

# The Garnett-Pettigrew Gray Line!



Newsletter of the Garnett-Pettigrew Chapter #67  
Confederate Officers of North Carolina Society  
Military Order of Stars & Bars

January - February 2012

**Commander – Dwain Roberts**  
**Lieutenant Commander – Ed Martin**  
**Adjutant - Gary Faulk**

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## COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

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I trust everyone had a very nice Christmas and is having a good New Year.

Once again I begin with my "thank you's".

Thank you to all the ladies who put together our very delicious meal at our December 3 meeting.

Thank you to Mr. Charles Hawks for part one of your program on "The Confederate Navy". I look forward to hearing part two on February 4.

It was good to see Past Commander Mr. Jim Rogers and Marty at our December 3 meeting.

You all have my most humble apology for not having our candle light service in December.

We still need to elect officers! We need everyone to attend our February meeting. We may have to appoint officers in February.

My most sincere thank you to all who have helped me as your commander. I look forward to seeing all of you at our February meeting.

"To secure these rights [of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness], governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed . . . .

"Whenever any form of government becomes destructive of the these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new government."

- The Declaration of Independence, 1776

*P. Dwain Roberts*

Commander

Garnett-Pettigrew Chapter, MOSB

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## OUR NEXT MEETING FEBRUARY 4

### YOUR RSVP NEEDED FOR DINNER

As with all our meetings, if you plan to eat at the February 4 meeting you are requested to RSVP by calling Commander Dwain Roberts and leaving a message or by sending an e-mail to [GPMOSB@Yahoo.com](mailto:GPMOSB@Yahoo.com).

The price of the meal remains \$8.00 in 2012.

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## Outer Banks History Center Seeks Memorabilia for Civil War Exhibit in March

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MANTEO - The Outer Banks History Center (OBHC) is seeking letters, diaries, photographs and artifacts of Civil War-era ancestors, especially those on Roanoke Island in the early 1860s, for an exhibit to open in March. It is part of the commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. The OHBC can make digital scans of original documents, papers or photographs for inclusion in the exhibit.

The exhibit, "The Civil War Comes to Roanoke Island: Fishers, Fighters and Freedmen" will tell the story of a sparsely populated Roanoke Island, and how it became the scene of an important engagement early in the war. Confederates tried to fortify the island, but the 3,000 southern troops were no match for the 10,000 Union soldiers of the Burnside Expedition that landed on Roanoke's shores in February 1862. Union victory meant control of the waterways in northeastern North Carolina, and paved the way for additional Union control of the Tar Heel State.

Also during this period, Roanoke Island became home to thousands of blacks, both free and former slaves, who flocked to the area for protection during

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the uncertain war times. Representatives of the national Freedman's Bureau, assisted by northern missionaries, worked at settling, educating and employing the freedmen.

"We want to go beyond the soldiers' and sailors' perspective and include stories from the viewpoint of the people who lived here on Roanoke Island," said curator KaeLi Schurr. "Although there are ample records about the battle and subsequent four-year occupation, accounts from local residents are scarce.

The exhibit will debut First Friday, March 2, and will remain on display through Dec. 30. All are invited to the free opening reception being hosted by the Friends of the Outer Banks History Center.

For more information about the Outer Banks History Center, call (252) 473-2655, send an e-mail to [obhc@ncdcr.gov](mailto:obhc@ncdcr.gov) or visit the History Center's website at [www.obhistorycenter.ncdcr.gov](http://www.obhistorycenter.ncdcr.gov).

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### **Biography**

*(In each issue we offer a profile of a member of the Confederate officer corps. In this issue we feature Brigadier General Robert Brank Vance.)*



**Robert Brank Vance** was born on Reems Creek in Buncombe County, North Carolina on April 24th, 1828. Vance was the eldest son of Captain David Vance and Mira Margaret Baird, and the nephew of Dr.

Robert Brank Vance the Congressman. Growing up he had three brothers and four sisters and his younger brother became Governor Zebulon Baird Vance. Robert Vance had a healthy childhood and helped out on the farm that his family owned. In 1844 Vance's father died.

Vance attended local county schools and had access to his late uncle's library. At the age of twenty he became the clerk of the Buncombe County Court of Pleas, a post that his father had formerly held. He held the office from 1848 to 1858 when he became a merchant in Asheville. In 1851 Vance married Harriet V. McElroy on May 13th and they

went on to have six children. Only four children survived to adulthood, three boys and one girl.

Vance reportedly held Unionist sympathies and was a supporter of John Bell, the presidential candidate who was a member of the Constitutional Union party. However, when the Civil War broke out Vance volunteered for the Confederate Army. He formed the Buncombe County Life Guard, which later changed its name to Company H of the 29th NC Infantry. After training at Camp Patton, Vance was chosen by his unit to be colonel. The unit went to guard the bridges in East Tennessee and in 1862 moved position to Cumberland Gap, where they entered into a battle on March 24th. On the 30th of December, 1862, Vance and his men were the first to join the battle of Murfreesboro, where sixty of them died and Vance barely missed being shot himself, his horse being shot out from under him. He received praise for his leadership at the battle and was promoted to brigadier-general by Jefferson Davis.

Falling ill with typhoid fever, Vance was unable to work in the field until the summer of 1863. After he recovered he worked under General Braxton Bragg, who put him in charge of the North Carolina-Tennessee mountain region. This region had strong Union sympathies and Vance was supposed to harass the back of the Union Army and stop their flow of supplies. In January 1864 he and his men were able to capture a supply train heading for Knoxville, but when they tried to move the supplies they were captured at Crosby Creek. Vance and his men were put in Union prison camps in Nashville, Louisville, Fort Chase (Ohio), and Fort Delaware.

While imprisoned Vance was let out on parole on the orders of President Lincoln and was given the job of purchasing clothing for the Confederate soldiers who were in prison camps. This situation came about through the efforts of Rev. Nathaniel Taylor, a Union sympathizer who had lived in Tennessee. When Vance occupied his home area Taylor had been afraid of capture. Vance, however, had given him protection papers. Taylor later fled to the North, but when he heard that Vance was captured he contacted Lincoln and told his story. Lincoln was sympathetic and ordered the parole. On March 14th, 1865, Vance was given pardon and allowed to return home on the condition that he would never fight again.

Vance returned home and lived peacefully, continuing his mercantile business, and in 1872 he ran for a Congressional seat. He won the position and went on to hold six terms in office. While there he made it possible for mail to be delivered every day in every county that he was in charge of, and he made

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it possible for the French Broad River to be dragged from Brevard to Asheville so that trade could move more easily along it. He was a member of the Committee on Revolutionary Pensions for Veterans of the War of 1812, the Committee on Coinage, and the Committee on Patents. In the December of 1875 he was appointed Chairman of the Committee on Patents and remained chairman for four terms.

Vance did not try to get re-elected in 1884 but instead was appointed by President Grover Cleveland to be the assistant commissioner of patents. Vance's wife, Harriet, died on March 20th, 1885. After several years he married again to Lizzie R. Cook on December 15th, 1892. Vance retired from politics in 1896. During his life he was an accomplished poet and published several collections of his works. He had been a member of the Knights Templar and served two terms as the grand master of the North Carolina Masons (1868-69). He also founded the Asheville chapter of the Sons of Temperance. Vance died on November 28th, 1899 at his farm in Alexander, and he was buried in Asheville at Riverside Cemetery.

*Source: Western NC Heritage - The Civil War in Western NC*

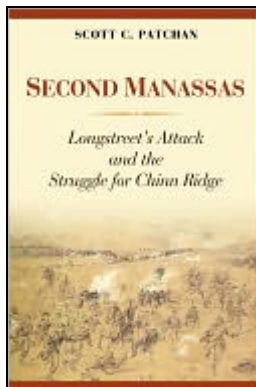
<http://wncheritage.org/>

[WNC biography/vance robt brnk.htm](http://wncheritage.org/WNC_biography/vance_robt_brnk.htm)

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### **The Book Corner**

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#### **Second Manassas: Longstreet's Attack and the Struggle for Chinn Ridge**

By Scott C. Patchan

Introduction by John  
Hennessey

ISBN-13: 9781597976879

Publisher: Potomac Books Inc.

Publication date: 7/31/2011

Pages: 214

In 1862, looking for an opportunity to attack Union general John Pope, Confederate general Robert E. Lee ordered Gen. James Longstreet to conduct a reconnaissance and possible assault on the Chinn Ridge front. At the time Longstreet launched his attack, only a handful of Union troops stood

between Robert E. Lee and Gen. John Pope's Army of Virginia. Virginia's rolling terrain and Bull Run also provided Lee with a unique opportunity seldom seen during the entire Civil War -- that of "bagging" an army, an elusive feat keenly desired by political leaders of both sides.

Second Manassas: Longstreet's Attack and the Struggle for Chinn Ridge details the story of Longstreet and his men's efforts to obtain the ultimate victory that Lee desperately sought. At the same time, this account tells of the Union soldiers who, despite poor leadership and the lack of support from Pope and his senior officers, bravely battled Longstreet and saved their army from destruction along the banks of Bull Run.

Longstreet's men were able to push the Union forces back, but only after they had purchased enough time for the Union army to retreat in good order. Although Lee did not achieve a decisive victory, his success at Chinn Ridge allowed him to carry the war north of the Potomac River, thus setting the stage for his Maryland Campaign. Within three weeks, the armies would meet again along the banks of Antietam Creek in western Maryland. Uncovering new sources, Scott Patchan gives a detailed knowledge of the battle ground and a fresh perspective that sharpens the detail and removes the guesswork found in previous works dealing with the climactic clash at Second Manassas.

Scott C. Patchan, a veteran Civil War battlefield guide and historian, is the author of Shenandoah Summer: The 1864 Valley Campaign (Bison Books, 2009) and The Forgotten Fury: The Battle of Piedmont, Virginia (Sergeant Kirkland's Press, 1996). He also served as a research consultant and contributing writer for Time Life's Voice's of the Civil War: Shenandoah, 1864 (1998). He resides in Northern Virginia with his family, has twice served as president of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table, and is a much sought after tour guide for both Revolutionary and Civil War battlefields and historic sites.

*- From the publisher*

### **Quotable Quotes**

“Get correct views of life, and learn to see the world in its true light. It will enable you to live pleasantly, to do good, and, when summoned away, to leave without regret. “

- Robert E. Lee

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### **2012 Calendar**

*All meetings are at 6:30 at the Monticello  
Community Center unless otherwise noted*

**\* Denotes change from regular meeting date**

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**Saturday, February 4, 2012** - Garnett-Pettigrew  
MOSB Meeting - Program: Part two on "The  
Confederate Navy" by Charles Hawks

**Saturday, April 7** - Garnett-Pettigrew MOSB  
Meeting - Program TBA

**Thursday, May 17 – Sunday, May 20** – Spring  
"Adopt-A-Monument" Project – Gettysburg, PA

**Saturday, June 2** - Garnett-Pettigrew MOSB  
Meeting - Program TBA

**Saturday, August 4** - Garnett-Pettigrew MOSB  
Meeting - Program TBA

**Thursday, September 20 – Sunday, September 23**  
Fall "Adopt-A-Monument" Project – Gettysburg, PA

**Saturday, October 6** - Garnett-Pettigrew MOSB  
Meeting - Program TBA

**Saturday, December 1** - Garnett-Pettigrew MOSB  
Meeting - Program TBA

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### **Let Us Remember . . .**

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**January 9, 1861** - Mississippi secedes

**January 10, 1861** - Florida secedes

**January 11, 1861** - Alabama secedes

**January 15, 1865** - Fort Fisher falls

**JANUARY 19, 1807**

**GENERAL ROBERT E. LEE BORN**

**January 19, 1861** - Georgia secedes

**JANUARY 21, 1824**

**GENERAL THOMAS "STONEWALL"  
JACKSON BORN**

**January 26, 1861** - Louisiana secedes

**February 1, 1861** - Texas secedes

**February 18, 1861** - Jefferson Davis inaugurated as  
provisional President of the Confederacy

**February 20, 1864** - Battle of Olustee, Florida

**February 22, 1865** - General Joseph Johnston  
reinstated as commander of the Army of Tennessee