

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. III, No. 11

November 2015

Gainesville, Florida

Next Meeting (open to the public) – AND the FINAL meeting at Millhopper Library)

Thursday, Nov. 12, 2015, 6 to 8 p.m. at:

**Millhopper Branch Library
3145 NW 43rd Street
Gainesville, Florida 32606**

(PLEASE NOTE THE FIRST NEWS ITEM ON NEXT PAGE !!!)

***** The CWRNF needs speakers for future meetings! Any ideas? *****

***** Would any CWRNF members like to give a talk on a Civil War topic? *****

Please email Diane Fischler with your suggestions: diane@proofinggrounds.com

IMPORTANT News!

Starting Jan. 14, 2016, the CWRNF will have its permanent meeting location at Trinity United Methodist Church (TUMC), located at 4000 NW 53rd Ave. (room 232—a second-floor meeting room with accessible elevator). The CWRNF met at TUMC this past March and April because Millhopper Library was a central location for early voting. The CWRNF would have had to look for another location in 2016 due to early voting at the library in March and October 2016. The Advisory Board voted unanimously to move to another location.

The CWRNF hopes the new location will not be an inconvenience for any members. TUMC is located 1.8 miles north of Millhopper Library, and then just .2 mile east of the Hunter's Crossing intersection (NW 43rd Street & NW 53rd Ave.). The meetings will continue to start promptly at 6 p.m. Please allow plenty of extra driving time in late afternoon traffic to get to TUMC.

CWRNF News

October speaker: Jon Sensbach: 23 members and guests attended

Guest speaker **Jon Sensbach**, UF history professor, addressed the onset of the war from the viewpoint of a Southern opponent of secession, Hinton Helper, which led to discussing why non-slave-owning soldiers fought for the Confederacy. Angry Southerners thought Hinton Helper was trying to split Southern whites along class lines. Helper wrote *The Impending Crisis of the South*, which made him famous overnight—on both sides—for the opposite reasons. Jon talked about the planter aristocracy—some 3,000 families, each of which possessed at least 100 slaves, accounting for some 10% of the nation's slaves. These planters dominated the political, social, and economic framework of the South, and they launched secession and the war to secure the yeomen farmers' loyalty to defend their homeland. These elite slave owners wanted to hold each southern state intact, knowing that the poor white farmer, not able to rise in the slave-dominated economy, would have to fight for their respective states. Also, the fear of black equality would be another uniting factor and motivate the non-slave-owning farmers to fight.

Book sales

Please donate your “gently used” history books, history DVDs, historical maps, and/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 toward outside speaker fees.** Payment can be cash or check. Place a post-it on the cover to show the price. Prices are not negotiable at these reduced rates. At the Oct. 8 meeting, the CWRNF made **\$36** in book sales.

Website: www.cwrnf.org



Please check the website periodically for updates on the CWRNF's ongoing events, past newsletters, upcoming speakers. We will continue emailing the monthly online **Courier** newsletter as an attachment in PDF format.

The Courier: the online CWRNF newsletter (in PDF format)



IF you have NOT received the online Courier newsletter (sent as a PDF attachment to your requested email address) at least one week before the next meeting, contact Diane Fischler to email you the latest newsletter (diane@proofinggrounds.com). **But before requesting another newsletter attachment, first please check your spam/junk folder in case the email with attachment landed in that folder.**

Membership dues



Full membership dues—renewal or new—were payable at the Sept. 10 & Oct. 8 meetings for next year’s participation in the CWRNF. If you didn’t pay your dues (renewal or new membership) at either of those two meetings, your name has been removed from our membership CWRNF. Your name can be added if you send a check to: Terry Huston, 13450 NE 100th Street, Williston, FL 32696. Please make checks payable to CWRNF. **Your dues go directly toward paying outside speaker fees and room rental fees!**

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 member John Walsh for his time and effort to update and maintain this page.

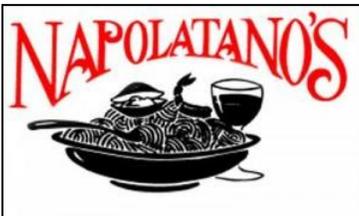
Upcoming Meetings

(second Thursday of each month—6 p.m. at Millhopper Library)
(speakers and topics subject to change)

NOVEMBER MEETING WILL BE THE FINAL MEETING AT THE LIBRARY!!!

November 12, 2015:

Guest speaker **Keith Kohl** will make a return visit to give a presentation on “**Capt. John J. Dickison: Florida’s ‘Swamp Fox’ of the Confederacy.**” Keith was the guest speaker at the August 2014 meeting, talking about the Battle of Gainesville, which took place on Aug. 17, 1864. **Right photo:** Capt. J.J. Dickison (1816-1902) in 1864.
LAST TIME CWRNF WILL MEET AT MILLHOPPER LIBRARY.



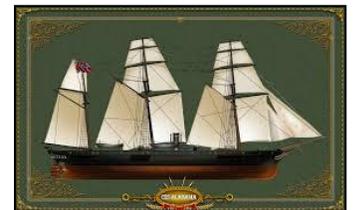
December 10, 2015:

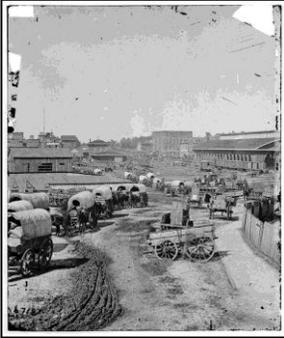
Holiday dinner at Napolatano’s (606 NW 75th Street) in the reserved rear “Coach’s” enclosed dining room. **Sign-up sheets were circulated only at the Sept. 10 & Oct. 8 meetings; back dining room seating is limited. NO MEETING IN DECEMBER!**

January 14, 2016

(in new meeting site: Trinity United Methodist Church):

Member **Bob Wooley** will speak about the famous **CSS Alabama**. The **Alabama** was built in England in 1862 and launched as the *Enrica*, and subsequently was transformed into a Confederate commerce raider in international waters off the Azores with British-made ordnance. Capt. Raphael Semmes, a former Union naval officer and expert on international naval law, led his command to board nearly 450 vessels, take 2,000 prisoners, and capture or burn 65 Union merchant ships, leading to the “**Alabama** Claims.”





February 11, 2016:

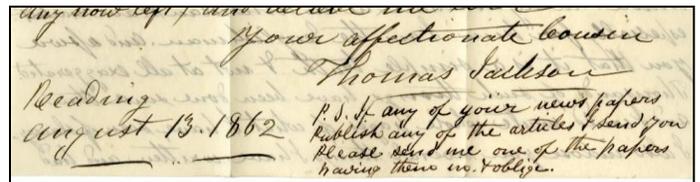
Dr. William Link, professor in the history department at the University of Florida, will be our guest speaker. He will give a presentation titled: **The Atlanta Campaign: Invasion, Destruction, and Remembering in the Civil War South.** Dr. Link has authored six books: *A Hard Country and a Lonely Place: Schooling, Society, and Reform in Rural Virginia, 1870-1920* (1986); *The Paradox of Southern Progressivism, 1880-1930* (1992); *William Friday: Power, Purpose, and American Higher Education* (1995); *Roots of Secession: Slavery and Politics in Antebellum Virginia* (2003); *Righteous Warrior: Jesse Helms and the Rise of Modern Conservatism* (2008); *Atlanta, Cradle of the New South: Race and*

Remembering in the Civil War's Aftermath (2013 hardback; 2015 paperback). Dr. Link will bring the paperback version of *Atlanta, Cradle of the Civil War's Aftermath* to sell and sign after his talk.

Left photo: Federal army wagons at Atlanta's railroad depot in fall 1864. Photo by George Barnard.

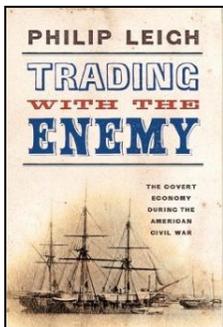
March 10, 2016:

Member **John Paling** will give another presentation on his distant cousin titled: **“Thomas Jackson’s Letters, Part II: The End of the War and Beyond.”** John will continue his role as “ambassador of Thomas Jackson” by providing his relative’s reflections—through Jackson’s articulate letters—on Lincoln’s assassination, Booth’s justification letter, mourning, and the state of Reconstruction.



April 14, 2016:

Guest speaker Philip Leigh will talk on his book ***Trading with the Enemy: The Covert Economy During the American Civil War*** (2014). Phil was the speaker at the July 9, 2015 meeting discussing his book ***Lee’s Lost Dispatch and other Civil War Controversies***. According to *Publisher’s Weekly*, “Leigh’s revelations about who encouraged and allowed for this kind of illegal trade is sometimes shocking.” Phil will bring copies of his book to sell (**\$25—cash or check**) and autograph.



May 12, 2016: TBA

June 9, 2016: TBA

July 14, 2016: TBA

September 8, 2016:

Guest speaker Dr. Matt Gallman will make a return visit to discuss the 1864 presidential election and Lincoln’s “blind memo.” **Right: This 1864 broadside clearly outlines all the major components of the Democratic Platform for the November election. Read the small print in this campaign poster.** Dr. Gallman



spoke to our group in April 2015 about Appomattox. He is the author of numerous books, including *Mastering Wartime: A Social History of Philadelphia During the Civil War* (1990); *The North Fights the Civil War: The Home Front* (1994); *Receiving Erin's Children: Philadelphia, Liverpool, and the Irish Famine Migration, 1845-1855* (2000); *America's Joan of Arc: The Life of Anna Elizabeth Dickinson* (2006); *Lens of War: Exploring Iconic Photographs of the Civil War* (2015); *Defining Duty in the Civil War: Personal Choice, Popular Culture, and the Union Home Front* (2015). He has taught undergraduate courses on the Civil War era and on American Women's History. He teaches the University of Florida's history department's graduate foundation course on 19th century America, and also teaches a graduate seminar on the Civil War.

Upcoming Local & Regional Civil War Events

Nov. 6-8, 2015:

Ocklawaha River Raid, Florida Horse Park, 11008 S. County Road 475, south of Ocala.
lcol2ndbattalion@gmail.com

Nov. 13-15, 2015:

Suwannee River Raid, Heritage Park and Gardens, 1004 Helvenston St. SE, Live Oak.
bobgomillion@yahoo.com **or** generalhardy@yahoo.com

Dec. 11-13, 2015:

Raid on Fort Pierce, Savannah Recreational Area, 1400 E. Midway Rd. in Fort Pierce.
<http://www.facebook.com/FTPierceRaid>

Jan. 15-17, 2016:

Brooksville Raid, Sand Hill Boy Scout Camp on US Hwy. 50 (11210 Cortez Blvd. in Brooksville). <http://hernandohistoricalmuseumassoc.com/raid/location.htm>

Jan. 29-31, 2016:

Battle of Townsend's Plantation, Renninger's Flea Market, 20651 US Hwy. 441 in Mt. Dora.
<http://townsendfirm.com/plantation.htm>

Feb. 12-14, 2016:

Battle of Olusee, Olustee Battlefield State Park, 12 miles east of Lake City. **Photos below were taken at previous Olustee reenactments.** <http://battleofolustee.org/reenactment.html>



“Rifles, Rails & History” in Tavares, Florida

The following photos were taken at the annual Rifles, Rails & History held in Tavares’s Wooten Park, on the shore of Lake Dora, on Sept. 27. The event was organized by Bobby Grenier, the CWRNF’s Sept. 10th speaker. Visitors experienced how the soldiers lived in their camps and heard the distinctive sights and sounds of artillery, cavalry, and infantry demonstrations. Generals Robert E. Lee, Ulysses S. Grant, and “Stonewall” Jackson were on the scene. Exhibits included the Florida Confederate Memorial Wall and large-scale replicas of the Confederate *Hunley* submarine and a Confederate hot-air observation balloon. Photos by Diane Fischler.

Photos:

Top left: Gen. “Stonewall” Jackson, portrayed by Rob Rasnake, giving orders on his “electronic telegraph.”

Top center: Gen. Robert E. Lee, portrayed by Al Stone, reminisced about the war years. To convey the transition to the post-war years, Stone periodically removed the stars on his collar during the presentation.

Top right: Gen. U.S. Grant, with cigar in hand, portrayed by Bret Gordon.

Bottom left: Confederate torpedo; today they are called naval mines. They were defensive weapons to keep Union gunboats and ships from moving freely on the rivers in the South.

Bottom center: Replica of a Confederate observation hot-air balloon. The original balloon, with a cotton envelope coated by varnish, was operated by Captain John R. “Balloon” Bryan, who first flew it over the Union lines on April 13, 1862, during the early part of the Peninsula Campaign.

Bottom right: Robert E. Lee and his “right arm,” Stonewall Jackson, posing for posterity.



Now That's Fire Power!

In the September 2015 online *Courier*, we featured photos of Civil War artillery demonstrations, which were taken by member Bob Wooley, at the National Guard Range in Grayling, Michigan. However, Bob included one photo taken by his son, Joe Wooley, of a 12-pound Napoleon firing a solid 12-pound ball with 2 pounds of black powder. Joe caught on camera the actual fire power coming out of the barrel, which spectators can't see with the naked eye. The spectacular photo was dramatic enough to appear on the cover of the Fall 2015 *Artilleryman Magazine*.

The magazine describes the photo: "Joe Wooley captured his father Bob's 12-pounder CSA bronze Napoleon of Reilly's Battery firing at a target 600 yards away at the recent [July 18, 2015] Grayling, Michigan, Artillery Match. This is a fantastic photograph of the flame coming out of the cannon in which you can see the friction primer blown out of the vent. Bob Wooley and his crew won the muzzle-loading cannon [competition], and [they] hit their target 5 out of 10 times. The reproduction solid bronze Augusta Foundry CSA 12-pounder Napoleon and carriage were built by Historical Ordnance Works [Woodstock, Georgia]."

