

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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Gainesville, Florida

Next Meeting (open to the public)

Thursday, **June 5, 2014**, from **6:30 to 8:30 p.m.** at:

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

This Month's Roundtable Discussions

Member Diane Fischler will report the CWRNF's field trip to Andersonville National Historic Site on May 10. **See photos at end of this newsletter.**

Members Terry Huston and Eric Starnes will give a joint talk on the **Battle of Cold Harbor** on June 3, 1864, culminating the one-month Overland Campaign.



Battle of Cold Harbor by Kurz and Allison, 1888

Meeting Agenda

Welcome new members & attendees

- Introductions

Administrative

- Financial report
- **REMINDER: NO MEETING IN JULY**
- Membership drive
- Andersonville trip update

Roundtable discussion

- Battle of Cold Harbor presented by members Eric Starnes and Terry Huston

Open discussion / suggestions

Recommendations / ideas for future meeting topics and discussions

CWRNF News

New website:

The roundtable now has a new website although a few pages are still “under construction”: 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:

Donate one or more of your “gently used” hard or soft cover history books, historical maps or magazines for re-sale at our monthly meetings. The books can cover any period in history, but American 19th and 20th century history books would be preferred. All proceeds go directly into the CWRNF account. **Please bring in your books and magazines!** Payment can be either cash or check (made payable to CWRNF). Please place a note (post-it) on the front cover to show the sale price for your book(s) or magazine(s). At these reduced rates, the prices are not negotiable.

Membership dues:

Full membership dues will be 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 support will be greatly appreciated.

“Like” the CWRNF page on Facebook:

We now 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.

No July meeting:

The CWRNF will not meet in July due to the 3-day holiday weekend starting the next day.

Upcoming Events

CWRNF schedule of meeting topics (speakers and topics subject to change):

July: No meeting

Aug. 7: Historian and author Keith W. Kohl to speak about the Battle of Gainesville on August 17, 1864—the 150th anniversary of that battle this year. Keith wrote *Florida’s Civil War Years* (2011). He will bring copies of his book to sign.

Outside Events:

August 16, 2014 – Battle of Gainesville 150th Anniversary Commemoration

The CWRNF hopes to have reserved table space at the 150th anniversary commemoration of the Battle of Gainesville, held behind the Matheson Museum east of the downtown library on East University Avenue. **Plans have not been finalized as of this June *Courier* issue**, but two members of the CWRNF have volunteered to man a table from approximately 8 a.m. to noon that morning. Contact Diane Fischler (phone: 352--378-3726; email: diane@proofinggrounds.com) if you would like to assist at this table.

This Month 150 Years Ago

“In the East”

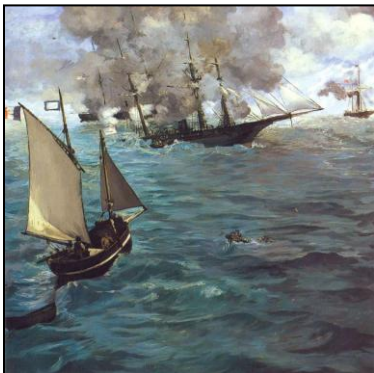
June 15, 1864: Secretary of War Edwin Stanton ordered Robert E. Lee’s Arlington House’s grounds across the Potomac to be turned into a military cemetery.

The *Gainesville Sun* had an AP article on May 25: “Arlington: The National Cemetery’s 150 Years Are Rooted in Civil War.” (www.gainesville.com/article/20140525/WIRE/140529895/0/search)

**June 19, 1864 (way way way “in the East”—off the coast of Cherbourg, France):
Battle off Cherbourg: USS *Kearsarge* sinks CSS *Alabama*:**

On the morning of June 19, 1864, the Confederate commerce raider CSS *Alabama* moved out of Cherbourg harbor and opened fire on the USS *Kearsarge*. The *Kearsarge*, with Captain Charles Pickering at the helm, was more than a match for the war-weary raider *Alabama*, captained by Raphael Semmes. The *Alabama* began to sink after an hour. *Kearsarge* rescued most of *Alabama*’s crew except for Semmes and about 40 other crew members, who all escaped to a British yacht (source: *Ships of the World: An Historical Encyclopedia*, by Lincoln P. Paine [1997]). Below are two famous paintings immortalizing this epic Civil War battle at sea.

Below left: artist Edouard Manet (1864); **below right:** artist Xanthus Smith (1922)



“In the West”

June 27, 1864: Battle of Kennesaw Mountain (Georgia):

By mid-June 1864, Gen. Joe Johnston’s troops had retreated to Kennesaw Mountain (about 20 miles northwest of Atlanta) and began digging trenches. On June 22, Confederate troops struck the Federals at Kolb’s Farm. The Federals held the line; however, they were prevented from moving farther south. Sherman underestimated the strength of the Southern line and ordered attacks on Little Kennesaw and Pigeon Hill. On the morning of June 27, the Federals open fire upon the Confederate fortifications. By the end of the Battle of Kennesaw Mountain, more than 2,000 Union troops had lost their lives compared to just over 500 Confederates who fell (source: <http://stu.westga.edu/~acorman1/index2.html>).



Painting of Union troops assaulting Kennesaw Mountain, commissioned in 1886 by Louis Prang & Co. of Boston as part of a commemorative set depicting important battle scenes of the Civil War. Painting by Swedish artist Thure de Thulstrup.

CWRNF at Andersonville on May 10

Below left: National Park Ranger Eric Leonard, Chief of Interpretation and Education, talking to the CWRNF group by the reconstructed stockade on the northeast side of the prison grounds. **Below right:** CWRNF members and guests in front of the entrance to the National Prisoner of War Museum / Visitor Center.

