

Civil War Roundtable of North Florida



“Where Both Sides Are Heard”

Founded in 2012

The Courier

The Newsletter of the Civil War Roundtable of North Florida

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Vol. II, No. 12

December 2014

Gainesville, Florida

Next Meeting (open to the public)

Thursday, January 8, 2015, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at:

Millhopper Branch Library (Meeting Room A in the back)
3145 N.W. 43rd Street
Gainesville, Florida 32606

Please Note !!!!

Due to library room rescheduling, effective January 8, 2015,

the CWRNF meetings will be held

the second Thursday of each month. Also: new meeting time: 6 to 8:00 p.m.

Holiday Dinner Replaces Meeting in December

Dec. 11: For those who signed up for this dinner and did not receive the email attachment for details, please contact Diane Fischler: diane@proofinggrounds.com or call (352) 378-3726. **Place: Red Lobster** (6910 West Newberry Road). **Time: 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. (6:00 to 6:30 for socializing)**. The CWRNF has reserved a private room in the back of the restaurant—the **Boothbay Harbor Room**. Members/guests will pay for their own meals and alcoholic drinks (Red Lobster has a full service bar).

At last year's dinner, members and their guests read short excerpts from letters— from both sides—of Christmases across four years of war. At this year's dinner, the CWRNF will recall the surrender of Savannah just before Christmas 1864—150 years ago—by giving members and their guests short passages to read from letters written by the retreating Confederates, the occupying Federals (including Gen. Sherman), white Savannah residents, and former slaves. The capture of Savannah—the culmination of Sherman's March to the Sea—was Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman's "Christmas present" to President Lincoln.

The CWRNF will hold a raffle! The first prize-winning ticket holder will receive a decorated basket containing many Civil War-related gift items. The second and third prize-winning ticket holders will each receive a bottle of "Savannah River Red" wine and a miniature bale of cotton. The fourth prize-winning ticket holder will win the movie DVD: *Gettysburg*. The fifth prize-winning ticket holder will get a CD: The Mormon Tabernacle Choir: Songs of the Civil War. Bring your cash! Each ticket is \$2 or 3 tickets for \$5.

CWRNF News

Previous Nov. 6, 2014 meeting

Meeting attendance: **26**. Speaker **Ray Carson** gave an informative presentation on Civil War photography, citing several famous photographers who made their mark in American history: Mathew Brady, Alexander Gardner, and Timothy O'Sullivan. These three men brought the war to the doorsteps of the home front. Ray discussed tintypes, ambrotypes, and daguerreotypes, and the process in creating them. He showed dozens of Civil War photos, pointing out how some photos had been manipulated in the field.

Website: www.cwrnf.org

Please check the website periodically for updates on the CWRNF's ongoing events. We will continue emailing the monthly *Courier*.

Book sales

Please donate one or more of your "gently used" history books, history DVDs, historical maps, or magazines for re-sale at our monthly meetings. They can cover any period in history, but American 19th

and 20th century history books, periodicals, and DVDs would be preferred. All proceeds go directly into the CWRNF account. Payment can be either cash or check (made payable to CWRNF). Place a post-it on the front cover to show the sale price. Prices are not negotiable at these reduced rates. **At the Nov. 6 meeting, the CWRNF made \$97 in book sales!**

Membership dues

Full membership dues were **payable in September** for next year's participation in the CWRNF organization. We also encourage anyone who may not be able to attend our meeting—but who wishes to support our organization—to sign up. Your financial assistance will be greatly appreciated. **Individual: \$25; Couple/Family: \$35; Student: \$15**

“Like” the CWRNF page on Facebook

We have a Facebook page. Search “Civil War Roundtable of North Florida – Facebook.” Many thanks to John Walsh for his time and effort to update and maintain this page.

Upcoming Meetings

(now held on the second Thursday of each month—at 6 p.m. !!!)

(speakers and topics subject to change)

Jan. 8: Guest speaker **Steve Stanley**, well-known and highly regarded Civil War mapmaker, will talk about the **making of Civil War maps** he creates for the Civil War Trust. **Question & answer period to follow. Please save your comments and questions until after his talk.** Mr. Stanley lives in Gettysburg and is a graphic artist specializing in historical map design and battlefield photography. His maps, considered among the best in historical cartography, have been a longtime staple of the Civil War Preservation Trust, and his maps have raised millions of dollars for preservation. Steve Stanley's maps have appeared in a wide variety of publications.

Mr. Stanley will bring copies of his books to sell and autograph after the meeting: **1) *The Complete Gettysburg Guide: Walking and Driving Tours of the Battlefield, Town, Cemeteries, Field Hospital Sites, and Other Topics of Historic Interest* (\$35 which retails for \$39.95); 2) *The New Gettysburg Campaign Handbook: Facts, Photos, and Artwork for Readers of All Ages: June 9 - July 14, 1863* (\$15 which retails for \$18.95); and 3) *The Gettysburg Campaign in Numbers and Losses: Synopses, Orders of Battle, Strengths, Casualties, and Maps: June 9 – July 14, 1863* (\$26 which retails for \$32.95). He takes checks, cash, and credit cards.**

Feb. 12: Guest speaker **Barbara Oberlander** will give a presentation entitled: **“The Other Lincoln: Mary Todd Lincoln: Our Most Controversial First Lady.”** This is an appropriate topic because this meeting date, Feb. 12, is Abraham Lincoln's birthday (1809-1865). **Question & answer period to follow. Please save your comments and questions until after her talk.** From 1975 to 2005, Barbara Oberlander was a professor of history at Santa Fe College. She has been very active in community efforts to heighten awareness of women's role in American life, both working with the Gainesville Commission on the

Status of Women, Inc. and offering numerous public presentations on outstanding women and women's contributions. She has also taught classes at Oak Hammock, including *Ladies First: From Martha to Laura; Petticoats to Flak Jackets: Women in Wartime; Every Four Years: Memorable Presidential Elections*; and most recently, "Well Behaved Women Rarely Make History (or Do They?)."

March 12: Member **John Paling** will give a talk entitled: "**The Thomas Jackson Letters: How a Brit Tried to Save the United States of America.**" This presentation is not mainly a "see what my relative did in the Civil War," but rather the opportunity for an outsider to use British citizen Thomas Jackson's eloquent letters as a starting point to take an independent, fresh look at several of the big issues of the time and to invite members to join him to discuss whether there might be lessons from those times that might apply to our own generation today. John Paling is the co-author of *Up to Your Armpits in Alligators? How to Sort Out What Risks Are Worth Worrying About!* (1994) and several other books and articles. He has 20 years' experience as a professional speaker, author, and consultant in 58 countries, plus 20 years' experience as producer/filmmaker of more than 50 wildlife films.

April 9: Guest speaker **Matt Gallman** will discuss **Appomattox**—and this date, **April 9, 2015**, marks the 150th anniversary of Gen. Lee surrendering the Army of Northern Virginia (**April 9, 1865**). **Question & answer period to follow. Please save your comments and questions until after his talk.** He is the author of four books, including *Mastering Wartime: A Social History of Philadelphia During the Civil War* (Cambridge, 1990); *The North Fights the Civil War: The Home Front* (Ivan Dee, 1994); *Receiving Erin's Children: Philadelphia, Liverpool, and the Irish Famine Migration, 1845-1855* (UNC, 2000); and *America's Joan of Arc: The Life of Anna Elizabeth Dickinson* (Oxford, 2006). He is currently working on a study of political rhetoric and satire in the North during the Civil War. He has taught undergraduate courses on the Civil War era and on American Women's History. He teaches the department's graduate foundation course on 19th Century America on a regular basis, and he has also taught a graduate seminar on the Civil War.

May 14: Member **Fred Donaldson** will give a talk titled "Jeff Davis's Baggage or Maybe Another Cabinet Member's Baggage at Waldo."

Civil War-Related Regional Events
(Events subject to change. Please VERIFY before attending event.)

Feb. 14-15, 2015: Battle of Olustee Re-enactment east of Lake City, FL. \$10/adults; \$5/children

The main re-enactment will be on Sunday, Feb. 15, starting at 1 p.m. Olustee Battlefield Historic State Park is located on US 90, 15 miles east of Lake City and 50 miles west of Jacksonville. The battle took place on February 20, 1864, in which 10,500 Federal and Confederate soldiers clashed—a decisive Confederate victory. The CWRNF will have a presence at this re-enactment. Eric Starnes will have a table displaying Civil War guns. Volunteers can share a corner of his table to distribute CWRNF flyers in four different shifts: **Feb. 14: 1)** (Sat.) morning **or 2)** afternoon; **Feb. 15: 3)** (Sun.) morning **or 4)** afternoon. Re-enactment information: <http://www.battleofolustee.org/reenactment.html>

CWRNF Members on the Civil War Road

If any CWRNF members toured Civil War battlefields, Civil War historic sites, and/or Civil War museums within the last several months, please send some photos to Diane Fischler (diane@proofinggrounds.com)

Diane and Ira Fischler spent a beautiful October weekend in **Savannah** and took these photos of some famous Civil War-related sites in the river city. **Civil War 150: Following the conclusion of the March to the Sea, Savannah surrendered to Gen. Sherman on Dec. 21, 1864.**

- Row 1:** **Left:** Green mansion on Madison Square where Sherman set up his month-long headquarters. **Right:** Dining room in the Green mansion; Sherman sat at the table end in the forefront when dining with Federal officers and Savannah dignitaries.
- Row 2:** **Left:** Upstairs library in the Green mansion where Sherman wrote the famous message to President Lincoln on Dec. 22, 1864: "I beg to present you, as a Christmas gift, the city of Savannah." **Right:** Confederate Monument in Forsyth Park. Unveiled in 1879, the monument features a soldier on top facing north, the direction of his northern enemy.
- Row 3:** **Left:** Cotton gin exhibit in the Savannah History Museum. While residing as a tutor on a plantation near Savannah in 1793, New Englander Eli Whitney improved upon the design of the cotton gin ("gin" refers to "engine"). Rather than pressing and rolling the cotton to extract the seeds, his design consisted of wire teeth set in a wooden cylinder that, when rotated, pulled the seeds from the cotton fibers. A second, smaller cylinder revolved simultaneously in the opposite direction so as to sweep the cotton fibers from the wire teeth. Prior to Whitney's improved version of the cotton gin, the South exported 200,000 pounds of cotton. But by the early 1800s, the South was exporting 41 million pounds. Right side of this photo shows the scale to weigh bales of cotton, which weigh 500 pounds. **Right:** Close-up view of the cotton gin, which expedited the extraction of seeds from upland cotton, making the crop profitable and contributing to cotton's expansion across the South.
- Row 4:** **Left:** Sample of a "Sherman necktie" at Fort McAllister. "Neckties" were train rails destroyed by heating them until they were malleable and bending them into loops around trees. **Right:** Fort McAllister was overtaken on Dec. 13, 1864, in just 15 minutes by Sherman's troops charging the earthworks from the rear. The fort's artillery pointed toward the Ogeechee River.
- Row 5:** **Left:** Smoothbore, muzzle-loading Columbiad cannon at Fort McAllister facing the Ogeechee River. A Columbiad was capable of firing 225-pound shot at a distance of 1,800 yards at Federal ironclads. **Right:** Diane Fischler on top of the earthworks at Fort McAllister.



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