



Call to Arms

Brunswick Civil War Round Table Newsletter

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER - MIKE POWELL



Gettysburg is the largest battle to take place on the North American continent. Every Civil War enthusiast tries to make a pilgrimage to that small Pennsylvania town. I grew up in Baltimore, Maryland, only an hour away. My first visit to the battlefield was a class trip in 1963, the centennial year. Since

then, I have visited that hallowed ground at least a hundred times. I never tire of it.

More than 1,300 markers and monuments stand as "silent sentinels" today to mark and interpret the three days of July 1863. They both honor and mark locations where Union and Confederate soldiers contended with one other. As in the war itself, some of the markers of Gettysburg also have a turbulent history.

The plaques near the artillery pieces are **Battery Tablets** and describe the actions of the more than 500 artillery pieces that fought in the battle. Though not the first, these markers were erected by the Federal Government. **Corps Markers** locate the general position of the largest organizational units (2 to 3 divisions in each) of each army. **Division Markers** indicate the battle action of the various divisions (2 to 5 brigades in each). **Brigade Markers** note the positions and narrate the actions of the brigades (3 to 5 regiments in each). They have a round base and were also erected by the Federal Government. Corps, division and brigade markers are tablets that chronicle the movements of the unit over the three days battle. By far, however, the most numerous monuments are the **Regimental Markers**, dedicated to individual regiments.

Generally placed at the center of the line held by the 300 – 500 men of each regiment, most **Regimental Markers** in granite or bronze were erected by the veteran volunteers and state legislatures. These monuments boast the most varied artistic designs, many of them of intricate and of beautiful quality. They actually contain details about the unit's participation (such as numbers involved and casualties), and particulars of their place in the battle. Each Union corps had a symbol to identify it from other corps, such as a star, a cross, etc. These symbols were part of the Union soldier's uniforms and each Union regimental monument displays its symbol for easy identification. If you care to leave the beaten path you will find small, 6-inch square concrete markers that mark the left and right flank of some regiments, such as the 20th Maine, who defended Little Round Top.

Vertical cannon barrels on a square granite base mark the **headquarters** of the army and the corps commanders.

They were also erected by the Federal Government. **State Memorials** were erected to commemorate



all the soldiers from a particular state that were present. The Pennsylvania Monument (pictured) is the largest and most grand and contains the names of the more than 34,000 soldiers from that state who participated.

(Continued on page 5)

CHANGE IN APRIL'S SPEAKER

Owing to unforeseen circumstances, Dr. Dick Sommers had to cancel his speaking engagement for our April meeting.

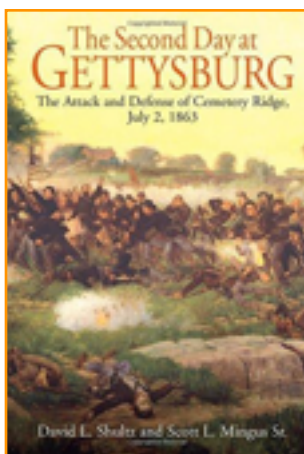
The good news is Masonboro Parlor Band will still entertain us from 6 - 7 p.m., and Dave Shultz - a well-published BCWRT member and Advisor - will speak on the second day at Gettysburg, based on his book of the same name. Dave's talk will provide insight into the attack and defense of Cemetery Ridge, with an emphasis on the Army of Northern Virginia.

Dave's interest in the American Civil War began as a youngster when he discovered that five direct ancestors



return for their third visit. Back by popular demand, John and his band's musical program will include an audience sing-along and a few dance numbers that were popular during the Civil War period. If you've not heard them play, you've missed an extremely talented group of musicians whose tunes (and wardrobe) are sure to transform us back to another time. Masonboro Parlor Band will perform from 6 - 7 p.m. Registration and refreshments begin at 5:15 p.m. Our program starts promptly at 7 p.m.

As usual, the Tuesday, April 3 meeting takes place at Hatch Auditorium on the grounds of Fort Caswell. Again, our registration and refreshments begin at 5:15 p.m. The guest admission fee for this special meeting is \$10, and can be applied toward the \$25 annual membership dues. For more information, 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 facts, comments, announcements and updates.



participated as enlisted soldiers - four for the Union, one for the Confederacy. Two of the Union relatives fought in the Gettysburg campaign, thus Dave's interest in focusing on this battle. He has published three other Civil War books and is the author of numerous magazine

articles. Dave, who recently retired from the Boeing Corporation, is the recipient of numerous awards for his efforts in battlefield preservation.

To get the evening off to a foot-stomping start, John Bennett and his Masonboro Parlor Band



Lincoln's Greatest Journey

Review of Noah Andre Trudeau's March 6 Presentation — *By Dan Fink*

Noah has an arm-length of meaningful credentials. He brings us the views of a gifted writer with a penchant to get history right. He looks at “numbers” with the mindset of a talented investigator. He is a “clue chaser” supreme and carefully scrutinizes any sequence of “facts.” Sometimes this puts him in a box called a creative crisis. He admits to being a “Criminal Minds” TV show fan. He gives us a profundity that moves him. “Time moves one way – memory moves in another.”

We are invited to join him on what has become known as “Lincoln's Greatest Journey.” The President is exhausted and needs change. You only need to look at “then and now” pictures of him to see what a toll the war has squeezed from him. Keep in mind it is Tad's birthday trip as well. Mary Todd has not visited Richmond/Petersburg for years and Abe envisions a chance to plan an “end” strategy with Grant/Sherman together. These 16 days (March 24 – April 8) are going to change a Presidency. This is “a wrinkle in time” that allows the greatness we bestow on Lincoln to come forth and shine brightly in a time of great crisis.

The Lincolns hop aboard the “River Queen” in Washington, DC, on March 23 with an arrival at City Point the evening of the following day. Then they board a train with a huge collection of guests headed for Petersburg. It becomes a day of bouncing up and down both physically and mentally. The President sees many Confederate prisoners from the Fort Steadman victory and then the horror of both dead and wounded nearer to Petersburg. Noah confirms that Captain John Barnes is correct in relaying the President's verbal expression. “He had seen enough of the horrors of war and had hoped that this was the beginning of the end. There would be no more bloodshed or ruin of home.”

Meanwhile, “back at the boat,” Lincoln has his famous boat meeting. It is an informal interchange of view among the four participants: Lincoln, Grant, Sherman and

Admiral David D. Porter. THEY HOLD THE DESTINY OF A NATION IN THEIR HANDS. “Unconditional Surrender” Grant and Sherman give him a simple solution. The Confederacy could just surrender. This conference ends with Lincoln giving his surrender procedure. “Let them surrender and go home. Let them have their horses to plow and their guns to shoot crows. GIVE THEM THE MOST LIBERAL AND HONORABLE OF TERMS.”

Lincoln's visit to Richmond was achieved by using the Admiral's barge. It was powered by 12 sailors rowing and a pilot in the steering seat. (Sound like a song?)

Ya just had to be there to view a picture of this “noble” craft.

It is true he visits the Confederate Whitehouse. It is not true he sat in Jeff Davis chair. The house was occupied by conquering Northern troops.

Noah identifies April 8 as one of the best ten days of Lincoln's' life. He visits the Depot Field Hospital at City Point. It is estimated that he shook between seven to eight thousand hands. According to hospital attendant Wilbur Fisk, the patients were elated! They expected only a bow but were pleased beyond measure as the great man shook their hands. Those hands included sick and wounded Confederate soldiers. Lincoln gave the reason for this trip, “I came here to take by the hand the men who have achieved our glorious victories.”

That evening, back on the boat, a large party was held for officers and prominent guests. On April 9, Lee surrenders to Grant. The President, Tad, plus Mary return to Washington both rejuvenated and planning for reconstruction. Mary expresses a profundity – she now wonders about enemies in the city and Lincoln replies, “Enemies? Never again must we repeat that word.”

In the words of Noah Andre Trudeau, “Time moves one way – memory moves in another.”

Ladies' Department — *By Charen Fink*

Rape in the American Civil War *(This is a continuation of article begun in the March issue. The subject may be somewhat controversial, but in light of current events involving today's women and the Me Too movement, it fits in well with the issue of rape during the Civil War.)*

Generally, both armies were very respectful of most women, even those who were hostile. It is an injustice to assume that most Union and Confederate soldiers were committing acts of violence. However, the miscreants were usually stragglers, deserters, drunks, marauders and ruffians. Some of the men were possibly sociopaths and being in the army gave them the opportunity to wreak havoc on civilians, especially women and children. Age was not a deterrent, ten-year-olds to eighty-year-old women were targeted. Depending upon individual states, the laws of consent varied from as young as age six to age ten even though these girls may not have had any idea of what was happening to them. The majority suffered fear, pain and mental anguish. Even some of the older girls were considered ruined or damaged goods while a few suffered mental illness, suicide or death.

Under the court system, what conditions constituted rape? The better question is. "What was ruled out?" Resistance was the key, if she showed no evidence of resisting, did she consent, was she a prostitute, did she try to prevent the assault, was there evidence of blood or bodily injury due to violence or she did cry out for help, was there penetration or did she fight for her life; then the charge of rape may well be ruled out.

If a man was charged it would be for attempts or murder. The court ruled that there were too many false statements made by women or they were mentally ill. It was concluded that a chaste white woman of a high social standing would be too

embarrassed to admit to an assault. However, if charged (higher incidences of black men being convicted) the following punishments were expected: hanging, firing squad, ten years hard labor, prison, reduction in rank, or dishonorable discharge. Other forms of discipline included head shaving, buttons cut off, forfeit all pay within military lines.

Often the sentence was reduced or men were punished for other than the actual rape charge, such as battery.

Slave women were always a target for violence but there were cases where they had the opportunity to prosecute their case of sexual violence and it was heard in the court system. The book, "I Had Rather Die: Rape in the Civil War," cites numerous examples of sexual violence perpetrated on women of all ages,

social positions and color. The author, Kim Murphy, also examines how the perpetrators were or were or punished. Her book covers the subject material quite extensively.

References

Murphy, Kim. *I Had Rather Die: Rape in the Civil War*. Published by Coachlight Press: 2014.

"Sex in the Civil War."

https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Sex_in_the_Civil_War&oldid=818502070
1-3-2018

Stutzman, Maureen. *Rape in the American Civil War: Race, Class, and Gender in the Case of Harriet McKinley and Perry Pierson*. Spring 2009 Issue.



(President's Corner continued from page 1)

The North Carolina Monument (below) features a sculpture by Gutzon Borglum, the man who engineered Mount Rushmore. The Union Corps commanders all have statues, usually on horseback and only Lee and, most recently, James Longstreet have statues, on the Southern side.



The statue to James Longstreet (left)



caused quite a controversy on both sides. Many Southerners believed Longstreet did not perform well at the Battle of Gettysburg and did not deserve to be honored. I was there for the unveiling of the Longstreet statue and there

was an audible gasp when it was uncovered. The figure of James Longstreet is nearly as large as the horse they have him seated on. There are also plaques marking the sites of hospitals used after the battle.

In 1867, a small memorial urn was placed in the National Cemetery by members of the 1st Minnesota Infantry. Since then the placement of monuments has been a topic of both great interest and controversy. That story is far too extensive to tell here, but a man named John Batchelder and the Gettysburg Battlefield Monument Association played major parts in preserving the field and how it was to be honored. Batchelder contacted as many of the remaining participants as he could and with their input was able to create a map showing unit locations and where many of the monuments were to be placed. In the 1870s he walked the field with veterans placing wooden stakes to mark unit positions. The letters he wrote and the letters he received back have been printed in three volumes with 125 maps, and THE BATCHELDER PAPERS make interesting reading for the hardcore Gettysburg enthusiast.

Monumental placement raised the hackles of the Union States that had sent the original regiments. What's more, surviving wounded Union volunteers (often handicapped for life) felt forgotten, while many in the Union feared generous treatment of the South fomented future traitorous behavior. This intransigence influenced a policy of denial for Confederate monuments for fifty years after the battle. Even today, Confederate markers number fewer than their Union counterparts. Placed in 1917, the monument to Robert E. Lee (right)



remains the most spectacular for the Confederacy. Not until 1982 did the completion of the Tennessee Monument finally give all of the Confederate states representation on the field. One of the smallest yet most significant Confederate markers, a small granite square near the Union line at the High Water Mark, represents the position of the 26th North Carolina Infantry as the furthest advance made by any Confederate unit of Pickett-Pettigrew charge. (Many Virginians have a real problem with that one. They believe that Virginia regiments had the honor of advancing the furthest.) The most controversial monument (again at the High Water Mark) memorializes the 72nd Pennsylvania Infantry (right). Only after decades of legal action did the Pennsylvania Supreme Court settle the marker's proper position. What role that unit played in the famous defense against the Pickett-Pettigrew Charge still rubs nerves raw.



Visit Gettysburg. Take the time to appreciate the monuments and markers for the Civil War history and to marvel at the great effort that went into their placement on the quiet fields.

Mike

ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY TO TOUR FT CASWELL!

Many of you mentioned missing one of the three previous tours of Fort Caswell. Thanks to BCWRT Tour Organizer John Walsh, you have another opportunity to take a one-of-a-kind, close-up walking tour of this historic fort.

Immediately prior to our Tuesday, May 1, 2018 meeting, join local historian and BCWRT Advisor Jim McKee for a fascinating insight into the Civil War-era portion of Fort Caswell.



Construction of the fort began in 1826 and it was used as part of the Confederacy's Cape Fear River defenses throughout the conflict. Subsequently, Fort Caswell actively defended the Cape Fear region until finally being decommissioned in 1946.

Since Fort Caswell is not open to the general public, this is a rare opportunity to view this historical treasure, led by a most knowledgeable and interesting guide. Of note, every one of the prior BCWRT tours of Fort Caswell sold out!

DETAILS

When, Where, Price, Contact, and Notes....

-----UNFORTUNATELY, THIS TOUR IS NOW FULLY BOOKED DUE TO THE OVERWHELMING MEMBERS' RESPONSE TO AN EMAIL SENT MARCH 15. OUR APOLOGIES AND WE'LL CONSIDER ANOTHER FORT CASWELL TOUR AT A LATER DATE.-----



If anyone has any experience with historic collections, cataloguing, inventorying and the care of such items, and would like to take part in a project working in this area, please contact Mike Powell (mikepowell260@gmail.com or 910-278-3545).

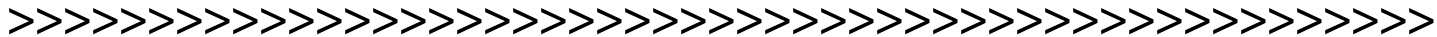
RAFFLE FOR FRAMED LEE PRINT

A framed print of John A. Elder’s portrait of General Robert E. Lee will be raffled at our April meeting. Tickets are \$2 each or three for \$5 and will be sold next to the 50/50 table at the front of the auditorium.



“Similar unframed prints sell for up to \$135 on the internet,” said BCWRT President Mike Powell. “All money raised will go towards our mission of education and battlefield preservation.”

The framed print was donated by an anonymous BCWRT member.



PROGRAM SPEAKERS FOR 2017-18

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. **PLUS THE MASONBORO PARLOR BAND WILL ENTERTAIN!!!!!!**

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.”*

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.

LOOKING FOR CIVIL WAR BOOKS



Our Sutler’s Table has a problem that perhaps you can help rectify: they are running low on books!

According to Peter Whalen, head of the Sutler’s Table activity, “More folks are buying than donating. We like that members are interested in reading about the Civil War, but the diminishing number of tomes is worrisome.”

If you have any Civil War volumes that you are finished with, why not donate them to the Sutler’s Table, giving others the opportunity to also appreciate a good read. Simply bring your books to a meeting and see Peter at the front of the auditorium. If you desire, a letter of donation can be given.

All monies we make from the Sutler’s Table are used for our speaker programs and preservation projects.

...And Magazines, Too!

As noted above, the Sutler’s Table needs books. Also, “Please bring in your used Civil War and World War II magazines to share or exchange, take one or more then return them you when you are finished,” requests BCWRT Vice President Charen Fink.

Charen will assist the Sutler’s Table by monitoring the magazine exchange. Regarding the request for WW II magazines? Charen is working on another book, this one involving the Second World War, “And I would appreciate any periodicals members might have dealing with that conflict.”



Update - NC Civil War and Reconstruction History Center

BCWRT members will recall a periodic mention of the planned North Carolina Civil War and Reconstruction History Center in Fayetteville. Our own Charen Fink, Chris Fonvielle, Musette Steck, and Wally Rueckel serve on the organization’s Board of Advisors.

The center recently amended its name (adding “Reconstruction”), refreshed its website (<http://nccivilwarcenter.org>), and overhauled their Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/nccivilwarcenter/>). They also were highlighted in a Spectrum news program (<http://spectrumlocalnews.com/nc/triangle-sandhills/news/2017/11/17/civil-war-museum-set-to-open-in-fayetteville>).

Major construction will likely begin in between 2019 and 2020 for the \$65 million dollar center. Planners hope the facility will open by 2021.

SEPTEMBER TOUR OF WYSE'S FORKS AND KINSTON

Here's a quick question: Where were the largest Civil War battles in NC fought?

If you answered Bentonville, Fort Fisher, and Kinston you get a star. For bonus points, can you name the two sites the BCWRT has already toured? Yes, we've traveled to the first two Civil War locales. On September 15 we are going to walk the Wyse's Fork battlefield, then journey to nearby Kinston, where we'll have lunch and visit the impressive CSS Neuse Civil War Interpretive Center.

Wade Sokolosky, the BCWRT's newest advisor and THE EXPERT on the Civil War in that locale, will be our tour guide for a fascinating Saturday excursion.



According to BCWRT Tour Coordinator John Walsh, "We'll take a comfortable bus to and from the sites, with Wade narrating and taking us on a walking tour of the still-existing trenches of a battlefield where over 25,000 troops fought, resulting in an estimated 2,600 casualties." The battle took place March 7-10, 1865, pitting Confederate forces commanded by General Braxton Bragg against Union forces under Major General John Schofield. Despite the last mass capture of

Union soldiers during the Civil War, the fighting nevertheless resulted in a Union victory.

Save the date - Saturday, September 15 - and look for a sign-up sheet coming soon. John - whose previous tours have all sold out - warns, "This is a tour you shouldn't miss!"

OTHER NC CIVIL WAR TOURS

After marking your calendar and making a note to sign up for the BCWRT September 15 tour to Wyse's forks and Kinston, if you should want to visit other Civil War sites, here are two suggestions.

The Raleigh Civil War Round Table, in conjunction with the City of Raleigh, will give you a trip back into time, experiencing what the city was like under the occupying Union forces. The four-hour trolley tour, featuring Ted Kunstling, president of the Raleigh CWRT, is offered on May 9 and 10. For complete details, see <http://www.raleighcwrt.org/special-events/#event2>. (The tours for April sold out!)

The Friends of Bentonville Battlefield are hosting a symposium, "Two Weeks of Fury," September 28-30, featuring visits to the Civil War actions at Bentonville, Monroe's Crossing, Averasboro, and Wyse's Forks. Only 100 tickets will be sold. For details, visit <http://www.fobb.net/2018Symposium.aspx>.

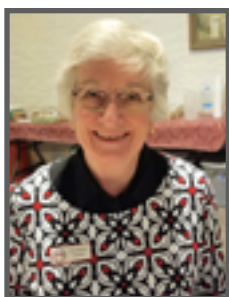
Registration Team Volunteers

When you arrive at Hatch Auditorium there are almost a dozen-and-a-half volunteers who greet, guide, and assist you with registering and paying your dues. BCWRT President Mike Powell noted, “We all owe these fellow members a hearty ‘thank you’ for their work.” This issue salutes eight members of the registration team, with the other participants highlighted in our May newsletter.



Ken Keast is the Registration Coordinator who is responsible for making certain all goes well. Ken, who was recruited by former member Peter Desrochers back in 2012, spends several hours each meeting getting everything ready, assisting

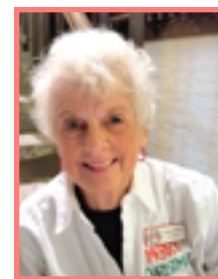
with check in, then tearing it all down. “My wife and I retired to Southport from Saratoga Springs, NY, where I worked for the school system for 32 years,” Ken noted. He devotes several hours each month updating membership renewals, the database, and sign in information for the meetings. Ken applauds the work of the registration team and added, “A few more volunteers would be great to give us some flexibility. Computer checkers would be the best...and tech-savvy if possible.”



Dale Mullarkey came to South Harbor Village in Southport from Tennessee and joined our round table in 2013, and was recruited to assist by **Barbara Kanto**.

Dale and her husband, “Have visited many, many Civil War battlefields, and I worked as a docent at Carnton Plantation which became a hospital during the Battle of Franklin,” she said.

Barbara Kanto, is a native of Richmond, Va, and now lives in St. James. She has a relative who fought in the Civil War, “And rode on the back of his horse in the Battle of Petersburg,” she proudly stated. Barbara was recruited by Norm Praet when she joined in 2011.



“Doing this volunteering has been a joy! One meets all different kind of folks — using a Southern expression.”

Rick and Helen Morschauer are one of several husband and wife volunteers helping with registration.

Originally from Yonkers, NY, then Mahopac, NY, they’ve lived in St. James since 2005.



They were introduced to the round table by Bob Benedict and started volunteering in June of 2008, the round table’s first year.

Another couple who volunteer are **Barbara** and **Bill Voorhees** (on right). **Fred Truelove** (on left



next to Barbara) is also part of the registration team.

(Continued next month. Photos by Tish Gordon.)

CIVIL WAR VIEWS

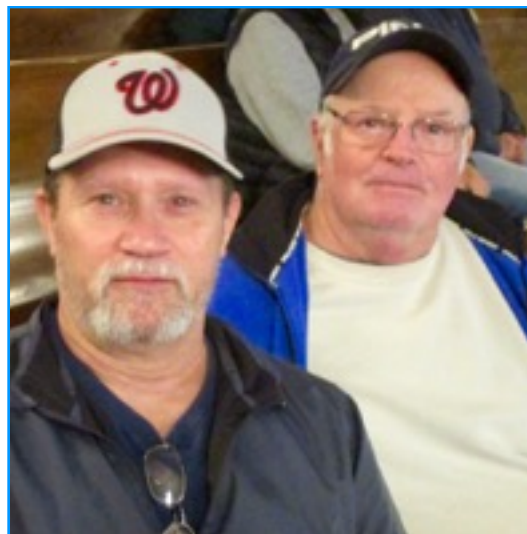
The editors of *Call to Arms* ask you to share your visits to a Civil War battlefield, monument, park, reenactment, or historical site. Simply email your high resolution photo to egstack@cnsr.com along with the name of the photographer, location, date taken, and a short caption.



Co-editor E. Gifford Stack spent part of a March 2018 weekend visiting Point Park atop Chattanooga's Lookout Mountain, site of the "Battle Above the Clouds" in 1863. Photos clockwise from top right: Entry sign to Point Park which charges a small admission; the 80-foot tall New York Peace Monument topped with a Union and Confederate soldier shaking hands; a cannon overlooks Chattanooga; and the Army Corps of Engineers inspired entry gate. (Photos by Sylvia E. Swanson)

Pictured at Our March Meeting

Noah Andre Trudeau and 486 members and guests (a record turnout!) attended our March meeting, including the happy attendees shown here. (Photos E. Gifford Stack and Chuck Rodema)



Pictured at Our March Meeting - Continued



MUSTER NOTES and NOTEABLES

The next meeting of the BCWRT is Tuesday, April 3, 2018. The meeting will be held at Hatch Auditorium, NC Baptist Assembly, Fort Caswell, Oak Island, NC.

Registration and refreshments begin at 5:15 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.

2018 Officers, Directors, Advisors, and Liaisons

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

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

