

The Brunswick Civil War Round Table (BCWRT) latest day trip was to Wilmington on June 13 to see three historical sites — the 1885 Oakdale Cemetery, the circa-1770 Burgwin-Wright House and the 1852 Latimer House.

During the walking tour, we visited unique and eloquent resting places of Wilmington's historic and prominent citizens – including Rose O'Neal Greenhow, a Confederate spy who drowned off Wilmington trying to escape a Union gunboat. We also visited the monument marking the mass grave of 366 Confederate soldiers from the Fort Fisher and Wilmington battles.

The Burgwin-Wright house, build over the city jail around 1770, is one of only three surviving Wilmington houses from colonial days. It was the headquarters of British General Cornwallis after the Revolutionary War's Battle of Guildford Court House near Greensboro, N.C.

The Latimer House, now the headquarters for the Lower Cape Fear Historical Society, reflects the opulent lifestyle of its builder, a wealthy merchant. The house did not suffer damage during the Civil War and the historical society staff shared letters written by Civil War soldiers.

By Wally Rueckel