

# ALBEMARLE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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Albemarle Genealogical Society, 142 Waterlily Road, Coinjock, NC 27923

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## OCTOBER MEETING

Our next meeting will be 10:00 am Saturday, October 10, 2015 at Currituck County Library in Barco. There will be a business meeting followed by our guest speaker Tama Creef. This will be a very important business meeting concerning our by-laws. Please try to attend.

Our Guest Speaker:

Ms. Tama Creef, Acquisitions Archivist at the Outer Banks History Center, will present how to use the North Carolina State Archives and the Outer Banks History Center websites for research and demonstrate several other important genealogical websites.

Ms. Creef is an Acquisitions Archivist who joined the staff at the Outer Banks History Center in 2007. She graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University with degrees in education, public administration, and fine arts with a strong interest in art history and conservation. Since moving to Manteo with her husband David, who is a native of the area, she served as Development and Event Coordinator at the Elizabethan Gardens and Education Manager for the Roanoke Island Historical Association and was the previous Acting Director of Environmental Education for the Maymont Foundation in Richmond, Virginia.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Genealogy Day Workshop** sponsored by the Virginia Dare Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Saturday, November 7, 2015 from 9:30am-2:00pm includes morning lectures, light lunch, afternoon one-on-one genealogy assistance Pitt Center, Southern Shores, NC (behind the Town Hall with overflow parking at Southern Shores Crossing Shopping Center)

Cost: \$10 per person (includes a light lunch)

## MORE UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Ancestry Day** in Raleigh, NC November 6 and 7, 2015

Join experts from Ancestry, the State Archives, Friends of the Archives, the North Carolina Genealogical Society and the State Library of North Carolina for this great two-day event. Registration for Saturday's presentations is \$38. Friday's presentations are \$10 and are limited to the first 200 participants who register for Saturday. AncestryDNA kits will be available at a discounted rate of \$89 while supply lasts.

Friday's presentations are sponsored by the State Archives of North Carolina, the State Library of North Carolina, and the Friends of the Archives and will be held at the Archives and History-State Library.

- "Before the Vital Records Law: What's a Family Historian to Do?" — Debbi Blake
- "An Introduction to Online Research Tools from the State Archives and State Library of North Carolina" – Ashley Yandle and Michelle Underhill

Saturday, November 7, will feature a full day of classes held at the McKimmon Conference & Training Center, 1101 Gorman Street, Raleigh, NC 27606 and include:

- Ancestry 101: New & Review
- Getting the Most from Ancestry.com
- Using AncestryDNA to Further Your Family History Research
- Partnering with the State Archives of North Carolina
- Ask the Experts
- Sharing Your Family Story

Door prizes on Saturday include free memberships to Ancestry.com, Fold3.com, and Newspapers.com, as well as many other items.

### **A Common Confederate Soldier's Diary Company "B" 61st Virginia Infantry Regiment**

"A Common Confederate Soldier's Diary for the Period 1861-1865" by author Faye Marsha Benjamin. The diary was written by an ordinary common confederate soldier, using the talking style of that era, to explain to those that were not there what it actually was like. The events and dates are correct but some of the narrative is the author's creative style in providing a better insight into what was happening during this period. This diary dates from Jan 1862 till April 1865.

**Continued from July 2015 newsletter**

#### Fighting at Devil's Den

We have captured Devil's Den, the wheat field, the peach orchard, and the foot of round hills. We hear Yankee Gen Sickles is bad wounded. We hear that our Gen Barksdale and Gen Semmes are dead.

8:30 pm wounded Alabama private from Pender's division wandered into our camp. He tells us the most impossible tales. He said his brigade about 1,500 men almost broke through Cemetery Ridge about mile north of the little hill when all of a sudden the

1<sup>st</sup> Minn charged with bayonets. Them fellers fought like wild cats. We pushed them back but more Yankees poured in and we couldn't take the ridge. The 1<sup>st</sup> Minn color bearer was bayoneted in the side but won't give up his flag. (1<sup>st</sup> Minnesota with 262 men charged giving Gen Hancock the time he needed to rush reinforcements there. They suffered 215 casualties.)

Another wounded Alabama private from Hood's division wandered into our camp. He told us another tall tale. He said his brigade was attacking the Yankees on that little hill over and over. He thinks they were hitting the 20<sup>th</sup> Maine and 83<sup>rd</sup> Penn. He said the boys were out of ammunition. All of a sudden them Yankees charged with bayonets. He said he was out of bullets, thirsty, exhausted from the heat and climb, scared, and he just turned and ran. Lots of the fellers were captured or surrendered. He ain't never seen Yankees fight like that. He guessed he was a coward but he wasn't about to die in no Yankees prison. Why wasn't our brigade called to support?

Several fellers from 61<sup>st</sup> Va. volunteered to recover gear and the wounded. Field hospitals can't handle all the wounded and dying. Pvt Banks Co B said the wounded were crying for water. It was a horrible sight. I carried water to the poor devils, dressed minor wounds, and buried some dead.

Some of the fellers picked up equipment and muskets. One feller said he picked up one musket with 5 charges rammed in the barrel and another one with 8 charges. I guess the poor devils got so busy doing everything else they forgot to pull the trigger. One of the boys came upon one of our dead who had a large cobblestone in his hand. One of the fellers got out some homemade whiskey that was so bad we called it bust skull. He took it over to the hospital tents. We hear Gen Hood is bad wounded. Gen Stuart and Gen Fitzhugh Lee arrive 11:00 pm.

July 3, 1863 Another hot and humid day. Gen Lee's headquarters is busy as a beehive. Gen Pickett's Division was ordered on the western side of Seminary Ridge. Capt Baxter comes back with our orders. 61<sup>st</sup> Va. and Anderson's division to the left in support and reserve guarding Pegram's artillery. 61<sup>st</sup> Va. was north of the Spangler house and northwest of the Bliss barn.

I can't believe we're in reserve again. Rumor is going around camp that Gen Mahone and Gen Anderson had a big argument. Don't know if it's true. I bet Gen Lee really let Gen Stuart have it for riding around the countryside leaving us blind except for a few scouts. Gen Pickett, Gen Pettigrew and Gen Trimble's boys are to attack Yankee center on Cemetery Ridge. The Yankees should be weak there. We have attacked both flanks and failed.

Around 1:00 pm 143 artillery pieces start firing on our side. Gen Stuart's cavalry is to circle around east to attack Yankee rear. I just saw Gen Longstreet and Gen Pickett talking. The artillery fire is unbelievable. The sound is like a bad thunderstorm. The smell of gunpowder makes my stomach sick. I don't know how anything can survive this bombardment. The Yankees throw shells at us. I felt sorry for the horses. A shell exploded killing it's rider and wounding the horse. One of the fellers in Co B took aim and killed the horse. He said, "I can't stand watching an animal suffer."

3:00 pm the divisions are formed up and the order to attack given. We cheer the ranks as they begin to march. What a magnificent sight with the flags waving even though the smoke lay heavy on the ground. The Virginia brigades under Gen Garnett, Gen Kemper, and Gen Armistead march toward Emmitsburg Rd. Gen Garnett passed north of the Codori barn and Gen Kemper passed on the south side of the barn. Artillery fire keeps up from both sides. I watch this event and wonder if I would rather be them or me.

Holes are starting to be ripped in their lines by exploding canister. Ranks keep moving together and forward. The boys scale a fence before moving up the slope. The fence is a death trap to many. We are anxious waiting in reserve hoping to get in the fight. Battle flags are everywhere along that stone wall. There must be desperate hand to hand fightin.

We did see the 1<sup>st</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Tenn and the 38<sup>th</sup> Va rush over the enemy's breastworks.

## AGS OCTOBER 2015

Several 61<sup>st</sup> Va. boys volunteer to run ammunition from wagons to cannon. Pvt King Co I is wounded and Pvt Ward Co I mortally wounded by artillery fire. Lt Fulford Co B said, "I have a lump in my throat and my stomach is sick watching this carnage."

For a brief time our boys cross over the stone wall but are beaten back. That open field is covered with the dead and dying. I think my eyes have watched a very black day for our cause. The returning wounded say Gen Garnett is dead, Gen Trimble is wounded and captured, Gen Pettigrew is wounded, Gen Kemper is wounded, Gen Armistead wounded and captured and all 13 colonels are wounded or dead. I think we have lost at least half of our men in that charge.

By 4:00 pm attack is over. The poor wounded are struggling to get to the hospital tents.

Some said as they came back that the Yanks at the stone wall were yelling Fredericksburg.

Again the men of the 61<sup>st</sup> Va. volunteer to recover the wounded, dress minor wounds and bury the dead. We hear that Stuart's cavalry attack failed. Gen Wade Hampton is wounded. 20 battles flags fell in 100 square yard space. One N.C. Company from Pettigrew's brigade lost every man killed or wounded. (84).

Co B casualties – Pvt Jess McPherson wounded and Pvt Johnson Parsons captured.

41<sup>st</sup> Va – 2 killed, 6<sup>th</sup> Va. – 0 killed, 61<sup>st</sup> Va – 5 killed, 16<sup>th</sup> Va – 4 killed, 12<sup>th</sup> Va 4 killed

### **Author's Note of Additional Information**

**A fence crossed by Confederate Gen Archer's men. One board 14 inches wide and 16 feet long had 836 bullet holes in it.**

1<sup>st</sup> Va – suffered 80% casualties, 9<sup>th</sup> Va – suffered 81% casualties, 18<sup>th</sup> Va – suffered 88% casualties, 11<sup>th</sup> Miss – suffered 89% casualties, 8<sup>th</sup> Va - suffered 92 % casualties

University Grays Co if 11<sup>th</sup> Miss suffered 100% casualties.

Color Company of 38<sup>th</sup> N.C. suffered 100% casualties

Company F of the 26<sup>th</sup> N.C. suffered 100 % casualties.

Union losses were 1500. Confederate losses were 7500. A ratio of five to one.

Of the 8 Confederate generals involved 2 killed, 3 wounded, and 3 unhurt. Of the 7 Union generals involved 4 wounded and 3 unhurt.

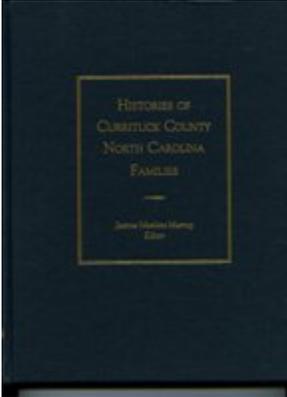
Of the 32 Confederate field officers that advanced, one returned unhurt. Of the 13 colonels involved, 8 were killed and 5 wounded.

16<sup>th</sup> Vt captured the 8<sup>th</sup> Va and 2<sup>nd</sup> Fla colors.

Of the 38 Confederate regiments and colors that advanced, 33 colors were captured. The 24<sup>th</sup> Va and the 7<sup>th</sup> Tenn flags were saved.

Congress granted 15 Medals of Honor for capturing flags.

## Publications for Sale by AGS

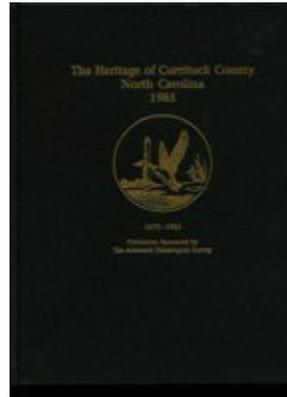


*Histories of Currituck County, NC Families--\$20.00 + tax*

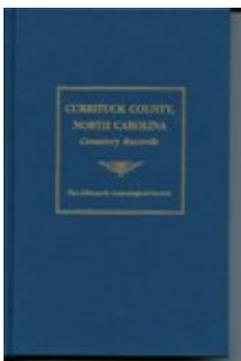
This is an 8 1/2 x 11 hardback book with the cover and spine stamped in gold. The book has over 350 pages, published in 2005. It contains over 125 stories of Currituck-connected families, many with pictures. It has a full name index.

*Currituck County Heritage, NC--\$25.00 + tax*

This is a reprint of the 9 x 12 1985 edition. It is an 8 1/2 x 11 seal of Currituck County stamped in gold on the front cover. 500 pages includes the history of Currituck County, NC. It stories and has over 700 pictures of Currituck-connected name index.



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*Currituck County, NC Cemetery Records--\$10.00 + tax*

*A compilation of data from tombstones and unmarked grave sites from cemeteries (predominantly white) in Currituck County, NC. Published by Gateway Press, Inc. 1995, the hardcover 6 x 9 book has 328 pages and is printed on acid free paper, Smythe sewn, and bound in cloth with spine and cover stamped in gold. The fullname index includes indexing of possible maiden names, former married names and nicknames.*

*Histories of Currituck County, NC Families; Currituck County Heritage, NC; and Currituck County, NC Cemetery Records can also be purchased at the Currituck County Public Library, 4261 Caratoke Hwy, Barco, NC 27917, 252-453-8345; and Kill Devil Hills Library, 400 Mustain Street, Kill Devil Hills, NC 27948, 252-441-4331.*