



Call to Arms

Brunswick Civil War Round Table Newsletter

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER - MIKE POWELL



I hope everyone had a great holiday season. I don't know about you, but I am always glad for the holidays to come and I'm also glad to see them go. I'm getting old.

It is a shame we could not have Ed Bearss last month.

He was scheduled for five events when he came to North Carolina, and he was only able to make two of them this year. In spite of Ed Bearss' weather problem, we were able to change his entire schedule—flights, dates and all—within about an hour. We could do this only because leaders in the NC round tables knew who to contact and all worked together to get it done.

Here is what we have coming up in 2018 and some of our goals for the year.

Last June, the board approved money to have a few interpretative plaques installed at Fort Caswell. This is the only major Civil War site, that I know of, that does not have any interpretation. But, preserving history is not the purpose of the Baptist Assembly. So, I am happy that they are willing to let us handle that in a way that does not interfere with their main mission. We very much appreciate the consideration they have granted us and the efforts of Nathan Sloan, in particular, for helping us get this done. Leslie Rivers, our newest Advisor has been instrumental in this effort. We hope to have the first plaque installed in February and others by summer. We can all feel very good about this project. This is exactly the kind of work round tables

should do in their community. Your support makes it possible for BCWRT to be successful in this regard.

We are also continuing our outreach program with the other round tables in North Carolina. Wally and I will have our third meeting with our counterparts this summer. And Wally is part of the team leading the efforts nationwide and will spearhead their second meeting with round tables in Scottsdale, AZ, and Puget Sound (Seattle). These efforts are having an effect. There are now several women's forums around the country, each modeled after our own which was created by Charen Fink. Furthermore, we share scheduling on speakers like Ed Bearss and (later this year) Noah Trudeau. By coordinating with several other NC round tables, we pay expenses for one speaker who talks at several locals on a single trip. Our sharing also advances historical studies, promotes Civil War history everywhere, bolsters smaller groups and husbands resources.

We hope to expand our outreach to young people in a couple of ways in 2018. First, we will pursue a scholarship fund for a student who is interested in pursuing a career in history. Many round tables do this and it is very appropriate for the BCWRT, too. Next, we will make another effort to reach young people through the schools. We have not had much success so far working through the schools and their administrators and teachers, but maybe if we persist, they will do something just to get rid of us. If anyone has any ideas about this, please let me know.

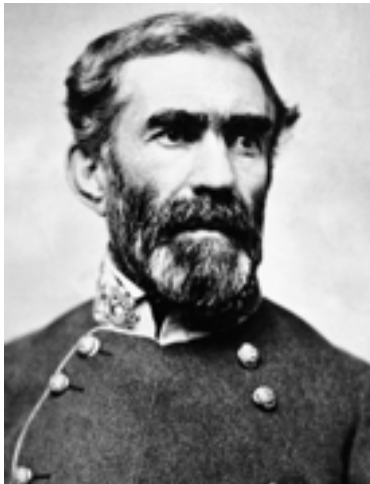
(Continued on page 5)

Enigmatic General Bragg Explained February 6

The Civil War generated a plethora of unusual, odd, and curious characters. Perhaps none was as strange as General Braxton Bragg, considered as among the worst generals of the war.

Luckily for us, we will have our own BCWRT member Chris Fonvielle, Ph.D., untangle the character of this enigmatic soldier. Titled “Unlucky in War: Confederate General Braxton Bragg,” Chris’ talk is sure to appeal to all levels of Civil War enthusiast at our Tuesday, February 6 meeting.

General Bragg was a strict disciplinarian, yet employed uninspired military tactics. He was seriously insubordinate to his superiors. His



post-battle follow through turned victories into tactical disappointments. He possessed a sour disposition, blamed others for defeat, and exercised poor personnel skills.

Examples of his “leadership ability”

are found at the inconclusive battles at Perryville (Ky), Murfreesboro (Tn), and the battles for Chattanooga. Throughout these campaigns, he fought almost as bitterly against some of his uncooperative subordinates as he did against the enemy as they made multiple attempts to have him replaced as army commander. Although his commands often outnumbered those he fought against, most of his battles ended in defeat. The only exception was a victory in the Battle of Chickamauga, considered the bloodiest battle in the Western Theater.

Chris Fonvielle is highly qualified to share some interesting perspectives and occurrences



about this controversial Confederate general. Chris is a popular, well-respected and totally committed local historian and UNCW associate professor of history. His primary focus is the Lower Cape Fear region, Civil War coastal operations and

defenses, blockade running, and the navies. His courses about the Civil War are charged with his dynamic presentation style. He is known for captivating his audiences during every presentation, regardless of the subject matter.

In addition, Chris is a prolific author, including, “*The Wilmington Campaign: Last Rays of Departing Hope*,” “*Faces of Ft. Fisher, 1861 – 1864*,” and his most recent book entitled, “*To Forge a Thunderbolt: Ft Anderson and the Battle of Wilmington*.”

As usual, the Tuesday, February 6 meeting takes place at Hatch Auditorium on the grounds of Fort Caswell. Registration and refreshments begin at 6:15 p.m. with the program starting promptly at 7 p.m. The visitor fee is \$10, and may be applied toward the \$25 annual membership dues.

For more information about the 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 interesting facts, comments and updates.

THE LETTER WRITER — From the Pen of Dan Fink

Hello, my cherished readers. Sometimes out of adversity comes opportunity. Eight years ago, you gave me the distinct honor of producing a synopsis of our monthly speakers. I hope you've enjoyed reading my reviews in this newsletter.

Last month our beloved Ed Bearss became the speaker that wasn't and likewise I produced the synopsis that isn't. The hole left in our newsletter offered a pregnant possibility to give birth to something "Civil Warrish," an opportunity that has been bursting to be born. Here it comes.

I love words! I love big fat juicy words like: LUGUBRIOUS! I love short sniggily words like: SYZYGY. I just like words. Please let me write a few for you.

I change hats and become your Civil War Letter Writer. I am a "camp follower" and budding businessman who sees an opportunity. My counterpart today would text, and then text some more. The Civil War soldier wrote and then wrote some more (average was one letter per person per day). I would have lots of competition wanting to earn your business.

Literacy was high in this Civil War so my customer base was not huge. Basically, I had to present and offer a highly superior service. Yes, you could buy a replacement soldier to serve in your place. These replacements were usually poorly educated and at the bottom rung of the economic ladder. Yes, some spoke another language or were immigrants. The rate of amputees was high (no arm=no letter).

Here I am — at your service. I offer much more than just routine letters. If you do not return from battle I will make those racy dime

novels disappear as well as your cards and dice. (Mom will never know.) I offer real letter paper (not old wallpaper used by some) and real India ink.

I will have connections with the official daily courier. There is always room in that waterproof and almost bulletproof pouch for a batch of your letters. No need to wait up to two weeks for the mail wagon to appear. When wrapped in lots of red ribbon, letters become indistinguishable from official government letters which are always wrapped in plenty of "red ribbon (tape)."

All this may still not buy your business, soooooooooooooooooo I will even "crosshatch" for you. Crosshatching is achieved by turning the written page 45 degrees and squeezing more words per page. Be aware, your reader must become skilled at "readin' between the lines."



Evening entertainment might be readings from the latest, juiciest and most provocative dime novels provided exclusively for my customers. Perhaps a lesson mastering the latest game of skill like the very popular Quocker wodger (a wooden puppet controlled and made to dance by controlling strings). The best operators became very good a "pulling strings."

Oh – I love words! Thanks for letting me write a few for you.

Be well, continue making our CWRT one of the best, but don't cook any skunks in your Dutch oven. Ah -- that is a story for another day!

Your Humble Civil War Letter Writer,
"Phineas B. Phynque"

Ladies' Department — *By Charen Fink*

United States Colored Troops (USCT)

After the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, Abraham Lincoln declared that black men of suitable condition would be received into the armed service of the United States. Both free and newly emancipated slaves flocked to enlistment centers. Here are some statistical results.

States with the Most Black Recruits

Rank	State	Number of Recruits	% of State's Black Population
1	Louisiana	24,052	6.9%
2	Kentucky	23,703	10.0%
3	Tennessee	20,135	7.1%
4	Mississippi	17,869	4.1%
5	Maryland	8,718	5.1%

Average age—23 Average height—5' 6.7" Volunteered—87.9%
Never Deserted—89.8% Never arrested—95.3% MIA at least once—1.6%
Hospitalized during the war—53.7% Died during the war—22.0%
Cause of that death—Illness=87.1% and Wounds=12.5%

Harriet Tubman—as a spy, she helped plan and oversee the liberation of 750 enslaved people in the 1863 Combahee Ferry Raid in the South Carolina low country. At least 100 of those freed went on to join the Union army.

Antebellum Transportation (continued from previous issue)

The B&O Railroad was the first operational train in 1829. By the end of the 1830s more than 4,000 miles of track went across the U.S. with the steam engines speeding at 30 miles per hour. There were no ladies-only railway cars because it was too costly with no guarantee that 60 unescorted women per car would purchase a ticket. There was mixed seating for men and women traveling together and ladies only waiting rooms.

Even though class and race status protected traveling women from male passengers, nevertheless, male sexual privilege might be displayed in prolong glances, touching, intimate conversation, or the assumption that unescorted women were open targets for sexual conquest.

Women wearing hats with veils provided a barrier against eye contact. Oddly, rape at that time was not considered a threat to women. What was, however, was the seduction and conquest of a woman through deceit and trickery.

The transportation revolution produced an etiquette of travel with emphasis on rigid male-female codes of politeness and sex segregation which shaped the gender system.



19th Century Beauty Tips

- ♥ If you want to be pretty, eat cornfield peas or a hundred chicken gizzards.
- ♥ To prevent ugliness, don't drink coffee or let the moon shine on your uncovered face.

References

Cohen, Patricia Cline, "Women at Large: Travel in Antebellum America." *History Today*, Vol. 44, December 1994, pgs. 46-50.
The Civil War Monitor. "The Civil War Almanac." 2017, pg. 22-23 and 76.

(President's Corner Continued)

Technology is playing a greater role in how BCWRT operates these days. Because of our size, we needed automated attendance and other records. Len Trizinsky did that for us with his excellent computer program. Getting folks checked in quickly and capturing that information has proven to be a valuable tool. In 2016 and 2017, we initiated the process and it was all about learning the system, but in 2018 we hope to be able to utilize the information to the maximum.

This year we hope to give more recognition to our wonder volunteers. We have the greatest group of folks helping us that I can imagine. Being a nonprofit limits what recognition we

can do, but we intend to pursue a few good ideas. Look to the newsletter to see articles and photos about our volunteers. We invite everyone to join our merry band of volunteers that makes us the BEST Civil War round table in the world.

For the members, it is all about the speakers. I think we have a wonderful line up of presenters for this year. We will also have the Masonboro Parlor Band play for us a couple of times. As always, we hope to hear any ideas for improvements. See you all on Tuesday, February 6, for Chris Fonvielle who will talk to us about everyone's favorite, Confederate General Braxton Bragg.

Mike

CIVIL WAR PRINTS FOR SALE

A BCWRT member has several Civil War prints for sale. Evan Strager is offering the following:

“Brothers of Ireland”; “Emmitsburg Road” (Pickett’s Charge at Gettysburg); “Hood’s Protest” (Hood and Longstreet at Gettysburg); and “Hampton’s Duel” (Gettysburg) by artist Don Troiani.

“Ride to Glory” and “Men of Iron” by Dale Gallon.

“The Review at Moss Neck” (Fredericksburg); “Follow Me” (Armistead at Gettysburg); “The Last Meeting” (Lee and Jackson at Chancellorsville) by Mort Kunstler.

All prints are unframed except “Hampton’s Duel”. To view copies of the artwork, visit the website prints.com. For further information, contact Evan at evanstrager@gmail.com.

Glowing wounds. After the Battle of Shiloh in 1862, soldiers reported a peculiar phenomenon: glow-in-the-dark wounds. More than 16,000 soldiers from both armies were wounded during the battle, and neither Union nor Confederate medical personnel were prepared for the carnage. Soldiers lay in the mud for two rainy days, and many of them noticed that their wounds glowed in the dark. In fact, the injured whose wounds glowed seemed to heal better than the others. In 2001, two Maryland teenagers solved the mystery (and won a top prize at an international science fair). The wounded became hypothermic, and their lowered body temperatures made ideal conditions for a bioluminescent bacterium called *Photorhabdus luminescens*, which inhibits pathogens. (Quoted in “The Civil War 8 Obscure Facts,” smithsonianmag.com 2011)

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, 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.”*

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.

HELP WANTED

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](tel:910-278-3545)).

Meet Our Sutler's Table Volunteers

*Continuing our recognition of the BCWRT volunteers, this month we salute the folks who operate our very popular Sutler's Table. (A **sutler** was a civilian merchant who sold provisions to an army in the field, in camp, or in quarters. Sutlers sold wares from the back of a wagon or a temporary tent, traveling with an army.)*

Peter Whalen, who is in charge of our Sutler's Table, believes the primary mission of the table "is to get Civil War books and materials into the hands of people who are interested in them."

He enjoys the work because, "I like pursuing the books and periodicals and talking to the people who visit our table. Sometimes people come up looking for a book about a particular battle or Civil War personality. Other times, a member asks me to recommend a good read. I also enjoy hearing recommendations about good books or authors."

According to Peter, all books and periodicals are donated by members. Sometimes it is only one item, and on some occasions, it is a box or boxes full of books. "We welcome all donations no matter the amount," Peter said. "We price the books by age, condition, type of cover, and whether the book has photos or illustration or maps. Even with all those factors taken into account, most books are priced under \$5."

Peter noted that for bibliophiles who want to continue looking for the 'right read' during the summer when BCWRT does not meet, the

Books and Stuff bookstore in Southport consigns many Sutler's Table books.

Asked what is his biggest challenge, Peter believes it would be helpful to maintain an inventory of the books on hand, including a description of the author, title or topic, copyright date, condition, and price. He would willingly welcome a member who would like to undertake this responsibility.

Peter enjoys the support of two other members. His daughter **Susanna** is a tenth grader at Brunswick County Early College and attends most meetings, depending on her school work. She enjoys the variety of topics discussed, as well as the diverse background of our speakers. Occasionally, she brings along a fellow student and would like students from other schools to attend. (There is no membership or guest fee for any student attending BCWRT meetings.) Peter's other assistant is **Tom Brown**, a BCWRT member for over five years, who resides in St. James and is a self-professed history buff. He enjoys working with Peter and meeting members who come to the front of the auditorium to see what the Sutler's Table has to offer.



Peter Whalen, Susanna Whalen, and Tom Brown will happily help you find a book or periodical at our Sutler's Table. They also sell BCWRT hats! (Photos by Tish Gordon)

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. This month's contribution is from E Gifford Stack.

A Thanksgiving visit to family in Chattanooga presented an opportunity to visit the Chattanooga National Cemetery, a site I



vaguely knew had Civil War roots. Turns out this 120-acre property has much for a Civil

War enthusiast to view.

Established in 1863 after the Battles of Chattanooga, it was created to inter fallen Union soldiers. By 1870, there were some 12,000 Union interments, almost half of whom were unknown. Interestingly, no Confederate soldiers are buried in CNC, owing to the prevailing sentiment at the time. The current number of interments is just over 50,000.

The first Medal of Honor winner, Jacob Parrott, a Civil War soldier, is buried on the site. Six other Civil War veterans who received the prestigious award are also laid to rest in CNC. Another interesting factoid: General William P. Sanders, a cousin of Jefferson Davis and the only Southern-born Union officer to be killed during the Civil War, is buried on the grounds.

By far, the most visited area of CNC is the monument to the Union civilians and soldiers who stole the General, a wood-burning locomotive, in Georgia and attempted to take it to Chattanooga, a distance of some 100 miles.

The daring raid started on April 12, 1862, and was led by James Andrews, another civilian, and 20 Union volunteers from Ohio infantries. The General was stolen in what is today Kennesaw, Georgia. The raiders went full steam northward, burning railroad bridges, cutting telegraph lines, and tearing up track for seven hours.



Relentless pursuit, bad weather, and poor luck ended their mission just 18 miles south of Chattanooga. Confederate forces eventually captured all the men. After being tried, Andrews and seven others were hanged as spies. Some raiders escaped. Others were exchanged for Confederate prisoners.

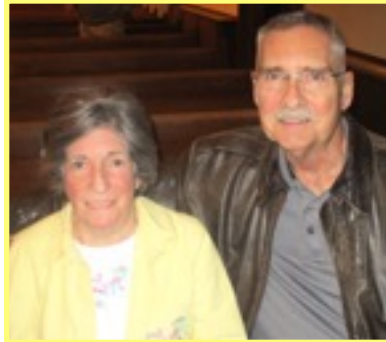
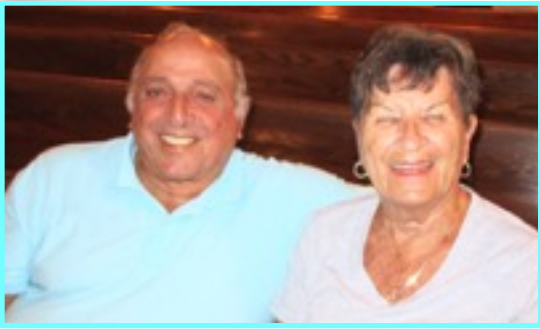


The men who were hung are buried around a sizable monument built by the State of Ohio and dedicated in 1890. Sitting atop the memorial is a replica of the General.

Above: Among the 12,000 Union gravestones; James Andrews headstone; and observing the General memorial with grandson Thomas. (Photos by Jeff Swanson)

Pictured at Our 2017-18 Meetings

Mother Nature caused the cancellation of Ed Bearss' presentation in January...so, no talk, no attendee pictures. However, we've had LOTS of happy members and guests this year who have not, as yet, been pictured on this page. Here are some of them. (Photos by Chuck Roedema and E Gifford Stack)



MUSTER NOTES and NOTEABLES

The next meeting of the BCWRT is Tuesday, February 6, 2018. 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.

2018 Officers, Directors, Advisors, and Liaisons

Mike Powell: President & Director

Charen Fink: Vice President & Director

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

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

