



Call to Arms

Brunswick Civil War Round Table Newsletter

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER - MIKE POWELL



We close out another calendar year at BCWRT. It has been a really good year and we continue to grow. We have averaged over 400 attendees for each meeting this year. That is remarkable. The world of Civil War Round Tables has never seen anything like it in the 74 years

since the first Civil War Round Table began in Chicago in 1943.

I want to thank our leadership team for stepping up to serve for another year. I also want to thank the many volunteers who make it all happen. Keep an eye on the newsletter, in the coming months, as we recognize them for their efforts. Without the volunteers, none of our success would be possible. Our financial health is excellent. We have never needed to increase our membership dues and 2018 will see no increase either. The conversion of our record keeping, to digital, has worked out fine. We continue to expand on the program to provide us with valuable information and less work to get it. Our historic preservation efforts, bringing interpretive plaques to Fort Caswell, will soon be show fruits. We hope to have the first of them installed in the early spring. I really must thank the Baptist Assembly at Fort Caswell for providing us with the perfect venue to hold our meetings.

As Program Chairman, I want to let you know the status of the speakers for the coming year. Speakers like to speak to large crowds. And I have to say that I am able to use the size of our crowds to entice great speakers to come

to Southport/Oak Island. For the past two years the amount we spent for speakers has decreased, and 2018 will be lower still. Better speakers for less money is a formula we can live with.

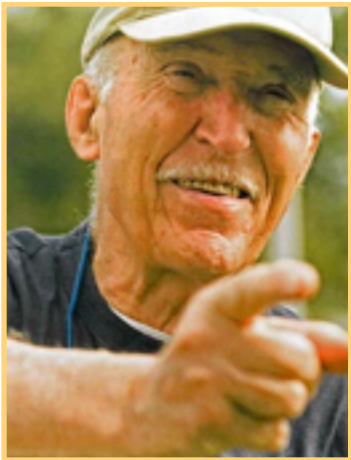
Since we do not meet in July or August, we use ten speakers a year. Since we are fortunate enough to have Ed Bearss and Susannah Ural, each year, we only have eight slots to fill. As long as Bud Robertson and Chris Mackowski keep getting standing ovations, I bring them back every other year, so that leaves me seven slots. Another slot usually goes to a local historian, Chris Fonvielle or Wade Sokolosky, for example. So, that leaves me six speaking slots a year. For 2018 we have a good line up. Besides, Ed, Chris Fonvielle, Susannah and Chris Mackowski, we are bringing back Dick Sommers, Peter Cozzens, and Bob Mullauer. They have spoken to us before and were well received. The new speakers for us this year are Noah Trudeau, Steve Davis and Peter Carmichael. All top drawer speakers and historians. I am just now working on 2019 and am happy to announce that we will have Harold Holzer speak to us. He is THE premier Lincoln scholar. Google his name and see what you find.

So, thank you all for your support and for making BCWRT not just the largest Civil War Round Table on the planet, but the very best. We continue to seek your ideas and recommendations so that we can continue to improve. We hope everyone has a great holiday season and we look forward to another outstanding year in 2018.

Mike

“Living National Treasure” to Speak January 3

The incomparable military historian Ed Bearss, now 94 years young, and often referred to as a “living national treasure” by his peers, will return as guest speaker at our January meeting, to be held on **Wednesday, January 3**. This year’s presentation is entitled, “*Reflections on the Civil War.*”



Few historians can capture the drama, the intensity, and the tragedy of the American Civil War quite like Ed Bearss. With his encyclopedic knowledge, commanding narratives, and unique presentation

style, he captivates his audiences with facts, dates and events, in minute detail without the benefit of a single note or script.

This year his presentation will be rather “free-flowing,” allowing Ed the opportunity to reflect on what specific events and milestones he feels he would like to convey. Knowing his vast knowledge, regardless of the issue or the incident, this is bound to mesmerize his audience...as he has been doing for decades.

As background, Ed’s career with the National Park Service began in 1954. He has been recognized as being more knowledgeable about battlefields than virtually any other historian. After his retirement in 1995, he received the title Chief Historian Emeritus. Around that time, a Congresswoman during a Congressional Committee meeting asked Ed if his extensive knowledge of military history could be confirmed at the National Archives, to which

Ed replied, “Madam, I am the National Archives!” As Chief Historian Emeritus, the Smithsonian recognized him in 2005 as one of 35 people, who along with Bill Gates, Stephen Spielberg and Wynton Marsalis, have immeasurably enriched lives in the past 25 years.

Ed is the recipient of numerous other awards and honors in history and preservation, including the “*Harry S. Truman Award*” for Meritorious Service in the field of Civil War History. He is a prolific writer, editor and author of countless history and Civil War-related books and articles. He has provided television commentary for the “*Civil War Journal*” on the A&E Network, “*Civil War Combat*” on the History Channel, “*Smithsonian’s Great Battles of the Civil War*” on the TLC Channel, and the Ken Burns PBS Series on “*The Civil War.*” In addition, as Chief Historian Emeritus of the National Park Service, he continues to lecture and guide five or six days a week, including multi-day tours with two tour companies, the Blue and Gray Education Society and Smithsonian Associates.

As usual, the **Wednesday, January 3**, 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.

Let Me Kiss Him for His Mother

Review of Wade Sokolosky's December 5 Presentation — *By Dan Fink*

Wade Sokolosky's extensive research pays huge dividends. We are the direct benefactors. He wisely narrows his scope to a single state - North Carolina. The problem, from the start, was a bunch of NOs. NO system, NO doctors, NO nurses, NO hospitals, NO sanitation, NO motivation from above to provide for the wounded and NO medical supplies from the North (declared contraband).

There was a popular wooden toy produced in the 1850s called a quockerwodger. It was a puppet controlled by strings and made to dance by someone else. Who stopped the flow of medical supplies to the South? Could it have been some Northern politicians whose actions were controlled by someone else?

Wade tells us that good people came forth with great "homegrown" answers. Dr. Edmund Burke Haywood, with help from many caring Southerners, stepped up and formed the first Civil War hospital in North Carolina. They became "do it yourselves." As the Federal blockade tightened (especially around Wilmington), poppies (for opium) grew in many a front yard. Citizens supported the war effort by providing medicinal native plants.

The new Minié ball caused a tearing, bone crushing wound. Treatment often led to amputation. The BIG killer was really diarrhea and dysentery. Wade paints us a picture of an injured soldier, exhausted as well as wounded and possibly exposed to adverse weather conditions. He is probably

malnourished and has been drinking contaminated water.

How does a Civil War doctor help? He gets him to a makeshift hospital then addresses that wound. Sometimes he amputates with a dirty knife and saw. Now he kills the pain with copious amounts of opiates. They were ingested, rubbed or sprinkled on severe wounds. No longer does the patient have pain or diarrhea, but has become very constipated. If he survives, he may also be addicted.

North Carolina steps around the politics and develops a plan. First care was received at one of four types of immediate care hospitals. One was a general hospital, another a wayside hospital, the third type was a receiving hospital, and fourth was a temporary hospital. The end goal was to stabilize you and get you to a garrison or field hospital where you could recover. Much good came



from these plans. Better hospitals and more staff who are better trained brings better outcomes for a patient.

Ya just had to be there to hear Wade relate a shopping list of accomplishments produced by a very familiar name - Florence Nightingale!

Wade leaves us with a point to ponder. The Wayne County, NC Courthouse became a hospital treating both Northern and Southern soldiers alike. An unknown Union soldier was being prepared for burial when a Southern lady said, "STOP! Let me kiss him for his Mother." Every heart responded and every eye filled with tears.

Ladies' Department — *By Charen Fink*

Tribute to Women

This article, written by Robert G. Ingersoll, was found in the *Youngstown Vindicator*, published in Youngstown, Ohio, many years ago. It was discovered in a book belonging to our family. The reverse side of the article revealed some classified ads which may give a sense of the time period.



It takes 100 men to make an encampment, but one woman can make a home. I not only admire woman as the most beautiful object ever created, but I reverence her as the redeeming glory of humanity, the sanctuary of all virtues, the pledge of all perfect qualities of heart and head. It is not just nor right to lay the sins of men at the feet of women. It is because women are so much better than men that their faults are considered greater. The one thing in this world that is constant, the one peak that rises above all clouds, the one window in which the light forever burns, the one star that darkness cannot quench is woman's love. It rises to the greatest heights, it sinks to the lowest depths.

It forgives the most cruel injuries. It is perennial of life and grows in every climate. Neither coldness nor neglect, harshness nor cruelty can extinguish it. A woman's love is the perfume of the heart. This is the real love that subdues the earth; the love that has wrought all miracles of art; that gives us music all the way from the cradle song to the grand closing symphony that bears the soul away on wings of fire. A love that is greater than power, sweeter than life and stronger than death.

For Rent—Furnished rooms, all conveniences, suitable for 2 or 4 gentlemen, convenient to rubber works, concrete steel and railroad. (McGuffey St.)

For Rent—Store room 100 feet deep, steam heat, all conveniences, cemented basement, reasonable rent. (N. Phelps St.)

Notice—After this date I will not be responsible for any debts contracted by my wife _____. (Jackson St.)

Lost—A red calf weighing about 200 lbs. Finder please notify _____ and receive a reward.

Lost—Mink muff, Wednesday evening between Poland Ave. and receive reward.

Found—That SENSIBLE buyers get lowest prices by ordering when dealers are not busy. 1900 furnace rush is over. NOW for summer prices and easy \$10 payments. Be wise. Buy now. (Wilson Ave.)

Confederate Soldier Profile

Average age in 1861—25

Born in the U.S.—96.6%; Born in a Northern state—4.9%

Marital Status: single—62.5%; Married—37.5%

Economic class: Lower (\$0-\$799)—41.7%; Upper (\$4,000+)—35.5%

Occupation: Farmer—53.7%; Skilled worker—9.2%; Slaveholding: Personally owned—13%; Resided in a slaveholding household—44.4%

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.

Wednesday, January 3: Returning for the eighth time, the incomparable military historian, prolific writer, Civil War battlefield guide and television commentator, Ed Bearss. His unique presentation style and commanding narrative simply captivates his audiences.

His topic: *"Reflections on the Civil War."* Ed will share his ideas and perspectives on over 60 years of Civil War study.

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

Tuesday, March 6: Noah Andre Trudeau, author of numerous military history articles and eight Civil War history books including the Revolutionary War, the Mexican-American War, the Spanish Civil War, and World War I and II. The title of his presentation is, *"Robert E. Lee at Gettysburg."* **Tuesday, April 3:** Dr. Richard J. (Dick) Sommers, award-winning historian and prolific author of over 100 books, articles, chapters, entries, and reviews on the Civil War. His topic: *"Thucydides and the coming of the*

Civil War." Thucydides was an Athenian historian and general during the Peloponnes War, a civil war between Greeks which took place between 431 – 404. Sommers compares this war with the American Civil War.

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

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



NEW POST-SPEAKER PROCEDURE

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

AN IMPORTANT REMINDER

We don't want anyone starting off the New Year missing our first meeting in 2018!
PLEASE REMEMBER THE JANUARY 2018 MEETING (FEATURING ED BEARSS) IS ON

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3. Mark you calendar right now...the January BCWRT meeting is Wednesday, January 3. SEE YOU THERE!

2018 Officers, Board, and Advisors

During our December meeting, the membership elected the following officers for the 2018 calendar year: President - **Mike Powell**; Vice President - **Charen Fink**; Vice President - **Jim Johnson**; Treasurer - **Tom Kehoe**; and Secretary - **Mo Beers**. These officers are also directors. Per the BCWRT by-laws, "The President shall appoint" up to four additional directors, with the advice and consent of the officers. For 2018, the other directors are: **Tish Gordon**, **Kathy O'Connell**, **Chuck Roedema**, and **E Gifford Stack**.

The by-laws also state that officers and directors appoint advisors who provide counsel and assist the board on various matters. For 2018, the BCWRT advisors are: **Jack Carpenter**, **Chris Fonvielle**, **Ken Keast**, **Jim McKee**, **Roy Pender**, **Jonathan Richmond**, **Leslie Rivers**, **Wally Rueckel**, **Lori Sanderlin**, **Nathan Sloan**, **Len Trizinsky**, **Peter Whalen**, and **Max Williams** (Emeritus). All officers, board members, and advisors serve a one-year term.

President Mike Powell, as noted in his President's Corner remarks, thanked the volunteers who comprise the BCWRT leadership team. "These folks put a lot of time and effort into helping our round table run so smoothly. It's no wonder we continue to grow our membership." Mike also added that anyone interested in becoming more involved with the leadership of our organization to please contact him.

Upcoming Civil War Events Worth Noting

It's never too early to mark your calendar for those "I can't miss this" events.

On August 24-25, Fort Caswell is hosting a symposium on the history of the fort, not only about what occurred during the Civil War, but also highlighting the post-war years. Feedback from Ft. Caswell's 2017 symposium was five-star, earning kudos from all attendees. The 2018 event is sure to fill quickly so make certain you respond when details are released early next year.

Every BCWRT trip coordinated by member John Walsh has sold out. The upcoming September 15 visit to Wise's Forks Battlefield and the CSS Neuse Museum in Kinston will be no exception. You'll have no one to blame but yourself if you miss this dynamite daylong program.

Stay tuned to this newsletter and our Facebook page for details on both of these events.

On December 31, as we prepare to greet 2018, it might be fitting to remember "the 15(5)th anniversary of the most important New Year's Eve in American history. For it was at that moment -- celebrated then as now as the time to ring out the old while ringing in the new -- that Abraham Lincoln determined, amid deep political controversy, to go forward with the proclamation that would begin the process of freeing America's slaves." To read an excellent piece on this special evening leading to the Emancipation Proclamation, see <http://www.post-gazette.com/news/nation/2012/12/31/On-America-s-most-important-New-Year-s-Eve-Lincoln-found-our-better-angels/stories/201212310118>.

Meet our 50/50 Volunteers

When you buy your 50/50 raffle ticket (\$1 each or six for \$5), you are helped by a team of volunteers that want you to wear a smile as you part with your money. If you win the half that goes to a member or guest, you'll be very happy, if not ecstatic! And you should feel good that the other half of the money raised is well utilized in support of our various programs.

The 50/50 volunteers serve at the front of the auditorium, as well as roving up and down the aisles. "My suggestion," noted 50/50 coordinator **Roy Pender**, "is to head up to the Hatch stage immediately after registering. Or, if you absolutely must grab that cookie first thing, look for one of our rovers, conspicuous by their carpenter's apron and a roll of tickets in their hand."

Besides **Roy** (a direct descendant of General Dorsey Pender) who also serves as a BCWRT adviser, there are four volunteer members to assist you. **Kathy O'Donnell** is the wife of our deceased co-founder Tom O'Donnell, and is a member of our Board of Directors. **Matt Italiano** hails from Baltimore and actually went to high school with Mike Powell, our president. **Roger Albizu**, a member for a year-and-a-half, also belongs to the Southport Lions and the Wheels by the Sea car club. **Sam Benson** is a relatively new member, but has the distinction of playing numerous rounds of golf with Mike Powell.



Volunteers for the 50/50 raffle are shown in action during our December meeting. Seated at the table (L to R) in front of the Hatch stage are Sam Benson, Kathy O'Donnell, and Roger Albizu. Roy Pender crosses his arms wondering how much money will be raised. Matt Italiano beams as he urges all to buy just one more ticket. *(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@cnsr.com along with the name of the photographer, location, date taken, and a short caption.

Wally Rueckel, co-founder of our round table, participated in a November tour of the “Civil War in Coastal North Carolina.” The tour stops included New Bern battlefields, Ft. Macon, Goldsboro battle sites, Wise’s Forks battlefield, the CSS Neuse Museum in Kinston, White Hall and other significant Civil War locales. According to Wally, his “WOW Moment” occurred at the CSS Neuse Museum when seeing the actual hull of the ship.

PHOTO - (R to L) Wally Rueckel and tour guides Wade Sokolosky and Horrace Mewborn pause in front of a full-size reproduction of the Confederate ironclad CSS Neuse, in Kinston. (Photo by one of the other 21 tour participants.)



Requests Regarding Hatch Auditorium Meetings

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

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

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

Third, we heard what you said about the garbled sound system during the Q&A. Thanks to the Baptist Assembly expert staff, we reconfigured the speakers so that the audience and presenter can more clearly hear questions from the floor. Thanks for bearing with us as we tweaked the system.

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.

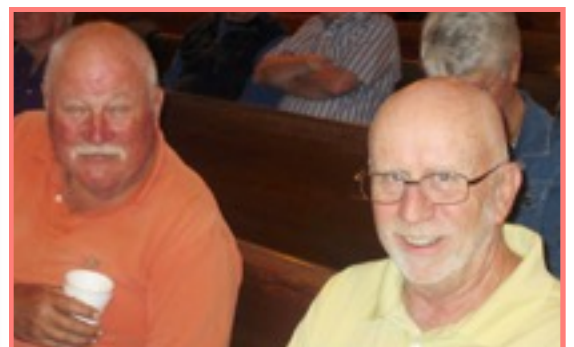
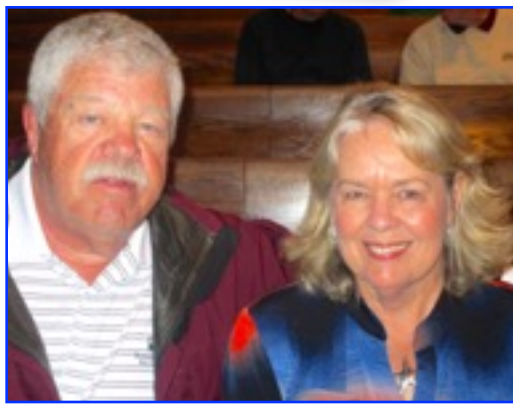
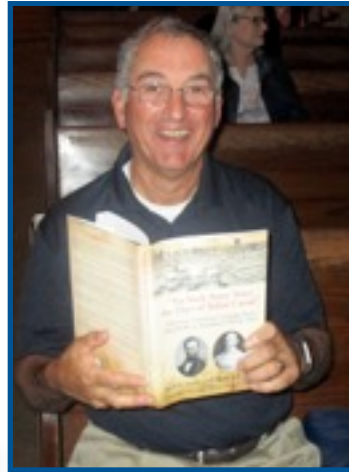
A big **thank you** to you all!

ANOTHER IMPORTANT REMINDER

AS MENTIONED ABOVE AND BELOW...OUR JANUARY MEETING FEATURING ED BEARSS IS WEDNESDAY (NOT TUESDAY), JANUARY 3. REGISTRATION AND REFRESHMENTS BEGIN AT 6:15 P.M.

Pictured at Our December Meeting

Wade Sokolosky and 332 members and guests were present at our December 5 gathering, including the happy attendees shown here. *(Photos by Chuck Rodema and E Gifford Stack)*



MUSTER NOTES and NOTEABLES

The next meeting of the BCWRT is **WEDNESDAY**, January 3, 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

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

Nathan Sloan: Advisor

Len Trizinsky: Advisor

Peter Whalen: Advisor

Max Williams: Advisor Emeritus

Robert Maffitt: 209 Foundation Liaison

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

