



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 TUES., October 4, 2011

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150 YEARS AGO –SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER 1861

- Sept. 2** -- Lincoln requested that Gen'l Fremont “modify” his proclamation of Aug. 30, which had ordained freedom for slaves of rebel owners.
- Sept 3** – Confederate forces under Gen'l Leonidas Polk entered neutral Kentucky. This was a controversial move in that Kentucky had taken no side in the war .
- Sept. 6** – Federals captured Paducah, Ky. This was to counter an expected invasion of Ky. by the Confederates.
- Sept 10** – Engagement at Carnifax Ferry, in the Western Virginia Campaign. Federals struck the Confederates but did not break them.
- Sept 11** – Cheat Mountain Campaign
- Sept 12** – Lexington, Missouri surrendered to Stirling Price’s forces
- October 21** - Battle of Ball's Bluff-- A minor engagement which cost the life of one Lincoln's friends, Edward Baker
- October 24** - Transcontinental Telegraph completed by Western Union

Synopsis of September Speaker

Blockades and Blockade Running—Civil War Style

Steven R. Wise is “hands down” the expert on this subject. We listened in awe as he gave us another look at what we thought we knew. Paraprosdokian is more than just a word—it is an entire concept. Definition: A figure of speech that makes the latter part of a phrase a surprise, causing you to rethink the first part. An example might be: War does not determine who is RIGHT only who is LEFT. Steven’s opening slides made this concept very clear. (You just had to be there). He states that the blockade was an opportunity for the war to keep going. Profit made it work! Ten cents/lb. cotton sold for fifty cents/lb. in England. One successful run allowed you to retire comfortably (\$25 million per roundtrip was possible). Fortunes were made by gutsy “Rhett Butler” type businessmen. Mr. Trenholm was the most successful. He pocketed about \$400 million in today’s dollars. Cotton was king and used as the commodity to be traded for everything to fight a war.

When Steven explained the facts of blockade running, it is no surprise that about 75% of the ships made port. The North learned quickly that to be sure of hitting a runner, you shoot first then call whatever you hit the target. They obviously missed a lot.

A few ships stand out. The *GIBRALTAR* brought two huge Blakely Cannons. These guns were so big they were disguised as smoke stacks. The “unsinkable” *KATE*, while slinking into Wilmington, was discovered and run ashore by the blockaders. They set her afire and claimed her total loss. Three weeks later the Confederates floated her off! The *ELLA and ANNA*, a sleek side wheeler capable of 15 or more knots, was discovered by the *NIPHON*. She almost made port when another blockader opened up with grape shot. The *ELLA and ANNA*, finding herself intercepted, steered directly for the *NIPHON* intent on running her down. She took off her bow

sprit and stern but the blockaders were ready. They immediately boarded her and made the *ELLA* and *ANNA* a prize. She was taken into Northern service to become the flagship of Admiral Porter who later captured Fort Fisher.

Our speaker helped us to see why the blockade runners usually prevailed. “Clyde” built ships were fast, elusive and very innovative (twin propellers, etc.). More advances in design helped tip the scales. Both sides used many ruses and cat/mouse strategies. The effects on the Confederate war effort made the blockade runner absolutely essential. It was a virtual lifeline of necessary military goods right to the bitter end. Ironically, 400,000 pair of shoes arrived in Charleston during March of 1865.

The quintessential “Rhett Butler—Romantic/Shrewd businessman”, who got in early and knew when to fold, Steven says, was not unlike the early bird who got the worm and remembered it is the SECOND mouse who gets the cheese! Thanks to the runners, the Confederates had shoes—just not enough feet left to wear them.
Thank you, Steve, for covering it all. You are an indispensable addition to our Civil War History.

Submitted by Dan Fink

October Speaker: Brian S. Wills, Ph.D.
The Confederacy’s Greatest Cavalryman

**Topic: “*The Confederacy’s Greatest Cavalryman:
Nathan Bedford Forrest*”**

Program overview: Gen. Forrest holds this distinctive title having risen from a hardscrabble life to the South’s legendary military cavalry leader. He was self-educated, an innovative leader, and had a unique gift for military strategy and tactics. He enlisted as a private and rose to Lieut. General and division commander by the end of the war.



Guest presenter: Brian S. Wills, Ph.D. is Director of the Center for the Study of the Civil War Era, and Professor of History at Kennesaw State University in Kennesaw, Ga. Dr. Wills is a renowned Civil War historian, consultant and guide, and a prominent guest lecturer at Civil War Round Tables and seminars around the country. He is a prolific writer on various Civil War topics, including his award-winning biography entitled: “*A Battle From the Start: The Life of Nathan Bedford Forrest.*”

President's Corner

Our program year started off with a bang. You could feel the energy in the room. Steve Wise, award winning Civil War historian and adjunct professor at the University of South Carolina, talked about the union blockade and blockade runners. We had 195 in attendance and signed up 22 new members. Our membership just passed the 300 mark. And most importantly we consumed all of the cookies.

Election/re-election of officers will be held at our December meeting. We are always looking for good leaders to guide our round table. If you are interested in becoming an officer or director please contact Max Williams who is the chair of our nominating committee 910 278 6569 or swilliams@johnheise.com or myself wruECKel@questor.com and we will be glad to talk with you.

We will have a special treat for all of you at our next meeting. Before the meeting we will be showing pictures of some of the artwork created by the Southport Artisans celebrating the Civil War Sesquicentennial. Many of our members posed for these pictures in period attire. You will find this artwork quite interesting and certainly appropriate for our organization.

Our next meeting will be October 4th with Brian S Wills, Ph.D. professor Kennesaw State University in Georgia speaking about probably the most controversial and unpredictable general in the Civil War, General Nathan Bedford Forrest of the Confederate Cavalry. If you never have heard of General Forrest or his exploits you are in for a treat.

Please always feel free to communicate with me or any of our other directors to let us know if you are enjoying our programs or want to give us comments or ideas about things you would like to see.

BCWRT Trip to Richmond

There is still time to make arrangements for the Richmond Battlefield Trip on Oct 16 and 17, 2011. The Seven Days Battles, Cold Harbor and Yellow Tavern battlefields will be visited and explored with noted historian/author R. E. L. Krick. The 1862 Campaign revealed the offensive warrior in R. E. Lee. After Beaver Dam Creek, McClellan had made his decision to give up his thoughts of taking Richmond. Gaines Mill, the largest of the Seven Day Battles, convinced McClellan to seek the safety of his river gunboats on the James. Malvern Hill was the last battle of the campaign and perhaps, one of Lee's bad days, as he charged his men into overwhelming artillery. In the 1864 Campaign, Cold Harbor was one of Grant's bad days. Seeing how close the two lines were to each other will surprise you. At Yellow Tavern, Sheridan had chased down Stuart who was mortally wounded in the engagement. These are all important battles and there is no one better to have talk about them than Mr. Krick Contact: M. Powell at (mpowell6@ec.rr.com) or call 278-3545

The Ladies' Department

Famous Women

Louisa May Alcott (1832-1888): born in Germantown, PA began writing at age 16. Her most successful book for children was *Little Women* in 1868 and 1869. It told about life much like her own. The story continued in *Little Men* (1871) and *Jo's Boys* (1886). The first book which brought her literary recognition was *Hospital Sketches* written about her experiences as a nurse during the Civil War. Due to poor health, a common experience for women nurses, she worked as a nurse for only a month.

Frances Hodgson Burnett (1849-1924): English-born U.S. author moved to Knoxville, TN when she was 16 years old. Her first novel was *That Lass O'Leary's* (1887) was set in England. She also penned: *Little Lord Fauntleroy* (1886), a popular book which set a style for boy's clothing, *A Little Princess* (1905), and *The Secret Garden* (1911).

Susan Brownell Anthony (1820-1906): As a U.S. reformer and women's rights leader, she campaigned to persuade people to demand reforms. Her father was a pioneer campaigner for the abolition of slavery. She spoke against the use of alcohol as well as slavery. In the 1850's she took up a third cause: women's rights. For 50 years, with Elizabeth Cady Stanton, she fought to give women the right to vote and win for them equality in education, work, and marriage.

Medically Speaking

- At the beginning of the Civil War there were only 40 medical schools in the U.S.
- Men who wished to become doctors could do so by serving an apprenticeship with an experienced doctor instead of attending medical school.
- Dysentery and diarrhea were rampant during the War and killed more soldiers than battles did. Camps couldn't provide adequate and safe drinking water and food was often scarce.
- Over 100,000 horses died of illness and exhaustion during the War.
- Whiskey was used to keep wounded soldiers from going into shock.
- Most surgeries performed were amputations.

The Grippe or Flu

Grippe comes from the old French: to seize, grasp and was a term used for a bad cold or influenza. Catarrh is a sinus infection. Croup is an inflammation of the trachea. Treatment would have been mixtures to be swallowed, inhaled or rubbed upon the body. They would have used Epsom salts, tincture of cardamom, aromatic sulfuric acid, bloodroot, calomel, camphor laudanum, rhubarb, peppermint water, magnesia, chalk, opium, belladonna or syrup of tolu.

Sometimes a plaster applied to the chest for bronchitis was the best remedy. A paste of dry mustard mixed with vinegar would be applied to a piece of linen and then covered with another piece of linen followed by a piece of oiled silk to keep the heat in. The purpose was to sweat the poisons out of the body. Another cure was a goose grease and turpentine mixture applied to the patient's chest.

19th Century Condiments

- Kitchen Pepper for fresh meat gravies and sauces consists of black pepper, white pepper, cinnamon, ginger, red pepper, nutmeg, mace and cloves.
- Common mustard consists of flour of mustard, salt and boiling water.

- Lemon Catchup or Pickle is used to flavor fish or other sauces and is made of horseradish, mustard seeds, nutmeg, mace, black pepper, cayenne pepper, lemons, salt, vinegar and cloves.
- Mushroom Catchup has mushrooms, salt, black pepper, cayenne pepper, ginger, cloves and mace.
- Wow wow Sauce is poured over beef and consists of chopped parsley, pickled cucumbers or walnuts, butter, flour, beef broth, vinegar, Port wine or mushroom Catchup and mustard.

Woman's Gloves

Victorian modesty dictated that ladies should wear gloves when going out. They should be clean for church or dancing. They were not worn at all times and removed for eating. They were an essential part of a lady's outerwear. Crochet mitts were popular in the 1840's and out-of-date for the 1860's. An old person clinging to her younger days might still wear them but white kid gloves extending to cover the wrists were the most popular and fashionable gloves.

References

<http://www.visit-gettysburg.com/civil-war-womens-clothing.html>

<http://www.rusticgirls.com/family/civil-war-medical-facts.html>

Misses Fanny & Vera. "Getting a "Grippe" on the Flu", *The Citizen's Companion*, February-March, 2006, Volume XII-Number 6, pg. 17.

"Around the Table-Dining-1860's style", *The Citizen's Companion*, February-March, 2006, Volume XII-Number 6, pg. 30.

McLeish, Kenneth & Valerie. Troll Famous People, Troll Associates, Inc., 1991.

Trivia Questions

- 1) In what county and state was Lincoln born?
- 2) How did Jackson's wife die in 1854?
- 3) What requirement was waived to allow McClellan to enter West Point?
- 4) What lawyer did McClellan meet during 1857 that would later become prominent?
- 5) After which battle did Davis replace Johnston, with Lee?

BOOK REVIEW BY BARBARA LAWTER

Victims, by Phillip Shaw Paludan

In *Victims*, author Paludan explores the compilation of intolerable events that bring humans to turn on each other in vicious and unspeakable ways. The particular event he studies is the massacre in Shelton Laurel, Madison Co., NC in late January 1863, recounting the frustrations that precipitate the execution of 13 civilians, ages 13 to 65, and the torture of their family members, including elderly women, by a Confederate Home Guard Unit, the 64th N.C. Regiment.

Paludan shows that the Confederate Conscription Law, enacted April 16, 1862, only encouraged marauders, self-styled militias, bushwhackers and troops from both sides who were looking for deserters to escalate tensions in western North Carolina and eastern Tennessee, areas already gripped by fear and privation. Men who did not enlist at the outset of the war, mostly poor farmers, were now searched out and impressed, leaving wives, children, livestock and farms vulnerable to roving bands.

Farmers being absent, new crops were not planted, bringing the onset of "grim want" and starvation.

The duty of the men of the 64th was to sweep their own region, capturing or informing on relatives and kin, stealing provisions from those who were formerly neighbors.

Desertions became rampant, and deserters from both armies hid in the hills and caves of the region, scavenging from destitute families, wary of and hunting anyone who might be an enemy. In a terrible irony, citizens saw clearly that they were being forced to fight for a government who claimed to espouse limited government control and minimal invasion into personal lives.

A combination of lack of salt for curing food, frostbite and exhaustion, actions of unchecked guerilla leaders like Lawrence Allen, who forcibly conscripted men and then extorted money for their release, and James Keith, educated, wealthy and ferociously ambitious, ended in a compilation of events including the looting of the bedrooms of Allen's children while they lay dying, whippings and half-hangings, and then the execution of 13 males, at least 2 of whom were teenagers, one father and his two sons, on a hillside outside Shelton Laurel. The men believed they were being taken to a prisoner camp in Knoxville, but the general in charge of this area stated he wanted no more prisoners taken

Remarkably, the supervising General was the minimally competent Henry Heth, fresh from his disappointment at not being allowed to invade Cincinnati and who Paludan describes as growing up in an environment which "fostered the attitude of command, if not the actual talent for it." Within a month of the killings, Heth had escaped western NC and attached himself to Lee's command in Virginia.

Victims may have some lessons for our century regarding the role of government and how quickly civil unrest can become a reality, as we see in Europe and the Middle East. Certainly, a concept of the home grown terrorist is not new to our generation, but was alive and well 148 years ago in North Carolina and Tennessee.

"THE SUTLER'S TABLE"

BOOKS, BCWRT SHIRTS AND CAPS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE SUTLERY TABLE DURING THE OCTOBER MEETING.

The Sutlery has a large selection of books on the Civil War from \$1 to \$30. Some are signed by the author. If you are looking for something specific, email Barbara Lawter barbaralawter@yahoo.com for a complete list. Also, please remember to bring in books and magazines for donation. It's a great way to weed out your own collection and support BCWRT at the same time.....

Trivia Answers

- 1) Hardin County, Kentucky
- 2) She died giving birth to a still born child.
- 3) The minimum age of 15 was waived to allow him to enter
- 4) Abraham Lincoln when he was representing the Illinois Central RR.
- 5) Seven Pines/Fair Oaks

ANNOUNCEMENTS-INFORMATION-OPPORTUNITIES

I would like to encourage all of our members to send me short articles about your family members who served in the Civil War. You may have noticed a couple of our member have already done this and we included it in past Newsletters. I hope you found this interesting. This is a way for all of us to learn more about relative’s of our members who served and experienced the real life hardships and triumphs of the war. Please keep the article to approx 40 lines of print and email them to my attention Par Evans ses07pe@bellsouth.net

Volunteers Welcomed - Anyone who is interested in volunteering to work on various projects for the Round Table please contact wruessel@questor.com. We welcome all volunteers. Some require a little bit of time and others are one time jobs.

BACK TO THE BATTERIES FOR FORT ANDERSON

Our own Jim McKee has asked the Brunswick and Cape Fear Round Tables to help him “recapture” both batteries from the ubiquitous overgrowth of Yaupon and sandspur brought to life by recent rains. Hold Sat. Nov. 12 from 9 to2 or 3 at Fort Anderson. Lunch and coffee break provided. Bring long pants and sturdy shoes as well as a rake of any kind. A gas weed whacker with blade, if you have one, would help. Contact Mike Powell or Dan Fink (330-507-2773). Jim will provide lots of bottled water, wheeled haul away and mounds of gratitude. Sign up at our next meeting.\

FRIENDS OF FORT FISHER

Our initial planning session was attended by many dedicated people focused on one goal –make Fort Fisher the best it can possibly be. Your Roundtable was represented by Dan Fink. Our goal would be to work in conjunction with the Cape Fear Roundtable. Our mission will be to provide volunteer workers for a variety of present and ongoing projects. The group goal is to grow “Friends of Fort Fisher” in numbers, address funding issues and plan for future enhancements. The immediate objective is to replace 900 feet of palisade fencing at a cost of about \$100,000. It is do-able. It is needed. This is but one of many energetic projects.

September 29th, 30th and October 1st the North Carolina Maritime History Council brings its annual conference to Wilmington. The theme for this year, "Wilmington at War: A Military Crossroads", centers around the importance of the Port City during wartime as well as peace time. The keynote address, "Confederate Commerce Raiders" will be delivered by Spencer Tucker, editor, author of 40 books and recipient of several awards for his writing. For a complete list of activities and speakers and to register please go to the Maritime History Council's website at www.ncmaritimehistory.org and click on annual conference.

LOCAL CIVIL WAR INFORMATION

1861: Trinity/Smithville goes to war- in the spring of 1861 what is now Trinity United Methodist Church and Smithville now Southport was bracing for a war that no one doubted was coming. By April Fort Sumter had been fired upon by Confederate troops and President Lincoln declared a blockade of Southern ports affecting both military and commercial vessels and cutting off the economic lifeblood of

Smithville and Wilmington. Members of the Smithville Methodist Episcopal Church (the name Trinity came much later) were outraged, along with the rest of the community.

Lincoln called for troops, Governor John Ellis of North Carolina ordered the seizure of Fort Anderson and Fort Caswell, and the Smithville Guard prepared for war. At one of their formations at Ft Johnston, Annie Sophia Drew, a young lady from the church, delivered a stirring oration to the men urging them to be brave, saying that if they must die to do so facing the enemy. When she finished the unit was given a Confederate flag made by local ladies. There were only two churches in Smithville: Smithville M.E. and St Philips Episcopal. Bethel Baptist was located outside of town on what's now Bethel Church Rd. Many local men from Smithville became members of Company G, 10th Regiment, N.C. Volunteers. The Trinity pastor, Rev. Alexander D. Betts, was urged by the governor to become the chaplain for this unit. He struggled with it, but finally agreed. Rev. Betts would become the head chaplain over several ministers serving the Army of Northern Virginia and was a favorite of Gen. Robert E. Lee.

Before the war was over, many men of Smithville would be killed by hostile fire and disease. Yellow Fever, brought to town by Wilmington residents fleeing an outbreak there, would bring death to residents here. Lt. Edward Ruark, came home on leave, not feeling well, not knowing he had smallpox. He had ridden home on the train beside Rev Betts. Both Ruark and Rev. Betts survived smallpox, but it killed Ruark's mother and a number of others. Another local soldier on the train had dysentery but only made it to Wilmington before he died. Rev. Betts watched many other locals die both on the battle field and in Smithville. The church was used a hospital and later as a barracks after Smithville was captured but the Union army and it was treated with no respect.

Taken from an article by Larry Maisel President Southport Historical Society

BCWRT WEBSITE

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. Also check out the Links page for other organizations involved in Civil War history.

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 receive the e-mail due to incorrect or no e-mail address provided to the club, please contact Kathy O'Donnell at tomkat450sl@yahoo.com. The website is updated frequently so please keep checking in on us.

