

Preservation Advocate



February 2003

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Civil War Preservation March and Living History Weekend Commemorates the Battle of Wyse Fork

On March 1-2, 2003 Civil War Reenactors from around the US will assemble in Lenoir County to raise money for the preservation of our endangered Civil War Battlefields.

The public is invited to take a trip back in time to 1861-1865 and join in the experience of what life was like in Kinston during the Civil War. The Reenactors will begin marching from the battlefield area down highway 70 toward Kinston. The March will end on Heritage St.. Living History events will be taking place throughout the day on Heritage Street. Heritage Landing restaurants and shops will be open most of the day. Several businesses will be donating a percentage of sales that evening to the Historical Preservation Group to help them in their efforts to save our Civil War Battlefields.

The C.S.S State Historic Site will have related demonstrations throughout the day along with guided tours of the remains of the only surviving commissioned Confederate ironclad.

Saturday 10-4 and Sunday 1-4



Please sponsor a reenactor and make a donation in their name. Every penny of your donation will be used for the preliminary site surveys or land acquisition.

As a sponsor you are taking an active role in protecting Eastern North Carolina's historic Civil War lands. The National Park Services only owns 3% of our Civil War Battlefields. Every ten minutes another acre of battlefield is destroyed. It is only a matter of time until they are all lost forever. Help make it possible for future generations to have the opportunity to visit and experience the history that shaped this county. Help us save these "Hallowed Grounds"

The Historical Preservation Group in conjunction with the Lenoir County Battlefields Commission is sponsoring this Historic Event.

**For more information on sponsoring a Reenactor call
Bob Tolar
252-523-8958**

**Email: preservationmarch@cox.net
www.cflhs.com/preservationmarch.htm
www.historicalpreservationgroup.org**

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Board of Directors

Jane Phillips
Jan Barwick
Pat Faulkner
Cindy Brochure
Tony Kelly
Lyle Holland



Tony's Corner

Gordon and Herritage St. He may be assisting with the construction of the CSS Neuse II, a facsimile of the CSS Neuse Iron Clad or just sitting around visiting with people that have many questions about the project.

Tony has decided to write a book, with the help of others, on the many questions that have been asked of him about the CSS Neuse II and Lenoir County History in

general.

When not at the site, he is conducting tours around town and on the battlefields. Tony has also been busy speaking to various organization in the community. Some of the speaking engagements have taken him out of town to Jacksonville, Goldsboro and Smithville.

Feel free to stop by the site anytime to ask questions, volunteer,

You may find Tony Kelly most days down on the corner of

The CSS Neuse II Steams Ahead

Kinston— A full-size replica of an 1864 Civil War gunboat is under construction in Kinston, North Carolina. The CSS Neuse II will be a complete gunboat with identical dimensions as the original vessel: 158 feet long, 34 feet wide. Cement pillars were poured in November 2002 to hold the massive weight which is estimated at three-hundred fifty tons. The flat bottom of the hull was completed in December.

Master Boat Builder, Alton Stapleford, directs the volunteer workers. He came out of retirement to accept the challenge of building a full-scale iron clad. "I've always wanted to do this," he said.

The CSS Neuse II is being built near the very spot in the Neuse River where the original gunboat was moored.

Many interested people visit the construction site daily. Some have ancestors who participated in military

actions in the Kinston area. Other visitors have traced their lineage back to soldiers who served elsewhere in the Southern or Northern army. Some are merely interested in the history of the Civil War. Others "just want to see what is going on."

In 1863, the original Neuse was moored in the river at the foot of King Street in Kinston, North Carolina, where she received iron plating and cannons. She was being readied to participate in the battle to take back New Bern from Federal forces. Confederate Major General George E. Pickett had overall command of southern forces in the area and when he gave the order to attack, the Confederate States Ship Neuse steamed downriver only to run aground on a sandbar.

While the original Neuse did not participate in the failed attempt to retake New Bern in 1864, her cannons shelled advancing Union forces



Boat Builder, Alton Stapleford comes out of retirement to oversee construction of the CSS Neuse II

in the Second Battle of Kinston in 1865. Before retreating, the crew set a fire below deck and when it ignited a power charge a large hole was blown in the hull. She sank bow first. The old ram was pulled out of the Neuse River almost one hundred years later. Her hull along with other artifacts is on display at the CSS Neuse State Historic Site on Vernon Avenue.

Donations for the Boat can be made at The Broken Eagle on Herritage St.

**Or by calling
Paulette McFadden
252-523-7235**

Article and Photo by Byrd Humphreys



Tracy Putnam, President

The Heritage Genealogical Society has now been up and running for six months, and we do mean RUNNING. We have been overwhelmed by the interest and support we have received thus far, and are proud to boast that we now have 80+ members across the USA.

The response to our quarterly newsletters has been astronomical. We are proud to report that we have thus far been able to make a \$220.00 donation in the name of

our members or their ancestors to Heritage Place Library, and anticipate another donation of about \$200.00 at the next meeting.

Our members have been very busy also, in addition to Co-sponsoring a Genealogy Conference in Kinston next June, we are also working on book of Jones County Cemeteries, as well as a Heritage Cookbook.

Our Members were glad to welcome Ben Casey, author of "All In One River, Interviewing The Neuse River" to our December meeting. The Neuse River came alive for all of us when seen through Mr. Casey's wonderful photographs, and we were all



thrilled when he offered to autograph copies of his book.

Meetings are held the second Thursday of every month, 7:00 pm at Heritage Place Library, in Kinston NC and are always open to guests.

Information on the up coming Genealogy Conference and Membership can be found online at: www.historicalpreservationgroup.org

Historical Preservation Group Joins Heritage Tourism

Representatives of area organizations involved in efforts to see that Lenoir County's rich and diverse history is preserved met in a show of unity, drafted and signed a proclamation stating: "We stand united and committed to the preservation of Lenoir County's heritage." The group will be known as the Lenoir County Heritage Tourism Council. Jane Phillips, Historical Preservation Group, was elected chairperson, Rev. Julian Pridgen, Cultural Heritage Museum Project, was elected as Vice chairperson and Paulette McFadden, Herritage Street Merchants, was elected secretary.

The council will work as a networking body with the following organizations represented:

- Cultural Heritage Museum
- Lenoir County Historical Society
- Battlefields Commission
- Ironclad Shipwright Company
- Herritage Neighborhood Merchant's Association
- Historical Preservation Group
- CSS Neuse /Richard Caswell Historic Site
- Heritage Genealogical Society



Pictured seated left to right: Pat Faulkner, Cindy Brochure, Jane Phillips, Guy Smith and B. J. Murphy.
Standing left to right: Ted Sampley, Jan Barwick, Paulette McFadden, Joyce Cherry, Rev. Julian Pridgen, Tracy Putnam and Lyle Holland



United Kingdom Civil War Roundtable Makes Generous Donation

About a year ago Tony and Laura Daly had traveled from England to visit Civil War sites in the South. After having visited Bentonville Battlefield they were on their way to Fort Macon and stopped at King's Restaurant in Kinston for lunch. Wilbur King, owner of the restaurant, stopped by the table as he often does with his customers. During the conversation Mr. King told the Dalys they were having lunch on the site of Battle of Kinston Battlefield. Wilbur also told them

Readons said, "North Carolina was once described to me as a veil of humility between two peaks of arrogance (Virginia and South Carolina). Ever the one to support the under dog I immediately became very fond of North Carolina"

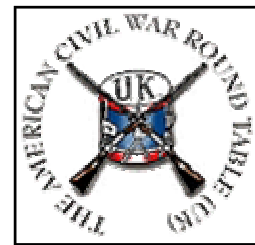
about the recent formation of the Historical Preservation Group and their efforts to save and preserve the battlefields. The Dalys showed great interest and ask

Mr. King to have someone with the Historical Preservation Group contact him.

Over the next year the Historic Preservation Group and Tony Daly exchanged e-mails on a regular

basis. In the spring issue of

Crossfire, the Magazine of the United Kingdom Civil War Roundtable was a two page spread telling of the First Battle of Kinston and the Battle of Wyse Fork. The articles created a great deal of interest, thus resulting in the London Roundtable and Richard



HPG Office

and Computer Pro, the office has furniture and a computer. If you have any office supplies you would like to donate please call or contact one of our Board Members.

Thanks to a benefactor the Historical Preservation Group now has an office. The new office is located in the Kinston Enterprise Center at 327 N. Queen St.

Thanks to Corporate Resources, First Citizens Bank

Our new address is
HPG
Kinston Enterprise Center
327 N. Queen St.
Suite 315
Kinston, NC 28501

Phone: 252-522-4576

Ext: 2004

Help to Keep First Battle of Kinston Battlefield Clean

Much of the Rivermount area was part of the First Battle of Kinston Battlefield.

County Manager, John Bauer has ask the



Battlefield Commission to form a group of volunteers to conduct random checks to spot people dumping trash in the Rivermount area. License plates of litters will be turned over to the Sheriff Dept.

You may help patrol the area by calling:

Battlefield Commission Update

Lyle Holland, Chairman

The Commission welcomes two new members, Dr. Lonnie Blizzard and Lee Holder.

Dr. Lonnie Blizzard is a retired Lenoir Community College President and retired Interim Director of the Global Transpark Education Center. Dr. Blizzard's house is located in the Woodington area along an area where some of the initial actions for the First Battle of Kinston took place on December 13, 1862.

Lee Holder is also a Lenoir County native. Lee is currently

teaching History at North Lenoir High School.

Both Dr. Blizzard and Lee Holder are avid history buffs and will bring a lot of expertise and enthusiasm to the Commission.

The Battlefields Commissioners have been very productive since the last newsletter.

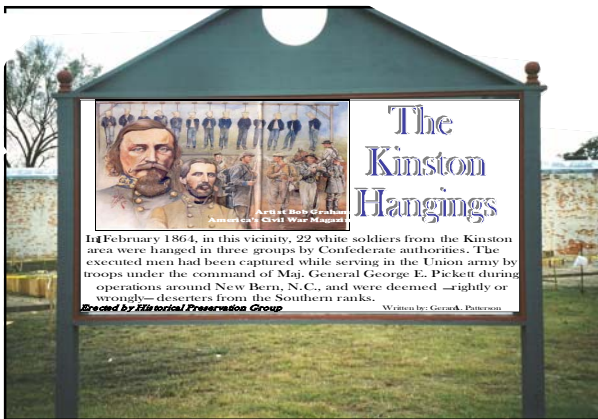
Planning for the Preservation March and interpretive signage has been the main focus. Both of these play an important role in educating the citizens of Lenoir County on their Civil War

Heritage.

A Commission goal is to educate the public by addressing civic organizations.

Within the past few months a representative from the Commission has spoken to Rotary, VFW, Masonic Lodges, North Lenoir High School and various others.

If you know a civic group or school that would like to have a speaker feel free to call me, Lyle Holland at 252-522-7494



HISTORICAL SIGNS Phrase One

of 22 men from Eastern North Carolina.

The men were Union Soldiers that had deserted the Confederate Army. The controversy lies in the fact that they were tried as Confederate deserters and not as Union Prisoners of War.

HPG has applied for a grant from the Tourism Authority for the funds to erect phase one of the interpretive signs.

Phase one will include entering/leaving signs that mark boundaries of both the battlefields. A

series of 2 interpretive signs will be placed on the First Battle of Kinston Battlefield.

Look for updates in future issues of the Preservation Advocate.

Volunteers needed to help erect and paint signs. Call Lyle Holland, Chairman, Lenoir Battlefields Commission, at 252-522-7494

SIGNS COMING SOON!

The Kinston Hangings is the subject of the first interpretive sign that is scheduled to be erected by the Historical Preservation Group.

The sign will be located back of the Lenoir County Courthouse on South McLewean St.

The Kinston Hangings were the result of a highly controversial trail that ended with the hanging

Detailed Battlefield Maps Under Way

Virginia cartographer, Mark Collier, has been commissioned by Battlefield Commissioners, Wil King and Aaron King to study our Civil War battlefields.

Collier has spent months of painstaking research to get primary maps of the battlefields accurate to within about 300 meters. In December, Collier, Wil King, and Lonnie Blizzard spent several days researching the battlefield area and identifying the battlefield perimeters.

Mr. Collier will produce a series of five maps for the First Battle of Kinston. The series of five maps

will show the 1862 terrain and outline Union and Confederate troop movements over the course of the day on December 14, 1862. A overlay printed on clear plastic will detail today's terrain features and current roads.

The Battle of Wyse Fork research will begin in the spring.

The maps gives us an idea of where the battlefield assets are. They also tell the story - what these people did, and what was on the minds of the commanders of both sides

When the project is completed

the Kings will receive 100 copies of each set of maps. They plan to donate the map packets to the Historical Preservation Group's Battlefields Commission to use to raise funds for preservation projects.

For more map information call Wil King at 252-522-7877



Lonnie Blizzard and Wil King assisting Mark Collier with his take off.



Mark Collier with his ultra light one man aircraft that he uses to fly over the Battlefields in order to study the terrain.



HPG Board of Directors HOST MEMBERSHIP

A cold rainy November afternoon turned into a delightful evening that honored the sustaining members of the Historical Preservation Group. The Colonial Room at the Broken Eagle Eatery was filled with marvelous food and the 8 foot fireplace provided a warm cozy atmosphere.



Randy & Larry Moolenaar, Ted Sampley, Alice Tingle

President Jane Phillips treated Historical Preservation Group members to a Power Point Presentation that described

the progress made during 2002 and the goals for the upcoming year.

The reception is HPG's way of keeping the members abreast of the progress made during the year. It also give HPG the opportunity to say Thank You to the members for their financial and moral support.

Historic Preservation is happening in Lenoir county, thanks to those who have shared the "VISION."

Plan to attend the 2003 reception and enjoy the good food and good company. Date to be announced in a future newsletter. Hope to see all of you there.



Pat Faulkner, Jan & Bob Tolar and Jerry Lewis. Enjoying the wonder-

February Is Membership Month

Now is the time to Renew your 2003 Sustaining Membership

Your sustaining membership will help to ensure that the Historical Preservation Group continues to operate to preserve our historic heritage for the citizens of Lenoir County and surrounding areas through:

- Battlefield Preservation and Acquisition
- Documenting and Preserving Family Histories
- Graveyard Preservation
- Advocating Preservation of Historic Homes and Buildings
- Presenting Educational Presentations to civic groups and schools
- Sponsoring Essay Contest "Civil War in Lenoir County"

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED GENEROUS SUPPORT!



1603 West Rd.
Kinston, NC 28501



"Our Past Holds the Key to Our Children's Future"
Sustaining Membership Renewal Form

Name _____

Address _____

City and State _____ Zip _____

E-mail _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

New Member Yes _____

Renewal Member Yes _____

Single \$15 _____ Family \$25 _____ Lifetime \$500 _____ Corporate \$1000 _____

Checks payable to Historical Preservation Group - Mail to: HPG, 1603 West Road Kinston, N. C. 28501

Signature _____ Date _____

In additional to membership dues
DONATIONS in any amount are appreciated.
Donation: _____