



The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

The *RUNNER*

Newsletter of The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Editor **Bob Cooke**

December 2008

Our next meeting will be 11 December 2008



Our speaker for December will be **A.C. Denn**, who will speak about 18th Century Surgery and Surgeons (and Apothecaries.) Al is a retired medical research biologist and educator with nearly thirty years of service with such organizations as the National Institutes of Health, the National Cancer Institute, the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology and the U.S. Army Research Institute for Infectious diseases. Al did his undergraduate work at Temple University (Philadelphia, Pa.) and his postgraduate work at the University of Maryland (Baltimore) as well as the University of Texas at San Antonio.

Al has combined his two great interests, medical science and history into a fascinating hobby. Al is now semi-retired and lives here in New Hanover County with his wife, Sandy, where they enjoy the beach, gardening and visiting historic sites.



Reminder!

Committee member - Dan Geddie

An evening with Wade Hampton

Date: February 12, 2009

Place: Cape Fear Club 206 Chestnut St Wilmington, NC

Time: 6:30 pm

This meeting will take place in historic downtown Wilmington, and the cost for dinner will be \$27.00. Please send all payments to the Round Table PO box: CFCWRT PO Box 15750 Wilmington, NC 28408



If you have any questions, please contact Dan Geddie : Work: (910) 962-3144 Home: (910) 799-5338

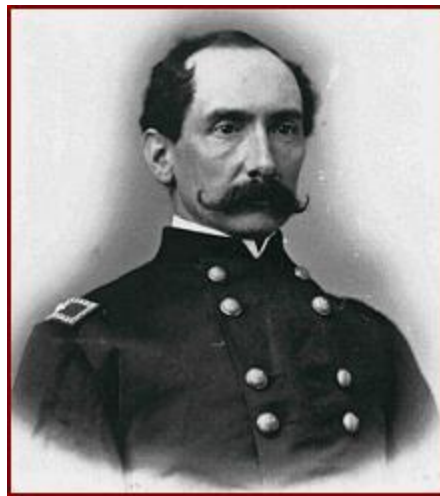


Raffle Winners

Committee member - Ed Gibson

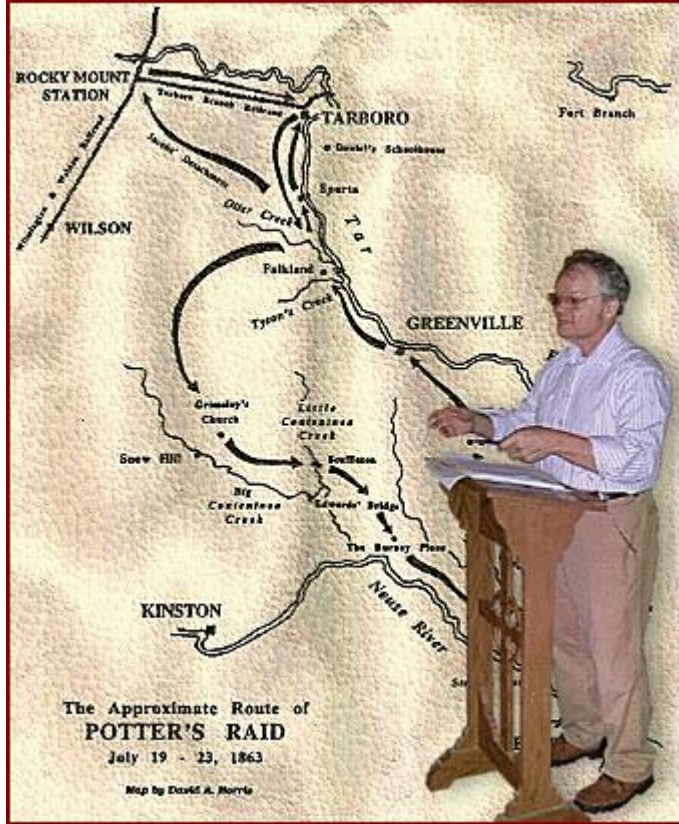
2009 Gettysburg Calendar- Mark Lewis, The Battle of Bentonville- Dale Lear, Private Ryan- Al Hines The Stonewall Brigade- Charles Watson, The March- Ed Russ, Derelicts- Ed Russ, Civil War Print

of Fort Fisher- Jim Vaugh

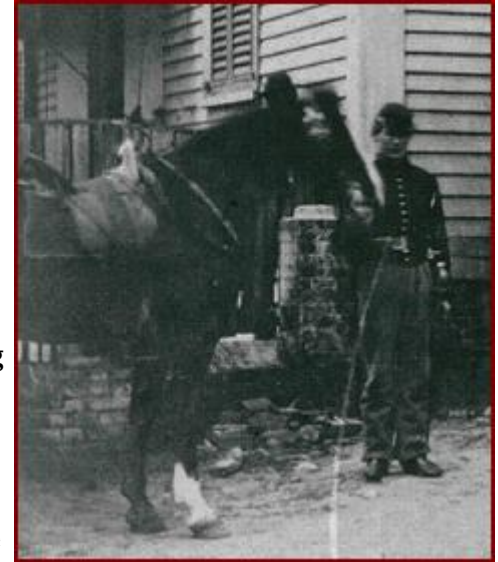


General Edward E. Potter

Potter's Raid Revisited



David Norris entertained our group with an account of General Edward E. Potter's raid into eastern North Carolina in July 1863. The raid, which was the Union cavalry's boldest foray to date, made the headlines of the New York Times, as well as several Southern papers! With about 800 men from units stationed at New Bern, including the 3rd and 12th



N.Y. cavalry (3 companies), a detachment of the 1st N.C. Colored Volunteers (that acted as pioneers), the 1st N.C. Union Volunteers and Battery H of the 3rd N.Y. Artillery, he left that city on 17 July with the aim of cutting the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad at Rocky Mount. Striking Greenville and Tarboro before he split his forces, Potter moved on to his target, the railroad bridge across the Tar River.

Catching everyone by surprise at the rail station, Union forces quickly went to work pulling up the rails. The men even captured a train coming from Tarboro in a vain attempt to save Confederate supplies. In a scene reminiscent of the old west, Private George White of the 3rd N.Y., mounted on the unit's fastest steed, pursued the backing engine and leaped from his horse onto the locomotive. When White presented his revolver to the engineer, the man quickly applied the brakes.

The conductor, Bob Watson recounted after the war, when he met two veterans of the 3rd N.Y. that he had lost \$1,000 in gold during the raid, but managed to escape on Private White's horse. Neither the gold nor the horse was ever returned to their rightful owners. In addition to successfully burning the not only the railroad bridge, the men also destroyed the county bridge. Federals burned nearly everything of use, including boxcars, the largest cotton mill in the state (the six-story Battle mill), cotton and quartermaster stores, a blacksmith shop, saw mill, grist mill and also a ram being built on the Tar River.

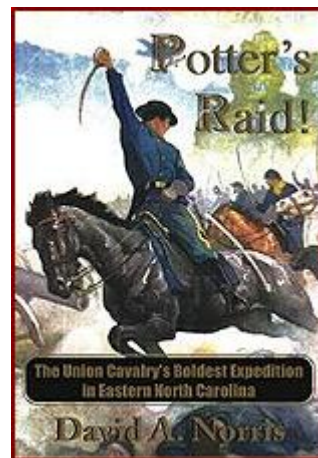
It did not come without cost, however. Confederates rallied to the scene and pursued the raiders who were hampered with all the stolen loot they could carry. When Union soldiers had hit Greenville and Tarboro, some of the men became drunk and robbed the citizens of their money and watches. The Confederates, also slowed by stopping to pick up the items strewn along the retreat route, gave time for the raiders to get away.

An ambush was set up by the Southerners at a site called Daniel's Schoolhouse, south of Tarboro. Seeing a small number of Confederates, Lt. Col. Clarkson received permission to chase them. They proved to be the bait for the trap and Clarkson's 12th N.Y. was "shattered" by Confederate volleys.

In his handout, David mentioned several notable facts about the raid: Col. Joel R. Griffin, commander of the 62nd Georgia, became the first superintendent of the Andersonville National Cemetery after the war. Capt. George Gouraud became a business partner of Thomas Edison and his voice can be heard on many early gramophone records. Go to: http://www.nps.gov/edis/edisonia/very_early.htm to hear the voice of a veteran of Potter's Raid.

Major George W. Cole became infamous when he shot and killed N.Y. State Senator L.H. Hiscock to death. Cole believed Hiscock was having an affair with his wife and was acquitted when he used the defense of temporary insanity.

David's book, *Potter's Raid: the Union Cavalry's Boldest Expedition in Eastern North Carolina* will be available in November 2008 from [Dram Tree Books](#).



This Just In!

In the February 2009 issue of Civil War Times is a "sneak preview" of our March trip. Entitled "Battlefield, Barbeque and Burnside", the article is a Field Guide to the New Bern battlefield that our RT will be visiting. Containing an excellent map of downtown, the article is a must-read for those who will be going on the trip.



Fork's Road Reenactment

Thanks to Johnny McCoy for on Saturday February 20th and on Sunday 21 February, there will be a reenactment of the Battle of Fork's Road held on the actual site of the engagement, the Cameron Art Museum (17th Street and Independence Blvd.) Those of us who have attended this event in the past know it is well worth attending. Bring the family and let yourself be transported back to February 1865!

New Members!

Committee member - Bruce Patterson

We gained two NEW members at the November meeting. Our paid membership, as of 23 November, is 55 with the addition of **John Craft** and **John Gary Maxwell**, both of whom introduced themselves at the November meeting.

Another note.....

Finding Civil War Museums

I recently traveled to Knoxville, Tennessee to attend an Army related reunion. I was pleased when our reunion organizer suggested that we visit a local Civil War Museum. I was surprised when we entered the Farragut, Tennessee City Hall and found the Farragut Folk Life Museum chuck full of Tennessee folk life memorabilia plus a room devoted to the life and exploits of Admiral David Farragut, the hero of the Battle of Mobile Bay who, lashed to the mast of the USS Hartford, uttered that famous command Damn the torpedoes . . . full speed ahead.



The Admirals naval exploits were well documented. His uniforms and related equipment were well displayed.? The exhibit included models and pictures of the USS Hartford which in turn reminded me of still another (off the beaten path) museum, The Civil War Naval Museum in Columbus, Georgia.

It was in Columbus, Georgia that I discovered a Civil War Naval Museum in a somewhat unusual place, Columbus being some 100 miles from open water. The Columbus museum displays the skeletal remains of the CSS Jackson, but also includes a full sized mid-ship replica of the USS Hartford which I never fully appreciated until I visited Farragut.

Both museums are accessible. Farragut is located just south of Knoxville on I-40. City Hall and the museum are located just two blocks east of I-40. The Civil War Naval Museum is located on the south side of Columbus, GA just north of Fort Benning. Both are well worth your time.

Bruce Patterson

