

BRUNSWICK CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

MEETING – April 4, 2017

“THE NATIONAL CIVIL WAR MUSEUM TREASURES”

SPEAKER: Wayne Motts, CEO

What an honor to be visited by Wayne. He is a lifelong historian emersed from childhood in history by his Dad, Warren. Dad is the founder and director of Motts Military Museum in Groveport, Ohio. Why not Google it, my fellow history “trekies!” You will be in for a treat.

We thought, at first, Wayne was “As nervous as a long tail cat in a room full of rocking chairs.” We quickly learned he was just bubbling over with facts and artifacts just screaming to be shared. Wayne is knowledgeable, respected and focused on the concept that “Every day is a history lesson!” He focuses on fairness to both sides, captures North Carolina’s involvement in the war and shared 18 priceless artifacts with us. If you visited the museum in the early days, the first day of each month was “Christmas” as they opened another box of donated artifacts. The unknown contents were always a pleasant surprise. That collection has now grown to over 21,000 items.

Your humble writer believes as you do that, learning is a lifetime event. Shall we learn about some of those 18 artifacts?

John Brown was captured by Robert E. Lee and JEB Stuart. He was sentenced to death and left behind 20 children and two wives. The pen used to sign the warrant is there. The seven-star flag that was flown over Fort Sumter is displayed. There is only ONE surviving hat tally from the Monitor and you know where to find it.

YA just had to be there to see that uniquely unusual object found in West Point Grad Charles Redington Mudges’ mess kit! (It was tasteful)

Benjamin Greigerson pulled off the successful diversion that made victory at Vicksburg possible. His reward was a one-of-a-kind handmade revolver.

The blood stained Bible of Henry Fuller speaks to the horror of war and is displayed with the Bible Lee carried throughout the war. On February 21, 1865 the last edition of “The Daily Journal” (Wilmington, NC) was published under Confederate hands. You just know what the headlines were. Josh Chamberlin has 274 handwritten and signed letters there. It is the largest such collection anywhere. YA just had to be there to find out what other unusual item he signed! (You get a two for one special this month)

Last, and most unforgettable for both sides to be displayed, are not one but two playbills from Ford’s theatre on that fateful night.

Wayne implores us to do all we can for preservation. We can attack this on three fronts: preserve land –preserve buildings/structures –preserve artifacts. You owe it to yourself and your love of history to visit Wayne’s “one of a kind” museum. You won’t regret it (Your writer sure doesn’t).

Submitted by Dan Fink