



THE RAMROD

North Carolina
Civil War Round Table

September 2017

2017 Programs

16 Sept: Chris Hartley: "Will the Real D.H. Hill Please Stand Up"

18 Nov: Chris Mackowski: "Jubal Early: Lee's 'Bad, Old Man' and the Beginning of The Lost Cause"

Dinner starts at 6:00 p.m. and program at 7:00 p.m. Please e-mail Membership Secretary Dick Whitaker at dwbiz53@gmail.com or call him at 336-293-3980 to make reservations. Payment of \$20 per person can be made in cash or check at the door. Make checks payable to NCCWRT.



Chris Hartley will ask "The Real D.H. Hill" To Show Himself at the September Meeting Sept. 16

It is always a great pleasure when "one of our own" provides the evening program for NCCWRT. At our regularly scheduled meeting on September 16, 2017, our speaker will be NCCWRT member, Chris Hartley. Many of you will recall Chris' past presentations and know he is an accomplished speaker, particularly when he is focused on one of his own published books. Tonight, Chris has chosen to discuss with us his current work-in-progress, a biography of Lt. Gen. Daniel Harvey Hill.

Chris' first full length book (1996), Stuart's Tarheels: James B. Gordon and His North Carolina Cavalry, received the U.D.C.'s Jefferson Davis Award. His second book, (2010), Stoneman's Raid 1865, immediately received the Willie Parker Peace Prize from the NC Society of Historians and became a national finalist for the Benjamin Franklin Award in History from the Independent Book Publishers'



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The NCCWT is dedicated to the study and preservation of the history of the American Civil War. With the exception of January when we meet on the second Saturday, we meet on the third Saturday of these months: March, July, September and November at the K & W Cafeteria (Exit 143 on I-40/85) in Burlington.



Association, the largest publishing trade association in the United States. Most recently, Stoneman's Raid 1865 received the Preservation and Publication Award from the Historic Salisbury Foundation. Chris has continued to chase the history that has fascinated him since childhood by writing several shorter works for popular historical publications, leading battlefield tours and speaking to multiple, varied groups. Chris is a graduate of UNC-Chapel Hill and is a marketing executive for a *Fortune 1000* company. He and his wife, Laurie, are the proud parents of two daughters. They live in Pfafftown, NC.

Here is Chris describing his presentation:

“Who was the real D.H. Hill? A favorite son of the Carolinas, David Harvey Hill was born in 1821. He went on to graduate from West Point and serve in the Mexican War. A soldier and warrior through and through, Hill was also much more: an educator, an author and a deeply committed Christian. When the Civil War erupted, he played important roles in laying the foundation for North Carolina's first units. As the War progressed, he fought in some of the War's bloodiest battles, from the Seven Days to the Maryland Campaign to Chickamauga. Through it all, Hill gained a reputation of being a fighter, as well as a passionate man who held biting opinions. It surprised no one that he was at the center of two of the War's most famous controversies, the famous Lost Order and the 1863 effort to remove Bragg from command of the Army of Tennessee. Who was this complex and polarizing Carolinian? In the spirit of the old TV show, *To Tell The Truth*, this presentation will seek to answer that question by examining Hill from multiple angles: from the classroom to the sanctuary and from the writing desk to the battlefield. In the end, we will consider a North Carolina cemetery where one appropriate answer to this question is etched on an aged tombstone from 1889.”



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Frank Ward

All members of the North Carolina Civil War Round Table know that The Ramrod is essential to the smooth functioning of our organization, and we are indebted to Clint Johnson for serving as its editor. To assist Clint in the arduous task of proofreading, I have asked several of our members to form a committee. I am pleased to report that Teresa and Rick Harnish, Gene Adcock, and Dick Whitaker all have agreed to serve. I will also participate as an *ex officio* member. We are grateful that Clint has agreed to continue as editor, retaining full editorial control. Dick Whitaker will provide each draft of The Ramrod to all members of the committee for review and will continue to send the final version of the membership.

To ensure the timely dissemination of each issue, all contributors to The Ramrod will submit copy to Clint by the first day of the month of the bi-monthly publication.

We have all benefitted from Dave Richardson's ability to attract fascinating speakers for many years. To alleviate the burden on Dave, Gene Adcock has suggested a reorganization of that function into a committee that will spread the responsibility over several people. Fortunately, Gene has agreed to serve as its chairman, and Dave Richardson, Jim

Garner, Vivian Joyner, and I will constitute the balance of the group. Gene will be responsible for securing two speakers each year, and the other members will arrange for one each.

On August 5 eighteen representatives of all twelve Civil War Round Tables in North Carolina met in Raleigh to share "best practices" and to discuss ways to increase both membership and revenue. I attended on behalf of our Round Table.

During the nearly all-day meeting, six Round Table leaders spoke about:



- Creating and sharing a list of "quality" speakers to facilitate other Round Tables in attracting good and reasonably priced speakers, locally and regionally
- Undertaking low-cost media actions to attract new members
- Organizing joint field trips to reduce costs, and
- Creative fund-raising ideas.

The group will meet again in August 2018, this time with Round Table representatives from Georgia, Alabama, and South Carolina expected to attend.

At the close of the meeting, Pattie Smith, Executive Director of the Friends of Bentonville Battleground, asked me to communicate to our members the news of the grand opening of the Cole Plantation Trail on October 28, 2017. The tour will be conducted by historian and author Mark Bradley, who has been a well-received speaker at our Round Table.



Dr. Gene
Schmiel
Spoke In July

Dr. Gene Schmiel gave our roundtable a fascinating presentation on Union General Jacob Dolson Cox. Cox attended Oberlin College as a divinity student and ardent abolitionist. After leaving school, Cox became politically involved in Ohio state politics. His likeable disposition allowed him to befriend a variety of prominent politicians including the likes of future president James Garfield. As an outstanding “citizen-general”, Cox served with distinction throughout the war. One of his first assignments was to occupy western Virginia whose population carried strong union sentiments. Cox’s military occupational style was benevolent and served as an excellent training ground for his later responsibilities at war’s end with

occupational forces in western North Carolina. He was headquartered in Greensboro. During the earlier years of the war, Cox served with distinction at South Mountain, as well the hard fighting on the Union left at Antietam. However, as a result of General McClellan’s removal, Cox was reassigned to administrative tasks for the next year. During this time Cox became close with General Schofield. Schofield brought Cox back into the field at Franklin, TN where he once again proved his military skills. Near the war’s end Cox joined General Sherman’s forces during the march through eastern North Carolina including actions at Kinston, Wyses Fork and Goldsboro.



After the war Cox, advocated a separate territory for the freed slaves in his published “Oberlin Letter”. He subsequently served under President Grant as Secretary of the Interior and instituted the first Department of Civil Service. Sadly, his future national political career was damaged when he broke with Grant and other Republicans over post war Reconstruction issues. Nevertheless, he further complimented his outstanding military career with post war positions as governor of Ohio, president of The University of Cincinnati and president of the Toledo and Wabash Railway. In addition, he became an accomplished Civil War author and historian. He died in 1900 and is buried in Cincinnati.

Treasurer's Report

As of Sept. 4, 2017

Previous Balance 7577.81

Plus:

Dues/Fees 460.00 (KW tip taken from this)

Less:

KW Tip 40.00

KW 374.40

Speaker Fee 343.26

Current Balance as of Sept 1 2017: \$7320.15

NC Civil War Round Table Meeting Minutes July 15, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m.

Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as written in the RAMROD.

Treasurer's Report

The balance in the treasury is \$7,577.81.

Introductions

New members and guests were welcomed and introduced.

Raffle

No raffle was held.

Announcement

Gene Adcock announced that President Trump donated his quarterly salary to the National Park Service specifically Antietam. An anonymous donor matched the donation. This is good news for the NPS.

Program

Our guest speaker, Eugene Schmiel, was introduced by Dave Richardson. Gene is a retired officer from the U.S. Department of Foreign Service. He was also an Assistant Professor of History at St. Francis University and received his PhD in History from the Ohio State University.

Gene's presentation was entertaining and offered great insight into the life of the little known Citizen-General, Jacob Cox. Gene's presentation "Jacob Cox: Battle of Wyse Fork and Reconstruction Military Governor

of Western NC” is taken from his book, “Citizen-General: Jacob Dolson Cox and the Civil War Era” which was published in 2014.

Jacob Cox’s skills and accomplishments during the war earned him respect and he was considered one of the Union’s best Citizen-Generals. He rose to the challenge when called to lead his fellow citizens. Jacob Cox had a successful military career. Some of the best examples of the skills he attained as a civilian general included securing West Virginia for the Union and commanding at such battles as Antietam, Atlanta and Franklin. His last campaign was in North Carolina where he also held a post-war position as military Governor of Western North Carolina.

Gene talked of what happened to Jacob Cox after the war and why he didn’t become President. He wasn’t your typical political general. He later went back to Ohio to run for Governor. Jacob Cox made public addresses explaining his policies and thoughts on recreating a society. He wanted to create a territory-like region in the South where freed men and women would be protected. He thought the alternative would be a race war. Jacob Cox also broke ties with the Republican Party. He won the Governor vote but made enemies. Of his post war careers, Jacob Cox is best recognized for being a great historian of the Civil War.