

The Runner



Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Our next meeting will be held on **Thursday, 8 December 2016** at St. Andrews On-the-Sound Episcopal Church located at 101 Airlie Road. Come early - the meeting starts promptly at 7:30p.m. See cfwrt.org for details of future speakers and events.

Please join us at our fourth meeting of the 2016-2017 Program Year. Visitors are always welcome – **bring a friend or two**. Each of our speakers strives to enlighten, entertain, and add to our knowledge of Civil War history. This serves our mission of encouraging education and research into that historic conflict.

******* December 2016 Program *******

CSS Albemarle and the Battle of Plymouth

Andrew Duppstadt will speak to the CFCWRT about the last attempt to retake eastern North Carolina from Union control. The combined operation by Confederate army and naval units will succeed as one of the last offensive victories for Confederate arms during the Civil War. Andrew will share the remarkable story of the CSS *Albemarle* as well as the stories of some of the most exciting characters who will emerge into the war's history.

Andrew Duppstadt has been a multiple-time speaker to our RT. Historian, re-enactor, speaker and Civil War/Revolutionary War expert, Andrew will speak to the CFRWRT on December 7th and to the CFCWRT on December 8th.



Andrew Duppstadt

Editor

***** Trivia Questions for December *****

- 1 – Where was the CSS *Albemarle* built and who was its chief builder?
- 2- The CSS *Albemarle* was instrumental in the Confederate army's recapture of what town? Who commanded the Confederate army at this victory?
- 3 – Who was a controversial commander of the *Albemarle* who never got to take her against the Union fleet?
- 4 – What was the fate of the *Albemarle*? Who commanded the ironclad on October 28, 1864? Who led the Union efforts to capture or destroy the ironclad?
- 5 – What ban was issued by the mayor of Richmond when the evacuation was ordered on April 2, 1865?

***** Raffle Winners *****

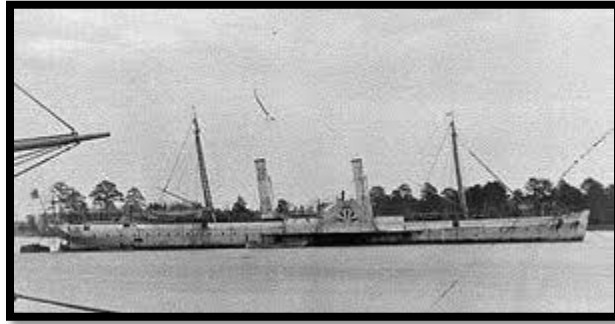
Raffle Master: Ed Gibson

If you have books, prints, or other items that you would like to donate to the raffle, contact Ed Gibson (egibson759@aol.com) before our next meeting. *The raffle is one of the components which allow the CFCWRT to fund our activities and our speakers.* Please take part in our raffle by contributing items and/or purchasing tickets.



Mrs. Robert E. Lee: Linda Lashley
Campaigning with Grant: Bill Jayne
A Blaze of Glory: John Monroe III
The Civil Wars: John Bolger
Civil War Reader: John Monroe III
To the Sea: Ed Gibson

***** **Member News & Activities** *****



Blockade Runner the *Robert E. Lee*

If you have member news or news about Civil War events that you think would be of interest to CFCWRT membership, send me an email with the details. Thank you.

1 – Wishing all members and friends of the CFCWRT a Family Friendly Thanksgiving and a Merry and Joyous Christmas.

2 – If you have plans to do some traveling and want to know upcoming Civil War events in that area, check out *civilwar.travel*. This site is for 2016-2017 events. Listed below are some events scheduled to take place in December.



Fredericksburg (VA) citizens view desolation 1862

9 NC Candlelight tours at Bennett Place State Historic Site in Durham. Every 15 minutes, 6-9 pm. \$3/adult. nchistoricsites.org/bennett

10 GA “A Candlelight Christmas at Liberty Hall,” Victorian traditions at the A.H. Stephens Historic Site near Crawfordville. 6-9 pm. Free with park admission. gastateparks.org/AHStephens

10 DC Tours, "Civil War Washington," with Ed Bearss. Includes walking tours of Arlington National Cemetery, Lincoln's Cottage, Lafayette Square and more. 8 am-6 pm. \$200. smithsonianassociates.org (click Civil War).

10 NC Living history, "Christmas in the Piedmont," with period decoration and refreshments at Bennett Place State Historic Site in Durham. 10 am-4 pm. Free. nchistoricsites.org/bennett

3 – **Wreaths Across America** – An effort to support the placement of a wreath on every grave in the Wilmington National Cemetery. Cost of a wreath is \$15. See cfcwrt.org or <http://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/#join-us> for additional information.



4 – The **Cape Fear Revolutionary Round Table** will hold its annual End-of-Year Dinner Meeting on **December 7** at 6:30 PM, St. John's Masonic Lodge, 4712 Oriole Dr., Wilmington. The cost will be \$30 for members and \$35 for non-members; the public is invited. The \$5 for non-members and guests may be applied to a new membership (Individual \$25, Student \$15, Family \$50). Dinner will be Angus roast beef with rice and gravy, green beans, salad, pickled beets, hot rolls and vanilla cream pie. Drinks will be tea, sweet and unsweet, coffee and water.

Andrew Dupstadt, North Carolina Division of State Historic Sites, will be speaking on colonial North Carolina's Gov. Richard Caswell, hero of the Battle of Moores Creek Bridge and the first sovereign of the state of North Carolina. Caswell was elected as the first Governor of North Carolina and was North Carolina's representative to the Continental Congress.

Please send your check to CFRWRT, 105 S. W. Yacht Drive, Oak Island, NC 28465. The registration deadline is Sunday, December 4th, 2016. For any questions, please reach out to Connie Hendrix at email hend5678@ec.rr.com or 910-278-6705. We hope you will join us. Linda Lashley

5 – Mark your calendar. The **CFCWRT Dinner Meeting** will be held on **February 9, 2017** at the Blockade Runner resort at Wrightsville Beach. **Kelly Hinson** will perform as Confederate spy and diplomat, **Rose O’Neal Greenhow**. **Additional details** January issue of THE RUNNER.



Confederate rose

6- **Cape Fear Civil War Symposium at Fort Caswell, May 5-7, 2017**. Featuring the following speakers: Dr. Robert M. Browning, Jr., Dr. Stephen Wise, Dr. Chris Fonvielle, Col. Wade Sokolosky and Jim McKee. If you want to learn about Cape Fear Civil War history as it relates to Blockade Running, this is the symposium for you. See **fortcaswell.com** for details and registration form.

***** **November 2016** *****

The Fall of Richmond: April 1865

Bert Dunkerly provided the events in Richmond as they occurred from April 2 - April 4 as the capital of the Confederacy fell to fires, rioters and occupying Union troops.

Grant’s breakthrough at Petersburg on April 2nd necessitated Robert E. Lee to inform Jefferson Davis that the evacuation of Richmond needed to begin. Efforts had begun; however, papers, tobacco warehouses, Confederate navy ships, and other materials that could not be moved had to be destroyed. High winds and drunken rioters did the rest.

General Godfrey Weitzel directed Union forces into the city to claim the prize so long desired by the Union government. Lincoln’s visit to the city on April 4th allowed Lincoln to witness his victory.



Editor

***** **Trivia Questions for December** *****

1 – **Where was the CSS Albemarle built and who was its chief builder?** The CSS *Albemarle* was built in a corn field along the Roanoke River near Scotland Neck, North Carolina. John Luke Porter, Chief Naval Constructor, C.S. Navy, designed the 152 foot vessel to have a draft of eight feet and a tonnage of 376. It was **Gilbert Elliott**, a 19 year old army officer, who was selected by Confederate Secretary of Navy, Stephen Mallory, to construct the ironclad in an unlikely and difficult location.

Elliot's task was made difficult by shortages of nearly all materials required to construct an ironclad. His accomplishments made fascinating reading as he scraped together workmen and materials to complete work on one of the Confederacy's most successful warships.

Source: *Ironclad of the Roanoke: Gilbert Elliot's Albemarle*, Robert G. Elliott, White Mane Publishing Company, Shippensburg, PA, 1994.

2 - The CSS *Albemarle* was instrumental in the Confederate army's recapture of what town? Who commanded the Confederate army at this victory? If you were paying attention, you know that **Plymouth** was the answer to the first question. North Carolinian, **Robert F. Hoke**, commanded the recapture of the Union-held city on April 20, 1864. The *Albemarle* sank one Union ship and drove off another; hence, ensuring the Confederate victory.

Source: *Ironclad of the Roanoke: Gilbert Elliot's Albemarle*, Robert G. Elliott, White Mane Publishing Company, Shippensburg, PA, 1994.

3 – Who was a controversial commander of the *Albemarle* who never got to take her against the Union fleet? John Newland Maffitt. Maffitt was controversial because of his aggressiveness in attacking the Union fleet at every opportunity. The Confederate army opposed Maffitt because they desired the *Albemarle* to protect eastern North Carolina against future Union naval expeditions. The army was afraid that losing the ironclad in aggressive actions would result in loss of the waters in all of eastern North Carolina that had been gained with the recapture of Plymouth.

Maffitt was relieved of command of the ram on September 9, 1864. He was ordered to Wilmington to take command of the blockade runner *Owl*.

Source: *Ironclad of the Roanoke: Gilbert Elliot's Albemarle*, Robert G. Elliott, White Mane Publishing Company, Shippensburg, PA, 1994.

4 – What was the fate of the *Albemarle*? Who commanded the ironclad on October 28, 1864? Who led the Union efforts to capture or destroy the ironclad? At about 3:00AM on October 28, 1864, a Union launch, commanded by **Lt. William B. Cushing**, successfully exploded a torpedo against the *Albemarle*. The ironclad sank in the shallow waters of the Roanoke River at Plymouth.

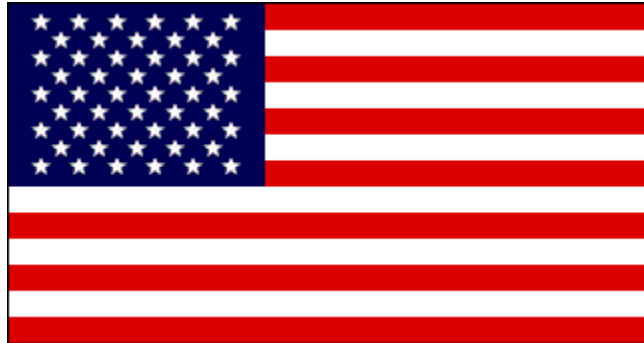
Lt. Alexander F. Warley was the third and final commander of the *Albemarle*.

Source: *Ironclad of the Roanoke: Gilbert Elliot's Albemarle*, Robert G. Elliott, White Mane Publishing Company, Shippensburg, PA, 1994.

5 – What ban was issued by the mayor of Richmond when the evacuation was ordered on April 2, 1865? Mayor Joseph C. Mayo issued an order to destroy all alcoholic stores in the capital. Mayo ordered this action to prevent potential rioters from being fueled by this stimulant. Mayo's ban was unsuccessful – potential rioters drank the alcohol as it ran to the gutters. And the city burned.

***** **Thoughts** *****

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.



Editor

***** **Recommendation** *****

I was reading up on the Battle of Plymouth and the CSS *Albemarle* and I went to my library for some reference books. William R. Trotter wrote a trilogy of books about the Civil War in North Carolina. ***Ironclads and Columbiads: The Civil War in North Carolina: The Coast*** provided an abundance of information.

Of special interest to me was: **Appendix B: A Massacre at Plymouth?**