

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
Registration: 6:30pm, Program: 7:00pm

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Presidents Message

We have just completed another successful meeting. Many of you told me that you enjoyed Horace's presentation and learned a lot about John Mosby, a colorful figure in the war that you knew very little about. We also had another very nice turnout, 124 people attended and we added another 34 members, bringing our total membership to approx 140. I hope it was the program and not the refreshments that brought you out. We have another different and interesting program for you at our November 2nd meeting. Keith Hardison will talk about Jefferson Davis and whether his military background was helpful or a hindrance as President of the Confederacy.

As I indicated at the last meeting we have elections of officers coming up in December. I asked Tom O'Donnell to be the chairman of the nominating committee. He appointed several other members to work with him on the committee.

They have considered and interviewed several members about filling the positions of President, Vice President (2), Secretary and Treasurer and will be making their recommendations to the membership shortly. Each of these positions are also directors. At the November meeting there will be a chance for members to make nominations from the floor and at the December meeting we will vote on the candidates. The officers will take office in January. The officers will then appoint 4 at-large-directors bringing the total directors to 9. We have appointed Mike Powell as chairman of the committee working on planning and organizing trips for our group. We definitely will be arranging a trip to Fort Caswell. In addition, based on the feedback from the membership, he will be working on a one day and a three day trip to a battlefield or other Civil War site. We are working on having details for all of these trips and hope to present them to you by the end of November. Please consider volunteering and also send us your comments or recommendations. I look forward to seeing you November 2nd.

President, Wally

1865 Happenings

- Hymns “Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty” & “Abide with Me”
- 1st Income Tax passed by Congress, to aid in financing the Civil War.
- “Battle Hymn of the Republic” by Mrs. Julia Ward Howe
- Kansas admitted as 34th State.
- Charleston, New Orleans, Mobile, & Savanna are all blockaded.
- Transcontinental telegraph service eliminated the Pony Express.
- National debt \$90,580,873.00

October's speaker, Horace Mewborn, spoke on “**Confederate Raider John Mosby: His Men and Their Methods.**” He has authored five articles for Blue/Gray Magazine, including three articles about the operations of John Mosby and his Rangers, and another on Stuart's ride around McClelland.



Mr. Mewborn gave us new insight and knowledge into the inner workings of a Confederate cavalry battalion commander known by all as the successful, but elusive, “Grey Ghost,” John S. Mosby (12-6-1833 to 02-30-1916). He was always frail and sickly but some things never changing, he took the brunt of much bullying. Horace gave us convincing evidence that Mosby's “modus operandi” molded his life. He clamped on to the “bully” issue with the same focus he brought to his study of the law and later to the military.

Bold, but not reckless, Mosby fought back but toted a pistol in case the town bully, George Turpin, came armed. Turpin charged and Mosby shot him. This was a life changing event! He was convicted of “unlawful shooting” and sentenced! While in jail, he turned his life around, studied law, and was admitted to the bar.

A young lawyer, now with a growing family, he nonetheless joined the Confederates. Not “playing well with others”. Mosby loved picket duty and was excellent at scouting. At 1st Manassas he was identified as a “rising star” by J.E.B. Stuart. Mr. Mewborn points out how rare it is for a 1st lieutenant to report directly to a commander and eventually to General Lee exclusively! Many times it is written that “one Confederate can whoop 5 Yankees” and Mosby’s Raiders set about to prove it.

He used lightning quick raids, guerilla tactics, Colt .44 caliber pistols, and many night activities to disrupt the enemy. Always bold but never rash, Mosby’s Rangers were young (some 13 or 14), and not seasoned or into military drill. They struck and blended into the community with little trace; Mosby said, “A dismounted Ranger (Raider) is like a fiddler without a bow.” So he used the best horses. Mr. Mewborn feels that if they had a downfall it was lack of co-ordination with the Army of Northern Virginia.

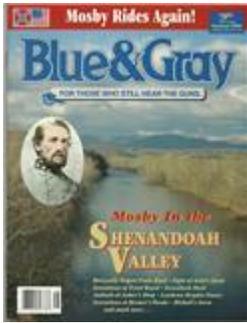
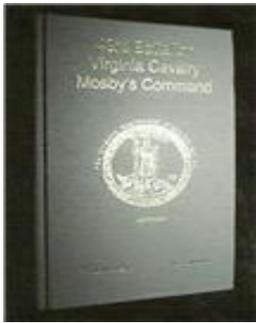
Our speaker also shared with us the daring Mosby raid deep into Fairfax County where his men captured 3 high ranking Union officers, including one Brigadier General Edwin Stoughton. When the General was awakened by Mosby, he said, “Do you know who I am?” The quick reply was, “Do you know Mosby, General?” “Yes, have you got the rascal?” “No, but he has got you!” Thirty men and fifty horses were also captured. Not a shot was fired.

After the war Mosby became highly controversial by trying for the rest of his life to help heal the wounds of war. Horace closed by reading from a letter written by Mosby, a strong antislaver, “I am not ashamed of having fought on the side of slavery, a soldier fights for his country—right or wrong—he is not responsible for the political merits of the cause he fights in....the South was my country!” He went home to Warrenton, Virginia and helped to rebuild a shattered state and nation. What a statesman! Thanks to Horace Mewborn for his synopsis of the “Grey Ghost.” We can’t wait to see what springs from his pen next—he is writing four more books. Write on, Horace!!! You know your stuff.

Submitted by Dan Fink

If anyone is interested in exploring this topic and Mr. Mewborn’s work further, below is information on his books and articles

43rd Battalion Virginia Cavalry Mosby’s Command, published as part of the H. E. Howard Virginia Regimental Series, in 1993. He also compiled and edited, From Mosby’s Command: Newspaper Letters & Articles By and About John S. Mosby and His Rangers, published by Butternut and Blue in 2005. Both of these books are available from Butternut and Blue at www.butternutandblue.com (410-256-9220). They range in price from \$25-\$40.00.



Blue and Gray Magazine has also published a three part series of articles.
"Mosby in the Shenandoah Valley", volume 17, #6
"Operations of Mosby’s Rangers: Mosby’s Confederacy", volume 17, #4
"Operations of Mosby’s Rangers: Part 3", volume 19, #1

These magazines can be purchased from Blue and Gray Magazine at www.bluegraymagazine.com (614-870-1861) for \$9.95 (plus S&H). Each issue contains THE GENERAL'S TOUR, which provides touring maps and photos of the sites on the tour.

Our guest speaker for Tuesday, November 2nd is Keith Hardison, Director of Historic Sites in North Carolina. He managed the Jefferson Davis house for thirteen years, and is a long time Round Table presenter. His topic is: **“Confederate Commander-in-Chief: The Military Background of Jefferson Davis.”**



The Ladies' Department

By Charen Fink

With Halloween at the end of October, perhaps this may be a good time to begin a study of Victorian mourning customs. In short, people of the 17th century feared death because it was a grim & terrifying reality; death's head, skeletons, bones, skulls were symbols of fear. In the 18th century this softened through the Great Awakening with men anticipating their own salvation without fear. Finally, in the 19th century, death was viewed as a sweet deliverance from life, a promise of salvation. Death was more prevalent due to disease, war, medical treatments, diet, childbirth, high infant mortality, poor sanitation, poisons & ignorance. Paying tribute to the dead became a way of life in 19th century America.

Early remedies used to sustain life as long as possible were:

- * burning gun powder in sick rooms
- * sprinkling houses with vinegar
- * placing an axe under the bed to stop bleeding
- * blistering to draw out disease
- * placing a knife under the pillow to cut pain.

Mourning customs & rituals were refined from early superstitions as a way to show respect to the dead. Victorian customs for mourning began with the death of Prince Albert in Dec. 1861; Queen Victoria mourned him for 40 years. Victorian funerals have roots in medieval times. After Albert's death, the Queen dictated what she & her staff should wear & how to behave.

PRE-VICTORIAN FUNERALS & BURIALS

- Dissenters, not members of the Church of England, were not buried in consecrated ground.
- More burial ground was needed because of dissenters & churchyards were too crowded.
- Bodies were carried to cemeteries outside of the city:
 - The wagon carried the coffin at night so the driver wouldn't be seen imbibing at a pub.
 - Regulations forbade carrying bodies through busy, narrow streets during the warmest & busiest hours.
 - The body was taken to the mortuary building & kept overnight (it was dangerous & inconvenient)
 - The law required 48 hours between death & burial because of the fear of being buried alive; Mozart died Dec. 5th & buried Dec. 7th.
 - Mourners did not accompany a body until after 1832 with the passage of the Anatomy Act due to the threat of grave robbers.
 - Graves were usually placed one on top of another.

Don't forget to bring in your old/used Civil War magazines to the meeting; leave some, take some.

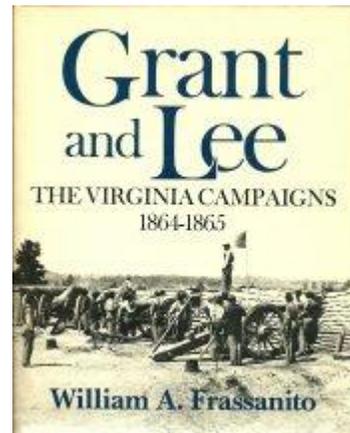
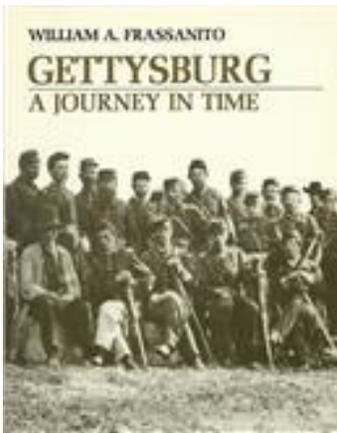
Off The Bookshelf

- Books that may be of interest to **women and men** alike: what favorite book would you like to share?
- North Carolina Women of the Confederacy. By Lucy London Anderson. Revised Edition 2006 by Cape Fear Chapter #3, United Daughters of the Confederacy.
- The Secret Eye. The Journal of Ella Gertrude Clanton Thomas, 1848-1889. Edited by Virginia Ingraham Burr. 1990.
- The Ties of the Past. By Sarah Sites Rodgers. 1996.
- Motherhood in the Old South: Pregnancy, Childbirth, and Infant Rearing. By Sally G. McMillen.1990.
- Wild, Wicked, Wartime Wilmington. By Robert J. Cooke. 2009.
- Women of the War. By Frank Moore. (Originally 1866) 1997.
- Mothers of Invention. By Drew Gilpin Faust. 1996.
- Brokenburn; The Journal of Kate Stone: 1861-1868. Edited by John Q. Anderson. 1972.
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If you are looking for something a little different, you may enjoy these books.

Frassanito, William A. Gettysburg: A Journey in Time. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1975.

Frassanito, William A. Grant and Lee: The Virginia Campaign 1864-65. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1983.



November 6, 1860—150 years ago, Lincoln won both the popular and electoral vote, and was elected the 16th president of the United States. Stephen Douglas received the second largest popular and John Breckinridge had the second largest electoral vote.

Reminder: Don't forget about the small group discussions which meet within a week of the regular BCWRT meeting. There are no requirements to attend other than a desire to talk about the Civil War on a more one-to-one level. We also encourage younger historians to attend, not only our regular meeting, but the small group sessions, as well.

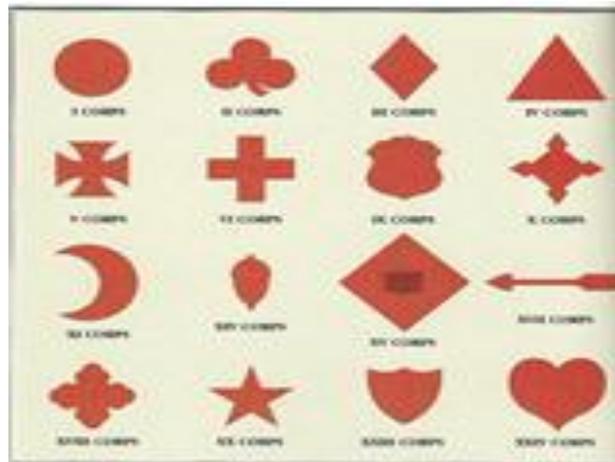
Answers to Trivia Questions

1. University of Virginia at Charlottesville
 2. Shooting the campus bully
 3. 2nd New York
 4. A bullet creased his head.
 5. The Partisan Ranger Act of 1862
 6. Durham Station, North Carolina on April 26, 1865
 7. Virtually the price of gold, butter retailed at \$20/pound
 8. Galena, Illinois
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UNION CORPS BADGES

When Joe Hooker took command of the Army of the Potomac, in 1862, he ordered all of his corps be identified with patches. Dan Butterfield designed the badges and they appeared on the troops in the spring of 1863, in the eastern army. The Union armies in the west began to wear their patches a year later. The patches were made out of flannel and were about an inch and half wide. They were usually displayed on the soldiers' caps. The Confederates had no such badges.

To signify the division within the corps, colors were used. Red was used for first division, white for second division and blue for third division. If the corps had a fourth division, it used green. On your next visit to Gettysburg notice the corps symbols on the monuments. If you see a cloverleaf on the top of the monument, you know that unit was part of the Second Corps, Army of the Potomac



"For all you BCWRT members, here's an easy way to stay caught up on our Brunswick Civil War Round Table events and activities. Just log on to SouthportTimes.com. With this online source you will find announcements about all of our upcoming monthly programs, as well as an instant source for previous Round Table events and announcements. It's also a great source for staying up-to-date on what's going on in Southport. As they say at the Southport Times, " All of Southport, NC is just a click away." Check it out!

Historically Speaking

The Southport Historical Society is again presenting "People of the Burying Ground" at the Smithfield Cemetery on E. Moore St. This will take place on October 29th and 30th from 4:00pm to 6:00pm each day. Volunteers will present a brief talk (in period attire) on a historical figure from the area.