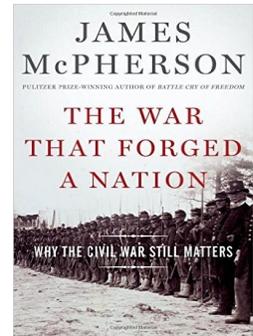


# THE BATTLE CRY



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## NEXT PROGRAMS

Sept. 13, 2016

TBA

Oct. 11, "African American Life In Tampa before, during and after the Civil War" by Fred Hearn

Meetings 2nd Tues. of the month (7 pm) GRACE CHURCH ADULT ANNEX, 8000 Bee Ridge Rd, Sarasota, FL 34236. On Occasion time and location of the meeting will be changed.

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## The Future of Civil War Scholarship

(Compiled & Edited by Bruce Maxian)

After five years of celebration, remembrances, reflection, etc. the sesquicentennial of the Civil War comes to an end. One wonders about the longevity of popular interest in and quality scholarship about the significance of the Civil War to the America we find ourselves in today. A drop in quality publications was felt following the Centennial in the 1960s, is that likely to be the situation now? Perhaps the focus will now be on America's part in WWI and WWII. Provided are several author's quotes on the subject titled above and hope that you will ponder the question. A discussion and sharing of your ideas would make a good topic for one of our Round Table meetings.

Print scholarship follows a deliberate path toward publication, with research, evaluation, and revision completed before the scholarship appears before the public. Then, another slow process of dissemination follows; it takes years for a book to be widely read, reviewed, comprehended, absorbed, and debated or built upon. But it is all one conversation, stretching across generations.

And only a scholar committed to the idea that American Civil War had to be presented in ways that better embraced its nuance, ambiguity, and complexity would have thought of focusing on the boundary between the North and the South, a boundary made sharp by slavery but made blurry by most other facets of life. (Edward L. Ayers)

Many of the issues over which the Civil War was fought still resonate today: matters of race and citizenship; regional rivalries; the relative powers and responsibilities of federal, state, and local governments."

The Civil War, a century and a half in the past, remains a matter of great contemporary interest — and importance. It shapes our culture, our society, our politics, our issues. In many ways it is more immediate than World War I, which is a half-century more recent, and more consequential than Vietnam, the wounds of which still ache.

McPherson redeems the title of his book by explaining why *The Civil War Still Matters*. But his greatest contribution may be in setting forth a rubric for a new series of small books Oxford University Press might contemplate, examining, for example, why the revolutionary period still matters (it set forth debates about self-government not fully resolved even now), why World War I still matters (it set forth debates about self-determination not fully resolved even now) and, to extend this prospective genre even further, why Woodrow Wilson, Franklin Roosevelt, and Ronald Reagan still matter. They do matter, all of them, and they need their James McPherson. (edited from David M. Shribman's review of McPherson's book)

## TRIVIA QUESTIONS

- Why was the wind direction a blessing for the Confederate troops at Cold Harbor?
- On what battlefield was the famed “Hornets Nest”?
- Which was a higher rank in the Union Navy: vice admiral or rear admiral?
- Who improvised the first long-range railway gun, mounted on a railway track?
- What nurse, called “Dragon” by many subordinates, worked four years without pay as the Union’s superintendent of women nurses?
- What innovative weapons were first deployed in July 1861 in the Potomac River?



The more I reflected on this conversation..., the more I thought about the formative impact that recent military history has had on Civil War historiography and will almost certainly continue to have in the near future. A variety of new subfields in Civil War military history have developed or regained prominence over the last decade and suggest a range of possibilities for innovative work.

The field of military history within Civil War studies is probably the healthiest it has ever been in terms of the diversity and quality of the research published by major university presses. Publishers, even ones in financial distress, have continued to crave books addressing the intersection of war, culture, and society during the middle period of nineteenth-century U.S. history. Recent trends in the historiography collectively demonstrate the necessity of carefully reconsidering the traditional line between battlefield and home front that has long dominated and impeded creativity in Civil War military history. (**Barton A. Myers**)

However, if one peruses bookstore shelves, history catalogs, and a variety of Civil War periodicals a reaction might be “where’s the books?” [on the Civil War]. Is this a temporary sign or a signal of what is to come or, rather, what’s not to come from today’s scholars? The move by university and college librarians to de-emphasize books in favor of the internet for student research is worrisome. While there is more and more digital information added to the internet, almost daily, its usefulness for scholarly work is questionable and often encumbered by the limitation of one page per screen. In contrast, when wishing to examine works on the same subject by different authors it is much easier to spread out, say, five books open to the topic as presented by five different authors. The same can be said of comparing primary document sources to be compared in different versions. Are tomorrow’s would-be scholars being taught research methods that maximize the use of all types of resources in both digital and non-digital forms?

I fear for the future of Civil War history because I am genuinely concerned that the ranks of people interested in these events are rapidly thinning without a lot of younger people coming up from behind to take their places in line. I am concerned that there will be fewer and fewer young people who can tear themselves away from their video games long enough to be interested in history. I fear that they won’t buy and read books. I fear that, unless their parents drag them along unwillingly to visit places like Gettysburg, they will never set foot on a Civil War battlefield where the spirit just might move them to be interested in the events that occurred there. And most of all, I fear that there will be no one to take our places at the table of Civil War scholarship when our time to step away from the table comes. (**Eric Wittenberg**)

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### IS HE IN, OR IS HE OUT? KIRBY SMITH’S REMOVAL FROM STATUARY HALL By Edward Eliasberg

One of the events about which we speculated during our meeting last September on the Confederate Flag has come to pass. Governor Scott in March signed into law a bill “providing for the replacement of the statue of General Edmund Kirby Smith in the National Statuary Hall Collection at the United States Capitol.”

Florida gave the bronze statue of Smith, created by Florida sculptor Charles Adrian Pillars, to the National Statuary Hall Collection in 1922. Congress established the Collection to permit the display of two statues from each state within the Capitol. Those statues must be of deceased citizens of that State who “were illustrious for their historical renown or for distinguished civil or military services, such as each State may deem worthy of this national commemoration.” (Florida’s other contribution to Statuary Hall, the statue of air-conditioning pioneer Dr. John Gorrie, is not being considered for removal.)

The life-size statue of Smith shows him standing, looking up, wearing his Confederate Army uniform. The pedestal upon which the statue sits reads: “Florida’s Memorial To Her Most Distinguished Soldier.” There can be little doubt that, as the pedestal’s inscription and statue’s uniform suggest, Smith’s service to the Confederacy almost certainly was the primary, if not sole, reason why Florida nominated him to Statuary Hall. Born in St. Augustine, Smith was a career army officer, graduating from West Point in 1845 with the nickname “Seminole.” His greatest claim to fame came 20 years later. On June 2, 1865, by then one of the only seven full generals the Confederacy ever had, he surrendered in Galveston, Texas the last significant (36,000 troops on paper) Confederate army.

### KIRBY SMITH'S REMOVAL FROM STATUARY HALL (con't)

That was nearly two months after Appomattox and, more significantly, close to a month after the capture of Jefferson Davis.

Yet, Edmund Kirby Smith hardly would qualify as a posterchild for “The South Shall Rise Again” Movement. “Your present duty is plain,” he said in his farewell to his troops. “Resume the occupations of peace. Yield obedience to the law. Labor to restore order....And may God, in his mercy, direct you aright and heal the wounds of our distracted country.”

Smith practiced what he preached. He briefly became the chancellor of the University of Nashville after the War and spent the last 18 years of his life as a mathematics professor at the University of South in Sewanee, Tennessee.

Smith died and is buried in Tennessee, not Florida. All of the significant events that made up his distinguished military career occurred hundreds of miles from any place in Florida. His archives are housed at the University of North Carolina, not the University of Florida.

It is this physical detachment from Florida that was the motivating factor behind the effort to replace Smith in Statuary Hall, the sponsor of bill that became the Florida law is reported as asserting. State Senator John Legg (R Pasco) said he was not attempting to disparage Smith and acknowledged that Smith still needs to be recognized – just not in the U.S. Capitol. Legg called Smith a “great soldier ... and great Floridian,” but said the fact remained that Smith only lived in Florida until the age of 12, never to return. “His impact on Florida was not significant. He just did not shape Florida’s history,” Legg is quoted as saying.

A State replacing one of its entries in Statuary Hall with a statue of a new person, it turns out, is not that uncommon. Ohio, for instance, recently announced that it would replace its statue of Senator William Allen with a new one of Thomas Edison. Indeed, the Architect of the United States Capitol has even published guidelines for replacing statutes in Statuary Hall.

The legislation enacted in March to replace Smith’s statue seems designed to satisfy the intent and spirit of those guidelines. It prescribes a rather elaborate process, first requiring the Great Floridians Program within the Florida Department of State to recommend “three prominent Florida citizens ... to be commemorated in the National Statuary Hall Collection” by January 1, 2017. From these recommendations, “the Legislature shall select one prominent Florida citizen to replace the statue of General Edmund Kirby Smith.” In addition, the Florida Department of State by January 1, 2017 shall submit a report to the Governor, the Senate President, and the House Speaker that names the sculptor of the replacement statue and estimates the total costs associated with replacing Smith’s statue, including “the costs to design, construct, transport, and placing] the new statue; the removal and transfer of the current statue; and any unveiling ceremony for the new statue.”

Then, the Legislature, after selecting from the Great Floridians Program’s list the one prominent Florida citizen who will replace General Smith, and the sculptor who will make the replacement statue, “shall request by memorial that the United States Joint Committee on the Library of Congress approve the request to replace” Smith’s statue. Upon adoption of the memorial by the Legislature and “approval of the request in writing by the Governor,” the memorial “shall be submitted to” the United States Joint Committee.

The Great Floridians Program met in June to consider the 130 individuals the public had recommended by that time as a replacement for General Smith in Statuary Hall. Those candidates spanned a wide range of society, from artists, educators, and business men to exiled European royalty. At least four of those persons were nominated ostensibly because of their links to the Confederacy.

The Program decided at that meeting to recommend Mary MacLeod Bethune, Marjory Stoneman Douglas, and George Jenkins for the Legislature’s consideration. Bethune was an educator, Douglas was a noted author and environmentalist, and Jenkins founded Publix.

So, Edmund Kirby Smith is not out of Statuary Hall yet, though it is probably fair to say that his days remaining there are most likely numbered. It will be interesting to see how long he remains in Statuary Hall, who replaces him there, and where he eventually will end up!

### ANDERSONVILLE’S REPLACEMENT: THE FLORENCE STOCKADE

By Edward Eliasberg

Many people think of the Darlington Raceway, the Pee Dee River, or the Revolutionary War’s “Swamp Fox,” Francis Marion, when they hear of Florence, South Carolina. Relatively few are aware that it was also home of one of the largest Confederate prisoner of war camps.

It all came about because of Sherman. After he captured Atlanta in early September 1864, Confederate authorities feared that he would move to liberate the 33,000 Union soldiers held captive at Andersonville and other southern Georgia stockades. They chose Florence for a replacement site because it was serviced by three railroads, thereby easing the operation of transporting and receiving prisoners, and at the time was out of the path of his advancing troops. Around 6,000 Union prisoners, the bulk of all the prisoners who were physically able to travel, eventually would be transferred from Andersonville to the Florence Stockade.

The Stockade was constructed by slave labor on a pattern similar to Andersonville starting in September 1864. Located in a large field surrounded by dense pine forest and forbidding swamps about a mile from town, the Florence prison originally was a rectangular-shaped open stockade without shelter. Encompassing over 23 acres, 6 acres of which were swamp, it was constructed of upright timbers sunk in the ground, with an earthen rampart on the outer side to form a walkway for guards. At each corner of the palisade was a raised platform for artillery. Around the outside of the compound ran a ditch that was five feet deep and seven feet wide. Two fortifications were located to either side of the camp to protect it from raids. A “dead line” ran around the interior about ten to twelve feet from the palisade, and anyone crossing the line would be shot without question.

Like Andersonville, a stream ran through the prison and provided a source of drinking water. A causeway and bridge led across the stream and provided access between the east and west sections of the prison. A mix of regular Confederate Army troops and South Carolina State Reservists, albeit mostly Reservists, guarded the prisoners.

Continued on next page



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The prisoners in the Stockade had no shelter other than that which they provided for themselves. Their living quarters subsequently varied from makeshift huts to trenches burrowed in the ground and covered with tree boughs overlaid with mud. Called "shebangs," these trenches were the most common form of shelter used by the prisoners. Some were big enough for just one man, while others were large enough for several who pooled their resources.

The Stockade filled up fast. The first prisoners arrived on September 15, just after construction began. Less than a month later, 12,362 prisoners were there, around 800 of whom were housed in a makeshift hospital that had in the meantime been constructed within the Stockade through the good offices of the U.S. Sanitary Commission. The prison population peaked at 15,000.

Not surprisingly, given the rapidly deteriorating position of the Confederacy in late 1864-early 1865, other attempts at improving living conditions at the prison were few. Lack of adequate food, clean water, sanitation facilities, and shelter was responsible for as many as 20 to 30 deaths per day. Indeed, one winter ice storm left hundreds of dead in a single night.

The Stockade's demise and relatively short life also were because of General Sherman. He captured Savannah in December 1864 and was near Columbia, South Carolina, about 100 miles away from Florence, by February 1865. This led the Confederate government to decide to parole the Florence Stockade prisoners and send them home. The first group left on February 15, with the sick going to Wilmington and the healthy to Greensboro, North Carolina, where they were transferred back in to Union hands. By the end of February, the prison was empty.

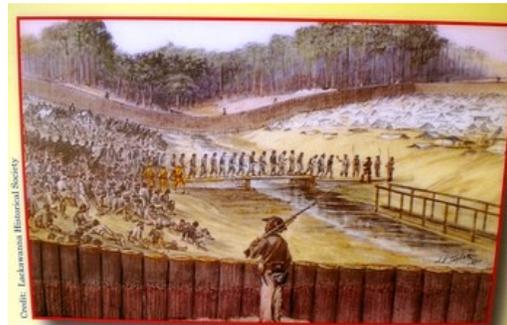
2,802 Union soldiers died in the Florence Stockade during the five months it existed. Most of them are buried nearby at what has become the Florence National Cemetery. The Cemetery was established in 1865 around a series of trench graves containing the remains of Union soldiers who died while held captive at the Stockade.

In one of those trenches lies the remains of Florena Budwin. Budwin disguised herself as a man when her husband joined the Union Army. She followed him through the War until they were captured and sent to Florence. When she took ill, a Stockade physician discovered her identity and moved her to separate quarters. Upon her recovery, she stayed at the Stockade and served as a nurse. In January 1865, she fell ill again and died. She is the first woman ever to be buried in a National Cemetery.

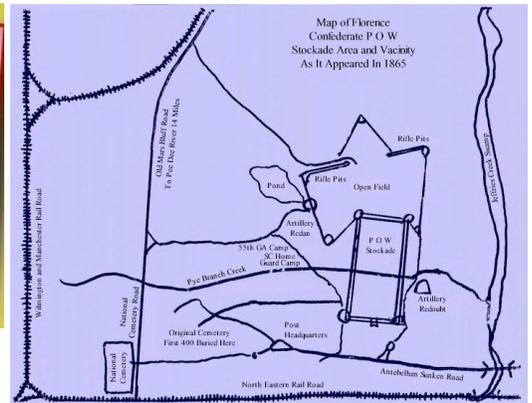
The site of the Stockade is now a component of the City of Florence Trail System. There is a walking tour at the site and an informational gazebo detailing the Stockade's history. The site is only a short distance from I-95 South Carolina Exit 164. You ought to check it out the next time you are on I-95 heading north!



**GENERAL KIRBY SMITH**



**THE FLORENCE, SC STOCKADE & SITE PLAN**



**Again, We thank Ed Eliasberg ,this time, for his two articles: Kirby Smith & Florence Stockade**

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