



THE DRUM & BUGLE
Voice of the Rappahannock Valley Civil War Round Table
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Speaker: Ernest Dollar
Topic: "Hearts Torn Asunder: Trauma in the Civil War's Final Campaign in North Carolina"
When: Monday February 12, 2024
Location: Brock's Riverside Grill
Times: Social Time Begins 6:00 pm, Dinner 6:45 pm, Meeting Begins 7:30 pm
Our Website: www.rappvalleycivilwar.org
Our Facebook: www.facebook.com/rvcwrt

Ernest Dollar "Hearts Torn Asunder: Trauma in the Civil War's Final Campaign in North Carolina"

Durham, North Carolina native Ernest A. Dollar Jr. graduated from the University of North Carolina-Greensboro with B.A. in History and B.F.A. in Design in 1993 and M.A. in Public History from North Carolina State in 2006. He served in the U.S. Army Reserve/North Carolina National Guard from 1993-1999. Ernest has worked in several historic parks in both North and

South Carolina, including as executive director of the Orange County Historical Museum, Preservation Chapel Hill. He currently serves as the director of the City of Raleigh Museum and Dr. M. T. Pope House Museum. He lives in Durham with his wife, Suzie, and their sons Elijah and Kilby.

The war did not end on April 9, 1865. A larger and arguably more important surrender had yet to take place in North Carolina. This part of the surrender story occupies but little space in the vast annals of Civil War literature, and as author Ernest A. Dollar Jr. ably explains in *Hearts Torn Asunder: Trauma in the Civil War's Final Campaign in North Carolina*, the lens of modern science may reveal why. The war's final campaign in North Carolina began on April 10, 1865, one day after Lee's surrender. More than 120,000 Union and Confederate soldiers were still in the field bringing war with them as they moved across the state's verdant heartland. General William T. Sherman was still out to destroy the South's ability and moral stamina to make war. His unstoppable Union troops faced General Joseph E. Johnston's demoralized but still dangerous Confederate Army of Tennessee. Thousands of paroled Rebels, desperate, distraught, and destitute, added to the chaos by streaming into the state from Virginia. Grief-stricken civilians, struggling to survive in a collapsing world, were caught in the middle. The collision of these groups formed a perfect storm long ignored by those wielding pens. *Hearts Torn Asunder* explores the psychological experience of these soldiers and civilians during the chaotic closing weeks of the war. Their emotional, irrational, and often uncontrollable reactions mirror symptoms associated with trauma victims today, all of which combined to shape memory of the war's end.

“The Naval Civil War in Theaters Near and Far”

by Dwight Hughes

A Review of the January 2024 Program by Greg Mertz

Most students of the Civil War are familiar with the three theaters of operations for the armies: the eastern, western and trans-Mississippi theaters. Our speaker, Dwight Hughes, pointed out the different naval theaters of the war explaining some of the differences between them, in terms of such things as their locations, their tactics and their changing objectives as the war progressed.

Hughes first describe the Littoral Theater, taking place along the coastlines of both the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic Ocean, with the primary mission

of blockading the Confederate ports and preventing blockade runners from breaking through their cordon. Hughes declared this to be the “largest, longest and most expensive campaign of the war.” It required Secretary of the Navy Gideon Wells to initiate a huge warship procurement program to dramatically increase the size of the small pre-war U.S. Navy. Four squadrons, each headed up by an officer under the new rank of admiral, were created to deal with particular sections of the coast. The West Gulf, East Gulf, South Atlantic and North Atlantic Blockading Squadrons undertook the critical mission outlined in General-in-Chief Winfield Scott’s Anaconda Plan for winning the war by cutting off supplies destined for the Confederacy.

Essential for the success of the Littoral Theater was to obtain bases for blockading operations, and doing so required new types of ships and new tactics to engage with forts along the coast. Rear Admiral Samuel Francis Du Pont achieved a major coup at Port Royal, South Carolina, on November 7, 1861 in one of the earliest amphibious operations of the war. Coastal fortifications had previously been able to hold their own when engaged with relatively slow-moving sail powered vessels. But Port Royal forts struggled to hit the newer and faster steam powered ships engaging in the new tactics of steaming around in a loop prescribed by Du Pont. His victory gave the U.S. Navy a base wedged between Charleston, South Carolina and Savannah, Georgia.

While the objectives of the blocking squadrons in 1861 included prevention of privateers from raiding, and calling for the U.S. Navy to seize the coaling bases of blockade runners, the mission had expanded by 1862. The navy now targeted ports, disrupted trade and supported land campaigns. Though the U.S. military had no framework for joint operations, Gen. Ambrose E. Burnside, with 15,000 troops and Flag Officer Louis M. Goldsborough, with more than 80 ships in his North Atlantic Blockading Squadron, set the standard for army-navy cooperation in the North Carolina sounds. In September of 1862, they captured Roanoke Island, destroyed a small Confederate fleet, and broke the Wilmington and Weldon railroad at Goldsboro.

For the last half of the war, the Littoral Theater called for the capture of the remaining ports and bringing a halt to blockade running. Ports still open to

the Confederacy late in the war, had defensive features that presented significant challenges for the U.S. Navy. Du Pont's attempts to take Charleston Harbor were thwarted because it was a cul-de-sac enabling Confederate forces to deliver a cross fire on the navy's boats. Navy warships also became mired in mine fields, and Du Pont's fleet included ironclad monitors that fired too slowly to be effective.

Wilmington, North Carolina was another port that was difficult for the Federals to take. The 47 cannon within the sand ramparts of Fort Fisher were able to absorb most of the projectiles fired upon it from some 600 guns on Rear Admiral David D. Porters warships. Fort Fisher finally fell in January 1865 as the result of a joint operation.

The second naval theater – the Inland River Theater -- covered some 1000 river miles of the Mississippi River and its major tributaries. The first warships dedicated to river warfare were the “timberclads” – side wheeled steamships with five-inch thick bulwarks added for protection. But warships were needed that would be able to fend off greater firepower than what five inches of oak could withstand. James B. Eads and Samuel M. Pook built and designed the “City-class ironclads” with 2 ½ inches of iron around the casemates, named after significant river port cities. Even though two of the ironclad gunboats were sunk by torpedoes (including the USS Cairo, which is on display at Vicksburg National Military Park) and two were rammed and briefly sunk, these warships would be indispensable to the success of the of the river campaigns. Lightly armored “tinclads” were another type of vessel used on the rivers, with the timberclads, ironclads and tinclads all comprising the “brown water navy.”

Flag Officer Andrew H. Foote and his Western Gunboat Flotilla, played significant roles in the capture of Fort Henry and in the first major Federal victory of the war at Fort Donelson, both in February 1862. Foote's flotilla was placed under the army, so his relationship with Gen. Ulysses S. Grant in the River Theater had distinct differences with what Goldsborough and Burnside would later formulate in the Littoral Theater.

The River Campaign also witnessed new tactics: running warships past fortified river positions. The first was done by one of the City-class ironclads, the [USS Carondelet](#), which ran past fortifications at Island No. Ten on the

Mississippi River near the Tennessee-Missouri border, and contributed to the surrender of much of the Confederate garrison in the vicinity.

Hughes indicated that Grant and David D. Porter (prior to Porter's action at Fort Fisher mentioned above) formed one of the most important partnerships of the entire war as evidenced by their cooperation at Vicksburg. Locals were amazed at what Porter was able to do in maneuvering his boats through some of the swamps and bayous, with all types of critters falling from treetops onto the decks of the ships. As at Island No. Ten, the navy ran past the Vicksburg shore batteries with gunboats and empty transports on two nights at a loss of just two transports, enabling the army to reach dry ground south of Vicksburg and east of the Mississippi River – a critical step in the success of the campaign.

The third campaign – the Ocean Theater – entailed the traditional naval operations of the “blue water navy” on the high seas. The primary opponent of the U.S. Navy were the Confederate privateers engaged in commerce destruction. These commerce raiders, including the CSS Alabama, CSS Florida and CSS Shenandoah were swift enough to outrun most U.S. warships. While most operated in the Atlantic Ocean, the Alabama traveled as far as the South China Sea, and the last Confederate military force to remain in active service – the crew of the Shenandoah – were actively harassing the whaling fleet in the North Pacific Ocean when they learned that the war was over.

Friends of Central Virginia Battlefield Trust

As you know CVBT is a land trust. We focus on purchasing endangered battlefield properties. We do produce a large three-day annual conference, standalone events and need to interpret and maintain our lands, we need help in all of these. In the past, CVBT has had individuals from organizations assist us, and we are grateful, but now we would like to create an official volunteer group who would enjoy being part of CVBT's volunteer core.

We have created “**The Friends of CVBT.**” The intent is for this all-volunteer group is to be the “On Call” core of CVBT's volunteer group assisting in events and battlefield related needs. Active volunteer members will have the unique opportunity to be involved with events hosted by nationally acclaimed historians, assist in tours, and work on preserved battlefields. Participating

volunteers will also be enrolled in the membership ranks of CVBT every year they contribute. CVBT will provide each volunteer with a CVBT volunteer staff shirt and CVBT official hat to wear at events or whenever wanted. We will be limiting this new group to 18 volunteers.

CVBT is now beginning our 27th year of preserving our local battlefields, the very battlefields you study and walk upon. We would be honored to have you join the ranks of CVBT volunteers to help us further our mission of preserving our Nation's history.

If interested please email our Executive Director **Terry**

Rensel at executivedirector@cvbt.org .

Office: 540-374-0900

More from the CVBT

The Central Virginia Battlefield Trust (CVBT) will be hosting a seminar in the spring. The event will take place on March 9, 2024. Some speakers will include Kevin Pawlak, Ted Savas, and John Hennessy. Information for the event can be found at the website provided.

<https://www.cvbt.org/2024springseminar>

CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE OF FREDERICKSBURG (CWRTF)

CWRTF meets 9 times a year on designated Wednesdays at Mary Washington Jepson Alumni Executive Center, 1119 Hanover Street. They offer a buffet dinner followed by a Civil War-themed presentation. Reservations are required. Speaker/topic schedule can be found on their website at www.cwrftf.org, as well as below.

CWRTF Schedule

January 24, 2024 – Bert Dunkerly, THE BROWN'S ISLAND EXPLOSION

February 28, 2024 – Scott Boyd, *THE HUNLEY*

March 27, 2024 – Christian Keller, SOUTHERN STRATEGIES

April 24, 2024 – Doug Crenshaw, RICHMOND SHALL NOT BE GIVEN UP

May 22, 2024 – Gary Gallagher, PATHWAYS TO NEW NATIONAL LOYALTY

June 19, 2024 – Paul Brueske, THE LAST SIEGE: THE 1865 MOBILE CAMPAIGN

Who We Are

The Drum and Bugle Newsletter is published monthly by the Rappahannock Valley Civil War Round Table, Post Office Box 7632, Fredericksburg VA 22404. The newsletter is available on our website at www.rappvalleycivilwar.org. Yearly membership dues are \$40 for individuals and \$50 for families. Students are free. Membership is open to anyone interested in the military, political and social history of the American Civil War.

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