

The Living History Classroom



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during the
Civil War**

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New Bern during the Civil War The Battle of New Bern

Do you enjoy reading about the Civil War? Did you know that the town of New Bern, where Tryon Palace is located today, was the scene of a Civil War battle?

When the Civil War began in 1861, New Bern, like the rest of North Carolina, was part of the Confederacy. The Confederacy was made up of 13 states: Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, Louisiana, Texas, Missouri, and Arkansas. Most of the other states in the country were part of the Union. The Civil War lasted for four years, from 1861 to 1865. It was fought over states' rights and slavery.

The Union tried to win the war by taking control of more of the southern states, particularly on the coast. Union forces under General Ambrose Burnside captured Confederate forts on the North Carolina coast in 1861 and early 1862. At the time, New Bern was an important shipping port and a stop on the Atlantic and Northern Railroad. That's why the Union wanted to control the town. On March 14, 1862, the

Union Army attacked an area just outside of New Bern. This became known as the Battle of New Bern. The inexperienced Confederate troops defending New Bern were outnumbered by more experienced Union soldiers. At the end of the day on March 14, the Confederate troops retreated to Kinston (about 45 miles west) and the Union Army captured New Bern. Before leaving for Kinston,



1862 drawing of the burning, by the Confederates, of the railroad bridge over the Trent River leading into New Bern.

Confederate soldiers burned ammunition and other supplies to prevent them from falling into enemy hands. They also burned a railroad bridge on the Trent River to make it harder for

Continued on Page 8

A Note to Teachers

The mission of Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens is to educate the public about North Carolina's past. This publication is intended as a resource for students in the 4th and 5th grades as well as their teachers. We have designed the articles and activities to be photocopied and given to your students. We have also listed websites relevant to the articles. We would like to hear your comments on our format, how you use the *Living History Classroom* with your students, and any ideas for future issues. Please email Dwayne Pickett at dpickett@tryonpalace.org with your comments.

On the Web!

You can now find the *Living History Classroom* on the Internet. To download additional copies, go to www.tryonpalace.org and click on the *Living History Classroom* button.

How This Issue Can Help You... In the Classroom

Each article in this issue of the *Living History Classroom* has been designed to highlight topics spelled out in the North Carolina Standard Course of Study at the Grade 4 level, current to the 2003 objectives. These objectives are shown below for each article in this publication:

The Battle of New Bern

Social Studies 3-1, 3-2, 3-3, 6-1

It's a House! No, it's a Hospital! Historic Buildings of Tryon Palace during the Civil War

Social Studies 1-3, 2-3

"O Hard Crackers, Come Again No More!" Soldiers and Food during the Civil War

Social Studies 5-1

Remember the Ladies...Mary Jane and Sylvia

Social Studies 2-3

Myth of the Month Club: Children in the Civil War

Informational Skills 3, 3-5

All Stories

Social Studies 1-3



The Living History *Classroom*

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For more information about sources for these articles, or our educational programs, please call 252-514-4900 or 800-767-1560.

www.tryonpalace.org

It's a House! No, It's a Hospital!

The Historic Buildings of Tryon Palace during the Civil War

The Union army controlled most of New Bern during the Civil War. Once they occupied the town, they not only needed headquarters and offices, but also places for their soldiers to live and hospitals for their sick and wounded. Because many of the people who owned houses in New Bern



The Dixon House (above) was a hospital for a regiment of soldiers.. You can tour the Dixon House on the "All Sites" tour; see Page 7 for further details.

fled when the Union army came, their houses were empty. The army took over those homes and made them barracks, offices, and hospitals. You can see several of these houses when you visit Tryon Palace.

The Dixon House was a hospital for a regiment of soldiers. Regiments—many companies of soldiers—often maintained their own hospitals for the treatment of minor injuries and illnesses. More serious cases were sent to Foster General Hospital.

The New Bern Academy, which had been a school, became known as the "Academy Green Hospital." By the end of the war, it was part of the larger Foster General Hospital.

The Union army used the Jones House (now the Museum Shop) as a jail for Confederate sympathizers. According to local history, the house was used to keep a Confederate spy named Emeline Pigott. Emeline was an unusual prisoner because she was a woman. She was arrested for smuggling information and supplies to the Confederates by hiding these items in bags underneath her large hoop skirt. Emeline was never convicted and was eventually released.

The John Wright Stanly House was the first New Bern headquarters of Union Commander, General Ambrose Burnside. Later in the war, the house

A Spy in a Hoop Skirt

Emeline Pigott was arrested for smuggling information and supplies to the Confederates by hiding these items in bags underneath her large hoop skirt. Emeline was never convicted and was eventually released.



The photo above came from Virginia Vogel's *Portraits of Nevada* site, which has lots of information on the hoop skirt: <http://www.unr.edu/sb204/theatre/hoop6.html>

Continued on Page 4

One Family, Opposite Sides

Edward Stanly and his nephew, Lewis Armistead, fought on opposite



Edward Stanly



Lewis Armistead

sides during the Civil War. Edward was the military governor of North Carolina for the Union and Lewis was a general in the Confederacy.

Tryon Palace's Historic Buildings

continued from page 3

became a part of Foster General Hospital.

Two important Civil War figures were born in the Stanly House. Edward Stanly and his nephew, Lewis Armistead, fought on opposite sides during the Civil War. Edward was the military governor of North Carolina for the Union and Lewis was a general in the Confederacy. Edward ended up resigning his post in 1863 after being accused of sympathizing with both the South and the North.

Lewis Armistead, on the other hand, sided with the Confederacy when war broke out. He fought in many battles including the Battle of Gettysburg in 1863. At that battle, he led Pickett's charge where he was wounded and died. Many families were divided over which side to support during the Civil War, just like Lewis and Edward.

The New Bern Academy continued to educate children throughout the 1800s. The school did not operate during the Civil War (1861-1865), when the building was used as a hospital. In 1882, the academy became part of the New Bern school system. Other buildings were added around it, and it continued to be used until 1971. Some people your parents' and grandparents' ages may remember teaching or going to school at the Academy. ☺



Both Edward Stanly and Lewis Armistead were born in the Stanly House. You can tour the Stanly House on the All Sites Tour; for more information, see page 7.



The New Bern Academy was used as a hospital during the Civil War. After the War, the building continued to be used for education purposes until 1971. Newly re-opened as the New Bern Academy Museum, you can tour the Academy on the Palace/Gardens/Academy tour. For more details, see page 7.

“O Hard Crackers, Come Again No More!”



Soldiers and Food *during the Civil War*

Ever heard of hard tack or hard crackers? It's a biscuit made of plain flour and water – and was probably the most common food eaten by both Union and Confederate soldiers during the Civil War. During the war years (1861-1865), contract bakers made hard tack in huge batches for the military. The original recipe called for one

barrel of flour mixed with eight gallons of water - salt was optional. Because hardtack was baked without shortening or other ingredients that might spoil, it traveled well and could last for months. It just didn't taste very good. Soldiers cursed it, complained about it, wrote home about it, and even made up songs about it.

Here's one song:

Let us close our game of poker,
Take our tin cups in our hand,
While we gather round the cook's tent door,
Where mummies of hard crackers are given to each man;
O hard crackers come again no more!

Chorus:

Tis the song and sigh of the hungry
“Hard crackers come again no more”
Many days have you lingered upon our stomachs sore,
O hard crackers come again no more!”
Tis the song that is uttered in camp both night and day,
Tis the wail that is mingled with each snore,
Tis the sighing of each soul
For spring chickens far away,
“ O hard crackers come again no more!”

Make Your Own Hard Tack – Just like Soldiers in the Civil War

- Find an adult to help you with this activity.
- Mix 1 cup of plain flour with enough water to make stiff dough.
- Roll out the dough and cut it into two by two inch squares, one half inch thick. Poke the squares with a fork before baking.
- Bake in a 250-degree oven for one hour.



Enhance Your Curriculum with Tours at Tryon Palace Tryon Palace Offers Unique, Y

What better place is there to learn about the people that created North Carolina history than at North Carolina's first capitol? Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens offers student tours featuring the overall experience of 18th- and 19th-century life, as well as in-depth history and natural science programs, all designed to meet North Carolina Curriculum Competency Goals and help bring yesteryear to life. The school programs we offer include ...

Young Sprouts

Step into an outdoor classroom as the Palace staff and gardens help you teach about math and science. Second grade students join in activities that incorporate plant science, garden design, and garden history. Some of the learning activities include identifying parts of a plant, using a compass, reading maps and garden plans, and planting a seed as a reminder of your visit.

Available: January through October

Time: 10 a.m., Monday through Friday

Maximum Group Size: 26 students per session (one class)

Price: \$3 per student

Colonial Skills

Fourth to sixth graders experience daily life in the 1770s through this hands-on program designed to be used as the basis for discussing North Carolina colonial history. Craft interpreters demonstrate skilled crafts and everyday chores, and students then try their hand at living as a colonist. Activities vary based on the day of your visit and may include candle dipping, spinning, weaving, cooking, and blacksmithing. *Please note that this program does not include a tour of the Palace main building, but may be combined with the Palace/Gardens/Academy tour.*



Available: September through October, January through March

Time: 10 a.m., Monday through Friday

Maximum Group Size: 40 students per session

Price: \$3 per student

*This program is also offered as our **Touching the Past** program for larger groups (120 students maximum). Cost and scheduling are the same, and activities offered are based on class size and staff availability.*

Stepping Into History

Students see North Carolina's first capitol through the eyes of its inhabitants. Seventh through ninth graders come face-to-face with history as they assume the roles of the Governor, his family, friends, and servants on this tour of the Palace and Kitchen Office.

Available: January through October

Time: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Friday



www.tryonpalace.org

Palace

Year-round Trip to the Past

Maximum Group Size: 26 students per session (one class)

Price: \$3 per student

Hands Across Time

Designed for use by student summer programs, this tour allows elementary school children to see and try activities of colonial life carried out by the servants who cooked, cleaned, and cared for the Royal Governor and his family. Students may try their hand at cooking, spinning, weaving, felting, colonial games, or other activities. *Please note that this program does not include a tour of the Palace main building, but may be combined with the Palace/Gardens/Academy tour.*

Available: June through August

Time: 9 a.m. and 1 p.m., Monday through Friday

Maximum Group Size: 35 students per session

Price: \$3 per student

Palace/Gardens/Academy Tour

See where North Carolina began as you tour the reconstructed Palace, home to royal governors and North Carolina's first capitol, as well as its kitchen and stable wings. Continue to explore history in the Robert Hay House, where costumed interpreters show you a day in the life of this middle-class 19th-century family. Then enhance your Palace experience by viewing New Bern's history from the beginning at the newly re-opened New Bern Academy Museum, which features exhibits from the earliest Native American settlements through the Civil War, with a special focus on the city's early schools and architecture.

Available: January through November

Time: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Friday

Price: \$3 per student

All Sites Tour

This tour is for groups that want a more complete view of North Carolina history. In addition to the Palace, New Bern Academy Museum, and the Robert Hay House, you'll visit the Stanly House to learn about the roles one family played in the Revolutionary War, the early history of our state, and the Civil War. And at the George W. Dixon House, see how a merchant-tailor (and former New Bern mayor), his wife and son, apprentices, and slaves lived through good times and hard times.

Available: January through November

Time: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Friday

Price: \$5 per student

Holiday Tour

The sights, sounds, and smells of Christmases past make this an unforgettable time to visit our historic sites. Your students will learn about changing American holiday traditions from the last three centuries as they tour the decorated first floors of our historic houses. You'll also join in the daily activities of soldiers celebrating the holidays away from home in a Civil War encampment.

Available: Late November and December

Time: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Friday

Price: \$5 per student

For more information or to schedule a tour, please contact Group Sales Manager Karen Pierson at (252) 514-4935 or (800) 767-1560, ext. 4935, or by e-mail at kpierson@tryonpalace.org. ☺

Whom to Call

For more information or to schedule a tour, please contact

Group Sales Manager
Karen Pierson

at
(252)
514-4935 or
(800)
767-1560,
ext. 4935, or
by e-mail at
kpierson@tryonpalace.org

Students to Compete in History Bowl

When: Feb. 2, 2004
Monday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Where: Visitor Center Auditorium.
Cost: Free.
Eastern North Carolina middle school classes will face off at Tryon Palace's second annual History Bowl game. Competition will be scheduled throughout the day, and the general public is welcome to attend to cheer the students on.



Hooked on the Web

You can find out more about the topics covered in this edition of the *Living History Classroom* by exploring the Internet. Here are just a few sites to get you started ...

Civil War (general information)

<http://www.nps.gov/gett/home.htm>
<http://www.bcpl.net/%7Eeccicone/ss/troy/soldiers.htm>
<http://valley.vcdh.virginia.edu>
<http://www.civilwar.com>

Women & Family Life

<http://www.uvm.edu/~hag/godey/>
<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/lincolns/world/index.html>
<http://www.americancivilwar.com/women/women.html>
<http://userpages.aug.com/captbarb/femvets2.html>

Battle of New Bern

<http://www.worldlymind.org/burnside.htm>
http://www.frankiesilver.com/new_bern_nc_history.htm
<http://www.cem.va.gov/pdf/newbern.pdf>

Civil War Music

<http://users.erols.com/kfraser/>
<http://www.nps.gov/gett/gettkidz/music.htm>
<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/cwmhtml/cwmhome.html>

African-Americans & the Civil War

<http://www.nps.gov/rap/exhibit/mana/text/rhouse00.htm>
<http://www.umsl.edu/%7Elibweb/blackstudies/civwar.htm>
<http://www.bchm.org/wrr/recon/p1.html>
<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/lincolns/slavery/index.html>
<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/features/99/railroad/index.html>

Civil War Food

http://scnc.cps.k12.mi.us/baked_goods.htm
http://stratsplace.com/rogov/baked_beans_3_time.html
<http://members.aol.com/CintiCWRT/food.html>
<http://docsouth.unc.edu/receipt/receipt.html>

Battle of New Bern *continued from page 1*

Union troops to get into town.

So, what happened to New Bern after it was captured on March 14, 1862? Many New Bern citizens were afraid of the Union Army so they left for Kinston and Confederate towns further to the west. Meanwhile, New Bern was the center of operations for the Union Army in eastern North Carolina for the rest of the Civil War. The town was heavily protected and the Confederates tried but failed to take it back twice. The Union Army took over many of New Bern's private homes and public buildings. They used them as hospitals, offices, and places for the soldiers to sleep. Some of Tryon Palace's museum buildings were even used by

the Union Army! The New Bern townspeople did not like having the Union Army in their town. However, this was a time when some other towns were captured and burned. Because the Union Army used the buildings of New Bern, they were not destroyed which helped to preserve them for future generations. If you visit New Bern today, you will find many buildings that were built before 1862.

The Civil War was an important time in our nation's history – it was also a fascinating time in the history of New Bern. Many of your great-great-grandparents may have lived in North Carolina during the Civil War – ask your parents if you have Civil War ancestors! ☺

Mary Jane & Sylvia... “Remember the Ladies”

We know something about the lives of two former slaves who lived in New Bern during the Civil War because of their friendship with a Union soldier. Private Henry Clapp wrote home to his family about his friends, Mary Jane Conner and her sister-in-law Sylvia. Henry, a Union soldier from Massachusetts, was stationed in New Bern from the fall of 1862 until the summer of 1863.

Mary Jane Conner was a cook and manager of a boarding house. In a boarding house, guests paid for meals and a room to stay in. Henry wrote home about the puddings and chicken pies that Mary Jane made for the soldiers for Thanksgiving dinner. In March, Henry began living at Mary Jane's boarding house where he wrote that he would often talk with Mary Jane and her sister-in-law, Sylvia, while the dinner table was being set.

Sylvia was a seamstress. The soldiers paid her to mend their clothes. Henry wrote that she “was formerly a slave of one of the richest men in New Berne . . . , and was the family seamstress I should judge. She seems also to be a woman of very good sense & well developed reflective faculties and her conversation is often very good and well worth listening to.”

Henry's mother sent gifts of clothes and books for Mary Jane and Sylvia. Henry wrote to his father, “I think they were really very much touched at the attention.” Henry Clapp brought home tintype photographs of Mary Jane and Sylvia. The tintypes are now displayed in the New Bern Academy Museum. They help us to “remember the ladies” who might have otherwise been forgotten ☺



Tintype photo of Mary Jane Conner.



Tintype photo of Sylvia, Mary Jane's sister-in-law.

What is a Tintype Photo?

A tintype is a photograph made on a sheet of iron instead of a piece of paper. In 1856 Hamilton Smith patented the process for producing tintypes. Most tintypes were brownish in color and the most common size was about 2 1/2" x 3 1/2". Tintypes were popular from 1856 until the early 1900's. Tintypes were also called ferrotypes and melainotypes.

For more on tintypes, visit:
<http://www.maine.com/photos/tintypes.htm>

Books for Children about the Civil War

Carol Hurst's Children's Literature site has a page titled "Civil War in Children's Literature" (www.carolhurst.com/subjects/ushistory/civilwar.html), which contains some helpful book suggestions, including:

Albert Marrin's *Commander in Chief: Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War* (Dutton, 1997) is accessible to younger students and includes ample visual material.

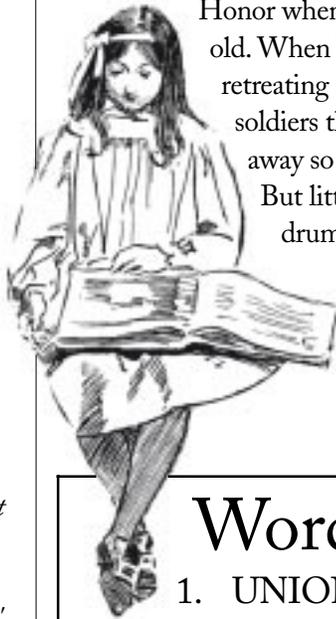
An excellent read-aloud for kids in fifth grade up is Gary Paulsen's *Soldier's Heart* (Bantam, 1998).

Jim Murphy's *The Boys' War: Confederate and Union Soldiers Talk about the Civil War* (Clarion, 1990) uses letters, diaries, and oral histories to tell the stories that some of the youngest soldiers experienced.

Myth of the Month Club: Children in the Civil War

To serve in the United States armed services today, you need to be at least 18 years old. Not during the Civil War, though! Many children, boys and girls, served both in the Confederate and Union armies. Boys as young as 11 years old often served as drummer boys. This was an important job since drums were a way that commanders sent signals to their troops.

Willie Johnston, who enlisted with his father, was a drummer boy with Company D, 3rd Vermont Infantry. He was so brave that they awarded him the Medal of Honor when he was only 12 years old. When Willie's company was retreating after a battle, older soldiers threw their equipment away so they could run faster. But little Willie carried his drum all the way back to safety. His deed was reported and he became the young-



est person to receive the Medal of Honor.

Girls were brave during the Civil War too. Many as young as 11 years old took care of wounded and sick soldiers as nurses. Alice Cary Farmer was 14 years old when she began volunteering in a Union Hospital in New Orleans. Her family had moved to Louisiana (a Southern state) from Ohio (a Northern state) in 1850. Because her family members were pro-Union, they had a hard time living in a Confederate state. After New Orleans, a city in Louisiana, was captured by the Union troops in April 1862, Alice Cary's family moved to that city. Alice and her mother began volunteering as nurses and even cared for wounded soldiers in their own home.

Sometimes children didn't have any choice about being in the war. Because the Civil War was fought right here where American children lived, some children saw battles or had to leave their homes when soldiers marched through their towns. ☺

Word Scramble Answers

- | | |
|----------------|--------------|
| 1. UNION | 11. HARDTACK |
| 2. NEWBERNE | 12. DRUMMER |
| 3. SOLDIER | 13. UNIFORM |
| 4. HOSPITAL | 14. CANNON |
| 5. CONFEDERATE | 15. BLOCKADE |
| 6. RIFLES | 16. GENERAL |
| 7. OCCUPIED | 17. WAGON |
| 8. TENTS | 18. BAYONET |
| 9. CAVALRY | 19. BATTLE |
| 10. SLAVERY | 20. INFANTRY |

Civil War Word Scramble

- | | | | |
|----------------|-------|--------------|-------|
| 1. ONIUN | ----- | 11. AKRTHCDA | ----- |
| 2. REBNEWEN | ----- | 12. EDRMMUR | ----- |
| 3. ESDRLOI | ----- | 13. OMIURNF | ----- |
| 4. SOIHPTAL | ----- | 14. ANNOCN | ----- |
| 5. FEATEDERCON | ----- | 15. OKLCEDAB | ----- |
| 6. ERLISF | ----- | 16. NGALEER | ----- |
| 7. ODEUPICC | ----- | 17. OANWG | ----- |
| 8. TTNES | ----- | 18. YABETNO | ----- |
| 9. VLCAARY | ----- | 19. TTLBEA | ----- |
| 10. LSRVEAY | ----- | 20. FNAINRYT | ----- |

Winter Essay Contest

Teachers: Want to give your students a challenging writing project and the possibility of seeing their work published in the next issue of the *Living History Classroom*?

Here's how: After reading the story about The Historic Buildings of Tryon Palace during the Civil War with your class, ask your students to write a paragraph of 100 words or less that answers this question ...

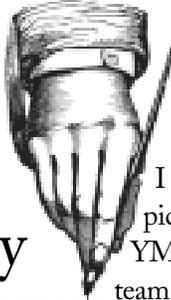


How would you feel about a family member if they supported different sides of a war?

Make sure the students write their names, ages, grades, and schools on their essays. Send the completed essays by March 29 to Dwayne Pickett, Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens, Po Box 1007, New Bern, NC 28563.

Essays will be judged on creativity. We will publish the winning essays in the next issue of the *Living History Classroom*, due out in September 2004.

Winners of the Fall Essay Contest



In the last issue of the *Living History Classroom*, we asked students what they would leave behind that would offer clues about their life to historians 200 years in the future. Here, *at right*, is what some of you had to say.

*See Winter
Essay Contest
Call for
Entries, on
page 11!*

Kids Write About History

I would leave behind a book that has my picture in it. It tells that I played soccer at the YMCA center. It would tell the name of my team and my number. It would also tell how many goals I scored and if I was a goalie or not. The book would tell how old I was when I started. It would also tell how many games we won and how many years I played. That's what I would leave behind.

Taylor O'Brian

9 years old, 4th Grade
Cooper Elementary School

I would want to leave my birth year, 1994. I would leave things about what I owned and what I was like. I would like historians to know what my houses were and what my jobs would be.

Sean Kramer

9 years old, 4th Grade
Bethal Christian Academy

Many years ago in 2003, there I was in Burlington, North Carolina. We had no computers on our watches, rocket shoes, or most of the amazing things you may have today. But we

had things like laptop computers, light-up pens, and portable CD players. My name is Brianna Lee Blair and I go to a Blue Ribbon School. My best friend is Madison and in our time, people drove cars that stayed on the ground and had to use big, square computers at home. That's my life – call it old fashioned, but maybe someday you'll be old fashioned too!

Brianna Blair

9 years old, 4th Grade
Blessed Sacrament School

I would want to leave behind pants, shoes, shirts and socks because they might be different 200 years from now. 200 years from now they probably won't have toe socks. I would also leave a DVD of the things I do plus my family, and I would leave a teddy bear that I had my whole life because 200 years from now they might not have a teddy bear like mine. Leaving these items for the future will help them to understand who I am.

Naomi O'Connor

4th Grade
Durant Road Elementary

The Living History
Classroom

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