monitor Center at The Mariners' Museum in Newport News, Virginia. He has authored 18 books and has served as an adjunct professor at the College of William & Mary. John is an expert on the Naval War and will speak to us about the Civil War actions that occurred along North Carolina's inland waterways.

10/12/23 Chris Bryan

Author of "Cedar Mountain to Antietam: A Civil War Campaign History of the Union XII Corps, July - September 1862"

Chris Bryan's book is both a unit history and a leadership and character assessment. It is a compelling story of a little studied yet consequential corps and fills a long standing gap in the history of the civil war. It is the story of how this often luckless command began as part of MG John Pope's Army of Virginia in June 1862, endured defeat after coming within a whisker of defeating MG Stonewall Jackson at Cedar Mountain, suffered through the hardships of the campaigns before and after Second Manassas, but despite it all, found its resurgence in Maryland as part of the rebuilt Army of the Potomac. Chris Bryan is a former naval aviator and USNA graduate, and is active with historic preservation and architectural investigations.

11/9/23 Ed Lowe

Author of "A Fine Opportunity Lost: Longstreet's East Tennessee Campaign, November 1863 - April 1864"

Confederate General Longstreet's First Corps and Union General Burnside's IX Corps had already shared battlefields at Second Manassas, South Mountain, Antietam, and Fredericksburg. Unexpectedly, these two old foes from the Eastern Theater now found themselves transplanted to the Western Theater —familiar adversaries on unfamiliar ground. The fate of East Tennessee hung in the balance, and new reputations could be won or lost. General James Longstreet's deployment to East Tennessee gave him the chance for an independent command. For his Union opponent, Major General Ambrose Burnside, the Western Theater offered an opportunity for redemption from past failures. Colonel Ed Lowe USA (Ret) tells the story of how this was "a fine opportunity lost" for both men.

The Bentonville Battlefield has an interesting event coming up on August 19th from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. - it's called Heavy Thunder: Bentonville Summer Artillery and Infantry Program. Hear the roar of cannon fire and learn how cannons were loaded/fired!



June Program Both Illuminating and Quite Filling!

By Bill Jayne, President



Approximately 30 members of the round table attended a special double feature starring fellow members William Jordan and Dr. Charles Ewell, M.D. William is a dedicated re-enactor who is an expert at 18th and 19th Century cooking. Dr. Ewell, a descendant of CSA Lt. General Richard S. Ewell, is a dedicated historian and an anesthesiologist.

William told us about sutlers and how they supplied the armies with foodstuffs from oysters, sausages, eggs, flour, lemons to cheese and butter. They also supplied all sorts of everyday items such as hair brushes, buttons, boot and shoe polish, needles, thread, etc. And, although it was mostly illegal, they sold whiskey, brandy and other liquors to the troops. Most were attached to a regiment or brigade and usually printed or minted their own tokens or scrip to ensure that soldiers would come back to the sutler to spend more of his money.

Fortified by the sutlers, when circumstances allowed, soldiers were able to cook some pretty decent meals. After William's presentation, the audience enjoyed an alfresco intermission where

he and wife Kim served an authentic barbecue of pork roast, soft bread, burgoo, lemonade, and gingerbread. One put the pork on the bread, topped it with burgoo and—Presto!—a delicious and filling meal.



As mentioned in the article, the food was delicious and was enjoyed by many members of the roundtable. It was suggested that William and Kim attend every meeting to ensure that we have a good understanding of Civil War era foods and desserts!

For the next feature, Dr. Ewell gave us a history of the development of ether and chloroform in the 1840s and how the two agents were soon adopted by many surgeons to help patients tolerate surgeries. Chloroform acted faster so it was often the first choice in military applications. The English used anesthesia fairly widely in the Crimean War but the French were slower to adopt it.

By the Civil War, anesthesia was widely used by both sides. The south developed factories to produce ether and chloroform in Richmond, Virginia, and Columbia, S.C. but it was never as widely available as it was in the Union armies. The Union reported that 80,000 anesthetics were given in the military. In 8,900 cases they recorded the type of anesthesia used. In those cases, chloroform was used 76% of the times, ether accounted for 15%, and a mixture of the two accounted for 9%. Only 37 chloroform deaths were recorded, along with 4 attributed to ether and two to a mixture. Thirteen deaths happened before surgery started. Half of the deaths were for minor procedures.

Charlie also talked about the very liberal administration of painkillers such as laudanum and other forms of opium. Such use led to a large number of addicted veterans, a problem that was noted into the early 1900s.



We're lucky in our round table to have such knowledgeable and talented members willing to share their stories with us. Thanks to William and Kim Jordan, and Dr. Charlie Ewell.



The invention of anesthesia certainly made for more humane surgery.



From Pat Garrow

I took this photograph on Saturday June 10 at an excavation that is being done by the Public Archaeology Corps of Wilmington. The find is a bar shot found in flood deposits from the 1769 hurricane that was one of the worst storms of the century to hit Wilmington. It had to have been dropped there, sometime after the hurricane and probably before the Revolutionary War. Bar shot was shot from a cannon and spun from end to end to take out ship rigging, sails, and masts. It could also be used as an anti-personnel device.

We excavate on the site every other Saturday and we have a web site that can be found by googling Public Archaeology Corps. Call me at 865 548 8802 if you have questions.

And from Yelena Howell

July 26, 2023: CRWCRT member, archeologist and author Patrick Garrow will turn 80 years old. Happiest of birthdays, Pat! You share this big day with Mick Jagger and are every bit as cool, energetic and handsome as the Rolling Stone!

“Between 1861 and 1865, Americans made war on each other and killed each other in great numbers - if only to become the kind of country that could no longer conceive of how that was possible.”

Bruce Catton, Journalist and Historian (1899 - 1978)

Sarah Kay Bierle to be our March 2024 speaker

“From California to Gettysburg: The Hancock Family”

In 1858, Winfield and Almira Hancock and their two children moved to California. As a U.S. Army officer, Winfield S. Hancock’s duties had taken the family to several remote outposts, but their time in California would be some of their most memorable days. The American Civil War began while the Hancocks were in California, and this conflict presented challenging choices. Their decision—made in California—would help keep the Golden State in the Union and also impact one of the great eastern battles of the Civil War.



We are excited to welcome Sarah Kay Bierle to our Round Table. Sarah is a nationally known speaker and author. She serves as managing editor at the Emerging Civil War blog, and works in the Education Department at the American Battlefield Trust. She has spent years exploring ways to share quality historical research in ways that will inform and inspire modern audiences, including school presentations, writing, and speaking engagements. Sarah has published four books, including “Call Out The Cadets: The Battle of New Market” which is part of the Emerging Civil War series, and published by Savas Beattie.

Treasurer’s Report

By Mike McDonald, Treasurer

The year started with a substantial cushion, dollars we can use to attract speakers from other cities. Although the cushion has shrunk a bit, it is still substantial - more than adequate for the balance of the year.

We have no financial problems.

The bank requires us to maintain a \$3,000 balance to avoid a monthly fee of \$100 (for all small business accounts). And we need about \$1,000 to \$1,500 to handle normal expenses for several months. In case something awful happens (like COVID). The \$1,000 would be for speaker commitments, rents, and web/internet fees.

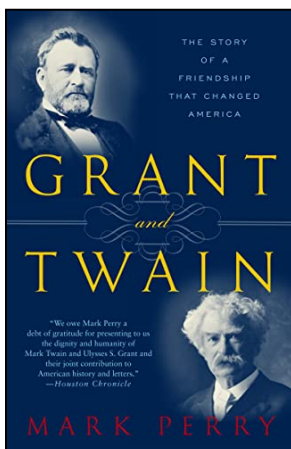
So far, revenue and expenses are pretty much as budgeted, but neither matches 2022. Our income for the January to June period has been about \$2,000, exactly what was budgeted way back in 2022. And our expenses have been about \$2,600, within \$100 of the budget.

The imbalance (\$2,000 income versus \$2,600 in expenses) is not worrisome because our “cushion” is much greater than \$600. We planned for the July to December period to produce more income than January to June.

Last year was different - for January to June 2022, our income was almost \$1,000 greater. Emily Lapisardi had a moving presentation at Oakdale Cemetery which was attended by seventy some people, mostly members and guests. Oakdale provided \$500 to help us with expenses, which was recorded as income. And we had a silent auction that also produced extra dollars. Both of these items were missing in 2023, so total revenue is less.

This year, our July to December budget is considerably more than the \$2,000 left from the first half of the year. We expect inputs from planned tours and events, from logo-embroidered hats and shirts, books, from raffles and auctions.

In October, we will again support Wreaths Across America, as we have for many years.



Grant and Twain: The Story of a Friendship That Changed America by Mark Perry gets rave reviews. Twain helped Grant publish his memoirs (they were published by Twain’s nephew). Grant worked feverishly to complete his memoirs (pun intended) as he was trying to finish them before his bad health (cancer) incapacitated him. Grant had an easy to read and understand writing style which made his memoir very popular. Twain had actually served as an editor, but didn’t feel the need to make many changes. Their friendship was said to be beneficial to both men. Grant’s family ended up making much more money from the memoir than they would have and Twain gained ideas for his writing.

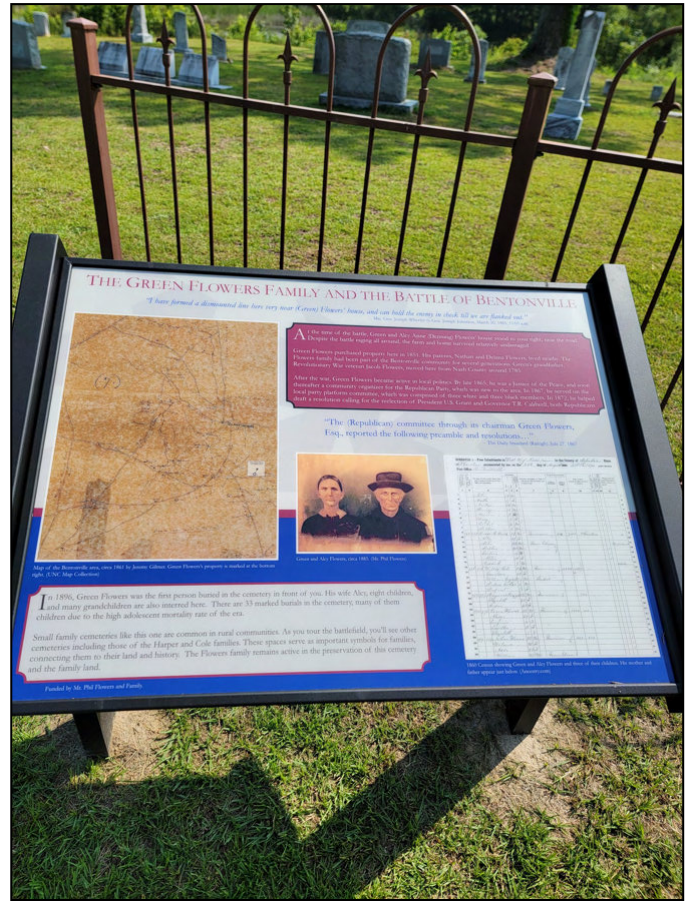
Gettysburg To Mark 160th Anniversary This Year

By Bill Jayne, President

This year marks the 160th anniversary of Gettysburg. One of the organizations marking the anniversary with special events is pcntv.com, a nonprofit cable television network “dedicated to educating, connecting, and celebrating Pennsylvania’s past, present, and future. “ PCN receives no state or federal tax dollars. You can watch PCN’s Gettysburg coverage on cable or by streaming with PCN Select. PCNTV Gettysburg.

From their news release:

Programming will air from July 1 to 3 with four new Battlewalks featured each night beginning at 7 p.m. In partnership with the Gettysburg National Military Park, PCN has televised Battlewalks on the anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg since 1995.



The Bentonville Battlefield unveiled a new tour stop on June 28th at the Flowers Crossroads section of the battlefield. It's the eleventh tour stop on the driving tour completed so far; number twelve is in the planning stages. Funds for the signage were provided by the Friends of Bentonville Battlefield (FOBB). Information on the panels is written by battlefield staff.

Cape Fear Civil War Roundtable

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