



THE FIRST SHOT

Dedicated to the Study of the War Between the States

Monthly Newsletter

December 2011

CWRT Officers

**President – Dan Lewandowski; Vice President – Lynn Graves;
Treasurer – Brenda Winstead; Secretary – Jeanne Weil;
Newsletter Editor – Dick Boylston; NPS Liaison – Rick Hatcher**

- ❖ The December 2011 meeting of the Charleston Civil War Roundtable is scheduled for Tuesday December 13th at Ryan’s Family Restaurant on Highway 61 (St. Andrews Blvd). The meeting will begin at 7:00 PM with the Call to Order followed by a discussion of any new business.

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- ❖ **THIS MONTH’S SPEAKER AND TOPIC:** CWRT members are invited to bring “show and tell” items in lieu of a speaker this month.

- ❖ **CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR DECEMBER 2011**

9-10	NC	Living history, artillery program featuring the Edenton Bell Battery at Historic Edenton, 108 N Broad St, Edenton. Free. 252-482-2637.
10	AL	Civil War Christmas at Fort Morgan at the Fort Morgan State Historic Site in Gulf Shores. Living history tours 4-7 pm. Fee charged. 251-540-7127.

10	TN	Living history, "Remembering the Battle of the Cedars," camps and demonstrations at the Stones River National Battlefield in Murfreesboro. www.nps.gov/stri .
10	MD	Open House, "Museums by Candlelight" in Frederick. Includes the National Museum of Civil War Medicine. Galleries free 2-7 pm. www.civilwarmed.org .
10	NC	Lecture, "One Good Port: Beaufort Harbor, 1862-1865," at the NC Maritime Museum in Beaufort. 3 pm. Free. 252-728-7317
10-11	NC	Living history, "Christmas in the Carolinas During the Civil War," music, decorations and refreshments at Bennett Place State Historic Site in Durham. 10 am-4 pm Saturday, 10 am-3 pm Sunday. Free. 919-383-4345
17	VA	Living history, "Civil War Christmas at Brentsville," at the Brentsville Courthouse Historic Centre, 12229 Bristow Road, Bristow. Camps, music and refreshments. 3-9 pm. \$5. 703-365-7895
17	VA	"A 19th-Century Christmas," at Ellwood Manor on the Wilderness Battlefield near intersection of Routes 3 and 20 west of Fredericksburg. Music, living history, special house tours and more. 9 am-2 pm. www.fowb.org .
17-18	VA	"A Civil War Christmas at Leesylvania State Park," in Woodbridge. Decorating, Santa Claus, refreshments. 11 am-3 pm. \$5 parking fee. 703-730-8205 .
26- Jan 2	TN	Anniversary activities including special talks, tours and living history at the Stones River National Battlefield in Murfreesboro. www.nps.gov/stri .
31	IL	Civil War Ball at the Old State Capitol in Springfield. 7-10 pm. Details: sifolkdancers.org .

❖ MAJOR EVENTS IN DECEMBER DURING THE WAR BETWEEN THE STATES

1861

- ★ **December 6th** – the Federal Senate voted 36-0 to expel Senator John C. Breckinridge of Kentucky
- ★ **December 9th** – U.S. Senate, after discussing “military disasters”, establishes the Joint Committee on the Conduct of the War
- ★ **December 10th** – Kentucky is admitted as the thirteenth state in the Confederate States of America by act of the Confederate Congress

- ★ **December 11th** – A fire sweeps through the business district of Charleston, SC east of King Street and near the Cooper River
- ★ **December 26th** – The U.S. releases Confederate commissioners Mason and Slidell to the British

1862

- ★ **December 7th** – Battle of Prairie Grove, Arkansas
- ★ **December 11th** – Federals under Burnside occupy Fredericksburg, VA by nightfall, following an intense bombardment of the city
- ★ **December 13th** – Battle of Fredericksburg, VA
- ★ **December 18th** – General Forrest defeats Union cavalry at Lexington, TN
- ★ **December 20th** – General Earl Van Dorn's Confederate troops attacked Grant's supply depot at Holly Springs, MS. His troops captured at least 1500 Federals and destroyed approximately \$1.5 million dollars worth of supplies
- ★ **December 23rd** – President Davis issued a proclamation calling Maj. Gen. Benjamin Butler a felon and an outlaw who, if captured should be hung immediately
- ★ **December 29th** – Battle of Chickasaw Bayou, MS
- ★ **December 31st** – Battle of Murfreesboro {Stone's River} TN; Lincoln approves act to admit West Virginia into the Union as the 35th state

1863

- ★ **December 2nd** – the Army of the Potomac withdraws North of the Rapidan River in Virginia after the abandonment of the abortive Mine Run Campaign
- ★ **December 16th** – Joseph E. Johnston is appointed to command of the Army of Tennessee
- ★ **December 25th** – Federal gunboats operated on the Stono River in South Carolina and Confederate artillery damaged the U.S.S. *Marblehead*

1864

- ★ **December 10th** – Sherman's army arrives in front of Savannah, GA
- ★ **December 13th** – Union forces capture Fort McAllister on the Ogeechee River below Savannah
- ★ **December 15th & 16th** – Battle of Nashville, TN
- ★ **December 20th** – Confederate forces evacuate Savannah, GA
- ★ **December 24th** – Federal bombardment of Ft. Fisher, NC begins
- ★ **December 25th** – Federal landings at Ft. Fisher, NC fail leaving the Confederates in control of the entrance to the Cape Fear River.

1865

- ★ **December 1st** - President Johnson revokes the suspension of the writ of habeas corpus for all of the United States with the exception of the former Confederate states

- ❖ **TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE:** How would you answer the following questions regarding Confederate Ironclads?
- Name the individual who was the “driving force” in establishing an armored naval force for the Confederacy?
 - List the principal types of Confederate ironclad vessels.
 - Identify the most notable actions in which the following vessels were involved.
 - *CSS Atlanta*
 - *CSS Arkansas*
 - *CSS Louisiana*
 - *CSS Mississippi*
 - *CSS Tennessee*
 - *CSS Virginia*
 - *CSS Virginia II*
 - Bonus Question: Can you identify the vessel on which 1st Lt. James Iredell Waddell served on prior to his command of the *CSS Shenandoah*?