



The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

The *RUNNER*

Newsletter of The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Editor **Tim Winstead**

December 2010

Our next meeting will be **Thursday, 09 December 2010** at **St. Andrew's On-the-Sound (Airlie Rd.) Social Hour at 6:30 p.m., meeting at 7:30 p.m.**

We invite and welcome all people with an interest in our American history to attend a meeting of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table. The speakers for our programs are diverse in their views, interpretations, and presentations.



***** December 2010 *****

***** **December Program: Heart, Hearth, and Home:** *****

The life of Colonel and Mrs. (Daisy) Lamb

Our speaker for December will be **Ray Flowers** of the Fort Fisher State Historic Site Staff. Ray will share the story of the Southern officer and his Northern wife who shared the hardships and joys of life at the most militarily important and exciting fortification in the Confederacy. Amidst the tedium of garrison command, the frequent actions with the Federal blockading fleet, and the exciting visits of blockade runner officers, Will and Daisy Lamb made their home.

Ray (blue shirt) and visitors at the River Road Sally Port

Ray Flowers is a native Wilmingtonian and graduate of UNCW with a B.A. in English. He is a lifelong enthusiast of Fort Fisher and the War Between the States. As a nearly fourteen year member of the Fort Fisher State Historic Site Staff, Ray shares his extensive knowledge with fort visitors through his interesting and insightful stories. Ray is an avid toy soldier collector and rabid Minnesota Vikings' fan.

Colonel William Lamb Sarah Anne Chaffee Lamb
"Daisy"
College of William & Mary

Sarah Ann Chaffee "Daisy" Lamb grew up in Providence, R.I. In 1863, she joined her husband at Confederate Point where Colonel William Lamb commanded at Fort Fisher. Lamb had his soldiers build a small cottage north of Fort Fisher. Daisy set up residence with Lamb and their two oldest children in this simple cottage.

In December 1864, a large Federal fleet appeared off Fort Fisher. Daisy and the children were sent across the Cape Fear River to the safety of Orton Plantation. On Christmas Eve, the Federals began a massive bombardment intended to destroy the guns of Fort Fisher. Daisy watched the bombardment and despaired over the safety of Lamb and his command. As the prolonged bombardment continued, young Dick Lamb approached his mother: "Mama," he said, "I want to pray to God for my papa." The child knelt down and "said his little earnest prayer," and feeling the better for it, exclaimed "Oh, sister, I'm so glad! I'm so glad! [N]ow God will keep care of my papa!" Dick's prayer was answered for Lamb and the defenders of Fort Fisher were spared when the Federals withdrew their soldiers from the beaches and the fleet disappeared.

The Confederate celebration was short-lived. A Federal fleet reappeared in mid January 1865. Daisy and the children again crossed the river to relative safety. The Federal fleet began another fierce bombardment. Lamb and his men were doomed to endure the fall of Fort Fisher. Daisy watched, waited, and prayed as the battle raged to its conclusion.

<http://www.nchistoricsites.org/fisher/gallery/g-lamb-daisy.htm> (accessed November 15, 2010)

***** **Raffle Winners** *****

Three Great Novels of the Civil War- Terry McGiverin
A People's Contest- Martha Watson
Atlas of the Civil War- Chuck Bailey
Flags of Our fathers (DVD) - Dick Covell
Jeff Shaara's Civil War Battlefields- John Bolger
The Photographic History of the Civil War - Bill Carshaw
***** Trivia Questions *****

- 1 – When Daisy Lamb came South, she was offered lodgings in a fine home in Wilmington or at Orton Plantation. Instead of luxury, she chose temporary residency in the upper floor of James N. Craig's house a mile north of the fort at Craig's Landing on the Cape Fear River. Colonel Lamb had his soldiers build a simple cabin which became their home. Where was Daisy Lamb's "Cottage" located?
- 2 – What nickname was given to Daisy Lamb by the soldiers of the Thirty-Six Regiment? What was the nickname given to Colonel Lamb by blockade runner officers and owners?
- 3 – Shortly after the Battle of Gettysburg, Stuart began to receive criticism for his actions during that campaign. After the war, Jubal Early, Henry Heth, James Longstreet, E.P. Alexander, and others began to lay groundwork for the Lost Cause and the infallibility of Robert E. Lee. The writings of these officers led to renewed efforts to cast Jeb Stuart as the scapegoat for the loss at Gettysburg.

Who assisted Flora Stuart in her defense of Jeb Stuart's reputation?

***** Member News *****

Richard Triebe, has written a new book that described the battle at Fort Fisher and followed the Confederate survivors who were sent to the Elmira Prison.

Fort Fisher to Elmira: The Fatal Journey of 518 Confederate Soldiers is available at Amazon.com.

***** **November Meeting** *****

Tonia "Teej" Smith shared the results of five years of research in her presentation of "Flora Cooke Stuart: Life Without Jeb." The relationship between the dashing cavalry officer and daughter of a Lieutenant Colonel Phillip St. George Cooke grew from shared interests and mutual respect. Jeb was taken with Flora when she demonstrated her abilities to master a skittish horse during a review of troops at Fort Leavenworth in 1855. Frequent evening rides led to friendship, and their friendship progressed to love. Flora rode, played guitar, shot a weapon with skill, and was well-read. Jeb had found his soul mate. In less than two months, Stuart and Flora became engaged.

Married on November 14, 1855, the Stuarts shared their lives together as the United States moved closer to a division that would split the nation and their families. Stuart was present at Harpers Ferry and viewed John Brown's actions to incite a slave uprising. John Brown's raid added to the deepening division between the sections. Flora's family would be severely impacted as her father, mother, and one sister remained loyal to the Union while Flora, a brother and another sister would cast their lot with the South.

When the Civil War started in 1861, Jeb quickly displayed the attributes that made him into an outstanding cavalry commander. Among his major accomplishments was his ride around George McClellan's army while being chased by his Union father-in-law. The spirited cavalier provided intelligence that helped Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia fend off McClellan's intended capture of Richmond. Stuart developed his role as a knight defending Southern womanhood and chivalry. He played a role that built his image and character.

While Jeb devoted his energies to the Confederacy, Flora moved from place to place to be near her husband. The couple shared tragedy when their five year old daughter, Flora Stuart, died in Lynchburg on November 3, 1862. Stuart had been in action and unable to go to his wife and child. He wired for Flora and son, Jimmy, to come to him near Culpepper so they could share their grief. Jeb also cautioned Flora to avoid wearing black so as to not depress his soldiers. Again, image was everything to Stuart.

Flora lived with Stuart's idealized views of Southern womanhood. He warned her not to embarrass him about reports of his flirtations with other women. He was a knight who defended all women's virtues and she should understand his role. Stuart reportedly told Flora that she was "never so happy as when miserable." Flora continued to relocate to be in proximity to her husband. In 1863, a daughter, Virginia Pelham Stuart, was born.

After the defeat of Lee's Army at Gettysburg in July 1863, Stuart received criticism from some Southern officers for his efforts during this campaign. Even Lee reported that Stuart's absence from his

army impacted the results of the campaign. For a man who had never experienced failure, this criticism, especially from Lee, was hard to accept. Stuart had lost superiority over the more numerous and improved Federal cavalry. Stuart continued to portray a dashing spirit who would lead his forces to victories against his enemies – Union and Confederate.

With Grant's move into the Wilderness in May 1864, Lee and this army were locked in a deadly struggle to block the Federal advance. Stuart and his cavalry performed good service during initial fighting. When Sheridan's cavalry broke free from the Army of the Potomac and advanced toward Richmond, Stuart moved to counter. Stuart took time from the pursuit for a short visit to the Fontaine plantation near Beaver Dam Station. Stuart was greeted by his wife and two children. This short visit, with its rushed farewell, would be the last for Flora and Jeb. Stuart would be mortally wounded at Yellow Tavern shortly after he kissed Flora, Jimmy, and Virginia for the final time. Stuart suffered horribly and passed from this earth before Flora could reach his side.

Farewell Flora was left alone with no home, little money, and two children. Because Stuart had desired that his children be raised south of the Mason and Dixon Line, Flora refused her father's offer to pass through the Union lines and come to Baltimore. She elected to remain in Virginia to raise her children and preserve the memory of her husband.

Mrs. "General" Stuart never remarried. She settled in Saltville, Virginia where she supported her family as a teacher. In 1880, Flora became headmistress of the Virginia Female Institute in Staunton. From 1880 until 1899, she adopted curriculum changes that provided a relevant education to young women. Flora realized that the domestic and refined finishing school's education was no longer practical in a world where a woman may need to earn her own way. Shorthand, bookkeeping, and typing skills were more applicable in a world without Jeb.

Flora Stuart took an active role in countering criticism that was directed at her husband. She guarded Stuart's papers and kept private his writings that may cast dispersion on others. Flora refused to raise-up her husband by bring others down. Stuart's Aide-de-Camp, Major Henry B. McClelland and Colonel John S. Mosby also came to Flora's aide as they took on the arguments of Confederate officers who sought to cast Jeb Stuart as a scapegoat.

When Virginia Pelham Stuart Walker died in 1898, Flora moved to Norfolk and assisted her son-in-law in raising her grandchildren. Flora remained in Norfolk until her death on May 10, 1923. While on a walk, Flora tripped and severely injured her head. Mrs. "General" Stuart had for 59 years protected her family, cherished the memory of her husband, and helped to rebuild Jeb Stuart's shattered South.

Flora Cooke Stuart and James Ewell Brown Stuart were reunited at the Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond, Virginia on May 12, 1923.

Tim

***** **Comments and Suggestions**

Comments and suggestions to make the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table and "The Runner" more relevant to your Civil War experience are appreciated.

***** **Trivia Question Answers December 2010** *****

1 – Where was Daisy Lamb's "Cottage" located? The "Cottage" was built on the ocean side of Confederate Point approximately a mile north of the fort and Craig's Landing. The cottage was isolated but it provided privacy for the Lambs.

2 – What nickname was given to Daisy Lamb by the soldiers of the Thirty-Six Regiment? "Angel of the Fort." What was the nickname given to Colonel Lamb by blockade runner officers and owners? "Guardian Angel."

3 – Who assisted Flora Stuart in her defense of Jeb Stuart's reputation? Henry McClellan and John S. Mosby

In H.B. McClellan's book, *I Rode with Jeb Stuart: The Life and Campaigns of Major General J.E.B. Stuart*, McClellan summed up the Gettysburg Campaign and Stuart's role:

"It was not the want of cavalry that General Lee bewailed, for he had enough of it had it been properly used. It was the absence of Stuart himself that he felt so keenly; for on him he had learned to rely to such extent that it seemed as if his cavalry were concentrated in his person, and from him alone could information be expected."

