

The *RUNNER*

Newsletter of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Editor **Tim Winstead**

Our next meeting will be **Thursday, 14 November** at St. Andrew's On-the-Sound (101 Airlie Road). Social Hour begins at 7:00 p.m., meeting at 7:30.

Please join us at our November meeting. Visitors are always welcome – ***bring a friend or two***. 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 that historic conflict.

***** **November Program** *****

The Confederate Use of Torpedoes in the Defense of Fort Anderson

Join us on November 14, 2013 when **Jeff Bockert** will discuss the evolution of the use of underwater torpedoes by the Confederates and the torpedo's subsequent use in the Cape Fear River. Before the end of the Civil War, Fort Anderson's defenses will include the largest concentration of underwater torpedoes in the Confederacy.



Jeff Bockert currently serves as the East Region Supervisor for the North Carolina Division of State Historic Sites based in Kinston, N.C. Jeff currently serves on the N.C. Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee and on the Board of the N.C. Military Historical Society. Prior to arriving in Kinston, he served as the Civil War Specialist for N.C. Department of Cultural Resources. Jeff's previous work experience includes managing the President James K. Polk Birthplace, Associate

Curator on the Battleship North Carolina and work at the National Archives in Washington, DC. He has also worked as a college history instructor and is the author of several works on presidential and military history. He has been published in works such as *White House Studies* and *Public Historian*. Jeff received both his undergraduate degree in American History and his master's degree in European History from UNC-Wilmington.

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.

<i>New York Times Civil War</i>	- Linda Lashley
<i>The Man Who tried to Burn New York</i>	- Dick Covell
<i>Soldier Life</i>	- Ed Gibson
<i>Cleburne</i>	- Dick Covell
<i>Shrouds of Glory</i>	- Tom Taylor
<i>Don't Know Much About the Civil War</i>	- Linda Lashley

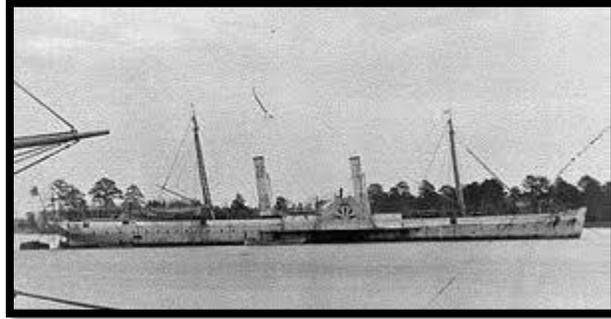
******* Trivia Questions for November *******

- 1 – Who were the Bomb Brothers?**
- 2 – Fort Anderson’s defenses made use of torpedoes to hamper the Union Navy in attempts to steam up the Cape Fear River. What Confederate Naval Officer directed the placement of these devices?**
- 3 – As the Confederates learned from their evolutionary efforts, the torpedo proved to be an effective weapon against Union ships and personnel. What was the one “fundamental” weakness of the underwater torpedo?**
- 4 – Abraham Lincoln was not the feature speaker at the dedication of the Soldiers’ National Cemetery at Gettysburg on November 19, 1863. Who was the keynote speaker and what was his subject?**



- 5 – Who commanded the Confederate Mosquito Fleet during the naval battle at Elizabeth City (Cobb’s Point)?**
- 6 – Where were most of the crews for Confederate ironclads recruited?**

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



Robert E. Lee

If you have member news, news about Civil War events that you think would be of interest to CFCWRT membership, let me know about it.

1 – Welcome to new and re-enlisting members who joined us at the October Meeting: **John Moore, Steve Godwin, Thomas Taylor, and Jim Gannon.**

2 – The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table makes an annual contribution to the Civil War Trust. This year, President Bob Cooke chose to "pass the hat" and chose October as the month in which to do so. **You contributed \$200 at our October meeting.**

Two anonymous members promised to match the contribution and thus a two for one match was generated in Wilmington.

Bob's timing could not have been better since the Civil War Trust also had a match in effect in their effort to save three Richmond (VA) Battlefields thus your **CFCWRT generated \$1200 to help save Glendale, First Deep Bottom and Malvern Hill.**

Well Done!

Bruce Patterson

3 –Our friends at the **Brunswick Civil War Round Table** will meet on Tuesday, **November 5th** at 6:30pm. They meet at the Trinity United Methodist Church, 209 E. Nash Street, Southport.

Mark Bradley, Staff Historian at the United States Army Center of Military History in Washington, D.C., will speak about the "The Battle of Bentonville."

4 – Do you have guests coming to town? Do you want to do something a little different and share some history of the area? Consider visiting the Fort Fisher State Historic Site where Site Interpreter **Ray Flowers** gives a special 45 minute tour that covers the fort, its history, and its people. The \$10 tour begins at noon. Contact 910-458-5538 for additional details.

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

Brigadier General George Sears “Pop” Greene

Much has been said and written about Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain and the 20th Maine at Little Round Top on July 2, 1863. Chamberlain was the savior of the Union left flank, the hero of the Republic. Chamberlain was also an accomplished writer who added to his fame in the years that followed the end of the war. As critical as the events on Little Round Top were to the Union left flank, the events on Culp’s Hill were equally, or even more so, important to the Army of Potomac’s victory at Gettysburg.

Greene, grandson of Revolutionary War General Nathaniel Greene, was a West Point graduate who had been a prominent civil engineer in the 25 years preceding the Civil War. With the Union debacle at Manassas, Greene returned to the service of his country as colonel of the 60th New York Infantry regiment. Greene was over 60 years old, but he would show himself to be an aggressive commander.



At Gettysburg on July 2nd, Greene found himself in command of the lone brigade left on the right flank of the Union Army. George Meade had shifted most of the XII Corps to meet Longstreet’s attack on the Union left flank. Being a capable and cautious civil engineer and despite the apparent disinterest of his superiors, Henry W. Slocum and John Geary, Greene instructed his troops to build field fortifications to strengthen their position. When Confederate General Edward Johnson’s division attacked the few troops on Culp’s Hill as darkness fell on the 2nd, Greene’s entrenched troops held the line. On the extreme right, the 137th New York held their line because Brigadier General Greene had the foresight to strengthen his position against a strong Confederate attack. He had insisted on a course of action that protected his men and gave them a position from which they repeatedly frustrated the Confederate intentions.

Why was Greene not more fully acknowledged for his efforts? Soon after the Gettysburg battle, the XII Corps was transferred to the Western Theater. The record of their actions on July 2nd were not included in the Meade’s Gettysburg official report reportedly because of a disagreement between Meade and Slocum. Greene was also an introspective engineer who never sought the limelight.

Greene passed at age 98 in Morristown, New Jersey. He was buried in the Greene family cemetery in Warwick, Rhode Island. A two-ton boulder from Culp’s Hill was placed above his grave.

Source: www.thelatinlibrary.com (accessed October 19, 2013), <http://www.civilwar.org/battlefields/gettysburg/gettysburg-history-articles/battle-of-gettysburg-general.html> (accessed August 26, 2013), Rod Gragg, *The Illustrated Gettysburg Reader: An*

******* November 1863 *******

November 1863 is best remembered for what was to become the most famous speech made during the American Civil War - the Gettysburg Address by Abraham Lincoln. Again, as in October 1863, the weather dictated what senior commanders could do in the field.

November 2nd: President Lincoln was invited to make a speech at the dedication of the new cemetery at Gettysburg. Jefferson Davis visited Charleston and publicly stated that he believed the city would not fall.

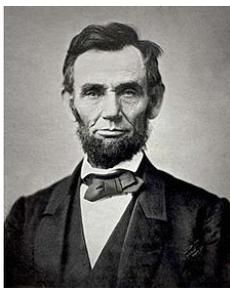
November 3rd: Sherman continued his march to Chattanooga. Unwilling to rely on a single rail line from Decatur to Nashville for his supplies, he ordered that it was rebuilt as double tracked.

November 4th: General Bragg, supported by Jefferson Davis, rid himself of General Longstreet and his 20,000 men who were sent to support Confederate troops at Knoxville.

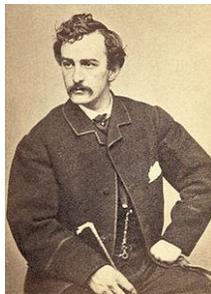
November 7th: General Meade, commander of the Army of the Potomac, attacked Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. Several Confederate redoubts were captured at Kelly's Ford on the Rappahannock River and 1,629 prisoners were taken. However, the North lost far more men killed – 83 to 6.

November 8th: Meade continued his assault on Confederate positions but by now they are no more than skirmishes as opposed full-scale assaults.

November 9th: Lincoln visited the theatre to see a play called "The Marble Heart" that starred John Wilkes Booth.



A. Lincoln



John Wilkes Booth

November 14th: Sherman arrived at Bridgeport at the head of 17,000 men. His men had covered 675 miles in just fourteen days. At Bridgeport, Sherman was briefed by Grant as to the state of play at Chattanooga. Sherman was told not to expect any help from the

Army of the Cumberland, as it would maintain its defensive position rather than an offensive one.

In the South, the Confederate Government ordered the use of force in its efforts to collect taxes. This included the confiscation of property and was primarily directed at farmers in North Carolina who were refusing to pay their taxes.

November 15th: Sherman started his campaign against Chattanooga. Accepting Grant's advice, Sherman viewed the role of the Army of the Cumberland to be solely defensive.

November 16th: Longstreet finally reached Knoxville. However, lacking heavy artillery, Longstreet was unable to besiege the town, which was well defended by Union troops commanded by General Burnside.

November 18th: Lincoln left Washington DC en route to Gettysburg.

November 19th: The dedication of the cemetery at Gettysburg took place. 15,000 people assembled there. The dedication started with a two-hour speech (**greater than 10,800 words**) by Edward Everett as to the course of the battle. Lincoln spoke after Everett and for only ten minutes (**272 words**) and received polite applause. Some in the gathering were unaware that he had even spoken. 'The Times' in London considered Everett's speech to have been very good while the President's was a disappointment. His speech was carefully prepared and not, as was once thought, put together on the train journey from Washington to Gettysburg. Lincoln himself said "the world will little note, nor long remember what we say here."

November 20th: Sherman's advance on Chattanooga was delayed by heavy rain.

November 21st: With better weather, Sherman prepared for his attack on Chattanooga.

November 23rd: Unionist troops took Orchard Knob just outside of Chattanooga. The capture of this position gave them a height advantage over Confederate positions around Chattanooga. Such was the strategic advantage of Orchard Knob, Grant made it his headquarters.

November 25th: Sherman started his main assault against Confederate positions around Chattanooga, especially the men based on Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge. By 15.00 the positions held by the Army of Tennessee had fallen. Seven Congressional Medals of Honour were awarded for the Union assault on Missionary Ridge. One went to Lieutenant Arthur MacArthur, the father of Douglas MacArthur.

November 26th: The Army of the Potomac threatened an attack on Richmond.

Bragg withdrew his forces from the Chattanooga area to Dalton, Georgia, having lost 10% of his men – 6,667 out of 64,000. Bragg was not to know that Sherman's army had suffered a similar percentage of casualties – 5,824 out of 56,000 men. By withdrawing,

Bragg kept his army as an effective fighting unit. However, Sherman's army was free to advance on Atlanta.

November 27th: The Army of the Potomac meets that Army of Northern Virginia at Mine Run.

November 30th: An attack on the Army of Northern Virginia was cancelled at the last minute when Meade decided that Lee's men were too well dug in.

Source: <http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/november-1863-civil-war.htm> (accessed August 27, 2013).

***** **CSS Neuse** *****

As mentioned in the October issue of the *Runner*, nine members of the CFCWRT/North Carolina Military Historical Society ventured to Kinston on September 25 to visit the newly opened **CSS Neuse Civil War Interpretive Center**. The center, with expected completion in mid-2014, remained a work "in progress" as many of the approximately 15,000 artifacts from the 1961 – 1963 salvage operations on the ironclad are added to the site exhibits. According to Bruce Patterson, the band of traveling historians enjoyed their visit and thought the two hour trip was well worth the time – especially if you dined at one of the famous Barbeque emporiums in that area.

The story of the CSS **Neuse** move to the new center and the history of the CSS *Neuse* made for interesting reading and can be found in an article in the *Civil War News* site: <http://www.civilwarnews.com/archive/articles/2012/august/neuse-081202.htm>. Additional information about the **Neuse** can be found on the NCDCCR website: <http://news.ncdcr.gov/2013/07/12/css-neuse-museum-to-open-july-18/>.



***** **October Program** *****

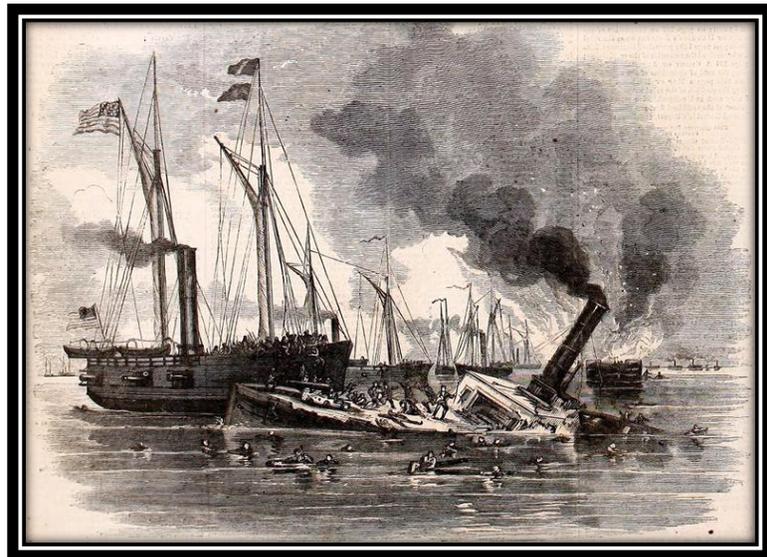
**Confederate Navy and Marine Corps in North Carolina:
Plus Uniforms & Equipment**

Andrew Duppstadt, Assistant Curator of Education and Historic Weapons Programs
Coordinator for the NC Division of State Historic Sites, provided those present at the October

Meeting with an interesting study of the Confederate Navy and Marine Corps and their efforts in North Carolina.

Confederate Secretary of the Navy, Stephen Mallory, directed the Confederacy's small navy in its efforts to challenge the larger United States Navy. Mallory believed that the Confederate Navy would have to develop technologically superior weapons and ship designs to achieve three goals to be successful in their mission: **1) Protect and defend the coast and rivers of the South. 2) Break the Union blockade. 3) Disrupt Union commerce.**

While Governor Ellis pushed the state toward a war footing, North Carolina fielded what in 1861 was known as the "Mosquito fleet." The navy consisted of the *Winslow*, *Beaufort*, *Raleigh*, and *Ellis* – all river vessels that were lightly armed and manned by very inexperienced crews. Like mosquitoes, the ships, which were transferred to the Confederate Navy in July 1861, were an irritation to Union shipping along North Carolina's long coast line. The Union Navy responded to this irritant by destroying the Mosquito Fleet near Elizabeth City in February 1862.



The Confederate Navy recovered from the debacle at Elizabeth City and attempted to achieve the goals set forth by Secretary Mallory. Four ironclads were built to defend the coastal waters and break the Union blockade. The CSS *Raleigh* and CSS *North Carolina* were built in Wilmington to operate from the Cape Fear River. The CSS *Neuse* was constructed near Kinston. The most successful of the rebel ironclads, the CSS *Albemarle*, was built in a corn field at Edwards Ferry on the Roanoke River. While the Confederate Navy faced severe limitations in manufacturing capacity and

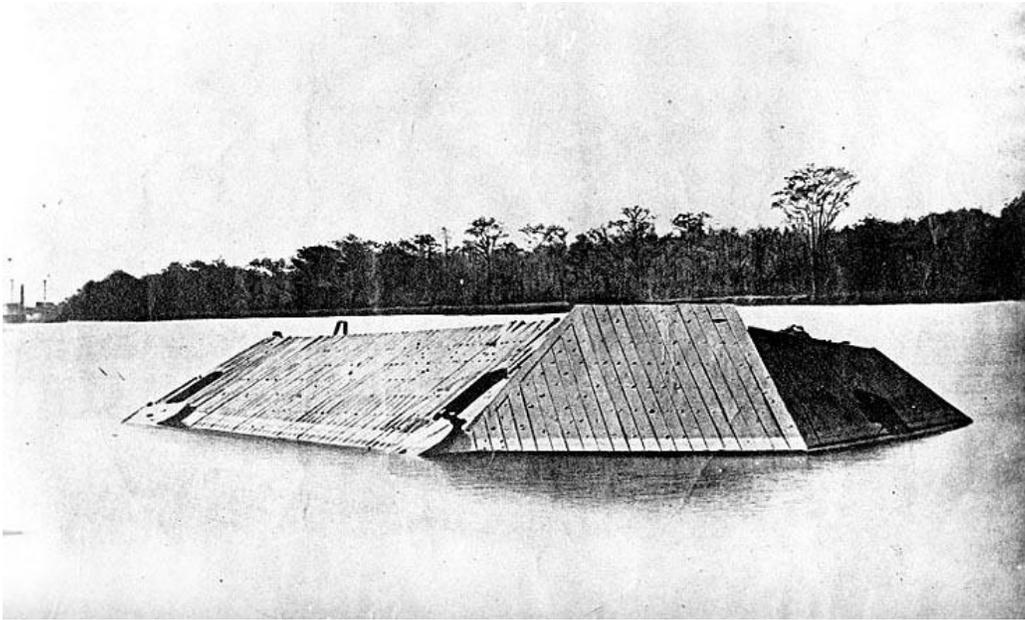
resource availability, resourceful engineers and constructors used the equivalent of "duct tape and bailing wire" to defend their territory.

The Confederate Navy and Marines served at numerous locations to oppose Union efforts to remove Eastern North Carolina from the war. North Carolina native, Gabriel Rains, headed efforts to develop land mines and torpedoes to defend rebel forts and rivers. Rains's brother, George Washington Rains, built and operated a large powder mill in Augusta,

Georgia that supplied quality gun powder for his brother's "infernal machines." The Marines served aboard the CSS *Tallahassee*, *Olustee*, and *Chickamauga* when they

ventured from Wilmington into the Atlantic Ocean to destroy Union commerce. The Navy and Marines each had units who served at Fort Fisher.

While the Confederates failed, the men who served in their Navy and Marines resisted a powerful foe for almost four years. Like the wreckage of the *Albemarle*, their efforts sunk in the rivers and sounds of North Carolina.



CSS *Albemarle* was sunk by a daring torpedo boat attack commanded by William Barker Cushing USN.

***** Trivia Questions for November *****

1 – Who were the Bomb Brothers? Gabriel James Rains and George Washington Rains were North Carolinians who contributed their unique talents to the Confederate cause. Gabriel and George both graduated from West Point. Both brothers exhibited great interest in chemistry and the sciences. Gabriel became interested in explosives and he produced both what became land mines and underwater torpedoes. George would direct the construction and operation of a large powder works in Augusta, Georgia.



Gabriel James Rains



George Washington Rains

2 – Fort Anderson’s defenses made use of torpedoes to hamper the Union Navy in attempts to steam up the Cape Fear River. What Confederate Naval Officer directed the placement of these devices?

SUGAR LOAF, *January 18, 1865*

Colonel Anderson:

The enemy seem to fear getting on torpedoes. I wish very much we could get some in the river. The explosion of one would keep the others out.

R. F. HOKE,
Major-General

Wilmington, *January 18, 1865*

Major-General HOKE,
Sugar Loaf:

Lieut. **Pembroke Jones**, Navy, goes down to-night to Anderson on steamer Equator to place torpedoes. Caution pickets not to annoy him.

ARCHER ANDERSON
Assistant Adjunct-General

(Same to Brigadier-General Hebert, Fort Anderson)

Source: *The War of Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies; Series 1 – Volume 46 (Part II)*, p. 1095.

3 – As the Confederates learned from their evolutionary efforts, the torpedo proved to be an effective weapon against Union ships and personnel. What was the one “fundamental” weakness of the underwater torpedo? Extended submersion corroded the torpedo and wet the powder charge. This condition was especially seen during Farragut’s attack on Mobile, Alabama on August 5, 1864. While Farragut may have dammed the torpedoes, his reckless attack proved successful because only one of his ships (USS Tecumseh) was sunk by a torpedo. Farragut may not have been entirely reckless, but he did gamble that the Confederate torpedoes had been submerged too long to seriously disrupt his attack.

Source: <http://www.civilwar.org/battlefields/mobilebay/mobile-bay-history-articles/damn-the-torpedoes-the.html> (accessed October 13, 2013).

4 – Abraham Lincoln was not the feature speaker at the dedication of the Soldiers’ National Cemetery at Gettysburg on November 19, 1863. Who was the keynote speaker and what was his subject? Lincoln was preceded on the podium by the famed orator **Edward Everett**, who spoke to the crowd for two hours with his “**Gettysburg Address**.” Lincoln followed with his now immortal Gettysburg Address. On November 20, Everett wrote to Lincoln: “Permit me also to express my great admiration of the thoughts expressed by you, with such eloquent simplicity & appropriateness, at the consecration of the Cemetery. I should be glad, if I could flatter myself that I came as near to the central idea of the occasion, in two hours, as you did in two minutes.”

Lincoln's reply to Everett follows:

Hon. Edward Everett.

My dear Sir:

Your kind note of to-day is received. In our respective parts yesterday, you could not have been excused to make a short address, nor I a long one. I am pleased to know that, in your judgment, the little I did say was not entirely a failure. Of course I knew Mr. Everett would not fail; and yet, while the whole discourse was eminently satisfactory, and will be of great value, there were passages in it which transcended my expectation. The point made against the theory of the general government being only an agency, whose principals are the States, was new to me, and, as I think, is one of the best arguments for the national supremacy. The tribute to our noble women for their angel-ministering to the suffering soldiers, surpasses, in its way, as do the subjects of it, whatever has gone before.

Our sick boy, for whom you kindly inquire, we hope is past the worst. Your Obt. Servt.

A. Lincoln

Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battle-field of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate -- we can not consecrate -- we can not hallow -- this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us -- that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion -- that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain -- that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom -- and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

Source: <http://myloc.gov/Exhibitions/gettysburgaddress/Pages/default.aspx> (accessed October 15, 2013).
<http://www.abrahamlincolnonline.org/lincoln/speeches/everett.htm> (accessed October 15, 2013).

5 – Who commanded the Confederate Mosquito Fleet during the naval battle at Elizabeth City (Cobb's Point)? Flag Officer **William F. Lynch**. On February 7, 1862, the Confederates had battled the Union Fleet during its attack on Roanoke Island. Lynch withdrew to Elizabeth City to resupply and prepare a defense for the city. On February 10th two miles below Elizabeth City, the

Mosquito Fleet (6 ships mounting 11 guns) engaged Cdr. Stephen C. Rowan and his Union flotilla (14 ships mounting 40 guns). The outcome was never in doubt.

Source: <http://ncpedia.org/elizabeth-city-battle> (accessed October 19, 2013).

6 – Where were most of the crews for Confederate ironclads recruited? To crew the ironclads built in North Carolina, the navy relied on the local army soldiers to man the guns. The Confederate naval uniforms looked amazingly like those of the army.