



The Watch Fire

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

Chairman's Note

I hope everyone is enjoying the final days of summer and is as ready for the upcoming fall season as I am! It has indeed been a busy and exciting summer for our Civil War sites throughout the state and with visitation up and visitor interest high, it looks to be a busy fall as well.

As the new Chairman of the NC Civil War Tourism Council I would like to thank Andrew Dupstadt for his tireless efforts and superb leadership during his tenure as chairman for the past two years. Andrew's vast knowledge of Civil War history and the tourism industry is a valuable asset and I am thankful that he will stay on the board as Vice Chairman. Also, I want to express my many thanks to departing Vice Chairman Jim McPherson. Jim's sound advice and calm leadership will be missed but it is helpful to know that he is just "a phone call away".

There are some exciting things going on in the NC Civil War Tourism Council as we look to the coming year! Some of the many projects we are working on include implementing a grants program to financially aid Civil War sites and initiatives throughout the state, co-hosting a symposium on the Burnside Expedition at the Museum of the Albemarle in February 2007, and via outreach programs and information sharing, helping increase the visibility of our state's Civil War sites and agencies. As we head into 2007, we are pursuing various initiatives that will hopefully expand the role of the NC Civil War Tourism Council and look for new ways to serve our mission. With that said, the ultimate success of the NC Civil War Tourism Council rests with you...our membership! Look for ways to get involved in your community, volunteer at your local Civil War site or agency, look for ways to enhance Civil War initiatives in your area and get involved in the NC Civil War Tourism Council. With everyone working together, we can guarantee that the sites our thousands of visitors see each year will be around for future generations of tourists that visit the state!

Jeff Bockert
Chairman, NC Civil War Tourism Council



Civil War Trails Update from Executive Director Mitch Bowman

New sites are coming online in a number of counties around the state. Those counties include Burke, Davidson, Pitt, Iredell, Jackson, Onslow, Rutherford, Madison, and Macon. Also, there will be markers going up in the City of Wilmington.

The North Carolina Civil War Trails are being promoted in the dual state Virginia/Maryland map guides. There are 1.5 million of those brochures scattered over 506 sites in those two states. The North Carolina statewide map-guide should be out by early March!

Anyone with additional sites to include on the Civil War Trails should contact Mitch Bowman at hmb7@cox.net or (804) 783-7423 or Teresa Watts at twatts@nccommerce.com.



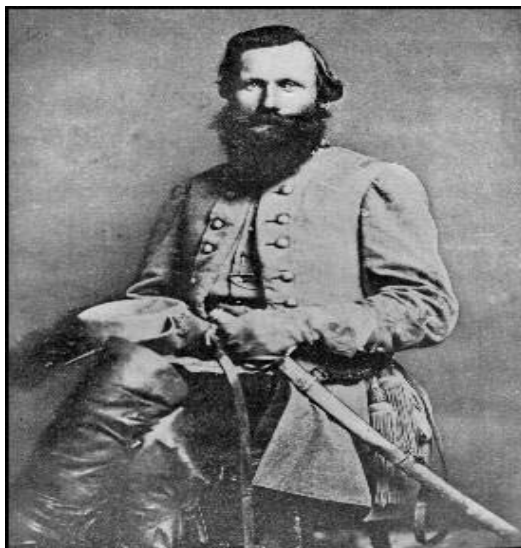
Mark Your Calendars! Dedication of Goldsboro Battlefield

Please mark your calendars for Sunday, December 17, 2006. At 2:00 p.m. that day, there will be a dedication ceremony held on the original 1862 Goldsboro battlefield. The day's activities will include reenactors and weapons demonstrations. Local historians and community leaders will be on hand to dedicate Civil War Trails markers and to interpret the site to the public. Everyone is encouraged to tour the new 32 acre park and pay homage to the brave men, both North and South, who fought and died on this site 144 years ago.

Directions: Traveling South on Highway 117, cross the Neuse River bridge and turn left at the light onto "Old Mount Olive Highway." The site is approximately 1/4 mile on the left (look for the Civil War Trails trailblazer sign). For more info contact betsyr@waynecountychamber.com, Randy.Sauls@rels.info, or Danny.Davis@BBandT.com.

16th Annual Encampment at J.E.B. Stuart Birthplace

The J.E.B. Stuart Birthplace Preservation Trust will commemorate the contribution of the Perry family to the preservation of Laurel Hill at the 16th Annual Encampment, to be held on October 7-8. The commemoration ceremony will be held at 1:00 p.m., October 7. An inscribed, polished granite marker will be installed inside the enclosed main flagpole area in honor of Erie Meredith and Betty Hobbs Perry, and their many contributions to the formation of the Trust. They are the parents of historian Thomas D. Perry. Thomas Perry's interest in the birthplace of General Stuart began at an early age and was fostered and supported by his mother. When the land that now comprises Laurel Hill became available in the early 1990s, Mr. and Mrs. Perry joined and actively supported the long and difficult task of raising the funds to purchase the property. They gave of their time, funds, and hard work to insure that the project came to fruition. It is difficult to imagine a more deserving couple for this honor. For more information on the encampment visit www.jebstuart.org and for more information about the history of Stuart's birthplace visit the Laurel Hill page www.freestateofpatrick.com.



New Civil War Music CD Available

Accomplished artist Derwin Hinson has just completed a new project entitled "Songs About an Era...the Civil War." A resident of Kure Beach, Mr. Hinson has played with such greats as Vern Gosdin and Bill Monroe. He has appeared at the Grand Ole Opry, Austin City Limits, and many other venues. He wrote 16 of the 17 songs on the CD. For more information contact (910) 470-1291, or to order a CD send \$14.95 to Songs About an Era, PO Box 767, Kure Beach, NC 28449.

31st Annual Homes Tour in Salisbury!

The Historic Salisbury Foundation will host its 31st annual tour of homes October 14 and 15, 2006. Salisbury, founded in 1753, contains an intriguing array of architectural styles. Homes on this year's tour represent architecture from the 1820s to the 1920s. Included on the tour is a Civil War encampment by the reenactors of the 63rd North Carolina Troops. They will reenact battle scenarios, conduct musket demonstrations, tell stories, answer questions, and conduct a lantern tour of the old Lutheran Cemetery on North Lee Street. Hours for the program are Saturday, 10 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. and Sunday, 1 p.m. until 5:30 p.m. The cost is \$16 in advance and \$20 on the day of the event. Special group rates are available. For more information contact the foundation at (704) 636-0103 or www.HistoricSalisbury.org.

Averasboro Battlefield Living History and Ghost Walk Scheduled

This annual event will be held on Saturday, October 28. Event will include military and civilian reenactors, displays, crafts, cannon and musket firing demonstrations, a skirmish reenactment, horse, pony, and wagon rides, battlefield tours, period music, and ghost tours. Admission for event is free; ghost walk admission is \$5 adults, \$3 ages 7-12, and free for under 7. For info contact (910) 891-5019 or www.averasboro.com.

Bennett Place State Historic Site Announces Film Series

Beginning in October, the third Friday of each month will be Civil War Cinema night at the Bennett Place State Historic Site in Durham. Various Civil War themed movies will be shown at the site, starting at 7 p.m. each night, and the movies are free to the public. The schedule for this film series is as follows:

October 20 – *Pharaoh's Army*
 November 17 – *Andersonville*
 December – **No Movie**
 January 19 – *Cold Mountain*
 February 16 – *Glory*
 March 16 – *Little Women*
 April 20 – *The Littlest Rebel*
 May 18 – *Wicked Spring*
 June 15 – *Gods and Generals*
 July 20 – *Gettysburg*

For more information on this film series contact the site at Bennett@ncmail.net or (919) 383-4345.

Civil War Navy Living History Program

Cannons will thunder and sailors and Marines will converge on the banks of the Neuse River once again on November 18 and 19, as the CSS Neuse State Historic Site, in Kinston, North Carolina, hosts its annual Civil War living history program. Hours are 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. on Saturday, 7 p.m. – 8 p.m. Saturday evening, and 12 noon – 4 p.m. on Sunday.

Members of several North Carolina and Virginia reenactment/living history organizations will be demonstrating all aspects of naval life including navigational techniques, daily shipboard living, and other nautical skills. This year's program will feature more Navy and Marines, as well as the addition of new civilian interpretations. Old South Blacksmiths will once again demonstrate how various items were made for the ship and for artillery units in the blacksmith shops in Kinston. They will also have some items for sale to the general public. There will be other sutlers/craftsmen at the program as well, including Heritage Leathers, Carolina Rose Emporium, and Bug Hill Military Miniatures.

This year's program will once more offer visitors a RARE OPPORTUNITY - a special artillery firing after dark Saturday. Gates will reopen at 6:30 p.m. and the demonstration will take place at 7:00 p.m. Visitors should bring a flashlight to help them find their way to the demonstration area. This is a SPECTACULAR demonstration on the banks of the Neuse!

The site orientation video, tours of the ship, and the site gift shop will be available both days. All activities are free of charge, but donations are gratefully accepted. The CSS *Neuse* State Historic Site and Governor Richard Caswell Memorial is an agency of the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources and is located at 2612 West Vernon Avenue in Kinston, next to Massey Toyota and across from Auto Brite. Signs mark the directions from US 70. For more information contact Andrew Duppstadt at 252-522-2091 or email us at cssneuse@ncmail.net.



Burnside Expedition Symposium Slated for February

On February 9-10, 2007 scholars from across the southeast and mid-Atlantic will gather at the Museum of the Albemarle in Elizabeth City to discuss the Burnside Expedition on its 145th anniversary. Dr. Richard Sauers, author of *A Succession of Honorable Victories: The Burnside Expedition in North Carolina*, will provide the keynote address as part of a Friday evening dinner session. On Saturday, the symposium will feature Christopher Meekins (“Interval of War: Local Response from the Fall of Hatteras to the Burnside Expedition”); Matthew Poteat (“We have disarmed ourselves to arm you’: Governor Henry T. Clark and Defense of Coastal North Carolina”); Jim Gaddis (“North Carolina’s Brigadier General Richard C. Gatlin and the Burnside Expedition”); and Richard Lawrence (“Underwater Archaeology of the Burnside Expedition”).

Advance registration is required for Friday evening; registration will be allowed at the door for Saturday only. Cost is \$25 for Friday, \$25 for Saturday, or \$40 for the entire weekend. There will also be a living history on the Museum Green during the program on Saturday. For more information or to register call the museum at (252) 335-1453.



Renowned Historian Ed Bearrs Making North Carolina Appearances in January

Mr. Bearrs will be appearing at the Raleigh Civil War Roundtable on Saturday, January 13, with the topic of his discussion to be announced. For more info go to www.raleighcwrt.org.

On Sunday, January 14, Mr. Bearrs will grace New Bern, first with a presentation at the Sudan Temple entitled “North Carolina at Gettysburg: The Continuing Controversy” at 2 p.m. The presentation will be followed by a social at the Atmore-Oliver House. For more information contact Horace Mewborn at neuser@always-online.com.



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 Dupstadt at andrew.dupstadt@ncmail.net or PO Box 3043, Kinston, NC 28502. *The Watch Fire* is published quarterly so plan ahead!

Upcoming Events

Saturday, October 7. Bentonville Battlefield State Historic Site, Four Oaks. Fall civilian living history program will feature civilian reenactors portraying life on the home front during the Civil War. For info contact (910) 594-0789 or email Bentonville@ncmail.net.

Saturday, October 7. Bennett Place State Historic Site, Durham. Fall living history program will feature harvest time demonstrations such as corn shelling and cider pressing, 19th century fiddle and banjo music, natural dyeing, candle dipping, and corn husk doll making. Hours of the program are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Contact Bennett@ncmail.net or (919) 383-4345 for more information.

Saturday, October 14. Hammocks Beach State Park, Swansboro. Living history program. Members of the Ship's Company of the Roanoke will be on hand to provide displays and demonstrations portraying the US Navy and Confederate Army in the Civil War. For more information contact andrew.dupstadt@ncmail.net or (252) 522-2091.

Saturday, October 28. Bennett Place State Historic Site, Durham. Premiere of two new films. "Dawn of Peace" the site's new orientation film and "Sarah's Farm," a new film for children will be shown at 4:30 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. Visitors are asked to call ahead to reserve their seats. Contact Bennett@ncmail.net or call (919) 383-4345 no later than October 12 to RSVP.

Saturday, October 28. Fort Fisher State Historic Site, Kure Beach. Opening of new rotating exhibit focusing on the monitors in the US fleet during the two battles of Fort Fisher. Coincides with a tour of the fort by the NC Maritime History Council. For more information contact the fort at fisher@ncmail.net or (910) 458-5538.

Saturday, October 28. Averasboro Battlefield, Dunn. Annual Civil War Living History and Ghost Walk. Free admission for living history; \$5 adults, \$3 children ages 7-12, and free for under age 7 to the Ghost Walk. Military and civilian living history displays, skirmish reenactment, musket and cannon firing, and much more. For info call (910) 891-5019 or go to www.averasboro.com.

Saturday and Sunday, November 18-19. CSS *Neuse* State Historic Site, Kinston. Annual Navy/Marine/Artillery living history weekend. Program will feature navy and marine living history, artillery and small arms demonstrations, blacksmithing, and civilian activities. Includes an evening artillery demonstration after dark on Saturday. For info contact Andrew Dupstadt at (252) 522-2091 or andrew.dupstadt@ncmail.net.

Saturday, December 2. Bentonville Battlefield State Historic Site, Four Oaks. Christmas Open House. For info contact (910) 594-0789 or Bentonville@ncmail.net.

Sunday, December 3. Bennett Place State Historic Site, Durham. Christmas Open House. Civil War era holiday celebration. Refreshments served. Contact Bennett@ncmail.net or (919) 383-4345 for more info.

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.

October 3 – Cory Stewart, *The American Revolution and Civil War in the Southern Backcountry: A Shared Experience*

November 7 – Book discussion on *American Brutus* and *Manhunt*

December 5 – TBA

January 2 and February 6 – Andy Cooper will present a two-part program on the Battle of Gettysburg

March 6 – Tom Perry will discuss his new book *Stuart's Birthplace: The History of Laurel Hill Farm*

***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) 934-2642.

October 26 – Dr. Donald Collins will speak on Charles Henry Foster

November 16 – Chris Grimes will speak about the Union submarine, *USS Alligator*

December – No Meeting. Annual CWRT Christmas Party.

***New Bern Civil War Roundtable** – The New Bern Civil War Roundtable meets the second Wednesday of each month from September through May at 7:00 p.m. at the Fire Station Museum on Hancock Street. For more information contact Horace Mewborn at (252) 633-1634 or neuser@always-online.com.

October 11 – Eddie Ellis will talk about a Union soldier who served in eastern NC

November 8 and December 13 – TBA

***Raleigh Civil War Roundtable** – The Raleigh Civil War Roundtable meets the second Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium at the North Carolina Museum of History, 5 East Edenton Street in downtown Raleigh. For more information contact Bob Farrell at cwfan2@aol.com or Charles Hawks at charleshawks@nc.rr.com.

October 9 – Andrew Dupstadt will discuss Civil War navy and Marine uniforms

November 13 – TBA

December 11 – Annual Christmas party

***Civil War Roundtable of Durham** – Meets the third Thursday of each month (except June, July, and August) at 7 p.m. at the Bennett Place State Historic Site. For more information call Jack Schrader at (919) 383-5629 or the site at (919) 383 4345.

NO SCHEDULE CURRENTLY AVAILABLE

***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 croat2@aol.com.

October 24 – Local artist Peter Hale will display and discuss some of his artwork dealing with the Civil War

November 28 – John Rhodes, “The Odd and Strange of the Civil War in NC”

***Albemarle Historical Roundtable** – The Albemarle Historical Roundtable meets the first Thursday of each month at various locations in northeastern North Carolina. For more information on the Roundtable and its programs contact 252-331-4032.

***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 (910) 486-1330.

***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 Dan Geddie at (910) 799-5338 or Bruce Patterson at (910) 794-8905.

October 12 – Fred Ray, ANV Sharpshooters

November 11 – Kevin Duffis, The Lost Lens: Story of the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse Lens

December 7 – Roundtable member Bob Cooke will discuss Wilmington during the War

January 11 – Jack McGarrie, The Irish in the Civil War

February 8 – David Norris will discuss Spotsylvania Courthouse in preparation for a March field trip.

***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 18 – John Coski of the Museum of the Confederacy will discuss the Confederate Battle Flag and the surrounding controversies

***Outer Banks Civil War Roundtable** – meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Duck Woods Country Club. For more information contact Mike Ross at 252-261-2000 ext. 1 or mross@beachlink.com.

October 17 – Sandy Barnard, topic TBA

***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 9 – Karel Lea Biggs, Hardship on the Homefront

November 13 – Randal Garrison, the 26th North Carolina

December 11 – Terry Winschel, Vicksburg

January 8 – Presentation on the Great Railroad Chase

February 12 – Pat Hart, Battle of New Bern

March 12 – Michael Kauffman, *American Brutus*

April 9 – Tim Smith, Shiloh

May 14 – David Petruzzi, General Buford

