



Call to Arms

Brunswick Civil War Round Table Newsletter

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER - MIKE POWELL



"Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart."

Volunteers are a special breed. Folks that volunteer are usually volunteers in more than one organization. They care, and they are willing to do more than just talk about it. They act, they come off the sidelines and get involved in projects that have meaning to them and their community. These projects are in the public good, and without the volunteers, would probably not get done. Some folks bring expertise to the job, some bring a contagious enthusiasm, and they all bring a desire to help out any way they can. They leave their egos at the door.

For some time now, our Board of Directors tried to come up with a way to thank our volunteers. We thought about just writing each a check for \$10,000, but that is so impersonal. We have some ideas for an activity in the spring, a much more personal touch than just hard cash. However, I wanted to thank our volunteers in a very small way now, and in the next couple months by recognizing their efforts in the newsletter. These folks arrive at the Hatch Auditorium between 5 and 6 p.m. and work right through until everyone is seated and the program begins. While the rest of us are enjoying the talk, many of them are still working. And guess who are the last to leave every meeting? Yep, the volunteers. Look to the newsletter in the next couple of months for photos of these hard working folks.

At the December meeting we will hold our annual election of officers. I am happy to say that the same group of members have agreed to serve another term. Thank you all for your past service and future service.

I am now in the process of setting up our 2019 speaker schedule...yes, 2019. The 2018 schedule is in the bag already and is a mix of some favorites, as well as some new names. I can tell you we will have one of the elite Lincoln historians of our generation in May 2019 - Harold Holzer.

I would certainly be remiss if I did not mention the retirement of one of Southport's great citizens, great volunteer and just good people. Mary Strickland, who with her husband Wayne, founded, nurtured, and succeeded in bringing a first-class maritime museum to Southport. I serve on the board of directors for the Friends of the Maritime Museum and with her retirement, in December, there is a lot of reminiscing about the humble beginnings of the museum on Howe Street. The work, the struggles, and the ultimate success are a remarkable story and piece of the city's history. It would be difficult to think of another organization that has had such an impact on modern Southport. They are now in the DNA of that fine little city. Wally Rueckel and Tom O'Donnell sought out Mary for advice when they were forming the BCWRT. So, if you are in the area, before Dec. 11, stop in and thank Mary for all she has done. She will tell you she could not have done it without the volunteers.

Mike

Expert on Carolinas Campaign Examines Role of NC Hospitals



The Civil War's final months brought combat on an unprecedented scale to the Tar Heel State as Confederate forces desperately tried to turn back invading Union armies. In the wake of this violent struggle, several thousand wounded Confederate soldiers overwhelmed North Carolina's 24 military hospitals located across the state. Despite transportation inefficiencies and supply shortages, the Confederate Medical Department and scores of women volunteers succeeded in treating an enormous number of patients. This little discussed topic will be the focus of our December meeting, Tuesday, December 5, when Colonel (Ret.) Wade Sokolosky returns as guest speaker. His provocative presentation is entitled, "Kiss Him for His Mother: Confederate Hospitals in North Carolina in 1865."

As background, of the approximately 620,000 soldiers who died in the war, two-thirds of these deaths were not the result of enemy fire, but of a force stronger than any army of men: disease. Combating disease as well as treating the legions of wounded soldiers pushed Americans to rethink their theories on health, and develop efficient practices to care for the sick and wounded. For medical practitioners in the field during the war, germ theory, antiseptic (clean) medical practices, advanced equipment, and organized hospitalization systems were virtually unknown.

Numerous hospital centers developed rather early in various parts of the southern Confederacy. One of the most typical of such centers was located in Raleigh, North Carolina. It was centrally located and easily accessible by rail, and located some distance from the main

fighting. Shortly thereafter, additional large general military hospitals were located in Charlotte, Fayetteville, Goldsboro, Salisbury, Wake Forest, Wilson and Wilmington, in addition to smaller, temporary wayside hospitals that sprang up along railroad lines. Between 1861-1865, at least thirteen general hospitals and seven wayside hospitals were established offering food, bandages or medicine to soldiers traveling home on furlough or back to the army.

Guest speaker Wade Sokolosky is one of North Carolina's leading experts of the 1865 Carolinas Campaign, and has lectured throughout the state, speaking to roundtables, historical societies and organizations and at historical sites. He is also the winner of the Civil War Books and Authors Best Books of the Year Award for 2015 in the "Battle Campaign Histories - Eastern Theater" category.



As usual, the meeting will take place at Hatch Auditorium on Ft Caswell. Registration and refreshments begin at 6:15 p.m. with the program starting promptly at 7 p.m. The guest fee is \$10, and can be applied toward the \$25 annual membership dues.

For more information about the BCWRT or the upcoming meeting, contact president Mike Powell at (910) 278-3545, or email to mikepowell260@gmail.com. Our website is Brunswickcivilwarroundtable.com. You can also visit our Facebook page for additional information and updates.

Avoidable Tragedy or Irrepressible Conflict

Review of Will Greene's November 7 Presentation — By Dan Fink

Will gets straight to the point of it. Slavery is the central theme. It is a monster in the midst of the only Representative Democracy in existence at that time. The statement that the Negro is inferior to a white person is just wrong. The abolitionist is pressing this point. Jeff Davis is saying "leave us alone." Abe Lincoln says stick to our young Democracy and bind the nation as one.

Will tells us not to spend a minute thinking Southerners were fighting for a way of life. He points out that every State ordinance of secession has slavery as a main reason for leaving the Union. The future of slavery was addressed in 1787. The importation of slaves was to end by 1808. It doesn't say anything about that one-eighth of the present population who are slaves forever and count as three-fifths of a person.

Attempts were made to keep slave and free states equal. The Missouri Compromise was such an animal (Missouri = slave state; Maine = free). There was no climate of reason or good will.

Ya just had to be there to hear the Jeff Davis quote about slavery and a wolf!

The compromise plan did not work. Compensation to slave owners was not workable. Abolitionists were almost "radicalized." Tempers raged in Congress as well as nationwide. (The abolitionist Senator Charles Sumner was beaten almost to death by a Southern house member with a cane.) Race was a key. Slavery is for life and raised the issue of how to "race control" four million "racially inferior people." Some suggested relocation to Africa. It proved expensive and had low participation.

Will suggests critical change came in the 1830s with the American Anti-Slavery Society and its Declaration of Sentiments written by William Lloyd Garrison. While professing non-violence in opposing slavery, it "blew the lid off" by saying absolutely no compensation be given. This said that: 1) Man can't hold property in man; 2) Slavery is a crime; and 3) He is not an article to be sold.

Garrison's plan, Will says, had a fatal flaw—it demonized ALL Southern slave owners from George Washington to Jeff Davis. The unexpected consequences were that this caused contempt for the ENTIRE South. This went on for thirty years. The abolitionists became increasingly large in number. They would point to 700,000 free blacks and two million slaves. This was "shaking the tree" of our fragile young Democracy and testing our Constitution. The Whig party was shaken to its roots and a new party - the Republicans - was formed. The issues of the Fugitive Slave Act and the Dred Scott decision (does a black man have the right to sue? etc.) and Abe Lincoln's "A house divided" speech made it clear we could not continue as a nation half slave and half free.

Enter a "madman" – John Brown. His central purpose at Harper's Ferry in 1859 was to launch a slave rebellion. His death made him a martyr in the North and a threat to the South. Will says the time for debate is over. Lincoln won in 1860 by 39% of the popular vote. Not one Southern state did he win. Fort Sumter was soon bombarded and a horrible war was started. The South lost an entire generation of young men and understandably would call it "The War of Northern Aggression."

The positive outcome was the 13th Amendment and preservation of a very fragile democracy.

Will says everything piled up and we just could not find a peaceful solution that worked. He conjectures that we need to also mold a nation where the majority ruled and create a society where blacks and whites can live together.

Thanks, Will, for making it clear that we failed earlier to solve the slavery issue with good reason. War is a terrible, bloody solution. North-South pride and anger pushed us passed a point of no return.

The English emancipation had William Wilberforce, both a "pot stirrer" and politician, to find a peaceful solution — we had no one.

Ladies' Department — *By Charen Fink*

Interesting Facts and Figures

The total population for the North and South:	N—22.3 million	S—9.1 million
White male population, 18-45:	4.6 million	1.1 million
Bank capital:	330 million	27 million

Largest American Cities, 1860 South - New Orleans, Charleston, and Richmond. North - New York, Philadelphia, Brooklyn and Baltimore.

Union Soldier Profile Average age of enlistment—25.8 Average height—5'7.6"

Nativity of white soldiers: U.S.—75.5% England—2.25% Ireland—7.15% Germany—8.76% Other—6.34%

Hair color: Brown—30.6% Red—2.6% Gray—1% Eye color: Blue—44.9% Gray—24.3%

Education: None—5.8% Limited Common School—47.3% Good Common school—40.8% College—0.5% Profession—0.3%

Prewar Professions of Generals Confederate: Military—59.7%; Law—30.4%; Business—12.9%
Union: Military—67.1%; Law—21.6%; Business—19.9%

Women At Large: Travel In Antebellum America

Between 1790s and the 1840s there was a transportation revolution with the growth of stagecoach, canal boat and railroad routes. Women still, however, required an escort because of safety from unsuspecting predators and propriety. Early stagecoaches, such as the nine-passenger Concord coach, mixed male and female passengers elbow to elbow and knee to knees. With three-seat coaches, backsides were touching, two seats faced front and the third faced back. Women did not ride on top with the driver. Men yielded the back-supported back row to the women. Total isolation from other passengers was uncommon, it more or less enforced sociability, unlike on canal boats and trains.

Current events were the subject of conversation among men but not women.

Canal boats came next in popularity with the completion of the Erie Canal in 1825. With a high moon and well-maintained tow-path, animals could pull the boats 24-hours a day but there was a required etiquette of public sleeping. Usually the canal boats contained a Ladies' Cabin with berths, settees and sometimes an attendant on duty. Men and boys slept on deck or in a room next to the ladies. By the 1830s steamboat prevailed. Women still had a space marked out for them for sitting and sleeping. This was apparently not necessary for men. (TO BE CONTINUED NEXT MONTH)

MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY HOLIDAYS



Christmas - I have written much about Christmas in the past but recently found more information. Manger scenes were placed under trees that ranged in height from one to twelve feet high. They were found in the finest room of the house. Tree holders were large stones filled with wet sand or thick boards weighted with lead. The universal ornamentation was the candle. The practice of decorating our houses and churches with mistletoe and holly at Christmas is merely a custom of the time. It has no relation to the festival but belongs to Paganism—not to Christianity.

References Trent, Linda. "Christmas Customs and Traditions." *The Citizens' Companion*, Dec. 2015/2016, Vol. XXI-No. 6, pgs. 24-26.;Cohen, Patricia Cline. "Women at Large: Travel in Antebellum America." *History Today*, Dec. 1991, Vol. 44, pgs. 44-46.;*The Civil War Monitor*. "The Civil War Almanac." 2017, pgs. 10, 14-14, 18, 24.

PROGRAM SPEAKERS FOR 2017-18

The speaker lineup for our 2017-18 year continues the tradition of presenting some of the very best Civil War historians, commentators, speakers, and educators.

Tuesday, December 5: Returning, Colonel (Ret.) Wade Sokolosky, award-winning author and one of North Carolina's leading experts of the 1865 Carolinas Campaign. His topic: "*Kiss Him for His Mother: Confederate Hospitals in North Carolina in 1865.*"



Wednesday, January 3: Returning for the eighth time, the incomparable military historian, prolific writer, Civil War battlefield guide and television commentator, Ed Bearss. His unique presentation style and commanding narrative simply captivates his audiences. His topic: "*Reflections on the Civil War.*" Ed will share his ideas and perspectives on over 60 years of Civil War study.

Tuesday, February 6: Chris Fonvielle, Jr., Ph.D., popular and well-respected local historian, prolific author, BCWRT Advisor and a dynamic speaker, returning for the third time by popular demand. He has a vast knowledge about the Civil War in Southeastern North Carolina and the Lower Cape Fear region. His topic: "*Unlucky in War: Confederate General Braxton Bragg.*"

Tuesday, March 6: Noah Andre Trudeau, author of numerous military history articles and eight Civil War history books including the Revolutionary War, the Mexican-American War, the Spanish Civil War, and World War I and II. The title of his presentation is, "*Robert E. Lee at Gettysburg.*"

Tuesday, April 3: Dr. Richard J. (Dick) Sommers, award-winning historian and prolific author of over 100 books, articles, chapters, entries, and reviews on the Civil War. His topic: "*Thucydides and the coming of the Civil War.*" Thucydides was an Athenian historian and general during the Peloponnes War, a civil war between Greeks which

took place between 431 – 404. Sommers compares this war with the American Civil War.

Tuesday, May 1: Steve Davis, renowned Civil War historian, prolific author, Book Review Editor for Blue & Gray magazine, speaker and consultant for TV documentaries, and popular speaker at numerous Civil War round tables and historical societies. His topic: "*The Atlanta Campaign and Confederate General John Bell Hood.*"

Tuesday, May 29: Susannah Ural, Ph.D., Distinguished Alumni Professor of the Humanities, and co-director of the Dale Center for the Study of War & Society in the history department at the University of Southern Mississippi. Her topic: "*Letters of Hood's Texas Brigade.*"

NEW POST-SPEAKER PROCEDURE
Immediately following our speaker's presentation, members and guests who wish to leave may do so. Once they have exited, the speaker will gladly conduct a 10-15 minute Q&A for members who appreciate the opportunity to learn more.

THIS IS A TEST
WHAT IS THE DATE OF OUR JANUARY MEETING? (IT'S OK TO LOOK AT THE LEFT-HAND COLUMN. YES, IT'S ON A DIFFERENT DAY OF THE WEEK.)
KUDOS IF YOU ANSWERED, "WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3." OUR SPEAKER IS THE INCOMPARABLE CIVIL WAR MASTER HISTORIAN ED BEARRS. SEE YOU THERE!

Civil War Trust Aims to Preserve Battlegrounds

As members of the BCWRT, we appreciate what governmental and nonprofit organizations have done to maintain and protect Civil War sites throughout our region, as well as North Carolina.

Did you know there is an organization that aims to do the same on a national scale?

The Civil War Trust is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization devoted to preserving battlegrounds throughout America. To date, the CWT has saved more than 47,000 acres in 24 states. Most of the sites have been returned to their original condition and to the National Park Service or State parks, allowing visitors to walk hallowed grounds.

The CWT website, civilwar.org, shares wonderfully detailed interactive battlefield maps that show you the course of these conflicts. Several Civil War sites in North Carolina have benefitted from the CWT programs, most recently Bentonville Battlefield.

THOMPSON'S CREEK BATTLEFIELD FORUM

On Saturday, December 16, there is a free forum (includes lunch) in Chesterfield, SC, (along the border with NC) to study the Thompson's Creek Battle, a skirmish fought in March 1865 involving over 8,000 Confederate forces and more than 23,000 Union troops. BCWRT members Leslie Rivers and Jim McKee are forum participants, as well as Wade Sokolosky, our speaker this month. For more information (including car pool options), questions and registration, contact Leslie Rivers, 704-219-0304, or huntcoat@gmail.com. Registration must be made in advance not later than Wednesday, December 6.

How to Volunteer - No Experience Necessary



After reading President Mike's column on page one, you just might want to volunteer with the BCWRT. There are plenty of opportunities, including the front check-in process, giving a hand with our donations and raffles, assisting with the round table's database, and more.

If interested - or if you just have a question - contact Mike Powell at mikepowell260@gmail.com or Wally Rueckel at wrueckel@outlook.com.

Lincoln Books Focus on Photography -

Review and Collage by Mike Powell

There are said to be more than 15,000 books written about Abraham Lincoln. But there is always room for one (or two) more tomes on this historical giant.

Peter and Philip Kunhardt's offering, "Lincoln: An Illustrated Biography," examines the undeniable aging of America's greatest president. The tremendous stress of the office is plainly written on his face in the photos. The weight of responsibility for the war and its casualties took an amazing toll on the president. If anyone ever earned the marks of age and stress on their face, it was Abraham Lincoln.

Nicholas Pistor describes the rivalry of two photographers who battled to chronicle the

Civil War, "Shooting Lincoln: Mathew Brady, Alexander Gardner, and the Race to Photograph the Story of the Century." The book "carries the reader onto battlefields and alongside the hangman's noose while chronicling the birth of modern photojournalism. A fascinating read that sharpens our focus on how much that war remains relevant today."

Kunhardt, Philip and Kunhardt, Peter, "Lincoln: An Illustrated Biography," Alfred Knopf Co., NY, 1993.

Pistor, Nicholas, "Shooting Lincoln: Mathew Brady, Alexander Gardner, and the Race to Photograph the Story of the Century," Da Capo Press, 2017.



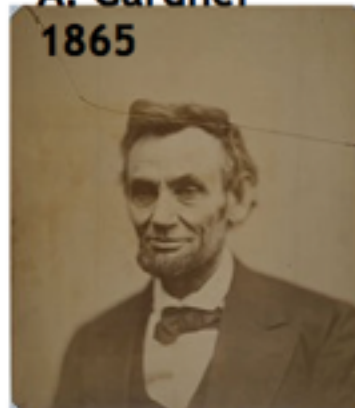
L. Hessler,
1860
1863



M. Brady,
1861
M. Brady 1864



M. Brady 1862



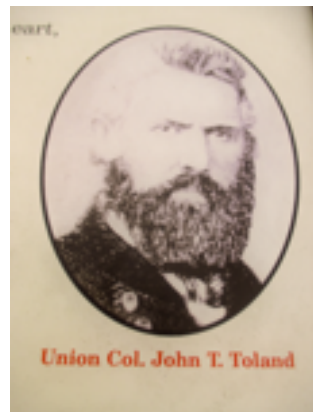
A. Gardner
1865

CIVIL WAR VIEWS

The editors of *Call to Arms* are asking you to share your visits to a Civil War battlefield, monument, park, reenactment, or historical site. Simply email your high resolution photo to egstack@cnsps.com along with the name of the photographer, location, date taken, and a short caption.

In September, Dan and Charen Fink visited Wytheville, Va. Their first stop was the East End Cemetery where they viewed the gravestone of Dr. Haller, a Confederate veteran and town physician who apparently was not attached to any unit. Next stop was the site of a conflict in the town where in July 1863, Union Col. John Toland of the 34th Mounted Ohio Volunteer Infantry from Camp Platt entered the area to destroy local salt mines.

The Finks also traveled the weekend of October 20-22, joining the Mahoning Valley Civil War Round Table (Northeast Ohio and Western Pennsylvania) for a visit to Harpers Ferry, Shepherdstown, and other surrounding battlefields. (The good-looking gentleman on the far right is Dan.) **Photos by Dan and Charen Fink**



Requests Regarding Hatch Auditorium Meetings

President Mike Powell would like members to be aware of four meeting-related issues.

First, as mentioned at meetings and in the newsletters, immediately following our speaker's presentation, members and guests who wish to leave Hatch may do so, hopefully as quietly as possible. Once they have exited, the speaker will gladly conduct a 10-15 minute Q&A for members who appreciate the opportunity to learn more.

Second, you should think twice before leaving prior to the Q&A. The information shared during this time is just as interesting — and sometime more so — than the material presented in the speaker's prepared remarks.

Third, we know that occasionally during the Q&A the sound system is not operating to its best ability. We are working with the Baptist Assembly staff to rectify this small and infrequent issue. Please bear with us.

Finally, if everyone would take a moment before leaving your seat, we ask that you police the area around you. Please carry those empty water and coffee cups, along with the cookie napkins, as well as any other trash, to one of the receptacles in the lobby. We want to leave Hatch Auditorium in the condition we found it.

A big **thank you** to you all!

Pictured at Our November Meeting

Will Greene and 474 members and guests were present at our November 7 gathering, including the happy attendees shown here. *(Photos by Tish Gordon and Chuck Rodema)*



MUSTER NOTES and NOTEABLES

The next meeting of the BCWRT is Tuesday, December 5, 2017. The meeting will be held at Hatch Auditorium, NC Baptist Assembly, Fort Caswell, Oak Island, NC.

Registration and refreshments begin at 6:15 p.m. and the program starts at 7 p.m.

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

The BCWRT website, brunswickcivilwarroundtable.com, contains helpful information and is available to everyone, no user name or password required. Our Facebook page is at <https://www.facebook.com/brunswickcivilwarroundtable/>. Visit both sites to learn of future speakers, trips, and interesting Civil War information.

2017 Officers, Directors, Advisors, and Liaisons

Mike Powell: President & Director

Charen Fink: Vice President & Director

Jim Johnson: VP, Director, & Ft. Fisher Liaison

Tom Kehoe: Treasurer & Director

Mo Beers: Secretary & Director

Tish Gordon: Director

Kathy O'Donnell: Director

Chuck Roedema: Director

E Gifford Stack: Director

Jack Carpenter: Advisor & Ft. Anderson Liaison

Chris Fonvielle: Advisor

Ken Keast: Advisor

Jim McKee: Advisor

Roy Pender: Advisor

Jonathan Richmond: Advisor

Leslie Rivers: Advisor

Wally Rueckel: Advisor

Lori Sanderlin: Advisor

Gregg Schneider: Advisor

Nathan Sloan: Advisor

Peter Whalen: Advisor

Max Williams: Advisor

Robert Maffitt: 209 Foundation Liaison

***Call to Arms* co-editors: Charen Fink and
E Gifford Stack**

