

The *RUNNER*

Newsletter of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Editor: Tim Winstead

Our next meeting will be **Thursday, 8 May** at St. Andrew's On-the-Sound Episcopal Church (101 Airlie Road). Social Hour begins at 7:00 p.m. (with light refreshments), meeting at 7:30.

Please make plans to attend the final meeting of our 2013-2014 Program Year. Visitors are always welcome – **ask a friend to join you**. Each of our speakers strives to enlighten, entertain, and add to our knowledge of Civil War history. This serves our mission of encouraging education and research into this seminal event in our nation's past.

******* May Program *******

Faces of Fort Fisher: 1861-1864



Dr. Chris E. Fonvielle Jr. will speak about his latest book, ***Faces of Fort Fisher: 1861-1864***. Chris will trace the history of Fort Fisher from its humble beginnings to its position as the most important defensive fortification in the Confederacy. The men who planned, designed and commanded the fort, and the soldiers who built, garrisoned and defended it will come to life as Fonvielle shares stories of both the events and the people associated with its fascinating history.

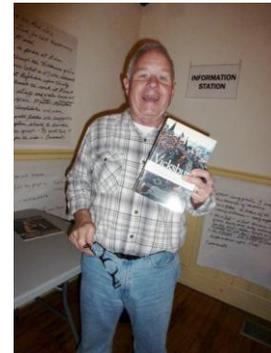
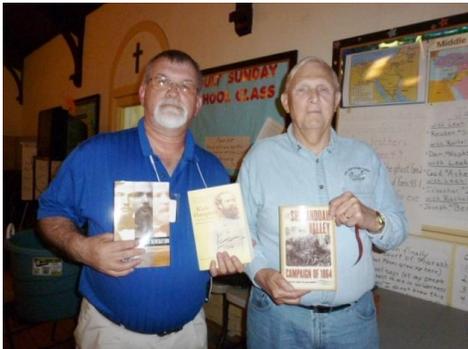
Chris Fonvielle, Wilmington native and past president of the CFCWRT, continues his efforts to chronicle the Civil War in Southeastern North Carolina. Dr. Fonvielle's ***Faces of Fort Fisher: 1861-1864*** joins his earlier works: ***The Wilmington Campaign: Last Rays of Departing Hope***; ***Wilmington and the Lower Cape Fear: An Illustrated History***; ***Fort Fisher 1865: The Photographs of T.H. O'Sullivan***; ***Fort Anderson: Battle for Wilmington*** and ***Louis Froelich***.

Editor

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

Raffle Master: Ed Gibson

If you have books, prints, or other items that you would like to donate to the CFCWRT Raffle, contact Ed Gibson (egibson759@aol.com) before our next meeting. The raffle is one of the components which allow the CFCWRT to fund our activities and our speakers. Please take part in our raffles by contributing items to the raffle or purchasing tickets



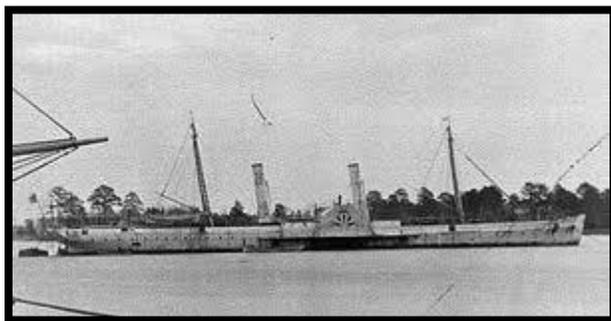
Winners All!

<i>Last Generation</i>	Ed Gibson
<i>Shenandoah Valley</i>	Dale Lear
<i>Appomattox</i>	Dick Covell
<i>Vicksburg</i>	Bob Cooke
<i>Savage Conflict</i>	Linda Lashley
<i>Wade Hampton</i>	Ed Hampton
<i>The Passing of the Armies</i>	Dick Covell

******* Trivia Questions for April *******

- 1 – Who was J.J. Prosper For Me D. Doctor DeVowell Conner?**
- 2 – Blockade runners and blockaders continually played a cat and mouse game at the inlets entering the Cape Fear River. Did the Confederate Navy ever attempt to raise the blockade by attacking the Union Navy ships stationed along the North Carolina coast?**
- 3 – Who was given command of the USS *Monticello* during September 1863?**
- 4 – Why did the story of Private William Scott receive so much attention?**

***** **Member News & Activities** *****



Robert E. Lee

If you have member news or news about Civil War events that you think would be of interest to CFCWRT membership, send me an email with the details. Thanks.

1 – We wish all the membership of the CFCWRT a productive and interesting summer hiatus. Join again with the CFCWRT as we begin another program year in September.

You may want to remember to see Linda Lashley at our May 8th meeting to take advantage of the **Early Bird Special membership** that can save you \$5 and the cost of a stamp.

2 – Fort Fisher State Historic Site: May 10: Confederate Memorial Day Ceremony – Saturday, 10am. Pause with us and the Fort Fisher Chapter 2325 UDC, for a special morning commemoration by the sea at "Battle Acre". Our guest, Dr. Walter L. Taylor, will speak on, "Religion in the South: How it affected soldiers and family". Admission is free, and open to the public.

3 – Fort Anderson State Historic Site: May 10: Diabolical Contrivances and Dirty Tricks – Saturday 10-4. Both sides played dirty during the Civil War. During this program, visitors will learn about a number of fiendish plans the Confederacy used on the Union. Exploding mines and biological warfare will be just a couple of demonstrations. This event is free, and open to the public.

4 – Oakdale Cemetery Tours:

May 17, 2014 – Summer Walking Tour Series. Historical walking tours of North Carolina's oldest rural cemetery will be given by local historian, Robing Triplett. Ms. Triplett will take you on a journey through time and delight you with the history and some interesting tales of those who are interred at Oakdale Cemetery. Tour is from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon. \$10.00 for non-members and FREE to members. Tours are cancelled in the event of inclement weather.

June 21, 2014 – Summer Walking Tour Series. Historical walking tours of North Carolina's oldest rural cemetery will be given by local historian and Civil War Author, Bob Cooke. Enjoy your stroll in Oakdale and hear the tales of some of the Civil War notables in Oakdale Cemetery. Tour is from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon. \$10.00 for non-members and FREE to members. Tours are cancelled in the event of inclement weather.

July 19, 2014 – Summer Walking Tour Series. Historical walking tours of North Carolina’s oldest rural cemetery will be given by local historian, Ed Gibson. Mr. Gibson will lead you through the cemetery and speak about the history of Civil War veterans as well as a taste of Oakdale’s prominent citizens. Tour is from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon. \$10.00 for non-members and FREE to members. Tours are cancelled in the event of inclement weather.

5 – Several members of the CFCWRT/BCWRT attended the **17th Annual Salisbury Confederate Prison Symposium** on April 4-6. Shown are (top): Larry Brown, Tom Hodges, Mike Powell, Yvonne Brown, John Munroe, Linda Lashley and Connie Hendrix.



6 - The Brunswick Civil War Round Table will meet on **Tuesday, May 6th** - registration and refreshments: 6:30pm. Program will begin at 7:00pm. They will meet at the **Trinity Methodist Church**, 209 E. Nash Street.

Patrick Falci, actor and performing historian, will present *“The Man in the Red Battle Shirt: The Life of General A.P. Hill.”*

******* May 1864 *******

May 1864 saw the start of Sherman's attempt to capture the vital city of Atlanta. The Army of the Potomac was also ordered by Grant to follow and pursue the army of Robert E Lee wherever it went.

May 1st: General Sherman started his advance on the Army of the Tennessee.

May 2nd: The first skirmishes between Sherman’s troops and the Army of the Tennessee occurred.

President Davis also told the Confederate government that there was no hope of any form of recognition of the Confederacy by foreign governments.

May 3rd: The Army of the Potomac was ordered to start its campaign against Lee’s Army of Northern Virginia. Grant claimed that the men in the Army of the Potomac were “in splendid condition and feel like whipping somebody”.

May 4th: The Army of the Potomac, numbering 122,000 men, crossed the River Rapidan in pursuit of Lee's army. Lee had 66,000 men under his command. General Sherman's men prepared for their march on Atlanta. He had 98,000 men under his command.

May 5th: Grant and Lee's troops engage en masse for the first time in this campaign. Fighting in the 'Wilderness', Lee's troops had the advantage because the terrain was covered in scrub oak, stunted pines and sweet gum. All this made concealment easy and made Grant's task far more difficult despite a 2 to 1 superiority in terms of troop numbers.

May 6th: The Battle of the Wilderness continued. Neither side could claim victory at the end but in terms of casualties the Union could afford to lose more men than the South. The North lost 2236 dead, 12,037 wounded and 3383 missing. The Confederates lost 7,500 men in total.

May 7th: After a short rest the Army of the Potomac moved off again. This time Grant headed towards Richmond. This time it was Lee who had to be wary of Grant's movements. The Army of the James was already threatening Richmond to the South.

May 8th: An attempt by Grant to get his army between Lee and Richmond failed when the Union's V Corps failed to take Spotsylvania Cross Roads.

Sherman continued his march on Atlanta with little, at present, to stop him.

May 9th: Well-placed and well-dug trenches ensured that the Confederate force opposing Grant was difficult to move and there was a temporary halt to major attacks between Lee and Grant with the Union engaged in a series of reconnaissance raids as opposed to anything more.

May 11th: The Army of the Potomac spent the day manoeuvring into position for an attack primed for May 12th.

Six miles from Richmond, J E B ('Jeb') Stuart was killed in a skirmish. The South had lost one of its most talented commanders.

May 12th: The North's attack against Lee's army started at 04.30. Their initial assault was a success but a Confederate counter-attack ensured that the North was unable to capitalise on this. The fighting in an area known as 'Bloody Angle' – part of the South's entrenchments – was some of the bloodiest of the war.

Editor Note: John Wesley Bone, Company I, 30th North Carolina Infantry was at Spotsylvania on that May 12th. From his memoirs written in 1904, Bone recounted his remembrance of that day.

At dawn on the "memorial" day of Thursday May 12, the enemy launched a mass attack and drove the Confederates out of their works. Bone wrote that he heard Ramseur tell Colonel Parker that they had to charge and get those works back. Bone wrote that Parker replied, "We can do it." Bone related the events that followed Colonel Parker's reply.

We now moved forward and many, oh, many, made their last charge here. This field was the last resting place of many good soldiers, and came very near being one for the writer. We now passed the sharpshooters, and men were being wounded all along the line. We had orders to charge, and charge we did. Just before we reached the first line of works, I was mortally wounded by a ball striking me in the right breast, passing through my lungs and coming out beside my backbone, and lodging in some clothes that I had on my back. I now have the ball.

Bone survived the day and the rest of the war, but he never forgot the desperate hour and the deaths that accompanying the Confederate efforts to turn back the Union attack.

Source: Tim Winstead, “.... but it was war timesThe Making of a Civil War Soldier: John Wesley Bone” [Paper, University of North Carolina at Wilmington, 2010], 15-16.

May 13th: The fighting for ‘Bloody Angle’ near Spotsylvania ended at 04.00. The North had lost 6,800 men, the South 5,000. Once again, the Army of the Potomac could afford the losses while the South could not. Grant continued his aggressive approach of looking for Lee’s army. There was little doubt that Grant’s confidence of victory rubbed off on his men.

Sherman encountered determined opposition at Resaca. Here the South had built extensive entrenchments and they proved a major obstacle for Sherman and his army.

May 14th: Heavy rain meant that all forms of movement were curtailed around Spotsylvania.

May 15th: A Union force commanded by General Sigel was defeated at New Market. Sigel had been sent to defeat Confederate forces in the Shenandoah Valley. In this he failed. On the side of the successful Confederates was Colonel George Patton, grandfather of the officer with the same name who found fame in World War Two. Sigel was relieved of his command on May 19th.

Sherman was unable to make a breakthrough at Resaca.

May 16th: The North suffered a major defeat at Drewry’s Bluff and lost 25% of their manpower during the battle – 4160 men killed and wounded out of 18,000. The blame was later directed at the lacklustre leadership of General Butler.

May 18th: When the rain stopped Grant launched another unsuccessful frontal assault on Lee’s positions. With increasing casualties, Grant call off the attack. He had clearly underestimated just how well the Confederates entrenchments had been made.

May 19th: Buoyed by his successes, Lee turned to the Confederates II Corps and ordered an attack on Union lines. This led to heavy fighting between both armies but neither one gained an advantage. By the end of the day the fighting around Spotsylvania had come to an end. The Army of the Potomac had lost 17,500 men. Combined with the loss of men at the Battle of the Wilderness, Grant had lost 33,000 men out of 122,000 in just one month – 27% of the Army of the Potomac’s total. However, Grant still had an army nearly 90,000 strong. There are no accurate figures for Lee’s losses for the same period but they were undoubtedly high. While the Union could sustain their losses, however unpalatable the figure, the South could not.

May 20th: Sherman continued his advance to Atlanta.

May 23rd: Grant continued in his policy of shadowing Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. He had a 2 to 1 advantage in terms of troop strength. The cause of the South was not helped when Lee was taken with a fever and had to retire to bed.

May 24th: One of the consequences of Sherman's advance was that he had extended supply lines. On this day a raid by Confederate cavalry on his lines led to the destruction of large quantities of supplies. There was not a great deal Sherman could do about this, as he wanted to continue with his advance to Atlanta and the Confederates were skilled at quick cavalry attacks.

May 28th: The Army of Northern Virginia moved towards Cold Harbor. By doing this Lee had placed his army between Grant and Richmond.

May 29th: Lee entrenched his positions around Cold Harbor.

May 30th: Rather than shy away from contact with Lee, Grant maintained his aggressive stance and faced his army at Cold Harbor.

May 31st: Sherman's advance on Atlanta was stalled by Confederate troops commanded by J E Johnston. Their tactics, while never going to defeat Sherman, were sufficient to slow down his army to, on average, just one mile a day.

Source: <http://www.historylearning-site.co.uk/may-1864-civil-war.htm>
(Accessed April 14, 2014).

***** April Program *****

“The Most Famous Private in the Civil War” – Private William Scott, 3rd Vermont Infantry



<http://vermonthistory.org/research/museum-collections/faces-of-vermont/private-william-scott>

Rick Eiserman gave a fascinating presentation about a young soldier of Company K, 3rd Vermont Infantry. Scott was a farm boy who, along with four brothers, enlisted in the Union Army on July 10, 1861. Scott became involved in a series of events that involved his falling asleep at his post on August 31, 1861, a court-martial and a sentence to death involving General George McClellan, and a presidential pardon with a reported direct intervention by Abraham Lincoln. Whatever the series of events and the truthfulness of those telling, Scott was saved from his executioners on September 9, 1861.

Scott, the sleeping sentinel, returned to Company K where, if various reports can be believed, served well at his duties. Lincoln's involvement in going to the guilty soldier to ensure the pardon arrived before the firing squad carried out its sentence took on a life of its own. The Scott story resurfaced when on April 16, 1862 at Lee's Mill on the Virginia Peninsula, Private Scott gave his life in an attack upon Confederate positions. Scott, although wounded five or 6 times, was reported by newspapers as "a dying soldier (who) prays for the president" The story was picked up and perpetuated by Northern newspapers, poets, and dueling historians for the next hundred forty years. Numerous newspaper articles, conflicting books, a movie, a radio play, and even the iconic Carl Sandburg became involved in researching the events.

Whatever the real facts, Scott became a hero of sorts, not for his failure, but for his redemption.

THE SLEEPING SENTINEL

By Francis De Haes Janvier

'Twas in the sultry summer-time, as war's red records show,
When patriot armies rose to meet a fratricidal foe;
When from the North, and East, and West, like the upheaving sea,
Swept forth Columbia's sons, to make our country truly free.

Within a prison's dismal walls, where shadows veiled decay,
In fetters, on a heap of straw, a youthful soldier lay;
Heart-broken, hopeless, and forlorn, with short and feverish breath,
He waited but the appointed hour to die a culprit's death.

Yet, but a few brief weeks before, untroubled with a care,
He roamed at will, and freely drew his native mountain air;
Where sparkling streams leap mossy rocks, from many a woodland font,
And waving elms and grassy slopes give beauty to Vermont;

Where, dwelling in a humble cot, a tiller of the soil,
Encircled by a mother's love, he shared a father's toil.
Till, borne upon the wailing winds, his suffering country's cry
Fired his young heart with fervent zeal, for her to live or die.

Then left he all; a few fond tears, by firmness half concealed,
A blessing, and a parting prayer, and he was in the field.
The field of strife, whose dews are blood, whose breezes war's hot breath,

Whose fruits are garnered in the grave, whose husbandman is death!

Without a murmur he endured a service new and hard;
But, wearied with a toilsome march, it chanced one night, on guard,
He sank, exhausted, at his post, and the gray morning found
His prostrate form, a sentinel asleep upon the ground!

But God is love - and finite minds can faintly comprehend
How gentle Mercy, in His rule, may with stern Justice blend;
And this poor soldier, seized and bound, found none to justify,
While war's inexorable law decreed that he must die.

'Twas night. In a secluded room, with measured tread and slow,
A statesman of commanding mien paced gravely to and fro.
Oppressed, he pondered on a land by civil discord rent;
On brothers armed in deadly strife: it was the President!

The woes of thirty millions filled his burdened heart with grief;
Embattled hosts, on land and sea, acknowledged him their chief;
And yet, amid the din of war, he heard the plaintive cry
Of that poor soldier, as he lay in prison, doomed to die!

'Twas morning. On a tented field, and through the heated haze,
Flashed back, from lines of burnished arms, the sun's effulgent blaze;
While, from a somber prison house, seen slowly to emerge,
A sad procession, o'er the sward, moved to a muffled dirge.

And in the midst, with faltering step, and pale and anxious face,
In manacles, between two guards, a soldier had his place.
A youth, led out to die; and yet it was not death, but shame,
That smote his gallant heart with dread, and shook his manly frame!

Still on, before the marshalled ranks, the train pursued its way,
Up to the designated spot, whereon a coffin lay-
His coffin! And, with reeling brain, despairing, desolate-
He took his station by its side, abandoned to his fate!

Then came across his wavering sight strange pictures in the air:
He saw his distant mountain home; he saw his parents there;
He saw them bowed with hopeless grief, through fast declining years;
He saw a nameless grave; and then, the vision closed-in tears!

Yet once again. In double file, advancing, then, he saw
Twelve comrades, sternly set apart to execute the law-
But saw no more; his senses swam-deep darkness settled round-
And, shuddering, he awaited now the fatal volley's sound!

Then suddenly was heard the sounds of steeds and wheels approach,
And, rolling through a cloud of dust, appeared a stately coach.
On, past the guards, and through the field, its rapid course was bent,
Till, halting, 'mid the lines was seen the nation's President!

He came to save that stricken soul, now waking from despair;
And from a thousand voices rose a shout which rent the air!
The pardoned soldier understood the tones of jubilee,
And, bounding from his fetters, blessed the hand that made him free!

'Twas spring. Within a verdant vale, where Warwick's crystal tide
Reflected, o'er its peaceful breast, fair fields on either side;
Where birds and flowers combined to cheer a sylvan solitude,
Two threatening armies, face to face, in fierce defiance stood!

Two threatening armies! One invoked by injured Liberty-
Which bore above its patriot ranks the symbol of the Free;
And one, a rebel horde, beneath a flaunting flag of bars,
A fragment, torn by traitorous hands from Freedom's Stripes and Stars!

A sudden burst of smoke and flame, from many a thundering gun,
Proclaimed, along the echoing hills, the conflict had begun;
While shot and shell athwart the stream with fiendish fury sped,
To strew among the living lines the dying and the dead!

Then, louder than the roaring storm, pealed forth the stern command,
"Charge, soldiers, charge!" and, at the word, with shouts, a fearless band,
Two hundred heroes from Vermont, rushed onward, through the flood,
And upward, o'er the rising ground, they marked their way in blood!

The smitten foe before them fled, in terror, from his post-
While, unsustained, two hundred stood, to battle with a host!
Then, turning, as the rallying ranks, with murderous fire replied,
They bore the fallen o'er the field, and through the purple tide!

The fallen! And the first who fell in that unequal strife
Was he whom Mercy sped to save when Justice claimed his life-
The pardoned soldier! And, while yet the conflict raged around-
While yet his life-blood ebbed away through every gaping wound-

While yet his voice grew tremulous, and death bedimmed his eye-
He called his comrades to attest he had not feared to die!
**And, in his last expiring breath, a prayer to heaven was sent,
That God, with his unfailing grace, would bless our President!**

Editor

******* Difference Makers *******

May 1864 was a pivotal period in the Civil War. U.S. Grant was to change the way the Union was going to fight the war. Grant became the difference maker that Abraham Lincoln has sought since the opening days of the war.

******* U.S. Grant Comes South *******

Ulysses S. Grant became the General-in-Chief of Union armies on March 12, 1864. Grant ordered William Sherman in Tennessee, Nathaniel Banks in Louisiana, Benjamin Butler in Southeast Virginia, Franz Sigel in the Shenandoah, and George Meade in Northern Virginia to wage hard war against the Confederacy. Grant knew the numerical superiority of Union manpower and equipment, if applied unceasingly, would overpower the Confederate armies. His campaigns for 1864 called upon each of his commanders to attack simultaneously across the South. Grant's strategy was intended to prevent the Confederates from shifting forces to meet uncoordinated thrust by ill timed Union advances.

Grant disdained the politics of Washington and actively campaigned with Meade and the Army of the Potomac. Beginning on May 4, 1864, the Army of the Potomac crossed the Rapidan River and began a move around Lee's right. Grant wanted to pull Lee out of his entrenchments where the Union superiority in men and material would be maximized. Lee moved quickly to strike Grant's forces before they were able to move into open ground beyond the Wilderness. Over the next month and a half, Grant and Lee played a deadly game of maneuver, thrust, and parry. The opposing armies locked in battles at the Wilderness, Spotsylvania, North Anna River, and Cold Harbor. The losses during this Overland Campaign were among the heaviest of the entire war. Grant was known as the butcher; however, Lee never backed away from an opportunity to attack the enemy. At the end of this campaign, the armies were locked in a stalemate at Petersburg.

Editor

******* Trivia Questions for May *******

1 – Who was J.J. Prosper For Me D. Doctor DeVowell Conner? The gentleman, with the long name, was a Confederate soldier in Company E, 36th North Carolina Troops (2nd N.C. Artillery) who was stationed at Fort Fisher during the Civil War. Private Conner was supposed to have found the bag of gold coins that Rose O'Neale Greenhow had on her person when she drowned trying to reach the safety of Fort Fisher from the stranded blockade runner, *Condor*, during the early morning of October 1, 1864.

For the “rest of the story,” check out Chris's new book.

Source: Chris E. Fonvielle Jr., *Faces of Fort Fisher 1861-1864* [Carolina Beach, N.C.: SlapDashPublishing, LLC, 2013], 132-139.

2 – Blockade runners and blockaders continually played a cat and mouse game at the inlets entering the Cape Fear River. Did the Confederate Navy ever attempt to raise the blockade by attacking the Union Navy ships stationed along the North Carolina coast? The CSS *Raleigh* made the attempt to break the Union blockade on the evening of May 6, 1864. Slipping out of New Inlet at high tide, the *Raleigh* encountered several Union ships and succeeded in driving those vessels away from the inlet. At dawn on May 7th, the *Raleigh* was five or six miles offshore. The Union fleet returned to challenge the *Raleigh*; however, their efforts were futile against the iron-clad. At 7:00 a.m., the *Raleigh* returned over the bar into New Inlet.

Unfortunately for its commanders, Flag Officer William Lynch and Lieutenant J. Pembroke Jones, and the Confederacy, the *Raleigh* ran hard aground on a shoal while trying to navigate into the Cape Fear River. The *Raleigh* sunk as its back broke under the strain. Jefferson Davis in his postwar memoirs remarked that the *Raleigh's* “services were valueless in consequence of her deep draft and feeble steam-power. She made one futile trip out of New Inlet, and after a few hours attempted to return, but was wrecked upon the bar.”

Source: Chris E. Fonvielle Jr., *Faces of Fort Fisher 1861-1864* [Carolina Beach, N.C.: SlapDashPublishing, LLC, 2013], 116-125.

3 – Who was given command of the USS *Monticello* during September 1863? The *Monticello*, built in 1859, was a wood screw steamer of 655 tons, with a draft of almost 13 feet when fully loaded. Eventually, the *Monticello* mounted a 100-pounder Parrott rifle, three 30-pounder Parrott rifles, and two 9-inch Dahlgren smoothbore cannons.

The *Monticello* was first assigned to the James River squadron where she fought an action against Confederate shore batteries at Sewell’s Point on May 4-6, 1861. A Captain William Lamb, of the Woodis Rifles of Norfolk, commanded part of those batteries. The *Monticello* and Lamb would meet again at Fort Fisher later in the war.

Ok, the new commander of the *Monticello* in September 1863 was Chris Fonvielle’s favorite, **William Barker Cushing**.

Source: Chris E. Fonvielle Jr., *Faces of Fort Fisher 1861-1864* [Carolina Beach, N.C.: SlapDashPublishing, LLC, 2013], 32-33.

4 – Why did the story of Private William Scott receive so much attention? The story of the Sleeping Sentinel portrayed a story of failure, redemption, and sacrifice. William Scott failed at his duty, he was forgiven his sin, and he made good his failure by making the ultimate sacrifice for his country.

Of the five Scott brothers who joined the Union cause in July 1861, three would yield their lifeblood during that conflict.

Private William Scott, Company K, 3rd Vermont Infantry, lies among the honored dead at Yorktown National Cemetery.

