



Call to Arms

Brunswick Civil War Round Table Newsletter

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER - MIKE POWELL



BCWRT has gone to great lengths to keep political issues out of our round table. Despite several requests, we made no statement when the battle flag of the Army of Northern Virginia - the stars and bars - came down in Columbia. The news and

events of the last several months have been alarming. We have had many requests from members and media for comments on the issues of removing Confederate monuments and Civil War history. So, let me tell you all what the BCWRT leadership team wants you to know.

As per our mission statement, BCWRT will provide the best authoritative and objective history of the war, presented by the finest historians. We will not provide a platform for speakers who have a political or racial agenda. If we feel a speaker has only given one side of a controversial story, we will get a speaker to present the other side, if possible. Politics and racism have no part in any Civil War round table. Hopefully, political and racial views are determined long before anyone joins a Civil War round table. In a membership as large as ours, no matter what we would say would offend part of that membership. Nothing we can say will be representative of the entire membership on these current events.

Some may say this is a cop out, and we (BCWRT) should engage on this issue. American history, and especially the Civil War, is full of controversial topics. Do not confuse

the history of the war with the politics of the Confederate monuments. They are very different things. The role of JEB Stuart at Gettysburg is a historical controversy of the war. And BCWRT will explore those types of controversies through our speakers and other programs. The current controversy is political and racial in nature and has little to do with the history of the war.

The preservation of history is also an important part of our mission statement. We are very proud of what we have accomplished with the donations we have made in your name. We will continue to donate to worthwhile historic preservation projects that emphasize the authoritative history of the Civil War.

Unless you are a student of the war and an avid reader, it is difficult to know which authors are authoritative, using research to determine their conclusions. Compare this with authors who are pushing a personal or political agenda, using only the research that supports their agenda.

Take a few minutes and find out what you can about the author before you read their book. Check with us, we'll be happy to help in this regard. I would ask you to be careful of authors that pluck a historical figure out of the past centuries and judge them by twenty-first century values, morals and beliefs. I am not sure who would stand that kind of scrutiny.

Mike

POW Camps will Capture your Attention

American Civil War prison camps were operated by both the Union and the Confederates to handle the 409,000 soldiers captured during the war from 1861 to 1865. This is only one statistic of many that are rarely mentioned when the Civil War is discussed. This and numerous other issues, facts and figures will be revealed when guest speaker Roger Pickenpaugh takes center stage at our Tuesday meeting on October 3. His topic: "Civil War-era Prisons: North and South."

In June, 1861 only a few weeks after the first shots at Fort Sumter ignited the Civil War, Union prisoners began to arrive in Southern prisons. Over the next several years, prisoners amassed in both North and South prison camps. One hundred and fifty years later Civil War prisons and the way prisoners of war were treated remain contentious topics. Partisans of each side continue to criticize the other for POW maltreatment. Pickenpaugh's groundbreaking book, *"Captives in Gray: The Civil War Prisons of the Union,"* and his companion book entitled, *"Captives in Blue"* provide in-depth coverage of this important topic. His fascinating presentation will be largely based on these award-winning books, providing a thoughtful examination and assessment of the numerous issues that captives faced from both sides throughout the Civil War.

Some thought-provoking topics include dealing with parole and exchange of prisoners since both sides lacked the facilities for handling large numbers of captured troops. There were variations in the policies and practices in the different prison camps, including how to deal with African American soldiers, as well as the treatment of officers



versus enlisted men. Training camps had to be turned into prisons, plus major concerns arose for adequately funding the building of new prison camps. Then there was the treatment of all prisoners, prison facilities and the logistics of increasing numbers of detainees, the high disease rate, and the constant shortage of medicine, doctors, food and ice, leading to increasing mortality rates. In essence, prison camps faced mismanagement, brutality, incompetence, and ongoing logistical constraints.

Roger Pickenpaugh retired after a thirty-year teaching career. Over the years, he has devoted countless hours of research and study focused on Civil War prison camps. His first of several books on prisons was entitled, *"Camp Chase and the Evolution of Union Prison Policy."* His book, *"Captives in Gray: The Civil War Prisons of the Union,"* was awarded the James I. Robertson, Jr. Literary Prize sponsored by the Robert E. Lee Civil War Library and Research Center. Roger is a popular speaker in Civil War circles given the unique focus on Civil War prison camps, a topic rarely discussed by other Civil War historians.

Registration and refreshments for the Tuesday, October 3 meeting will begin at 6:15 p.m. at Hatch Auditorium on Caswell Beach. The 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.

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.

Stonewall Jackson: the Man, the Soldier, the Legend

Review of Bud Robertson's September 5 Presentation — By Dan Fink

WOW! We have been known to be quite selective - even stingy - with our standing ovations. Bud, we gave you not one, but two of them! The first was for your delightfully dichotomous delivery of the two events that shaped Thomas' (Stonewall) life and the second for standing tall in your question/answer period. You are an accomplished and insightful scholar as well as a proud American who loves his country. We are in total agreement...you deliver history and are not just another historian!

YA just had to be there to hear what else "Bud" did for 16 years that was completely disconnected from teaching Civil War history at Virginia Tech for 44 years.

Your delivery left no doubt that you became emotionally involved with "Lightning Bolt" (his term) Jackson as you wrote your book of 960 pages. It has become the standard for all other books about "Old Jack" (the name his men belovedly called him). *God's and Generals* was inspired by this book.

First Bud wants us to understand how being an orphan both affected and effected a youthful 7-year-old. He was just more help on the farm of his uncle and not much else to his aunt. He grew more and more detached and spent his free time alone in a "lean-to" shack he built "across the river and in the trees."



He stumbled into the West Point class of 1846. He ranked 109 out of 109, but bulldog determination shows him graduating 59th in a class that produced 21 generals. He has no friends and never laughs. We find him being rather sanguine in attitude. He sees danger in eating food he likes. Today we might suspect Asperger Syndrome. He is extremely intelligent but has trouble riding a horse. Being almost devoid of emotions, he does not recognize he is in love at age 30.

Jackson is a disciplinarian and drills his men constantly. He trains them for an occasional 25-mile march per day. He uses secrecy and surprise to his advantage. It eventually costs him his life.

Lee calls him his right hand and is a leader full of tactical brilliance. His other guiding quality is his intense Presbyterian faith. It is almost Calvinistic. Since he is without a father, God becomes one to him. He is the bluest (most traditional) kind of

Presbyterian. Sunday IS his day of rest. He believes in the power of prayer and does so very frequently. He does not oppose mixing prayer with gunpowder. Spiritual guidance for his army is a recurring event. That army would suffer huge casualties to achieve destruction and glory. He is loved and respected by Lee and most Southerners. They idolize him. In 1856, he was a Sunday School teacher for blacks who loved him deeply. He explains, in his mind, that slavery is a curse put on blacks by God and can only be removed by God. He also looks at the war as "God's Judgement." It is almost a religious crusade. He explains his "secrecy" as fighting for the Lord.

His unexpected tactics and heavy, heavy assaults are also "God Driven." Those tactics cause a 12-mile march to Chancellorsville and a night time attack. His secrecy causes him to take a different route back and he is mistaken as the enemy by the 18th NC from Wilmington. Medically, it is now thought that sepsis (blood poisoning) probably killed him.

His final words on the Sunday of his death were: "Let us cross over the river and go into the trees." His Lexington grave has become a shrine and his statue on monument Ave. in Richmond is beloved. He is remembered most as a Christian soldier.

Ladies' Department — By Charen Fink

Typically, October is the month for the celebration of All Hallows' Eve, otherwise known as Halloween. It is one of the world's oldest holidays. By 1850, Americans across the country were dressing up and knocking on doors to receive food or money. Today we call this Trick-or-Treat.

Halloween was celebrated during the Civil War, although not quite the same as today. *Harper's Weekly* published in October 1861 the political cartoon of Confederate President Jefferson Davis gathering wheat topped with



Copperhead Clement Vallandigham as a Pumpkin in *Harper's Weekly*

skulls. In October 1863, *Harper's Weekly* published a cartoon showing Copperhead Clement Vallandigham as a pumpkin. In Peoria, Ill, some of the wild boys threw putrid vegetables, took gates off of the hinges and other pranks.

In November 1864, Kate Stone wrote in her journal *Brokenburn*: "Lucy and I tried all magic arts to try our fortunes in diverse ways as it was 'All Hallow'e'en.'" There were no ghostly footprints, no bearded faces looking over their shoulder and no brave soldiers disturbed their

dreams after eating the white of an egg half-filled with salt.

The soldier may not have had time to celebrate but no horror movie can compare to what those soldiers experienced during the Civil War.

Most Civil War battlefields speculate over the existence of ghosts. Some of them are the Sharpsburg battlefield near Sharpsburg, Maryland; Chickamauga battlefield in Georgia; Harper's Ferry, West Virginia; Bursas, Louisiana; and Warren, Arkansas. The Battle of Gettysburg was the largest battle in America and has many ghosts. Other haunts there include the Soldiers' Orphanage cellar and the Herr Tavern.

President Lincoln is said to haunt the White House along with other sites. The last sighting of his



ghost was in the early 1980s, when Tony Savoy, White House operations foreman, came into the White House and saw Lincoln sitting in a chair at the top of some stairs.

The Beauregard-Keyes House in New Orleans is said to be haunted not only by Gen. P.G.T.Beauregard, but an entire regiment of ghost soldiers.

Reference

Posted on October 31, 2013 by Caroline Davis on the internet

Ghosts of the American Civil War, Wikipedia

Also 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, October 3: Roger Pickenkpaugh, retired school teacher and author of five books, four of which deal with Civil War prisons. “*Civil War-era Prisons: North and South*” is the title of his presentation and involves the establishment of camps, escapes and attempts, rations, and prisoners’ attempts to combat downtime during captivity.

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 10: 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.*”

Wednesday, 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 MODEL RAFFLE

As mentioned in last month's newsletter, a beautifully built model of one of the most iconic ships of the Civil War will be raffled at our October 3 meeting. Due to technical issues, we did not have tickets for sale in September, but there will be **plenty** available at our October gathering.

Member Jack McDonough, who took over a year to construct the model in the late '90s, donated it to BCWRT in the hopes that another member would also enjoy its beauty.



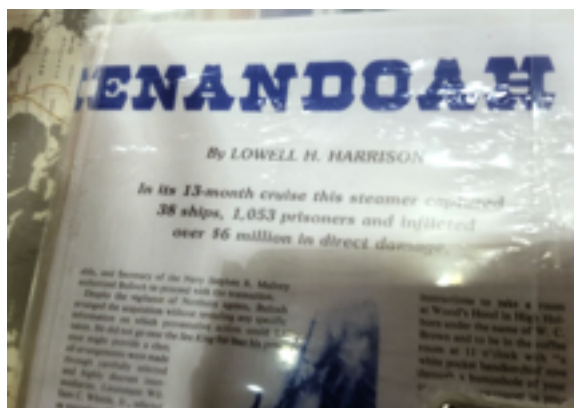
“Plus,” he added, “hopefully the model can help generate funds for our round table.”

Jack noted there are 375 individual plates on the USS Monitor model, something that adds to its realistic character. The model, at 1/16” scale, is approximately 8 inches long and 5 inches tall. It comes enclosed in an equally beautiful protective display case. Made from basswood, the model has an insurance value of \$900.

Raffle tickets are \$5 each or three for \$10.

This model will be a classic keepsake for any Civil War enthusiast.

Members Donate Framed Print of CSS Shenandoah



New members Dave and Rosemary Schultz recently donated a framed reproduction of the CSS Shenandoah, a confederate ship with a storied history. (The picture actually includes a descriptive account written by the late Dr. Lowell H. Harrison, Western Kentucky University.) Also included 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.

“We are thankful to Dave and Rosemary for donating such a well done sketch of this historic Confederate ship,” noted Mike Powell, BCWRT president. “The artwork will definitely be used in a future BCWRT fundraiser.” (Photos by Tish Gordon)

Kudos to Our Frontline Volunteers

Every time you enter Hatch Auditorium for a monthly meeting, there are volunteers ready to greet, welcome, and assist you...and even offer you a cookie!

This cadre of volunteers deserves our thanks for the many hours they contribute to our round table. "It's a challenge getting everything ready for the 300-500 members and guests that

descend on us," noted Ken Keast, BCWRT advisor and one of the lead coordinators for the volunteers conducting the various welcoming functions. "They are a dedicated group who all want to make a guest or member feel welcome."

Jim Johnson, BCWRT Vice President and the other primary volunteer coordinator, agrees. "We are fortunate to have people

with computer expertise and interest in the Civil War helping us. They make it seem effortless but there really is a lot of work preparing for each meeting."

So, the next time you are welcomed, or check in with the computer registrars, or are offered that cookie, please say 'thank you' to your fellow members who all want you to have a pleasant experience.



Water Tour of Cape Fear River Floats Imagination

Without too much effort, 42 BCWRT members and guests saw themselves as Blockade Runners steaming down the Cape Fear River sometime between 1861 and 1864, ready to face the Union Navy. Fast forward to Sunday, September 17, and here is the reality: we all are enjoying Chris Fonvielle revealing story after story about life on and around the Cape Fear River during the war. What a field trip! Thanks to Chris and organizer John Walsh for an absolutely wonderful journey back in time. *(Photos by Tish Gordon and E Gifford Stack)*



CIVIL WAR VIEWS

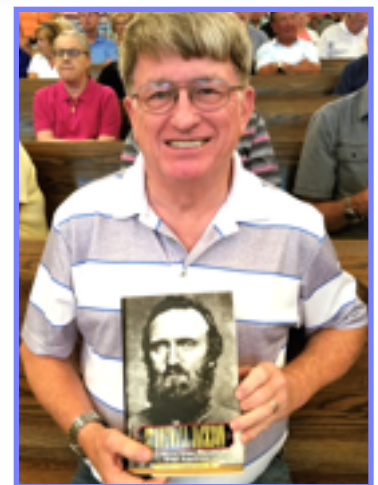
The editors of *Call to Arms* are asking you to share your visits to a Civil War battlefield, monument, park, reenactment, or historical site. Simply email your high resolution photo to egstack44@gmail.com along with the name of the photographer, location, date taken, and a short caption.



This month's Civil War Views captures several trips made this year by your traveling and motorcycling co-editor. Clockwise from top left: E Gifford Stack entering the National Museum of CW Medicine in Frederick, MD, in April, and learning about embalming during the war. A full-scale reproduction of a 3-inch ordnance rifle at the Glenn Curtiss Museum in Hammondspport, NY, in May. A town square statue honoring the 54th Pennsylvania Volunteer Regiment, Johnstown, PA, in June. A warm welcome by Wayne Motts, CEO of the National Civil War Museum in Harrisburg, PA, and the statue honoring a Confederate soldier aiding his Union counterpart during the 1862 Battle of Fredericksburg, VA, in June. E Gifford at Woodlawn National Cemetery learning of the burial of the nearly 3,000 Confederate soldiers who died while at the Elmira, NY, prisoner of war camp, and the memorial erected in 1937 by the Untied Daughters of the Confederacy, in May. (Photos by Sylvia Swanson, Jeff Swanson, NCWM staff, and E Gifford)

Pictured at Our September 5 Meeting

Bud Robertson and 474 members and guests attended our September 5 gathering, including the happy attendees shown here. *(Photos by Tish Gordon and E Gifford Stack)*



MUSTER NOTES and NOTEABLES

The next meeting of the BCWRT is Tuesday, October 3, 2017. The meeting will be held at Hatch Auditorium, NC Baptist Assembly, Fort Caswell, Oak Island, NC.

Registration opens 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, and Ft. Fisher Liaison

Tom Kehoe: Treasurer

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Tish Gordon: Director

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Leslie Rivers: Advisor

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Gregg Schneider: Advisor

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

