



CALL TO ARMS

Brunswick Civil War Round Table

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Location: Trinity United Methodist Church, 209 Nash St., Southport, across from the post office.
First Tuesday of each month (except July and August)
Registration: 6:30pm Program: 7:00pm

BCWRT is a 501 © (3) tax exempt organization formed in May 2010 by co-founders, Tom O'Donnell and Wally Rueckel.

In This Issue

Nicknames in the Civil War	2	Trivia Questions	5
Ed Bearss at Fort Caswell	2	January Speaker	6
150 Years Ago	2	Trivia Answers	6
The Ladies' Department	3	February Speaker	7
Confederate General Hill	4	Bentonville	8
Mosby and Patton	4	President's Message	8
Spencer Repeating Carbine	5		

The Ladies' Department

By Charen Fink

The focus for Black History Month will be on black women during the War Between the States who were either slaves or contributed in their own unique way to history. Unfortunately their names seldom, if ever, appear in history books or are known to the world except in specialty publications.

Mary Ann Shadd Cary (1823-1893) The eldest daughter in a free black family from Wilmington, DE, Cary became a noted journalist, abolitionist and advocate of women's rights. She and her family moved to Canada after the passage of the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850 and established a school for black émigrés. Publication of the Provincial Freeman in 1850 made her the first black female newspaper editor, a publication that she began. In the 1850s she lectured extensively and in 1869 she earned a law degree and actively campaigned for the women's suffrage.

Fanny Jackson Coppin (1837-1913) A former slave, it was her dream to receive an education. She became the first African-American woman to head a school for higher learning. An aunt bought her freedom after which she worked as a domestic to pay for tutoring. She graduated from Oberlin College of Ohio in 1865 going on to teach at Philadelphia's Institute for Colored Youth (now Cheyney University). In 1869 she became principal for thirty-seven years introducing a normal school and a department for industrial education.

Charlotte Darkey Parkhurst posed as a boy (Charlie Parkhurst) for twenty years to escape an orphanage. She drove a stagecoach. Only upon her death in 1879 was her true gender discovered.

Julia Shannon, a daguerreotypist, ran an advertisement in San Francisco in the 1850's declaring that, "Those wishing to have a good likeness are informed that they can have them taken in a very superior manner, and by a real live lady too." She also was listed as a midwife, offering twelve physicians as references.

Mary Fields, a former slave from Tennessee, was six-foot-tall and two hundred pounds. She wore trousers, chomped a cigar and carried a revolver and rifle. She was the only woman permitted to drink in saloons of Cascade, Montana. In 1884 she became a freight hauler in Montana. Later she delivered mail by stage, and while in her seventies, she opened her own laundry business.

Nettie Elizabeth Mills operated a boarding house and served as a member of the Omaha Stock Exchange. She also became the first woman to own and operate an oil-drilling rig.

Mary Ellen Pleasant (1814-1904) In 1850 she arrived in California with a price on her head as a result of her work with the Underground Railroad. Her deceased spouse left her with several thousand dollars with which she operated her own boarding house that catered to top-drawer businessmen and politicians. From there she invested in real estate. Legend has it that she contributed \$30,000 to fund John Brown's raid on Harpers Ferry. She sued two streetcar companies for refusing her right to board. However, she had the reputation as a voodoo artist suspected of once selling a woman occult love potions. Even in San Francisco it was incomprehensible in a white man's world that a black woman could succeed without using black magic. As she once quoted, "I run the show and I'm a whole theater in myself."

Ellen Craft, a light-skinned slave in Georgia escaped with her husband by disguising herself as a young white man traveling with his slave (husband William). She bandaged her right hand to hide the fact she could not write, pretended she was deaf to avoid conversations, wrapped her head to cover her beardless chin feigning a toothache and donned green glasses. They eventually made it to England and after the war returned to Georgia, bought a plantation and established a school for black children.

References: Collins, Gail. America's Women. Harper Collins, 2003.
Stephens, Autumn. Wild Women. Berkley, CA: Conari Press, 1992.
"Women In The Workplace." *Women's History*. Vol.II No. 1 Spring/Summer 1996, Pg. 24.
"1820-1880." *Women's History*. Vol.I No. 1, 1995, pgs. 34, 36.

Col. John Mosby and Gen. George Patton, III

Some fascinating information has come to light regarding the cross generational friendship between Col. John S. Mosby (1833-1916) and Gen. George Patton III (1885-1945).

Thanks to a book entitled *Ordeal and Triumph*, by Ladislav Farago (1963), we learn that during his childhood George Patton's home was often frequented by many ex-military friends of his father's step father, Col. Smith, who was a cavalryman during the Civil War. Young "Georgie", who didn't go to school until he was 12, thrived on the tales of military feats and exploits told by the guests, who were now in their 60's.

One was Col. John Mosby, who related strategies and the glories of past engagements to his young friend. With the now "toothless old railroad lawyer," as the author calls Mosby, George rode his pony pretending to be Robert E. Lee, reliving maneuvers and battle events of the heroic past with Mosby coaching him. It's also a fact that young Patton became a superior rider like his mentor.

Mosby probably knew Patton's grandfather, who fought with the 22nd VA, one of six brothers who fought in the war. All six were wounded, two mortally. George's grandfather, a "swashbuckling Virginian," organized the Kanawha Rifles and became Brig. Gen. George Smith Patton I. He was killed at age 26 by a Union cavalry saber at Cedar Creek in 1862. One of his brothers, Waller Tazewell Patton, was killed at Gettysburg during Pickett's Charge.

So a friendship is defined between a child and an old war hero, both intrigued by all things military. Mosby did live long enough to know that George fought in the Mexican Punitive Expedition of 1916. But who could anticipate that a matchless guerilla cavalryman from a bygone era was coaching a future master of armored warfare, and that their military careers would peak 75 years apart?

Submitted by Barbara Lawter

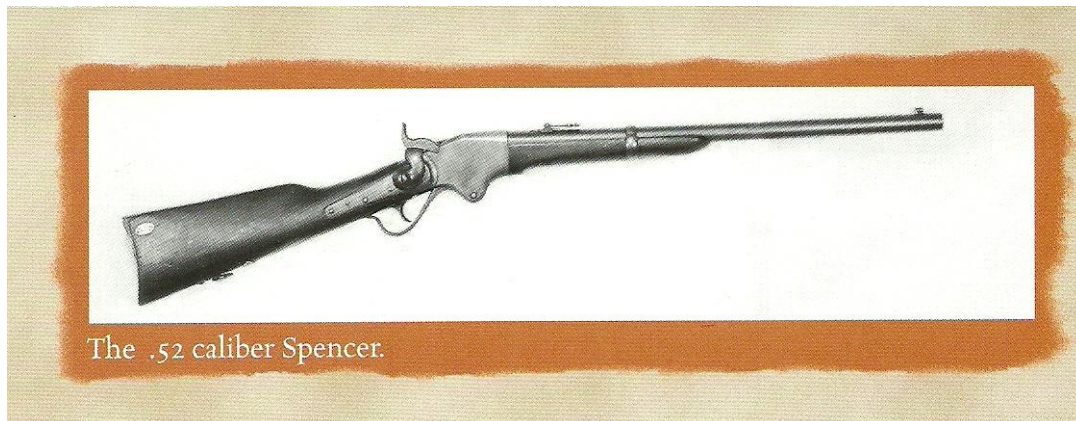
Daniel Harvey Hill (1821-1889)

Born and raised in South Carolina's York District, he graduated from West Point in 1842. In 1849, he resigned from the Army, having served in the Mexican War. He moved to Lexington, Va., to teach mathematics at Washington College. In 1854, he married the sister of Stonewall Jackson's second wife and moved to N.C. By 1859, he was Superintendent of North Carolina Military Institute. When war came, he was selected as Col., 1st North Carolina.

After his service at Big Bethel, he was promoted to Brigadier General on July 10, 1861. By March 1862, he was promoted to Major General, leading his division in the Peninsular Campaign, and served well at Second Manassas, South Mountain and Sharpsburg. On July 11, 1863, he was promoted to Lt. General (from NC), while defending Richmond during Lee's invasion of PA. Hill was then sent west, to join Bragg's Army of Tennessee. At Chickamauga, Bragg had three Lt. Generals, Hill, Polk and Longstreet. However, Bragg organized his army into a two wing force, under Longstreet and Polk, thus insulting the sensitive D. H. Hill. Bragg blamed Hill for the lost opportunity at McLemore's Cove, just prior to the Battle of Chickamauga. Bragg was not much happier with Hill during the battle on September 19-20, 1863. Bragg and Hill were both known for having difficult personalities, and their disputes would only grow worse with time. Hill would soon be engaged in a letter campaign with both Bragg, and his main supporter, Jefferson Davis. Davis sided with Bragg and refused to send Hill's commission to Lt. General, to Congress, for approval. So, in effect, Hill had served as Lt. General, from July 19-Oct. 15, 1863, without ever officially holding that rank. Hill's commission was never confirmed and he was soon relieved of his command in the Army of Tennessee, and put on the shelf. Hill saw a little service at Petersburg, in 1864, but remained inactive until he joined Johnston, and fought at Bentonville in 1865. After he surrendered with Johnston, at Bennett Place, he remained in NC, until 1877. That year, he became the president of the University of Arkansas. In 1885, he moved again, to be president of what became Georgia Military Academy until his death in 1889.

Submitted by Mike Powell

SPENCER REPEATING CARBINE¹



Patented by Christopher Spencer, of Conn., in 1860 as the first successful breech loading repeating carbine. By 1864 it had become the standard weapon of Union cavalry. Not long after, Union infantry were getting more guns and by 1865, the government had purchased 77,181 Spencers and 60 million rounds of ammunition. The tubular magazine carried 7-.52 caliber self contained cartridges. Each man carried 70 cartridges. They gave the holders of such weapons a significant advantage, especially over Confederate cavalry armed with muzzle loaders. Even when the Confederates captured a Spencer, they had no ammunition to make it work.

John T. Wilder served in the western theater throughout his career. He recognized the value of the weapon long before the generals in Washington. He wanted to form a command of mounted infantry using the Spencer Rifles. The unit would ride to trouble spots, then fight like infantry with the Spencers. He offered to mortgage personal property to back a loan from the government to buy his unit the weapons and ammunition, but the government backed his plan, without collateral, and bought the weapons for the brigade. Each man would pay back \$35.00, over time, through their paychecks. It was not a hard plan to sell to his men. They knew the repeating rifle gave them a better chance of staying alive.

¹ Boatner, Civil War Dictionary, David McKay Company, New York, 1959.

CIVIL WAR TRIVIA QUESTIONS

- 1) Which Southern state was the industrial leader?
- 2) What kind of game was "hotjackets"?
- 3) This machine had one barrel and bullets were fired by pouring bullets into a hopper on its top. What was it?
- 4) This Confederate Machine Gun was mounted on a carriage and fired paper cartridges. It was used at Battle of Seven Pines. Can you name it?
- 5) What was the nickname of the Union's First Brigade, First Division, I Corps?
- 6) In what city was the Democratic Convention held, in 1860?
- 7) Who were the "Wide Awakes"?
- 8) What was Stonewall Jackson's nickname at VMI?
- 9) What event was McClellan sent to observe in 1855?
- 10) Whom did Sherman marry and what was notable about her?

January's Speaker Ed Bearss "VICKSBURG THE GIBRALTAR OF THE WEST"

If a written history of the Vicksburg Campaign could talk, it would probably sound like Ed. What a grand and factual stroll the "Pied Piper" of Civil War knowledge led. His energy, passion and sheer entertainment value is hard to beat. We followed like lemmings. Google Ed Bearss. It will take 30 minutes to absorb his honors, contributions and vast knowledge base. Don't read fast but allow yourself to be convinced that Ed is a National Treasure. Great news, members, WE astonished Ed! Nowhere, he said, has he found a Civil War Roundtable organized, mobilized and homogenized better or faster than ours.

Please, spread the good news. Those in attendance saw that Ed lectures with eyes closed. I asked why? "Dan," he said, "that way I can view the entire campaign." What a gift. You heard his use of personification as he clearly nails "the original Tricky Dick." He shows us why Gideon Welles accurately skewers General Halleck as the man who DOES nothing, INITIATES nothing and ACCOMPLISHES nothing. Notice how Ed builds a clear case for the "snookering" Major General John A. McClernand got at the hands of Sherman. Grant hijacked an entire army! Was Mother Nature against Grant or as Ed asks: "Is it a wise chicken that only cackles when it lays an egg??" Nevertheless, Ed has us agreeing that it is "a definite advantage for a Civil War General to be far, far away from Washington." No one tells Grant NOT to attack on a three mile front and FINALLY, Porter's gunboats "get it right." Now the Mississippi, with one small exception, is forever in Union hands.

"Unconditional Surrender Grant" wisely adjusts; pardoning huge numbers of Confederate prisoners and (well on his way down the road to destiny) uses this victory to become known as U.S. Grant. He could have been known as HUG but you had to be there to know why. If you missed Ed, fear not, as we have many more sterling presentations coming your way. We Love Ya, Ed, and thank you deeply for all you do or have done to promote Civil War knowledge in your 88 years on this earth.



Ed Bearss, Wally Rueckel, Tom O'Donnell



Chris Fonvielle, Bert Felton, Ed Bearss

CIVIL WAR TRIVIA ANSWERS

- 1) Virginia
- 2) Two opponents would attack each other with hickory switches.
- 3) The Ager Coffee Mill Gun.
- 4) The Williams Machine Gun
- 5) The Iron Brigade
- 6) Charleston, SC
- 7) Enthusiastic Lincoln supporters who held nighttime rallies by torchlight.
- 8) "Tom Fool"
- 9) The Crimean War
- 10) Eleanor Ewing and she was his childhood friend.

Thank You

We thank the following people for donating their time and talents to making the January meeting with Ed Bearss a great success:

- Accommodations for Historian Ed Bearss have been donated by historic Lois Jane's Riverview Inn (1892) and Riverside Motel in downtown Southport. They are proud to support the Brunswick Civil War Round Table, therefore, anyone attending tonight's meeting may experience their hospitality at 50% off regular room rates by presenting tonight's program till March 15, 2011. Visit www.loisjanes.com or call (910)457-6701 for further information.
- Jerry Dycus, seasoned videographer and a pro in all phases of production and editing videotape. He may be contacted at jdycus@ec.rr.com or (910) 253-0189.
- Town of St. James for the use of the new Community Center, Walt Madsen (Comm. Ctr. Project manager) for keeping us informed as to occupancy for the meeting and Robin Schuster (Community Center Manager) for scheduling us.
- Star News in Wilmington for the extensive media coverage.
- Ben Brown Harper of the Southport Port Pilot newspaper for their extensive media coverage.,
- All of the Round Table volunteers for their dedicated efforts and work in planning, setting up, manning the various positions and finally cleaning up the hall afterwards.

Kudos to all. We had approximately 235 in attendance with 67 new members, 49 visitors and 58 women.



Upcoming February Speaker

This will be a program of interest to Civil War buffs as well as those interested in knowing more about this period in our history. It's about the importance and impact women played during this period, their daily lives, trials and tribulations. The program is guaranteed to be informative and entertaining; of interest to both sexes; and, a way to gain insight about the War beyond battles, military personnel and munitions.

Guest presenter: Charen Fink, R.N., M.Ed., and a living history interpreter. Charen is a Civil War historian and presenter, sharing interesting stories and facts with audiences for over 20 years. Her affiliations are most impressive: Past president of the Mahoning Valley Civil War Round Table, also a member of The Society of Civil War Surgeons, National Museum of Civil War Medicine, and Society of Women of the Civil War. She will be presenting in period dress. And to show solidarity, other Round Table officers, directors and committee members will also wear their Civil War era attire to provide

a better perspective of 19th century. Feel free to do the same if you are so inclined!

18th National Conference of the Society of Civil War Surgeons to be held at the Crowne Plaza Williamsburg at Fort Magruder April 1st, 2nd and 3rd. Conference includes a day trip to The Mariners' Museum. Log in to www.civilwarsurgeons.org for more information. Speakers includes doctors, PhDs, a DVM, dentists, nurses and others.

BENTONVILLE TRIP

We are starting to get some interest in the **April 11th** trip to Bentonville Battlefield, so check your calendars. We have a 45 passenger bus lined up to take us on the trip. On the way up, we will provide information on the 1865 Carolina Campaign to give everybody a better understanding of what they are going to see, and how it all fits together. Donny Anderson, battlefield guide, will lead the tour on the ground, and we will see where the last grand Confederate charge took place. We plan to leave at 8:00 am and return about 5:30 pm. The \$65.00 price includes the bus, lunch, tour and handouts for the battlefield. We need a minimum of 30 people, but the more who commit to going the less the cost will be to each person.

If you want to read up on the battle before the trip, take a look at these three books.

Bradley, Mark. Last Stand in the Carolinas: The Battle of Bentonville, Savas Woodbury Publishing Co., Campbell, Ca. 1996.

Hughes, Nathaniel Chairs. Bentonville, University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill, 1996.

Moore, Mark. Moore's Historical Guide to the Battle of Bentonville, Savas Publishing Co., Campbell, Ca., 1997.

To register or get answers to questions, please contact Mike Powell. (mpowell6@ec.rr.com)

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

WOW! It took a full day after Ed Bearss left on Thursday before my adrenalin returned to normal levels. Wasn't Ed great! I hope you enjoyed his style and message as much as I did. I expect most of you felt our pre-meeting description of Ed was exaggerated. However, most people I talked with after seeing Ed in action Wednesday felt our descriptions were right on. Tom O'Donnell and I had the pleasure of taking a one week tour with Ed on the Vicksburg campaign battlefields in November 2009. His knowledge and asides flowed just as they did Wednesday night. His pace when walking the battlefields was that of a marine drill sergeant. We knew right then that we had to get Ed to our round table. Please read the speaker summary for more coverage of Ed's talk.

I would like to echo the thank you that Charen makes elsewhere in this newsletter. There were a lot of people and organizations that helped make Wednesday's program memorable and successful for all of us. THANKS!

We promised when we started this round table to organize historically interesting and relevant tours of Civil War sites. We have already covered Fort Caswell, and elsewhere in this newsletter we have a short note about a one day trip to the Bentonville, NC battlefield organized for April 11th. Please sign-up!

We are also putting the finishing touches on a three night trip to the Seven Day battlefields around Richmond, Virginia October 15-18. We have lined up a well-know Civil War historian and guide, Robert E Lee Krick (yes that is his name), who has offered to lead our tour at no extra fee to him. We will be giving you full details within the next month.

Reserve this date!

Our next meeting is Tuesday, February 1st. We return to our normal time and meeting place which is covered elsewhere in this newsletter. Our presenter, Charen Fink, will give her presentation in period attire, as will some of our officers and directors. See if you recognize me in the crowd.