



CALL TO ARMS

Brunswick Civil War Round Table

Wally Rueckel, President--wrueckel@questor.com
Charen Fink, Newsletter Co- Editor--dcftandm@hotmail.com
Mike Powell, Newsletter Co-Editor--mpowell6@ec.rr.com

October 5, 2010
Volume I, Issue No. 2

Message From Tom O'Donnell, Co-Founder

I learned a long time ago we can plan plans, but we cannot plan results. As you may or may not know, I was exposed to Agent Orange while serving in the Mekong Delta in Vietnam during the Tet Offensive when Agent Orange was sprayed as an herbicide to clear the jungle. My exposure has been determined by the VA to be the probable cause of Parkinson's disease. PD is a progressive, chronic and incurable disease (at this time), and my health will most likely only worsen.

In any event, my PD has gotten to the point where I can no longer effectively serve this fine group of people in the Brunswick Civil War Round Table. It is with great regret and a huge disappointment that I am announcing that I am stepping down as President of the BCWRT.

It seems as though every time Wally and I were together or for whatever reason, we talked about starting up BCWRT. We tried to take this start-up on never thinking we would get as far as we did so fast. This is a tribute to the officers, directors and our members. It became apparent to me after the last meeting that I could not function as the leader of this group. Wally Rueckel, my co-founder, and I talked it over and have determined that he would serve as President and member of the board. The good news is I will continue to function on the board as a director and senior advisor.

According to the by-laws, I will serve as Chairman of the nominating committee to fill some of those positions which require the attention of a fast moving group such as ours.

So, as of now, my plans are to explore all available medical remedies for PD, and continue to serve the Round Table as a director. Thank you for your support and understanding.

Message From The President

On a personal note, I was saddened to have Tom step down as President of the BCWRT because of his medical issues. He is a close personal friend and the person each of us should be thankful for his vision and drive to start our Civil War Round Table. We met just over a year ago and were immediately drawn together by our deep mutual interest in the Civil War. That initial meeting led to the formation of the Round Table in March of this year. Since then, our success has become obvious.

I would ask each of you at the next meeting to shake Tom’s hand and tell him “thank you” for forming this Round Table. He deserves your support. He certainly has mine.

As my first announcement after assuming the Presidency of your Round Table, I am pleased to announce that the Internal Revenue Service has approved our application for a tax exempt status. According to the IRS, we are now characterized as a “public charity.” This now clears the way for our Round Table to pursue various fund raising opportunities. As you know, aside from miscellaneous out-of-pocket expenses, most of the membership dues go toward paying appearance fees and travel expenses required of our guest speakers. So it is incumbent upon us to find other sources of revenue, fund raising being a prime example.

Following our September 7th meeting, our membership base is now over 100!. We had 127 members and guests attend the meeting, 31 of which were women. This really pleased us. Some of you may have read a quote I gave to *The State Port Pilot* recently. I said, “Our Round Table isn’t just fun for the guys. We didn’t want to make it a male—*let’s-talk-about-guns-and-battle-discussion.*” We feel certain that the variety of guest speakers and topics planned for the coming season by our Directors, Max Williams and Jim McKee have been a major factor in our excellent attendance record. So far, every month has had a higher attendance level than the previous month. Hopefully, we can continue that momentum.

We are now in the planning stages of announcing a silent auction event, one of several fund raising opportunities we are considering. We are eager to make it a huge success, so we are asking all of you if you would consider donating something that you feel has value and would be a popular item to the bidders. If so, please email me at wruেকে@questor.com or call me at (910) 253-7382. This is an important way you can contribute to the ongoing financial success of our Round Table.

We were pleasantly surprised at our last meeting by the number of members who expressed an interest in both one-day or two-to-three day field trips. Based on that enthusiasm, we are now beginning to consider location alternatives. We will report our progress at our October 5th meeting. If you have any field trip suggestions or ideas, please let me know.

Volunteers! We need more of you to help us. Your current officers and directors have done a wonderful job so far, but we need reinforcements. I can assure you that it will not take that much time from your personal lives, but it will allow us to fully execute all we have to do to continue to make this a smooth running organization. How about “volunteering” to volunteer? Call or email me. Why not do it now!

Reminder, we have another terrific program planned for our October 5th meeting. This is your Round Table, and its success depends on all of us doing our part. This is another important way you can “volunteer!” We look forward to seeing you at the October 5th meeting.

1860 Happenings

- ◆ Population of the 33 states, 31, 443,321
- ◆ “Old Black Joe” published by Stephen Foster
- ◆ 1st Kindergarten (in English) established in Boston
- ◆ Game of “croquet” introduced in U.S. from England
- ◆ 1st organized baseball game in San Francisco played
- ◆ “Maryland My Maryland” by Randall, tune of old drinking song
- ◆ Men started wearing “knickers” for sports

September’s speaker was Dr. Mark L. Bradley, who spoke on “**Sherman in North Carolina: Fierce Warrior and Compassionate Peacemaker.**” Herewith is an overview of his presentation

condensed by *Dan Fink*.

Dr. Mark L. Bradley sweeps clean a whole shelf of Civil War books examining from side or back doors **This Astounding Close** of the Civil War. He lays bare, thru scholarly search, a significantly neglected topic--the close of the Civil War in North Carolina and the road to the Bennett Place peace negotiations [near Durham Station].

Dr. Bradley's presentation mixed the "heard about" Sherman's barbarous reputation with the "not heard about" Sherman's magnanimous and liberal surrender terms. Not only was he a fierce warrior but also a compassionate peace maker.

North Carolina was last to join the Confederacy and the site of the last significant battle--the Battle of Bentonville. It followed in quick succession after the fall of Fort Fisher [December 1864--June 15, 1865]. Only a miracle would have saved Richmond! On April 9, 1865, Lee surrenders only his *Army of Northern Virginia*, effectively leaving him out of the ensuing peace process.

Oh, did Sherman try for peaceful resolution, but the olive branch he offered was soundly rejected by Washington politicians. They were furious over the worst thing that could have happened to the South--Lincoln's assassination. Sadly, three days of negotiations at the Bennett Place only yielded a great respect between Joe Johnston and Sherman, a series of conciliatory offers and a bumpy answer called "reconstruction" for an already devastated South--an astounding close to an impossible war.

The October 5th meeting of the Round Table features guest speaker, Horace Mewborn. He is a Vietnam veteran, prolific writer of articles for *Blue & Gray Magazine*, and co-author of a book on John Mosby and his Rangers. His specialty is the Confederate cavalry in northern Virginia. His topic for the evening is "**Confederate Raider John Mosby: His Men and Their Methods,**" Registration begins at 6:30pm at the Trinity United Methodist Church, 209 E. Nash St., Southport, across from the Southport Post Office. Everyone is welcome. Call Wally Rueckel at (910) 253-7382, or email wruECKel@questor.com for more information.

The Ladies' Department

By Charen Fink

Etiquette

Hygiene: "Clean, white teeth are an absolute necessity to anyone who expects to pass muster in good society. Some people can keep their teeth white without the aid of washes or powder, while for others it is necessary to use some cleansing substance daily. To keep the mouth sweet & the teeth clean, it is necessary to brush them always after eating, and to scour them once a day."

Period recipes for cleaning teeth (not recommended for modern-day use).

* Take a wet tooth-brush and rub it upon a cake of soap, apply to the teeth. This also cleans the mouth. *The Practical Housewife*.

* Take finely powdered charcoal and mix with an equal amount of prepared chalk. This can be scented with a drop or two of oil of cloves. *Godey's, January 1863*.

* Opiate tooth-paste consists of honey, chalk, orris, rose pink, otto of cloves, nutmeg, rose, simple syrup and form into a paste. *Godey's, November 1858*.

Dentistry

Confederate dentists, who were commissioned as captains or majors, gave every soldier a dental exam, used their own instruments and were provided an ambulance wagon for transportation. Later in the war,

dental supplies and equipment were considered contraband. Each day the dentist did 25 fillings and 20 extractions and removed immense amounts of tartar. Artificial teeth were done by a civilian dentist at the soldier's expense.

To fill teeth, a hand-rotated drill was used and then hand excavators used to remove carious material. If the pulp was removed, creosote was often inserted, followed by gold foil for small fillings and tin foil for larger ones. Other filling materials include: amalgam of silver, tin, and mercury

- * One tooth was filled with radioactive thorium (not known to be radioactive until 1898)

- * One tooth filled with lead and shotgun pellets.

Domestic Management of the Sick-Room

For apoplexy and fits generally then raise the head; unloose all tight clothes, strings, corsets; apply cold lotions to the head, which should be shaved; apply leeches to the temples, and send for a surgeon (or a doctor).

Cosmetics

19th century Rose Lip Salve: olive oil, oil of sweet almonds, white wax, Balsam of Peru (resin from the Myroxylon ceriferum tree), and alkanet (from a root of the Anchusa plant) coloring.

21st century equivalent of Red Rouge or Lip Salve:

4-1/2 oz. bleached beeswax, 1/2 cup olive oil, 20 drops lavender oil, 2 oz. alkanet root or several drops of red food coloring in a bowl with the beeswax & heat in a water bath until the wax is melted.

Stir gently & add the lavender oil. Continue stirring until mixture is firm. Place in a closed container.

Of course, today it is much easier to buy this commercially.

During the Sixties

- * Little Women (by Louisa May Alcott) was published

- * Typewriters were invented

- * Modern shoe manufacturing began

- * Cost of living rose along with the style of living

- * Women became interested in riding, billiards and croquet

War Between The States Trivia Quiz

- 1) Who did Miss Mattie Ready marry on Christmas Day?
- 2) Who married them? *There exists a painting done by a modern day artist of this event.*
- 3) What was the highest medal awarded to a Confederate for bravery in the field?
- 4) What ship was originally christened Enrica in Liverpool, England?
- 5) Who was the first full admiral of the United States Navy?
- 6) What is the difference between shot and shell? *Answers at the end*

Educational Opportunities

- A new exhibit, *Crisis at the Capitol: North Carolina on the Eve of the War* explores what the State Capitol was like on the eve of the conflict and introduces visitors to many of the individuals working and living here in a time before secession and before the war. The exhibit opens Sept. 17th and will remain on display through May 13, 2011. Admission is free. The exhibit is based on documents left behind by 11 different people, each with a different perspective on the impending crisis. Visitors will learn the stories of John Copeland, a Raleigh native who participated in John Brown's infamous raid on Harpers Ferry, VA. Also featured is Harriet Jacobs, once enslaved in Edenton, who escaped and became active in the abolition movement, and John Thomas Jones, a student at the University of North Carolina who supported secession and enlisted in the army despite his father's Unionist views, in addition to North Carolina Governor, John Ellis, and his role in preparing the state for the Civil War. There is a book entitled, Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl by Harriett Jacobs. Visit www.nchistoricsites.org/capitol/default.htm or call (919) 733-4994 for more information.

- On The Road-Leland-Civil War in the Lower Cape Fear with Chris E. Fonvielle, Jr., Ph.D.**
 Dr. Fonvielle, associate professor of history at UNC Wilmington, is teaching a class for Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Pathways this autumn.
 The Cape Fear area was of great importance to the Confederate war effort because of the blockade running trade. To protect its maritime interests, the Confederate government heavily fortified the Cape Fear River. Union army and navy forces attacked the region in 1864-65. This course also takes a close look at the role of Smithville (Southport) and Brunswick County in the conflict.
 The class will be on four consecutive Wednesday evenings, October 20- November 10, from 6:30 to 8:00, in Leland. Members price is \$49, non-members \$69. You can register online at www.uncw.edu/pathways or get more information about memberships and directions by calling (910) 962-3195.

NOTE: Corrections to meeting dates: Tues., Jan. 4th; Tues. May 3rd; Tues. June 7th

Periodicals

There are a number of magazines on the market today about the Civil War, here are a few that can be found in most book stores or online.

The Civil War Courier
www.civilwarcourier.com
 P.O. Box 625, Morristown, TN 37815
 800-624-0281
 Lakeway Publishing Co.

Obtained online and comes in a newspaper format with articles, book reviews, upcoming events, and reenactments around the country and limited articles pertaining to women.

The Citizen's Companion
 1609 W. 1st N. St.
 Morristown, TN 37814
 800-624-0281, ext. 460
 Lakeway Publishing Co.

Comes from the same company as above and targets women and civilians. This is an excellent magazine with a wide range of topics.

Camp Chase Gazette
 1609 W. 1st N. St.
 Morristown, TN 37814
 800-624-0281
 Lakeway Publishing Co.

Same company as above. More information on their website.

America's Civil War
www.thehistorynet.com/acw/
 Weider History Group Publishers

Includes battles, strategies and leaders with photos, artwork and detailed maps.

Civil War Times
www.thehistorynet.com/cwt/
 Weider History Group Publishers

This has a number of recurring departments: Turning points, Irregulars, Gallery (C.W. ancestors) and My War which includes diaries.

Blue & Gray
www.bluegraymagazine.com/

A bimonthly magazine that features the "General's Tour," visits to battlefields, illustrations and commentaries by leading historians (Ed Bearss), etc.

Gettysburg Magazine
www.gettysburgmagazine.net/
Gateway Publishers

Each issue includes an Introduction by Edwin C. Bearrs, Chief Historian Emeritus of the National Park Service.

For a complete collection of magazines and back issues, Google Civil War Magazines, click onto Civil War Magazines and Journal Index.

At October's meeting we will offer a Civil War magazine exchange. Bring in your old, used magazines and a table will be provided; no cost involved, leave some and take some.



In the October 2010 issue of *Civil War Times* magazine, Dana B. Shoaf interviews Susannah Ural (Charter member of BCWRT) about Researches of the Irish and Texans on page 20-21.

Pictures from September's meeting provided by Chuck Roedema.



Dr. Mark Bradley, speaker.
Wally Rueckel, V.P.
Dr. Chris Fonvielle
Sharing C.W. stories



Wally Rueckel, V.P.
Tom O'Donnell, President
Discussing business



Members of the R.T. listening
to Dr. Bradley



Registration table. In the fore-
front: Kathy O'Donnell, 50/50;
Bob Benedict, Treasurer;
wife, Anne Benedict;
Norm Praet, Secretary



Charen Fink helping members
with sign-up sheets.

