Welcome back after our summer break. I hope you all had a wonderful time, perhaps including visits to one or more Civil War Sesquicentennial events. They are quite popular, with several hundred thousand visitors so far this year.

We had a very successful year which ended in June. Ten outstanding speakers from throughout the US made very interesting presentations on famous people, such as General Jeb Stuart, well known battles at both Gettysburg and the Overland Campaign, interesting discussions on topics not normally understood, such as the role of railroads in the war, reconstruction and Max’s thought-provoking presentation on the causes of the Civil War.

We also saw both our membership and attendance grow by 20% from June 2011 with membership now over 550 and average meeting attendance at 238. Another positive indicator is that women constitute approximately one-third of both our membership and attendance. These are all healthy signs that Max is doing a great job by bringing in well-known and popular speakers.

We start another year with great momentum and if you have seen our line-up of speakers you’ll have to agree that it should be another great year. For those of you who haven’t seen this, it is included in this newsletter.

At our June meeting our speaker Richard Starnes spoke about “Civil War in North Carolina” as seen through the eyes of four prominent North Carolinians and from four widely divergent political spectrums. For those that missed his program please see Dan’s synopsis in this newsletter.

Playing off these positive actions we are beginning to get national recognition for what our Round Table has accomplished. We were featured in the July issue of the well respected newsletter “CIVIL WAR NEWS” that covers Civil War activities throughout the country. The article written by...Continued next page
The first monthly meeting of the Brunswick Civil War Round Table for the 2013-14 session will be held on Tuesday, September 3rd featuring popular guest speaker Brian S. Wills, Ph.D., director of the Civil War Center and Professor of History at Kennesaw State University in Kennesaw, Georgia. The title of his presentation is “The Rock of Chickamauga.”

The “Rock” is Major General George Henry Thomas, a career United States Army Officer and a Union General during the American Civil War and one of the principal commanders in the Western Theater. Despite his heritage as a Virginian, he won one of the first Union victories in the war at Mill Springs, Kentucky. He also served in important subordinate commands at Perryville and Stones River. His stout defense at the Battle of Chickamauga in 1863 saved the Union Army from being completely routed, earning him his most famous of three nicknames—“The Rock of Chickamauga”. The other nicknames were “Sledge of Nashville” for destroying the army of Confederate General John Bell Hood at the Battle of Nashville. The other nickname was “Slow Trot Thomas”, for which there is no readily available explanation!

Wills has authored numerous works relating to the American Civil War, including a new biography, “George Henry Thomas: As True As Steel.” Among his many other writings, including “A Battle From the Start: The Life of Nathan Bedford Forrest,” and an updated edition of the James I. “Bud” Robertson, Jr. piece, “Civil War Sites in Virginia” (Virginia, 2011), and has appeared just in time for the 150th anniversary of the American Civil War.
North Carolinians and Reconstruction by Richard Starnes

Richard Starnes ends the year for the Brunswick Civil War Roundtable by delighting us with a different approach to the reconstruction era. He suggests a war within a bigger war. Lincoln pressed the "reconstruction button" with the emancipation in 1863 and connected more wires each time a Confederate state came under Union control. He introduced us to a switchboard of technical players ready to wire us together again. He shows us this process was fraught with short circuits as we attempted to get the wiring right. Marriages of North and South caused as many sparks as Ellie Swain's marriage to Union General Smith Atcheson. More North Carolinians are a part of this circuit board.

President Andrew Johnson, with North Carolina roots, attempts to "test" Lincoln's reuniification plan. He gets defined pathways from Bishop James Walker Hood, The Freedman Bureau, North Carolina Governor William Wood Holden and a well connected lady named Cornelius Spencer. She refused to let the lights remain off at UNC Chapel Hill! Violent gnawing of the wires happened when the vigilante group called the KKK wanted a spot on the switchboard. Northern Carpet-baggers and Southern scalawags throw water on this mess and Johnson misses impeachment by one vote! North Carolinian William Alex Graham expresses the feeling of many Southerners -- this war destroyed the very fiber of their society. Richard asks us to consider three points: did reconstruction give hope to all, did freedom completely trump slavery, why did it take until the Compromise of 1877 for reconstruction to end? Our speaker gives us a quote to ponder: "Reconstruction took years to effect and can be obliterated in a second." Did we really get wired back together? Push the button and draw your own conclusions.

Civil War: Part of the Focus of 2013 Archaeological Conference at Fort Caswell

The 2013 Southeastern Conference on Historic Sites Archaeology will meet on September 20-21 at Fort Caswell, the historic third system brick and mortar fortification on Oak Island, North Carolina. The overall theme for this year is to “Revisit Our Past”. Presentations on new looks at sites with previous excavations and recent reanalysis of older excavated collections are especially encouraged, but presentations on all forms of current research are welcome.

Prior to the formation of the Society for Historical Archaeology, in the days before papers on historical archaeology were regularly presented at the Society for American Archaeology, the Southeastern Archaeological Conference (SEAC), and many other regional, state, and topical meetings, there was the Conference on Historic Sites Archaeology (CHSA) which met from 1960 to 1982.

Last year the Conference on Historic Sites Archaeology was reinaugurated with a meeting at Charles Town Landing State Park in Charleston, South Carolina to address this topical growth as well as the sheer volume of conferences and presentations. It was designed to mirror the original CHSA and to honor original founder Stanley South, this meeting provided a venue to share professional research on southeastern historic period sites in a platform that is larger than a single state, yet in a smaller and more intimate setting with questions and discussions that followed each presentation.

The conference is hosted through Brunswick Town/Fort Anderson State Historic Site and the Friends of Brunswick Town/Fort Anderson. Thomas Beaman of Wake Technical Community College is the Program Chair, and Jim McKee and Shannon Walker of Brunswick Town/Fort Anderson State Historic Site are overseeing the local arrangements. Details on the 2013 Southeastern Conference on Historic Sites Archaeology can be found at http://sechsa.org.
Did You Know?

One possible theory of the term “upper crust”, one from 19th century America says that many cooks saved money on food wherever they could. Apple pies—a favorite dessert in Ohio—were often made with just a bottom crust to save on flour and lard. Families that were rich enough to bake their apple pies with both a top and bottom crust became known as the “upper crust.”

Oberlin, Ohio became a key stop on the Underground Railroad—thousands of escaped slaves passed through and were sheltered by the town on their way to Canada.

How did the Underground Railroad get its name? In 1831, slave Tice Davids made a run for freedom, slipping into the Ohio River on the Kentucky side and swimming for the safety of Ohio with his irate master following him. The slave owner pulled his boat to shore only minutes behind Tice, yet the man was nowhere to be found. The slave owner thought Davids had escaped via “an underground road.” The Ohio Historical Society, though, says it’s more likely that an abolitionist—John Parker or John Rankin—met Davids and took him to a safe house.

Of all the states that participated in the Civil War on the Union side, none had a higher percentage of its population enlist in the military than Ohio: 60% of all men between the ages of 18 and 45—320,000—from Ohio served. More than 5,000 of them were free blacks.

Civil War Ailments and their Southern Treatments

The oil from crushed and boiled castor oil beans was used as a tonic.

Fennel-seed tea was given to babies instead of paregoric.

For rashes, red oak bark and alum was used.

Goose grease and sorghum, or honey, was a standard remedy for croup, backed up with turpentine and brown sugar.

Sassafras tea was given in the spring and fall as a blood medicine.

Adults’ colds were doctored with horsemint tea and tea from roots of broom sedge. For eruptions and impure blood, spice-wood tea was given.

Wine was made from the berries of the elder bush.

For diarrhea, roots of blackberry and blackberry cordial; also, a tea made from the leaves of the rose geranium.

19th Century Etiquette

Lounging on sofas or easy chairs, tipping back your chair on two legs, throwing your leg over your knee, or sitting in any unnatural position are considered indecorous and when ladies are present are deemed extremely vulgar.

If a lady waltzes with you, beware not to press her waist; you must only lightly touch it with the open palm of your hand, lest you leave a disagreeable impression not only on her ceinture, but on her mind.

A dinner party the two most distinguished gentlemen are seated next to the hostess, and the two ladies of greatest consideration sit next to the host.

Peas, tomatoes, tarts, puddings, etc. should always be eaten with a spoon.

When helping someone to a sauce or gravy, do not pour it over the meat or vegetables, but on one side of them.

Do not place used silverware on the table-cloth as they may soil it, instead, rest them on a slice of bread or hold them in your hand.

Civil War Era Saloon Drinks

The Real Georgia Mint Julep:
Take 1 teaspoon of white powered sugar. ¾ wine-glass of Cognac brandy. ¼ wine glass of peach brandy. About 12 sprigs of the tender shoots of mint.

Put the mint in the tumbler, add the sugar, having previously dissolved it in a little water, then the brandy, and lastly, fill up the glass with shaved ice. Stir with a spoon but do not crush the mint. Crushing the mint is a common mistake of the modern version of this drink. Whiskey may be substituted for brandy if preferred.

Love and Marriage in the 19th Century American Frontier

The great migration west began before the Civil War and continued long after the war ended. Here are a few comments made by the women who became engaged and were preparing for their marriage. Romance and the concept of romantic love were revolutionary for 19th century women, more important, even than suffrage.

An 1865 study cited mortality rates for women in Ohio and Illinois between the ages of 20 and 50 as 50% higher than those for men because of childbirth fever and complications.

Because of the gender imbalance frontier men resorted to courting teenagers. It was customary for

Continued Page 6...
**2013-2014 SPEAKERS LIST**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, Jan. 8</td>
<td><em>Ed Bearss</em>, best described by his peers as a “National Treasure” for his vast knowledge of virtually every phase and fact about the American Civil War. He will be returning for his fourth annual visit. His topic: &quot;The Battle of Antietam.&quot;</td>
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<td>Tuesday, Feb. 4</td>
<td><em>Gerald J. Prokopowicz</em>, Associate Professor of History at East Carolina University. His topic: &quot;Did Lincoln Own Slaves?&quot;</td>
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<td>Tuesday, March 4</td>
<td><em>Craig Lee Symonds</em>, a retired professor and chairman of the history department at the United States Naval Academy. His topic: &quot;The Civil War Navy&quot;</td>
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<td>Tuesday, April 1</td>
<td><em>Peter Carmichael</em>, Director of the Civil War Institute at Gettysburg College. His topic: &quot;Robert E. Lee, Commander of the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia.&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, May 6</td>
<td><em>Patrick Falci</em>, historical advisor, actor and portrayer of Confederate General A.P. Hill in the movie “Gettysburg”. His topic: &quot;A Visit from A.P. Hill.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, June 3</td>
<td><em>Susannah J. Ural</em>, associate professor of history at the University of Southern Mississippi. Her topic: &quot;Don’t Hurry Me Down to Hades: Americans at War.&quot;</td>
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“We are delighted to announce our upcoming speaker schedule of outstanding Civil War historians from around the country. We believe our guest speakers are the main reason that our Round Table is now considered the largest Civil War Round Table in the country with over 550 members. Our speakers’ varied topics will continue to be interesting and entertaining to everyone, not just Civil War enthusiasts, so we encourage everyone to join us for our informative and entertaining monthly meetings,” urges Round Table president Wally Rueckel.

Most meetings are held at Trinity United Methodist Church, 209 E. Nash Street, Southport, across from the Southport Post Office, unless otherwise announced. Everyone is welcome. Registration and refreshments begin at 6:30. Admission is $5 for visitors and can be applied toward the annual membership dues of $25.
...LADIES’ cont.

LADIES’ FORUM TO BE HELD ON OCTOBER 15

The Brunswick Civil War Round Table is sponsoring a Ladies’ Forum in two parts on Tuesday, October 15, 2013 at Murrow Hall in Trinity United Methodist Church from 6-8 pm.

The topic is a power point presentation of: Civil War Era Courtship, Marriage and Domestic Life. Refreshments following this consists of a period wedding cake, finger sandwiches and beverages.

Charen, in period dress, is a living history interpreter and a director of the Round Table who has presented many topics on Civil War women's issues. This program will view how couples went through mid-nineteenth century courtship, marriage and the reality and tools of domestic life.

Part two will be Funeral Practices of the 1860s presented by Ed and Nancy Ovsenik, reenactors. They will discuss how the practices changed over the decade, including handling the dead during the battles and skirmishes of the war. Presenting in first person as Mr. John Adair Monroe and his wife, Elizabeth Bacon Monroe, formerly of the Shenandoah River Valley of Northern Virginia, they will discuss how life and death has changed since the outbreak of the war from the perspective of a small town carpenter craftsman making the occasional pine box in 1860. He then became an undertaker after the war managing a funeral home in the city. During the program period funeral cookies and beverage will be served.

The Forum is open to women only. There is no charge to women members of the Round Table but will include a small fee of $5.00 to non-members. This fee can be applied to the $25.00 membership fee for the Brunswick Civil War Round Table. Many door prizes will be given away.

References
Round Table Review

BY MATTHEW BOROWICK

Big and Bold In Brunswick, N.C.

If any Civil War round table wants to know how to do things well it can learn a lot by looking to Brunswick, N.C. There, in the shadow of Wilmington, at the end of the Cape Fear River, the Brunswick Civil War Round Table is thriving.

I did not know whether I would ever see another 500-member round table, let alone one that attracts over 200 members to each meeting, but I have. And now I share this very successful organization’s story.

We need to go back to late 2009 when current round table president Wally Rueckel, a retired businessman, met Tom O’Donnell at a party. A mutual friend who knew of their shared interest in the American Civil War introduced them.

The connection made, Wally and Tom met several times to explore the possibility of starting a round table.

Wally became interested in the Civil War while a college student, casually reading about it in his spare time. Early in his career he attended a Michigan round table meeting at which Gordon Rhea spoke and he was hooked on learning more.

Tom had belonged to the Hershey and Harrisburg (Pa.) round tables and had attended several Chicago Round Table meetings.

Not knowing if a moderate but growing population along coastal North Carolina could sustain a round table, they called on several local experts in December 2009 to explore the idea.

Among the initial group were Mary Strickland, director of the maritime museum; Larry Maisel, president of the historical society; Jim McLean, a historian and assistant site manager of a state park; and Max Williams, retired chairman of the Western Carolina University history department.

Retired friends with backgrounds in advertising, tax exempt accounting and other skills were also recruited.

Wally and Tom did not want to compete with the three primary local history groups so the men invited them to participate in the feasibility discussion.

They also did what any good business would do — a market analysis. There were seven other round tables in North Carolina, the closest one in Wilmington. Wally was a member and had an hour and a half drive each way. The round table in Raleigh is four hours each way.

www.civilwarnews.com

The group decided to launch a new CWRT. By February 2010 they had a mission statement and a schedule. They planned the first meeting for May.

“The day before our first meeting Tom and I discussed how many people to expect,” says Wally, “I said 20-40. Tom estimated 50. We had 85 people show up. We were launched!”

Today the Brunswick CWRT has grown to 584 members. It averages between 250 and 300 at its meetings. Some speakers have attracted 350.

“We are very proud of the fact that our membership includes about 200 women and that in each meeting about one third of [attendees] are women,” notes Wally.

Communication and activities are the keys to engaging members. The Brunswick CWRT has both in large quantities. The group has a website and a newsletter. Wally says they try to limit group emails to two a month.

The round table hosts two annual weekend trips led by well-known experts to regional Civil War sites. There are also “prime” classes for those who wish to brush up on their Civil War history.

One of the group’s latest endeavors was a Women’s Civil War Forum. It was requested by several female members who wanted to know more about women’s lives during the Civil War. The forum attracted 45 women who asked for even more events.

Attracting desirable speakers, developing a large following, maintaining a healthy treasury — none of this comes about by sheer luck.

When I asked Wally to share the secrets of Brunswick’s success, he said that recruiting the right volunteers and expertise makes the difference.

Max Williams, the retired history chairman, became the program director. Wally says Max “knows almost all of the well-known Civil War historians, so he began calling them, attracting great speakers immediately.” They receive a combination of travel reimbursement and a nominal stipend.

Founding volunteers included financial executive Bob Benedict who had experience with tax-exempt organizations. Wally and Bob worked on the tax-exempt filing, accounting system and bylaws. The group filed in June 2010 and was approved in August 2010.

Retired senior ad agency executive Chuck Roedema took on publicizing the round table’s name, story and programs with local news organizations and residents. He also organized volunteers to post monthly program flyers throughout the region.

Chack Fink, a living historian and former president of the Mahoning Valley (Ohio) Round Table, became a director. She urged creation of a round table newsletter, launching it in the fall of 2010, and organized the women’s forum.

Co-founder Tom O’Donnell became the group’s first president. His wife Kathy created the website, which Wally says generates a lot of compliments.

Other members are routinely recruited to assist with refreshments, to staff the table’s booth, serve as greeters, take care of room setup and cleanup, organize trips and write for the newsletter.

“We even have one person who contacts members who had relatives in the Civil War, writing short biographies about those veterans and posting them on the website,” says Wally.

Another component beyond great founders and effective volunteers is programming. “We believe in focusing,” Wally notes.

That means no dinner. Wally says a meal would add additional cost, create chaos and the need to clean up before the program and it takes up seating capacity.

The Brunswick CWRT is “blessed” with a great meeting location, a church in downtown Southport. Its new fellowship hall holds 200 people and has a state-of-the-art sound and video system.

The room is large, reasonably priced and centrally located — “a Godsend, if you pardon the pun,” says Wally. Members can go home after work, have dinner, pick up their spouses and return. This makes meeting night a “date night,” a major factor in the group’s unannually large female membership.

Wally offers advice to other groups: “Make sure you book Ed Bearss to speak your round table,” Ed agreed to speak at the six-month-old group’s January 2011 meeting.

“He was a knock-out hit,” says Wally. “He returned in January of 2012 and again this year. Each time he speaks we sign up 50 to 60 new members.”

Wally also suggests round tables spend some “thoughtful time” setting member and visitor fees. The Brunswick annual membership fee is $25 for individuals and couples. Students are free. Nonmembers pay $5 or $10 per visit depending on the speaker. The fee can be applied toward an annual membership.

Anyone wishing to contact Wally to learn more can reach him at WRueckel@questr.com

Matthew Borowick has had a lifelong interest in the Civil War. His areas of expertise include the Battle of Second Manassas, the court-marshaled of Fitz John Porter and the economics of the Civil War topics he has presented to numerous round tables. His book, The Civil War Round Table Handbook: The Indispensable Guide to Running Yours Right, is available from him at general.longstreet@comcast.net.
Book Review: Manna's House

By Charen Fink

The following book was donated to the Round Table and will be given as one of many door prizes to be awarded at the Ladies’ Forum October 15th. Manna's House was written by Mollie W. Floyd of South Carolina and first printed in 2006 with a reprint in 2012. Herewith is a synopsis of her book.

The story opens with May E., a 12-year old coffee-colored slave girl and daughter of the Mammy who is about to give birth. The father is the 14-year old son of plantation owner Edward Patrick Flynn the third. Meanwhile, Mr. Flynn’s wife, Lavenia, is in labor and due any moment. Mammy is charge of both deliveries.

Lavenia’s baby boy is stillborn and May E.’s baby, a girl, is white-skinned and alive. Mammy, fearing reprisal, switches babies. Growing up, Elizabeth Ann remains fair of skin with blonde hair, the darling of her father. She also shares prejudicial deference towards the plantation’s slave population.

Eventually Elizabeth weds a prosperous and socially elite congressman and moves to Washington City. More surprises come when Elizabeth Ann begins bearing children. All is still well until her son is born. After some time elapses she and her son move back to the plantation where her life takes on a whole new meaning when she takes on the responsibility of manager. Mammy addresses her granddaughter (now revealed) as Manna, her birth name.

This book is written in sections headed by a character’s name, a date, or a diary entry. It demonstrates how time and circumstances can change one’s attitude and treatment of people who appear different. Without revealing the surprise ending it is certainly a page-turner worth reading.

BOOK SEARCH PROGRAM

The success of our book sales program indicates there is an appetite for Civil War literature. Our inventory is made up of donations and quality books we can buy on the internet for a good price. This is limiting on the titles we can provide. We want to expand this program and search for books you really want, but have not been able to locate. If you are looking for books on a particular topic, or a particular title, give the information to the Sutler’s Table, or let me know (mpowell6@ec.rr.com or 278-3545) and I will try to find it. I will let you know the cost and shipping and you will have no commitment until you have emailed me to buy the book on your behalf. I will always try to get the lowest price for the best quality that is available. I hope I can help.
Anyone who attended the July 150th Gettysburg re-enactment is encouraged to contact Jim McKee at jim.mckee@ncdcr.gov

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO THE MEMBERSHIP

After two years in establishing the Brunswick Civil War Round Table, the officers and Board (9 members), and the advisors (3 members) have recently evaluated this organization. The membership should be made aware that certain changes have been decided on as follows:

1. Basic membership fees for individuals and couples will remain at $25.00 and will not change prior to January 1, 2013, if then.
2. Students will be welcomed free of charge effective immediately;
3. A $5.00 admission fee will be charged all guests, effective September 4, 2012.
4. Subsequently it may be necessary to charge guests a higher fee when there is an especially renowned speaker or when travel arrangements become more expensive.

The RT has the following stated objectives:
1. To promote knowledge and understanding of the complex Civil War Era through programs, travel, and the Newsletter;
2. To support the development and preservation of Civil War sites. (This group has adopted Fort Anderson as it primary site.)

Pursued in various ways, some obvious and some less so, these efforts vary as to the monthly cost of speakers, venues, programs, and publicity. With this in mind, we propose to establish two categories of elective, tax-free giving which would secure our finances in light of unknown future changes. The proposed categories reflect our purposes. One category will be for programs and the other for Historic Site preservation.

The membership may be assured that due diligence is given to all RT finances and other affairs.
Sept. 2 – Knoxville, TN occupied by Union forces under Gen. Ambrose Burnside.

Sept. 5 – Shipment of Laird Rams No. 294 (North Carolina) & No. 295 (Mississippi) halted by Great Britain. They would have been the newest Confederate ironclads.

Sept. 6 – Battery Wagner and Morris Island, SC evacuated by Confederates.

Sept. 9 – Gen. James Longstreet and most of his Corps departs Virginia to reinforce the army of Tennessee.

Sept. 15 – President Lincoln suspends the writ of habeas corpus.

Sept. 17 – Longstreet’s Corps begins to arrive in northwest Georgia

Sept. 19 – Battle of Chickamauga: Day 1

Sept. 20 – Battle of Chickamauga concludes. The bloodiest two days in American history

Sept. 21 – CS Gen. Benjamin Helms dies from wounds at Chickamauga—he was Lincoln’s brother-in-law

Sept. 23 – Siege of Chattanooga begins

Sept. 26 – Full reports on Union reinforcements for Chattanooga are published in New York Post

Sept. 30 – CS Gen Joseph Wheeler’s cavalry raids Union positions north & east of Chattanooga.
THE NEXT MEETING IS
Tuesday, September 3, 2013

The Brunswick Civil War Round Table meets on the first Tuesday of each month, except July and August. Unless otherwise noted, meetings will be held at:
Trinity United Methodist Church
209 E. Nash St.
Southport, NC 28461
Registration is open at 6:30 pm and the program starts at 7:00 pm.

2013 BCWRT Officers, Directors and Advisors
Wally Rueckel: President & Director
Rob Clarke: Vice President & Director
Marv Hamer: Vice President & Director
Tom Kehoe: Treasurer & Director
Norm Praet: Secretary & Director
Tom O’Donnell: Director & Advisor
Jack Carpenter: Advisor
Charen Fink: Director
Chuck Roedema: Director
Max Williams: Director
Chris Fonvielle: Advisor
Jim McKee: Advisor
Connie Hendrix: Advisor
Roy Pender: Advisor

CHECK US OUT ON THE WEB

The Brunswick Civil War Round Table's website is now up and running. The BCWRT website can be found under brunswickcivilwarroundtable.com or brunswickcivilwarroundtable.org. All of the information on the website is available to everyone, no user name or password is required.

Be sure to check out the list of presenters already lined up for our 2013/2014 year. There is also information on current Round Table sponsored trips and write-ups on trips already taken. Also check out the Links page for other organizations involved in the Civil War.

The website is updated frequently so please keep checking in on us.