



# Call to Arms

Brunswick Civil War Round Table Newsletter

## THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER - MIKE POWELL



Was Lincoln just vain or was there another reason for his full photographic record? To begin, Lincoln and Mary were part of the first generation on the frontier to have their photographs taken. Photographs being all the rage just as he entered politics, Lincoln sat for many photographers. Presidential photos often show them entering and leaving office. None match the drama of the Lincoln photos taken by Mathew Brady and others.

The thoroughness of the photographic record of Abraham Lincoln has one family to thank, that of Frederick Hill Meserve, who made it their business to collect and preserve the photographic history of Lincoln. In the late



1800s, Frederick wanted only to illustrate his father's Civil War memoirs with pictures.

It soon got out of hand with his purchase of thousands of Brady's glass negatives of Lincoln and others rather than see them destroyed. It was common for gardeners to buy up the glass negatives and make greenhouses from them, the sun slowly erasing the images over time. Meserve also collected carte de visites—calling cards with

photographs very popular during the war among enlisted men and officers alike. Meserve soon had not only the greatest collection of Civil War photographs but also pride of place as the unquestioned authority on Lincoln's photographic history.

Frederick Meserve's daughter, Dorothy Meserve Kunhardt, followed in his footsteps and expanded the collection to include other forms of Lincoln artifacts. Dorothy's son, Philip B. Kunhardt Jr., took control of most of it and continued its growth. The Meserve-Kunhardt Collection has passed through five generations with continuing accretions of artifacts. Today, the collection is handled by the Meserve-Kunhardt Foundation, a New York 501 c (3) dedicated to its preservation and working with others to exhibit the collection for public enjoyment.

For more background on the Kunhardt collection see *LINCOLN: AN ILLUSTRATED HISTORY*, written by Philip Jr., Philip III and Peter W. Kunhardt. They have also published several other photographic histories including *THE TWENTY DAYS*, a photographic history of the twenty days following the assassination. Both of these are available used for under \$10 on either Amazon or [abebooks.com](http://abebooks.com).

Hope to see all at our final 2017-18 meeting of the season, Tuesday, May 29. Have a great summer vacation and we'll start our 2018-19 year on Tuesday, September 4.

*Mike*

# Emotions Run High in Hood's Texas Brigade

We conclude our 2017-18 program year with one of our most popular speakers sharing the challenging life of brave Civil War soldiers.

Returning for her fourth visit, guest presenter **Susannah Ural**, Ph.D., will delve into the soldier's psyche impacted by the perils of war, with a particular focus on the trials and tribulations of

Confederate General John B. Hood's Texas Brigade. This unit was considered one of the bravest and most successful combat components in the Civil War. The title of Susannah's presentation is, "Letters of Hood's Texas Brigade," and uses the very emotional letters of Hood's troops which create a portrait of these brave soldiers and their families.



As background, Confederates celebrated Hood's Texans because they represented what southerners loved and loathed about themselves. In the Texas Brigade, white southerners saw bold, brave, self-sacrificing, self-made, independent, and successful men. In that regard, Ural's extensive research tracks the unit's progression using examples from the soldiers' own words to convey their thoughts around the mid-point of the war. Today our knowledge of Civil War veterans is heavily based upon the men who left behind written accounts of their experiences. Most writings by Civil War



soldiers have been lost or destroyed, and many soldiers were illiterate, semi-literate, or wrote nothing at all.

Ural has focused on this dilemma, and addresses head-on what few other Civil War historians have, which makes her presentation so noteworthy.



A war and society scholar by training, Susannah is the Charles W. Moorman 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. She is the author of several books and articles, and regularly contributes to various Civil War magazines and journals.

As usual, the Tuesday, May 29 meeting takes place at Hatch Auditorium on the grounds of Fort Caswell. Registration and refreshments begin at 6:15 p.m. and the program starts promptly at 7:00 p.m. The guest admission fee is \$10, and can be applied toward the \$25 annual membership dues. This will be our last meeting before the summer break. Meetings resume on Tuesday, September 4-

For more information, contact president Mike Powell at (910) 278-3545, or email to [mikepowell260@gmail.com](mailto:mikepowell260@gmail.com). Our website is [brunswickcivilwarroundtable.com](http://brunswickcivilwarroundtable.com). You may also visit our Facebook page for interesting facts, comments, announcements and updates.

## **SIGN-UP NOW FOR THE BCWRT TRIP TO KINSTON!**

**On Saturday, September 15, 2018, the Brunswick Civil War Round Table will coordinate a trip to Wyse's Fork Battlefield near Kinston, then visit the CSS Neuse Civil War Interpretive Center. This two-for-one tour is sure to sell out, so the first 50 people to sign-up get a spot on the bus.**

During March 1865, over 20,000 Union and Confederate forces fought several bloody battles around Kinston, resulting in 2,600 casualties, while Sherman marched north toward Virginia. Retired

Colonel Wade Sokolosky, a BCWRT Advisor and expert on Civil War history in the Kinston area, will lead our tour. We'll traverse extant trenches at the Wyse's Fork battlefield, visit the impressive CSS Neuse Civil War Interpretive Center, and admire a full-scale model of the gunboat which never reached her full potential fighting capability.



Here are the details:

**DATE and TIMES:**

**Saturday, September 15**

**7:15 a.m. - Arrive at the St. James Community Center parking lot on Route 211**

**7:30 a.m. - Bus leaves promptly for a two-hour drive to Kinston area**

**9:30-11:30 a.m. - Tour of Wyse Fork battlefields, led and narrated by Wade Sokolosky - both by bus and walking the sacred grounds**

**Noon - Lunch on your own in Kinston**

**1:30-3:15 p.m. - Visit CSS Neuse Civil War Interpretive Center and replica in Kinston**

**3:30 p.m. - Bus departs Kinston**

**5:30-6 p.m. - Arrive back at St. James Community Center**

**TRANSPORTATION:** A comfortable 50-passenger bus

**PRICE:** \$50 for members, \$60 for non-members

**WHAT IS INCLUDED:** Bus transportation, light snacks, tour of Wyse's Forks Battlefield, admission to the Interpretive Center, and a close-up view of the CSS Neuse replica



**To sign-up:** E-mail trip coordinator John Walsh ([JDWalsh1@GMail.com](mailto:JDWalsh1@GMail.com)). Include number of member and non-member attendees and your cell phone number. Then, no later than June 15, mail a check for all attendees, made out to BCWRT, to John Walsh at 2797 Golfmaster Ct, Southport, NC 28461.

**THE FIRST 50 WHO REPLY AND SEND CHECKS ARE IN FOR AN ENLIGHTENING TOUR!**

## FONVIELLE HONORED



Dr. Chris Fonvielle, a long-time BCWRT advisor and frequent speaker at our meetings, holds the North Carolina **Order of the Long Leaf Pine**, recognizing his significant contributions to the state through exemplary service and exceptional accomplishments, presented at his recent retirement from the UNC Wilmington. With Chris (left to right) are Jason Tyson and fellow BCWRT advisor Lori Sanderlin - both former students of Chris' at UNCW - and Mike Powell, president of our round table.

**Friendly Reminder:** We will not meet in June, July, and August. Our 2018-19 program year begins Tuesday, September 4. If you partake in any Civil War symposiums, conferences, re-enactments, or visits to battlefields, monuments, cemeteries parks, etc., please send a picture of your experiences to *Call to Arms* for inclusion in a future newsletter.

## Scores of BCWRT Members Tour Fort Caswell

Thanks to organizer John Walsh, 104 BCWRT members and guests (divided into two groups) toured Fort Caswell before the start of our May 1 meeting. “We had nearly 150 folks who wanted to tour, so we’ll obviously do another one next year,” John noted. Comments after the May tours ranged from “great” to “best \$20 we’ve spent.” BCWRT advisor Jim McKee provided commentary regarding the iconic fort. *(Photos by Pat de Barros and E Gifford Stack)*



# Fort Caswell Symposium Set for August

If you are like most BCWRT members, when you drive through the grounds of Fort Caswell you wonder about all the brick, stone and concrete fortifications spread around the 220-acres. Now is your opportunity to find out the answers!

On August 24 and 25, Fort Caswell will host “Focus on the Forts,” a symposium featuring some of the nation’s leading experts who will give the definitive insight and answers about coastal defense structures. You will learn about Fort Caswell’s varied defense systems, as well as how they fit into the nationwide network.

“We’ve designed the symposium so participants can learn about the fort system via first-class lectures, breakout sessions, and walking tours,” noted Nathan Sloan, BCWRT advisor and the event’s organizer. “Plus, we’ll enjoy some excellent meals, and offer comfortable overnight accommodations for those traveling from outside the area.”

For more information including the schedule, speakers, cost, and registration details, visit <http://fortcaswell.com/project/cfhs/> or call (910) 278-9501, Mon-Fri, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.



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## Info of Interest

Starting at our May 1 meeting, there is a new “Need to Know” table set up on the right front of the stage. The NTK table offers information flyers, notices of upcoming tours, symposiums, gatherings, and raffles, as well as other useful news. Check it out.

As witnessed by the photo at right, the Fort Caswell plaques are now in place! The historical information is professionally displayed, giving visitors the background on the fort. Examining the new markers, funded entirely by your round table, is Wally Rueckel, co-founder of the BCWRT.

Have you heard? The May 29 meeting is our last until our 2018-19 program year kicks-off on Tuesday, September 4, 2018.

If you are wanting a men’s blue, long-sleeved BCWRT polo shirt, size XL, we have three for sale at \$35 each. Contact E Gifford Stack at [egstack44@gmail.com](mailto:egstack44@gmail.com).



# Effort Underway to Recognize Members' Civil War Relatives

The BCWRT would like to recognize and honor those members whose relatives fought in the Civil War. Organizers Bob and Brenda Hagerman are inviting all such members to a group photo opportunity at 6:15 p.m., on the Hatch Auditorium stage, prior to the start of our Tuesday, October 2 meeting.

“In addition to the photo which will go on our website and be published in the newsletter, we also want to make certain we have every member’s name to help us develop background stories for the ‘Members’ Soldier Relatives’ section on our website,” Bob noted. He added that there are already eight members whose Civil War lineage is discussed on the section.



Bob and Brenda have a personal interest in this effort. “My relative is my four times great grandfather Harrison Hagerman,” Bob stated. “He was a member of the 34th Alabama, Company K, and he fought at Atlanta, the Tennessee campaign, and then at Kinston and Bentonville. He was present at the surrender at Bennett farm.”

Brenda’s family name is Bone and her relative is John Wesley Bone, a soldier in the 30th North Carolina Volunteers. He trained at Ft. Fisher, fought in most of the major battles in Virginia and was at Appomattox for the surrender.

For any questions on the recognition effort or the photo prior to the October meeting, please contact Bob and Brenda Hagerman, 910-854-0326, or [b\\_hagerman@msn.com](mailto:b_hagerman@msn.com).



## THE ATLANTA CAMPAIGN CLARIFIED

You know it’s a good talk when the speaker keeps you on the edge of your seat, even though you know the outcome of the story. Steve Davis kept us spellbound at our May 1 meeting for 50 minutes while he vividly described the ebb and flow of the efforts to save Atlanta from Sherman’s forces.

Steve’s easygoing story-teller delivery reels off equal parts of the background story (Jefferson Davis agonizing whether to fire Gen Joe Johnston), as well as his discovery of new data (only 2,500 Confederate casualties — not 5,000 as Sherman stated — at the battle of Peachtree Creek).

Jeff Davis’ replacement of Johnston in July 1864 with Lt. Gen John Bell Hood is contentious, both then...and now. Steve Davis convinces us that historians after the Civil War Centennial view Hood in a much more favorable light. No, he did not stop Sherman, but despite the Union attempted

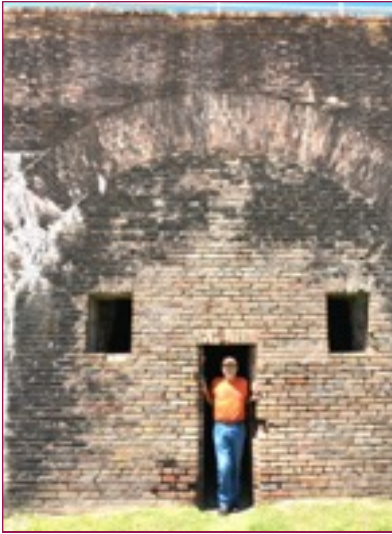
feints and siege, the Confederate general kept the Union aggressor at bay for weeks on end. Hood’s problem was not adequate intelligence about Sherman’s intended maneuvers, but rather manpower. Hood simply ran out of troops to defend the city.

Hood eventually orders the evacuation of Atlanta on September 1 and burns supplies, ammunition and buildings so they would not fall into Union hands. The scene was vividly portrayed in “Gone With the Wind.” But, in the words of Dan Fink, **you just had to be there to hear what King Kong had to do with the film depiction of Atlanta burning.**

Steve believes Hood earned his spurs defending Atlanta. After listening to Steve’s presentation, it is a difficult proposition to argue. Thanks, Steve, for eloquently elucidating us about this major Civil War campaign.

# 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](mailto:egstack@cnsr.com) along with the name of the photographer, location, date taken, and a short caption.

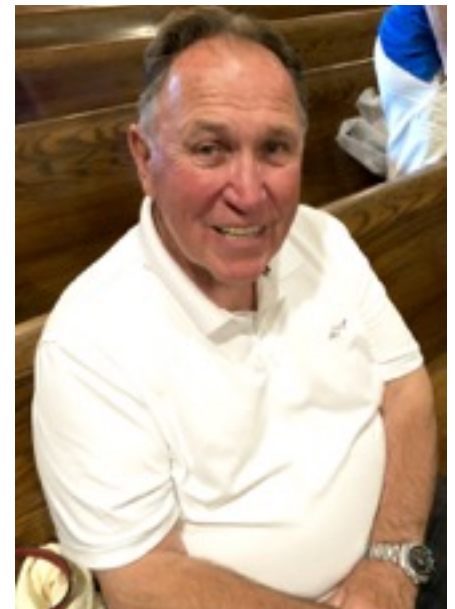


Co-editor E Gifford Stack rode his Harley to Biloxi, Miss., in early May. Along the route he toured (clockwise from top left) Ft Morgan at the entrance to Mobile Bay; the original Confederate White in Montgomery, Ala.; and Jefferson Davis' retirement home (excellent tour by Miss Donna, the Beauvoir docent) and presidential library in Biloxi. (Photos by E Gifford Stack and friendly fellow tourists)



## Pictured at Our May 1 Meeting

Steve Davis and 390 members and guests attended our May 1 meeting, including the happy attendees shown here...particularly the winner of the 50/50 drawing of \$111. (Photos by Chuck Roedema and E Gifford Stack)



# Pictured at Our May Meeting - Continued



# **MUSTER NOTES and NOTEABLES**

**The next meeting of the BCWRT is Tuesday, May 29, 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](http://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**

<b>Mike Powell: President &amp; Director</b>	<b>Jim McKee: Advisor</b>
<b>Charen Fink: Vice President &amp; Director</b>	<b>Roy Pender: Advisor</b>
<b>Jim Johnson: VP, Director, &amp; Ft. Fisher Liaison</b>	<b>Jonathan Richmond: Advisor</b>
<b>Tom Kehoe: Treasurer &amp; Director</b>	<b>Leslie Rivers: Advisor</b>
<b>Mo Beers: Secretary &amp; Director</b>	<b>Wally Rueckel: Advisor</b>
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<b>Chris Fonvielle: Advisor</b>	<b>Peter Whalen: Advisor</b>
<b>Ken Keast: Advisor</b>	<b>Max Williams: Advisor Emeritus</b>
	<b>Robert Maffitt: 209 Foundation Liaison</b>

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

