

The *RUNNER*

Newsletter of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Editor **Tim Winstead**

Our next meeting will be **Thursday, 10 October** 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 October 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.

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

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

Join us on October 10, 2013 when **Andrew Duppstadt**, Assistant Curator of **Education and Historic Weapons Program Coordinator for the NC Division of State Historic Sites**, will present a history of the Confederate Navy and Marine Corps as they served in North Carolina during the Civil War. Andrew's presentation will also include information about the uniforms and equipment that differentiated these units from other branches of the service.

Andrew Duppstadt, born at Camp Lejeune where his Dad served in the Marine Corps, holds a BA and MA in History from UNC-Wilmington. He is a member of the Company of Military Historians and the Southeast Historical Association. He is also a founding member and President of the Carolina Living History Guild. In addition to his current position with the NC Division of State Historic Sites, his previous experiences include work at the CSS *Neuse* State Historic Site, Fort Fisher State Historic Site, and Tryon Palace Historic Sites and Gardens. Andrew is also an Adjunct Instructor of History at UNC-Pembroke,

Coastal Carolina Community College, and Craven Community College.



Editor

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

Raffle Master: Ed Gibson

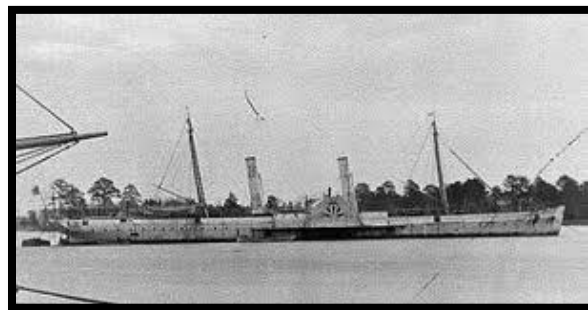
If you have books, prints, or other items that you would like to donate to the CFCWRT Raffle, contact Ed Gibson (egibson759@aol.com) before our next meeting.

<i>High Tide at Gettysburg</i>	- Lance Bevins
<i>Sherman</i>	- Ed Gibson
<i>Shrouds of Glory</i>	- Ed Gibson
<i>The Confederacy's Last Hurrah</i>	- Linda Lashley
<i>In The Company of Soldiers</i>	- Richard Covell
<i>The Fatal Storm</i>	- Bob Cooke

******* Trivia Questions for October *******

- 1** – How many ironclads were built by the Confederate government in North Carolina during the Civil War?
- 2** – What was the mission of the Confederate Navy in North Carolina?
- 3** – Which North Carolinians commanded Confederate commerce raiders against Union shipping during the war.
- 4** – Who commanded the Confederate Marine Corps contingent at Fort Fisher during the Battles of Fort Fisher? What was the fate of this contingent?
- 5** – What was Robert E. Lee's Special Order 191? How was it relevant to the September 17, 1862 Battle of Sharpsburg? – This battle that became the single-most bloody day in American Military history.
- 6** – Sgt. Robert W. Parker joined Company F, 2nd Virginia Cavalry, Bedford Southside Dragoons on May 29, 1861. Parker and Company F faithfully served throughout the war. For what else was Bedford, Virginia remembered?

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



Robert E. Lee

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

1 – Welcome to new members: **Tommy Chilcote** and **Jack Skinner**. *A special welcome to all returning members.* Your membership makes possible the speakers and events that the RT schedules throughout our program year.

2 – President Bob Cooke presented a proposal for the CFCWRT to support the Civil War Trust’s efforts to save an additional 109 acres at Reed’s Bridge on the Chickamauga battlefield. As we have done in the past, a hat will be passed at the October meeting to support this effort to secure the land where this battle opened on September 18, 1863.

3 –Our friends at the **Brunswick Civil War Round Table** will meet on Tuesday, **October 1st** at 6:30pm. They meet at the Trinity United Methodist Church, 209 E. Nash Street, Southport.

Rev. Jeff Roberts, senior pastor at Trinity United Methodist Church, Southport. His topic: “Religion in the Civil War.”

4 – The speaker schedule for 2013-2014 is set for the balance of the year and may be found under the **Events** tab at www.cfcwrt.com.

5 – Several Round Table members, who are also members of the North Carolina Military Historical Society, traveled to Kinston on September 25th to visit the CSS Neuse Museum and hull. The Wilmington Chapter of the NCMHS meets semi-monthly for discussions and/or trips to historical sites. The Society also is the sponsor of the Military Museum located at the Air Force Recreation Area, Kure Beach. Contact **Bruce Patterson** if you have interest in joining this group.

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

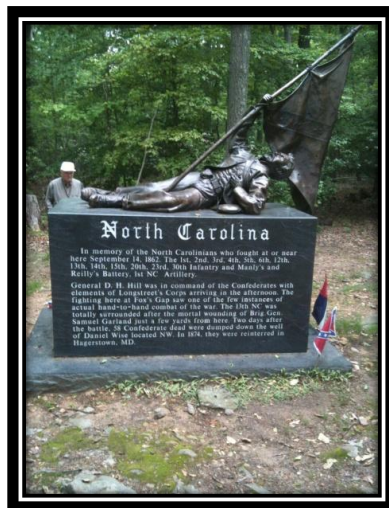


On Sunday, September 14, 1862, rear guard elements of the Army of North Virginia were involved in a desperate encounter on the crest of South Mountain, between Middletown and Boonsboro, Maryland. The battle on South Mountain began when the vanguard of General George McClellan's Army of the Potomac, emboldened with discovery of Robert E. Lee's Special Order 191, moved to strike the Confederates before their widely scattered forces could be re-concentrated. This often overlooked battle, which could have precipitated the possible destruction of Lee's Army, was the prelude to the Battle of Sharpsburg on September 17th.

This battle developed along the ridge of the mountain at Frostown, Fox's and Turner's Gap. The Union advance also involved clashes at Crampton's Gap, 6 miles south and nearer to Harpers' Ferry. The fighting at Fox's and Turner's Gap involved the North Carolina troops of the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 20th, 23rd, and 30th Infantry; the 1st North Carolina Artillery, Manly's and Reilly's Batteries; other units of Longstreet's Corps plus those who arrived during the afternoon.



Garland

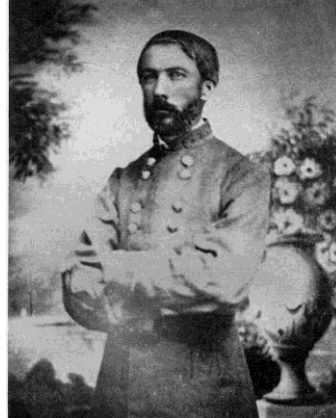


Reno

Action at Fox's Gap during the morning of September 14th involved hand-to-hand combat between the opposing troops. The intense fighting also witnessed soldiers engaged with clubbed muskets and bayonets. Confederate Brigadier General **Samuel Garland** of the 13th North Carolina and Union Major General **Jesse Reno**, Commander of the IX Corps, were among those killed during this fighting.

General **Daniel Harvey Hill** was the overall commander of the 5,000 soldiers who initially resisted the Union advance. Hill filled his thin line with teamsters, cooks, and staff officers. The Confederates barely held the line until additional units (included those of John Bell Hood) arrived on the scene. Hill eventually had 10,000 men to oppose a Union force of 25,000. After darkness descended on the battlefields, Lee ordered Longstreet and Hill to withdraw and move toward Sharpsburg. Lee's Army was able to begin a re-concentration only because of the tenacity of the Confederate defenders and caution by the Union commanders.

Daniel Harvey Hill and the Confederate troops at South Mountain had been difference makers; their defense had gained Lee time to prepare a defense to face the full weight of McClellan's Army of the Potomac at Sharpsburg, Maryland. Without that stalwart resistance, the battle that was fought at Antietam Creek could well have been the last battle of the American Civil War.



Source: <http://www.southmountain.stonesentinels.com/NC.php> (accessed August 26, 2013).

Lance Bevins

***** October 1863 *****

October 1863 saw further fighting in and around Chattanooga. During the [American Civil War](#), both sides were hindered by something that they had no control over - poor winter weather. Manoeuvring and mobilising men and equipment became very difficult and on occasions impossible when the rain took a hold. October 1863 saw an early start to the winter.

October 1st: Rosecrans' supply route after the Battle of Chickamauga was a tortuous 28-mile mountain road that followed along the side of the Tennessee River. It would have been impossible to supply 50,000 men throughout the winter using just this route. Rosecrans ordered the building of flat-bottomed boats that would be able to navigate the Tennessee River.

October 2nd: The first reinforcements for the Army of the Cumberland arrived in Chattanooga. Their journey of over 1100 miles took just over a week, showing the importance of controlling the railways during the war.

October 4th: Union engineers completed the first of the flat-bottomed steamboats that they hoped to use to help supply the Army of the Cumberland.

October 6th: The weather in Chattanooga took a turn for the worse. Persistent heavy rain made living conditions difficult at best especially as all the wooden homes in the town had been destroyed as they were used in strengthening trenches and redoubts. The town's 2,500 citizens crammed themselves into a few stone buildings.

October 8th: The lack of food in Chattanooga started to take a hold with many Union soldiers falling ill due to malnourishment. The soldiers in the town had slaughtered most of their animals in an effort to feed themselves but by now even these had run out.

October 9th: Confederate cavalry attacked a major Union supply column bound for Chattanooga. Hundreds of supply wagons – along with their contents – were lost.

October 10th: Despite the victory at Chickamauga, senior Confederate officers under Bragg’s command expressed to Jefferson Davis their discontent with regards to his leadership. They all agreed that his skills “would be better employed elsewhere”. As a friend of Bragg, Davis was angered by their lack of support for him.



Braxton Bragg



Jefferson Davis



James Longstreet

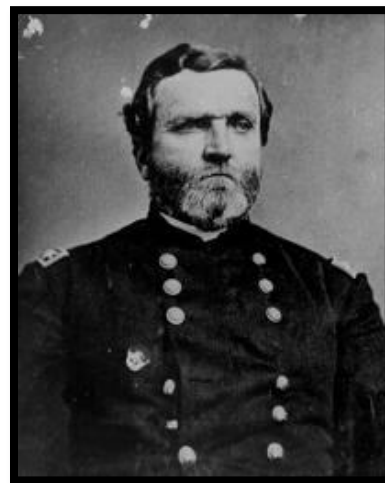
October 11th: General Longstreet, who played such an important role in the victory at Chickamauga, again asked Davis to replace Bragg. Once again, Davis refused.

October 16th: The North introduced a major reorganisation of its armies. The armies of the Cumberland, Tennessee and Ohio were all combined into the Military Division of the Mississippi and put under the command of General U Grant.

October 18th: Rosecrans was relieved of his command, which was handed over to Major-General George Thomas. Rosecrans was never given another meaningful command.



W.S. Rosecrans



George Thomas

October 20th: Since their victory at Gettysburg, the Army of the Potomac had followed Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. Neither was in a position to launch a major attack against the other but numerous skirmishes had occurred up to this date when Lee crossed the Rappahannock River to return to his old base. Meade had no intention of following him across the river. The skirmishes that had occurred since Gettysburg had cost Meade 2292 killed and wounded while Lee lost 1381 men.

October 23rd: General Grant arrived at Chattanooga. The plight of the Unionists in the town was aided somewhat by the continuing infighting that Bragg was still experiencing among his senior officers.

October 24th: President Lincoln expressed his disappointment that Meade had not crossed the Rappahannock River in pursuit of Lee. However, as a politician, he still failed to fully understand the impact Gettysburg had on both armies even though it was some four months after the battle. In fact, Lincoln assumed that as four months had passed the Army of the Potomac should have been in a position to pursue Lee's army.

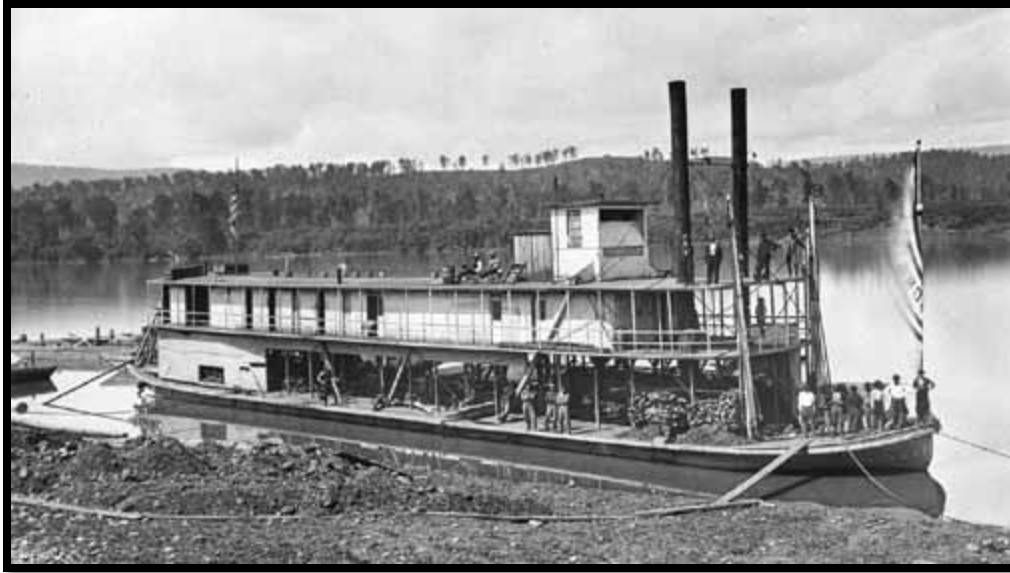
October 25th: The first of the flat-bottomed supply ships was launched in Chattanooga.

October 26th: The Tennessee River had to be made safe for the Unionists if the supply-boat was to succeed. General Thomas ordered the capture of Brown's Ferry, across the neck of Moccasin Point, which was the old high-water route.

October 27th: At 05.00, 1,800 Unionist soldiers attacked Brown's Ferry, having been moved along the Tennessee River by pontoons. By 10.00 some 4,000 Unionist soldiers had control of both sides of the river. The supply ship could now sail from Chattanooga passed Moccasin Point in relative safety.

October 28th: The South attempted to re-capture Brown's Ferry. The night attack lasted until early October 29th. However, it was now that the infighting among the senior Confederates officers hit home. Bragg would have been aware that General Longstreet had asked Jefferson Davis to remove Bragg from his post. Bragg and Davis had known each other as good friends for over 20 years so it is inconceivable that Davis had not informed Bragg of what Longstreet had requested. The Confederate attack at Brown's Ferry was to be led by Longstreet. Without telling Longstreet, Bragg removed from the attack some of the units that Longstreet had chosen to use. Instead of having 8,000 men in the attack, Longstreet had 4,000 and they were up against the Union force that now numbered 5,000. The North lost 77 men killed while Longstreet lost over 300 men killed. The Union remained in control of Brown's Ferry. The failure of Longstreet to succeed at Brown's Ferry - information that was swiftly conveyed to Davis - was sufficient to convince Davis that his decision to keep Bragg was the correct one.

October 30th: The flat-bottomed steam ship returned to Chattanooga at night towing several barges full of 40,000 rations. It arrived just in time as the soldiers in the town only had half a breakfast ration left. The citizens in the town only had four boxes of hard bread left for all of them.



USS Chattanooga – The Cracker Line “home-made” steamboat

Source: <http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/october-1863-civil-war.htm> (accessed August 21, 2013).

http://www.qmfound.com/little_steamboat_that_opened_the_cracker_line.htm (accessed September 19, 2013).

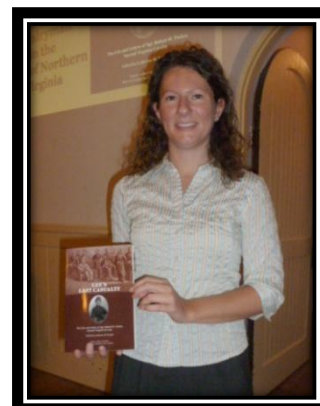
******* September Program *******

**Lee’s Last Casualty:
The Life and Letters of Sgt. Robert W. Parker, Second Virginia Cavalry**

Cathy Wright, curator at The Museum of the Confederacy, presented an interested look at the life of a Confederate cavalryman who served with the Army of North Virginia throughout the entire war. Parker survived the many battles, skirmishes, and sicknesses of cavalry service only to meet his fate at Appomattox on April 9, 1865.

Robert William Parker’s story was revealed from nearly 200 letters between Parker and his wife, Rebecca, which dated from 1861 until early 1865. These letters were discovered in the attic of an elderly kinswoman who passed away during 2004 in Roanoke, Virginia. The family shared knowledge of the existence of these long forgotten letters with historian, Dr. James I. Robertson. Robertson passed this information on to Dr. Peter S. Carmichael, who taught at UNCG. Carmichael had a graduate student, **Cathy Wright**, who was searching for a worthwhile topic for her

graduate thesis. Cathy had found her thesis topic.



Robert Parker was born in Pittsylvania County, Virginia on August 31, 1838. His family moved to Bedford County where Robert's father, Ammon H. Parker, and mother, Frances Goggin Parker, raised their four children at their home, Lone Aspen. Robert, as his father before him, became a farmer. On December 6, 1860, Robert married Rebecca "Beck" Walker. Robert and Rebecca began their married life as a young couple who lived on the family farm where they sought a peaceful and increasing prosperous life among family and friends. Their peaceful existence was to be interrupted by the coming struggle between the differing cultures of the South and the North.

With Virginia's secession from the Union on April 17, 1861, Robert Parker, and others from Bedford County, felt the need to rush to the defense of their families and their way of life. Parker enrolled for service in Company F, the Bedford Southside Dragoons on May 28th in Davis Mills, Virginia. He was mustered into service on May 31, 1861 with Company F, 2nd Virginia Cavalry. For the next four years, Robert shared the insights that he gained through his service with the Confederate cavalry. He described battles, military campaigns, and the daily life of the soldiers.

Cathy's transcriptions of Parker's letter revealed more than the military actions and aspects of a soldier's life. These letters revealed the thoughts of Parker as the war turned against the South and the will to wage war flagged among the army and the civilian populations. Cathy's presentation of her book shared the life story of 4th Sergeant Robert W. Parker. He avoided serious injury on the many battlefields during four years of war; however, as the book's title suggested, Parker may have become the "last" casualty in the Army of Northern Virginia.

Editor

******* Trivia Questions for October *******

1 – How many ironclads were built by the Confederate government in North Carolina during the Civil War? The Confederate government attempted building ironclads in the state, and was successful in completing four ships: the *CSS North Carolina* and the *CSS Raleigh* on the Cape Fear River, the *CSS Albemarle* on the Roanoke River, and the *CSS Neuse* on the Neuse River. A fifth ironclad, the *CSS Wilmington*, was nearing completion in February 22, 1865 when it was destroyed to prevent it from falling into the hands of the advancing Union forces.

There were also naval yards and stations located across the state, including a large operation at Charlotte for manufacturing marine machinery and other facilities in Wilmington, Halifax, Kinston, and for a brief time in Tarboro.



The CSS *Albemarle*, depicted above, saw several successes in combat late in the Civil War. Built in a corn field near Edward's Ferry (Scotland Neck) by a 19 year old Gilbert Elliot, the *Albemarle* was the most successful of the North Carolina ironclads. The *Albemarle* took part in the Battle of Plymouth, and several the naval battles near Plymouth and on the Albemarle Sound. The *Albemarle* met its fate when Union naval Commander William Barker Cushing led a torpedo attack against the ironclad as it lay at anchor near Plymouth on the night of October 27, 1864. Image courtesy of the North Carolina Office of Archives and History, Raleigh, NC.

Source: <http://www.northcarolinahistory.org/encyclopedia/158/entry/> (accessed August 23, 2013).

2 – What was the mission of the Confederate Navy in North Carolina? The Confederate Navy's mission was three-fold. First, it was to provide coastal defense and protection for inland waterways. Second, its ironclad construction program was designed to break the Union blockade of the southern coast. Third, it was seen as a function of the navy to raid enemy commerce.

Source: <http://www.northcarolinahistory.org/encyclopedia/158/entry/> (accessed August 23, 2013).

3 – Which North Carolinians commanded Confederate commerce raiders against Union shipping during the war. John Newland Maffitt (CSS *Florida*) and James I. Waddell (CSS *Shenandoah*) commanded commerce raiders that ranged far and wide to destroy Union shipping.



John Newland Maffitt



James Iredell Waddell

Maffitt returned to the Wilmington area after the war where he lived on a 212 acre farm – “The Moorings” – off Greenville Sound until his death on May 15, 1886. NOTE: Maffitt's Great-Grandson, Robert “Bob” Maffitt, lives in the Wilmington area and is active in keeping alive the history of his kinsman and the contribution of the Confederate Navy during the war.

Waddell did not return to the United States until 1875. He served as director of the State of Maryland's Oyster Regulation Board until his death on March 15, 1886.

4 – Who commanded the Confederate Marine Corps contingent at Fort Fisher during the Battles of Fort Fisher? What was the fate of this contingent? Captain Alfred C. Van Benthuisen was

among the reinforcements who arrived at Battery Buchanan on Christmas Eve, 1864. He suffered a severe head wound during the battle on January 15, 1865. Van Benthuyzen and his Marines were with Major James Reilly near Battery Buchanan when Reilly surrendered Fort Fisher to Captain E. Lewis Moore, Adjunct of the 7th Connecticut.

Source: Chris E. Fonvielle, Jr., *The Wilmington Campaign: Last Rays of Departing Hope* (Campbell, California: Savas Publishing Company, 1997), p.293-295.

5 – What was Robert E. Lee’s Special Order 191? How was it relevant to the September 17, 1862 Battle of Sharpsburg? – This battle that became the single-most bloody day in American Military history. Robert E. Lee issued Special Order 191 during the Maryland campaign, before the Battle of Antietam. A copy of the order having been lost, was recovered by Union soldiers of the 27th Indiana on the Best Farm in Maryland. The order provided the Union Army with valuable information concerning the Army of Northern Virginia's movements and campaign plans. Upon receiving Lee's "Lost Order", Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan, leading the Union Army of the Potomac, would exclaim "**Here is a paper with which, if I cannot whip Bobby Lee, I will be willing to go home.**" The practical value of this intelligence, which was quickly growing obsolescent, continues to be the subject of much debate.

1. The citizens of Fredericktown being unwilling while overrun by members of this army, to open their stores, in order to give them confidence, and to secure to officers and men purchasing supplies for benefit of this command, all officers and men of this army are strictly prohibited from visiting Fredericktown except on business, in which cases they will bear evidence of this in writing from division commanders. The provost-marshal in Fredericktown will see that his guard rigidly enforces this order.
2. Major Taylor will proceed to Leesburg, Virginia, and arrange for transportation of the sick and those unable to walk to Winchester, securing the transportation of the country for this purpose. The route between this and Culpepper Court-House east of the mountains being unsafe, will no longer be traveled. Those on the way to this army already across the river will move up promptly; all others will proceed to Winchester collectively and under command of officers, at which point, being the general depot of this army, its movements will be known and instructions given by commanding officer regulating further movements.
3. The army will resume its march tomorrow, taking the Hagerstown road. General Jackson's command will form the advance, and, after passing Middletown, with such portion as he may select, take the route toward Sharpsburg, cross the Potomac at the most convenient point, and by Friday morning take possession of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, capture such of them as may be at Martinsburg, and intercept such as may attempt to escape from Harpers Ferry.
4. General Longstreet's command will pursue the same road as far as Boonsborough, where it will halt, with reserve, supply, and baggage trains of the army.
5. General McLaws, with his own division and that of General R. H. Anderson, will follow General Longstreet. On reaching Middletown will take the route to Harpers Ferry, and by Friday morning possess himself of the Maryland Heights and endeavor to capture the enemy at Harpers Ferry and vicinity.

6. General Walker, with his division, after accomplishing the object in which he is now engaged, will cross the Potomac at Cheek's Ford, ascend its right bank to Lovettsville, take possession of Loudoun Heights, if practicable, by Friday morning, Key's Ford on his left, and the road between the end of the mountain and the Potomac on his right. He will, as far as practicable, cooperate with General McLaws and Jackson, and intercept retreat of the enemy.

7. General D. H. Hill's division will form the rear guard of the army, pursuing the road taken by the main body. The reserve artillery, ordnance, and supply trains, &c., will precede General Hill.

8. General Stuart will detach a squadron of cavalry to accompany the commands of Generals Longstreet, Jackson, and McLaws, and, with the main body of the cavalry, will cover the route of the army, bringing up all stragglers that may have been left behind.

9. The commands of Generals Jackson, McLaws, and Walker, after accomplishing the objects for which they have been detached, will join the main body of the army at Boonsborough or Hagerstown.

10. Each regiment on the march will habitually carry its axes in the regimental ordnance-wagons, for use of the men at their encampments, to procure wood &c.

By command of General R. E. Lee
R. H. Chilton, Assistant Adjutant General

Source: <http://www.civilwar.org/education/history/primarysources/lostorder.html> (accessed August 24, 2013).

For an interesting article about "who" lost Special Order 191, see **Wilbur D. Jones**.
<http://www.reocities.com/pentagon/barracks/3627/loser.html> (accessed August 24, 2013).

6 – Sgt. Robert W. Parker joined Company F, 2nd Virginia Cavalry, Bedford Southside Dragoons on May 29, 1861. Parker and Company F faithfully served throughout the war. For what else was Bedford, Virginia remembered? As Company F served during the Civil War, Company A of the 116th Infantry Regiment faithfully served during WWII. At Omaha Beach on June 6, 1944, 19 of the 30 Bedford boys in the 116th perished from enemy action. Bedford's population in 1944 was approximately 3,200. This community proportionately suffered the severest D-Day losses of in place in the nation.

Source: <http://www.dday.org/the-memorial/why-bedford-the-bedford-boys> (accessed September 20, 2013).