

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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February 2015

Gainesville, Florida

Next Meeting (open to the public)

Thursday, **February 12, 2015**, from **6 to 8 p.m.** at:

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

***** Important information follows about change of meeting site *****
only for March 12 & April 9 CWRNF meeting!

***** The CWRNF needs speakers for future meetings! Any ideas? *****
Please email Diane Fischler with your suggestions: diane@proofinggrounds.com

Please note change of meeting site—only for March & April!

Due to early voting and possible runoff voting at the Millhopper Branch Library, the March 12 & April 9 meetings will be held at Trinity United Methodist Church (1.6 miles or 5 min. north from library). Direction handouts will be distributed at the Feb. 12 meeting.

Directions FROM Millhopper Library: Go north (1.4 miles) on NW 43rd St. to traffic light at NW 53rd Ave. Turn right on NW 53rd Ave. and go just .2 mile to church entrance driveway on left. Large Trinity church sign is on north side of street. NO traffic light at this driveway entrance. Church is not visible from 53rd Ave. CWRNF meeting is in Education Center (overhang entrance) in room 232 on 2nd floor; elevator available. Parking lot is lighted at night (Daylight Saving Time starts previous Sunday on March 8). Allow extra driving time—in heavy late afternoon traffic—to find this church. The CWRNF starts promptly at 6 p.m.

CWRNF News

January speaker: Steven Stanley. 30 members and guests attended.

Guest speaker **Steve Stanley**, well-known and highly regarded Civil War mapmaker, spoke about the **making of Civil War battlefield maps**, which he creates for the Civil War Trust (www.civilwar.org). His maps are easily recognizable and have set a new standard for historical accuracy in battlefield cartography. In response to many questions, he elaborated on the Civil War Trust and that organization's history in 1) purchasing privately held property once part of Civil War battlefield acreage and 2) buying Civil War-era historical structures (for example, recent acquisition of Lee's headquarters at Gettysburg).

He spoke about how to create a Civil War battlefield map with a "layering" technique: **1)** put in the topographical lay of the land, **2)** add creeks, rivers, etc., **3)** add current roads and old roads, **4)** add trees, historical buildings, railroads, **5)** add troop deployment, and **6)** add legend, topographic shadowing, clocks, compass. His maps, considered among the best in historical cartography, have been a longtime essential of the Civil War Trust, and his maps have raised millions of dollars for preservation. Steve Stanley's maps have also appeared in a wide variety of publications. He talked about his new book coming out in late spring 2015 featuring detailed maps on Pickett's Charge. See photographs of Steve Stanley, one of his maps, and his three books at the end of this newsletter.

Mr. Stanley brought copies of his books to sell and autograph: **1) *The Complete Gettysburg Guide: Walking and Driving Tours of the Battlefield, Town, Cemeteries, Field Hospital Sites, and Other Topics of Historic Interest*; 2) *The New Gettysburg Campaign Handbook: Facts, Photos, and Artwork for Readers of All Ages: June 9 - July 14, 1863* and 3) *The Gettysburg Campaign in Numbers and Losses: Synopses, Orders of Battle, Strengths, Casualties, and Maps: June 9 - July 14, 1863.***

Member **Stewart White** gave an interesting presentation on the "Rebel Yell" and played part of a CD entitled *The Rebel Yell Lives!* He bought several copies of the CDs at the Museum of the Confederacy (MOC) in Richmond to sell at the book table. The CD was produced by the MOC in 2008.

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. Place a post-it on the cover to show the price. Prices are not negotiable at these reduced rates. **At the Jan. 8 meeting, the CWRNF made \$28.**

The January 2015 *Courier* newsletter featured two sketches by artist William T. Coulter, whose cartoons have appeared in the *Washington Post* and other national periodicals. The cartoons feature Abraham Lincoln and Robert E. Lee standing over towers of books about themselves, their generals, campaigns, etc., each historical figure absorbed in how history has portrayed them.

Website: www.cwrnf.org

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

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.

Standing in Tall Cotton

At the December 2014 banquet, member **Fred Donaldson** spoke briefly about how to grow cotton from the cotton bolls placed at each place setting. Many members and guests took the cotton bolls home. Fred conveyed the following information at the holiday dinner:

A cotton boll is the result of the flower (related to the hibiscus plant) growing to a bud in the summer and larger to the boll—as it's called—in the fall. The boll (if bud worms or boll weevils don't interfere) upon drying will crack open in the fall and the white cotton will dry more and fluff out, which is then ready to pick—if nature is kind to the farmer.

Each boll has seeds which can be found by pulling out the lint and feeling for the small black seeds (that's what the cotton gin does). Pull as much of the lint from the seed as you can. The seed can then be placed in a zip lock bag and placed in the refrigerator (not the freezer) for about two months. After our last frost and the soil begins to warm (probably after April 1), you can plant the seeds in a hill of two to three seeds or in a row 4 to 5 inches apart. The soil should be worked up free of weeds and adding some fertilizer as you would plant your garden.

After the young seedlings have come up and have six to eight leaves, some light fertilizer can be added as a side dress—but don't get too close to the stem. As the plants gets taller, a final side-dress of fertilizer can be added. Cotton requires lots of nitrogen and constant weed and insect control, and 100-plus acres of cotton are very expensive and time consuming to grow. Also, it is best to plant when there is some moisture in the soil but not too wet as the seed will rot in the soil. If it gets too dry, a watering will help the young plants. Cotton is a hot weather plant but a timely rain or watering will help it to grow.



Fred received his BS at UF in entomology in 1959. He worked with cotton farmers in Louisiana and Mississippi during his 25 years working for Bayer CropScience (a division of Bayer Pharmacy Co.) in the pesticide R&D department. Questions about cotton? Email Fred at: fredlagator@windstream.net

Upcoming Meetings
(the second Thursday of each month—at 6 p.m.)
(speakers and topics subject to change)

February 12:

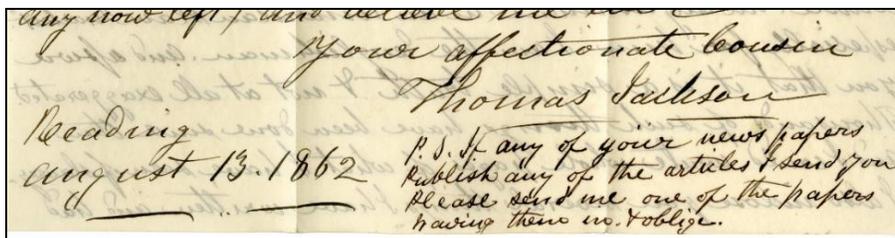
Guest speaker **Barbara Oberlander** will give a presentation entitled: **“The Other Lincoln: Mary Todd Lincoln: Our Most Controversial First Lady.”** This is an appropriate topic because this meeting



date, Feb. 12, is Abraham Lincoln’s birthday (1809-1865). 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. **Due to early voting at the Millhopper Branch Library, meeting site will be at Trinity United Methodist Church at 6 pm (see detailed directions at the beginning of this newsletter.**



April 9:

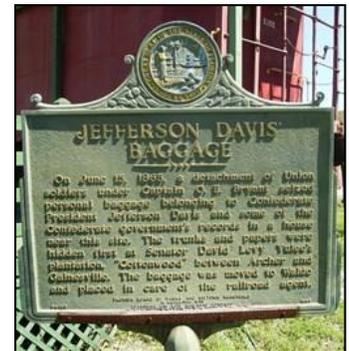
Guest speaker **Matt Gallman** will discuss **Appomattox**—and this date, **April 9, 2015**, marks the 150th anniversary of Gen. Lee surrendering the Army of Northern Virginia (**April 9, 1865**). He is the author of four books, including *Mastering Wartime: A Social History of Philadelphia During the 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; he has also taught a graduate seminar on the Civil War. **Due to possible runoff voting at the Millhopper Library, meeting site will be at Trinity United Methodist Church at 6 pm (see detailed directions at beginning of this newsletter.**



May 14:

Member **Fred Donaldson** will give a talk entitled **“Jeff Davis’s Baggage or Maybe Another Cabinet Member’s Baggage at Waldo.”** Waldo is 11 miles northeast of Gainesville Regional Airport on Route 24 (Waldo Road) in Alachua County. This “Jefferson Davis Baggage” historical plaque is located by the red caboose in City Park.

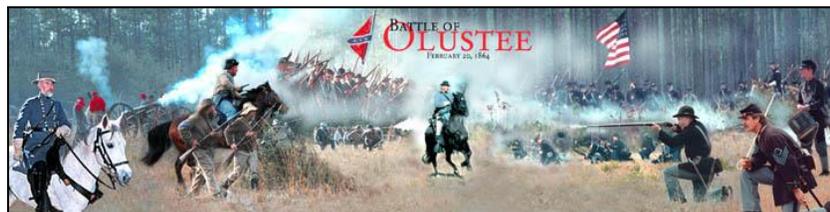


Civil War-Related Regional Events

(Events subject to change. Please VERIFY DATES & TIMES 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 Sun., Feb. 15, starting at 1:30 p.m. Olustee Battlefield Historic State Park is on US 90, 15 miles east of Lake City and 50 miles west of Jacksonville. The battle took place on Feb. 20, 1864, in which 10,500 Federal and Confederate soldiers clashed—a decisive Confederate victory. Member **Eric Starnes** will have his attention-getting table displaying Civil War guns. Volunteers can share a corner of his table to distribute CWRNF flyers in four different shifts—but feel free to just show up anytime and stay as long as you wish. Any amount of time is appreciated. Shifts: **Feb. 14: 1)** (Sat.) morning **or 2)** afternoon; **Feb. 15: 3)** (Sun.) morning; **or 4)** afternoon. Contact: <http://www.battleofolustee.org/reenactment.html>



March 7-8, 2015: Battle of Natural Bridge Re-enactment at Natural Bridge Battlefield Historic State Park, near Woodville, FL (15 miles south of Capitol Building in Tallahassee)

150th anniversary of the Battle of Natural Bridge, which took place March 6, 1865: One of the last significant Confederate victories of the war. The battle preserved the status of Tallahassee as the only Southern capital east of the Mississippi River not captured by Union forces. Contact:
<http://www.exploresouthernhistory.com/nbreenactment.html>
<http://www.floridastateparks.org/naturalbridge/>
<http://nbhscso.com/>



January 8, 2015 featured speaker: cartographer Steven Stanley

Top row: three books co-authored by Steven Stanley in which his maps and photographs have appeared. An upcoming (spring 2015) book will focus on Pickett's Charge.

Second row: left: an example (*Gettysburg: Pickett's Charge: 3:00 to 3:15 on July 3, 1863*) of one of Steven Stanley's hundreds of signature battlefield maps he has prepared for the Civil War Trust; his name appears in the lower left corner (map courtesy www.civilwar.org); **middle:** Steven Stanley at the CWRNF's book signing table on Jan. 8, 2015; **right:** Steven Stanley doing his PowerPoint presentation showing his four co-authored books. All books available through www.amazon.com

