

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

Mailing address:

Civil War Roundtable of North Florida
13450 N.E. 100th Street, Williston, FL 32696

Phone: (352) 474-1995; or (352) 359-1442

Website: www.cwrnf.org

Email: jp1walsh@gmail.com; or thuston528@msn.com

Vol. II, No. 10

October 2014

Gainesville, Florida

Next Meeting (open to the public)

Thursday, October 2, 2014, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at:

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

Please Note !!!!

Due to Library Room Rescheduling, effective January 8, 2015,

the CWRNF meetings will be held

the second Thursday of each month (6:30 - 8:30 p.m.).

Roundtable Discussion for October 2, 2014:

The Mexican War's Impact on the Civil War

Donna Waller will speak on “The War with Mexico: Dress Rehearsal for the Civil War.”

Meeting Agenda

Welcome new members & attendees

- Introductions

Administrative

- **CWRNF will meet the second Thursday of each month**, effective January 8. Same time, same place. But due to “early voting,” the CWRNF will not have access to this meeting room in March and April. Stay tuned for announcement as to where the CWRNF will meet those two months.
- Financial report
- Membership drive: If you did not pay **your annual dues** at the September 4th meeting, please give your cash or check **at the October 2nd meeting** to **Terry Huston** for **2014-2015** membership dues. Membership costs are: **Individual: \$25; Couple/Family: \$35; Student: \$15.**

Roundtable discussion

Guest speaker **Donna Waller** will talk about “**The War with Mexico: Dress Rehearsal for the Civil War.**” She will discuss how the war with Mexico (April 1846 - February 1848) 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. Question & answer period follows.

Open discussion / suggestions

Member **Sid Mayer** will give a 10-minute presentation at the end of the program on the famous “Rebel Yell.”

CWRNF News

Previous September 4, 2014, meeting

Meeting attendance: **19**

Fred Donaldson, Stewart White, Eric Starnes, and Diane Fischler spoke about their Civil War ancestors. **Rick Doughty** gave an insightful presentation on relic “hunting” in downtown Gainesville. Rick has found several battlefield artifacts from the Battle of Gainesville (August 17, 1864).

Article about the CWRNF

The August 2014 *Senior Times* featured a story (pp. 36-39) on the CWRNF and the Battle of Gainesville re-enactment; it was written by UF journalism student Shayna Posses. Several CWRNF members were interviewed. We hope the article generated local interest in the Civil War. The magazines are also available at the meetings. The article is online at:

http://www.seniortimesmagazine.com/current-issue/seniortimes_0814.pdf

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. **Bring in your books, magazines, and DVDs!** Payment can be either cash or check (made payable to CWRNF). Please place a 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. At the September 4th meeting, we made only **\$5** compared to the August 7th meeting when we made **\$70!**

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 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.

Upcoming Meetings

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

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 second Thursday (December 11), NOT on the regularly scheduled first Thursday meeting date. Place: Red Lobster** (6910 West Newberry Road) at **6:30 p.m.** The CWRNF has reserved a private room in the back of the restaurant—the **Boothbay Harbor** room. Those members who signed up for this holiday dinner will be notified by email with further details; individuals/couples will pay for their own meals and alcoholic drinks (Red Lobster has a full bar). **The holiday dinner will replace the program meeting in December.**
- Jan. 8:** **Steve Stanley**, well-known Civil War mapmaker, will speak on the making of Civil War maps he creates for the Civil War Trust. Steve lives in Gettysburg and is a graphic artist specializing in historical map design and battlefield photography. His maps, considered among the best in historical cartography, have been a longtime staple of the Civil War Preservation Trust, and they have raised millions of dollars for preservation. Steve’s maps have appeared in a wide variety of publications. **Please note: this is the first CWRNF gathering to meet on the second Thursday of each month.**
- Feb. 12:** TBA
- March 12:** TBA
- April 9:** TBA. **150th anniversary of Appomattox**
- May 14 :** Member **Fred Donaldson** will give a talk titled “Jeff Davis’s Baggage or Maybe Another Cabinet Member’s Baggage at Waldo.”

Outside Events

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

The CWRNF 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**, manned the CWRNF table. They passed out the CWRNF fliers and the *Florida Civil War Heritage Trail* booklets. They discussed the Civil War staple food item, hardtack, displayed on the table and distributed information on those famous and infamous “tooth dullers.” **See photos at the end of this *Courier* of the re-enactment** taken by CWRNF member **Sid Mayer**. The CWRNF now has a bigger presence in North Central Florida based on the free advertising in the *Gainesville Sun* which mentioned the CWRNF:

<http://www.gainesville.com/article/20140816/ARTICLES/140819638?p=3&tc=pg>

February 13-15, 2015 – Battle of Olustee Re-enactment

The official 2015 website link is: <http://www.battleofolustee.org/reenactment.html> The main re-enactment will be on Sunday, February 15, starting at 1 p.m. Olustee Battlefield Historic State Park is located on US 90, 15 miles east of Lake City and 50 miles west of Jacksonville. The battle took place on February 20, 1864, in which 10,500 Federal and Confederate soldiers clashed. It was a decisive Confederate victory. The CWRNF hopes to have a presence at this re-enactment, as it did last year.

CWRNF Members on the Civil War Road

If any CWRNF members toured Civil War battlefields, Civil War historic sites, and/or Civil War museums this past summer or fall, please send **Diane Fischler** (diane@proofinggrounds.com) some photos to post!

The following photos were taken by member **Sid Mayer** at the **Battle of Gainesville** re-enactment on August 16, 2014. **Thank you, Sid!**

