

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, November 6, 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.

Meeting Agenda

Welcome new members & attendees

- New attendees will introduce themselves and briefly speak about their interest in the Civil War.

Administrative

- **CWRNF will meet the second Thursday of each month**, effective January 8. 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.
- **Discuss the CWRNF meeting 30 min. earlier at 6 p.m. rather than at 6:30 p.m.**
- Financial report
- Membership drive: If you did not pay **your annual dues** at the Oct. 2 meeting, please give your check **at the Nov. 6 meeting** to **Terry Huston** for **2014-2015** membership dues. Membership costs are: **Individual: \$25; Couple/Family: \$35; Student: \$15.**

Roundtable discussion

Guest speaker **Ray Carson** will talk about **“Civil War Photography.” Question & answer period to follow. Please save your comments and questions until after his talk.** Ray Carson is an author, professional photographer, and the University of Florida’s photography supervisor. Ray is the 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, Ray 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*.

Open discussion

As a follow-up to last month’s presentation by Sid Mayer on the Rebel yell, with time permitting, member Stewart White would like to give a brief talk on a CD titled *The Rebel Yell Lives!* Stewart is bringing several copies of this 16-track CD to sell; it was produced by the Museum of the Confederacy.

CWRNF News

Previous October 2, 2014, meeting

Meeting attendance: **24**. Speaker **Donna Waller** gave an insightful talk on the impact of the Mexican War on the Civil War and James K. Polk as the first hands-on president. Member Sid Mayer gave a short presentation on what the famous Rebel yell actually sounded like. Members listened to the 4½-minute youtube clip: <http://goodoldrebel.com/the-rebel-yell-possible-actual-recording/>

Two new board members

The CWRNF board now consists of six members: **John Walsh, Diane Fischler, Eric Starnes, Terry Huston**, with members **Bill Zettler** and **Stewart White** recently joining the board. Welcome aboard Bill and Stewart! The CWRNF values your contributions!

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

Please donate one or more of your "gently used" history books, history DVDs, historical maps, 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 into the CWRNF account. Payment can be either cash or check (made payable to CWRNF). Place a post-it on the front cover to show the sale price. Prices are not negotiable at these reduced rates.

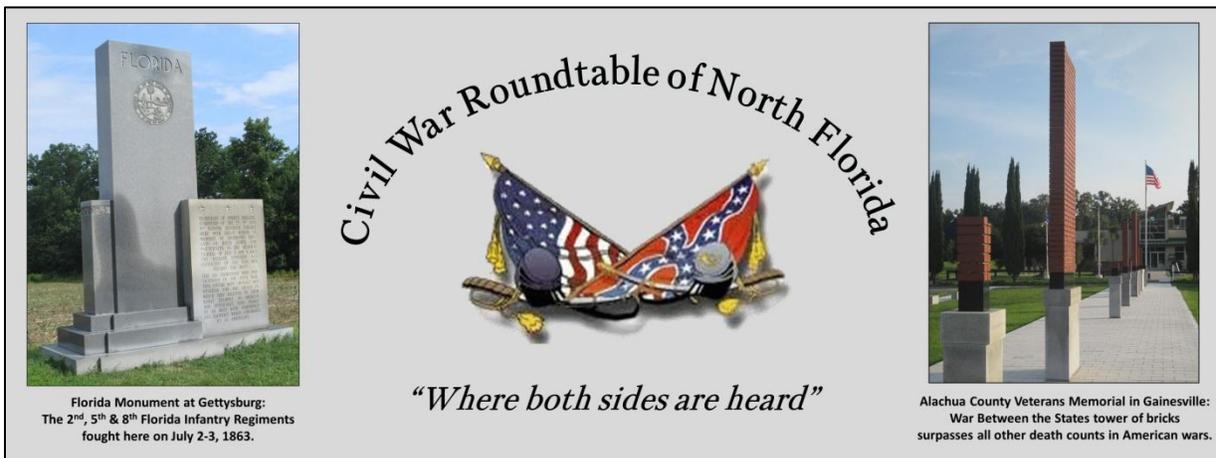
Membership dues

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 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.

CWRNF Banner



The CWRNF's **banner** made its debut at the August 16, 2014 Battle of Gainesville re-enactment. **Photo on left: Florida Monument** on West Confederate Avenue at the Gettysburg battlefield; the 2nd, 5th and 8th Florida regiments (Perry's Brigade, Anderson's Division, A.P. Hill's III Corps, Army of Northern Virginia) fought at Gettysburg. **Photo on right: unique Alachua County Veterans Memorial**—in the form of a bar graph—represents deaths in all American wars; each brick in each war's tower represents 1,000 deaths. Tallest brick tower in center denotes deaths in the Civil War. This one-of-a-kind veterans memorial, which is called "A Walk Through Time," is located at S.W. 75th Street ("Tower Road") and S.W. 41st Place in southwest Gainesville.

Upcoming Meetings

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

Dec. 11: **Second annual CWRNF holiday dinner. Please note: the dinner will be on the second Thursday (Dec. 11), NOT on the regularly scheduled first Thursday meeting date. The holiday dinner will replace the program meeting in December. Place: Red Lobster** (6910 West Newberry Road) at **6:00 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 additional details. Individuals / couples will pay for their own meals and alcoholic drinks (Red Lobster has a full bar). At last year's dinner, members and their guests read short excerpts from letters— from both sides—of Christmases across four years of war. At this year's dinner, the CWRNF will recall the surrender of the city of Savannah just before Christmas 1864—150 years ago—by giving members and their guests short passages to read from letters written by the retreating Confederates, the occupying Federals (including General Sherman), and Savannah residents. The capture of Savannah was General William Tecumseh Sherman's "Christmas present" to President Lincoln, the culmination of Sherman's March to the Sea. The CWRNF will hold a raffle! The first prize-winning ticket holder will receive a decorated basket containing many Civil War-related gift items. The second and third prize-winning ticket holders will each receive a bottle of "Savannah River Red" wine. Bring your cash! Each ticket is \$2 or 3 tickets for \$5.**

Jan. 8: Guest speaker **Steve Stanley**, well-known and highly regarded Civil War mapmaker, will talk about the **making of Civil War maps** he creates for the Civil War Trust. **Question & answer period to follow. Please save your comments and questions until after his talk.** Mr. Stanley 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 his maps have raised millions of dollars for preservation. Steve Stanley'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: Guest speaker **Barbara Oberlander** will give a presentation entitled: **"The Other Lincoln: Mary Todd Lincoln: Our Most Controversial First Lady."** This is an appropriate topic because this meeting date, Feb. 12, is Abraham Lincoln's birthday (1809-

1865). **Question & answer period to follow. Please save your comments and questions until after her talk.** From 1975 to 2005, Barbara Oberlander was a professor of history at Santa Fe College. She has been very active in community efforts to heighten awareness of women's role in American life, both working with the Gainesville Commission on the Status of Women, Inc. and offering numerous public presentations on outstanding women and women's contributions. She has also taught classes at Oak Hammock, including *Ladies First: From Martha to Laura; Petticoats to Flak Jackets: Women in Wartime; Every Four Years: Memorable Presidential Elections*; and most recently, "Well Behaved Women Rarely Make History (or Do They?)."

March 12: Member **John Paling** will give a talk entitled: "**The Thomas Jackson Letters: How a Brit Tried to Save the United States of America.**" This presentation is not mainly a "see what my relative did in the Civil War," but rather the opportunity for an outsider to use British citizen Thomas Jackson's eloquent letters as a starting point to take an independent, fresh look at several of the big issues of the time and to invite members to join him to discuss whether there might be lessons from those times that might apply to our own generation today. John Paling is the co-author of *Up to Your Armpits in Alligators? How to Sort Out What Risks Are Worth Worrying About!* (1994) and several other books and articles. He has 20 years' experience as a professional speaker, author, and consultant in 58 countries, plus 20 years' experience as producer/filmmaker of more than 50 wildlife films.

April 9: Guest speaker **Matt Gallman** will discuss **Appomattox**—and this date, **April 9, 2015**, marks the 150th anniversary of Gen. Lee surrendering the Army of Northern Virginia (**April 9, 1865**). **Question & answer period to follow. Please save your comments and questions until after his talk.** He is the author of four books, including *Mastering Wartime: A Social History of Philadelphia During the Civil War* (Cambridge, 1990); *The North Fights the Civil War: The Home Front* (Ivan Dee, 1994); *Receiving Erin's Children: Philadelphia, Liverpool, and the Irish Famine Migration, 1845-1855* (UNC, 2000); and *America's Joan of Arc: The Life of Anna Elizabeth Dickinson* (Oxford, 2006). He is currently working on a study of political rhetoric and satire in the North during the Civil War. He has taught undergraduate courses on the Civil War era and on American Women's History. He teaches the department's graduate foundation course on 19th Century America on a regular basis, and he has also taught a graduate seminar on the Civil War.

May 14: Member **Fred Donaldson** will give a talk titled "Jeff Davis's Baggage or Maybe Another Cabinet Member's Baggage at Waldo."

Civil War-Related Regional Events

(Events subject to change. Please VERIFY before attending event.)

Nov. 1-2, 2014: Ocklawaha River Raid Civil War Re-enactment & Living History Weekend at Florida Horse Park, 11008 South Hwy. 475, Ocala, FL. Admission donation: \$10 per carload

Event commemorates the March 1865 Federal army raid on plantations east of Ocala and the resulting skirmish with local Southern troops. **Contact:** email Keith Kohl: Itcol2ndbattalion@gmail.com

Nov. 15-16, 2014: Raid on the Suwannee Re-enactment at Heritage Park & Gardens, 1004 Helvenston St. S.E., Live Oak, FL. 9 to 4:30 p.m. \$5/person

Contact: <http://www.raidonthesuwannee.com>

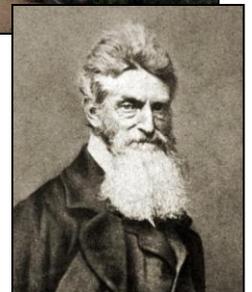
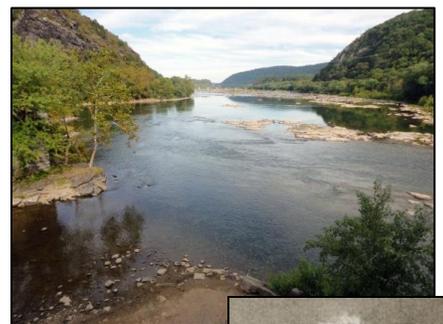
Feb. 13-15, 2015: Battle of Olustee Re-enactment east of Lake City, FL. \$10/adults; \$5/children

The main re-enactment will be on Sunday, Feb. 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. **Contact:** <http://www.battleofolustee.org/reenactment.html>

CWRNF Members on the Civil War Road

If any CWRNF members toured Civil War battlefields, Civil War historic sites, and/or Civil War museums within the last several months, please send some photos to Diane Fischler (diane@proofinggrounds.com)

Below are photos taken by member **John Buckta** who with wife Lori visited **Harpers Ferry** (now in West Virginia) National Historical Park on Sept. 23, 2014. **Thank you, John!** As many historians have said, this little town at the confluence of the Potomac and Shenandoah rivers—a town at that time located in the state of Virginia—was where the Civil War “started” Oct. 16-18, 1859, with John Brown’s raid. John’s top photos: **Left:** Armory Engine House where John Brown and his raiders held out until captured by the Marines under the command of Col. Robert E. Lee. **Center:** John Brown Wax Museum on High Street. **Right:** “The Point” (bottom of photo) where the Shenandoah (on the right) flows into the Potomac River. **Bottom:** John Brown as he looked at the time of his trial in October-November 1859.



In a note handed to his jailer, he wrote these prophetic words on Dec. 2, 1859, the day that he was hanged in nearby Charles Town, Virginia, seven miles from Harpers Ferry:

“I, John Brown, am now quite certain that the crimes of this guilty land can never be purged away but with blood.”