

Civil War Roundtable of North Florida



“Where Both Sides Are Heard”
Founded in 2012

Please join us for our Next Meeting
6:30 PM Thursday, February 13, 2020

Belle Boyd: Rebel Spy

C. W. Whitehair



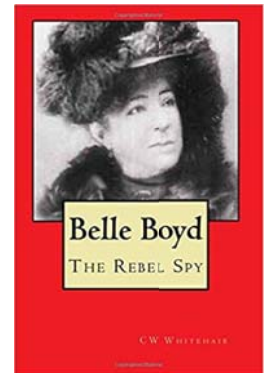
Belle Boyd was from Martinsburg, Virginia (West Virginia). She was considered the most notorious and deceptive Confederate female spy that operated in the lower Shenandoah Valley during America’s Civil War. During the war, she was arrested eight times, imprisoned three times, banished to the South and eventually banished from the United States. CW Whitehair will speak about her early life, her Civil War spy adventures, her life as an author, and actress.



Mr. Whitehair has portrayed both a civilian and military Civil War re-enactor. He has served as a volunteer Historical Interpreter for the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park and is a member of the Harpers Ferry Historical Association and the Florida Writers Association.

Whitehair has written ten books, a best-selling short story, and fifty articles for various Civil War publications. Three of his books have received national recognition.

CW has appeared in several historical documentaries and several movies. He has been a guest speaker at the United States Naval Academy, Capitol Hill in DC, Civil War roundtables, schools, historical associations, book festivals, publishing classes, and libraries.



Trinity United Methodist Church
4000 NW 53rd Avenue, Gainesville, FL

Last Month's Meeting

Mathew Brady "Renowned Photographer of the Civil War"

By Dave Bowers



Dave Bowers, a photographer and reenactor himself gave us a splendid overview of what it was like for Mathew Brady during the Civil War. Brady had taken up photography before the war and had two studios. His business was primarily based on taking images of famous people and selling them to the public. When the war came, he thought it would be great for business to get out in the field and take photographs of the war. This had never been done before. He engaged several teams of men to go out take the photographs; two very successful employees



were Timothy O'Sullivan and Alexander Gardner. Both went on to have their own careers

in photography. Brady used the "wet-plate" negative



technique which required that he haul around a portable darkroom to develop the negatives on the spot. All of this added up to a lot of expense. The problem was that while everyone wanted to look

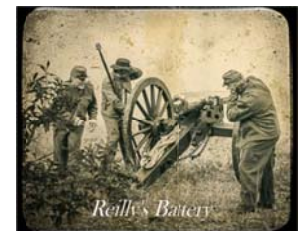


at the photos from the battlefields, few wanted to purchase them. History thanks Mr.



Brady for taking this on, but it was not a profitable business for him at the time. At the end of the war his finances were in a shambles, and he shortly thereafter filed for bankruptcy. He was in debt to his suppliers including Ansco Photography Products out of Binghamton, NY who had supplied him with not only his cameras but all the supplies. He had hoped that government would buy his over 10,000 images of the war, they did not. He died penniless in 1896.

Dave, dressed as Mr. Brady, with goatee and all, brought along his authentic 1850's Ansco camera. Similar to one Brady would have used. Dave uses this camera as a reenactor by replacing the insides with a Nikon digital SLR. When he puts the hood down, no one can tell he's not using the original. Dave then "develops" the digital images into 1860's appearances.



DETAILS OF OUR UPCOMING SPEAKERS

March 12, 2020

Dan Wiles

The Sultana Disaster



Early on April 27th 1865 the *Sultana* burst into flames on the Mississippi River. Tragically, the US Government had contracted with the *Sultana* to transport former Union prisoners of war

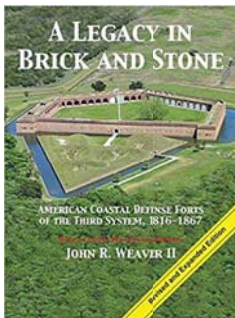


from Confederate camps, such as Andersonville and Cahaba back north. Designed for 376 passengers, it was loaded with over 2,000 former POWs. About 1,800 men died when the ship’s boiler exploded and starting the fire. Dan had a relative who couldn’t swim, but was one of the lucky survivors

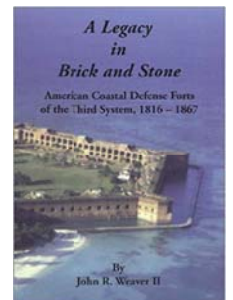
April 9, 2020

John Weaver

A Legacy in Brick and Stone



Mr. Weaver the definitive authority on the US’s “Third System” forts built along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts (and in San Francisco) between 1816 and 1867. Mr. Weaver knows all of the details of the designs of these forts. Many were built by some of the men who became key generals in the Civil War. The Civil War’s improved rifled cannon doomed these forts, but their history, design and involvement in the war is truly fascinating.



May 14, 2020

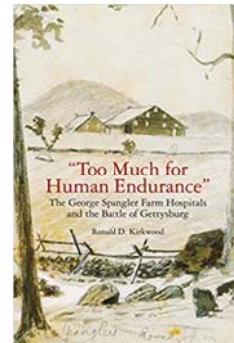
TBD

July 9, 2020

Ron Kirkwood

***“Too Much for Human Endurance” George Spangler Farm Hospital
Gettysburg***

The bloodstains are gone, but the worn floorboards remain. The doctors, nurses, and patients who toiled and suffered and ached for home at the Army of the Potomac’s XI Corps hospital at the George Spangler Farm in Gettysburg have long since departed. Using a massive array of firsthand accounts, Kirkwood re-creates the sprawling XI Corps hospital complex and the people who labored and suffered there—especially George and Elizabeth Spangler and their four children, who built a thriving 166-acre farm only to witness it nearly destroyed when war paid them a bloody visit that summer of 1863.



Kirkwood also establishes the often-overlooked strategic importance of the property and its key role in the Union victory. Army of the Potomac generals took advantage of the farm’s size, access to roads, and central location to use it as a staging area to get artillery and infantry to the embattled front line from Little Round Top north to Cemetery Hill just in time to prevent its collapse and a Confederate breakthrough.

September 10, 2020

Paul Brueske

Battle of Mobile, The Last Siege

The famous battle of Mobile Bay in August 1864 where Farragut uttered “Damn the Torpedoes” did stop blockade running into Mobile, but did not secure the city for the Federals. Mobile remained a vital river and rail logistical center for the Confederacy. It did not all end until the final surrender in Citronelle, Alabama in May of 1865.



November 12, 2020

Basil Gribbon

***While the American Civil War Rages the Major Powers of Europe Play Monopoly,
setting the Board up for World War I***

UPCOMING EVENTS

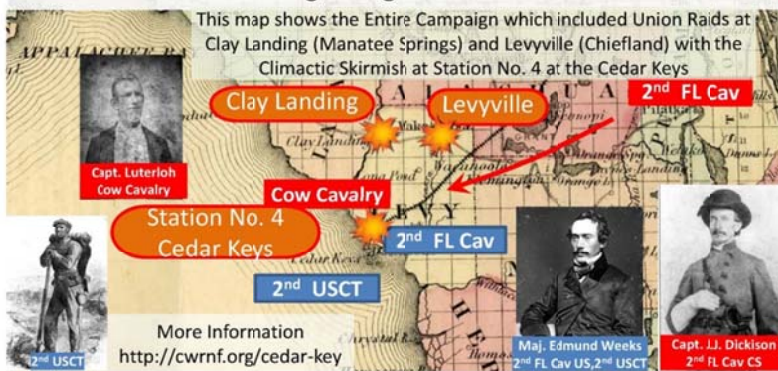


Meet & Interact with Experienced Reenactors Portraying all the Primary Officers & Participants in the Battle:

- Capt. Lutterloh & the 1st Fla Special Cavalry (Cow Cavalry)
 - Capt. Dickison & the 2nd Fla Cav CS
 - Maj. Weeks and the 2nd USCT & 2nd Fla Cav US

See a Graphical Display of the Entire Campaign beginning on February 8, 1865 and Culminating with the Major Skirmish on February 13, 1865

- Experience the Cannon Drill and Firing (as used in the battle)
 - Experience the Musket Drill and Firing
- Visit with Eric Starnes and learn about his Extensive collection of arms (Rifles, Carbines, Pistols and Blades) from the Civil War
- Visit with Larry Skinner and learn about his Extensive Collection of Civil War Artifacts collected in Northern Florida
- Hear and see a Description of The Evolution of the Confederate National Flag through the War Years



More Information <http://cwrnf.org/cedar-key>

Sponsored by: Cedar Key Lions Club, Drummond Bank, Island Hotel, 1842 Daily Grind, Friends of the Cedar Key Library, Cedar Key Historical Society, Pelican Realty, NormFugate PA, Low Key Hideaway, Cedar Key Realty

February 8 – 155th Anniversary of the Skirmish at Station No. 4 Cedar Key, 10 A – 4 PM, FREE, Come and visit with reenactors depicting all the troops involved in the skirmish. Learn just what the skirmish was about. There will be camps and live demonstrations of rifled muskets and cannon used in the skirmish. In addition, **Eric Starnes** will be displaying his extensive collection of Civil War arms and **Larry Skinner** will be displaying his extensive collection of Civil War artifacts dug around northern Florida. For more information, contact Bob Wooley and consult the website for useful documents pertaining the skirmish. <http://cwrnf.org/cedar-key>

February 14-16 - The Battle of Olustee

Information: Olustee Battlefield State Historic State Park, Sanderson, Florida. Help is always appreciated during Education Day, Friday, February 15. The reenactment takes place on the actual site where the Battle of Olustee (Ocean Pond) was fought. Battles Saturday and Sunday. The Olustee Battle Festival Parade in downtown Lake City, FL will begin at 10:30 AM.

Contact: Contact the Olustee Battlefield Historic Site at (386) 758-0400 or email olusteecso@yahoo.com

Website: <http://battleofolustee.org/> or <https://www.floridastateparks.org/park/Olustee-Battlefield>

Location/Direction: 5890 Battlefield Trail Road, Olustee, Florida 32087

The battlefield is located just fifteen miles east of Lake City on Hwy. 90 from I-75 and 50 miles west of Jacksonville.

Continuing in 2020 - Raffle at the end of each Meeting

In an effort to raise more funds for continued exciting outside speakers the board has decided to hold a raffle at the end of each meeting. A Grand Prize related to the Civil War will be raffled off. In addition, conciliation prizes of books, other Civil War related items and a few fun items will be drawn for. Please see Sue Wooley to get your tickets before the meeting.



BOARD MEMBERS NEEDED!!

PLEASE CONSIDER HELPING

Please help insure the future of the Civil War Round Table – North Florida by being a member of the board of advisors and helping with all of the behind the scenes activities that make our monthly meetings with great speakers possible.

Contact one of the current board members and we'll introduce you to the excitement of organizing and running a Civil War Round Table.

Advisory Board Members

Terry Huston (352-359-1442, thuston528@msn.com)

Eric Starnes

Bob Wooley (352-325-0722, wooleyrj@gmail.com)

Sid Mayer

Sue Wooley

Check us out on the web: www.cwrnf.org