CALL TO ARMS
Brunswick Civil War Round Table

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Location: Trinity United Methodist Church
209 E. Nash St., Southport, across from the Post Office
First Tuesday of each month (except July and August)
Registration: 6:30pm   Program: 7:00pm

BCWRT is a 501 c (3) tax exempt organization with a current membership of 301

NEXT MEETING IS MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2012

2012 BCWRT Officers, Directors, Advisors

Wally Rueckel: President & Director
Mike Powell: Vice President & Director
Marv Hamer: Vice President & Director
Bob Benedict: Treasurer & Director
Norm Praet: Secretary & Director
Tom O’Donnell: Director & Advisor

Charen Fink: Director
Chuck Roedema: Director
Max Williams: Director
Jim McKee: Advisor
Jack Carpenter: Advisor
Robert Clarke: Advisor
150 YEARS AGO – FEBRUARY, 1862

This was the most militarily active month of the war to date. It saw the initial rise of U. S. Grant to some prominence with his victories in Tennessee.

**Feb. 6** – Surrender of Fort Henry—Andrew Foote’s gunboats forced the surrender of poorly placed fort on the Tennessee River

**Feb. 8** – Battle of Roanoke Island

**Feb. 16** – Surrender of Fort Donelson on the Cumberland River

**Feb. 21** – Engagement at Valverde, New Mexico Territory

**Feb. 22** – Inauguration of Jefferson Davis

**Feb. 25** – Union forces occupied Nashville, Tennessee, made possible by Grant’s victory at Fort Donelson

**POPULAR CIVIL WAR SPEAKER IS SPECIAL GUEST**

**Topic:** “April 2, 1865: Day of Decision at Petersburg”

**Program overview:** The Petersburg Campaign, the longest of the war, came to a violent end on this date when a pre-dawn assault by the Federal Sixth Corps led by Gen. Ulysses S. Grant overwhelmed Gen. Robert E. Lee’s Army of Northern Virginia. The battle doomed Petersburg, Richmond, and led to the eventual Confederate surrender at Appomattox Court House one week later.

**Guest presenter:** A. Wilson Greene is executive director of Pamplin Historical Park and the National Museum of the Civil War Soldier in Petersburg, VA. Will is in much demand as a speaker on the Civil War lecture circuit and has authored numerous books on the Civil War, including his award-winning book, “Civil War in Petersburg: Confederate City in the Crucible of War,” as well as “Breaking the Backbone of the Rebellion: The Final Battle of Petersburg.”
Our Round Table just completed Ed Bearss week. It turned out to be a wonderful two days made possible by a lot of hard work by many volunteers. The planning started 6 months ago and concluded with Ed’s talk on Wednesday evening January 11 “President Lincoln and General McClellan: a troubled partnership” and concluding mid-day on Thursday January 12 with a special visit for Ed and a small group of guests to a part of Ft Anderson including field works, traverses and Battery C on restricted property of Sunny Point never before open to the general public. We had 329 in attendance at the Wednesday meeting and 15 members of our Round Table plus a couple of dozen guests from Sunny Point and the North Carolina Dept. of Cultural Resources on the tour.

However, the planning by numerous volunteers began six months earlier once Ed agreed to return to Southport to speak to BCWRT and also requesting that we arrange a tour for him of Ft Anderson. The volunteers immediately began work on finding a venue with adequate capacity and support facilities to accommodate the crowds that we were expecting since Trinity church was not available. Other volunteers had to begin planning for all of the behind the scenes activities including finding a hotel to accommodate Ed, people to pick him up from the airport and drive him to his next destination following, recruit volunteers to work the parking lot to assist our guests in parking and locating of the Senior Center on a cold and rainy evening. We also had to arrange for Dr. Chris Fonvielle and Jim McKee to lead the tour and most importantly arrange the necessary permission from Sunny Point to tour that portion of Ft Anderson on their property. Once permission was granted a group from Sunny Point and BCWRT did an advance walk through to identify the best parts to tour and then with the help of Sunny Point staff clear out a path and viewing area to fully appreciate the long abandoned portion of the fort. As Ed said on leaving Ft Anderson “It is refreshing to see a group from the State, the US military and a local Civil War Round Table work together to accomplish a magnificent result. You should all be proud of yourselves.”

I also want to thank all or the volunteers from the BCWRT, Sunny Point, and Fort Anderson who helped make this event successful.

I will see you at our next meeting. We are RETURNING to Trinity Church BUT the date is MONDAY FEBRUARY 13 not the first Tuesday of the month. Registration is 6:30pm with meeting beginning 7pm. SORRY FOR ALL OF THE CONFUSION. Our Speaker will be Will Greene the Executive Director of Pamplin Park in Virginia who will talk about the Union siege of Petersburg, General Lee’s breakout and the surrender at Appomattox -- Wally Rueckel
A TROUBLED PARTNERSHIP

I am in clear view of Fort Sumter – the start of it all. There is room for you, my reader, to join me on this bench in Battery Park. What if Ed Bearss also sat with us??? Would he implore us to chew slowly this great Southern City named Charles town? Should we also soak in the history? The smells of a town sometimes called “the city of hooves and sneakers.” With his pointed punctuation, Ed would tone down any connection of nearby McClellanville to that “troubled Partnership” between “Father” Abraham Lincoln and George Brinton McClellan.

Ed would tell of many comparisons and contrasts feeding this most “uncomfortable relationship.” McClellan was successfully organizing, expanding and serving The Illinois Central Railroad as its President. In this position he dealt with many corporate lawyers. Lincoln, a very successful corporate lawyer, was serving in the Blackhawk Wars. He entered as a Captain and finished as a private. He kills only mosquitoes Lincoln leaves the military and follows a path to the Presidency. McClellan joins the military and organizes huge numbers of Ohio Volunteers for “Father” Abraham. His stock goes up like a sky rocket. He is a master of organization and over trains an Army that grows to love him. He is so ambitious, so disciplined, so focused that he crosses that red line in government never to be forgotten. The President IS ALWAYS Commander-in-Chief! He emulates P. G. T. Beauregard, a noted expert at psychological warfare. McClellan has “GRANDILOQUENTLY” annihilated three great armies at First Manassas completely unaware there will be a Second Manassas.

Ed can’t believe the arrogance of this man. Lincoln tries to go for the good in McClellan saying: “I will hold his hat if he gives us a victory.” On one occasion, Lincoln visits the McClellan Home in an attempt to avoid another lateral arabesque (moving side to side without doing anything). McClellan makes him wait then rebukes him by simply “going to bed.” Even after the Cabinet votes seven to nothing, Lincoln refuses to fire him recognizing that he molded the Army into a “band of brothers” who love him. His wife, Ellen Mary Marcy McClellan also loves him – or at least his successes. She rebukes his proposal of marriage while he is a young soldier but says “yes” to the President of the Railroad!

Ed wants you to reread McClellan’s many letters to Ellen Mary Marcy as a window to the inner thoughts and beliefs of that man who is first to call Washington a “Sink of Iniquity.” We watch McClellan slowly, very slowly, skid to a stop as the “Rise of Giants” happens. Lincoln says of U.S. (unconditional surrender) Grant, “He fights.” If it helps, he offers to provide Grant’s brand of whiskey to all around him who continue that fight.
Ed, we, your band of Civil War Brothers and Sisters admire you far beyond my simple words. Our numbers show our deep respect for you and your knowledge. You are a Civil War Giant. Not only are you a National Treasure but also, by your commitment, a genuine friend of History. May you live long, continue to “speak loudly”, and hold us accountable to know our history or be doomed to relive it.

We love you, Ed, as we know you love history and us. Submitted by: Dan Fink

ED BEARSS AT FORT ANDERSON

Last Thursday, the day after Ed gave his talk at our meeting, he joined Jim McKee and Chris Fonvielle at Fort Anderson for a special event. To have three such prominent historians, for a tour, is special in its own right. However, thanks to Jim McKee and Brenda Bryant, at Fort Anderson, we were granted access to Battery C, of the forts defenses, which is on Sunny Point property and not open to the public. It is not easy to find a Civil War site that Ed Bearss has not been to, and although he had been to Fort Anderson’s Batteries A & B, he had not previously been to Battery C. Jim’s crew went out the day before and cleared as much of the underbrush and growth on the earthworks as possible. It brought them back to life. It did not take much imagination to see the strength of this imposing position that faced the Federals in February 1865.

The tour then continued at Batteries A & B, with a look at the Brunswick Battery. This was the first battery built in 1862, and was placed near the waterline until the main works could be completed. We were joined on the tour by Colonel Joseph Calisto, MOTSU Commanding Officer, and Ronald Waidlich, MOTSU Director of Emergency Services and some of their colleagues. Keith Hardison, Division Director of Historic Sites and Properties, was our speaker in November 2010 on Jefferson Davis, also made the trip to join us with his state co-workers. Our special thanks go out to Colonel Calisto and Ronald Waidlich, as well as our friends at Fort Anderson, for making the tour possible. The day ended with a good lunch and good conversation.
This Mark Moore map, from Chris Fonvielle’s book, “Fort Anderson”, shows the position of the forts three main batteries. Old Brunswick Battery, just below Battery B, is also shown.

Chris and Ed discuss the events at Battery C of February 18, 1865
We hope everybody that attended enjoyed themselves and we look forward to sponsoring more events.
The Fort Anderson Flag, USS MONTAUK and Lincoln
(Source: Chris Fonvielle, “Fort Anderson”)
As the 140th Indiana Infantry, entered Fort Anderson, in the pre-dawn hours of February 19, 1865, the Confederates evacuated north, towards Wilmington, in such haste that the garrison flag was left behind. It was found lying on the ground and handed over to the regiment’s commander. He in turn sent it up the chain of command, until it arrived in Washington. Four weeks later, on March 17, the flag was presented to Indiana’s governor, Oliver P. Morton. Lincoln planned to visit the soldiers at Campbell Hospital that day, as he often did. But, he changed his plans to attend the presentation and review the troops of the 140th Indiana. It was a fortunate decision, for this was the day that John Wilkes Booth planned to capture President Lincoln on the road to the hospital.

The USS MONTAUK, a PASSAIC class, light draft monitor was a major part of David Dixon Porter’s squadron that bombarded Fort Anderson, in February 1865. In the coming weeks, it would also a part in the assassination of Lincoln story. On the afternoon of April 14, Lincoln visited the ship, at Washington Navy Yard, just hours before he went to Fords Theater. On April 27th, the body of John Wilkes Booth was autopsied oh the deck of the MONTAUK, with the conspirators imprisoned below decks. I am often puzzled why Hollywood feels the need to embellish their historically based movies when there are such good stories to be told.
**BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION**

With the Federal and state governments cutting back funding of parks and historic sites, it is more important than ever that the public help to preserve our local history. In 2011, BCWRT was able to donate money to Bentonville Battlefield and the Richmond Battlefield Association, the sites of our two trips. We will continue to donate to those places we visit on our trips, but we have adopted Fort Anderson as the site to receive our main battlefield preservation efforts. Fort Anderson is the logical choice for us. It is an important site to Civil War history and local interest. In addition to whatever monetary donations we can make, projects, such as, “Clean up Day”, are also important. We encourage our members to find ways they can help. Money, time and ideas, all go to their good cause. BCWRT will keep you informed of events at Fort Anderson. So, when possible, volunteer to help, visit their book store, and attend their functions, as it all goes a long way to support the good work they are doing. In addition to the battlefield donations we’ve made a donation to Trinity United Methodist Church which has so generously hosted us since our inception.

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**CIVIL WAR TERMINOLOGY**

*Do you know what this is?*

- Abatis
- Bounty
- Brevet
- Copperheads
- Enfilade
- Torpedo
Black History Month

Major Augusta was a pioneer for his race in Civil War Medicine. Born in Norfolk, VA., he initially was a barber before moving to Baltimore where he learned to read and write. He applied for admission to the University of Pennsylvania but was denied. Seeking a private tutor from the faculty he learned the medical arts. Upon graduation from the Trinity Medical College of the University of Toronto, Canada, Dr. Augusta opened his medical office while working at Toronto General Hospital.

In 1862 President Lincoln gave him a presidential commission but the U.S. Army rejected him as unsuitable because he was of “African descent.” In 1863 he was appointed a major and a surgeon for African-American troops. He was paid $7.00 per month, the same as a USCT private rather than the $169.00 to a white surgeon of the same rank. Even as a member of the USCT regiment he would still have to treat white officers. Seven African-American surgeons were later appointed but he was the first to serve the Army Medical Corps.

President Lincoln appointed him Executive-in-Chief of the Freedman’s Hospital in Washington City. By 1865 he was brevetted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. In 1870 he returned to private practice in Washington City working at the Smallpox Hospital and local Freedman’s Hospital. When Howard University formed a medical school, he served as the professor of anatomy from 1868 to 1877. He was the first African-American appointed to a medical school in the U. S. The Freedman’s Hospital was renamed Howard University Hospital in 1975. He died in 1890 and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery as the first African-American ranked officer to be so honored. He’s identified as “the commissioned surgeon of colored volunteers.”

Visit the African American Civil War Memorial and Museum at 1925 Vermont Ave., Washington, D.C.

African-American women (U) Union (C) Confederate

Abolitionists: Harriet Tubman (U), Sojourner Truth (U), Sarah & Angela Grimke (U)
Nurses: Susie King Taylor (U)
Contributions of all the unknown female slaves.

Mary Ann Shad-1823-1893—First female black lawyer and also first black female newspaper editor of the U.S. She was also the first to open a school in Canada to all races.

Mary Elizabeth Bowser-1839-?—She was a freed slave who became a Union spy in the Confederate White House during the Civil War.

Liza Bryant-1827-1907—Founded the Cleveland Home for Aged Colored People.

Mary Fields-1832?-1914—She was a stagecoach driver and entrepreneur.

Biddy Mason-1818-1891—The first black woman to own land in California.

Elizabeth Keckley-1824-1907:
A former slave and skilled seamstress, she bought her freedom earned from extra sewing projects. Customers included Varina Davis, and after moving to Washington, Mary Lincoln, also her good friend. She appealed to churches to donate supplies for the Contraband Relief Assoc. for former slaves. On one occasion Mrs. Lincoln allowed a fund-raiser on the White House lawn. She practiced spiritualism to contact her son who died in the Civil War and encouraged Mrs. Lincoln in her efforts to do the same. Elizabeth wrote a book, Behind the Scenes or Thirty Years a Slave, and Four Years in the White House.
19th Century Food Glossary

Ash-pone: A coarse corn bread baked in ashes, made chiefly in the South.

Baking powder: Introduced in 1856, it combined saleratus (baking soda) and cream of tartar and was a great convenience to housewives.

Carmine: A crimson pigment derived from cochineal.

Cochineal: A brilliant scarlet dye prepared from the dried bodies of a female insect of tropical America and Java: used as a food coloring.

References
Steinbach, Trevor. “Augusta was a pioneer African American surgeon.” The Civil War Courier, June 2011, pg. 5.

Abatis – A defensive works consisting of a series of felled trees, with their sharpened ends pointing towards the enemy.

Bounty – Money paid by states and the Federal government to entice men to join the Union armed forces. The amount ranged between $300-700.00.

Brevet – A temporary or honorary rank, often granted for meritorious service during the war. It did not carry the authority or pay of a full rank.

Copperhead – Northern Democrats opposed to the war.

Enfilade – Gunfire directed along the enemy battle line from a flanking position.

Torpedo – Name describing any one of a variety of exploding mines deployed during the war, on both land and sea.

USCT – United States Colored Troops, regiments of the U. S. Army that consisted of black soldiers and white officers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS-INFORMATION-OPPORTUNITIES

BCWRT PLANNING COMMITTEE SAYS “THANK YOU”

Connie Hendrix, Planning Committee Chair and Tom O’Donnell would like to recognise two Southport businesses for their gracious support to BCWRT. Moore Street Market for the use of the upstairs room for meetings and Lois Jane’s Riverview Inn and Motel for accommodations for Ed Bearss’ stays in Southport. We hope that members will express appreciation by visiting their business.”
BCWRT OPPORTUNITIES FOR INTERACTION WITH OTHER GROUPS

**Saturday and Sunday, January 21st and 22nd** at Fort Fisher a **free** two day event "The Lights of the Great Armada: the 147th Anniversary of the Battle of Fort Fisher" will be held at Fort Fisher, 1610 Ft. Fisher Blvd., Kure Beach from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday and 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Sunday. The two day event will feature re-enactments by sailors and marines from both the Union and the Confederacy, highlight blockade running, include small arms and artillery demonstrations and the largest amphibious assault of the Civil War. Ft. Fisher was the largest earthen fortification in the Confederacy and provided protection for Wilmington and the vital blockade running activity on the Cape Fear River. Guest speakers for the weekend include Robert M. Browing, Jr., chief historian for the U.S. Coast Guard, Mark Wilde-Ramsing with the N.C. Office of State Archaeology, John Callahan of the American Civil War Marines Unit and Larry Bopp and Steve Bockmiller of the Marine Corps Historical Company and Ships Company.

**February 6th** at 7:00 p.m. there will be a **free** archeological forum and panel discussion on the events immediately before, during and after the fall of Ft. Anderson including the first time ever display of artifacts recovered there in 2009. This will feature State Assistant Archeologist John Mintz, Deputy State Archeologist (Underwater) & QAR Director Dr. Mark Wilde-Ramsing, UNC-W Assistant Professor Dr. Chris Fonville, Jr., chief historian for the U.S. Coast Guard, Mark Wilde-Ramsing with the N.C. Office of State Archaeology, John Callahan of the American Civil War Marines Unit and Larry Bopp and Steve Bockmiller of the Marine Corps Historical Company and Ships Company.

**February 9th**, the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table will its' Annual Dinner Meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the Madeline Suites on the campus of UNC-W. The buffet dinner will be followed by a presentation by John (Mike) Priest, acknowledged Civil War historian, certified battlefield guide and author of several books including "Antietam: the Soldiers Battle" who will be speaking on "Into the Fight, Pickett's Charge at Gettysburg". Cost for the event is $26/person payable to CFWRT. Seating is limited for this event. Please contact either Bruce Patterson (910-794-8905), bppatterson@earthlink.com or Mike Powell (910-278-3545) mpowell6@ec.rr.com.

NORTH CAROLINA FAMILY RECORDS

The North Carolina State Archives and State Library have a fantastic online collection of genealogical resources, called the North Carolina Family Records Collection. It currently has over 1600 North Carolina Bible records, books, photographs, and manuscripts and is growing all of the time. You can search or browse this collection here: [http://statelibrary.ncdcr.gov/dimp/digital/ncfamilyrecords/](http://statelibrary.ncdcr.gov/dimp/digital/ncfamilyrecords/).

Also, as we add to this collection, we’re putting some of our manuscripts on flickr, a photo sharing site, and asking folks to help us transcribe them so the information will be more accurate when searched. It’s easy – you just have to type what you see in the description field below the image. The flickr site, with more information, is here: [http://www.flickr.com/photos/statelibrarync/sets/72157627124710723/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/statelibrarync/sets/72157627124710723/). If
you or others you know would like to help us on a regular basis, please join our mailing list by emailing digital.info@ncdc.gov and putting “Transcription volunteer” in the subject line.

THE SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

Gary Salmon, who recently moved to the area from New York State, is organizing a Southport camp of “The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War”. He is a 15 year member of this group. To be a Heredity Member you must be a male descendant of a soldier, sailor, marine or revenue service who served honorably in the United States military during the Civil War and meet certain other eligibility requirements. Associate and Junior Memberships also available. If you are interested in joining please contact Mr. Gary P Salmon, 910 845 8756 (home), 518 409 5107 (cell) or email- salmongary69@yahoo.com

The Brunswick Civil War Round Table's website is now up and running. The BCWRT website can be found under brunswickcivilwarroundtable.com or brunswickcivilwarroundtable.org. All of the information on the website is available to everyone except for the newsletter - Call to Arms, which is available to members. Your username and password is required to view the newsletter. Be sure to check out the list of presenters already lined up for our 2011/2012 year. There is also information on current Round Table sponsored trips and write-ups on trips already taken. Be sure to check out the Links page for other organizations involved in the Civil War.

Members should have received an email with their login information including username and password. Everyone's default password is their email address. Junk mail filters will likely impede the delivery of many of those emails. If you did not receive this e-mail please check your spam folder first. For the people who did not received the e-mail due to incorrect or no e-mail address provided to the club, please contact Kathy O'Donnell at tomat450sl@yahoo.com. The website is updated frequently so please keep checking in on us.