



# Call to Arms

Brunswick Civil War Round Table Newsletter

## The President's Corner by John Butler



Have you recently taken a look at our website, [brunswickcivilwarroundtable.com](http://brunswickcivilwarroundtable.com)? We have made several changes. Our photo for the main page has been updated and the photo gallery has been given a new look. I want to thank Len Trizinsky and Trish Greene for all of their hard work in making our website fresh and relevant.

If you were able to attend the Fort Fisher night tour on January 15 you got a rare treat with Dr. Fonvielle. He did his usual great job and you got to get a sense of what it was like for all of the soldiers who fought this important night action. If

you were not able to make this tour, the Cape Fear Round Table is conducting the same type of night with Dr Fonvielle on February 8. Please see details on [Page 4](#) if you are interested in attending. This tour is so popular that we will do one of these tours every year with Dr. Fonvielle.

Get ready for an action-packed couple of months. On February 4, Kevin Pawlak will discuss the Battle for Second Manassas. In March, we will bring back Judkin Browning and Timothy Silver to do another one of their funny and interesting presentations. This time the subject is "Weaponizing Food." Next, the Ladies' Forum will have their meeting on Monday, March 10, at Trinity United Methodist Church in Southport. Local re-enactor Liz Fuller will make a presentation as Mary Duffy. On March 15 and 16, Bentonville will have its 160<sup>th</sup> Celebration and reenactment. Finally, to wrap up the month, the BCWRT will be conducting a tour of the Bentonville Battlefield with Wade Sokolosky on March 22. In May, we will be celebrating our 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Remember, if you cannot come to a meeting personally, you can always find us on Zoom. Links are in the newsletter and meeting announcements.

If you miss a meeting, you can view it on our website by going to our YouTube tab two weeks after the presentation. We have all of our presentations since COVID on our YouTube page.

*John*

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# BCWRT Upcoming Events

**Tuesday, February 4, 2025 Program**

## “Never Such a Campaign: The Battle of Second Manassas

The Second Battle of Manassas, also known as the Second Battle of Bull Run, was a brutal and bloody affair that shattered the early optimism of the Union and emboldened the Confederacy. The battle allowed Gen. Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia to cross the Potomac into the North for the first time, becoming a turning point in the Civil War.

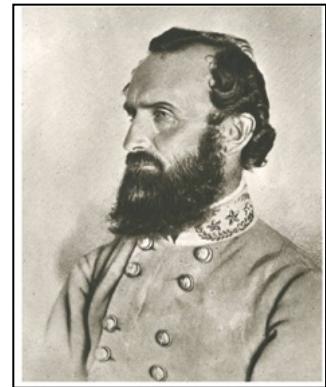


This second battle was fought August 28 – 30, 1862, a battle of much larger scale and numbers than the first. Despite heavy Confederate casualties (9,000), it was a decisive victory for the rebels as Lee managed a strategic offensive against Union forces under Maj. Gen. John

Pope's Army of Virginia, an enemy force twice the size of his own. The armies who met at this second battle were more experienced, battle scarred and hardened than their peers in the first battle in 1861. The forces were larger, the troops better trained, the officers more prepared, and the tactics more ruthless and proficient. New developments in weaponry made warfare more

dangerous, as rifles and artillery could be fired with greater precision. The human toll was greater, especially among the North with over 14,000 casualties. The exhausted Confederate troops showed little remorse toward the enemy. They were numbed by the atrocities they had witnessed.

To briefly summarize the incredible trauma during this period must include Confederate Maj. Gen. Thomas J. “Stonewall” Jackson’s surprise attack on the Union supply depot propelling the Union army into disarray, forcing a desperate retreat. A fierce stand by Union troops near Groveton crossroads bought time for the rest of the army to withdraw, but at a heavy cost. The fighting continued for days, with soldiers exhausted and desperate. By the end of the third day, the Union lines faltered, retreating across Bull Run under the cover of darkness. This second loss for the Union at Bull Run resulted in the Lincoln administration’s dismissal of Pope from command as Lee continued his march northward.



Guest presenter Kevin Pawlak's noteworthy credentials include Historic Site Manager for the Prince William Preservation Division, Licensed Battlefield Guide at Antietam National Battlefield, a Board member of the Shepherdstown Battlefield Preservation Association, and the Save Historic Antietam Foundation.

Kevin is also the author of: *“Shepherdstown in the Civil War: One Vast Confederate Hospital”* and *“The Heaviest Blow Yet Given the Confederacy”*, as well as *“The Emancipation Proclamation Changes the Civil War”* in the forthcoming Turning Points of the Civil War, part of Emerging Civil War's "Engaging the Civil War Series."

You are encouraged to attend the meeting either in person or via Zoom.

If participating via Zoom, simply use the following link:

<https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/85923685158?pwd=7kyWhhIAQFaBxLbDxNtNIHBUIryynqk.i>

**Meeting ID:** 859 2368 5158

**Passcode:** 109088

# Ladies' Forum

## The Ladies' Forum

Monday, March 10, 2025

6:00 - 8:00 pm

Murrow Hall at Trinity United Methodist Church  
Nash St., Southport

*Liz Fuller Presents*

*Mrs. Mary Duffy*



We invite you to meet Mrs. Mary Duffy, a tavern owner in Smithville during the 1800s. Mary is a widow whose only grandson fought for the Confederacy. She has a wealth of stories about life in Smithville (Southport's original name until 1887) during the War of Southern Independence. During those difficult years, she and her friends experienced numerous hardships. Mary is looking forward to telling you tales of the spirit, resolve, and determination of Smithville's women.

*Liz Fuller is the President of the Southport Historical Society where she speaks on a wide range of topics relating to Southport's history. She is the author of the recently published book, Southport's Secret Suffragist: The Story of Anna Alene Clemons.*

We are also pleased that our March Ladies' Forum will feature **Carolee Morris** whose long interest in history has included graduate studies as well as oratorical and speaking contests. Carolee will be reading a selection from Mark Twain's Tom Sawyer. The selected story, its time frame, subject matter, and Twain's inimitable humor jibe with Liz Fuller's well-chosen topic.

*The Ladies' Forum is for women only and is a free event each year for members of BCWRT.  
Guests are always welcome and pay only \$5. Light refreshments are served.*

*Reservations are strongly recommended.*

*Please contact BCWRT at [brunswickcwrt@gmail.com](mailto:brunswickcwrt@gmail.com) to sign up.*

*There will also be a sign-up table near the stage with Robbin Smith before our next meeting.*



# Fort Fisher Tour, January 15, 2025

The weather was cool, but the sky was clear for our first tour of the new Fort Fisher Visitor Center and the earthworks led by our local expert and BCWRT Advisor, Dr. Chris Fonvielle. The tour started inside and then moved outdoors while the sun was beginning to set.



The weather was similar to when the actual second Battle of Fort Fisher occurred, January 13-15, 1865. We even had a moon that was full, just as it was at the time of the battle.



These photos are from the first tour, held January 15, and another tour was held the following evening, allowing additional people to participate. We plan to make this tour an annual event, perhaps conducting it in a warmer weather month!

*Yelena Howell, President of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table, announced that they will be having a tour led by Dr. Chris Fonvielle on **Saturday, February 8, starting at 4:00 pm**. BCWRT members may join, space permitting.*

*You can reserve a spot by sending a message to [CapeFearRT@gmail.com](mailto:CapeFearRT@gmail.com). Spots are \$20 each, payable in advance to Y.B. Howell. Payments are non-refundable unless CFCWRT must cancel or reschedule the event to a date that will not work for you.*

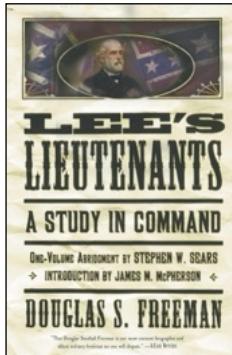
# Favorite Civil War Books - Ted Savas

Emerging Civil War asked members of their community to share their favorite Civil War books. The books were put into one master list [which you can see here](#).

This is the list provided by Emerging Civil War's good friend, publisher Ted Savas of [Savas Beatie](#), LLC.

*The phrase "So little time, so many books" is doubly true if you are also a publisher. Picking five favorites is damn near impossible, but let me give it a quick try. Here they are, in no particular order.*

Ted Savas

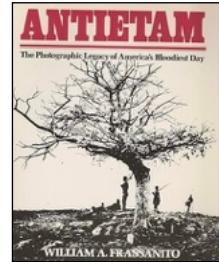


**Lee's Lieutenants:  
A Study in Command  
3 vols.  
Douglas Southall Freeman**

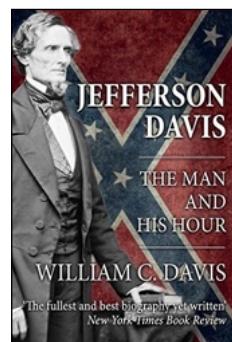
My grandfather brought home a pummeled rummage-sale copy of the first volume. Why, I have no idea. It was my first Civil War book. I was about 12. Who knew. I read it aloud walking along the lilac-studded northern boundary of our Iowa property. After a steady barrage of questions, my mother tired of the game and dropped a dictionary on a basswood stump. I got the message: do your own research. I spent the next week living with a cadre of men I would never meet, challenging myself as I flipped through a fat Webster's imagining another time and place. To this day I still smell sweet lilac whenever someone mentions the Battle of Malvern Hill. I remember how excited I was when I discovered there were three volumes in the series. I devoured the stirring Introduction and first chapter of vol. 2 leaning against the sun-warmed polished granite of the Union soldier's memorial obelisk in our small Central Park, and the third in the back of a Dodge station wagon and on the stoop of a brownstone in Brooklyn, NY. The colossal scope of the Civil War began to dawn on me. My grandfather's dime was a small price to pay for a lifetime of passion.

**Antietam: The Photographic Legacy of America's Bloodiest Day**  
by William Frassarito

I have been a member of the History Book Club since the 1970s. This was one of my favorite and early purchases. Like a car accident, it is impossible to turn away from the visuals. It also introduced me to my favorite campaign. This is a hard book to put down and an incredibly poignant read.

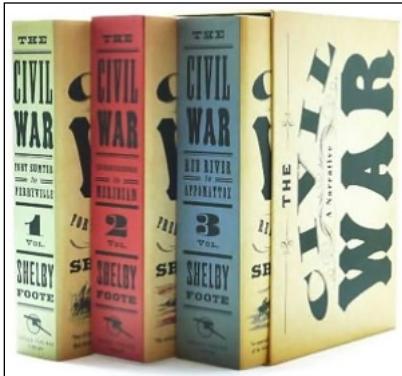


**Jefferson Davis: The Man and His Hour** by William C. Davis



Jack Davis is a good friend, and I think this is his best book. I have read it at least twice and know firsthand that writing biography is incredibly difficult. This intimate examination of Davis, warts and all, is simply first-rate and often reads like a novel. It gave me a much better understanding of the Confederate chief executive, especially who he was before the war, and why he was who he was. If you are going to read one Southern biography, make it this one.

# Favorite Civil War Books - Ted Savas



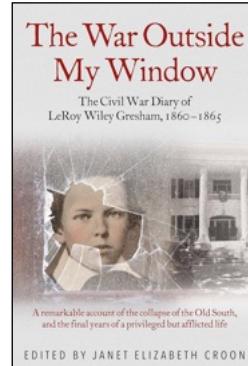
## ***The Civil War: A Narrative, 3 vols. by Shelby Foote***

I had this set for years and hauled them house-to-house unread until the mid 1980s, when I hurt my back so bad I couldn't get out of bed for several weeks and thought it was a good opportunity to give them a try. Yes, they lean a little on the Southern side and no, they don't have footnotes. But the writing is exquisite, and the flow, cadence, and coverage is magnificent. There are many reasons to recommend this set to everyone. The primary reason I recommend it to people who want to learn more about the war is so they can understand its sweeping nature and better grasp what it is they enjoy and what areas of study they would like to drill down into.

If you have not yet tackled this set, what are you waiting for?

The Civil War is one of the most documented events in American History. There have been more than 60,000 books written about it covering a wide range of subjects and views, fiction and non-fiction. Having lists of favorite books from the Emerging Civil War community may help you find your next selection.

***The War Outside My Window:  
The Civil War Diary of LeRoy Wiley  
Gresham, 1860 to 1865***  
**Janet E. Kroon, editor**



I've published hundreds of books, and love most of them, but this one gripped my heart from the beginning and won't let go. Part of it is because I was so deeply involved in the process and wrote most of the footnotes because Jan is more of a genealogist than a military historian. That was part of the deal, and I readily accepted it.

LeRoy was a tortured soul--a man living in a boy's dying body. His diary put flesh on the bones of the members of his home, none of whom we would know much of anything about today if not for his desire to chronicle his own troubled life and times. Just as Downton Abbey covered the pinnacle of the estate class in England (the Irish/servants downstairs and family upstairs) and its subsequent decline, so too does LeRoy's journal, starting at the top of the slave-holding aristocracy and running, almost daily, right through its collapse. It is the only full account we have of the entire war as seen from inside a slave-holding family's home.

I often pick it up and read some of the entries. I think this might be the most important book I have ever published.

# Famous Civil War Recipe

## Abraham Lincoln's Favorite Cake - A Cake Worth Marrying For

The recipe claims Mary Todd Lincoln baked this cake for Abraham before they were married. He declared it “the best in Kentucky” and, well, the rest is history.

Curious to see if this cake lives up to its reputation? Luckily for us, all of the ingredients and measurements in the original cake are ones that we can follow today. Plus, you already have all of these in your pantry, so why not give it a try? After all, it's not every day you get to bake - and taste - a slice of history.

Yield: One 10" Bundt Cake



### Ingredients for the Cake:

3 cups sifted all-purpose flour  
3 tsp baking powder  
1/4 tsp salt  
1 cup butter  
1 1/2 tsp vanilla extract  
1/4 tsp almond extract  
1 cup sugar  
1 cup milk  
1 1/4 cup (about 7 oz) toasted, blanched almonds, finely chopped  
6 egg whites  
1 cup sugar  
1/2 cup candied cherries, finely chopped (optional)

### Instructions:

1. Grease the bottom only of a 10-inch tubed pan. Line with waxed paper cut to fit the bottom; grease the waxed paper. Set aside.
2. **Make the cake:** Sift flour, baking powder, and salt together. Cream butter with extracts. Add 1 cup sugar gradually, creaming until fluffy. Beating only until smooth after each addition, alternately add dry ingredients in fourths and milk in thirds to the creamed mixture. Stir in almonds.
3. Beat egg whites until frothy; add 1 cup sugar gradually, beating until stiff peaks are formed. Gently fold meringue into batter just until blended. Turn batter into prepared pan and spread evenly.
4. Bake at 350 degrees for about 1 hour, or until the toothpick test comes out clean.
5. Remove from the oven and cool for 15 minutes in the pan on a wire rack. Remove from the pan and cool completely.
6. **Make the Fluffy White Frosting:** Combine all frosting ingredients except extract in the top of a double boiler. Set over boiling water and beat with a hand rotary or electric beater for about 8 minutes, or until soft peaks are formed when the beater is lifted upright.
7. Remove from water and add extract; beat 1 minute.
8. Frost completely cooled cake with Fluffy White Frosting. Decorate with candied cherries.

### Ingredients for the Frosting:

1 cup sugar  
1/2 tsp cream of tartar  
Pinch of salt  
1/3 cup water  
1 egg white  
1 tsp vanilla extract

Adapted by Emily Lichy on Allrecipes.com. Recipe adapted from the 1974 "American Family Cookbook" - New Revised Edition. Shared by Robbin Smith

# Women in the Civil War

## Belle Boyd Starts Her Work as a Confederate Spy

Most Civil War espionage was pretty amateurish but to Belle Boyd, spying was an exciting child's game for she was only 17 when the war began. She had lived for most of her life in Martinsburg in the northern part of the Shenandoah Valley near Harper's Ferry. When some Union soldiers got drunk on July 4, 1861, and came to Boyd's home to take down rebel flags allegedly displayed on the walls there, Belle shot and killed one of the invaders. She was acquitted and went free.

She then kept herself busy sending the Confederates written information about the Federal troops whose strength and movements she could easily observe. She was trapped by her own



amateurishness, for she made no attempt to use a code or cipher or even to disguise her handwriting. When one of her messages was intercepted, she was again arrested and tried. Again, as a young girl she was allowed to go free. She promptly became even more attractive and carried messages through the lines to areas farther from home.

She was in Front Royal when "Stonewall" Jackson began moving his army north. Staying in the same cottage was G.W. Clarke, British-born correspondent of the New York Herald. According to Belle, this reporter for a Yankee newspaper had made improper advances toward her. She was soon to play the leading role in a Victorian melodrama by helping the Confederates and at the same time get even with Clarke.

*From Secret Missions of the Civil War by Philip Van Doren Stern, Shared by Robbin Smith.*

## Elizabeth Van Lew, Union Spy



Raised in a wealthy slave-holding family in Richmond, Virginia, Elizabeth Van Lew developed strong abolitionist sympathies as a young adult, particularly after attending a Quaker school in Philadelphia. After her father's death in 1843, Van Lew convinced her brother to free their enslaved workers,

many of whom stayed on as paid servants.

When war broke out, Van Lew and her mother began visiting Union soldiers held in Richmond's brutal Libby Prison, bringing them clothing, food, and medicine. She helped men escape, smuggled out letters for them and gathered valuable information about Confederate strategy from both prisoners and guards.

In late 1863, Union General Benjamin Butler recruited Van Lew as a spy; she soon became the head of an entire espionage network based in

Richmond. With the help of her servants - including Mary Bowser, a spy in her own right - Van Lew sent coded messages to Union officers, often using invisible ink and hiding the dispatches in hollowed-out eggs or vegetables.

She convinced new members to join her covert ring, including a high-ranking official at Libby Prison. When Richmond fell to Union forces in April 1865, Van Lew brazenly flew the Stars and Stripes above her home, drawing even more ire from her scornful neighbors.

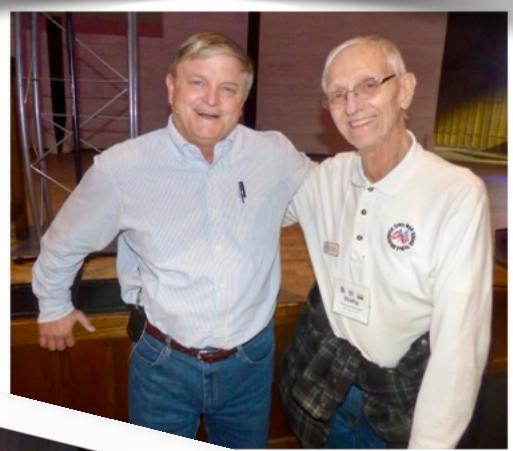
By war's end, Van Lew had become a pariah in her own community but earned the respect of General Ulysses S. Grant who appointed her postmaster of Richmond. She spent her final days in poverty, having used up her family's entire wealth on espionage activities. The family of a Union officer she had assisted during the war - who happened to be the grandson of Paul Revere - provided for her until her death in 1900.

*From history.com, Secret Agents in Hoop Skirts*

# Meeting Photo Gallery



Scenes from our January meeting with Guest Speaker, Wade Sokolosky. "North Carolina's Confederate Hospitals."



# Meeting Photo Gallery



# Board Notes & Local Events

## Notes from the January 2025 Board of Directors Meeting

1. Our balance as of the end of November is \$7,082.
2. Our January meeting was the best attended of our program year: 363 in person and 48 via Zoom
3. The Bentonville tour will be held the week after the March 15-16 reenactment.
4. Tours next year will be local and include Fort Fisher, Fort Caswell, and Fort Anderson.
5. The speaker program for next year is being worked on and may include another impersonator.
6. \$1,000 for this year's scholarship will be sent to UNCW soon, although the scholarship will not be awarded until May.

*Our next Board meeting is Tuesday, February 11, 2025. Meetings are held monthly to discuss items that will make our round table more interesting, run better, and keep our membership engaged. President John Butler leads the two-hour meeting that includes interested Advisors and members. The meetings are held at Trinity United Methodist Church in Southport one week following our gathering at Hatch and begin at 10:00 am. If you wish to attend or have suggestions for the Board, please contact John at [jbutler2007@gmail.com](mailto:jbutler2007@gmail.com).*

## Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

### "Triumph and Defeat: The Vicksburg Campaign"

Control of the Mississippi River was vital to the economic and military interests of both the North and South during the Civil War. By late summer of 1862 only Vicksburg, MS, and Port Hudson, LA, posed major obstacles to Union domination of the river. With the capture of these two posts in July 1863, the North reestablished control of the river. A joyous President exclaimed, "The Father of Waters again goes unvexed to the sea."

Our speaker is Terrence Winschel, the retired chief historian of the Vicksburg National Military Park. Mr. Winschel retired in 2012 following a career of 35 years with the National Park Service, most of which he served as Historian at Vicksburg National Military Park. He also served at Gettysburg National Park, Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania County Battlefields National Military Park, and Valley Forge National Historic Park. His books include Triumph & Defeat: The Vicksburg Campaign, Vols. I and II, Vicksburg is the Key: The Struggle for the Mississippi River, and The Civil War Diary of a Common Soldier.

February 13, 2025, 7:00 pm

St John's Episcopal Church  
1219 Forest Hills Dr., Wilmington

## Southport Historical Society Program

### 13th Annual Brunswick County Black History Symposium

#### **The Story of Celia Lee Galloway, Widow, United States Colored Troops**

Hear the life story of Southport's Celia Galloway, widow of Pvt. Abram Galloway, 37th Regiment, Company I.

Opening Night February 7th at 6 pm

Doors open at 5:30

Southport Community Building

223 E. Bay St.

Admission is free

Reservations Required.

For free tickets see <http://www.southporthistoricalsociety.org/>



# Muster Notes and Notables

**The February BCWRT meeting is Tuesday, February 4, 2025.  
Hatch Auditorium, NC Baptist Assembly, Fort Caswell, Oak Island, NC.  
See page 2 for details to attend via Zoom.**

**Registration begins at 6:15 pm and the meeting starts promptly at 7:00 pm.**

**Mail Dues Checks to:** BCWRT, PO Box 10161, Southport, NC. 28461.  
(Please include your current phone number, street address, and email.)

## 2025-2026 Officers, Directors, and Advisors

John Butler: President & Director

Ann Birdsall: VP & Director

Jim Dunn: VP & Director

Jennifer Chapman: Secretary & Director

Tom Kehoe: Treasurer & Director

Bruce Jordan: Director

Chuck Roedema: Director

Gar Dowell: Advisor

Charen Fink: Advisor

Chris Fonvielle: Advisor

Jim McKee: Advisor

Chris Mackowski: Advisor

Skip Maxwell: Advisor

Roy Pender: Advisor

Wally Rueckel: Advisor

Wade Sokolosky: Advisor

Robbin Smith: Advisor

Len Trzinski: Advisor

John Wall: Advisor

Angela Zombek: Advisor

## Connect with us



We Welcome Your Suggestions for our Speakers, Website, Meeting Procedures, Membership Retention, etc.

BCWRT is a 501 (c) (3) tax exempt organization,  
co-founded by Tom O'Donnell and Wally Rueckel and organized in May 2010.

**Call to Arms** Editor: Jennifer Chapman ([jennifer.chapman3@icloud.com](mailto:jennifer.chapman3@icloud.com))