

PAST TIMES

Winter 2011

Issue No. 5

historiccabarrus.org

HISTORIC CABARRUS
ASSOCIATION, INC.
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Cabarrus County During Wartime: The War Between the States

This issue's
highlights
include...

**SPECIAL EXHIBIT OBSERVES
THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE CIVIL WAR**

**VISIT OUR
TWO MUSEUMS
IN DOWNTOWN CONCORD:**

CONCORD MUSEUM

Union Street Square
11 Union Street South, Suite 104
Concord, NC 28025
Open Tuesdays through Saturdays,
11 AM until 3 PM

CABARRUS COUNTY VETERANS MUSEUM

Historic Courthouse
65 Union Street South, First Floor
Concord, NC 28025
Open Mondays through Fridays,
10 AM until 4 PM

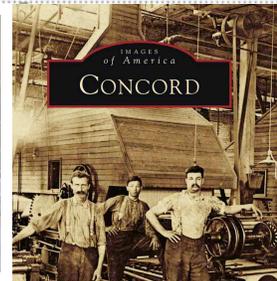
***Free admission.
Group tours by appointment.
Donations warmly appreciated.***



Confederate hand grenades among items on display at Concord Museum.



New curator gives Concord Museum a
makeover, pg. 7.



New Concord book, pg. 4.



Grand opening of the Concord Museum's "War Between the States" special exhibit, Friday, February 11, 2011. Approximately 200 people visited the museum that evening.



Michael Eury, Editor.

One hundred and fifty years ago, in early 1861, tensions smoldered between the northern and southern United States over states' rights versus federal jurisdiction, westward expansion, and slavery. These disagreements gave way to **The War Between the States**, also known as **The Civil War** (1861–1865).

North Carolina was the tenth state to join the **Confederate States of America**, seceding from the Union on May 20, 1861, after the war had begun (NC was readmitted to the Union on July 4, 1868).

It's been nearly three years since I became executive director of Historic Cabarrus Association, and during that time I've encountered wildly divergent attitudes toward our Confederate history, from the passionate longtimers who staunchly salute their ancestors' sacrifices to the incredulous newcomers who have asked, "What's up with this Rebel stuff?" (That's a direct quote.)

Many ancestors of white Cabarrus County residents valiantly fought as Confederate soldiers for a cause they felt was right. Many ancestors of black residents of our community were slaves prior to and during the Civil War.

The mission of our organization is to, simply, remember our past—not to forget it, or sidestep it, or rewrite the portions some might find uncomfortable.

And thus, we present at the Concord Museum the special exhibit **Cabarrus County During Wartime: The War Between the States**.

Presented therein is an array of Civil War-era weapons, uniforms, flags, photographs, oil paintings, and other artifacts revisiting this important era of Southern history. For a limited time, visitors will be able to see original Confederate regiment banners hand-sewn by Concord women.

This is the largest special exhibit we've featured in years. It will amaze even those of you who have had little or no interest in this chapter of our rich history.

The War Between the States special exhibit runs through **Saturday, May 14, 2011**. Museum hours are Tuesdays through Saturdays, 11 AM to 3 PM.

In other news, we welcome **Nancy Brewer** and **Leslie Cook** to our board of directors, replacing **David McClellan** and **Cathy Werner**. Our new directors intend to help our reenactment and education efforts. Welcome, Nancy and Leslie, and thank you for your service, David and Cathy!

Print editions of *Past Times* are produced as a membership benefit for Historic Cabarrus Association members. You can read or download each issue of *Past Times* in color by visiting our website, www.historiccabarrus.org. Thank you, members, for your loyal support!

Michael Eury, Editor

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A Memorial to Confederate Veterans

BY LOIS HARWOOD MARLOW

Editor's note: *The following is a transcription, edited for print, of a recent address to a district gathering of the United Daughters of the Confederacy.*

Today, we, the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC), wish to pay homage to our Confederate dead, brave men who served as soldiers, sailors, artillerists, and cavalymen—men who suffered the many untold atrocities of war.

Each of us has been granted the privilege to be members of this organization because of our brave and courageous Southern ancestors, ancestors who voluntarily left family, home, and hearth to engage in fierce battle for “the cause” and their right as an American.

Let's travel back—take a glimpse, imagine, *feel* the hardships and

sacrifices our forefathers endured: seemingly endless marching; fighting in blistering, sweltering heat or bone-chilling rain, or muddy, snowy, icy weather. Their clothes were tattered and their shoes—if any—were worn thin. They had little or no food in their bellies. They slept out in the elements, out under the stars, with perhaps only a single ragged, lice-infested blanket for cover. In spite of these horrid conditions, these men continued to fight bravely and honorably with pride and virtue.

Imagine: men witnessing their buddies on these far-from-home battlefields, paying the supreme sacrifice, with many others taken prisoner only to suffer disease, dysentery, amputations, infections, malnutrition, and starvation due to little or no food or medicine, while

enduring the stench of human excrement, gangrene, and pestilence. These men's hearts were heavy, longing for home—worrying about their loved ones. Those who *did* return home were maimed in one way or another.

These men are our ancestors! The blood flowing through our veins carries the same DNA as these brave men who spilled theirs on the many battlefields of this land. This is our proud Rebel legacy.

In the words of Father Abram Joseph Ryan, I quote:

*“We care not whence they came
Dear in their lifeless clay:
Whether unknown or known to fame,
Their cause and county still the same,
They died—and wore the Gray.”*



John Phifer Young became a Confederate captain at age 17.



This lithograph of General Robert E. Lee and his generals is one of the many artifacts in the UDC's "Confederate Memorial Hall" collection, currently displayed at the Concord Museum.

A Memorial to Confederate Veterans, cont'd. from pg. 3

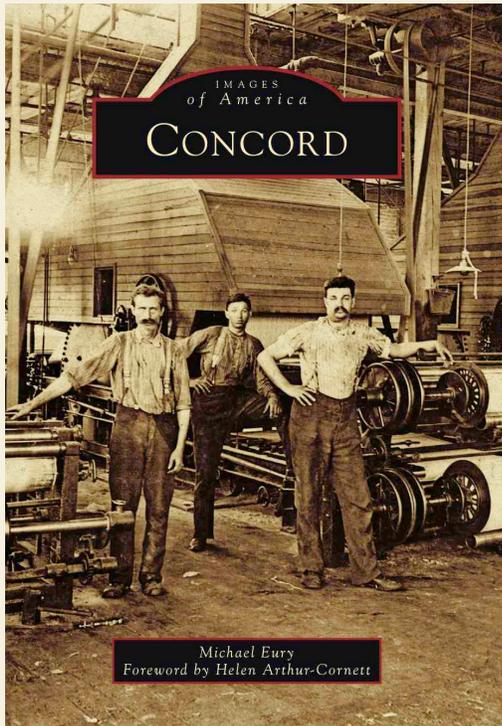
Daughters, may we never allow the memory of these men and events fade into the shadows of time. We are the guardians of our heritage. We must resolve within our hearts and souls to see that our ancestors are revered in the annals of history. As we salute our glorious Confederate flag with affection, reverence, and undying remembrance, may we also honor our Confederate veterans with affection, reverence, and undying remembrance.

LOIS MARLOW is the vice president of Historic Cabarrus Association, Inc. and the president of the Coltrane-Harris Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy.



Concord's celebration of Confederate Memorial Day, occurring each May, begins with the United Daughters of the Confederacy adorning the county's 16-foot Confederate monument with flowers and flags. In years past, field trips of children from neighborhood schools would arrive at the Courthouse to honor local soldiers who died during the Civil War. This photograph from the 1930s only hints at the attendance totals for the event. The remembrance continues to this day, although the schools no longer participate. The next commemoration occurs at the Historic Courthouse on Sunday, May 8.

Arcadia Publishing's *Images of America: Concord* Available in March



Images of America: Concord, by Historic Cabarrus Association's own Michael Eury, is a photo-history scrapbook from Arcadia Publishing, the nation's largest publisher of regional history books. Its foreword is by local journalist/historian (and member of the Historic Cabarrus Board of Directors) Helen Arthur-Cornett.

Concord, a 128-page softcover containing 200 photographs, goes on sale March 14, 2011 and will be available at major book retailers, including Amazon.com, at a retail price of \$21.99. The Concord Museum's gift shop will also carry the book, with a portion of proceeds going to the museum.

The author will be making numerous book-signing appearances throughout the spring. The first scheduled signings are listed below. Visit *Images of America: Concord's* Facebook page or our website (www.historiccabarrus.org) for additional signings.

***Images of America: Concord* Book Signings by Michael Eury**

Friday, March 18: 7 to 8 PM, Old Courthouse Theatre, Concord

Saturday, March 19: 1 to 4 PM, The Concord Museum, Concord

Saturday, March 26: 1 to 5 PM, The Depot at Gibson Mill, Concord

The Cabarrus Rangers Flag

BY GEORGE M. PATTERSON

I have often wondered just what pulls someone to a museum, any museum. Is it the art that one is specifically interested in, or the objects of history? Just what sways large groups of people to see what the walls hold? Many times I think it might be that “one in a million chance” that you will luck up and discover that special piece of pottery, or that painting by the local artist you love, or any number of reasons.

But for me, I have often visited a history museum just to see the flags. Therefore, stumbling across the Historic Cabarrus Association’s collection of flags in the Concord Museum would be just what the doctor ordered for me and for so many others like myself who love all eras of U.S. History.

Personally, I have always enjoyed studying the War Between the States. As a child, if I became separated from my family or school group while at a museum, you could bet money on finding me standing in front of a rack of guns, swords, uniforms, or flags. The difference today is that maturity slides in when you least expect it, and we become more diversified and enjoy a good “art museum” every once in a while. But for me, nothing will ever pique my interest more than looking at good, old military artifacts. Call it a “guy thing,” I guess.

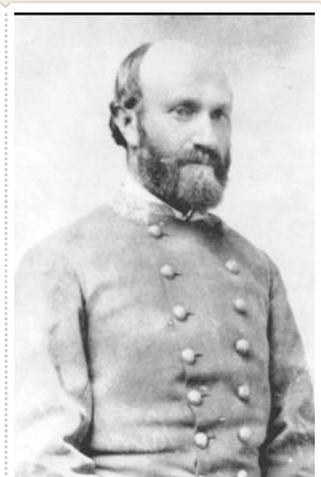
Growing up in Concord has had its rewards for me, being the “history nut” that I am. I was blessed to have been introduced at a young age to one of the *best museums in the South*, and I didn’t have to go any further than

behind the old Concord Library to enjoy it. My thanks to the City of Concord and the local chapters of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, who started Confederate Memorial Hall and Memorial Library in 1939, for laying the groundwork for the museum we enjoy today. My appreciation also goes to Historic Cabarrus Association, Inc. for continuing its service to this community in its work to protect our county’s historic artifacts.

Few things caught my attention more at Memorial Hall than the 8th Regiment Confederate battle flag that hung on the wall with all its glory. It was so large and a beautiful, deep red, with 13 white stars placed in a crossed field of blue. I was sickened around 1975 when the museum was



The Cabarrus Rangers flag, on display at the Concord Museum until May 14, 2011.



Captain Rufus Clay Barringer.

Cabarrus Rangers Flag, cont'd. from pg. 5

robbed and that flag was one of the items taken. Cabarrus County lost one of its most prized possessions that day.

Memorial Hall also housed a number of other equally historic flags, one being the Cabarrus Rangers flag. This is a large, framed, "first national" flag, 45 inches x 31 inches, with a two-inch gold fringe that runs around three sides. In the upper left, it has a dark blue field with 11 gold stars. (Actually, the original stars were white, but rumors have it they were removed at the end of the war and given to certain soldiers for "valor in the field." The originals were then replaced with inverted paper gold stars to provide one with a somewhat accurate rendition.) The top, right portion of the flag has one red stripe and one white stripe. The white stripe bears printed lettering "Cabarrus Rangers." The lower portion of the flag is one red stripe.

Records state it was bequeathed in a will to Memorial Hall on November 2, 1964, from the estate of Cabarrus County native Sam Goodman. The flag was formally presented to the Memorial Hall by the John Phifer Young Chapter of the Children of the Confederacy on June 19, 1965, after being cleaned, restored, and framed by Coffee & Thompson of Charlotte, North Carolina.

The history of the Cabarrus Rangers flag, courtesy of Mrs. Guy Beaver, Sr., is as follows:

"Company F, 1st North Carolina Cavalry was organized in Concord during the month of May, 1861, by Capt. Rufus Barringer, with

the following commissioned officers: 1st Lt. Jacob A. Fisher, 2nd Lt. Milas Johnston, and 3rd Lt. Wiley A. Barrier.

"This flag was made by the ladies of Concord, among whom are able to be named: Mrs. Dr. Gibson, Mrs. Dr. Bingham, Mrs. Rufus Barringer, and Mrs. Mahan. It was presented to the Cabarrus Rangers by Mrs. W. M. Coleman on their departure for the drill camp at Asheville, North Carolina.

"The Company was mustered into the Confederate service July 15, 1861, and the flag was used as the Company emblem at Asheville and Ridgeway. It was borne by the ensign on their march to Manassas and Centerville, Virginia, when the 1st N.C. Cavalry entered active service under Field Officers Col. Robert Ransom, Lt. Col. Lawrence S. Baker, and Major James B. Gordon.

"At the first engagement in Vienna, Virginia, it served as the regimental flag. After the adoption of the Confederate battle flag, it was used only on Corps, Division, Brigade, and Regimental inspections, and dress parades. During the latter part of the war, it was sent home by Gen. Rufus Barringer. At the organization of the Confederate Veterans Association of the 1st N.C. Cavalry, it was returned by him to the Company for preservation."

Rufus Clay Barringer was born December 2, 1821, in Cabarrus County, North Carolina; died on February 3, 1895, at the age of 73; and is buried in Charlotte. At the beginning of the War Between the States, he

raised a company of 100 horsemen, the "Cabarrus Rangers," who were designated as Company F of the 1st North Carolina Cavalry with Barringer as their captain.

Many other young men from the county were also a part of the Cabarrus Guards, who should be remembered but space simply does not allow. Perhaps we can remember them in our hearts. But I do wish to remember and offer my thanks to General Rufus Barringer and to the estate of Sam Goodman from Cabarrus County for returning this gem to its citizens. We shall always be grateful.

GEORGE M. PATTERSON is a member of the board of directors of Historic Cabarrus Association, Inc., and the author of the book Concord and Cabarrus County in Vintage Postcards (Arcadia Publishing, 2001).

New Curator at the Concord Museum

Historic Cabarrus Association, Inc. is pleased to announce the hiring of James E. Summers as the curator of the Concord Museum.

Summers, a Concord native, graduated from Concord High School and studied at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Montclair State University in New Jersey, and Parson's School in New York City. He served as historic site archaeologist at Hezekiah Alexander House, the oldest stone dwelling in Mecklenberg County, and Latta Plantation, the restored Federal-style plantation on the Catawba River. Summers house-managed Spirit Square Center for Arts and Education in Charlotte, an interdisciplinary arts center combining visual-arts galleries, theater-performances spaces, and education classrooms. Now residing in Concord, Summers is a member of St. James Lutheran Church, where he currently oversees the St. James History Room Project, archiving the 167-year history of the church.

"I have always been powerfully drawn to the museum aesthetic—a carefully controlled and edited environment, a respite from the chaotic world—where objects of virtue and interest can, much like Keats' urn, pass through time and accident and wear the changeless beauty of thought," Summers said. "Considering the rich history of Cabarrus County, with so much subject matter to draw upon, the Concord Museum has an important role to play in our town. I look forward to my work here."

Summers' handiwork was unveiled on Tuesday, February 8, 2011, with the premiere of the "Cabarrus County During Wartime: The War Between the States" special exhibit.

"Jim Summers' unmatched talents for museum design and artifact preservation will no doubt bear great fruit for the Concord Museum and our community," said Michael Eury, executive director of Historic Cabarrus Association, who will now redirect his focus beyond the museum into developing community outreach programs, print and DVD projects, and increasing membership and corporate support.

Also joining the Concord Museum staff as Museum Associate is Heather Wilson. She recently returned to North Carolina after receiving her MFA in Directing from the University of Memphis.

Before returning to academia, Wilson was the Artistic Director of the Old Courthouse Theatre (OCT) for ten years. While at OCT she directed over 50 plays and musicals, some of her favorites

including *Evita*, *Grace & Glorie*, *Quillers*, and *It's A*

Wonderful Life. While at the U of M she directed *In a*

Northern

Landscape, *Miss Julie*, *Freedom Summer* (for which she won a Mertz Award for Best Direction), and *Dark of the Moon* (winning an Ostrander Award for Best Choreography).

Wilson has also directed for Playhouse on the Square in Memphis, Tennessee. She is presently an adjunct professor at both Lenoir Rhyne College and Central Piedmont Community College and the playwright/director for *Paying Tribute*, a celebratory oral history performance based on local veterans' stories, to be presented at the OCT on March 18, 19, and 20.

"Heather Wilson's theatrical background brings to our museum a level of energy and animation that will help the stories of yesteryear sparkle with life today," Eury said.

Each of the new positions, as well as the executive director's, are part-time. "Historic Cabarrus Association is a small organization that is determined to grow," Eury said. "With Jim and Heather as part of our team, we're well on our way!"



The Concord Museum's Heather Wilson and James Summers.

Cabarrus Flashback



Concord's Warren C. Coleman (seated at front row, right) and the board of directors of the Coleman Manufacturing Company, a black-owned and -operated textile mill in operation in Concord from 1901 through 1904. Prior to Coleman's so-called "noble experiment," most African Americans employed in white-owned mills held menial positions.

Historic Cabarrus Association, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation of the heritage of the City of Concord and of Cabarrus County, North Carolina, and to the education of its citizens, students, and visitors.

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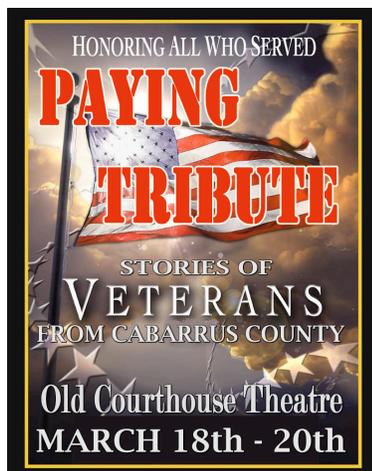
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