

The official newsletter of the Cape Fear Civil War Roundtable.

CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE HOSTS YOUNG HISTORIAN DISCUSSING A MAJOR TURNING POINT IN THE WAR

By Jim Gannon, CFCWRT Programs Director

This month's Wilmington's Cape Fear Civil War Round Table features a presentation by M. Chris Bryan on the Union XII Corps from Cedar Mountain to Antietam in 1862. Chris Bryan earned a B.S. in History from the United States Naval Academy, an M.A. in Liberal Arts from St. John's College, Annapolis, and a Masters in Historic Preservation from the University of Maryland, College Park. The former naval aviator works as a project manager and lives in southern Maryland with his wife and two children. This is his first book.

The meeting of the round table will be held on Thursday evening, October 12, at our normal meeting place, centrally located St. John's Episcopal Church in Midtown Wilmington near Independence Mall. Doors open at 6:30 and the meeting begins at 7:00 p.m.

James M. McPherson, perhaps the most highly respected of all living Civil War historians, wrote in *Battle Cry of Freedom*, that there were



Membership Report

By Bruce Patterson
CFCWRT Secretary

The September meeting was special in many regards. We experienced a very exciting and interesting kickoff to the program year with a presentation by John Quarstein and we welcomed two new members: **Diane Speer** (Leland) and **Robert Timson** (Southport) to our round table membership.

Remember folks, every member is a recruiter. Please continue to bring friends and neighbors to our monthly meetings. There is ample room in both the parking lot and the meeting hall. The acoustics are great by the way.

Lastly, just a word about dues. Your name tag reflects the month in which your membership fee is due. You will also receive an email notification from the membership chair. We offer you many payment options, the best being either cash or check, handed to our **Treasurer, Mike McDonald** at the next meeting. But Mike can also take credit cards and you always have an on-line option as well.

Your annual dues are used to pay the following reoccurring expenses: * rent of meeting place, *speaker expenses including an honorarium and travel, *web site and domain expense and other miscellaneous expenses such as printing, zoom fees and equipment. In short, we depend on your fees and support.

four major turning points that “defined the eventual outcome” of the war. Professor McPherson explains that each of those four turning points could have gone either way, perhaps changing the result of the war.

Two of the four turning points occurred in 1862 when the conflict was just entering its second year. The first was in the summer of 1862 when Confederate counter-offensives in both the eastern and western theaters arrested the momentum of “a seemingly imminent Union victory.” The second occurred in the fall of 1862 when battles at Antietam [Maryland] and Perryville [Kentucky] “threw back Confederate invasions, forestalled European mediation and recognition of the Confederacy...and set the stage for the Emancipation Proclamation.”

The soldiers who are the subject of Chris Bryan’s book played a significant role in both of these momentous turning points. The story he tells is the story of the formation of this often luckless command as the II Corps in Maj. Gen. John Pope’s Army of Virginia on June 26, 1862. The corps endured a bloody and demoralizing loss after coming within a whisker of defeating Maj. Gen. “Stonewall” Jackson at Cedar Mountain on August 9, 1862, and then suffered through the hardships of Pope’s campaign before and after the Battle of Second Manassas, and its resurgence after entering Maryland and joining the reorganized Army of the Potomac. The reorganization also included the relief of the corps’



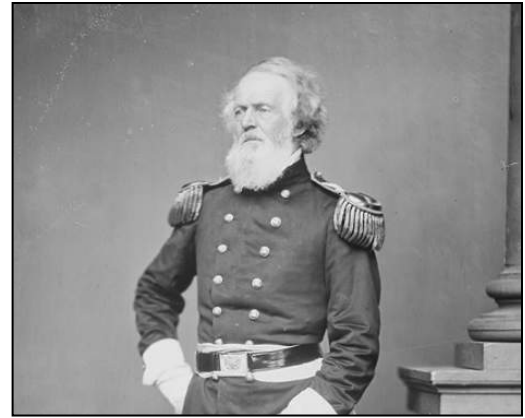
Major General Nathaniel Banks

commander, Major General Nathaniel Banks, a “political general” who had been governor of Massachusetts and speaker of the House of Representatives but had no military experience. As part of the Army of the

Potomac, the command was designated the XII Corps.

(continued from page 2)

The undersized command found significant success on the field at Antietam. Its soldiers swept through the East Woods and the Miller Cornfield, permanently clearing both of Confederates, repelled multiple Southern assaults against the Dunker Church plateau, and eventually secured a foothold beyond the Dunker Church in the West Woods. This important piece of high ground had been the Union objective all morning, and its occupation threatened the center and rear of Gen. Robert E. Lee’s embattled Army of Northern Virginia. Unfortunately, their new commander, Major General Joseph Mansfield, a West Pointer with decades of distinguished military service, was mortally wounded at Antietam. Federal leadership largely ignored the corps’ signal achievement and the opportunity it presented. The XII Corps’ achievement is especially notable given its string of disappointments and hardships in the months leading up to Antietam.



Major General Joseph Mansfield

Bryan’s story is a hybrid unit history and leadership and character assessment, and it puts the XII Corps’ actions in proper context by providing significant and substantive treatment to its Confederate opponents. His unique study, based on extensive archival research, newspapers, and other important resources, and complete with detailed maps and images, is a compelling story of a little-studied yet consequential corps and fills a longstanding historiographical gap.

The meeting will be held in the sanctuary of St. John’s Episcopal Church. Enter at the rear of the church, which is located at 1219 Forest Hills Drive. The church parking lot, close to the entrance to the meeting room, is easily accessed via Park Avenue off of Independence Boulevard. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and there is ample time to browse our used books table, talk to members of the round table and discover new interests. See you there! And bring a friend...or two.



Restoration work on the Harper House Field Hospital Site at the Bentonville Battlefield continues with good progress being made. Workers had to strip - by hand - seventeen layers of paint applied to the house since its construction in 1855. State experts and battlefield staff are regularly checking the work to make sure it’s done properly. It will be repainted in the colors the house wore during the battle - light cream with dark green shutters. The work will take months before it’s complete.



President's Message

By Bill Jayne, CFCWRT President

Upon being asked to serve as a panelist, I grasped the pleasant opportunity to travel to Gettysburg for the Civil War Round Table Congress "Sustainability Conference" from August 25-27. It's always inspiring to visit Gettysburg and it was energizing to share an intensive conference experience with dozens of others from around the country who are dedicated to the round table movement. About 88 attendees represented approximately 35 round tables from as far away as Puget Sound, Washington. Plus, many organizations such as Civil War Trails, American Battlefield Trust and Central Virginia Battlefield Trust were represented.

The conference began on Friday evening with a reception at the Seminary Ridge Museum and Education Center. This is the original building of the Lutheran Seminary and attendees got the chance to climb to the belvedere where Union Cavalry General John Buford viewed the approaching Confederate units converging on Gettysburg. The evening ended with Prof. Chris Mackowski's tour d'force presentation titled "What if Stonewall Had Been at Gettysburg." Chris will make his second visit to our round table in February 2024. Don't miss it! Chris is a top-notch historian who is also extremely entertaining.



The meat of the conference was concentrated on the Saturday session at the beautiful Adams County Historical Society building. We had a huge and well-appointed meeting hall equipped with the best presentation technology. There were three panel discussions.

I had been asked to participate in the first panel titled "Emerging from the Pandemic." Every member of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table should be proud that our club went from a low of less than 40 members in January 2021 to more than 90 members today. We survived the COVID phenomenon and we are stronger now than we were before it. I shared the stage with the moderator representing the Civil War Round Table Congress board of directors and three great representatives of the round table movement from Indianapolis, Cleveland and Harrisburg, PA.

My presentation focused on how we emphasized speaker quality, fundraising and diversified outreach to bring membership levels back up to a healthy level. In addition, we added value to the round table experience with popular tours and special events. We also, like most successful

round tables, ultimately decided to use Zoom to maintain connection with our members during the months when we were unable to meet in person.

The period from April 2020 through August 2020 was particularly trying because we were unable to meet and had not yet decided to try Zoom. Some months we thought we would be able to meet only to have the Governor or the county say, “No, you can’t meet after all.” Throughout this period, Ed Gibson and Bruce Patterson were indispensable. I can’t thank them enough for their help.

Next was the “Community Partnership Panel” where round tables talked about the potential for strengthening the club by means of partnering with agencies and organizations involved in historic preservation, education and planning. We have a strong historic preservation community in the Wilmington area and we can do a lot more in terms of partnering with them. For example, we can have joint meetings. Scholarships and awards can help build relationships with educational agencies. We can do joint trips to battlefields and other attractions. Outreach at public events—“tabling” as it’s called—can be expanded beyond what we now do with Fort Fisher once a year.

The next panel talked about the CWRT Congress’s “Sustainability Challenge,” a formal plan with ten modules for improving sustainability. Check out the Sustainability Challenge here: <http://www.cwrtcongress.org/challenge.html>. Finally, a high-powered panel of young historians and history professionals talked about “Target Marketing Younger Members.” “Go where they are!” was one strong message. How about we have a special meeting at a brewery? We’re already talking about that one. Homeschoolers may be an audience. One young historian, Jonathan Noyalas from Shenandoah University, pointed out that “Facebook is for old people,” according to his students. After years of hard work—thank you, Yelena Howell—we have a good Facebook group page but now it looks like we may have to develop an additional social media channel.



President Bill Jayne representing the CFCWRT.

So, what’s next? I’ve empaneled a committee of leaders, including our officers, to develop a set of bylaws for our club. We’re starting our 30th year but we don’t have a written set of rules for governing the round table. Historically, our presidents have served for an average of six years.

In this day and age, the challenges are too great for just naming a “president for life” and hoping that he or she will hang in there for six years before leaving this mortal coil or just walking away. So, I will step down in August 2024 and we will have some bylaws to govern the choice of our next president and slate of officers. It’s gonna be great! Wait and see.

Area Historical Association Events

By Yelena Howell, Tours and Trips Committee

Friday, October 6 and Saturday, October 7, 10-1130 am, Burgwin-Wright House, 224 Market St., Wilmington. Hunter Ingram presents Cape Fear Legends and Lore Walking Tour. Tickets \$20 (+tax) ea. Please call (910) 762-0570 to reserve your spot.

Saturday, October 14, 10 am-4 pm. Outlander at the Battle of Moores Creek Bridge as the bi-annual Scottish Heritage Day Event. Navigate to 40 Patriots Hall Dr, Currie, NC. Program incorporates Diana Gabaldon’s book “A Breath of Snow and Ashe” and features tours, Highland soldiers, Scottish dancers, guest speakers, bagpipers, etc. Free admission, food available for purchase. Contact: jason_m_collins@nps.gov

Saturday, October 21, 10 am-4pm. Brunswick Town/Fort Anderson State Historic Site. Port Brunswick Day. Living historians will interpret what life was like in the Lower Cape Fear in fall of 1767. Free admission. Contact: (910)371-6613 or brunswick@ncdcr.gov

Saturday, October 21, 1-3 pm. Oakdale Cemetery, 520 N. 15th St., Wilmington. Dr. Chris E. Fonvielle Jr. will lead a much-beloved **walking tour** of our town’s oldest cemetery. Tickets: <https://wilmingtontruehistory.com/>

Thursday, October 26, 630-730 pm, Wilmington Railroad Museum. Dr. Chris E. Fonvielle Jr. presents **Old Wilmington’s “Bumps in the Night”**, his take on some of the most intriguing local paranormal tales. To reserve your seat, contact info@wrrm.org or (910)763-2634.

Saturday, October 28, 10 am-4pm. Bentonville Battlefield State Historic Site, 5466 Harper House Rd., Four Oaks, NC. Fall Festival. Family-friendly activities include wagon rides, old-timey crafts, and live music. Bring a chair, a blanket, and \$5 per ticket (free admission for kids under 8). Contact: Colby Lipscomb, (910) 594-0789 or bentonvillebattlefield@gmail.com

Saturday, October 28, starting at 530 pm. Historic Burgaw Cemetery, 106 E. Wilmington St., Burgaw, NC. The Ghost of Pender’s Past. A family-friendly tour. Contact: (910) 259-1278 or info@visitpender.com Tickets: https://ghostwalkofpenderspast.ticketleap.com/2023ghostwalkofpenderspast/dates/Oct-28-2023_at_0530PM

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at Bentonville Battlefield!

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Hardy B Marshman: A Young Soldier in the 24th North Carolina Infantry Regiment from 1863-1865

By Al Turner, CFCWRT Vice-President

A few weeks ago, I was visiting relatives at Topsail Island, N.C. My sister-in-law was downsizing her home and moving. During my visit, she gave me an album of family pictures which she thought would be important to me and my family. As I thumbed through the album, I discovered a typed five-page single spaced description of a relative's service in the Confederate Army. The paper was obviously old and appeared to be typed on a typewriter and not a computer. It had been written by the soldier's great-great-grandson. It was a very interesting read and provided insight into the history of the 24th North Carolina Infantry Regiment and the experiences of Hardy B Marshburn a young soldier in the unit.

Private Hardy B Marshburn was born in 1845 and raised on a farm in Onslow County near Richlands, North Carolina. He was 16 years old at the start of the Civil War and finally persuaded his parents to let him join the Confederate Army just before his 18th birthday.

Hardy learned that the 24th N.C. Troops were encamped in Kenansville, N.C., so he made his way there. On February 8th, 1863, he enlisted with Company B, (also known as the "Onslow Guards") 24th Regiment North Carolina Troops, General Robert Ransom's Brigade, Army of Northern Virginia. Pvt. Marshburn was promised thirteen dollars a month, but the pay was running up to six months behind and by the time he got paid, it wasn't worth as much as it was six months before. None of this mattered to Private Hardy, because like so many others, he was there only to do his duty to defend his homeland.

As a raw recruit Hardy was considered a "fresh fish" by the veterans. There was little time for basic training as we know it today and his combat training would literally be on the job. For a young inexperienced soldier with little training like Hardy, it was a very dangerous endeavor. Fortunately, he was in the company of some very seasoned and hardened veterans who had fought at Antietam and Fredericksburg.

On July 4, 1863, Hardy would get his first taste of fighting at Bottoms Bridge, on the Chickahominy River. Later the 24th N.C. was ordered back into North Carolina to protect the vital Weldon Railroad bridge where they helped repulse the Federal Cavalry at the battle of Boone's Mill.

In January 1864, the brigade took part in a failed attempt to recapture New Bern, which had been captured by the Federals in March 1862.

In April, Hardy found himself in extremely heavy fighting while trying to penetrate Federal defenses in the town of Plymouth, N.C. Ransom's brigade and General Robert F. Hokes brigade, with help from the Confederate Ironclad, Albemarle, successfully attacked the town and the Federals surrendered around 10:00 a.m. on April 20th.

In late April another attempt to recapture New Bern was under way. But, before preparations to assault the city were completed, the brigade received orders to move to Petersburg. The 24th N.C. Troops were engaged in the defense of Drewry's Bluff on May 12-16 and saw action at Bermuda Hundred on May 16-20.

On June 15, the 24th N.C. joined General P.G.T. Beauregard in the defense of Petersburg. The brigade marched all night to get to Petersburg. Upon arrival the next morning, they were immediately sent to the Confederate line where they were under constant attack throughout June 16. That night they drove the enemy back from some captured works. The next morning, they repulsed another Federal Assault. That evening, after having no rest for at least two full days, men of the 24th N.C. were finally relieved and marched to the rear.

Thus, began the Siege of Petersburg that would last for the next ten months. That July was extremely hot, and the brigade was under constant bombardment from Union guns, mortars and sharpshooters. Pvt. Marshburn and the rest of the 24th N.C. spent July digging entrenchments that would become their home for the next few months.

During the siege the Federal Army devised a plan to dig a tunnel underneath the Confederate line of defense, blow it up with explosives, thereby opening a breach in the Confederate line. The tunnel was completed on July 23rd at 3:30 a.m. On July 30th the explosives blew an enormous hole - 200 feet long, 50 feet wide and 30 feet deep. At least 278 Confederate soldiers were killed in the blast.

The 24th N.C. had been just to the left of the "Crater" so they moved to the right to seal the broken trench line. The regiment fought hard to prevent the attacking Federals from breaking through. Much of the fighting was bloody and hand to hand. Bodies were piled up three and four deep in the bottom of the crater. The Union Army suffered 3800 casualties, while the Confederates suffered 1500 in just a few hours. By about 2:00 p.m., the Battle of the Crater was over.

Life at Petersburg was becoming unbearable for the Confederate soldier. The men were literally starving to death. Their clothes were ragged, and many had no shoes. Often there were times when a rat could be found, it would become stew for the day. Some soldiers even boiled their haversacks, hoping to get some kind of flavor for a soup. As a result of an effort throughout the North to deliver dinner to the Union's "gallant soldiers and sailors", the Federal Army at Petersburg celebrated Thanksgiving 1864 with a feast of turkey, chicken, pies and fruit. No such celebration took place in Lee's starving army.

The winter of 1864-1865 was terribly cold. Many soldiers died from disease and from the effects of the cold. The Confederacy began enlisting young boys and old men because desertion was on the rise. Plus, as one officer said, much of the Confederate Army had been "worn out, killed out and starved out." Even with all the hardships of soldier life, Pvt. Marshburn was present and accounted for at every single roll call.

Finally, the hard winter was over and General Lee called on General John B. Gordon to devise a plan and find a likely place to batter through the enemy works and break the Federal grip on

Petersburg. General Gordon planned an attack of Fort Stedman. The 24th N.C. Troops were a part of this attack.

At 4: 00 a.m., on March 25, 1865, the attack was launched with great success, but as the Federal Army came to life, they counter attacked with such force, that Lee had no choice but to withdraw. This was the last offensive assault for the Confederate Army, and it had cost the Confederates 600 killed, 2,400 wounded, 1,000 missing or captured. The 24th N.C. Troops suffered heavy casualties. Two of its companies lost over half their number as prisoners of war. Pvt. Marshburn was wounded with a gunshot to the right arm. He was immediately taken to a Richmond Hospital. One week later, on April 3, 1865, he was captured in the hospital by the invading Federal Army. No details of the severity of his wound are available but considering the state of medical care during the Civil War and the fact he was wounded seriously enough to be hospitalized, it is amazing that he did not lose his arm.

On April 9, 1865, General Robert E. Lee surrendered his Confederate Army at Appomattox Court House. Fifty-five members of the 24th Regiment N.C. Troops were present to receive their paroles. It would not be until April 26, 1865, that Pvt. Hardy B. Marshburn would take the Oath of Allegiance and be paroled. Hardy came back to Richlands with a broken spirit. The cause, for which he fought, was lost forever. He had left home a 17-year-old boy and returned a 20-year-old man who had experienced the horror and trauma of combat in a bloody war.

After some time of recuperation, Hardy went back to doing the only thing he knew besides soldiering which was farming. He eventually married and raised a family on the family farm in Onslow County. Hardy Marshburn died at the young age of 52.

On October 27, 1996, a memorial service was held at Hardy's gravesite on the Marshburn family farm to dedicate a Confederate tombstone given by the Veterans Administration to Marshburn's descendants. In accordance with an act of March 9, 1906, congress authorized a special style upright marble or granite headstone to mark the graves of eligible Confederate States of America (CSA) soldiers/sailors. Congress adopted the same size and material for Confederate headstones as for Union deceased but altered the design to give the stones a pointed rather than rounded top and inscribed with the Southern Cross of Honor.

i This article relied heavily on the writings of Bob and Warren Jarman who compiled the history of Hardy B Marshburn.

ii A chronological history of the 24th North Carolina Infantry Regiment is available at <https://civilwarintheeast.com/confederate-regiments/north-carolina/24th-north-carolina-infantry-regiment/>

iii The terms "gallant soldiers and sailors" were used during the campaign by The Union League in 1864 to help promote providing Thanksgiving Dinner for all federal soldiers and sailors. The Union League Committee Treasurer was Theodore Roosevelt father of the future president with the same name.

iv Unverified sources indicate that the Confederates could see the celebrations taking place and out of respect would not fire on them.

v Legend has it that Confederate tombstones are cut to a point so no Union soldiers could sit on top on them.

September CFCWRT Meeting Report

By Tim Winstead, Former “Runner” Editor

Are you interested in Civil War Naval actions? If so, read on. If not, read on anyhow because these actions started with Scott’s Anaconda Plan and ended with the surrender of the CSS Shenandoah on November 6, 1865.

At our Cape Fear CWRT Meeting Thursday night, September 14, we had an engaging speaker who addressed the North Carolina cornfield built *CSS ALBEMARLE* and its actions against Union presence in the eastern area of North Carolina. John V. Quarstein, a Chesapeake area native and historian, told the story of the 19-year-old contractor, Gilbert Elliott, and his efforts that almost changed the war’s course during 1864.



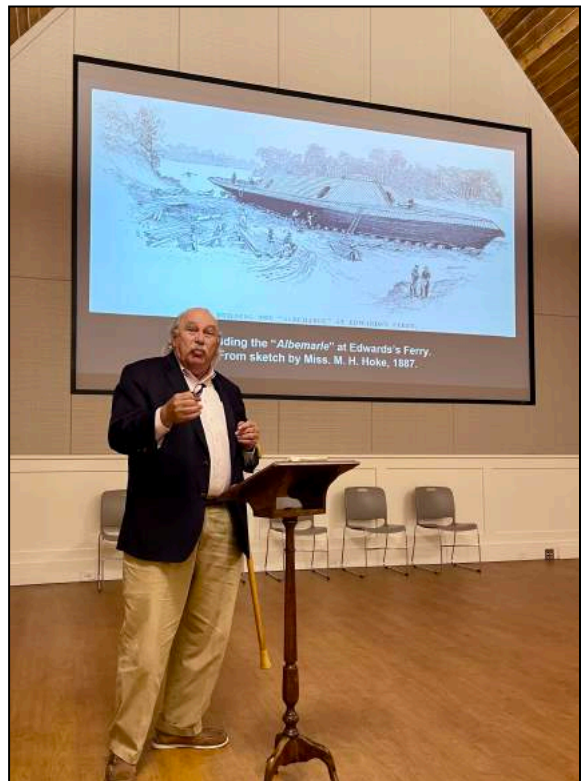
If you want to read numerous interesting articles, check out marinersmuseum.org and John’s blog for the more complete story of the *CSS ALBEMARLE* and many other naval actions.



[More pictures from last month's meeting.]



John Quarstein was an amazing speaker who kept the audience entertained as he shared his very special knowledge of ironclads and the role they played during the war. An animated speaker, he made the history fun. We hope to have him back someday.



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CFCWRT Winter 2023/2024 Programs

By Jim Gannon, Programs Director

12/14/23 Everard Smith

Civil Warriors: An overview of weapons, uniforms, tactics, medicine, and camp life of both sides including a display of a few actual relics.

Local historian, former UNCW professor, and Round Table favorite, Dr. Everard Smith returns to our Round Table with another fascinating presentation on a totally new topic. Ev will focus on the volunteer soldier and some of the things he used and experienced in his everyday Army life. His thoroughly researched presentation will include some surprising details and a display of some actual relics of the civil war.



A native of Washington, D.C., Dr. Smith received his B.A. degree from Yale and his Ph.D. in history from UNC Chapel Hill. From 1991 to 1993, he was a senior administrative officer and adjunct professor of history at UNCW. From 1994 until his retirement in 2015, he was employed by the North Carolina Department of Information Technology as a senior networking analyst for voice, video, and data.

Dr. Smith's service to the community includes membership on the Wilmington Historic Preservation Commission; on the Preservation Action committee of the Historic Wilmington Foundation; and on the City Council-appointed Advisory Board of the Hannah Block Historic USO Building and Community Arts Center, of which he was the chairman. He is a frequent public speaker on the Civil War and WWII periods, and has often conducted local history tours for visiting cruise ship passengers and other tourist groups. An active preservationist, Dr. Smith was a leader in the local movement to preserve the Hannah Block Building when it was endangered in the 1990s. He is the owner of the Larkins House, a 170-year-old home on Dock Street in the downtown Historic District.

Cape Fear Civil War Roundtable

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Editor's Note: Remember that the battle for Wyse Fork isn't quite over. Almost every day, battlefields from the wars fought in this country face extinction due to the rush to develop the lands on which they were fought. Such a battle is going on now in North Carolina with the land where the Battle of Wyse Fork took place. There are a number of ways to help in the fight to save this sacred ground. You can simply go to last month's newsletter to get some valuable information on what to do. Mostly, it involves people who are interested in preserving these historic sites taking action - something as simple as writing an email or a letter, calling a state representative, donating to the organizations who seek to protect these lands or taking one of the tours starting to develop to tell this important story. It's easy to sit back and think "someone else will take care of it. I don't really have to put forth the effort." When that attitude prevails, these lands tend to disappear. Once they're gone, they're gone forever.

You can go to the Save Wyse Fork Battlefield Facebook page here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/4914158828666582/> or check out the American Battlefield Trust page on the effort here: <https://www.battlefields.org/preserve/speak-out/protect-site-second-largest-battle-fought-north-carolina>.

As people who care about what happened in the Civil War, this is our battle today. Obviously, the bullets aren't flying and we aren't facing any artillery barrages, but the battle is very real nonetheless. There are strong forces at work trying to claim that land for their own purposes. There are alternatives to taking that land. The battle is worth fighting because the land is worth protecting.