



CALL TO ARMS

November 2013
Volume V, Issue 3



The Newsletter of the Brunswick Civil War Round Table

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Wally Rueckel

Last month our speaker, Pastor Jeff Roberts, spoke about the "Dichotomy between religions and sectional loyalties in the War between the States." This is certainly one of the least discussed subjects of the Civil War. Pastor Jeff introduced us to many little known facts about religion and its influence during the Civil War on politicians, soldiers, families, and the religious awakening that was occurring in our Nation at this time. Many of you told me afterwards that Pastor Jeff's talk got them to thinking about what he said and caused

them to engage in discussions with other members. This is exactly what the Round Table is trying to accomplish with our programs. See Dan Fink's synopsis in this newsletter for more on Pastor Jeff's talk.

Our annual election for President, 2 Vice Presidents, Secretary and Treasurer will occur at our December meeting. We will announce the slate of officers at our next meeting. If anyone is interested in running please contact Jack Carpenter our nominating committee chair harvu64jmc@msn.com or myself.

We held our second

BCWRT Women's Civil War Forum on Oct 15 here at Trinity. It was hosted by Charen Fink, one of our Directors. It was a huge success with just under 100 women in attendance. This was a wonderful response for a Civil War Women's program. Many Round Tables don't have 100 total members. We are proud of her efforts. See the write-up elsewhere in this newsletter.

The United Methodist Women of Trinity have completed a Civil War Soldier's Sampler Quilt. As each soldier left for war he was

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Co-Editors

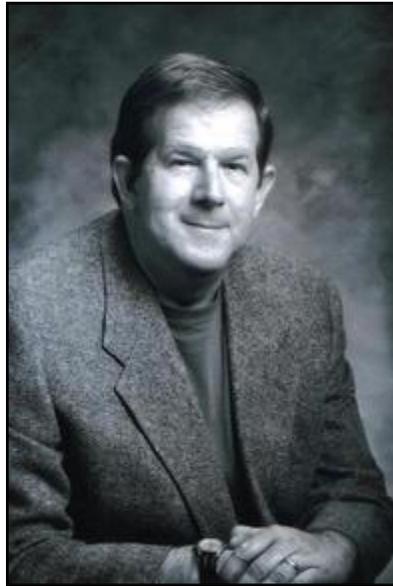
Charen Fink
Jim McKee

MARK BRADLEY SPEAKS ON THE BATTLE OF BENTONVILLE NOV. 5

The Battle of Bentonville was the last full-scale action of the Civil War in which a Confederate army was able to mount a tactical offensive. The battle was part of the Carolinas Campaign which took place from March 19 – 21, 1865, between the armies of Union Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman and Confederate Gen. Joseph E. Johnston. As a result of the overwhelming enemy strength and the heavy casualties his army suffered in the battle, Johnston surrendered to Sherman little more than a month later at Bennett Place. Coupled with Gen. Robert E. Lee's surrender earlier in April, Johnston's surrender represented the effective end of the war.

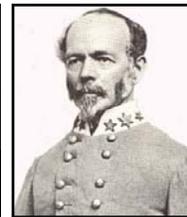
To discuss this important event at the Tuesday, November 5th Brunswick Civil War Round Table meeting will be guest speaker Mark L. Bradley, au-

thor of the critically-acclaimed *"Last Stand in the Carolinas: The Battle of Bentonville."* He is a veteran tour leader and ex-



pert on the Revolutionary War in the Carolinas, and is widely regarded as the leading authority on the Civil War in North

Carolina. Mark has also authored *"This Astounding Close: The Road to Bennett Place,"* and *"Bluecoats and Tar Heels: Soldiers and Civilians in Reconstruction North Carolina."* He has also written several articles for Blue & Gray Magazine and Civil War Regiments. Mark is past president (2000) and Program Chairman of the North Carolina Civil War Round Table, holds a B.A. in History from North Carolina State University, and an M.A. in History and a Doctorate in History from UNC- Chapel Hill. He is currently a staff historian at the U.S. Army Center of Military History in Washington, D.C.



...**PRESIDENT** cont.

given one of these quilts. Approximately cot-size it was used as bedding or if he died, it was used to wrap his body for burial. They will be at our November and December meetings to display and raffle tickets will be sold for this quilt. The proceeds will be used for children's and women's outreach. The drawing will be in mid December.

I want to thank all our members for your strong support of

our Round Table. This support is a major reason for our success. At our last meeting our membership went over 600 and we had 232 in attendance including 28 guests and 13 new members. Many of you are already volunteering for various activities but we can always use more volunteers. Contact Norm npraet@hotmail.com, Marv mhamer@ec.rr.com and myself wruECKel@questor.com if you are interested in volunteering. Our next meeting will be Tues-

day, November 5 here at Trinity Church when Mark Bradley, historian at the Center for Military History in Washington DC. will talk about "The Battle of Bentonville NC", the last major battle of the Civil War. This is a major piece of history that took place in our own backyard. See you there.



Religion in the Civil War or Torn Between Two Lovers

By Dan Fink

There was an infinite dichotomy (a seed the same on both sides) between religious and sectional loyalties in “The War of Northern Aggression” or War Between the States. Our speaker points us to the mountainous areas of Virginia. They had no strong ties to a state. They had few, if any, slaves and wanted to do commerce with both North and South. The salt capitol of the Confederacy was in Virginia but both sides needed this mineral. The religious leaders of the day clearly knew their loyalties and rightly argued that religion could be a major catalyst toward war!

This was a time of the Second Great Religious Awakening (1790-1840's). Evangelistic fervor was very strong with a thrust toward a nationalism of religions and a strong need to be ready for Christ's coming. Sectional chauvinism drew nourishment from religious antagonism. Our God given ability to think and reason got all of us into a quandary. Where did they look for answers? The Bible, of course, gave justifications that aligned with the sympathies of both

sides. Leviticus tells us that owning slaves is OK. Ephesians 6:5 reminds us that slave or free we are all “one in Christ.”

Our speaker gave a gem of a line from the movie *Cold Mountain*: Rev. Morrison quotes that, “God must be so weary of being called down on both sides of the argument.” (Rev Morrison owned 60 slaves. All of his daughters married Confederates.)

Just about the time of this “Late, Great, Inconvenience”—as some called the War, (remember, not all were equally affected), the Third Great Religious Awakening happened. The Methodists formed and promoted the African Methodist Episcopal Church (AME). They called themselves the MECS or Methodist Episcopal Church South. Southern Baptists sprouted up everywhere “Southern.” There were 10,000 new Southern Baptist Churches by 1890. Their belief was that the Bible supported slavery. The Catholics charged that all this Protestantism split America, caused needless bloodshed and if everyone was to embrace Catholicism

there would be no need for the Civil War!

Nonetheless there were 2388 Northern Chaplains earning a pay of \$100 per month and 1303 Confederate Chaplains who earned \$0. Ya just had to be there to find out the name of the one and only female chaplain. If you were there, you also know the name of the very young, soon to become infamous outlaw who killed one of those clergy. We observe there is a definite difference between a preacher and a minister. These clergy spent most of their waking hours doing the latter. Much individual care needed to be given. Definite proof of their work shows that 160,000 men accepted Christ by 1863. Most soldiers were deeply religious.

Pastor Jeff gives us some closure to ponder. If there had been a Confederate nation, it was going to be Christian. It is hard to deny that religion is a factor in all wars. Finally, pride comes before the fall. The South was full of pride.



Food Facts

- ♥ Foods of the period were laden with lard.
- ♥ People worked harder and burned up more calories.
- ♥ 19th century residents had a passion for sugar and pie was often eaten at all three meals.
- ♥ Pound cakes often used a pound each of butter, sugar and eggs.
- ♥ Cakes of the period were more like bread because they were made with yeast. A week's worth of baking was done all at one time.
- ♥ Some areas of the country called the noon day meal lunch or dinner, in the South lunch was called dinner and the evening meal was called supper.
- ♥ People were not big water drinkers because it was not safe.
- ♥ Receipts of the day did not list the ingredients and how they were to be mixed was sketchy at best. Often oven temperatures were given as moderate or moderately hot; times were given as "when done"; the number of servings was not listed.

Etiquette

- ♥ Always be punctual for a dinner invitation.
- ♥ The lady should always appear in full dress.
- ♥ When entering a dining room married people precede the single ones.
- ♥ The lady host sits at the head of the table and the host at the foot.
- ♥ Soup is always served first.

- ♥ The host usually serves his left-hand neighbor first, then right-hand neighbor.
- ♥ Begin to eat at once as soon as one is served.
- ♥ Ladies should never dine with their gloves on.
- ♥ A servant is given a white damask napkin (or gloves) in which his thumb is enveloped to avoid contact with your plate.
- ♥ When sending your plate back for any reason, hold your silverware in your hand or on your bread to avoid soiling the cloth.

Myths and Truths

1. **Graveyard vs. cemetery.**
Graveyards were set within a church yard for those who were baptized. A cemetery was unconsecrated ground outside the church yard.
2. **Eating arsenic made their complexions pale.**
Some women did but most did not. However, the use of certain arsenic-based medications and clothing dye did contribute to poisoning.
3. **Most people of average or low status sat on backless benches or stools.**
Chairs with arms were reserved for important people or the head of the household.
4. **Recent studies show that the total number of military deaths is estimated to be 750,000 instead of 600,000 plus.**

5. **It's highly unlikely for the surgical removal of ribs for a slender waist. Chest surgery was too risky; there is no evidence of this.**
6. **Double staircases in historic homes served two purposes; the nicer one was meant for family and guest, the smaller, narrower, steeper one was for servants and slaves. This was to avoid running into servants carrying chamber pots, dirty laundry or hot water up and down the stairs.**

Lotions and Cosmetics Hints

- ♥ Avoid skin exposure to direct sunlight within six hours of applying citrus oils, such as bergamot, lemon or orange oils. It can cause reddening and blistering of the skin.
- ♥ Rosemary oil is a cerebral stimulant and may raise the blood pressure, and it may cause ill effects for someone with epilepsy.
- ♥ Lavender oil and candles help promote relaxation and sleep.
- ♥ Lavender and tea tree oils are known for their healing and disinfectant properties.



LADIES' FORUM: Another Huge Suc-

Over ninety ladies attended the second Brunswick Civil War Round Table Ladies' Forum on Tuesday, October 15th which was held at Trinity United Methodist Church in Southport, North Carolina. It was a delightful evening which was thoroughly enjoyed by all, and based on attendance; it was considered to be one of the largest gatherings in the country of women interested to learn more about issues and the lives of Civil War era women.

Charen Fink, appearing in period dinner dress, and one of the directors of the Round Table, presented power point slides on courtship, marriage and domestic life. Each participant received a packet of handouts with more information about courtship and weddings. She noted, many of the customs in place today go back to the Civil War and Queen Victoria's own wedding. At the break there were refreshments of finger sandwiches of cheese, ham salad and cucumbers and cream cheese on cocktail bread. Additionally,

there was period loaf wedding cake and beverages which everyone enjoyed.

Ed (the lone male) and Nancy Ovsenik, also Round Table members and Civil War



re-enactors also appeared in period dress, presented a power point program describing 1860's funerary customs. Some of the rituals in place today go back to the Civil War period. During their program a plate of funeral cookies (yes, there was such an indulgence at that time), were distributed to each table. Following the question and answer session, ten door prizes were awarded. They consisted of framed pictures of Civil War

women, Citizens' Companion magazines, and two Civil War-related books. The next Ladies' Forum, based on suggestions from this enthusiastic audience, will be considered for around April of next year. So everyone was reminded to mark your calendars.

Aside from this Ladies' Forum, the Brunswick Civil War Round Table is open to all, males included! Meetings are usually held on the first Tuesday of each month except July and August. Most meetings are held at Trinity United Methodist Church in Southport. The visitor fee is \$5 for every meeting, and that fee can be applied toward the \$25 annual membership dues for both the lady and her spouse!



"MUSTACHES AND WHISKERS IN 42 DAYS," Hunting, Fishing, and many other Great Secrets, all in the *Book of Wonders*, \$,000 sold. 9th Ed. Price only **20c.** 8 for \$1. Mailed free. Address HUNTER & CO., Hinsdale, N. H.

Charen Fink Promoted by 290 Foundation

BCWRT member Robert Maffitt, who is also a member of the *290 Foundation (BVI) Inc.* submits the following notice:

“The 290 Foundation (BVI) Inc. is very proud to send a promotion in our ranks of Charen Fink from member to the rank of “Lieutenant” in the organization. She is now an Associate member with the promotion . Her Husband is a member for his work in reporting events for the 290 Foundation. Charen gives lectures on women in the Civil War which I’m very proud to say that during her last lecture she had about 90 women come to hear her speak.

Dan and Charen are members of the Brunswick Civil War Round Table, which has over 600 members, including some of the women who attended Charen’s lecture. Please

give your congratulations to her on her Facebook page for her work in keeping the stories alive, Women in the Civil War and her promotion.”



The *290 Foundation* is in Australia, Europe, United Kingdom and the United States. Now you can be part of the, or close, largest information in the Civil War Naval History. *The 290 Foundation* supports the **Brunswick Civil War Round Table** in different ways with a strong relationship. It sends the newsletter you read to Australia, Europe,

United Kingdom and the United States. We are the largest information of Civil War Naval History and articles for reading or research. We also promote the Brunswick CWRT in getting interest for both in hope of membership. By becoming a member, you will be helping both, Brunswick CWRT and the *290 Foundation* be the largest in membership. Also the *290 Foundation* is grateful for recognition by The History Channel and Discovery Channel.

Thank You.

The web site will assist you on becoming a member and a little about us. The 290 Foundation is grateful for recognition by The History Channel and Discovery Channel. See our web site ~

<https://sites.google.com/site/290foundation/membership>

“Much Time Has Passed” 2013 NC Maritime History Annual Conference

Our friends at the Southport Maritime Museum will be holding an interesting conference open to the public November, 7-9th covering the maritime history of the Lower Cape Fear. It will include a welcome reception on Thursday, November 7th followed by two days of interesting tours and lectures. There will be a tour of Bald Head Civil War forts Holmes and George, and

their Museum of History led by Prof Chris Fonvielle. In addition there will be tours of Brunswick Town Colonial Wharf and Ft. Anderson led by Jim McKee, and visits to Ft. Fisher and the Smithville Burying Grounds and Old Jail. Other Speakers will include David Cecelski on our local Mullet fishing history, James Delago on local maritime culture, Billy Rae Morris on restoration of Queen

Anne’s Revenge and Chris Southery assessing our local Civil War submerged heritage. Receptions will be held at Southport Maritime Museum and the dinner and talks will be at Trinity Church, Murrow Hall. Cost is \$110 for all events, dinner included and transportation to Bald Head and Ft. Fisher. You can also elect to attend some of the activities for a lesser cost. Call the Museum at 910-457-0003 for more information. This should prove to be interesting. Southport is attracting the interest of a lot people, like ourselves, who want to learn more about history.

Speaker Change, Elections & The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

The has been a change in the speaker schedule for December: Richard McMurray will speak on Dec. 3. Here is the list of speakers for 2013-14.

Dec. 3: Richard McMurray: A Georgian's View of Sherman.

Jan. 8: Ed Bearss: Antietam

Feb. 4: Gerald Prokopowicz, Did Lincoln Own Slaves?

Mar. 4: Craig Symonds, Civil War Navy

Apr. 1: Peter Carmichael, Robert E. Lee

May 6: Patrick Falci, A Visit from A.P. Hill

June 3: Susannah Ural: Don't Hurry Me Down to Hades – Americans at War

At the December 2013 meeting there will the annual election of officers for the ensuing year. Jack Carpenter, director and nomination chair, announced the slate of nominees, which will be read at the November meeting:

Pres.--Wally Rueckel; Vice president--Rob Clarke; Vice president--Marve Hamer; Secretary--Norm Praet; Treasurer--Tom Kehoe. The floor will be opened for additional nominations.

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The November Edition of *The Runner* has been posted to www.cfcwrt.com This edition features the Confederate Navy, subjects of both the October and November meetings. The November 14th meeting of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table will be held at 7:00 pm at St. Andrew's on-the-Sound, 101 Airlie Rd., Wilmington.

During the Hot Weather There's No Refreshment Equal to a

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IMPORTANT NOTICE TO THE MEMBERSHIP

After two years in establishing the Brunswick Civil War Round Table, the officers and Board (9 members), and the advisors (3 members) have recently evaluated this organization. The membership should be made aware that certain changes have been decided on as follows:

1. Basic membership fees for individuals and couples will remain at \$25.00 and will not change prior to January 1, 2014, if then.
2. Students will be welcomed free of charge effective immediately;
3. A \$5.00 admission fee will be charged all guests, effective September 4, 2012.
4. Subsequently it may be necessary to charge guests a higher fee when there is an especially renowned speaker or when travel arrangements become more expensive.

The RT has the following stated objectives:

1. To promote knowledge and understanding of the complex Civil War Era through programs, travel, and the Newsletter;
2. To support the development and preservation of Civil War sites. (This group has adopted Fort Anderson as it primary site.)

Pursued in various ways, some obvious and some less so, these efforts vary as to the monthly cost of speakers, venues, programs, and publicity. With this in mind, we propose to establish two categories of elective, tax-free giving which would secure our finances in light of unknown future changes. The proposed categories reflect our purposes. One category will be for programs and the other for Historic Site preservation.

The membership may be assured that due diligence is given to all RT finances and other affairs.



BRUNSWICK CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Membership Application and Renewal

The Brunswick Civil War Round Table usually meets on the first Tuesday of each month, except during July and August. Most meetings will be held in the Southport area. Specific locations will be announced in advance, either at meetings, in the newsletter, via email, or on our web site. (brunswickcivilwarroundtable.com)

Annual dues are \$25.00 for individuals and couples, students are free of charge. Non-members pay \$5.00 per visit, which can be applied to membership. Please make checks payable to: B. C. W. R. T. Payments for renewal memberships should be made on the anniversary of your initial membership. Forms and checks for membership or renewal can be given to those at the registration desk, at the meetings, or send to: **BCWRT, P. O. Box 10161, Southport, NC. 28461**

NAME(S): _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____

CELL: _____

EMAIL: _____

If you would like to make a donation to help BCWRT in its historical preservation work or to assure that we continue to get the best speakers possible please complete boxes below.

Speakers and programs:

Amount \$ _____

Battlefield preservation:

Amount \$ _____

Recognition may be acknowledged in our communications should you wish.

150 YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 1863

Nov. 2- Lincoln invited to Gettysburg to make remarks at the dedication of the National Cemetery there.

Nov. 4- Gen. Longstreet ordered to Knoxville, TN to operate against Union gen. Ambrose Burnside.

Nov. 7- Army of the Potomac crosses the Rappahannock River.

Nov. 7- Union bombardment of Fort Sumter begins. It will last until Nov. 10.

Nov. 9- Lincoln attends the play *The Marble Heart*, starring John Wilkes Booth.

Nov. 12- Bombardment of Fort Sumter resumes. It will continue on & off until Dec. 4.

Nov. 17- Confederate siege of Knoxville begins.

Nov. 19- Lincoln delivers the *Gettysburg Address* during the dedication of the National Cemetery.

Nov. 23- Union breakout of Chattanooga begins with the battle at Orchard Knob.

Nov. 24- Battle of Lookout Mountain "Battle above the Clouds".

Nov. 25- Battle of Missionary Ridge. Union breakout from Chattanooga completed.

Nov. 26- Army of the Potomac crosses the Rapidan River beginning the Mine Run Campaign.

Nov. 27- Gen. John Hunt Morgan escapes from the Ohio State Penitentiary.



THE NEXT MEETING IS
Tuesday, November 5, 2013



The Brunswick Civil War Round Table meets on the first Tuesday of each month, except July and August. Unless otherwise noted, meetings will be held at:

Trinity United Methodist Church
 209 E. Nash St.
 Southport, NC 28461

Registration is open at 6:30 pm and the program starts at 7:00pm.

2013 BCWRT Officers, Directors and Advisors

Wally Rueckel: President & Director
 Rob Clarke: Vice President & Director
 Marv Hamer: Vice President & Director
 Tom Kehoe: Treasurer & Director
 Norm Praet: Secretary & Director
 Tom O'Donnell: Director & Advisor
 Jack Carpenter: Advisor

Charen Fink: Director
 Chuck Roedema: Director
 Max Williams: Director
 Chris Fonvielle: Advisor
 Jim McKee: Advisor
 Connie Hendrix: Advisor
 Roy Pender: Advisor

CHECK US OUT ON THE WEB

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, no user name or password is required.

Be sure to check out the list of presenters already lined up for our 2013/2014 year. There is also information on current Round Table sponsored trips and write-ups on trips already taken. Also check out the Links page for other organizations involved in the Civil War.

The website is updated frequently so please keep checking in on us.