



The Watch Fire

Newsletter of the North Carolina Civil War Tourism Council, Inc.

Chairman's/Editor's Note

It would seem that the worst of summer is now behind us. Looking at the forecast for this week, I see no temperatures above 86 degrees and the lows at night are finally below 70. For my wife and I, autumn is the best time of year. Her favorite holiday is Halloween, mine is Thanksgiving, our anniversary is in October, and we both love the cooler weather. Autumn is also a very busy time of year for us and it certainly is no different this year.

I hope that all of you are excitedly anticipating our upcoming symposium in Plymouth on October 14. It is going to be a terrific event along with the naval encampment that will be in Plymouth that weekend and I would urge all of you to get your registration in if you haven't already. The deadline for early registration is Monday, October 10 and registration the day of the symposium will cost you \$5 extra, so get your registration to us now. Please help us make this a successful program!

Two weeks after our symposium the North Carolina Maritime History Council will sponsor its annual conference in Onslow County. There are some good Civil War topics being discussed at that program as well. Finally, there are living history programs going on at a number of different sites around the state in October, November, and December including programs at Averagesboro and the CSS *Neuse*. I encourage you to go to as many of these programs as you can this fall, as well as attending your local Civil War Roundtable meetings. It's a great time of year for learning and I hope you will take advantage of all the opportunities that are out there!

Andrew Dupstadt
CSS *Neuse* State Historic Site
Chairman/Editor, NCCWTC



2005 NC Civil War Tourism Council Symposium

The Program

October 14, 2005 Grace Episcopal Church Parish Hall, Plymouth

12 noon – Registration/check-in

1 p.m. – Welcome/opening remarks

1:15 p.m. – **Mr. Mike Kochan**, “Infernal Machines:” The Development and Use of Torpedoes During the Civil War

2:15 p.m. – BREAK

2:30 p.m. – **Mr. Brian Diveley**, USS *Otsego* and USS *Bazely*
(two U.S. gunboats sunk near Plymouth by torpedoes)

3:30 p.m. – BREAK

4:00 p.m. – **Dr. Chris E. Fonvielle, Jr.**, A Reappraisal of Lieutenant William B. Cushing’s Attack on the CSS *Albemarle*

5:30 p.m. – DINNER

7:00 p.m. – **Dr. William N. Still, Jr.**, Shipbuilding in North Carolina During the Civil War

Optional

October 15, 2005 Place and Time TBA

Dinner and Lecture by **Mr. Mark Ragan**, Development of Submarine Warfare During the Civil War.

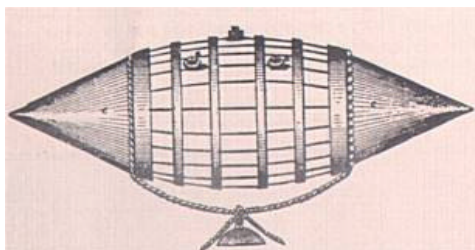
Cost of Symposium

Friday = \$25 per person

Friday and Saturday = \$40 per person

All living history events associated with the Navy/Marine encampment on Saturday are open to the public and some speakers will be featured at various times of the day. Port-o-Plymouth Museum and other local attractions will also be open, but may require a small admission fee.

To obtain a registration packet email or call Andrew Duppsstadt at andrew.duppsstadt@ncmail.net or (252) 522-2091.





National Naval Event

Plymouth, North Carolina
14-16 October 2005

The Navy and Marine Living History Association (NMLHA), the Ship's Company of the Roanoke and the Tidewater Maritime Living History Association would like to extend an invitation to you and your unit to attend the First Biennial Civil War Navy Encampment. This event, a dream for many, will be held October 14-16, 2005 on the waterfront at Plymouth, NC. Activities shall include:

Friday Symposium sponsored by the North Carolina Civil War Tourism Council featuring such topics as the exploration of the USS *Bazley* & USS *Otsego* wreck, torpedo warfare with "Evil Mike" Kochan among others.

A school of the sailor focusing on areas including (but not limited to): gun and skirmish drills, marlinspike seamanship, technology during the WBTS, navigation (including actual use of the sounding lead and chip log), and coxswain training utilizing *Picket Boat No. 1* replica.

Saturday evening dinner with Mark Ragan (author of "Submarine Warfare in the Civil War").

Battles (for the public) on Saturday and Sunday.

Admission for the public is free, but will be limited to a Quarterdeck area and certain of the class areas. All participating crews will take a turn manning the Quarterdeck display area to answer visitors' questions; this will free up the camps and participants for classes. We plan to run all classes at least twice a day, so if you miss one while on the Quarterdeck, you'll have a chance to take the course later. Visitors to the class areas will not be allowed to interrupt instruction; rather, each such area will have an interpreter on hand to answer questions.

North Carolina Maritime History Council Sets Sail in Onslow County, October 27-29

The NC Maritime History Council will hold its 15th Annual conference, “Mariners, Marines, and Merchants: Onslow County’s Maritime Heritage” on October 27-29. Events for each day are as follows:

Thursday, October 27 – tour of the Pelletier House and seafood chowder tasting hosted by the Onslow County Historical Society; reception and program at the Onslow County Museum featuring Jessica Curci, “Logboats of North Carolina: Studying Vernacular Boats of the South”

Friday, October 28 – morning speakers at the county multipurpose complex:
Dr. Alan Watson, “Maritime History and Heritage of Onslow County”
Dennis Jones, “Connecting Onslow County’s Historical Geography and Toponymy to its Maritime History”
Albert Potts, “How Architecture and the Maritime World Meet”
Franklin Price, “Shipwrecks of the Roanoke”
Chris McCabe, “Maritime Commerce on the Tar River”
Brian Diveley, “Investigations of the Civil War Gunboat USS *Otsego*”

Afternoon guided historical tour of Camp Lejeune and MCAS New River with Colonel Kim Kimball

Evening dinner at the MCAS New River Officer’s Club with special guest Dr. David Cecelski, “Men’s Souls: The Upheaval of World War II on the North Carolina Coast”

Saturday, October 29 – morning speakers at Hammocks Beach State Park:
Dr. Wade Dudley, “The British Blockade of the US in the War of 1812”
Dr. Lindley Butler, “High Seas Raiders of the War of 1812: Blakely and Burns”
Michael Robinson, “John Taylor Wood and the Sinking of the USS *Underwriter*”
Dr. Chris Fonvielle, “Civil War Raiders: CSS *Chickamauga* and CSS *Tallahassee*”

Walking tour of Historic Downtown Swansboro

Registration for the conference is \$75 before October 7, \$90 after October 7, or \$50 for a single day. Registration includes a one year membership to the Council. The conference hotel is the Best Western Courtyard Resort in Jacksonville. Reservations prior to October 1 will \$55.00 per night provided you cite “Onslow County Tourism” when you make reservations. The hotel number is (910) 455-4100.

For further information on the conference contact Harry Warren at harry.warren@ncmail.net or (910) 914-4185 or Paul Fontenoy at paul.fontenoy@ncmail.net or (252) 728-7317.



November 19-20, 2005 Annual Civil War Living History

**Navy, Marines, Artillery (8 cannons), Blacksmiths,
Civilian Interpretation, Sutlers, and More**

**Program hours are as follows:
Saturday, Nov. 19 – 10 am to 4 pm, 7 pm after dark artillery
Sunday, Nov. 20 – 12 noon to 4 pm**

**The CSS Neuse State Historic Site is located at
2612 West Vernon Avenue in Kinston
Next to Massey Toyota and across from Auto Brite**

Don't Miss Our Biggest Program of the Year!!!



**CSS Neuse State Historic Site
CSS Neuse Gunboat Association, Inc.
(252) 522-2091 or cssneuse@ncmail.net**

Archaeological Dig Planned

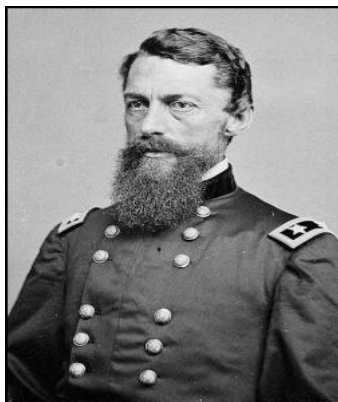
The Salisbury Confederate Prison Association, Inc. has announced its plans for an archaeological dig to begin on September 7 on the site of the former Confederate stockade. The prison, which housed Union POWs, Confederate and Union deserters, and civilians during the 1861-1865 period, was destroyed by the troops of General George Stoneman when they occupied Salisbury in April 1865.

Sue Curtis, President of the Salisbury Confederate Prison Association, Inc., says that the general location of the prison is known but the exact boundaries of the stockade fence which surrounded the 16-acre enclosure have long been a mystery. Now, with the assistance of Wake Forest University archaeologist Ken Robinson and his staff it is hoped that the mystery can be solved.

Two digs in the past were unsuccessful in locating any foundations. However, Curtis is cautiously optimistic that with new technology, such as ground penetrating radar, and the discovery of a prison map drawn after the war for use in the 1866 trial of a former commandant, at least some of the prison's fence location can be proven. If this happens the position of the various buildings that were within the stockade can be pinpointed.

Much of the grounds on which the military prison was situated are now covered with streets and houses but many landowners in the area have been generous in granting permission for the archaeologists to do research on their property. Curtis says that the City of Salisbury has been most cooperative in her group's efforts and the citizens of the community are anxiously awaiting the results of this new dig.

Contact Person: Sue Curtis, 704- 637-6411, southpaws@salisbury.net , website: www.salisburyprison.net



General Stoneman

EVENTS CALENDAR

Editor's Note: Certainly this is but a partial listing of all that is going on at North Carolina's sites and within the various Civil War Roundtables. If you would like to have any of your site's or group's events or meetings published in this newsletter please send them in advance to Andrew Duppsstadt at andrew.duppsstadt@ncmail.net or PO Box 3043, Kinston, NC 28502. *The Watch Fire* is published quarterly so plan ahead!

Upcoming Events

October 8, 2005, Bentonville Battlefield State Historic Site, Four Oaks. Fall Civilian Living History program. For more information contact the site at (910) 594-0789 or bentonville@ncmail.net.

October 14-16, 2005, Plymouth. NCCWTC Symposium and National Naval encampment. See articles above.

October 20-22 and 27-29, 2005, Museum of the Cape Fear Historical Complex, Fayetteville. A Ghastly Ghost Tour. Hour-long hayrides throughout Fayetteville depicting vignettes that portray a chronology of the Civil War. Departure point is Arsenal Park. Contact Meredith Stiehl for registration information at (910) 261-9105.

October 27-29, 2005, Onslow County. 15th Annual North Carolina Maritime History Council Symposium. See article above.

October 29, 2005, Averasboro Battlefield, living history event. Military drills, firing demonstrations, skirmishes, 18th and 19th century civilian and military displays, battlefield and museum tours, and a Civil War ghost walk. Event runs from 9 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. For more information call (910) 891-5019 or go to the website, www.averasboro.com.

November 19-20, 2005, CSS *Neuse* State Historic Site, Kinston. Annual Navy/Marine Living History. Expanded program to include more civilian activities, sutlers, etc. For more information contact cssneuse@ncmail.net.

November 20, 2005, Museum of the Cape Fear Historical Complex, Fayetteville. LIVE! at the Arsenal. Tours of the arsenal and living history presentations by the Arsenal Guard from 1 - 5 p.m. Call Rachel at (910) 486-1330 or email mcfhc@infionline.net.

December 3, 2005, Tryon Palace Historic Sites and Gardens, New Bern. Christmas 1861 in New Bern Civil War encampment. Reenactors from the 7th North Carolina and Ellis' Battery artillery portray the only Confederate Christmas in New Bern. Medical display, navy displays, and civilian activities also presented. For more information call (252) 514-4900.

December 3, 2005, Bentonville Battlefield State Historic Site, Four Oaks. Christmas Open House. For more information contact the site at (910) 594-0789 or bentonville@ncmail.net.

December 3, 2005, Museum of the Albemarle, Elizabeth City, *Santa Claus is Comin' to Town!* Immediately following the Elizabeth City Christmas Parade come to the museum to see historical Santas, including the famous 19th century Clement Moore/Thomas Nast version. Visitors will be able to make crafts, have refreshments and enjoy musical entertainment. For more information contact Howard Draper at (252) 335-1453 or howard.draper@ncmail.net.

December 4, 2005, Museum of the Cape Fear Historical Complex, Fayetteville. Holiday Jubilee. A complex-wide event featuring seasonal music, tours, cooking demonstrations, and ornament making workshop. Living history vignettes portraying Christmas at the arsenal. Contact Rachel at (910) 486-1330 or mcfhc@infionline.net.

Roundtable News

We will gladly print Civil War Roundtable schedules if we have the information far enough in advance. Please send your schedules to me at andrew.duppstadt@ncmail.net and the get the word out!

Surry County CWRT – The Surry County Civil War Roundtable meets the first Tuesday of every month from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. in the meeting room of the Mount Airy Public Library on Rockford Street. Everyone is welcome to come for an informal discussion of topics related to the Civil War. For more information contact surrycountycwrt@yahoo.com or call John Cail at (336) 786-6942.

Civil War Roundtable of Eastern North Carolina – The Civil War Roundtable of Eastern North Carolina meets the fourth Thursday of every month at Golden Corral, 209 Freedom Way (NC Hwy. 24), Jacksonville. Buffet supper begins at 6:00 p.m., followed by the meeting starting at 6:30. For further information call (910) 347-5287 or (910) 326-1631.

October 27 – Paul Switzer of New Bern will discuss life in New Bern under Union occupation after 1862

November 17 - TBA

Raleigh Civil War Roundtable – The Raleigh Civil War Roundtable meets the second Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Agricultural Building in the Wake County Office park, just off Poole Road at I-440, exit 15 (outside the beltline). For more information contact Bob Farrell at cwfan2@aol.com or Charles Hawks at charleshawks@nc.rr.com.

October 10 – Eric Wittenburg, “Stuart vs. Hampton”

November 14 – Raymond Beck, Historian at the NC State Capitol will discuss the Capitol during the war

December 12 – Christmas program

January 21 – Annual luncheon with Ed Bearss

February 13 – Speaker from the Civil War Preservation Trust

Fort Macon Civil War Roundtable – The Fort Macon Civil War Roundtable meets the fourth Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. in the Student Union Building on the campus of Carteret Community College in Morehead City. For more information contact John Rhodes at croatan2@aol.com.

October 25 – Brian Kraus will speak on the Battle of Perryville, KY.

November 22 – David Burnette will tell the story of the steamer *Maple Leaf*

December 7 – Annual Christmas dinner at Finz Grill in Morehead City

January 24 – Alan Ballard will discuss Civil War medicine

Arsenal Park Roundtable (Fayetteville) – The Arsenal Park Roundtable meets on the last Thursday of every other month at the Museum of the Cape Fear Historical Complex. Meetings start at 7:00 p.m. For more information call Jim Greathouse at (910) 486-1330.

November 17 – Jim Greathouse, “Construction of the Fayetteville Arsenal, 1838-59”

January 26 – 5th Annual Civil War Quiz Bowl

Cape Fear Civil War Roundtable (Wilmington) – meets the second Thursday of each month from September through May at 7:00 p.m. at St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church, located at the intersection of Airlie Road, Wrightsville Avenue, and Military Cutoff Road. For more information contact Dr. Chris Fonvielle at crefon@bellsouth.net or (910) 792-9091.

October 13 – Jack Travis, “Artillery at Gettysburg”

November 10 – TBA

December 8 – Tonia Smith, Topic TBA

January 12 – Kim Kimball, “Cushing’s Jacksonville NC Raid”

February 9 – Mark Bradley, “Monroe’s Crossroads/Battle of Averagesboro”

March 9 – Trip/Tour of Monroe’s Crossroads/Averagesboro

April 13 – Rich Zawacki – “Elon J. Farnsworth”

May 11 – Eric Wittenburg, Topic TBA

North Carolina Civil War Roundtable (Burlington) – meets on the third Saturday of every other month (January, March, May, July, September, and November). Meetings are held at K&W Cafeteria, 2629 Ramada Road in Burlington. Social hour begins at 6:00 p.m. followed by dinner and a speaker at 6:30 p.m. For more information contact Dr. Eugene Adcock at eadcock@triad.rr.com or Tom Barrows at tbarr100@aol.com. You may inquire about the cost of dinner and reserve a seat.

November 19 – Richard Sommers, “The Generalship of Robert E. Lee and the Civil War in the East

Western NC Civil War Roundtable – meets the second Monday of each month from September through April in room 215 of the Jackson County Criminal Justice Building in Sylva. Refreshments and social hour start at 6:30 followed by a 7:00 meeting. For more information go to the web page at www.wnccwrt.org or email rozchris@earthlink.net.

October 10 – Tom Lowery, “Sex in the Civil War”

November 14 – Max Williams, “Reconstruction in NC: Carpetbaggers, Scalawags, Klansmen, and Freedmen”

December 12 – Wayne Erbsen, a program of Civil War music

January 9 – Jim Hoobler, “The Battle of Nashville”

February 13 – Jim Allen, “Myles Keogh”

March 13 – Tom Perry, “J.E.B. Stuart”

April 10 – Pat Falci, “A.P. Hill”

