



CALL TO ARMS

Brunswick Civil War Round Table

Wally Rueckel, President wrueckrel@questor.com or 910-253-7382
Charen Fink, Newsletter Editor dcftandm@hotmail.com or 910-854-0039
Mike Powell, V.P./ Newsletter co-editor mpowell6@ec.rr.com

May 3, 2011
Volume II, Number

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 (3) tax exempt organization formed in May 2010 by co-founders, Tom O'Donnell and Wally Rueckel with a current membership of 277

Next Meeting Tuesday, May 3, 2011

This month we celebrate our one year anniversary as Brunswick Civil War Round Table. Here are some stats from that first meeting in May 2010. The first speaker was Jack Travis on the guns of Gettysburg. We met in a small upstairs room at Trinity United Methodist Church, sitting on hard unpadded chairs, and no A/C. Just under 90 attended and 57 signing up as members. Now we have 277 members as of the April 2011 meeting. The average attendance is running between 180-250, now sitting on padded chairs, A/V, a spacious room in Murrow Hall, a newsletter and our first tour (Bentonville) behind us. Our membership encompasses many communities with media specialist, Chuck Roedema, publicizing our programs.

In This Issue

Trivia Quiz and Answers	2	Bentonville Tour Highlights	5-6
1865 Happenings	2	Sesquicentennial News	6-7
Synopsis of April Speaker	3	May 1961—150 years ago	7
Officers' Corner	4	President's Corner	7
Members' Corner	5		

Correction to last month's trivia quiz, question #6, the answer is Spotsylvania.

Trivia Quiz

1. Which general was born a twin and was the oldest of 11 children?
2. Which general fathered 11 children after the war, and died in 1879 leaving 10 penniless orphans?
3. In a hotel room in what city did Grant and Sherman plan their 1864 campaign?
4. What was the name of Grant's favorite charger?
5. Who had a horse named Tom Telegraph?
6. Name the last of the Seven Days battles.
7. Approximately how many Confederate prisoners died at Camp Douglas prison?
8. Whose brother Thomas continued to carry his unit's flag even after he was shot in the face?
9. Who became the governor of Rhode Island for the three years following 1865?
10. Later a radical Republican, this former general became governor of Massachusetts and ran for president in 1884. Who is he?

ANSWERS: 1.Nathan Bedford Forrest, 2.John Bell Hood, 3.Cincinnati, 4.Cincinnati, 5.Turner Ashby, 6. Malvern Hill, 7. 6,000, 8. George A. Custer, 9. Ambrose Burnside, 10. Benjamin Butler

1865 Happenings

May 20, 1861 North Carolina secedes from the Union.

- Pres. Lincoln inaugurated for 2nd term
- The Civil War ended.
- Lincoln assassinated.
- 1st railroad train hold-up occurred at North Bend, Ohio
- 1865—Final surrender among remaining Confederate troops.
- Songs: "The Little Brown Church" & "Marching Through Georgia" published.

Synopsis of April's Speaker
Dr. Donald Johnston
Civil War Medicine

CIVIL WAR MEDICINE by DR. DONALD G. JOHNSTON, M.D. M.P.H.

Dr. Johnston gives us new meaning to D.O.D. (Died of Disease). We come to understand why twice as many died from the mighty microbe as were killed by the “Minie” ball. It was a time of miasmas and laudable pus. Popular thinking was “Bad Vapors” were at the root of many medical problems. Amputation became the Civil War trademark due mostly to that “Minie” ball. It is easy to understand why the camps became breeding grounds for disease.

Germ theory arrived in the 1880's. Doctors had very little formal training and few drugs that really worked. The Sanitary Commission was formed to educate the armies in disease prevention. Nevertheless, diarrhea and dysentery were rampant. Smallpox, though, had been conquered and quinine changed world history. Calomel (Mercury Chloride) would certainly “purge” you but eventually cost you your teeth. Laudanum was opium mixed with alcohol killing pain but adding potential addiction. Our Civil War killed more than all previous American Wars combined. Antietam had twice the casualties as D-Day. Add to marginal medical care the new rifled musket, accurate at great range and the carnage multiplies.

Dr. Johnston paints a realistic picture of amputation –quick amputation (about 10 minutes) with a bit of chloroform. This was a volume business with limbs stacked up to five feet high. Very little hygiene or sterility created high odds for infection. Remarkably there was a 75% survival rate. Mosquitoes became the most dangerous animal of the War. In spite of quinine, malaria and yellow fever spread at sometimes epidemic proportions. Typhus, related to a tick bite and “bad water” added another 17% to the overall death toll.

But we spoke enough about gloom. Dr. Johnston points positively to various medical advances. For the first time, adequate medical records were kept. A mass casualty system was formed (triage). Camp Letterman became the first well ventilated and clean pavilion style hospital. It was discovered that speed of wound treatment insured better survival. Miraculously, we stumbled on to the notion of preventing infection, disease and death thru better sanitation and hygiene. Hey, why not let female nurses enter this “hospital” business? This was a great opportunity to upgrade the experience and training of approximately 14,000 physicians. Finally, the Sanitary Commission was formed leading directly to the formation of the American Red Cross.

Dr. Johnston, we thank you for your enlightening and succinct journey down the never straight but always forward looking road about Civil War Medicine. *Submitted by Dan Fink*



Dr. Donald Johnston



Audience listening attentively to Dr. Johnston

Officers' Corner



Lafayette McLaws

Confederate

Date of birth: January 15, 1821

Birthplace: Augusta, Georgia

U.S. Military Academy: Class of 1842 (48/56) Infantry

Pre-war experience: attended University of Virginia, Mexican War, frontier duty, Utah Expedition, resigned from U.S. Army on May 10, 1861

Rank: Major C.S.A., Colonel - 10th Georgia, Brig. General, Major General

Major Battles and Campaigns: Yorktown; Harpers Ferry, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Chickamauga, Knoxville (Division); relieved by Longstreet after Fort Sanders debacle, but exonerated by President Davis; commanded District of Georgia; Carolinas Campaign, surrendered with J.E. Johnston

Post-war achievements: insurance businessman, collector of Internal Revenue, postmaster

Date of death: July 24, 1897

Place of burial: Savannah, Georgia

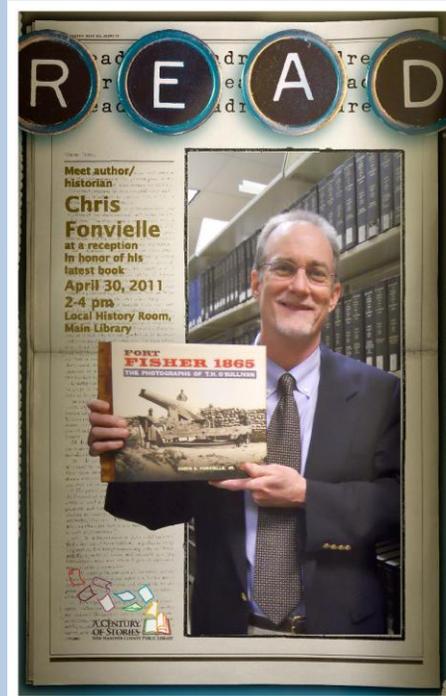
Another general who fought well early in the war, then seemed to be surrounded by controversy. At Chancellorsville, he did nothing on May 4, near Salem Church, and many felt he let an opportunity slip away. His forces fought well in the Peach Orchard and Devil's Den, at Gettysburg. However, a controversy began that claims McLaws received a "sunrise attack order" from Longstreet. Glenn Tucker, in "Lee and Longstreet at Gettysburg", deals with this interesting topic.

He accompanied Longstreet to the west, in 1863, and was relieved by Longstreet after the Knoxville Campaign. Longstreet claims he was not prepared for an assault on Ft. Sanders and exhibited a general lack of cooperation. The Knoxville operations failed and Longstreet called for an investigation. McLaws was supported by Jeff Davis and the investigated vindicated McLaws, which infuriated Longstreet to the point of threatening to resign.

McLaws was sent to Department of Georgia and took part in the Carolinas Campaign of 1865. At Bentonville, Bragg moved McLaws forces from the right wing, preparing for the main offensive strike, to the left flank, to respond to calls from Hoke for help. Hoke held off the Federal attack before McLaws ever arrived with his support. Many Confederate generals, including Johnston, blame Bragg for moving McLaws, and costing them the battle, Despite his conflict with Longstreet, McLaws was known as a competent, if not, commendable, commander.

Submitted by Mike Powell

Our Members' Corner



Dr. Chris Fonvielle's new book, *Fort Fisher 1865*

Bentonville Tour

Life can be full of lost opportunities. That seems to true at The Battle of Bentonville. Twenty-six members of the Brunswick/Cape Fear Round Tables absorbed the history of this site. Mike Powell deserves a huge "Thank You" for providing a great overview, visual references, outline and box lunch for us. It became the last decisive battle between armies of Major General William T. Sherman and General Joseph E. Johnston.

If you have not been there, put it on your Civil War short list. Last year 54,000 fans (reminds me of a NASCAR event) attended the re-enactment. Who knows how many will be there for the 150th in March of 2015. How do 21,000 Confederates almost prevail over 60,000 Union troops? There is no telling what can happen if you have seen enough "Sherman Bow Ties" made of your railroad rails or witnessed the devastation of a thirty-mile swath brutally slashed out of your homeland then marched with an empty belly knowing your family is just as deprived as you are. Can you see how long-time hatreds are built and a fanatical will to prevail is born?

The dynamic duo of site manager, Donny Taylor and Assistant, Derrick Brown pointed the dexterous digit of delicious but dubious digressions throughout their well-seasoned talks. They are masters of juicy tidbits about Bentonville. You just had to be there to find out what happened when General Carlin did a "face plant" into Black Bottom Creek. Maybe you just would like to know more about "the seed corn of the Confederacy?"

We soaked in vast amounts of information not unlike the surgical sponges used to soak up spilled Union, as well as, Confederate blood at the Harper House which served as a makeshift Union hospital.

Yes, there were many lost opportunities on March 19-21, 1865 but don't you, our members, lose an opportunity to visit this important part of history.

Following are some thoughts from your fellow members: "There was no low point on this tour." "All gems of the Civil War history, Donny and Derrick are absolute fountains." Or, "Get the vision—brother might be fighting brother, it was very humbling." "So futile but they fought so bravely." From some females: "Wow, so much information, I just soaked it up." How about this: "It was uniqueness squared." "Very moving, a real eye opener filled with true gems." "Where else can you buy peach-scented candles made from a Civil War recipe?" Finally: Dan, my great-grandfather lived and fought not far from here. Now I can close my eyes and see the battle thru the eyes of my ancestor."

Thanks again to Mike Powell for sharing his knowledge base about Bentonville and organizational skills. We were given a packet of maps to follow while he gave a history of the battle while enroute to the site.



Mike Powell and Wally Rueckels at one of the Bentonville tour stops

Sesquicentennial News

May 7-8—Roanoke County, VA—Civil War Homes Then and Now. Tour of Civil War homes including Jubal Early's Homeplace. Tickets are \$15/person. (540) 387-6078 ext.251 or go to www.RoanokeCountyParks.com

Here are lists of websites to contact for more info about upcoming sesquicentennial events:

- ◆ Fairfax County, VA—www.fxva/150/brochure (try .org or .edu or .com) the ending was not listed.
- ◆ Gettysburg—www.gettysburgcivilwar150.com
- ◆ Harrisburg, PA—www.msccivilwar150.com
- ◆ North Carolina—<http://nc-historical-publications.stores.yahoo.net/> and www.ncculture.com

Museums to visit:

- ◆ The National Museum of Civil War Medicine, 48 East Patrick St., Frederick, MD
- ◆ Pry House Field Hospital Museum, 18096 Shepherdstown Pike, between Sharpsburg & Keedysville, MD Info: 3010695-1864 or civilwarmed.org

History Tours:

- ◆ June 1-4—Blackbeard and the Pirates of the Chesapeake including Ocracoke Island, Bath, Beaufort, the *Queen Anne's Revenge* site. Hampton, VA
- ◆ June 22-25—Fredericksburg: a comprehensive walking tour including the Slaughter Pen, Marye's Heights, the Mud March, and Kelly's Ford.

Shows:

- ◆ Columbia Civil War Show, SC State Fairgrounds, Columbia, SC—June 11, 2011

Re-enactments:

- ◆ May 21-22—Spotsylvania, VA—The Battles of Spotsylvania. This event is limited to 500 spectators. Speakers, sutlers, living historians, skirmishes and more. Go to www.spotsylvania.org

MAY 1861—150 YEARS AGO

- May 6---Arkansas and Tennessee legislatures pass Secession Ordinances
The Confederacy recognizes state of war against the United States
- May 10---St. Louis troops and civilians riot.
- May 13---Ben Butler and U.S. troops occupy Federal Hill in Baltimore
- May 20---The Provisional Congress of the Confederacy voted to move the
Capital from Montgomery, Alabama to Richmond
- May 24---Federal troops enter Virginia and occupy Alexandria, Va.

President's Message

