



THE RAMROD

North Carolina Civil War Round Table

206th meeting since the Round Table's Founding in 1955 – July 2010
DESIGNATED 2010 OUTSTANDING CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
BY THE CIVIL WAR PRESERVATION TRUST

Meeting is the 3rd
Saturday of month at
the K & W Restaurant
in Burlington, N.C.
(Exit 143 on I-40/85)

Dinner-Admission is
\$20 per person
Social Hour - 6:00 p.m.
Dinner: 6:30 p.m.
Speaker – 7:00 p.m.
Please call Treasurer
Tommy Cole at 336-725-
8797 or e-mail him at
ctommycole@yahoo.com
to make reservations.
Payment can be made in
cash or check at the door.
Make checks payable to
NCCWRT.

2010 Speakers

17 July: Will Greene
18 Sept: Paul Escott
20 Nov: Chris Hartley

Will Greene Talks on P.G.T. Beauregard on July 17



P.G. T. Beauregard is the forgotten man in the Confederate leadership structure at Petersburg. Although Beauregard commanded an independent army and military department in 1864, the arrival of Robert E. Lee and the Army of Northern Virginia in Petersburg on June 18 has rendered him invisible to most historians of the campaign. Nevertheless, Beauregard exerted a surprising amount of tactical and operational influence on the conduct of Petersburg's defense between June and September 1864, including his controversial management of the Confederate response to Grant's first offensive between June 15 and 17, 1864. Greene will examine Beauregard's role at Petersburg and analyze his generalship and his relationship with his more famous fellow army commander, Robert E. Lee, in his talk entitled, "Napoleon in Gray at Petersburg."

Will holds degrees in history from Florida State University and Louisiana State University where he studied under the legendary T. Harry Williams. Greene worked sixteen years for the National Park Service at various historical parks, including Petersburg and Fredericksburg before becoming the first executive director of the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites (now the Civil War Preservation Trust). In 1995 he became the first executive director of Pamplin Historical Park near Petersburg, a position he still holds. Greene is the author of six books on the Civil War and is currently under contract to the University of North Carolina Press to write a multi-volume history of the Petersburg Campaign.

North Carolina Civil War Round Table



President
Vivian Joyner
vivnwhit@earthlink.net
919-387-0164

Vice President
Bill Phillips
billphillipshighpoint@yahoo.com
336-885-0466

Sec. Van Woltz 336-272-6524
marcotz4@aol.com

Treas. Tommy Cole
336-725-8797
ctommycole@yahoo.com

Newsletter Editor
Clint Johnson 336-982-4456
ClintJohnson@skybest.com

Webmaster
Twyla Jackino 571-434-3819
www.nccwrt.com

The NCCWT is dedicated to the study and preservation of the history of the American Civil War. We meet on the third Saturday of January, March, May, July, September and November at the K & W (Exit 143 on I-40/85) in Burlington.

**Annual dues for 2009:
\$30 per family (\$15 if first joining after June 30)
\$15 for students, out-of-state members and Canadian residents**

**Send dues to Tommy Cole
203 W. Bank Street
Winston-Salem, NC 27101**



President's Column Vivian Joyner

It was my privilege to be able to accept the 2010 Outstanding Round Table of the Year Award from the Civil War Preservation Trust at their conference in Lexington, Kentucky on June 5th, on behalf of the North Carolina Civil War Round Table. I wish each of you could have been there to share this exciting moment. At the conference, CWPT stressed how much each donation to the Trust is appreciated, and how much the Battlefields that receive these donations appreciate them.

We received notice of this Award just before the last meeting, but nothing indicated the reasons we merited this honor, but at the conference, the fundraising challenges to our members and the matching of them with Round Table money was highlighted as a model for Round Tables or other preservation groups. Gene and CarolAnn Adcock have worked very closely with CWPT to make sure we have received the "most bang for the buck", or, rather, the most land for preservation it could save.

It was your individual generous donations, as well as those from the NCCWRT and then the matching funds we were able to use, that gave us the Outstanding Round Table status. Thank you, to each of you, for your contributions and support for the North Carolina Civil War Round Table and its fundraising. I need a volunteer to be our secretary for the next three meetings, until the next elections. Our secretary, Van Woltz will be unable to be with us, due to health concerns. I promise to make note taking as easy as possible for you. Please let me know if you can help. Our May meeting, with Clint Johnson as the speaker, was well attended, and I hope that the July event will be just full, to hear our friend, Will Greene.



Who knew there was more than one?!!! NCCWRT president Viv Joyner, middle, with her sister Sharon accept the award from CWPT president Jim Lighthizer.

Send Van Woltz A Note

NCCWRT secretary Van Woltz has been ill lately with congestive heart failure and fluid on his lungs. His wife says he would like to hear from his friends so send him a note at Van Woltz 5A Fountain Manor Drive Greensboro, NC 27405.

Treasurer's Report Tommy Cole

We had 51 in attendance at our May meeting with Clint Johnson. We remain in great financial shape with just over \$5000.00 in our checking account and are in position to make a donation for the right opportunity. Some of our regulars have not paid their 2010 dues so please plan to pay at the July meeting. Please let me know if you plan to attend our meeting on July 17th so that we can properly prepare the room set-up and food service. Hope to see you there.

P.G.T. Beauregard – The Man We Will Learn About July 17



Gene Adcock was able to hold Beauregard's 9-shot LeMat revolver with a 20-gauge shotgun barrel during a recent visit to the Museum of the Confederacy.

A Vast and Fiendish Plot Comes Alive



Clint

Johnson knows how to take an obscure event in the latter stages of the Civil War and turn it into an intriguing tale of "backroom swashbucklers, knaves and conspirators." He demonstrated his

story-telling skills to 51 enthusiastic members and guests at the 15 May meeting of NCCWRT. Based on his exhaustive research of old newspapers, letters and maps, fellow NCCWRT member (and editor of The Ramrod), Clint Johnson, revealed astounding details by presenting multiple images from his most recent book, A Vast and Fiendish Plot: The Confederate Attack on New York City.

On 25 November 1864, eight Confederate officers attempted to destroy the major commercial district of the world's most influential city, New York City. Ostensibly, their plan was based on Southern revenge for the killing of Confederate General John Hunt Morgan and the infamous burning of the Shenandoah Valley. This potentially terrifying scenario, however, can also be seen as "the story of how two best friends, the slave-holding South and slave-trading New York City, fell out of love with each other." Although only one of the eight Confederate officers was tried and executed for his role in placing the bottles of "Greek fire," it became clear that multiple highly-placed New York officials either had detailed knowledge or simply looked the other way.

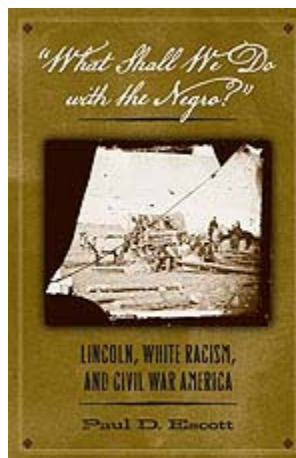
Were the Confederate spies totally inept? Were New York City cotton brokers, bankers and police officials co-conspirators in the failed destruction of New York City? Were there links between the Confederate Secret Service, the earlier raid on St. Albans, Vermont (19 October 1864), this failed New York City attack and the eventual assassination of President Lincoln? Clint Johnson did a masterful job of weaving together little-known facts and future speculation on events that might have drastically altered the Civil War.

Sept. Speaker: Paul Escott on "Lincoln, White Racism and Civil War America"



Our September speaker will be Dr. Paul Escott, author of the book: *What Shall We Do With The Negro: Lincoln, White Racism and Civil War America*. Dr. Escott, Reynolds professor of history at Wake Forest University, has written 16 scholarly books about The War, and numerous articles.

(The following description is taken from the *University of Virginia Press website*) Throughout the Civil War, newspaper headlines and stories repeatedly asked some variation of the question posed by the *New York Times* in 1862, "What shall we do with the negro?" The future status of African



Americans was a pressing issue for both those in the North and in the South. Consulting a broad range of contemporary newspapers, magazines, books, army records, government documents, publications of citizens' organizations, letters, diaries, and other sources, Paul D. Escott examines the attitudes and actions of Northerners and

Southerners regarding the future of African Americans after the end of slavery. *"What Shall We Do with the Negro?"* demonstrates how historians together with our larger national popular culture have wrenched the history of this period from its context in order to portray key figures as heroes or exemplars of national virtue.