

# Civil War

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ment, set to take place at sunset, will last approximately 20 minutes.

"We're very serious about it," Potts said of the reenactment. Both Confederate and Union soldiers will be in full military uniforms during the reenactment. The campsite will also stay true to history, Potts said, with Civil War-era rifles being brought in for the event. In fact, the uniforms worn by the reenactors are copied down to the stitch pattern, he said.

According to Potts, such things as the Union soldier's compassion were not uncommon during the Civil War.

"Something like this happened several times during the war," he said.

Potts said that Masons crossed lines in WWII, as German soldiers stationed in concentration camps often supplied prisoners who were Masons with extra food and supplies.

In his book *Freemasonry and the Civil War*, Justin Lowe chronicled the brotherhood that stepped beyond the hostility of both sides during the war. A letter by Joseph Fort Newton describes another chivalrous act which took place during the conflict.

"My father had been a soldier in the Union Army," Newton wrote. He was made a Mason in a military Lodge... Taken prisoner at Arkansas Post, he was carried up the Mississippi River to Rock Island, Illinois. My father became desperately ill, and made himself known as a Mason to an officer of the camp. The officer took him to his own home and nursed him back to life. When the war ended, he loaned father money to pay his way back to his Texas home, and gave him a pearl-handled pistol to protect himself.

"This experience of my father, when I learned about it, had a very great influence on

my life ... the fact that such a fraternity of men could exist, mitigating the harshness of war, and remain unbroken when states and churches were torn in tow, became a wonder; and it is not strange that I tried for years to repay my debt to it."

Such stories are worth being retold, said Potts, and do indeed signify the long-standing traditions of Freemasonry.

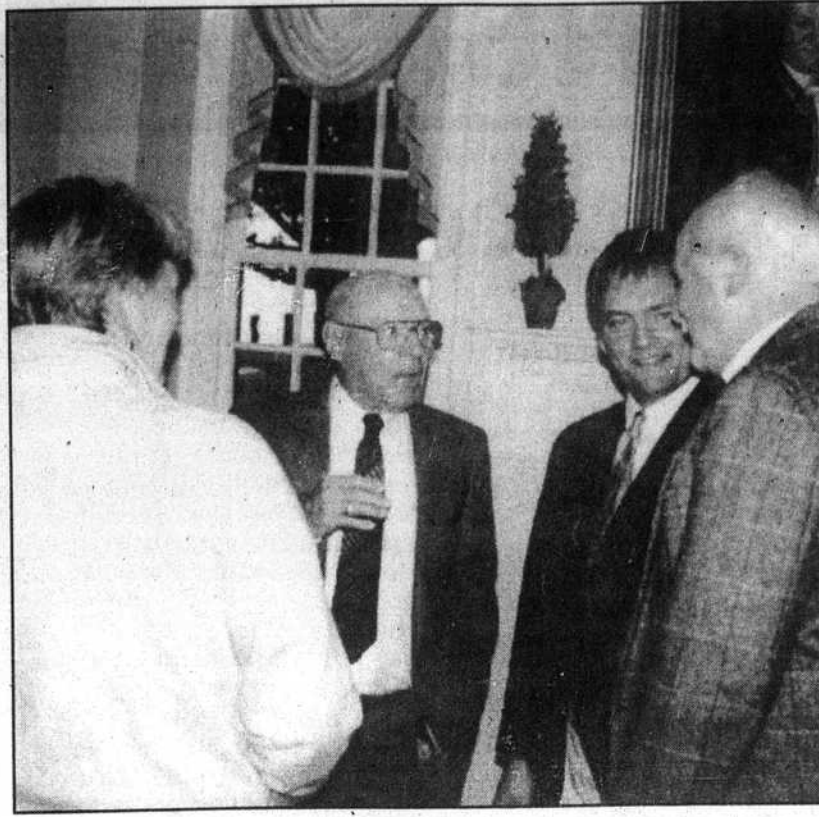
"All the organizations, that is, except one: Freemasonry (broke up during the Civil War)," Lowe wrote. "No other war, political event, or national crisis has ever approached the levels of animosity and hatred that the Civil War caused. Brother fought against brother. Fathers against sons. Families were forever split over the idealism of the War. They were not alone. Major national organizations, notably the Baptist Churches, also broke up over the issues of slavery and States' rights. The War seemed to destroy the bonds of any organization it touched."

"While the War raged around them, Freemasons held on to the ties and the idealism that brought them together in the first place. Thousands of Masons fought in the War, and many died. But the tenets of the Craft, those ideals and moral codes that we, as Freemasons, strive to abide by, were able to overcome the hatred and the animosity that the War generated."

The reenactment will practically chronicle the last episode in the life of Brigadier General Lewis Addison Armistead, CSA. Originally from North Carolina, he was wounded at Cemetery Ridge on July 1, 1863. Two days before Armistead died from his wounds suffered during the battle, Union Captain Henry Harrison Bingham came to Armistead's side and declared that he was a fellow Mason.

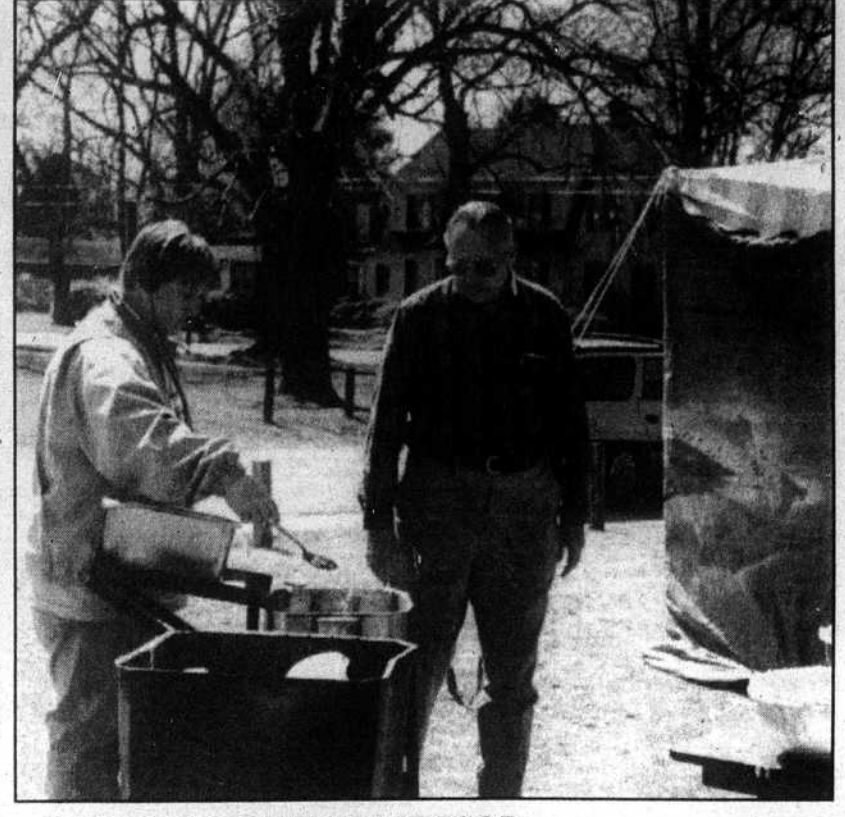
Armistead turned over his Bible, Masonic watch and several other items to Bingham.

"What could lead one of the highest ranking honors in the Confederacy to lay aside all the ideology of the war?" Lowe wrote.



### PAT FLANAGAN HONORED

Pat Flanagan talks with Lawrence Tibbetts, representing East Carolina Radio and Bill Miller during his recent retirement reception. The event to honor him was hosted by East Carolina Radio, Tarheel Distributors, and Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Creighton. Flanagan was in the radio business in Chowan County for over forty years. (Staff photo by Pam Virzi.)



### FRYING UP SOME GREAT FOOD

Edenton Kiwanis member Lynn Perry and his grandson Jaimie were busy cooking hushpuppies at the recent Kiwanis Fish Fry held at the Boy Scout. The fish fry is one of the club's fundraising events. Proceeds benefit local community service projects. The Kiwanis club meets every Wednesday morning. (Staff photo by Pam Virzi.)

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