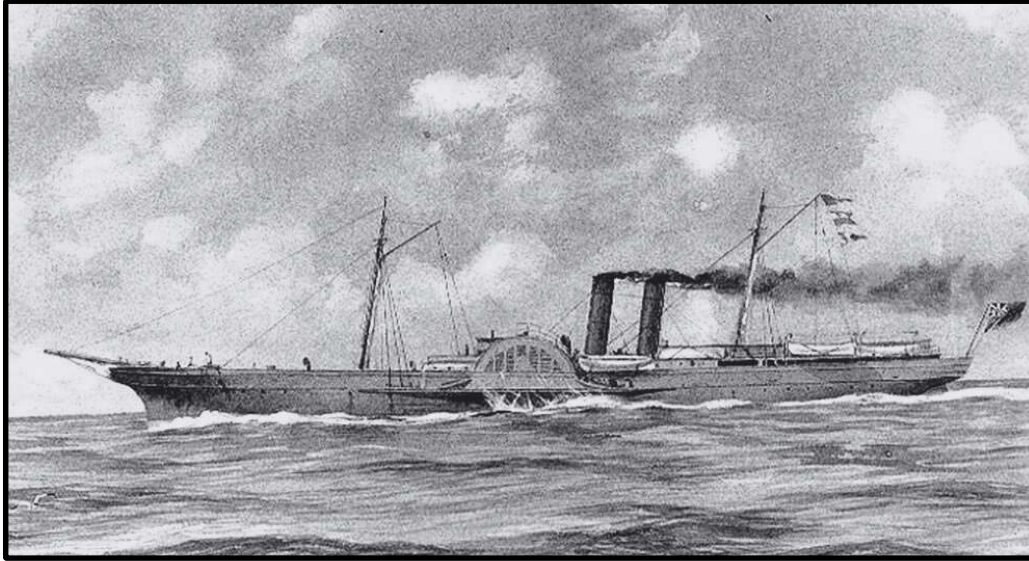


# The Runner

The Official Newsletter of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table



October 2024 | Volume 2 | Number 10

Dear Members of the CFCWRT:

As we transition into fall, we find ourselves in a season of reflection and renewal. The cooler air reminds us of the many autumns past, where our ancestors walked the same land, facing their own challenges and uncertainties during the Civil War. While we often look to history for perspective, recent events in our state have brought us a different kind of struggle.

The recent flooding in western North Carolina has been a reminder of nature's unpredictable power. Our thoughts are with those affected by this disaster, and we hope for swift recovery and support for the impacted communities. As we continue to explore and discuss the history of this region, we also remain mindful of the present and the resilience of those around us.

Thank you for your continued dedication to preserving and sharing the history we all cherish. I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting.

Warm regards,

Matthew Howell  
Editor, Cape Fear Civil War Round Table Newsletter

## President's Report

By: Yelena Howell

Thank you for your confidence in us and welcome to our 2024-2025 program year!

Dear members and friends,

We appreciate your support of our newly elected Executive Committee and those who continue with us as sustaining leaders in every area of operations of our round table. From day one, our top priority is upholding the greatest good of our organization and nurturing the next generation of officers who will assume the reins in 1-2 years, after our terms are up. As a fellow American, I am truly honored to assume the responsibilities of CFCWRT presidency for this year and, possibly, for one more year beyond our 2024-2025 season.



May the example of America's most celebrated leader, George Washington, continue to inspire each of us to lead from where we are:

"He was not a brilliant strategist or tactician, not a gifted orator, not an intellectual. At several critical moments he had shown marked indecision. He had made serious mistakes in judgment. But experience had been his great teacher from boyhood, and in his greatest test, he learned steadily from experience." (McCullough, David. *1776*. Simon and Schuster, 2005, p. 293).

Immediate Past President Bill Jayne, Vice President Chris Langlois and I, along with the rest of our think and action tank, welcome your feedback and involvement at any time. Are you inclined toward accounting or media production? Do you enjoy writing? Does the idea of more field trips excite you? Please let us know, and we will connect with you deeper so that you can give it a try. Keep in touch by email at [CapeFearRT@gmail.com](mailto:CapeFearRT@gmail.com) or text me at (910) 431-6102. Things are what we make them—"let's go"!

Warm regards,

Yelena

Our thoughts are with our neighbors affected by severe weather this September. If you are able, would you consider a donation to the American Red Cross, Samaritan Purse, Catholic Charities USA, Episcopal Relief & Development, or another organization of your choice? At our October meeting and by other arrangement, Yelena will gratefully accept physical items like canned foods, especially with tabs for easy opening, baby and adult diapers and wipes, Lysol wipes, hand sanitizer, and packs of heavy-duty trash bags. These will be donated to reputable local relief efforts to be batched and transported to areas in need. Thank you for your ongoing caring concern for our region.

## Membership Report

By: Kim Berger

After the August gathering was canceled due to the inclement weather, we enjoyed our September meeting hosting Author/Editor/Publisher Ted Savas.

We had 56 participants in attendance during this presentation which introduced us to new material about George Washington Rains and the Augusta Powder Works Factory. Members, new and old, voted on the new slate of officers.

Cape Fear Civil War Round Table welcomed new members Eric & Susan VanCamp, Paul Johnson, Hugh Daughtry, and Dr. MaryBeth Allison, historian. We also had several guests who we are hoping will join us next month as members.

Thirteen members renewed their annual memberships.

Thank you all for your patience with me as I adjust to the new role of Membership Chair. I appreciate all the guidance and support as I grow within the role at the Round Table.

Sincerely,

Kim



## George Washington Rains & Confederate Strategy

By: Bill Jayne

On September 12, 2024, the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table met for a momentous meeting that marked the end of the club's 29th year of operation and saw the first election of officers in the history of the group. There were 56 people in attendance including 48 members (counting spouses) who voted in five new officers and five at-large members of the Executive Committee.



Elected as president was Yelena B. Howell, energetic, hard-working, devoted to the history of the region and full of new ideas to maintain and improve the health of the round table. She will be a great president.

Vice president is Chris Langlois, Fred Claridge is secretary/historian, Mike McDonald is the treasurer and William Jordan is the quartermaster.

They will each serve a one-year term. The president and vice president may run for an additional term but the bylaws limit them to a maximum of two one-year terms. That is, they are limited to two years in each office. The other three officers are not term-limited.

In addition to the five officers, the Executive Committee comprises five at-large members and the immediate past president as an ex-officio member. Thus, there are 11 members of the Executive Committee. Bill Jayne is the immediate past president and the five at-large members are Al Turner, Jim Gannon, Kim Berger, Roman Berger and Tom O'Connor.

Immediately after the election, Bill Jayne turned the meeting over to the new president, Yelena Howell, and she introduced our dynamic and engaging speaker of the evening, Ted Savas.

Ted is a lawyer who has become a full-time historian and publisher. His company, Savas Beatie, specializes in Civil War books. The provocative title of his talk was "Handshakes, Gambling and Gunpowder: How George Washington Rains and Jefferson Davis Changed the Course of the Civil War."



Ted has been researching the story of George W. Rains for more than 40 years and co-authored the 2007 book *Never for Want of Powder* about Rains' Augusta Powder Mill. Ted has noted that "George Washington Rains is the most important personality of the Civil War you've probably never heard of. Without him, there would have been no long and bloody war, no Vicksburg or Gettysburg, and Robert E. Lee would be but a footnote in history. Abraham Lincoln would have completed his second term (if there was one), and U. S. Grant would have never reached the White House.

## George Washington Rains & Confederate Strategy Cont.

“Rains organized, built, and operated the only major gunpowder factory in the Confederacy--a two-mile complex that enabled the South to fight for four long years. Its internal daily records, coupled with Rains' private writings, reveal stunning facts unknown to nearly every historian who has written on the war. From this day forth, you will never look at Union strategy and command decisions the same way.”



Early in the war President Jefferson Davis realized the Confederacy's need to supply its own gunpowder. Accordingly Davis selected Col. George Washington Rains, an 1842 graduate of West Point, to build a gunpowder factory. In their Army careers, Rains and Davis had met several times including frontier duty at Ft. Gibson, Indian Territory. Rains, a native of New Bern, N.C., was the younger brother of Confederate General Gabriel Rains who became the architect of the Confederacy's mine warfare program.

George Rains had resigned his U.S. Army commission in 1856 and married the wealthy Frances Ramsdell in New York. He then ran the Washington Iron Works in Newburgh, N.Y., an important industrial facility located very close to West Point. An engineer and accomplished chemist, he relied primarily on a written pamphlet rather than on practical experience in building the powder mill, yet he succeeded in designing a model of efficiency and safety. He sited the facilities at Augusta, Georgia, because of the city's central location, canal transportation, access to water power, railroad facilities, and relative security from attack.

Today a lone chimney along the Savannah River stands as the only reminder of the munitions facility that once occupied that site.

Walking constantly and working entirely from memory, Ted Savas unreeled a story of constant improvisation and adjustment as Rains, Davis and others such as Confederate Ordnance Bureau chief, General Josiah Gorgas, worked tirelessly to mask Confederate gunpowder shortages in 1861 as they built the new powder mill in Augusta, Ga.

In early 1862 Union victories at Forts Henry and Donelson cracked open the Confederate cordon and made the two modest gunpowder mills in Tennessee untenable. Ted contended that shortages of powder rendered the Confederacy exceedingly vulnerable at that point but the Union's strategic deficiencies and dysfunctional military command structure failed to realize the Confederacy's critical vulnerability and act on it. By mid 1862 the Augusta powder mill had kicked in and went on to provide 95 percent of all the gunpowder used by the Confederacy in the course of the war.



## George Washington Rains & Confederate Strategy Cont.

Ted then turned to the ending campaigns of the war and brought up the question of why Union General William T. Sherman led his army to Savannah instead of toward the strategically critical target of the Augusta powder mill. After the fall of Atlanta, Sherman focused on Hood's Confederate army, which was moving west and north back toward Chattanooga, and then after detaching a powerful force under General George Thomas to deal with Hood, he prepared his force for the demanding march to the sea.

Hood abandoned Atlanta on September 1, 1864 and Sherman began his march to the sea on November 15. Sherman's 62,000-man army reached Savannah on December 21, 1864. Ted Savas contended that the Augusta mill was eminently vulnerable during all that time and that its fall to Union forces would have effectively ended the Confederacy's ability to supply its forces with the copious amounts of gunpowder needed to sustain the war.

Ted has written: "Rains and other Confederate authorities had no way of knowing that Sherman would feint at Macon and Augusta to divide the paltry number of Rebel soldiers available to oppose him, and then drive through the yawning gap to link up with the Union Navy at Savannah. That decision was the biggest strategic mistake of his career, and he would repeat the same mistake under nearly the exact same circumstances three months later. The consequences would lengthen the war by months and increase the casualty lists by many tens of thousands of men."

Sherman, Ted Savas and others have noted, was more focused on avoiding guerrilla warfare and ending southern resistance by demonstrating the inability of Confederate forces to defend against the armies of the Union. Members of the round table were energized and fascinated by this creative presentation and asked many questions graciously answered by our speaker.

Next month will focus on a look back at 30 years of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table and a glimpse of the bright future of the club. See you on October 10!



Jim Wagner won the raffle for a chance to fire a Civil War cannon. Fire at will, Jim!



President Yelena Howell presents Ted Savas with print of Jim Horton's painting of USN Lt. William Cushing (and a toy for Ted's canine pal Kenya).

# October Auction

By: William Jordan

At the October CFCWRT Anniversary meeting we will not have our traditional monthly raffle. Instead, we will kick off a great chance to win one of the best donations our Round Table has ever received.

From October 10, 2024 to December 12, 2024 we will host a silent auction to win this Don Troiani limited edition print:



Sold Out Limited Edition:  
#1293 of 1500.

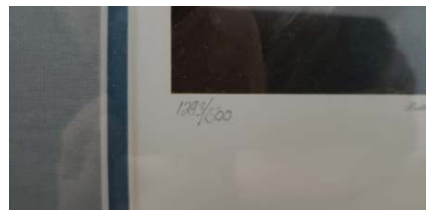
Personally signed by the artist and includes a certificate of authenticity.

Professionally framed and matted.

## The Emmitsburg Road, By Don Troiani

This print shows the 7th and 52nd North Carolina regiments fighting at Gettysburg on July 3, 1862. You can see this wonderful print in person at the October, November and December meetings. Bid to win!!!

All proceeds will directly benefit the programs put on by our Cape Fear Civil War Round Table.



## Cape Fear Civil War Round Table to Celebrate 30th Year

By: Bill Jayne

Wilmington's Cape Fear Civil War Round Table (CFCWRT) was established in 1994 and to mark the 30th anniversary of the founding of the club, the round table is hosting a special event to look back on its history. As members of the round table, you've heard by now of the special dinner meeting to be held at Indochine Restaurant on October 10.

The event is open to members only but it will be back to "business as usual" in November. John Quarstein, an extraordinary speaker and one of the nation's premier historians of Civil War maritime history, will be the speaker on November 14, talking about the Battle of Mobile Bay and Confederate Admiral Franklin Buchanan, who was perhaps the most aggressive senior naval officer to join the Confederate Navy.

The Civil War Round Table movement began in Chicago in 1941. Civil War Round Tables (also referred to as Roundtables or CWRTs) are independent organizations that share a common objective in promoting and expanding interest in the study of the military, political and sociological history of the American Civil War. There are hundreds of such organizations throughout the U.S., with some in other countries as well.

Here in the Lower Cape Fear, the first president of Wilmington's Cape Fear Civil War Round Table was George Slaton who led the organization until the year 2000. George, who now lives in the Davidson, NC, area, recalls that an organization called the Civil War Round Table Associates met in Wilmington in the summer of 1993. The organization was founded and led by legendary battlefield preservationist and Civil War activist, Jerry Russell, and their primary purpose was to encourage Civil War Round Tables to get involved in battlefield preservation.

The Wilmington event included a workshop on "How to Start a Civil War Round Table." That workshop motivated George and others to establish a round table in Wilmington. Contributing to the momentum was Civil War publisher Ted Savas and prospective authors Chris Fonvielle and Mark Bradley. Ted, then leading the publishing company of Savas Woodbury, first published Chris Fonvielle's *The Wilmington Campaign: Last Rays of Departing Hope*, and Mark Bradley's *The Battle of Bentonville: Last Stand in the Carolinas*. George Slaton noted "It was a momentous weekend!"

It took some time to get rolling and the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table first met at the University of North Carolina, Wilmington (UNCW) in October 1994. The first speaker was Dr. Chris Fonvielle, Ph.D., who later joined the faculty of UNCW. Professor Fonvielle, now retired, is the premier historian of the Lower Cape Fear from Colonial times through the Civil War. Following George Slaton, Professor Fonvielle led the CFCWRT from 2000 through 2006. The meeting site changed from UNCW to St. John's Episcopal Church and then to St. Andrew's on the Sound Episcopal Church. Under the leadership of David Norris (2006-10) and Bob Cooke (2010 to 2018), the organization grew steadily and many nationally known speakers and authors spoke to the group as well as accomplished local historians.



## CFCWRT 30th Year Cont.

From 1997 through 2005 the organization featured tours to locations such as Richmond and its vicinity, Sharpsburg, Md., and Spotsylvania County, Va. From 2006 through 2011 tours were shortened to locations in North Carolina that could be reached within a day rather than requiring overnight travel. Today, the round table features opportunities focused on local attractions such as the Wilmington Railroad Museum, a great attraction that preserves the history of the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad, the lifeline that connected the south's last blockade running port with the Army of Northern Virginia. Dr. Fonvielle has led many tours for the round table including a hike through the maritime forest to discover the earthworks of the "Sugar Loaf Line," a boat tour on the Cape Fear River and an evening tour of Ft. Fisher that ended well after dark looking out on the ocean as "friendly enemies," heroes of the 1865 battle, Col. William Lamb, CSA, and Brigadier General Newton Martin Curtis, USA, did in 1893.

The CFCWRT is actively involved in supporting Fort Fisher and Fort Anderson, the NC Historical Sites in the area, the J. Ryder Lewis historical park in Carolina Beach, as well as the NC Maritime Museum in Southport. We have also featured speakers from the Latimer House, the museum of the Lower Cape Fear Historical Society, in Wilmington.

Beginning in 2018, the round table moved to Harbor Church in Wilmington and then back to St. John's Episcopal Church in midtown Wilmington. Bill Jayne was been president of the club from 2018 and saw it through the devastating Hurricane Florence in 2018 and the COVID phenomenon. As of 2024, the round table has more members than it did in 2018.

The October dinner meeting will feature brief remarks by all of the five past presidents of the round table. The Civil War Round Table movement began as both an educational and social event always centered on dinner as well as a speaker. Over the years, the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table has hosted many dinner meetings. For example, in October 1997, distinguished historian and author Craig Symonds spoke about Patrick Cleburne, "The Stonewall of the West," at a dinner meeting at the Cape Fear Club.

Not only does this year mark a significant chronological milestone, in the 2023-24 "campaign" year, members of the club developed the first set of written bylaws to govern the round table, including rules for electing new officers every year. Those bylaws were approved at the May 2024 meeting.

At our September 2024 meeting, members elected new officers, at-large members of an executive committee and set the group on a course for sustained excellence in programs, tours and educational endeavors.

Dramatizing the historic first of electing officers, the new president of the round table is Yelena Howell, our first woman president! As the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table embarks on its 31st year, all systems are go.

## Events Celebrating History in the Cape Fear Region

By: Yelena Howell

Historian **Rod Gragg** talked to Yelena about his lifelong fascination with Fort Fisher. YouTube: <https://tinyurl.com/RGragg24>

**Friday, October 11, 6-730 pm.** Bellamy Mansion Museum's Executive Director **Gareth Evans** will lead a walking tour on Wilmington's African American Heritage. Tickets are \$20 ea.: <https://tinyurl.com/GEwalks> Info: [info@bellamymansion.org](mailto:info@bellamymansion.org)

**Tuesdays, October 1, October 8, and October 15, 11 am-12 pm.** NHC Public Library, Pine Valley Branch, 3802 College Rd., Wilmington. Fall Heritage Lecture Series. Info on topics and speakers: <https://tinyurl.com/FallNHC>

**Friday, October 11, 9-10:30 am,** Burgwin-Wright House, 224 Market St., Wilmington. **Hunter Ingram** will lead Cape Fear Legends and Lore Walking Tour. Tickets \$20 (+tax) ea. Please call (910) 762-0570 to reserve your spot.

**Wednesday, October 16, 7 pm-until,** Wilmington Railroad Museum, 505 Nutt St., Wilmington. **Dr. Chris E. Fonvielle Jr.** will regale his spellbound audience with some of the most curious and haunted tales from the Cape Fear Region. Admission is free. There will be a cash raffle for a variety of prizes: tickets are 1 for \$5 or 5 for \$20. To register, email [info@wrrm.org](mailto:info@wrrm.org)

**Cancelled: Saturday, October 19,** Brunswick Town/Fort Anderson State Historic Site. Port Brunswick Day. Please note this important cancellation due to severe impacts of September's tropical event on the access road to the site. There is no public access to the grounds until further notice. Info: <https://www.facebook.com/BrunswickTownFortAnderson/> or [brunswick@dncr.nc.gov](mailto:brunswick@dncr.nc.gov)

**Saturday, October 19, 7-9 pm,** downtown Wilmington walking tours. Additional dates: **Saturday, October 26, 7 pm start; Tuesday, October 29, 6:30 pm start; Wednesday, October 30, 6:30 pm start and Thursday, October 31, 6:30 pm start.** **Dr. Chris E. Fonvielle Jr.** will walk you through his popular *Curious Tales From Old Wilmington and the Lower Cape Fear: The Truth Behind the Legends*. Wilmington True History tickets are \$22 for Veterans and First Responders and \$25 for other adults: <https://tinyurl.com/Chris-octobre>

**Saturday, October 26, 10 am-4pm.** Bentonville Battlefield State Historic Site, 5466 Harper House Rd., Four Oaks, NC. Fall Festival. Family-friendly activities include wagon rides, old-timey crafts, and live music. Bring a chair, a blanket, and \$5 per ticket (free admission for kids under 8). Contact: Colby Lipscomb, (910) 594-0789 or [bentonvillebattlefield@gmail.com](mailto:bentonvillebattlefield@gmail.com)

**Saturday, October 26,** hourly tours starting at 530-9 pm. Historic Burgaw Cemetery, 106 E. Wilmington St., Burgaw, NC. The Ghost of Pender's Past. A family-friendly tour. Free for ages 4 and under, \$10 ea. for students, \$15 ea. for adults: <https://tinyurl.com/PenderBoo> Info: (910) 259-1278 or [info@visitpender.com](mailto:info@visitpender.com)

## Brunswick Civil War Round Table

“Closing Down the Kingdom: The Wilmington Campaign” is the title of popular local historian **Chris Fonvielle’s** presentation to be held at Hatch Auditorium on Caswell Beach on Tuesday, October 1st .

Registration begins at 6:15PM, and the program starts at 7:00PM. Everyone is welcome. The visitor fee is \$10, and can be applied toward the \$25 annual membership dues, which can include a spouse.



Chris will discuss Union military operations to capture, and Confederate efforts to defend, Wilmington, the South’s main seaport and most important city by late 1864. This will include the two battles for Fort Fisher which were the largest U.S. Navy bombardments of the Civil War.

By capturing Wilmington, the Union blockade was complete, and it gave General Sherman’s forces a base of supply and a route to the sea. Just months later the Civil War was declared over.

Chris is a prolific author, tour guide, and professor emeritus in the History Dept. at UNCW. He is a native of Wilmington with a lifelong interest in history, including the Civil War, North Carolina, and the Cape Fear region.

For more information, contact president John Butler at (404) 229-9425, or email to him at [Brunswickcwr@gmail.com](mailto:Brunswickcwr@gmail.com).



## Wreaths Across America



Our CWRT actively supports the Wilmington Community effort to cover over 5,200 graves at the Wilmington National Cemetery with a Christmas wreath each year.

Our organizational goal is some 75 wreaths. Our CWRT has met or exceeded that modest goal in all but one of the previous campaigns. Of interest, to our membership is that, in addition to contributing to the ILM goal, each wreath garners \$5. to our CWRT treasury. Each wreath is only \$17 or five for \$85 (the most popular, nation-wide purchase).

Please give your personal check to **Kim Jordan**, in multiples of \$17, made out to Wreaths Across America and she will do the rest. Better still, save Kim the task of forwarding your check to Maine, by just using your credit card at the CFCWRT web site, As the instructions say, click on the WAA picture and make your purchase.

Your efforts and generosity are sincerely appreciated.

If you prefer to sponsor a wreath online, here is CFCWRT's 2024 link:

<https://tinyurl.com/CFCWRTWreaths>

## CFCWRT Members Enjoy Gettysburg Field Trip

By: Bill Jayne

Five Cape Fear Civil War Round Table (CFCWRT) members and two guests took advantage of a gracious invitation from the Cleveland (OH) CWRT to participate in their annual field trip to a Civil War battlefield. This year, from September 19th to the 22nd, the destination was the king of Civil War battlefields, Gettysburg.

Approximately 70 participants began the weekend with a Thursday evening get-together at the Comfort Suites right on Baltimore Pike near the Gettysburg Visitors Center. Former Cleveland CWRT President Bob Pence, the organizer of this year's tour, handed out name tags and in-depth information packets and then presented a very professional program on the prelude to the Battle of Gettysburg.



The CFCWRT contingent at Robert E. Lee's Headquarters. Left to right: Joe Roman, Drew Peck, Tom Piech, Christina Grazer, John Bolger, Jr., Bill Jayne, John Bolger, Sr. and Joanne and Dan Bonder of the Cleveland CWRT.

Bob did an amazing job organizing this trip, beginning with regular emails starting in December. He provided Gettysburg reading lists, links to informative video presentations and interesting facts, as well as keeping track of all the minutiae of meal choices and financial details.

The spiral bound notebook provided to participants is a great reference work that I will keep on my shelf along with my Gettysburg books. In addition to the schedule and a list of participants, detailed maps and an order of battle were included.

The order of battle details every regiment and battery, it provides "Engaged Strength," killed, wounded, captured/missing and percentage of loss down to the brigade level. Want to know which Army of Northern Virginia brigade suffered the highest percentage loss in the three-day battle? With a percentage loss of 65.2 percent of its engaged strength, Iverson's all North Carolina brigade of Rodes' Division in Ewell's II Corps, had the greatest loss.

Friday, September 20, dawned perfectly clear and sunny and temperatures eventually reached the neighborhood of 90 but it was a beautiful—if warm—day to visit the Seminary Ridge Museum, climb to the cupola of the historic Lutheran Seminary and look out to the west in the same way Union Cavalry General John Buford did on July 1, 1863.

We then toured Seminary Ridge and in the afternoon continued on to McPherson Ridge, Oak Knoll, Barlow Knoll and ending up on East Cemetery Hill where the remnants of the Union I and XI corps retreated to be joined by Hancock's I Corps and Slocum's XII Corps.

Highly knowledgeable and experienced guide Jon Thompson brought us through an informative day that ended with a moving talk and rendition of Taps at the Soldiers National Cemetery.



Seminary Ridge Museum in the historic Lutheran Seminary, built in 1826, this is where Union Cavalry General John Buford observed Confederate infantry moving in strength toward Gettysburg.



## Gettysburg Field Trip Cont.



The view from McPherson's Ridge toward Seminary Ridge

Saturday, September 21, was cloudy and cooler. Although we missed the beautiful long views stretching west to the mountains, the cooler temperatures were welcome. With Jon Thompson as our guide, we started at Little Round Top, went down to the Wheatfield and then to the Peach Orchard, where General Robert E. Lee's plan to find the left flank of the Union army and attack along that axis was abundantly clear.

The failure, also abundantly clear, was that poor reconnaissance caused confusion about the location of the left flank of the Army of the

Potomac. The view from the Peach Orchard shines a bright light on the murk of the second day of the Battle of Gettysburg. A brief but informative stop on Culp's Hill brought the morning tour to a close.



Crossing the field of Pickett's Charge



The Plum Run valley below Little Round Top. Note beaver dam.

The afternoon, after another convenient and tasty box lunch from Jersey Mike's, was devoted to the fighting on July 3, especially Pickett's Charge. All of the CFCWRT stalwarts, along with most of the tour participants, bused to Seminary Ridge and the Virginia Memorial and then walked across the fields of Pickett's Charge.

Saturday evening brought one of the great highlights of the tour, a catered dinner at the Gettysburg Visitors Center. Imagine having the Visitors Center all to yourself with a viewing of the National Park Service movie about Gettysburg, narrated by Morgan Freeman, an unhurried and uncrowded view of the incomparable cyclorama and time to take in all of the museum.

Sunday morning, before returning home, we visited the Spangler Farm, a beautifully preserved and restored property owned by the Gettysburg Foundation. Perfectly located between the Taneytown Road and the Baltimore Pike, it became the XI Corps Field Hospital. The barn, where operations occurred, the farm house, and the summer kitchen, where Confederate General Lewis Armistead died, are pristine and the program is memorable and informative.

# Gettysburg Field Trip Cont.



The presentation on Civil War medicine inside the barn of the Spangler Farm, the XI Corps field hospital during the battle. This is where most amputations took place. Almost all the floor boards are original.

CFCWRT participants were Christina Grazer, Drew Peck, Tom Piech, John Bolger, Sr. and Bill Jayne. Guests John Bolger, Jr., and Joe Roman also enjoyed the tour.

We don't know where Cleveland's tour is headed next year, but I'm ready to sign up!



East Cemetery Hill, the end of the first day of fighting. Guide Jon Thompson gesturing in the center and Cleveland CWRT tour leader Bob Pence on the right wearing Union General's kepi.



Statue of Union General Gouverneur Warren on Little Round Top



## The Destruction of Civil War Sites Through Metal Detecting

By: Patrick H. Garrow, RPA

Most of us who are interested in Civil War history are aware of the continuing loss of Civil War battlefields, forts, and camp sites to development. What most are not aware of is the increasing lost opportunity to understand Civil War sites through metal detecting by hobbyists or looters. Civil War fortifications and landscapes are only part of the picture to understanding what went on within a Civil War site. Documentary history exists for most larger scale battles, and letters, drawings, and secondary histories provide insights into camp life and what at least some men on both sides faced daily. None of those sources provide a full, detailed account of what went on within a battle or the details of everyday life in both armies.

Removing artifacts from any archaeological site without proper recordation and maintenance of the chain of custody of the artifacts destroys part or in many cases all the information that site contains. It is important to think of every Civil War site as a unique book that contains information that can be important to understanding the past. Metal detection of that site and removing its metal artifacts can be tantamount to burning that book.

Those of us who have studied aspects of Civil War history in detail understand the biased or incomplete nature of documentary history. Official accounts and even the letters and diaries of those responsible for the historic record were often based on an incomplete understanding of the events they recorded. This was sometimes due to the fog of war or simply the inability to see beyond the small part of the event they observed. Accounts were often written to glorify the roles of the writers or to defend their mistakes.

The artifacts left behind by those who took part in a battle or lived on a campsite are often the only evidence through which an unbiased and more complete account of what occurred can be reconstructed. That ability no longer exists in cases where the artifacts have been removed. Systematic metal detecting in the hands of an expert can reveal the configuration of a Civil War camp and identification of the soldiers who occupied it, as well as the state of supply at a precise moment in time. Metal detecting on Civil War battlefields can yield important information on troop movements during the battle and the exact avenues of attacks and defenses during the battle.

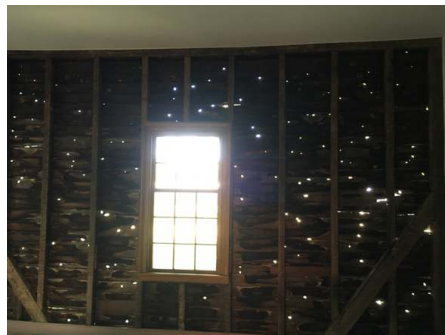
This author was based in Atlanta for many years as a professional archaeologist and investigated numerous Civil War sites. Those sites all had one unfortunate trait in common. Each site had been so completely metal detected by hobbyists or looters that they almost completely lacked metal artifacts. Fortifications survived in some cases, but the artifact content of the sites did not. There is no way to capture the information that has already been lost on Civil War sites. That loss is being increased every weekend through unregulated metal detecting on both private and public land. It is time we recognize the destruction of information on those sites and take steps to educate the public about this unfortunate problem.



## Two Haunting Photos from the Franklin Battlefield

By: Jim Gannon

Several civil war soldiers describe battles in which the bullets flew so thick that men bent forward as if they were walking into a rainstorm or a hail storm. This photo seems to illustrate how many bullets could be flying, almost randomly, about a Civil War battlefield.



The sunlight is shining through bullet holes made by Confederate fire. I took this photo from inside the farm office building at the Carter House on the Franklin Battlefield in Tennessee. This one room wooden building is just a few yards behind the Union line. There were about fifty or sixty yards between the opposing troops at this point on the line. The Union line consisted of shallow trenches hurriedly dug by the retreating Union forces after an all night forced march.

The Union force of roughly 27,000 men under Major General John Schofield was retreating as fast as possible toward Nashville, where prepared positions and more Union forces would welcome them.

However, the Union troops were delayed several hours at Franklin while a bridge was being repaired and that delay allowed the following Confederate Army of Tennessee to force a battle. Confederate General John Bell Hood who commanded roughly as many troops as Schofield was desperate to destroy this Union force separately before it could combine with the other Union forces in Nashville. So the Confederates attacked this line head on about 4PM and, unusual for the Civil War, kept on attacking in the darkness.

In the end, the Confederate attacks proved a disaster, as the Confederates suffered ruinous casualties that the South could never hope to replace, and during the night when the bridge was ready, Schofield's troops made the orderly withdrawal to Nashville that he intended.

The photo also calls to mind the remarks Heros von Borcke, a Prussian Army officer, who served with distinction on J. E. B. Stuart's staff. In his memoirs, Heros expressed his strong conviction that most casualties were caused by bullets aimed at someone other than the person who was hit.



Perhaps that was a bit of self delusion to justify what sometimes seemed like courage to the point of foolhardiness by Borcke and many other Civil War Officers who exposed themselves to enemy fire in order to inspire their troops. Nevertheless, the bullet holes all over the house suggest that Borcke could be right. In any event, the Confederate Officers at Franklin clearly led from the front.

Fourteen Confederate Generals became casualties (six killed, seven wounded and one captured.) Above is a photo of the back porch at the Carnton home where on the morning of December 1, 1864 lay the bodies of four Confederate Generals (Patrick Cleburne, Hiram Granbury, John Adams and Otho Strahl) while some of their troops said a final goodbye.

If you get the opportunity, it is a very haunting place to visit.

## American Battlefield Trust Recommended Reading List

The American Battlefield Trust recently announced a recommended reading list for both the Revolutionary War and the American Civil War. The Civil War books, many of which have been available at our monthly raffle, includes the Trusts first-ever book prize for exceptional works of history and biography.

In no particular order, except for the Trust's exceptional works recognition of Elizabeth Varon's Longstreet:

***Longstreet: The Confederate General Who Defied the South* by Elizabeth Varon**

***The American Heritage History of the Civil War* by Bruce Catton**

***The Battle Cry of Freedom* by James McPherson (Pulitzer Prize)**

***The Civil War: A Narrative* by Shelby Foote (Three volumes)**

***The Army of the Potomac* by Bruce Catton (Three volumes)**

The American Battlefield Trust, successor to The Civil War Trust, The Civil War Battlefield Trust and others similar organizations is the leader in saving America's history and hallowed ground. In addition to preserving forever over 58,000 acres of battlefield land, member commitment makes possible all aspects of the Trusts mission to preserve, educate and inspire. The Trust deserves your active support.





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