

Civil War Roundtable of North Florida



“Where Both Sides Are Heard”
Founded in 2012

Upcoming Meetings

August
No Meeting

September 13
Dale Cox
*Battle of Marianna
and Natural Bridge*

October 11
Peggy Macdonald
*Ester Hill Hawks,
Physician*

November 8
Donna Waller
*Why the Civil War
Happened*

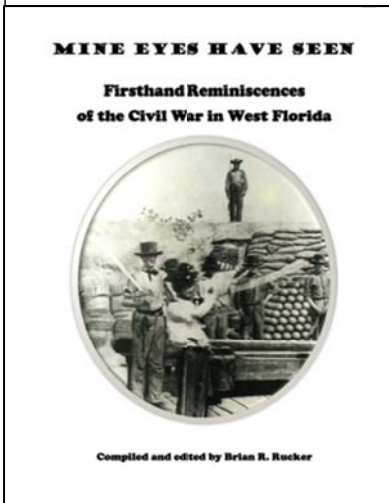
December 13
Christmas Party

January 10, 2019
Eric Jacobson
Battle of Franklin

Please join us for our Next Meeting
6:30 PM Thursday, July 12, 2018

Mine Eyes Have Seen: Firsthand Reminiscences of the Civil War in West Florida

Dr. Brian Rucker



Brian is a Professor of History at the Pensacola State College and will give us a look at the recollections of people who participated in Civil War activity in the Florida panhandle. These were men and women, regular people, giving us insights and details not found in the Official Records. It's a personal glimpse back in time from old veterans telling their stories. Their experiences are universal, applying to all areas of Florida, and the South overall.

He will have copies of the book available for signing and sale at the meeting.

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

Last Month's Meeting June 14, 2018

Robert Mattson on the Naval Civil War in Florida

Robert is a living historian and interprets the life of the common sailor during the Civil War. Robert came in full uniform (sans any weapons, due to the church meeting room policy) and with many implements of the trade to show. He also was glad to sign the excellent book that he has written "The Civil War Navy in Florida".



He explained that the story of the Navy in Florida is mostly a Federal story as there was little activity of the fledgling Confederate Navy here. He discussed the early part of the war when the Confederates took several Federal installations, like the Pensacola Naval Station (2nd largest after Gosport in the country) and Fort Clinch in Fernandina.



However, some key locations remained in Federal hands, notably, Fort Pickens in Pensacola and Key West with its forts, Taylor and nearby Fort Jefferson. Having these key locations still in the hands of the Federals made setting up the blockade of the coast to stop importation of goods from Europe easier. Key West became the headquarters of the East Gulf Blockading Squadron.

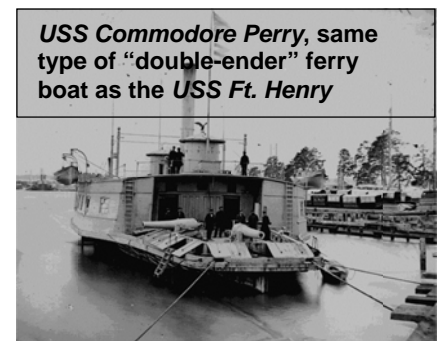


Much of the Federal naval fighting was on the rivers, especially the St. Johns River, which goes through Jacksonville. Of course the navy played a big role in keeping Fort Pickens and ultimately getting the city of Pensacola back.

Having the blockading ships in and around the coast of Florida aided in various raids that the Federals conducted into the "interior" of Florida, such as attacks on salt works. Salt was very valuable as a meat preservative and boiling sea water along the coast of Florida to obtain salt became an important activity for the Confederacy. Destroying those was a goal of the Federal Navy. Robert also discussed his portrayal of a Navy



Sailor and explained how he was a member of the *USS Ft. Henry* reenactors. He also explained multiple tools-of-the-trade that he brought in.



USS Commodore Perry, same type of "double-ender" ferry boat as the *USS Ft. Henry*

Thanks, Robert, for a very interesting and entertaining evening.

JULY IN THE CIVIL WAR

1861

- 8th - Confederates appoint Gen'l Sibley to command of all troops in New Mexico Territory.
- 14th - Gen'l McDowell advances 40,000 Federal troops to Fairfax Courthouse, Va.
- 21th - Confederates route Federal troops at the battle of (1st) Manassas or Bull Run as the north knows it.
- 25th - Crittenden Resolution passes US Congress - War is to preserve union, not to end slavery.
- 27th - After disaster at Bull Run, Lincoln appoints Gen'l McClellan to command the Division of the Potomac.
- 31st - Lincoln appoints U.S. Grant as a General of Volunteers.

1862

- 1st - Lincoln sign's a law to create the first Income Tax in the U. S.
- 9th - Confederate Gen'l John Hunt Morgan seizes Tompkinsville, Kentucky.
- 15th - *CSS Arkansas* engages two Federal fleets on the Miss. River and successfully lands in Vicksburg.
- 22th - Lincoln presents his Emancipation Proclamation to his cabinet.
- 29th - *CSS Alabama* successfully leaves England and begins its epic voyage of destruction of the U.S. merchant fleet.

1863

- 1st -3rd - Battle of Gettysburg, Pa results in the turning back of Gen'l Lee's 2nd invasion of the north.
- 4th - The critical river fortress at Vicksburg Mississippi surrenders to Gen'l U.S. Grant.
- 8th - Final hold-out on the Mississippi river, Port Hudson, falls, leaving the whole Mississippi River under Federal control.
- 11th - First names drawn drafting civilians into the army in New York City.
- 11th - Gen'l Lee successfully returns to Virginia.
- 13th-16th Draft riots in New York City
- 18th - Second Federal attack on Ft. Wagner, SC is repulsed with great loss in the 54th Mass (first black troops organized in the north).
- 26th - Gen'l John Hunt Morgan captured in new Lisbon, Ohio and sent to Ohio State Penitentiary.

1864

- 9th - Gen'l Early battles Federals under Gen'l Lew Wallace (future author of *Ben-Hur*) at Monocacy, Maryland.
- 11th - Gen'l Early's raid reaches Silver Springs, Md. Lincoln comes under fire as he climbs Ft. Stevens.
- 17th - Davis relieves Johnston and appoints Gen'l Hood to command of the Army of Tennessee.
- 22nd - Federal Gen'l McPherson killed in the battle for Atlanta.

1865

- 7th - Four convicted conspirators in the assassination of Lincoln are hanged at the Old Penitentiary in Washington, DC.

New for 2018 - 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.



Typical of Monthly Raffle Items at each Meeting

Book sales



Your board has voted to significantly cut back the number of books offered for sale at each meeting. You have seen the same books for many months and we think if you were interested you would have purchased them. We will pick out about 1 box full of the more valuable, newer books and offer them for sale for the next couple of meetings. We will also pick out some of the best and save them for the raffle. The next Alachua County Library sale is in the fall. We will visit that and see if we can find new books to offer for sale at that time.

Advisory Board Members

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

Bill Zettler

Eric Starnes

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

Sid Mayer

For Sale (private sale) – TIME-LIFE – “The Civil War” Complete 28 Volume Set
Please contact Ken Beasock, LtCol USMC (Retired) (352) 514-8989

