

Civil War Roundtable of North Florida



CWRNF

The Courier

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Newsletter of the Civil War Roundtable of North Florida

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Gainesville, Florida

MISSION STATEMENT/PURPOSE

The Civil War Roundtable of North Florida (CWRNF) is dedicated to the study, preservation and discussion of the events and people that were part of the War Between the States. Membership is open to all who have an interest in the American Civil War (1861-1865).

MONTHLY MEETING

The Civil War Roundtable of North Florida (CWRNF) meets the first Thursday of each month (except holidays). The meeting is open to the public.

Location: Alachua County Library
Millhopper Branch - Meeting Room A
3145 NW 43rd Street
Gainesville, FL 32606
(352) 334-1272

Time: 6:30 – 8:30 PM

THIS MONTH'S ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS

Movie: "Echoes of Captivity,"

The second of the two orientation movies shown at the Andersonville National Historic Site. This movie will be shown as a prelude to the CWRNF's field trip on May 10 to Andersonville. This documentary was made in 1998 by the National Park Service; it is narrated by Colin Powell. The movie uses narrative and visual material from the Andersonville Historic Site to bring viewers through the prisoner experience from capture to repatriation. Wars covered include the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, the Civil War, World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and Desert Storm. The pervading theme is that POWs have suffered similar brutalities throughout all the wars that America has fought.

Diane Fischler will give a talk on Andersonville as a follow-up to the POW documentary and as a prelude to the field trip on May 10.

As a follow-up to a discussion at last month's meeting, Diane will pass out copies of papers called 'parole' that the Confederates were asked to sign at Appomattox. Parole is "the agreement of persons who have been taken prisoner by an enemy that they will not again take up arms against those who captured them, either for a limited time or during the continuance of the war".

Member Mark Stringfellow will give a short demonstration regarding stringfellowlegacy.com. The website is an example of a database driven website that has family members set up in a family tree relationship with hyper links between related family members. This allows someone to follow up or down through a hierarchy of a family legacy.

AGENDA

- Welcome new members - attendees
 - Introductions
- Administrative
 - Financial report
 - Mid Year Membership Drive
 - Andersonville Trip
 - Book Sales
- Round Table Discussions
 - Movie "Echoes of Captivity"
 - Andersonville Presentation
 - Family Legacy Program Demonstration
- Open Discussion/Suggestions
- Recommendations / ideas for future meeting topics and discussions

NEWS OF THE CWRNF

Attendance Last Meeting: 19

Thank you to John Walsh for his educational talk on the interesting history of “Libby Prison”.

Book Sales Are Back:

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 will go directly into our CWRNF account.

Any books not purchased will be returned to the owner at the end of the meeting to take home. Payment can be either cash or check (made payable to CWRNF). Terry Huston will collect the money. 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 should not be negotiable.

Membership dues:

The CWRNF is now at the mid-year point for collecting membership dues. Membership (new joiners) will be \$15 for the next six months. Full membership dues will be payable in September for next year’s participation. 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 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 efforts to update and maintain our page.

Speaker Coordinator:

Diane Fischler has agreed to be the CWRNF Speaker Coordinator. She will bring in outside speakers for periodic meetings to talk to our group on various Civil War-related topics. If any member is interested in presenting a talk at one of our monthly meetings or knows of any outside person willing to speak, please contact Diane. If any member has a topic he or she would like to hear more about, please contact Diane. Her email address is: diane@proofinggrounds.com

No July meeting:

Due to the July CWRNF meeting falling the day before the long July 4th holiday weekend, there will be no monthly meeting.

Upcoming magazine article about the CWRNF:

John Walsh, Diane Fischler, and other CWRNF members were interviewed for an article in the local magazine *Our Town*. The piece will most likely contain some information on the 150th Battle of Gainesville commemoration, but we are hoping it places emphasis on the CWRNF. It should appear in the next issue of *Our Town*. If the magazine comes out before the May 1st meeting, we will distribute copies, otherwise, we will pass out copies at the June 5th meeting.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

CWRNF Events:

CWRNF - Roundtable Discussion Schedule:

June: "Battle of Cold Harbor" – Terry Houston / Eric Starnes

July: No Meeting

August: "Battle of Gainesville" – Guest speaker Keith W. Kohl will give a presentation on the Battle of Gainesville, which took place 150 years ago on August 17, 1864.

Andersonville Field Trip:

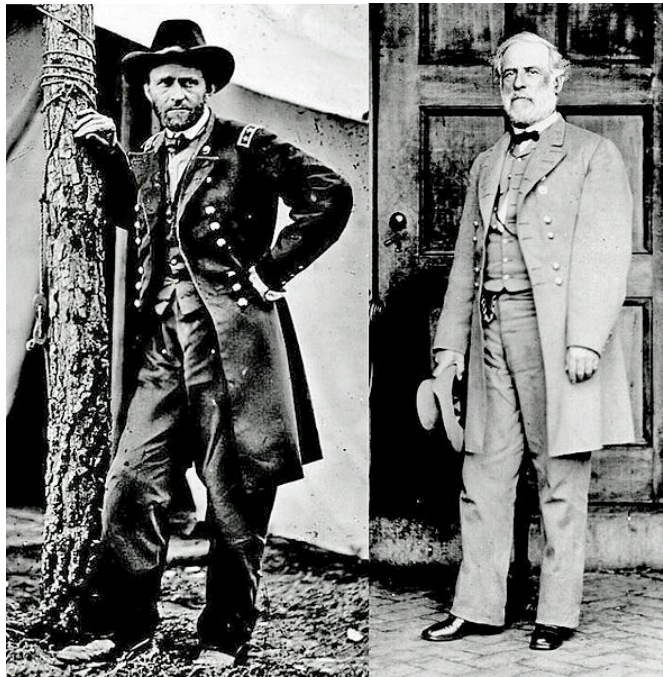
Field trip to Andersonville National Historic Site in southwest Georgia where 13,000 Union soldiers died in 1864-1865. Andersonville has come to symbolize the evils of all Civil War POW camps. Diane Fischler has organized this day-long trip. The cut-off for signing up for this trip has passed. At the June 5th meeting, those members who went on this trip will give a short presentation of the 1) infamous Confederate prison, 2) the National Prisoner of War Museum, and 3) the Andersonville National Cemetery. The prison opened in February 1864—150 years ago.

“THIS MONTH 150 YEARS AGO”

“EAST”

May 5-7, 1864 - The **Battle of the Wilderness** was the first battle of Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant's 1864 Virginia Overland Campaign against Gen. Robert E. Lee and the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia. Both armies suffered heavy casualties, a harbinger of a bloody war of attrition by Grant against Lee's army and, eventually, the Confederate capital, Richmond, Virginia. The battle was tactically inconclusive, as Grant disengaged and continued his offensive.

May 8-21, 1864 - The **Battle of Spotsylvania Court House** is a continuation of the Battle of the Wilderness. General Grant's decision to move forward to Spotsylvania changed the course of the war. For the first time in the Eastern Theatre, the Army of the Potomac went forward after a battle and maintained control of the initiative for the rest of the war. If viewed as one campaign, the Wilderness/Spotsylvania Campaign is the bloodiest in American history.



Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant, USA Gen. Robert E. Lee, CSA
(Images Public Domain)

“WEST”

May 27, 1864 - The **Battle of Pickett's Mill** was fought in Paulding County, Georgia, during the American Civil War between Union and Confederate forces. Union Maj. Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman attempted an attack on the right flank of Confederate Gen. Joseph E. Johnston. After the Union defeat at New Hope Church, Sherman ordered Maj. Gen. Oliver O. Howard to attack Johnston's seemingly exposed right flank. The Confederates were ready for the attack, which did not unfold as planned because supporting troops never appeared. The Confederates repulsed the attack causing high casualties.

CIVIL WAR FACT

The Confederate pay structure was similar to that of the US Army. Union privates were paid at a rate of \$13 per month and Confederate privates were paid at a rate of \$11 per month, In June '64 pay of enlisted men was raised to \$16 a month for Union privates and \$18 per month for Confederate privates.

CWRNF MEMBERS VISIT VETERANS MEMORIAL



CWRNF members John Walsh & Diane Fischler standing on either side of the War Between the States tower of bricks at the Alachua County Veterans Memorial off SW 75th Street in Gainesville. Each brick represents 1,000 deaths. Photo by Ira Fischler