



Call to Arms

Brunswick Civil War Round Table Newsletter

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER - MIKE POWELL

As usual, I do not have much to say. However, I do have a story to tell you that is about a most horrendous and senseless act and how it was met with inspiration and some courage. Evidently the craziness that surrounds Civil War monuments has taken a new, very dark turn.

Does anybody know an re-enactor? My brother Tony and his son Brian have been re-enactors for twenty-some years. Brian started as a drummer boy. It is a hobby that has brought about as close as a father and son can be over a hobby they both love. They are not radical and do not use the re-enactment to glorify war and death. I am not an re-enactor, but I have spent some time at the events, as a guest of my brother's unit. I have not met any person — man or woman — who was there for any other reason than to gather with friends from all over the country, eat meals around a campfire, and share a couple of beers, telling stories about the war and not about the war.

They take immense pride in the exactness of their portrayal of the Civil War soldier. They teach the public and give them some small sense of what the battles of that war looked like...without the horror. It is a hobby, yet the amount of preparation, organization and good spirit that goes into these events would surprise you. And they all do it very well. Some of the members do not know a thing about the history of the war. They just enjoy the camaraderie and living in tents. Boy Scouts on steroids. Tony told me that when they are on the field, with thousands of re-enactors in position for the battle, his heart always beats a little faster. I've

seen many events and they are impressive, especially when they gather in thousands. Politics, racism, and hate have never had anything to do with these gatherings.

Why did I tell you all of that? Because, this last weekend, at Cedar Creek Battlefield in Virginia, they held what is the largest annual re-enactment in the East. Thousands of re-enactors attended and many thousands of spectators came to see the show. It is a sight to see. But, this year was different. Some very disturbed person decided that these folks were so offensive to him, that he, or they, planted two pipe bombs in tents that could have killed or injured a lot of people.

Fortunately, the bombs were found and disposed of, but the three-day event ended on Saturday, with Sunday's public viewing cancelled. The spectators left, the re-enactors did not. Once the officials, police, FBI, ATF, etc., cleared the grounds — as best they could cover the acres of campgrounds — the re-enactors reclaimed their camps and carried on. Imagine the stories that night around the campfires.

On Sunday, as scheduled, they reproduced the main battle event, without any spectators to view it. But, this time, without any prior planning or coordination, as the Confederates charged and reached the Union line of battle, each side spontaneously dropped their weapons and shook hands and hugged their counterparts, all along the line, voicing their support for each other and their hobby.

(Continued on Page 3)



Was the Civil War Inevitable? Discussion at Nov Meeting

One of the most thought-provoking questions still debated today about the Civil War is whether it was really necessary.

This will be the topic for discussion at our next meeting, Tuesday, November 7, featuring popular returning guest speaker, A. Wilson "Will" Greene. His presentation is entitled, "Avoidable Tragedy or Irrepressible Conflict: Was the Civil War Inevitable?"



Was the Civil War inevitable?

In simplistic terms, the primary causes of the Civil War were the differences in opinions about the issue of slavery. Could the conflicts between the federal government and the states, and between the North and South, be resolved in some way? The answer is yes. If the federal government allowed states to do whatever they wished, and the Northern and the Southern states decided they did not need one another, the Civil War would probably not have happened.

However, the bigger question was the identity of the United States of America as a single entity. When this question was asked, the federal government could no longer ignore the states, nor could the Northern and Southern states ignore one another. It stopped being simply a question of politics and economics. For the South, slavery was a common and accepted practice, since individual states could make their own laws about such matters. To abolish slavery altogether would be to weaken, if not destroy their economic machine. For the Northern states abolishing slavery would only minimally affect them considering their immigrant labor force. One option was that the Union could have simply allowed the Southern states to secede, concluding it was not worth the trouble. But

once the Southern states dug in and seceded to form a Confederacy, the Civil War was inevitable.

No one is more qualified to speak to this issue than our guest speaker. Will examines the background of this sectional conflict, a dispute as old as the republic itself, and render a judgement as to whether our country could have resolved its differences peacefully or were we condemned to go to war with ourselves to define our national destiny.

Will recently retired from a 44 year career in public history. He worked for the National Park Service at various historical parks as a historian and manager, was the first executive director of what is now the Civil War Trust, and most recently retired as the founding director of the Pamplin Historical Park and The National Museum of the Civil War Soldier near Petersburg, Virginia. Will is the author of six books and more than twenty published articles. In addition, he has been Study Leader for the Smithsonian Institute since 1989, leading battlefield tours from Oklahoma to Pennsylvania, and has spoken at numerous symposia, Civil War round tables and conferences around the country covering all the major Civil War campaigns.

Registration and refreshments for the Tuesday, November 7 meeting will begin at 6:15 p.m. at Hatch Auditorium on Caswell Beach. The program starts promptly at 7 p.m. Our guest admission 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 may also visit our Facebook page for interesting developments and announcements.

Civil War Prisons - Both North and South

Review of Roger Pikenpaugh's October 3 Presentation — *By Dan Fink*

Roger does the nearly impossible with smoothness, fairness and objectivity. Not once does he show any partiality. He looks not at atrocities but alacrity through objectivity.

Prisoner exchanges worked well at first but as more prisoners “accumulated” that system broke down. The Dix-Hill Cartel of 1862 was supposed to “cover all the issues” with any and all prisoners to be paroled within ten days of capture. More Northern black troops were captured by the South and immediately returned to slavery which completely unwound that system. Now it became a system of military advantage. When Lee looked for replacement troops he found none. Grant had a veritable plethora.

Roger does not sidestep the mortality rates. Although about 56,000 prisoners died,

it accounted for only about 10% of the total casualties. He suggests that the microbe killed far more than the minie ball. Lister and germ theory came too late. He gives us percentages of the worst of the worst and a plausible reason — gross ineptitude. Sumter (Andersonville) at 28% slightly beat Elmira (NY) at 25%.

Ya just had to be there to find out which “country club” prison was exclusively for Confederate Officers.

Good old American ingenuity played a big role when it came to dealing with the boredom of prison life. They made “stuff” and lots of it. Homemade jewelry, rudimentary clocks and even a primitive camera. Andersonville attempted to make beer from foul water. Bands featuring homemade musical instruments were everywhere. Johnson's Island

had a darn good baseball team and great snowball fights that sometimes turned bloody.

Perhaps no topic of the Civil War is more heated than how both sides treated their prisoners. Roger approached this topic with tenderness and pragmatism. He paints a believable picture of what happens when you combine overcrowding, non-existent medical care, poor supply policy and lack of organization. Throw in some loosely interpreted government “policy” along with poorly administered camps, and you get total chaos!!!! Is it any wonder that both sides remember their legacies with such great emotion?

Roger, you did a great job of “cutting to the chase” and giving us a most fair view of an impossibly complicated topic.

(PRESIDENT'S CORNER CONT.) Tony said that everyone made it a point when they packed up and were ready to leave, to say, “See you at the next event.”

There is no indication of who or why the pipes bombs were left at the re-enactment. There seemed to be no political statement attached or indicated. But, for me, the important part is that they carried on. They plan to keep using re-enactments to teach us about the Civil War. Some write books, some make movies, some paint. Re-enactors teach by re-producing, as best they can, without the horror, Civil War life in camp, on the march and on the battlefield. There only fear is that promoters will stop setting up the events. I understand not everyone might see the issues of the battle re-enactments as I do. And that's fine, but I do not understand the taking of innocent lives as a means of saying to the world, you do not like them.

Please world, no more pipe bombs at re-enactments, or anywhere else. Today, I'll take just re-enactments.

Mike

Ladies' Department — *By Charen Fink*

This month of November is Thanksgiving. President Lincoln issued a proclamation in 1863 to establish the first national day of Thanksgiving to be held on the last Thursday of November. This proclamation made no mention of Pilgrims or Indians, nor did he mention North or South. He did not mention founding fathers or national origins. Instead he called attention to our desperate need for working to “heal the wounds of the nation.” Perhaps this is true even today.



The Best Civil War Movies

The Birth of a Nation---1915	Gone With the Wind---1939	The Red Badge of Courage---1951
Friendly Persuasion---1956	The Horse Soldiers---1959	Shenandoah---1965
Glory---1989	Gettysburg---1993	Gods and Generals---2003
Cold Mountain---2003		

Pre-War Occupations of Union Soldiers

Farmer---48% Mechanic---24% Laborer---16% Commercial Pursuit---5% Professional---3%
Miscellaneous—4%

Slaveholder Presidents

George Washington—Thomas Jefferson—James Madison—James Monroe—Andrew Jackson—Martin Van Buren—William Henry Harrison—John Tyler—James K. Polk—Zachary Taylor.

Interestingly, John Adams and his son John Quincy Adams never owned slaves. In the time it was taken as a matter of course that a man of wealth would own slaves.

Order of Secession

The Southern states seceded in the following order: South Carolina—Mississippi—Florida—Alabama—Georgia—Louisiana—Texas—Virginia—Arkansas—Tennessee—North Carolina.

Slang Terms

Fresh fish	New recruits
Greenbacks	Money
Doughboys	Infantry soldiers
Pig sticker	Bayonet
Strawfoot	Recruit
Mudscows	Clumsy shoes
See the elephant	Combat
Plebe	First-year cadet



Terminology

During the 1880s, “War of the Rebellion” was the term used to denote the conflict. Later “War Between the States” came into play as a result of Southern hatred of the term *rebellion*. In many parts of the South it is still known as “The War of Northern Aggression” or “The War for Southern Independence.” Some Yankees called it “The War of Secession” while others avoided the use of *war* and used “The Late Great Unpleasantness.”

By the twentieth century the government settled on the generic name “Civil War” for the conflict.

References

Graham, Martin, C. Johnson, R.A. Sauers, Ph.D., G. Skoch. “Blue and Gray,” Illinois Publication available are the four books, Ghosts of Gettysburg by Mark Nesbitt

PROGRAM SPEAKERS FOR 2017-18

Since our first meeting in May 2010, members and guests alike agree that quality speakers and their interesting topics are major reasons for the incredible success of the BCWRT. Our outstanding speakers and presentations over the years are thought-provoking, enlightening and entertaining, covering subjects that go well beyond battles, military personnel and armament.

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, November 7: Will Greene, executive director of Pamplin Historical Park and The National Museum of the Civil War Soldier in Petersburg, VA returns. His topic: *“Irrepressible Conflict or Avoidable Tragedy: Was the Civil War Inevitable?”*

Tuesday, December 5: Also 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.”*



USS Monitor Winner Donates Model to Local Museum

Bob Zuzzolo knows about winning...and giving.

The BCWRT member was the winner of the beautiful model of the USS Monitor, raffled at our October meeting. "When I got it home," Bob recounted, "I found I really didn't have a place to display it properly. Plus, I knew I couldn't use it in the bathtub!"



"I thought this is such a beautiful piece of art, other people should also be able to see it."

Bob contacted the North Carolina Maritime Museum at Southport and asked if they would be willing to accept the piece for display.

According to Lori Sanderlin, Curator of Education for the museum, "We were absolutely thrilled to receive the Monitor model. It was extremely thoughtful of Bob to donate it to the museum, allowing our visitors to enjoy such a Civil War classic. Also, it will be used to teach children and adults about the astounding technological advancements made during the war. Being able to compare this model to Confederate ironclads will be a great example for all ages."

Member Jack McDonough, who took over a year to construct the model, donated it to the BCWRT earlier in the year. The raffle generated \$245 for use in the BCWRT general fund.

Raffle for CSS Shenandoah Print at Nov Meeting

The framed reproduction of the CSS Shenandoah, donated in September by members Dave and Rosemary Schultz, will be raffled at our November 7 meeting.

In addition to the print, also included is a descriptive account of the ship's history written by the late Dr. Lowell H. Harrison, Western Kentucky University. Additionally, there is a map of the Shenandoah's adventures in open water, as well as an illustrative description of its battles and captured booty. The Shenandoah fired the last round of the Civil War and was the last flag surrendered.

Raffle tickets are \$5 each, or three for \$10, and will be sold in front of the auditorium stage.



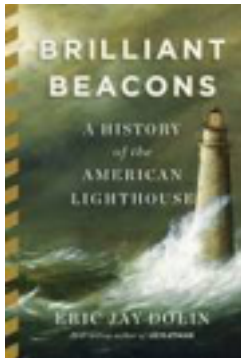
New Location for 50/50 Ticket Sales and Civil War Item Raffle

Starting with our November 7 meeting, tickets for the popular 50/50 raffle will now be sold in front of the auditorium stage. This will allow members to register more quickly at the check-in stations. Raffle tickets for donated merchandise will also be sold in front of the stage. The new venue also provides members the opportunity to check out the latest books and magazines at our Sutler's Table.

Lighthouse Book Reveals CW Adventures

There are probably numerous BCWRT members who are enthralled by both the Civil War...and lighthouses. For those of us that fall into this category, here is a must-read book.

Brilliant Beacons, by Eric Jay Dolin, is a wonderful account of America's lighthouses, beginning in our colonial days and ending with the last such structure built in 1962. (Sadly, there



is no mention of the Oak Island Lighthouse where this co-editor - E Gifford Stack - guides numerous Top Tours every week.)

Dolin devotes nearly 30 pages to the actions the North and South took either trying to cripple lighthouses or capturing them to aid their

navies.

Of note, “By the end of the war the Confederacy had darkened, damaged, or destroyed some 164 lighthouses.”

There are “I didn’t know that” stories aplenty. For example, the keeper of the West Rigolets lighthouse, on Lake Pontchartrain, was killed in 1862 by an unknown assailant, thus becoming the only lighthouse keeper to die on duty during the war. An iron lighthouse near Galveston Bay was disassembled, purportedly to be melted down to make arms and munitions, or to plate ships for the Southern cause. There was only one Northern lighthouse (in Maryland) that suffered damage at the hands of Confederate attackers.

Not surprising, North Carolina’s lighthouses get plenty of attention. However, it is the story of the post-war spectacular find of Fresnel

lenses from Raleigh that receives extensive coverage. The packing material used turned out to be papers reaching back before the Revolutionary War. The lenses and their protective wrapping made their way to



Washington, were forgotten for some 40 years, then accidentally rediscovered and “a large chunk of North Carolina’s historical heritage was returned to the state.”

There is plenty to enjoy — about lighthouses and American history — in this easy reading book which sells for around \$20 in hardcover and \$11 in paperback.

At the start of our October meeting, Vice President and Director Charen Fink offered a BCWRT Public Service Message worth repeating. Thanks, Charen, for your insightful comments.

Since our meeting last month our country has been under attack—not by an enemy or foreign power but by Mother Nature.

Hurricanes and floods have ravaged Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico impacting millions of people. Tornados have swept across America and the Western states have endured wild fires. So many people have lost their lives, homes and property. The greatest massacre in American history struck Las Vegas last Sunday night with 527 injured and 59 people killed by a lone gunman.

But, the American people stood up to all this through random acts of kindness and heroism...and pulled together for their fellow man forsaking their own safety. This is what makes the United States of America so special — its people working in tandem for one another and for the preservation of our great nation.

Two Additional CW Educational Opportunities

Members looking to expand their Civil War knowledge beyond our monthly meetings, take note.

On Tuesday, November 21, at 7 p.m., the Southport Maritime Museum hosts Andrew Duppsstadt, Program Development and Training Officer Historic Weapons Program Coordinator for North Carolina Division of State Historic Sites, for his discussion on the last days of the CSS *Neuse* Ironclad.

Listen as he shares the story of the effort to build the *Neuse*, its involvement in naval operations, and the difficult decision to scuttle the vessel they had invested a multitude of “iron and time.”

There is no charge to attend the program (held at the Southport Community Building at 223 E. Bay St), but you must register by calling the museum at 910-477-5151, or emailing kristan.Phillips@ncdcr.gov.

Members willing to travel to New Bern can attend “The Civil War in Coastal Carolina” conference, November 15-18, hosted by America’s History LLC, and led by Wade Sokolosky and Horace Newborn. For further information and registration information, go to <http://americashistoryllc.com/2017/the-civil-war-in-coastal-north-carolina/>. Also, member Wally Rueckel is attending and has offered to share the ride: (248) 252-6844 or wrueckel@outlook.com.

Requests Regarding Hatch Auditorium Meetings

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

First, as stated at our September and October meetings, 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. If you stayed for Bud Robertson’s Q&A, you fully understand this suggestion.

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!

Civil War Interesting Fact: John and George Crittenden were brothers who were both generals during the war. John for the North and George for the South!

2017 National Civil War Round Table Congress

By Wally Rueckel



Wally and Matt Borowick, a columnist for the *Civil War News*, at the podium during the 2017 National Civil War Round Table Congress.

As you'll recall, Mike Powell and I organized a Civil War Round Table Forum in Raleigh in August 2016, and again in August this year. The goal was to bring together the leaders of the 12 round tables in North Carolina, discussing ways to improve sustainability, governance and partnership with each other.

The success of the Raleigh forums began to spread among other round tables throughout the country. Many were interested in attending a similar forum to benefit from shared experiences. Early this year, I reached out to the leaders of the relatively large and successful round tables in Scottsdale, Arizona, and Seattle, as well as a writer for the *Civil War News*. Collectively, we decided to organize a National CWRT Congress in Centreville, VA, near the Manassas Battlefield. Our goal: duplicate our success of the North Carolina Forums.

At the congress, held September 16, we were shocked and pleasantly surprised that 65 Civil War round table leaders, representing 41 such organizations, from around the country attended. Participants came from the West coast, Mid-West, New England, Washington, DC, the Southeast.

Among the speakers, I talked about our short seven-year history and the changes we made to the traditional way round tables operate. I proudly mentioned our having 1,200 members (consider the next largest round table has no more than 400 members!).

The audience was overwhelmed, some saying they felt they were being force fed through a fire hose. But, each one looked forward to going home, sharing what they learned and making changes. This will be a challenge as most are using out-of-date organizational structures, or maintaining procedures not conducive to today's lifestyles.

I have been receiving numerous requests from congress attendees asking for further information to share with their leadership and fellow members. Plans are already underway for a 2018 national congress, as well as the Raleigh forum.

On the lighter side, I did have to remind attendees that the BCWRT is not in Brunswick, Maine, or Brunswick, Georgia, but in North Carolina. You should know that many of the participants congratulated me on what our organization has accomplished in such a short period.

CIVIL WAR VIEWS

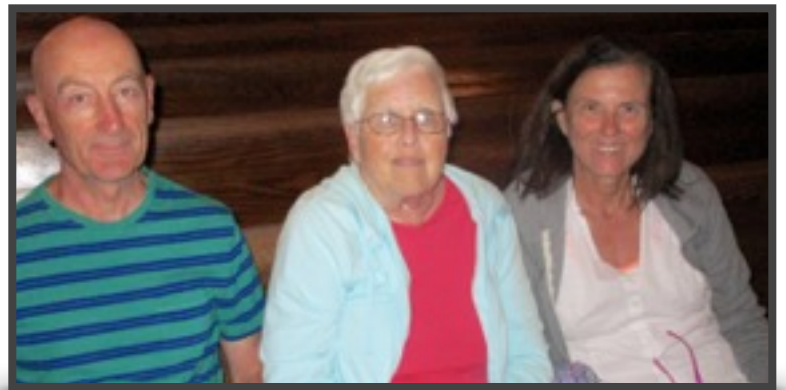
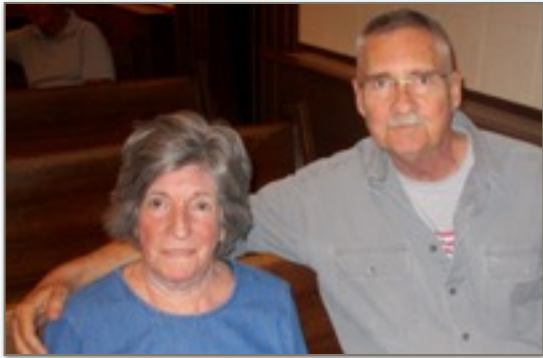
The editors of *Call to Arms* are asking you to share your visits to a Civil War battlefield, monument, park, reenactment, or historical site. Simply email your high resolution photo to along with the name of the photographer, location, date taken, and a short caption. *(This month's photos by E G Stack and one passerby.)*



One of the benefits of living in North Carolina is the abundance of Civil War markers and memorials within a few hours drive (or motorcycle ride). Co-editor Stack took his two-wheeler on a four-day road trip last month and stopped at these CW locales: (Clockwise from top left) the Freedmen's colony on Roanoke Island - front and back; detailed description of the naval battle of Roanoke Island; 1861 Reunification signage on Hatteras Island; tribute to Ft. Ocracoke (Stack was told to evacuate from Ocracoke Island due to Hurricane Maria); the siege of Ft. Macon signage in Morehead City; and one of the ubiquitous NC CW Trails signs somewhere along the way.

Pictured at Our October 3 Meeting

Roger Pickenpaugh and 411 members and guests attended our October 3 gathering, including the happy attendees shown here. *(Photos by E Gifford Stack)*



MUSTER NOTES and NOTEABLES

The next meeting of the BCWRT is Tuesday, November 7, 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**

