

Civil War Roundtable of North Florida



"Where Both Sides Are Heard"
Founded in 2012

Upcoming Meetings

July 11, 2019

Thomas Jessee
R. E. Lee Impersonator

September 12, 2019

Walker Blanton
*Student Who Challenged
Jackson to a Duel at VMI &
Later was Commander of the
Stonewall Brigade*

October 10, 2019

Eric Jacobson
Battle of Franklin

November 14, 2019

Basil Gribbon
*Politics in Europe vis a vis
Civil War*

December 12, 2019

Christmas Party

January 9, 2020

R. Thomas Campbell (noted
Civil War Navy Author)
Topic - TBD

Please join us for our Next Meeting
6:30 PM Thursday, June 13, 2019

Phill Greenwalt

Florida Brigade at Gettysburg

Read William Faulkner's famous excerpt on Pickett's Charge at Gettysburg from his 1948 book *Intruder in the Dust*. He mentions Armistead, Kemper, Garnett, and even Wilcox. No mention of Lang or the Floridians. Walk the Union line near the now famous Copse of Trees on Cemetery Ridge and you see a dated map on one of the markers. Shows the routes taken by Pickett, Pettigrew, Trimble, and Wilcox. No mention of Lang or the Floridians.



It took a century from the conclusion of that disastrous charge of July 3rd for a monument to be dedicated to the Floridians who sacrificed so much on two of the three days of carnage that marked the Battle of Gettysburg. Until then, besides the Perry Brigade markers, no mention of Lang or the Floridians.

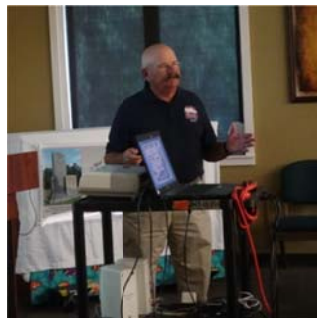
Yet, a brigade of Floridians were there. All veterans of at least a year of campaigning with the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia. All understrength. At Gettysburg they fought valiantly again and loss tremendously, 62% of the 775 infantrymen that came into the engagement. Highest total of any brigade in General Robert E. Lee's army.



Their role in the engagement has been marginalized and distorted. Their heroism and determination in two assaults across open ground questioned and slandered. What these three regiments attempted, with already depleted ranks, was amazing and due for more recognition than the history of the battle has afforded them.

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

Last Month's Meeting
May 9, 2019
Warships on the Chattahoochee
Bruce Smith

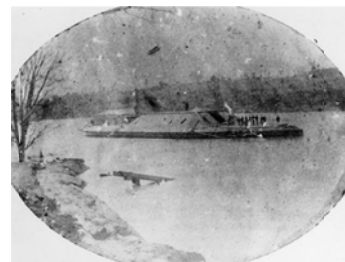
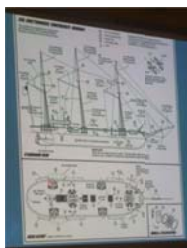


Bruce is the former director of the Civil War Naval Museum in Columbus, Georgia (if you haven't been there, I highly recommend a visit!). He started by giving us a short introduction into the Confederacy's Naval Strategy and an introduction to the vast array of methods and sites used by the south for naval construction.



Columbus, 300 miles from the Gulf of Mexico seems like an unlikely place for a Naval Museum, but even more so as a site of naval construction in the civil war until Bruce explained the importance of the Chattahoochee / Aplachicola / Flint River system to the economy of central and southern Alabama and Georgia.

The Confederacy constructed a gun boat at Saffold, Ga (downriver from Columbus), named the CSS *Chattahoochee*, it had twin screws and 6 cannons. It was commissioned in February, 1863 and had a short existence until a boiler blew-up on May 27, 1863, killing and wounding many of its crew. She was later raised and towed to Columbus where it was still undergoing repairs at the end of the war.



The big project for the Columbus Naval Yard was the construction of the CSS *Muscoogee*, later named the CSS *Jackson*. Construction was begun in 1862 and upon nearing completion with a center paddle wheel it was decided to redesign the ship for twin screws. The renamed CSS *Jackson* was finally commissioned in December 1864. She was 223' in length with a beam of 56' and a draft of 8'. Armed with four 7" Brooke rifles (the finest naval gun, north or south), that had been manufactured in Selma, Ala. It's casemate was constructed of 20" of solid oak with 4" of iron (in 2-2" layers). Unfortunately, she never saw action and was captured and scuttled by Wilson's Cavalry during the Battle of Columbus on April 16, 1865.



The wrecks of both the CSS *Jackson* and CSS *Chattahoochee* were raised in the 1960's and put in an outdoor enclosure until Bruce built the new modern museum to house them in March 2001. Bruce showed photographs of the interesting recovery of the wrecks and of his "crack" archaeology team recovering shells dumped in the river by the Yankees in 1865.

There are many highlights to the museum, but the most awesome, and fully worth the visit, is the display of the CSS *Jackson* with it's "ghosting" of the upper deck. The CSS *Jackson* was truly and impressive warship!



DETAILS OF OUR UPCOMING SPEAKERS

July 11, 2019

Thomas Jessee

R. E. Lee Impersonator

Robert E Lee and his family:

For many people when they think of Robert E Lee they only consider the 4 years of the war. 1861 to 1865. Usually the rest of his life is overlooked, and unknown.

Robert E Lee was born in 1807. He was 53 at the beginning of the war in 1861. In that time he had grown to adulthood. Graduated from the Military Academy at West Point in 1829. And married the Great Grand Daughter of George and Martha Washington in 1831.

In the years following he established a career as an officer in the US Army Corps of Engineers And served with bravery and distinction in the War with Mexico. In the early 1850's he was appointed Superintendent of the US Military Academy. Then joined the new 2nd Cavalry Regiment and traveled to the Western territories. And was in Texas when the crisis broke in 1861.

Of course there was his private life that is most overlooked His marriage produced seven children. Three sons and four daughters. In order of birth they were: George Washington Parke Custis Lee, Mary Custis Lee, William Henry Lee Fitzhugh Lee, Annie Carter Lee, Eleanor Agnes Lee, Robert E Lee Jr, and Mildred Childe Lee.

Of his sons, Custis attended the Military Academy, Fitzhugh, called Rooney went to Harvard and Robert Jr the University of Virginia. All three served in the war. Custis and Rooney were Major Generals and Robert a Captain at the end of the conflict.

Of his seven children only Rooney and Robert married and had children.



August – No Meeting

September 12, 2019

Walter Blanton

The Student Who Challenged T J Jackson to a Duel at VMI. James Alexander Walker, Later Commander of the Stonewall Brigade

October 10, 2019

Eric Jacobson

Battle of Franklin

November 14, 2019

Basil Gibbon

Political Climate/Power Struggles Of Europe vis a vis North America and the Civil War

January 9, 2020

R. Thomas Campbell (Author of over 20 books related to the Confederate Navy)

Topic – TBD re: Confederate Navy

February 13, 2020

TBD

March 12, 2020

Dan Wiles

The Sultana Disaster

April 9, 2020

John Weaver (Author of “A Legacy in Brick and Stone: American Coast Defense Forts of the Third System, 1816-1867”)

A Legacy in Brick and Stone

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 17-19, 2019 Battle of Resaca, GA. Reenactment held on 650 acres of original battle field. Battles both days at 2:00 PM www.georgiadivision.org/bor_eventschedule.html Just off I-75 at Exit 320

Continuing in 2019 - 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.



INTERESTED IN BEING A BOARD MEMBER?

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

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