



MAY 2021

THE RUNNER



VOLUME 3 ISSUE 5



May Presentation on Chase and Lincoln

Join us on the evening of **May 13th** for a Zoom presentation by Walter Stahr on “Chase and Lincoln.”

Walter Stahr was born in Cambridge, Massachusetts, in 1957, grew up in Arcadia, California, and went away for high school, to the Phillips Exeter Academy in New Hampshire. Then it was back west, to Stanford University, then back east, to Harvard, where he studied law and public policy.

After graduating from Harvard Law School in 1982, Stahr worked in international law for several years, including a posting to Hong Kong. He then spent time working in the Securities and Exchange Commission before returning to international law on behalf of investment companies.

In 2008, he and his family, including two children, moved to Exeter, New Hampshire, where he began working on his Civil War biographies while his wife taught mathematics. In 2014 they once again moved to southern California, and we are lucky to be able to bring Walter Stahr to our audience via Zoom.

Walter Stahr is a very accomplished and entertaining speaker, as you can see from the videos posted on his [website](#).

And now, soon to be published, comes, *Salmon P. Chase: Antislavery Agitator, Treasury Secretary, Chief Justice*. Salmon Chase was among the most influential Americans of his century. Chase was governor of Ohio, an outspoken U.S. senator, and nationally renowned defense attorney for fugitives escaping slavery. He played a key role in the establishment of the Republican Party. Without Chase’s groundwork, Lincoln could never have been elected president in 1860, states Stahr’s publisher, Simon and Schuster.

Tapped by Lincoln as his Secretary of the Treasury, Chase not only brilliantly funded the Civil War effort—marketing bonds directly to the public when northern banks balked—but also modernized the country’s financial institutions, pushing legislation through Congress to create the first national bank and a single national currency. Once considered a rival for the presidency in 1864, he would soon find himself appointed by Lincoln to lead the Su-



Walter Stahr

May Meeting

Thursday, May 13, 2021 7:00 P. M.

Zoom Meeting

Email from Bruce Patterson will be sent prior to Event

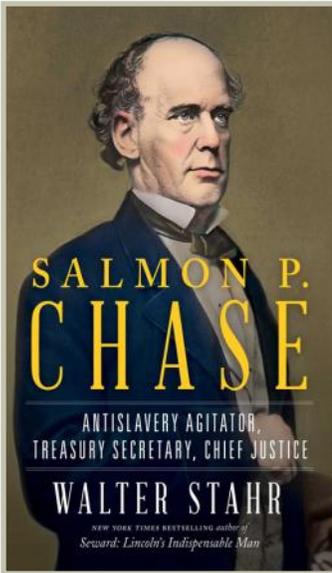
Speaker: **Walter Stahr**
Topic: **Chase and Lincoln**



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Trivia Questions</i>	
<i>CFCWRT Events</i>	2
<i>Online Presentations</i>	
<i>Historical Tidbits</i>	
<i>April Presentation</i>	3
<i>Virginia’s Mineral Contributions - Lead</i>	4
<i>Trivia Answers</i>	6
<i>What ever happened to...?</i>	7
<i>Back Page</i>	8

(Continued on page 2)



May Presentation on Chase and Lincoln, cont.

preme Court, where he continued his advocacy for black rights during the first decade of Reconstruction.

“Drawing on previously overlooked sources, Walter Stahr sheds new light on this complex and fascinating political figure, as well as on the pivotal events of the Civil War and its aftermath. *Salmon P. Chase* tells the story of a man at the center of the fight for racial justice in America,” the publisher writes.

Trivia Questions

1. Which battlefield other than Gettysburg contains an Irish Brigade monument?
2. What was the official name of Mosby's Rangers?
3. Which Civil War General had the longest name?
4. One of Stonewall Jackson's 1846 West Point classmates was only 15 when he entered West Point. Who was he?
5. Who was the highest ranking officer of either side to be killed and in what battle?

Answers of Page 6

Upcoming CFCWRT Events

June 10th Member Forum - Forgotten Soldiers

Member Jim Horton will tell us about his search for a Union ancestor and his story: Elijah Hawke of the 2nd Pennsylvania Heavy Artillery

Tim Winstead will tell us the story of his ancestor Wesley Bone of the 30th North Carolina Volunteers, a most remarkable man with a good story.

July 8th TBA

August 12th Colby Stevens, Bentonville Battlefield Site Manager

Colby Stevens will focus on an overview of the battle and an update on preservation and interpretation at the battlefield.

Online Presentations

CWRT Congress - [All sessions start at 7pm Eastern](#)

May 5th - David Cannon Forgotten Iowans of the Civil War

May 12th - Lee Ann Rose Mary Todd Lincoln “take that woman out, and do not let her in again!”

May 19th - Douglas Dammann Elmer Ellsworth and the US Zouave Cadets

May 26th - Gordon Damman Iron Brigade evacuated from the Antietam Battlefield



Historical Tidbit ~ Joseph Wheeler - Nathan Forrest

In late January 1863, Major General Joseph Wheeler set off with about 2,000 troopers to again interrupt Federal navigation on the Cumberland River. Along the way, Forrest with 800 men joined him. Unfortunately, the Federals were aware of Wheeler's presence and purposely avoided sending vessels upstream on the Cumberland. For that reason, Wheeler decided to strike the Federal base at Dover, Tennessee. The Yankees repulsed the February 23rd attack.

After the Yankees refused a Confederate demand for surrender, Wheeler ordered his guns to hammer the post. "Little Joe," as he was also called, planned to launch a coordinated attack with Brig. Gen. John Wharton and Nathan Forrest's dismounted troopers. Forrest, who assumed the Yankees were abandoning the place, ordered his men to mount up and charge. The Federals met the screaming Rebels with withering rifle and artillery fire that shattered the attack and killed or wounded almost a quarter of Forrest's men. Forrest dismounted his men and joined Wharton's attack, which achieved some success at first but could not breach the Federal earthworks. With casualties mounting, Wheeler called off the attack. Dover remained in Federal hands.

Forrest was in a foul mood. He had objected to the attack before it began. "I mean no disrespect to you," he told Wheeler. "You know my feelings of personal friendship for you; you can have my sword if you demand it; but there is one thing I do want you to put in that report to General Bragg, tell him that I will be in my coffin before I will fight again under your command."

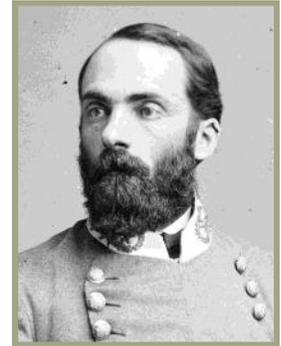
Wheeler declined to take his sword. "As the commanding officer I take all the blame and responsibility for this failure," he told Forrest.

Lifeline of the Confederacy - Stephen Wise

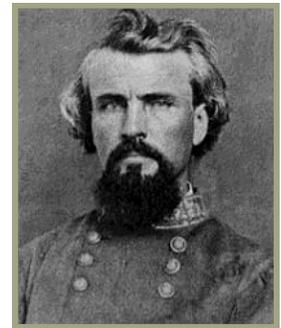
On April 8, a large audience of more than 40 enjoyed Stephen Wise's enlightening and entertaining presentation of the "Lifeline of the Confederacy." Included in this large audience was John Messner, curator of transport and technology from the Riverside Museum in Glasgow, Scotland, and a Civil War historian from Hobart, Tasmania, Australia.

Much of Professor Wise's talk focused on the specialized ships that were built for the blockade running trade. Ultimately, sleek, shallow-draft, fast ships were built in Scotland and England to bring luxury items, ordnance and war materiel from intermediate stops such as Nassau, the Bahamas, Bermuda and Havana, Cuba, to southern ports. The Union blockade never totally succeeded in preventing the ships from making their way into harbors such as New Orleans, Mobile, Savannah, Charleston and Wilmington. However, joint Army-Navy operations did succeed in seizing the forts that guarded the approaches to the harbors and, in cases such as New Orleans, the largest port in the Confederacy, they took the port city itself. By late 1863, Wilmington was the only port able to support a substantial maritime trade through the blockade.

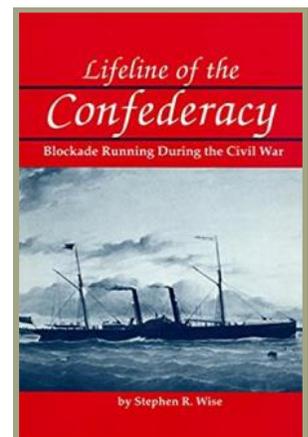
Ultimately, blockade running was indeed the "lifeline" of the Confederacy, according to Professor Wise, and the Confederate "defeat was not because of a lack of material."



Joseph Wheeler



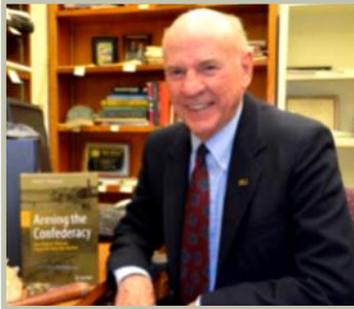
Nathan Forrest



Lifeline of the Confederacy
by Stephen Wise

Arming the Confederacy: Virginia's Mineral Contributions to the Confederate War Effort

by Robert C. Whisonant



The American Civil War is often seen as the first truly industrialized total war, one that consumed enormous amounts of human and material resources. But the two opponents were not evenly matched; the North had a preponderant share of raw materials, manufacturing ability, and population. On the eve of battle in April 1861, most of the mines, forges, and foundries in America were located in Union states. Some 90 per cent of the manufacturing capacity resided there—their factories made 97 percent of the firearms, 94 per cent of the cloth, 93 percent of the pig iron, and over 90 per cent of the boots and shoes. The disparity in the capability to make items necessary to the conduct of hostilities rested primarily on the North's possession of more mineral riches, most particularly iron and coal, the foundation of heavy industry.

Within the Confederacy, Virginia had long been the foremost mineral producer. The greatest concentration of this natural wealth lay in the mountainous southwestern quarter of the state where large deposits of saltpeter, lead, salt, iron, and coal had been exploited for over a century. In addition, mines in the region yielded some copper, zinc, gold, and silver from time to time. To be sure, other parts of the South had mineral resources, notably Alabama with important iron and coal operations; none, however, rivaled the richness and variety of the troves in Southwest Virginia. This did not go unnoticed by Federal strategists intent on bringing down the Confederate war machine.

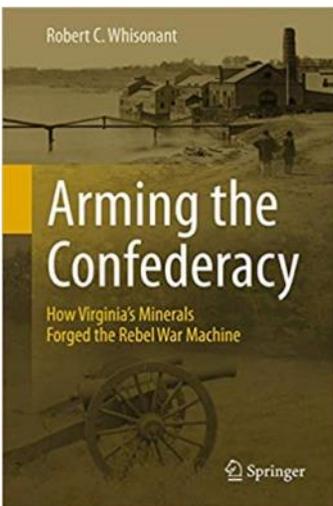
Part II ~ Lead

Lead was another strategic mineral product critical to Civil War armed forces. Without it, weapons would lack ammunition – no bullets for the rifles nor pellets for the shrapnel shells. In 1847, French Army Captain Claude-Etienne Minié had introduced an innovative lead bullet that transformed firearm technology. It was the first projectile to effectively grip the rifling or spiral grooves cut into a musket barrel. This spinning, aerodynamically shaped missile discharged from a rifled musket dramatically improved marksmanship and rate of fire over that of the old smoothbores. First used in substantial numbers by the British against Russian troops in the Crimean War (1853-1855), the Minié bullet led directly to the horrific totals of killed and maimed men on American Civil War battlefields.

Both Union and Confederate infantry fought almost exclusively with rifles shooting Minié bullets. Estimates are that 90 per cent of the casualties came from such weapons. Fighting men commonly referred to the “hailstorm of lead” tearing into them on battlefields; often they advanced leaning forward as if walking into a driving rain. Prodigious stores of lead were required to conduct such engagements, but the Confederacy had only one large-scale lead mining and smelting facility within its borders—the Wythe County operations deep in the mountains of southwestern Virginia. Just a handful of sporadically active workings were present elsewhere, and no significant domestic lead deposits besides Wythe County existed. It would be the Southwest Virginia mines together with importation that supplied the majority of Confederate lead.

The Wythe County mines opened in the mid-1700s and served as the main source of lead balls for the muskets of the patriot armies during the Revolutionary War. The mines continued to operate into the first half of the 19th century, sending lead shot to markets throughout the Southern states. On March 8, 1860, with war clouds gathering, the Wythe County works were reorganized and incorporated as the Union Lead Mine Company, an ironic name

(Continued on page 5)



Minié Bullet

Arming the Confederacy: Virginia's Mineral Contributions to the Confederate War Effort
by Robert C. Whisonant (cont.)

for the foremost Confederate lead provider.

At the onset of fighting, the Richmond government demanded that the Union mines owners work the facilities to their maximum capacity or give them up for operation by the government. The company directors chose the former and round-the-clock activity commenced. The actual lead bullets were not made at the Wythe County site. Rather, the workmen dug out the ore, processed it in the smelters, cast the molten lead into ingots, and shipped the lead bars by rail to Richmond and Petersburg to be molded into ammunition. Production records are incomplete, but over three million pounds of lead, an estimated one-third of the total consumed by the Confederacy, are known to have come from the Union mines.

Still, even with this prolific output from Virginia, lead became increasingly scarce as the contest ground on. The government asked citizens for contributions of common household items containing lead, such as pipes, roofing materials, window weights, and eating utensils. In 1863, the city of Mobile ripped up unused lead water mains and shipped them off to the munitions plants. On occasion, officers directed soldiers back onto battlefields after the fighting ceased to scavenge for bullets to be recycled into fresh rounds.

The Northern high command eventually came to recognize the extreme importance of the Wythe County lead works and mounted a number of raids to destroy them. A July 1863 attack led by Union Colonel John T. Toland resulted in a pitched battle on the streets of Wytheville, about 10 miles away from the mines. Although the Federals won the engagement, Toland was killed and his soldiers withdrew back into West Virginia. Another expedition occurred in May 1864 in which Union cavalry under Brigadier General Woods William Averell clashed with Confederates led by Brigadier General John Hunt Morgan just north of Wytheville. Morgan drove Averell away and the lead works again escaped unscathed. In December 1864, a Northern force under Major General George Stoneman at last reached the mines and did much damage. The mines were running again by March 1865, but Stoneman's men returned in April and laid waste to the facilities two days before Lee's surrender at Appomattox.

After hostilities ceased, Confederate Ordnance officer Colonel William Broun summed up the contribution of the Wythe County mines: "Our lead was obtained chiefly, and in the last years of the war entirely, from the lead mines at Wytheville Virginia. The mines were worked night and day, and the lead converted into bullets as fast as received."

*Next month's
issue will share
Part III ~ Salt.*



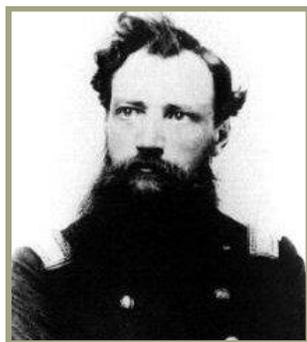
Trivia Answers



1. Antietam contains one of two Irish Brigade monuments.

The monument to the Irish Brigade at Antietam is at the base of the observation tower at the end of the Sunken Road (or Bloody Lane). (Sunken Road East tour map). It was dedicated on October 25, 1997.

The heart of the monument is a ten foot tall, fifteen ton block of granite brought from County Wicklow, Ireland. On the front of the monument a bronze bas-relief shows the charge of the Irish brigade at Antietam. On the rear of the monument is a bas-relief of Brigadier General Thomas Francis Meagher, who raised the brigade and commanded it until early 1863. The bronze reliefs were created by sculptor Ron Tunison,

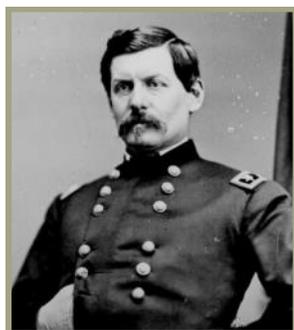


US Brig Gen Alexander Schimmelfennig

2. Company A, 43rd Battalion, 1st Virginia Cavalry, was a partisan ranger unit noted for its lightning-quick raids and its ability to elude Union Army pursuers and disappear, blending in with local farmers and townsmen.
3. U.S. Brigadier General Alexander Schimmelfennig had the longest name.

He (July 20, 1824 – September 5, 1865) was a Prussian soldier and political revolutionary. After the German revolutions of 1848–1849, he immigrated to the United States, where he served as a Union Army general in the American Civil War.

Schimmelfennig had the honor of accepting Charleston's surrender on February 18, 1865. During his time of service in the swamps about Charleston, he contracted a virulent form of tuberculosis which ultimately led to his death in Wernersville, Pennsylvania.



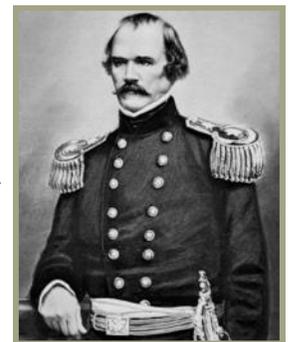
Gen George McClellan

4. George McClellan was only 15 when he entered West Point.

A studious child, McClellan made the decision to enter military service at age 15 and was accepted to West Point despite being several months shy of the age requirement of 16. McClellan ranked second in his class upon graduation from West Point in 1846.

5. General A.S. Johnston was the highest ranking officer to be killed in the war (at Shiloh).

He was reappointed to the U.S. Army in 1849 and joined the Confederacy at the start of the Civil War in 1861. Johnston was appointed a full general and served in the war's Western Theater as commander of all Confederate troops between Texas and the Appalachian Mountains. Following a string of Confederate losses in early 1862, Johnston engaged Union forces at the Battle of Shiloh (April 6-7, 1862). The battle ended in a Union victory and Johnston was mortally wounded. He died at the age of 59.



General Albert Sidney Johnston

After the end of the Civil War whatever happened to...?

Confederate Major General Joseph Wheeler

In the years after the war, Wheeler married Daniella Jones Sherrod, a widow whom he had met while fighting in northern Alabama. The couple would have seven children. He became a planter and lawyer in Alabama. Elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in a hotly contested race in 1880, Wheeler served most of the term only to have the results of the election overturned. His opponent, Col. William M. Lowe, a fiery leader of the Independent Democrats, took over the seat but died soon after. Wheeler returned to Congress in 1885 to replace Lowe and served there until 1900.

With the outbreak of the [Spanish-American War](#) in 1898, Wheeler volunteered his services to President William McKinley. Accepting, McKinley appointed him a major general of volunteers. Taking command of the cavalry division in Major General William Shafter's V Corps, Wheeler's force included Lieutenant Colonel Theodore Roosevelt's famed "Rough Riders."

Arriving in Cuba, Wheeler scouted ahead of Shafter's main force and engaged the Spanish at Las Guasimas on June 24. Though his troops took the brunt of the fighting, they forced the enemy to continue their retreat towards Santiago. Falling ill, Wheeler missed the opening parts of the [Battle of San Juan Hill](#), but rushed to the scene when the fighting began to take command. Wheeler led his division through the Siege of Santiago and served on the peace commission after the city's fall.

Later Life

Returning from Cuba, Wheeler was dispatched to the Philippines for service in the Philippine-American War. Arriving in August 1899, he led a brigade in Brigadier General Arthur MacArthur's division until early 1900. During this time, Wheeler was mustered out of the volunteer service and commissioned as a brigadier general in the regular army.

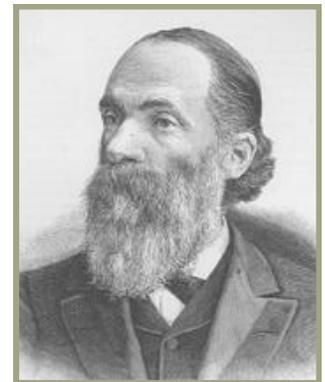


Brig Gen Joseph Wheeler

Returning home, he was given an appointment as a brigadier general in the US Army and placed in command of the Department of the Lakes. He remained in this post until his retirement on September 10, 1900. Retiring to New York, Wheeler died on January 25, 1906 after a protracted illness. In recognition of his service in the Spanish-American and Philippine-American Wars, he was buried at Arlington National Cemetery.



Maj Gen Joseph Wheeler



Rep Joseph Wheeler



Joseph Wheeler and family - 1896



Civil War Phrases

Greyhound ~ A Union soldiers' term for a member of any of the fast-moving Confederate infantry regiments from Texas.

Gunboat ~ A slang term for a broad, clumsy army shoe. It reminded soldiers of the awkward-looking gunboats of the time.

Handcuffed Volunteer ~ A derisive term for any one of the low-quality Union replacements late in the war, largely substitutes and bounty jumpers, often brought up under guard.

Headquarters in the Saddle ~ A catchphrase created when Major General John Pope took command of the Union's Army of Virginia in 1862 and he said his headquarters would be "in the saddle."

From Civil War Wordbook by Darryl Lyman

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THE RUNNER is the official monthly newsletter of the CFCWRT. If you have member news or news about Civil War events that you think would be of interest to the CFCWRT membership, send an email with the details to the editor, [Sherry Hewitt](#). Thank you.

The **Cape Fear Civil War Round Table** is a non-profit organization made up of men and women who have a common interest in the history of the Civil War. The meetings include a speaker each month covering some aspect of the Civil War. This serves our purpose of encouraging education and research into that historical conflict.

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