



The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

The *RUNNER*

Newsletter of The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Editor **Bob Cooke**

June 2009

Our next meeting will be Thursday 10 September 2009 at St. Andrew's On-the-Sound
(Airlie Rd.)

Social Hour at 6:30 p.m., meeting at 7:30 p.m.

“Summer Edition”



Summer is upon us and our RT is on recess until September, but please keep in mind that we are always looking for speakers for our meetings (we only utilize the very best) and Civil War related articles for our newsletter! Please have a wonderful, enjoyable and safe summer and we look forward to seeing you in September.



Please mark your calendar on 16 June (the third Tuesday) and be sure to attend member [Richard Triebe's](#) talk on the Confederate POWs captured at Fort Fisher. He will speak at 7 p.m. at the Southport Community Building (E. Moore St.). For more information contact the NC Maritime Museum at 457-6699 or by e-mail at info@friendsncmmsouthport.org



At our May meeting, our past president, **Dr. Chris E. Fonvielle, Jr.**, and his co-author (*Louis Froelich: Arms Maker to the Confederacy*) **John W. McAden, Jr.** held the audience captive with their dual approach to examining the war-time enterprise of Louis Froelich. As **Dr. Fonvielle**



discussed his research, which due to a real lack of historical information, he likened to searching for a needle in a haystack, **Mr. McAden** held up an actual Froelich edged weapon and described it in detail. It is unknown when Froelich arrived in America, but by 1861, he was involved in the manufacture of buttons and cannonballs!

Situated in Wilmington on Surry Street, between Church and Queen Streets, his Confederate Arms Factory was soon churning out all sorts of edged weapons; from bayonets, cavalry sabers, short swords, lances and bowie knives (many of which John gladly showed to a most interested group), all were produced in Wilmington until Froelich, fearful of both the threatened Union attack as well as yellow fever which was, by the summer and fall of 1862, was washing like a tidal wave over the town, he shut down his factory. No sooner had he again begun operating his factory then a fire swept through the premises. It was at this point that Froelich moved his factory to Kenansville, where he again began producing weapons for both the state and Confederate government.

Unfortunately for Froelich, Kenansville was the target for a Union cavalry raid in July 1863. He suffered the loss of several building which were burned to the ground, but was once again turning out not only swords and bayonets but also farm tools, buttons, surgical equipment and knapsacks. Our thanks to **Dr. Fonvielle** and **Mr. McAden** for a great evening's talk!

P.S. Our RT purchased two volumes of *Louis Froelich: Arms Maker to the Confederacy*. One is to be raffled off at our September "kick-off" meeting while the other (leather-bound) will be raffled off at our annual dinner meeting. Be sure to be there for both and get two chances to win! Speaking of raffles:

Raffle Winners

Confederate Navy Quiz book- Mary Royal
Gettysburg- Ed Gibson
Fort Fisher- Cris Mowrey
Civil War Commanders- John Winecoff
Tarnished Eagles- Bob Cooke
Robert E. Lee print- Paul Codull
The Fighting McCooks- Bob Cooke
Wild, Wicked Wilmington- John Winecoff

