



Call to Arms

Brunswick Civil War Round Table

May 2025 Volume XVI Issue 9

The President's Corner by John Butler



Due to scheduling conflicts at Hatch Auditorium, we have moved the May 6th meeting to Generations Church. *This is a one-time meeting location change.*

At our May 6th meeting we will be celebrating our 15th Anniversary. We have come a long way since our first meeting in May 2010 when we had 85 attendees. We now average over 350 people with another 40+ on Zoom. With almost 1,200 members we are the largest CWRT in the country. I would bet that Wally Rueckel and Tom O'Donnell, our co-founders, never thought the round table would be this large. It's a testament to their genius and organizational skills that we have been so successful.

To celebrate the 15th Anniversary, we will have live music provided by *Dear MariBella and the Pigkickers*. Registration starts at 5:30 pm and music starts at 6 pm. (See page 3.)

The May meeting is not only a time to celebrate our founding, but also our volunteers. Obviously, our first two volunteers were co-founders Wally Rueckel and Tom O'Donnell. Currently we have over 60 volunteers to plan and execute each meeting. This includes the Board of Directors, registration team, 50/50 raffle, Sutler's Table, tours, newsletter, publicity, technology and meeting preparation. Everyone has an important role to play in making each monthly meeting successful.

Without the dedication of the volunteers we would not be the most successful CWRT in the country. Every speaker who comes to make a presentation is amazed at our size and the efficiency of our organization. I would like to thank all of the volunteers past and present that have worked so hard to make your round table such a success.

John

In this Issue

Page 1

The President's Corner
by John Butler

Page 2

Our Upcoming May 6 Program
"The Battle of Antietam: the Paintings of John Pope"

Page 3

BCWRT Upcoming Events
Live Music: Maribella & the Pigkickers

Page 4

BCWRT News
*Pre-registration and YouTube links.
Scholarship Letter*

Page 5

Ladies' Forum, October 2025

Page 6

**Civil War pictures brought to life,
Happy 15th Anniversary**

Pages 7 & 8

Bentonville Battlefield Tour Pics

Page 9

Civil War Comfort Food

Page 10

Civil War Women in the Line of Fire

Page 11

BCWRT Volunteers Past & Present

Page 12

Board Notes & Local Events

Page 13

Muster Notes & Notables

BCWRT Upcoming Events

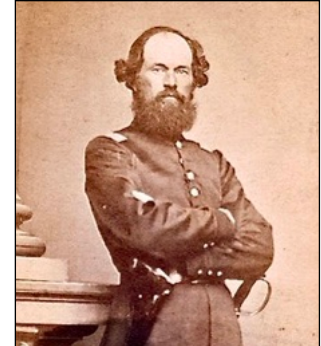
Tuesday, May 6, 2025 Program

“The Battle of Antietam: The Paintings of James Hope”

Presented by Brad Gottfried



Captain James Hope, a professional artist, was 43 years old and a member of the 2nd Vermont Infantry. He had taken part in a dozen engagements prior to Antietam. Disabled by illness, he was assigned to sideline duties as a scout and mapmaker. He recorded in his sketchbook the battle scenes before his eyes, and then after the battle converted his sketches into a series of five large panoramic paintings of the Battle of Antietam between 1888 and 1892. These paintings are considered to be some of the most important and detailed depictions of the battle ever created. Hope's paintings are unique because they were based on his own eyewitness sketches, as well as the photographs of Alexander Gardner, well-known for his incredible Civil War photography.



Our guest Brad Gottfried is a Gettysburg Licensed Tour Guide, and importantly also chose to become a Certified Antietam Battlefield Guide for many reasons. It was the turning point of the war, and the bloodiest one-day battle in our history. He has written fourteen books about the Civil War. One full-color book worked on by Brad and his wife Linda is entitled, *The Antietam Paintings of James Hope* which he characterized as a “labor of love,” and is the focus of his Round Table presentation. With his Ph.D., he taught for eleven years at three colleges, eventually rising to the role of president for seventeen years at two colleges, one of which is the College of Southern Maryland, retiring in 2018. He now devotes much of his time to writing and conducting tours of the Antietam battlefield.

BCWRT Upcoming Events



Tuesday, May 6, 2025 Program

Combine the music of a local family bluegrass band, and the paintings of a Civil War professional artist, and that's fine arts! One could get the feeling a celebration is about to take place.



Dear MariBella & the Pigkickers

The BCWRT will be celebrating our 15th anniversary at our May 6 meeting. As a special feature for the evening, Dear MariBella & the Pigkickers blue grass band will entertain everyone beginning at 6:00 pm. *Doors will open at 5:30 pm for registration to allow for early registration.*

About the music, a quote from the Wilmington Star News says it best: *"with a mix of tight harmonies, considerable musical chops, and the youthful ability to conjure instant goodwill, the band stands out on a quality, crowded Wilmington music scene."*

It's a family affair, with sisters Isabella on fiddle and AnnMari on guitar, add brother Pete on banjo, and the youngest sibling Chris on mandolin, and there will be some foot stompin' music mixed with a little rabble-rousing sibling fun!



Upcoming Events for 2025-2026

The team at BCWRT has been working hard at planning several outstanding events starting in September 2025 after the summer break.

First, get ready for **an appearance by General Robert E. Lee** - portrayed by Thomas Jessee at the Tuesday, September 2nd meeting.

The Ladies' Forum will hold their next meeting on October 20, 2025.

John Walsh and Jim Dunn, "**The Tours Team**," are planning on tours at Fort Anderson / Town Creek in the Fall, an evening tour of Fort Fisher, and multiple tours of Fort Caswell in the spring of 2026.

And if this is not enough, Ann Birdsall, Program VP, has organized **a great line-up of monthly speakers**. A special mailing will be done before the new season begins which will give the full schedule for the 2025-2026 presentations.

John

Pre-Register for the Meeting

If attending in person, we encourage you to pre-register.

Starting Friday, April 18, and lasting until noon on Tuesday, May 6, current members may log into the system -<https://olr.bcwrt-nc.org/> - to print a ticket (one each for yourself and your spouse) showing you've registered.

When you use the online system it will clearly show if you are current (dues paid)...and what to do if you are not up to date. It's that simple!

This is the link to the **BCWRT YouTube Video Library** where you will find all of the videos that have been created: <https://www.youtube.com/@brunswickcivilwarroundtabl4954/videos>



If you are unable to attend the May meeting in person, you will be able to watch it via YouTube Live Streaming by using the following link:

<https://youtube.com/live/2YZMTgWilS0?feature=share>

Change of Meeting Location

This month the meeting takes place at Generations Church, 4019 Executive Park Blvd, Southport. Registration begins at 5:30 pm, the live music will begin at 6 pm and the program starts promptly at 7 pm. The guest admission fee is \$10, and can be applied toward the \$25 annual membership dues.



BCWRT Scholarship

John Butler shares this letter which he recently received from our scholarship winner in 2021:

In 2021, I received a scholarship from Brunswick Civil War Round Table for my Master's Degree at UNCW. This was something that was surprising to me at the time as I had never truly sought it out, but regardless, this is a very long overdue thank you. Your aid helped me pursue and obtain my degree. Currently I am a guest writer for Emerging Civil War and also am an Assistant Professor of History at Louisburg College, a small private

college in Franklin County. I just wanted to let you know that your money did not go to waste, and I owe part of my new career to the Round Table and others like you. Hope to one day come back into town and attend, or even give, presentations for the group. Have a great day.

Samuel Flowers, M.A.
Assistant Professor of History
Humanities Division
Louisburg College



The Ladies' Forum



The Ladies' Forum

Save the Date

Monday, October 20, 2025

6:00 - 8:00 pm

Murrow Hall at Trinity United Methodist Church

Nash St., Southport



Emily Lapisardi

portrays

Rose Greenhow

Civil War Diplomat and Spy



First-person interpreter Emily Lapisardi portrays Rose Greenhow in a presentation drawn from primary sources including Greenhow's memoirs and correspondence, bringing her vividly and realistically to life through her own words. A native of Maryland, Rose Greenhow was a prominent antebellum society hostess in Washington, D.C. In 1861, Greenhow developed a network of Confederate agents which were credited by Jefferson Davis with ensuring the southern victory at the First Battle of Bull Run/Manassas.

Emily Lapisardi has portrayed Rose Greenhow at a range of venues including, among others, the International Spy Museum, Manassas Museum System, Manassas National Battlefield Park, the Lomas Center (Gettysburg, PA), and Petersburg National Battlefield Park. Emily is also the editor of Rose Greenhow's *My Imprisonment: An Annotated Edition*, which debuted as the highest-ranking new release in Amazon.com's U. S. Civil War Women's History category in the spring of 2021.

The Ladies' Forum is for women only and is a free event each year for members of BCWRT.

Guests are always welcome and pay only \$5. Light refreshments are served.



160 Year Old Civil War Photos Brought to Life



AI can do some amazing things.

Here is a picture of General George Armstrong in color and smiling with a twinkle in his eye. It's a picture captured from a short video of him turning to look at the camera and smiling.

There are others such as U.S. Grant and Lincoln who come to life in color from a still black and white photo.

Click [here](#) to watch. Enjoy the smile.

Happy Anniversary, BCWRT

Discovering their common interest in the Civil War led Tom O'Donnell and Wally Rueckel to create the BCWRT. The first meeting was in May 2010 and attended by 85 people. Today we have grown to a total of more than 1,100 members, the largest CWRT in the country.

Through the past 15 years we have donated to various Civil War related sites, with our focus on North Carolina. We have enjoyed presentations by some of the best speakers available, have an annual

Ladies' Forum, provide members an opportunity to purchase Civil War books and art at our Sutler's Table, donate a scholarship to a UNCW graduate student who is continuing their education in history, and sponsor tours to NC Civil War battlefields and sites.



Tom O'Donnell and
Wally Rueckel

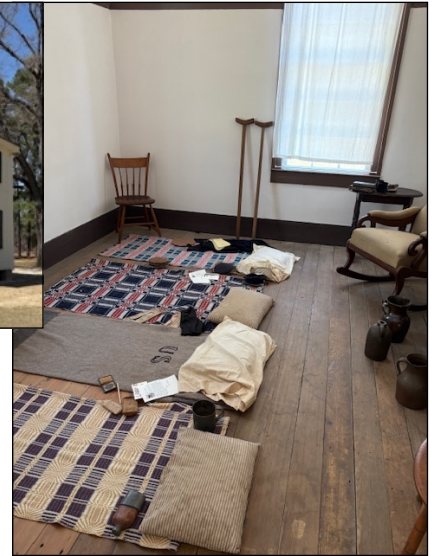


Celebrating the first anniversary of BCWRT in May 2011. L-R Dan Fink, Mike Powell, Bob Benedict, Charen Fink, Chuck Roedema, Wally Rueckel, and Norm Praet.

We thank you, our members for joining us, and making us successful in our efforts to increase our knowledge about the Civil War, "the *central event* in America's historical consciousness," per James McPherson in the American Battlefield Trust.

Bentonville Tour, March 2025

March 2025 was the 160th anniversary of the Bentonville Battle. *On Saturday, March 22, 35 people attended the BCWRT tour of the battlefield led by Wade Sokolosky, and judging from the comments received, everyone enjoyed it.*



"Thanks for a great day yesterday."



"Sure was a rewarding and interesting day. What a great day trip place."

"The lunch was great also."



"Planning was well done. The food was great, and Wade was superb. I appreciate being included."



"Very enjoyable and interesting day."

Meeting Photo Gallery - March 2025

Thank you Susan Crippen for joining the tour as well as providing us with pictures and comments of the day.

"He used the tiles at different locations to show troop movements. First use was to show movement of the armies north of the Goldsboro road on day one, March 19th. It was open farmland."



"He then led us into the thicket of woods and swampy land"no go land" as he called it because you could not move artillery or wagons into it.south of the Goldsboro Road where the fighting moved. Four Medal of Honor recipients were identified there during the next phase of the battle."



"Lunch was delicious. It was catered by a local restaurant. We ate outside on picnic tables. The food was set up on a table in a good sized picnic shelter near the battleground visitor's center."



Civil War Comfort Food

Due to strict rationing, cooks often had to get creative. That's probably what led to this Civil War recipe that has been handed down through the generations. As any cook knows, if you want a sweet thing but don't always have the ingredients, sometimes you need to simply work with what is on hand. This dish is both sweet and savory. While satisfying a sweet tooth, it also provided necessary nutrition for those trying to get through the lean days of the war.

Green Tomato Pie

Ingredients:

- 1 quart sliced green tomatoes
- ½ cup water
- ½ cup seedless raisins
- ¾ teaspoon cinnamon
- ½ teaspoon ginger
- Grated rind of lemon
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 tablespoons flour
- ¼ teaspoon nutmeg
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 1 wineglass brandy or whiskey
- 1 ½ teaspoons lemon juice

Directions:

Pour water over the tomatoes in a pan and let simmer for five minutes or until tender.

Add raisins and cook a few minutes more.

Drain and save the juice.

Dump tomatoes and raisins into a 9 inch pie pan lined with an unbaked pie crust.

Mix the flour, sugar, and spices and sprinkle over the tomatoes and raisins.

Cut up the butter and spread out in chunks over the pie. Add the rind and lemon juice.

Add the brandy or whiskey.

If there is still room, add some of the juice from the tomatoes and raisins to moisten the pie.

Top with a slashed pie crust and bake for 15 minutes at 425 degrees.

Reduce heat to 375 degrees for half an hour.

<https://vocal.media/feast/authentic-civil-war-recipes>. Shared by Robbin Smith

“Receipts Adapted to the Times”

Though the North was undeniably affected by the war, its plight was nowhere as desperate as the South.

The only Southern cookbook of the war years was *The Confederate Receipt Book*. Published in 1863, it had a revealing subtitle: “*A Compilation of over one hundred receipts adapted to the times.*” And those were the worst of times, most miserably manifested in a recipe for Apple Pie without apples. “To one small bowl of crackers that have been soaked until no hard parts remain, add one teaspoonful of tartaric acid, sweeten to your taste, add some butter, and a very little nutmeg.”

From “Slavery, Famine and the Politics of Pie: What Civil War Recipes Reveal, by Nina Martyris

Civil War Women

Women in the Line of Fire

Contrary to popular belief, the Civil War was not fought only by adult males. Women and children also participated in the conflict in a variety of capacities, often giving their lives for a cause they deeply believed in.



Many women did their part by traveling with soldiers as members of the so-called “soap suds brigade”, whose sole job was to clean the clothes of military units. It was a difficult, physically challenging job, but the soldiers deeply appreciated and respected the women who kept them in clean uniforms. In most cases, members of the “soap suds brigade” were the only women given official status in the camp. Others, including officers’ wives, were simply labelled “camp followers.” In the Union army, each company was permitted four laundresses. Many washerwomen were married to soldiers and lived with their husbands in the area of camp commonly known as “suds row.” If not married to a soldier,

washerwomen were expected to be at least somehow related to a member of the unit. A washerwoman named Hannah O’Neil, for example, followed her son, who was a member of Company H of the 1st Minnesota Volunteer Infantry.



Far more rare were women who followed their loved ones into battle as more than washerwomen. A few military units “adopted” women as mascots or aides, and these women faced the same dangers as the soldiers

Rarer still – but more common than many historians originally believed – were women who disguised their gender in order to enlist and fight at the front on equal standing with male soldiers. Pulling off such a feat was not easy, but many women did so successfully, slipping through the enlistment process and fooling their fellow soldiers for months and even years. The majority of women who are known to have done this fought with the same bravery and zeal as their male counterparts. Those exposed because of injury or illness were either honorably discharged or merely dismissed, depending on their commanding officer. Many who were lauded for their military service drew veterans’ pensions following the war.



From *101 Things You Didn't Know About the Civil War*, by Thomas R. Turner, Fall River Press. Shared by Robbin Smith

BCWRT Volunteers

BCWRT Volunteers, Current and Former (As of May 1, 2025)

Below is a list of the volunteers who have worked to make the BCWRT the great organization that it is. An organization is only as good as its volunteers and these people have been tremendous. Thank you for all of your good work.

Current Volunteers

Amy Adams	Ann Birdsall	Bob Benedict	Diane Bergan
Abigail Bergan	Monica Bender	William Bender	John Butler
Jack Carpenter	Jennifer Chapman	June Chisolm	Jim Conklin
Audry Connelly	Tom Currier	Pat de Barros	Hema De Silva
Bob DiMattia	Rina DiMaio	Gar Dowell	Jim Dunn
Kate Dunn	Chris Fonvielle	Trish Greene	Bob Hagerman
Gerald Haviland	Donna Italiano	Matt Italiano	Bruce Jordan
Joe Kaczvinsky	Barbara Kanto	Tom Kehoe	Joan Kelly
Betsy Kumnick	Naomi Macey	Joe Livoti	Chris Mackowski
Wesley Heckendorn	Skip Maxwell	Jim McKee	Jim Medeiros
Mike Miller	Helen Morschauser	Rick Morschauser	Roy Pender
Gary Pyle	Larry Rittinger	Chuck Roedema	Wally Rueckel
Mike Shissler	Robbin Smith	Wade Sokolosky	E. Gifford Stack
Bobbi Sullivan	Elizabeth Szala	Fred Taylor	Len Trizinsky
Gene Trombley	Fred Truelove	John Wall	John Walsh
Tim Walsh	Jim Wheeler	Angie Zarcaro	Angela Zombek

Former Volunteers

Roger Albizu	Alan Armstrong	Mo Beers	Sam Benson
Teresa Benson	Deb Bevenour	Frank Bevenour	Mary Boose
Wayne Briggs	Cindy Brochure	Tom Brown	Peter Carmichael
June Chisolm	Rob Clarke	Pam Collins	Ron Collins
Dianna Conaty	Tom Conaty	Kirk Davis	Joe Day
Paul Douglas	Mike Duffy	Matt Farina	Charen Fink
Dan Fink	Doug Friedman	Tish Gordon	Anne Hager
Marv Hamer	Connie Hendrix	Harvey Hosid	John Hoskin
Carolyn Hubbard	Jim Johnson	Jim Kane	Ken Keast
Frank Kelly	Debbie King	Gary Krupp	Paul Laird
Richard Largent	Ginny Largent	Carol Lehr	Linda Lewis
Wayne Lewis	John Lewis	Beth Linton	Martha Loughlin
Nick Mastorides	Diane McCorkle	Lee McCorkle	Sharon McCoy
Marty McLaughlin	Jim Medeiros	Katy Menne	Carol Lee Morris
Dale Mullarkey	John Nowell	Kathy O'Donnell	Tom O'Donnell
Rich Palazzi	Woody Petchel	Ruth Ann Petzinger	Frank Pinto
Mike Powell	Warren Pratt	Jon Richmond	Leslie Rivers
Maggie S. Roedema	Nan Rueckel	Lori Sanderlin	Gail Savell
Dan Sellers	Dave Shultz	Chris Simonetti	Nathan Sloan
Lee Smyre	Bobby Springle	Gene Sullivan	R. Summerville
Barry Thomas	Fred Truelove	Richard Turek	Frances Ventola
Ralph Ventola	Christine Volpe	Barbara Voorhees	Bill Voorhees
Robin Ware	Peter Whalen	Susanna Whalen	Max Williams
Tony Zezza			

Board Notes & Local Events

Notes from the April 2025 Board of Directors Meeting

1. Our balance as of the end of March is \$7,715. Expenditures in March included the Ladies' Forum and costs for the last speaker.
2. Our April speaker, Sarah Bierle, was well received and many members stayed for the Q&A period.
3. The Ladies' Forum held on March 10 went well with about 70 people attending. The next Forum is planned for October 2025.
4. Plans for the May meeting, our 15th anniversary, were reviewed. It was decided to have registration begin early. There will be live music before the presentation.
5. Live streaming affected the registration computers at the April meeting. This will be addressed. Our next meeting is at Generations Church and as they live-stream, it is not expected that we will have any problems.
6. We have a new volunteer for The Sutler's Table.
7. The Bentonville tour was a success. This was the last tour of the season. Tours for the next season are being developed.

Our next Board meeting is Tuesday, May 13, 2025. Meetings are held monthly to discuss items that will make our round table more interesting, run better, and keep our membership engaged. President John Butler leads the two-hour meeting that includes interested Advisors and members. The meetings are held at Trinity United Methodist Church in Southport one week following our gathering at Hatch and begin at 10:00 am. If you wish to attend or have suggestions for the Board, please contact John Butler at jlbutter2007@gmail.com.

Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Presentations by Two Distinguished Members

Member **Christina Glazer** has served as a Premium Tour Guide at the Bellamy Mansion for the past seven years. She specializes in presenting the incredible story of William B. Gould. An enslaved artisan who worked on the construction of the mansion, Gould and 7 other enslaved men commandeered a small boat on a stormy September night in 1862 and rowed down the Cape Fear River—"28 nautical miles" according to Gould's diary—and out to the USS Cambridge, a U.S. Navy ship on blockade duty in the open ocean. Christina will continue the story of his life - going the U.S. Navy, his marriage and distinguished family, his diary, and the resulting book *Diary of a Contraband: The Civil War Passage of a Black*

Next, **Dr. MaryBeth Allison, Ph.D.**, will focus on a little studied aspect of the Civil War prisoner of War experience. MaryBeth is a Civil War Era historian from Cambria County, in southwestern Pennsylvania. She received her B.A. in history from the Pennsylvania State University in 2005, and obtained her advanced degrees from Liberty University. Her PhD dissertation in history was titled "Shine a Light into the Darkness: Illuminating the Battles Fought by Civil War Prisoners of War." MaryBeth's work focuses on the prisoners' experiences in their own words. Prisoners continued fighting battles, and most of all, they battled to find light in the darkness, as told in their letters, journals, and memoirs written after the war.

May 8, 2025, 7:00 pm

St John's Episcopal Church
1219 Forest Hills Dr., Wilmington



Muster Notes and Notables

The May BCWRT meeting is Tuesday, May 6, 2025.

Generations Church, 4019 Executive Park Blvd, Southport, NC.

See page 2 for details to attend via YouTube.

**Registration begins at 5:30 pm, music begins at 6:00 pm,
and the meeting starts promptly at 7:00 pm.**

Mail Dues Checks to: BCWRT, PO Box 10161, Southport, NC. 28461.
(Please include your current phone number, street address, and email.)

2025-2026 Officers, Directors, and Advisors

John Butler: President & Director

Ann Birdsall: VP & Director

Jim Dunn: VP & Director

Jennifer Chapman: Secretary & Director

Tom Kehoe: Treasurer & Director

Bruce Jordan: Director

Chuck Roedema: Director

Gar Dowell: Advisor

Charen Fink: Advisor

Chris Fonvielle: Advisor

Jim McKee: Advisor

Chris Mackowski: Advisor

Skip Maxwell: Advisor

Roy Pender: Advisor

Wally Rueckel: Advisor

Wade Sokolosky: Advisor

Robbin Smith: Advisor

Len Trizinski: Advisor

John Wall: Advisor

Angela Zombek: Advisor

Connect with us



We Welcome Your Suggestions for our Speakers, Website, Meeting Procedures, Membership Retention, etc.

BCWRT is a 501 (c) (3) tax exempt organization,
co-founded by Tom O'Donnell and Wally Rueckel and organized in May 2010.

Call to Arms Editor: Jennifer Chapman (jennifer.chapman3@icloud.com)