

The official newsletter of the Cape Fear Civil War Roundtable.

CFCWRT's 30th Campaign Opens with John Quarstein September Program on Actions on Our Inland Waterways

By Bill Jayne, CFCWRT President

After a successful summer program featuring presentations by our members, including two interactive discussions, we begin the Round Table's 30th Campaign this fall. Our first speaker was Dr. Chris Fonvielle in October 1994. Our speaker this September will be John Quarstein. John is a nationally known speaker and an award-winning historian, preservationist, and author, whose name will be familiar to many of our members.

John served as the director of the Virginia War Museum until his retirement in 2008 after 30 years of service. He is now Director Emeritus of the USS Monitor Center at The Mariners' Museum in Newport News, Virginia.

John has authored 19 books and has written numerous articles, exhibits, essays, and documentaries. His titles include *A History of Ironclads: The Power of Iron over Wood*; *CSS Virginia: Sink Before Surrender*; and *The Monitor Boys: The Crew of the Union's First Ironclad*. He is the winner of the 2012 Henry Adams Prize for excellence in historical literature. Quarstein

Membership Report

By Bruce Patterson
CFCWRT Secretary

We finished our summer with a membership of just over 90-family units. Our largest renewal challenge, however, begins this month due to the preponderance of members originally joining in September. (a family unit is defined as a membership paid for a family, be it a single or multiple member unit).

September renewal members have been notified. You may send your \$30. annual fee to **CFCWRT, 8387 East Highcroft NE, Leland, NC 28451** or better still, just bring your renewal fee to our September 14th meeting. You may also pay on-line by credit card at <http://www.cfcwrt.org> **Treasurer Mike McDonald** will also accept your credit card at the meeting.

We begin the season of increased activity and to that end, **Program Chair, Jim Gannon**, has scheduled a really terrific lineup of speakers.

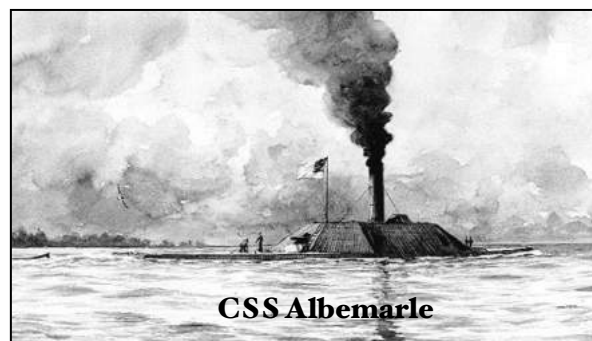
With *The Runner*, our monthly newsletter, resuming regular publication, we can promise a productive and most enjoyable program year. We are not only encouraging renewals but asking members to bring friends and neighbors to our next meeting. We have ample seating and parking at St John's Episcopal Church, our regular meeting venue.

has also produced, narrated and written several PBS documentaries including the film series Civil War in Hampton Roads, a Silver Telly Award winner. Quarstein is the recipient of the National Trust for Historic Preservation's President's Award for Historic Preservation, the Civil War Society's Preservation Award, and the Daughters of the American Revolution Gold Historians Medal. He has been a guest on CSpan multiple times 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, specifically the actions at Edenton, Plymouth and New Bern in 1864.

The meeting of the round table will be held on Thursday evening, September 14, at 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. 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. There is ample time to browse our used books table, talk to members of the round table and discover new interests. See you there!



November Program to feature Colonel (Ret.) Ed Lowe

By Jim Gannon, CFCWRT Programs Director

11/9/23 Col. (Ret) Ed Lowe

Author of “A Fine Opportunity Lost: Longstreet’s East Tennessee Campaign, November 1863 April 1864.”

In November the CFCWRT will welcome Col. Ed Lowe who served 26 years on active duty in the U.S. Army, with deployments to Operation Desert Shield/Storm, Haiti, Afghanistan, and Iraq. Ed attended North Georgia College and has graduate degrees from California State University, the U.S. Army War College, U.S. Command & General Staff College, and Webster’s University. He is an adjunct professor for the University of Maryland/Global Campus and Elizabethtown College, where he teaches history and government. Ed will speak to us about Lieutenant General James Longstreet’s campaign in East Tennessee.



Longstreet’s deployment to East Tennessee promised a chance to shine. The commander of the First Corps of the Army of Northern Virginia had long been overshadowed by his commander, Robert E. Lee, and Second Corps commander, Stonewall Jackson. Lee had nonetheless leaned heavily on Longstreet, whom he called his “Old Warhorse.” Reassigned to the Western Theater because of sliding fortunes there, the Old Warhorse hoped to run free with—finally—an independent command of his own.



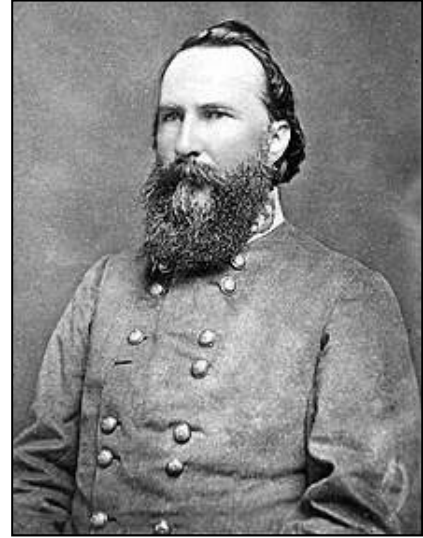
For his Union opponent, Maj. Gen. Ambrose Burnside, East Tennessee offered an opportunity for redemption. Burnside’s early war success had been overshadowed by his disastrous turn at the head of the Army of the Potomac, where he suffered a dramatically lopsided loss at the battle of Fredericksburg followed by the humiliation of “The Mud March.”

Removed from army command and shuffled to a less prominent theater, Burnside suddenly found his quiet corner of the war getting noisy and worrisome. The mid-September loss by the Union Army of the Cumberland at the battle of Chickamauga left it besieged in Chattanooga, Tennessee. That, in turn, opened the door to Union-leaning East Tennessee and imperiled Burnside’s isolated force around Knoxville, the region’s most important city. A strong move by Confederates would create

political turmoil for Federal forces and cut off Burnside's ability to come to Chattanooga's aid.

Into that breach marched Longstreet, fresh off his tide-turning role in the Confederate victory at Chickamauga. The Old Warhorse finally had the independent command he had longed for and an opportunity to capitalize on the momentum he had helped create.

Longstreet's First Corps and Burnside's IX Corps had shared battlefields at Second Manassas, South Mountain, Antietam, and Fredericksburg. Unexpectedly, these two old foes from the Eastern Theater now found themselves transplanted in the Western—familiar adversaries on unfamiliar ground. The fate of East Tennessee hung in the balance, and the reputations of the commanders would be won or lost.



The Next Program at the Brunswick CWRT

Editor's Note: As a "sister" organization, we have an agreement with the Brunswick Civil War Roundtable to publicize each others programs. Members from that roundtable often attend our meetings and vice versa. If you get a chance, check out this interesting local BCWRT program:

The first monthly meeting of the new season begins on Tuesday, September 5th when popular Civil War historian Max Longley will present "Marble Nash Taylor and Edward Stanly: North Carolina's Two Civil War Union Generals." A curious event took place on Hatteras Island involving two unique and charismatic individuals, President Lincoln, and two short-lived governorships of North Carolina. The meeting will be held at Hatch Auditorium on Caswell Beach.

Registration begins at 6:15PM. The program starts at 7:00PM. The visitor fee is \$10, and can include a spouse, and could be applied toward the \$25 annual membership dues. For more information, contact president John Butler at Brunswickcwr@gmail.com, or call him at (404) 229-9425. Or, visit their website at Brunswickcivilwarroundtable.com. or their Facebook page for additional information, news, and updates.

Bentonville Battlefield Fall Festival

Saturday, October 28th at the Battlefield 9 am - 5pm

Crafts, Music, Tours, Games, Food, and Lots More



Area Historic Association Events

By Yelena Howell, Tours and Trips Committee

Tuesday, September 5, 2023, doors open 6:15 pm, program begins at 7 pm.
Brunswick Civil War Round Table. Hatch Auditorium, NC Baptist Assembly at Fort Caswell. Civil War historian Max Longley will present “Marble Nash Taylor and Edward Stanly: North Carolina’s Two Civil War Union Generals”. Cost: \$10 for non-members, can be applied to annual membership dues. Contact: Brunswickcwrt@gmail.com

Thursday, September 7, 2023. CFCWRT member and artist **James C. Horton** turns 70 years young! Save room for cake at September’s CFCWRT meeting and plan to visit Jim’s **exhibition of original paintings and drawings at the Bellamy Mansion** between 9/13/2023 and 10/22/2023.

Tuesday, September 19, 2023, doors open at 6:30 pm, program begins at 7 pm.
Cape Fear Revolutionary War Table at the Burgwyn-Wright House. Dr. Charles Ewen, award-winning professor in the Department of Anthropology at East Carolina University, will present on the ongoing archaeological excavation at the Brunswick Town/Fort Anderson State Historic Site. Cost: \$5 for non-members, can be applied to annual membership dues. Contact: cfrwrt@gmail.com

Wednesday, September 27, 2023, doors open at 9:45 am, program begins at 10:15am. Remembering Our Heroes at the NHC Senior Center, 2222 College Rd, Wilmington, NC 28403. Dr. Everard H. (Ev) Smith, historian of the Civil War and WWII, will discuss the Battle of Little Big Horn. Cost: free, donations appreciated. Contact: (910) 798-6400.

Saturday, September 30, 202, 3-4:30 pm. Cameron Art Museum. Book launch for **Words and Music: An Album of a Life in Story and Song**, the long-awaited autobiography of Philip Gerard, beloved late historian, writer, and teacher. Pre-orders taken now at beachglassbook.com and barnesandnoble.com. Contact: (910) 395-5999.

In September, 30-45 min. tours of Brunswick Town (every Saturday) and Fort Anderson (every Friday) continue at 10 am. Cost: \$2 kids 12 and under, \$5 adults (cash, please). Tickets can be purchased on site the day of the tour. Contact: brunswick@dncr.nc.gov

Were West Point Graduates Responsible for the High Casualty Lists of the Civil War? *Part Two*

By John Weisz, CFCWRT Member

Victory on the battlefield in the Mexican War, was much more likely to be a predictor of victory in the Civil War when leadership and moral courage were applied by higher level officers. Towards the end of the war it would lead to dramatic success and even annihilation of Confederate forces by the Federal armies.

Two particularly important characteristics of a commander's success are physical and moral courage. Appreciating the statistics relative to casualties of general officers in the first part of this article, it shows that physical courage on the battlefield was not in short supply and those numerous casualties among officers was definitely not limited to the USMA grads.

With this in mind let us investigate a significant characteristic of strong and successful commanders..

Moral Courage is characterized by one's ability to take decisive action despite the risk of adverse consequences. It requires agile thinking and the ability to quickly analyze alternatives without sacrificing deliberate thought. Furthermore, the commander who works against the plans of a superior due to his timelier and 'from the front' knowledge of the situation at hand, would likely face great risk to his career. Moral courage is the act of doing the right thing, understanding the possible consequences and not backing off from sound decision.

An example of the lack of moral courage is the case of George McClellan. In the Peninsula campaign, early in 1862, McClellan cautiously crawled with his Army of 100,000 up the Peninsula while facing less than 13,000 Confederates. This weak execution gave other Confederate units time to entrench up to and around Richmond. Subsequently, the Federals were pushed back, and the strategic goal of taking the Confederate capital was lost. It took three more years and over 500,000 additional fatalities to finally end the war.

McClellan based his hesitancy on the very inaccurate and overestimated intelligence of the Pinkerton spies and detectives. Seemingly, the Union commander took the intelligence at face value and pursued no other sources of intelligence in estimating the Confederate army's size. Some historians suggested that he used these inflated numbers as "insurance," that is, as an excuse for him to use in the event of losing a battle.

His own staff and field subordinates, as well as Lincoln, knew of his problem in making decisions; and when he finally did act, the rare battlefield opportunities were already lost. Besides the slow march up the James River, once he was aggressively attacked by General Lee and the seven days battles, he ordered a hasty retreat back to his base on that peninsula; in essence being beat back by a force significantly smaller than the size of his command.

Later, during the Antietam campaign, he squandered opportunities to defeat Lee in detail even though he had captured Confederate plans outlining exact locations where all Lee's scattered forces were.

Again, believing that he was outnumbered he deployed his corps piece meal, thus allowing the Confederates to move their reserves to threatened points during the battle. Even after Lee was forced to withdraw and pull his army back to Virginia, McClellan forfeited several opportunities to attack and annihilate Lee's force when they were trapped on the northern bank of a flooded Potomac River.

Robert E Lee was the exact opposite of 'Mac.' Lee took risks and accepted responsibilities for his failures. In terms of moral courage. His shortcomings were in terms of not weighing all the available alternatives; often to the point of recklessness. A significant cause for this was his narrow view of the war and the capabilities of his men. After his early victories he believed that his men could defeat twice the number of Federal soldiers on any given battlefield. When he faced defeats, he was devastated and took a while to recover from his failures. His moral courage however did rest on his own acceptance of responsibility for failures rather than blaming his subordinates or the spirit of his men.

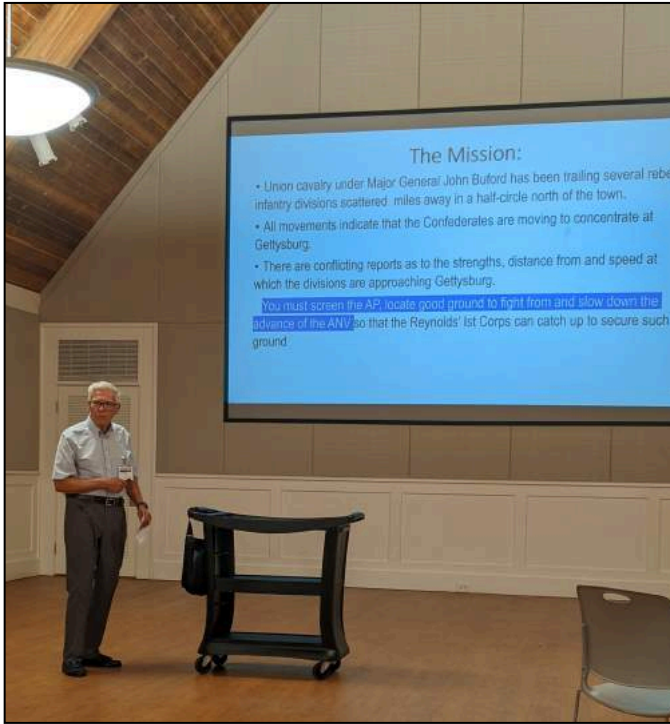
Some other examples where lack of moral courage resulted in failures:

- "Fighting Joe" Hooker's loss of nerve at the time victory was in sight at the Battle of Chancellorsville in May 1863. At the critical moment he became disoriented and was unable to give orders. The result was no overall direction of the campaign for several days, in which the Confederates regained the initiative and forced the Federals to retreat back to their starting point in the battle. (This all occurring when Hooker had twice the number of men as the Confederate forces and 4x the number when either of Lee's corps were separated).
- Braxton Bragg, at both Shiloh and Chickamauga; where indecisiveness led him to delay deployments and sacrifice surprise over an already disorganized enemy army.

The original hypothesis of this article was that USMA graduates themselves were responsible for the high casualty rates during the war. This article seems to be wholly unfounded on the basis of the preceding facts. For every commander who could not quickly decide on viable course of actions, several others were 'modern thinkers' using ingenuity and understanding of the variables in warfare to deliver solutions in how did defeat the enemy with less casualties; mostly because of their moral courage based on analysis, determination and dedication to more strategic purpose of their planning and execution than their contemporaries.

In short, it wasn't Jomini tactics and operational examples from Napoleon's campaigns, deficits in staff work, communications or logistics and the improved rifling of small arms and cannon that caused monstrous numbers of deaths from battle, wounds or disease. Defeat was 'snatched from the jaws of victory' when commanders on both sides lacked the guts to make a decision and fight it out to victory. Moral courage!

Unfortunately, the Bentonville Battlefield Symposium scheduled for this month had to be canceled.



Thanks to John Weisz for leading the group in a “you’re in command” program at our August meeting. Great fun!

Editor's Note: We received information from the Save Wyse Fork Battlefield campaign. As you may know, there are a number of dedicated people working hard to save this important piece of Civil War history. We're reprinting some of this information here to guide CFCWRT members who are interested in helping in this and conservation efforts in other areas. Once these cultural treasures are gone, we can't get them back. It takes people like us to save them - especially in our backyard.

The Save Wyse Fork Battlefield group reports that: "We received some positive news from the NPS last week! We have been invited to apply for a Battlefield Land Acquisition Grant that would allow us to preserve more of the battlefield while we wait other avenues to pan out. More to come as we prepare our grant application."

From the NPS:

[Battlefield Land Acquisition Grants](#) from the NPS [American Battlefield Protection Program](#) empower preservation partners nationwide to acquire and preserve threatened Revolutionary War, War of 1812 and Civil War battlefields. In addition, the program administers three other grant opportunities: [Preservation Planning Grants](#), which are open to all sites of armed conflict on American soil, and the newly authorized [Battlefield Restoration](#) and [Battlefield Interpretation](#) Grants. This financial assistance generates community-driven stewardship of historic resources at the state, tribal and local levels.

Learn more, here:

<https://www.nps.gov/orgs/2287/battlefield-land-acquisition-grants.htm>

H.R. 3448 – American Battlefields Protection Program Enhancement Act

From the National Parks Conservation Association:

NPCA supports this legislation which strengthens the ability to protect and rehabilitate battlefields across the country through the American Battlefield Protection Program managed by the National Park Service. The bill also expands the list of organizations and entities, including tribes, eligible to directly receive American Battlefield Protection Program grants, targets ABPP grants towards priority battlefield protection, enhancement, and restoration projects, and "creates a process for expanding and updating battlefield boundaries." (<https://www.npca.org/articles/3546-position-on-h-r-386-h-r-1318-h-r-3448>)

From the American Battlefield Trust:

From Gettysburg and Antietam to Bentonville and Yorktown, the American Battlefield Protection Program has aided the preservation of more than 35,000 acres of hallowed ground across 21 states. Managed by the National Park Service, the program administers grants to preserve, restore and interpret America's hallowed grounds related to the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, and the Civil War.

The American Battlefield Protection Program Enhancement Act (H.R.3448) would make key modifications to the existing program, helping to strengthen it to ensure its continued success for years to come.

The legislation would allow non-profits and tribes to apply directly for these grants, saving valuable time and ensuring key land acquisitions can move quickly and efficiently. Additionally,

the legislation would widen the scope of ABPP's restoration grants to all NPS identified battlefields and ensure land acquisitions grants can be used to preserve our most significant battlefields from our nation's founding conflicts. Finally, it would create a mechanism for the National Park Service to update the Congressionally authorized reports identifying the key Revolutionary War, War of 182 and Civil War battlefields when there is new research, archaeology or study that shows a larger battlefield than originally known.

Now more than ever, as we see development threats rise against the backdrop of our nation's hallowed ground, the strengthening of the program is key to continue the preservation of the nation's heritage, especially as we gear up for our nation's 250th commemoration.

***Please join us and send your representative a message to support the
American Battlefield Protection Program Enhancement Act (H.R.3448)***

Building our Army of Believers

All of you, who read this weekly briefing, are part of our army of believers. The power of your passion to save this important piece of history cannot be understated. Citizen advocacy is what this country is built on and it is no different here. Your voices matter and your voices tell the story of Wyse Fork so that it is not forgotten or destroyed.

From: The Partnership for a More Perfect Union at the Congressional Management Foundation:

1. Direct constituent interactions have more influence on lawmakers' decisions than other advocacy strategies. In three surveys of congressional staff over a 10-year span, 99% (2004), 97% (2010), and 94% (2015) said that "in-person visits from constituents" would have "some" or "a lot" of influence on an undecided lawmaker.
2. Congress places a high value on groups and citizens who have built relationships with the legislator and staff. When asked what advocacy groups should do to help build relationships with the office, 79% of staff surveyed said "meet or get to know the Legislative Assistant with jurisdiction over their issue area" and 62% said "meet or get to know the District/State Director."
3. Citizen advocates are more influential and contribute to better public policy when they provide personalized and local information to Congress. 9 out of 10 (91%) congressional staffers surveyed said it would be helpful to have "information about the impact the bill/issue would have on the district or state." However, only 9% report they receive that information frequently. Similarly, 79% said a personal story from a constituent related to the bill or issue would be helpful, but only 18% report they receive it frequently.
4. Citizens have significant potential to enhance their advocacy skills and influence Congress. After concluding 40 hours of CMF/Feeding America advanced advocacy training conducted over four months, citizen-advocates from local food banks met their Members and congressional staff. Whereas 12% of congressional staff report that the typical constituent they meet with is "very prepared," 97% of the congressional staff who met advanced advocacy trainees agreed that these citizen-advocates were "very prepared" for their meetings.

<https://www.congressfoundation.org/projects/communicating-with-congress/citizen-centric-advocacy-2017>

YOU ARE INVITED TO THE
**BULL PEN TRAIL
GRAND
OPENING**
**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15TH
10:00AM**
PARKING FOR THE CEREMONY WILL
BE AT THE ACORN RUN TOUR STOP
PLEASE RSVP TO
DERRICK.BROWN@DNCR.NC.GOV



Calling all authors! The Runner doesn't exist without your contributions. Please consider turning in an article, book review, meeting recap, upcoming event information that you know about - in short, anything you think our readers would be interested in. The newsletter is only as good as the content it receives from the members. Thanks in advance!

Cape Fear Civil War Roundtable

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2023 Antietam Memorial Illumination

Editor's Note: This event is supposed to be soul-stirring and humbling according to the people who have seen it. There is a luminary for every one of the casualties suffered on that bloody day - the bloodiest single day of the war. It can be rained out (as per my personal experience so far), but we're going to try again this year. The information below is from the National Park Service:

Antietam National Battlefield will present the Annual Memorial Illumination on Saturday, December 2, 2023 to honor the 23,000 casualties from the Battle of Antietam on September 17, 1862.

The event is a driving tour open to the public starting at 6:00 pm. Cars enter the park by traveling west on Route 34 and lining up on the shoulder of the road. Cars are allowed to enter the event until midnight. Walking is not allowed.

The temporary visitor center is closed that day except for the park store and the lobby which will be open from 9:00 am until 3:00 pm. Visitor services during the day will be limited and only porta-johns will be available. The northern end of the park, north of Route 34, will close at 3:00 pm.

We thank our sponsors, who make it possible for us to thrive as an organization. It would be much harder without their support!



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