

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)

PLEASE NOTE !!!

For this meeting, our speaker will start his presentation promptly at 6:30. Keith Kohl needs to leave shortly after 7 p.m. so if you would like him to autograph his book, please arrive early so he can sign it prior to his talk. Keith will arrive early.

Thursday, August 7, 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

Roundtable Discussion for August 7, 2014

Historian and author Keith W. Kohl will speak about the Battle of Gainesville, which took place 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—prior to his talk. Cost: \$11 (cash—correct amount—or check made payable to Keith Kohl). Please arrive early—even as early as 6 p.m. for book signing.**

Right: Capt. John J. Dickison, known as the “Swamp Fox,” led the Confederate forces (Companies H, F of the 2nd Florida Cavalry) into Gainesville on August 17, 1864, and dispersed the Federal troops (75th Ohio Mounted Infantry; two companies of the 4th Massachusetts Cavalry; Battery A, 3rd Rhode Island Heavy Artillery). Photo courtesy: *State Library and Archives of Florida*



Meeting Agenda

Roundtable discussion to start at 6:30 p.m. Please arrive by that time.

- Keith Kohl on the Battle of Gainesville: August 17, 1864—150 years ago. **Prior to his talk (between 6 and 6:30 p.m.),** Keith will be happy to autograph copies of his book *Florida's Civil War Years* (paperback, 155 pages, 2011). **Please arrive early for autograph session.**

Welcome new members & attendees

- Introductions

Administrative

- Financial report
- Membership drive: Please give your cash or check **at the Sept. 4th meeting** to Terry Huston for 2014-2015. Membership costs are: **Individual: \$25; Couple/Family: \$35; Student: \$15**
- Sign-up sheet for Dec. 11, 2014 holiday dinner. Place and time TBA.
- New CWRNF banner (**see photo of banner at end of this newsletter**)
- Discuss CWRNF motto:
Should it be **“Where both sides are heard”** or **“Where all sides are heard”**?
- Who would like to give a short presentation (about 10 minutes) of their Civil War ancestor at the next meeting on Sept. 4? Please see information under “Upcoming Meetings” for Sept. 4. Many of you attend the CWRNF because you have ancestors who fought in the Civil War. **Now is your chance to talk about them!**

CWRNF News

Previous June 5, 2014 meeting:

Meeting attendance: 20. CWRNF did not meet in July.

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:

Donate one or more of your “gently used” hard or soft cover history books, history DVDs, historical maps, or magazines for re-sale at our monthly meetings. The books, magazines, and DVDs 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. **Please bring in your books, magazines, and DVDs!** 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) or DVD(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.

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

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

Sept. 4: **Speakers: all of you.** Many of you have ancestors who fought in the Civil War, as indicated in past CWRNF gatherings. The floor will be open to anyone who would like to give a brief talk (about 10 minutes) about a relative and any of their known experiences during the Civil War. If there is not enough time to cover all these ancestors, we can hear about them in future meetings. “Experiences” of that particular soldier/sailor can cover name, state of origin, regiment, which army, known battle participation, relationship to that

ancestor, what became of them after the war, etc. We would like to post the names of your ancestor(s) on the website. This meeting is also an opportunity for you to suggest topics of interest for future meetings. **Please share your ideas!**

- Oct. 2:** **Speaker: Donna Waller** whose topic will be: **“The War with Mexico: Dress Rehearsal for the Civil War.”** She will discuss how the war with Mexico set the stage for the American Civil War, both militarily and politically. Ms. Waller has been an instructor at Santa Fe College in Gainesville for nearly 30 years; she retired as a professor of history in 2011. Her teaching focus has been on the Civil War and the history of the American presidency.
- Nov. 6:** **Ray Carson**, author, professional photographer, and the University of Florida's chief photographer, will give a talk on **Civil War photography**. Ray is author of *The Civil War Soldier: A Photographic Journey*, published by Stackpole Books, 2000. The dust jacket reads: “Through stark, unposed photographs of Civil War re-enactors, photographer and re-enactor Ray Carson has captured this reality of the common soldier's life. Combining the intimacy and intensity of modern photojournalism with the authenticity and historical feel of 1860s photography, Carson has painted a vivid portrait of both the glory and the tragedy of the Civil War.” He has exhibited his photographs in numerous galleries throughout the United States, and has published in national magazines, including *Discovery Magazine*, *Archeology Magazine*, and *U.S. News & World Report*.
- Dec. 11:** Second annual CWRNF holiday dinner. **Note: the dinner will be on the 2nd Thursday, not on the regularly scheduled first Thursday meeting date.** Place and time TBA.

Outside Events

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

The CWRNF will 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. Two members of the CWRNF (**Terry Huston and Rosemary Cortez**) have volunteered to man a table from approximately 8 a.m. to noon that morning. Contact Terry Huston (352-528-3314; email: thuston528@msn.com) or Diane Fischler (352-378-3726); email: diane@proofinggrounds.com) if you would like to assist at this table.

Fourth of July Weekend

Below left: Member Diane Fischler recently spent 10 days at Gettysburg. She saw a play in Gettysburg titled *Beyond Glory*, which was a one-man show presenting the stories of eight veterans from World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. The actor gave riveting, high-energy accounts of these men's valor, which resulted in each of these soldiers receiving the Medal of Honor. The actor was Stephen Lang who portrayed General George Pickett in the movie *Gettysburg*, Stonewall Jackson in *Gods and Generals*, Col. Miles Quaritch in *Avatar*, Ike Clanton in *Tombstone*, among many other prominent roles. The following night, on the Fourth of July on the campus of Gettysburg College, Stephen Lang was the

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narrator of Aaron Copland's *Lincoln Portrait*. Before the performance, Diane had an opportunity to talk with Mr. Lang and pose with him. **Stephen Lang now knows all about the CWRNF!**

Below right: Diane Fischler standing next to Gen. Robert E. Lee in the Gettysburg National Cemetery.



If any CWRNF members toured Civil War battlefields, Civil War historic sites, Civil War museums this summer, please send us some photos to post!

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"Where both sides are heard"

Florida Monument at Gettysburg:
The 2nd, 5th & 8th Florida Infantry Regiments fought here on July 2-3, 1863.

Alachua County Veterans Memorial in Gainesville:
War Between the States tower of bricks surpasses all other death counts in American wars.

The new CWRNF banner to be hung at meetings and events.

Left photo: Florida Monument at Gettysburg on West Confederate Avenue

Right photo: War Between the States tower of bricks at Alachua County Veterans Memorial on SW 75th Street (Tower Road); each brick in each war represents 1,000 deaths.

The memorial is a bar graph of deaths in all American wars, and soon it will be remodeled to accommodate more space—in the form of additional brick towers—for our country's more recent wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. The Alachua County Veterans Advisory Board hopes the newly extended memorial will be completed by Veterans Day 2014.