



Call to Arms

Brunswick Civil War Round Table Newsletter

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER - MIKE POWELL



Civil War hero Abner Doubleday invented baseball in Cooperstown, New York, in 1839. Not that long ago Americans believed that statement. As we now know, Doubleday, a

Major General for the North, did not invent the American game, though he played a significant role.

The myth started in 1905.

Albert G. Spalding, owner and president of the Chicago White Stocking's, responded to an article written by a Henry Chadwick claiming that baseball had its origins in the British games of "cricket" and "rounders". Spalding, who was a player, manager and an executive in forming and organizing professional baseball (as well as founder of Spalding Sporting Goods), believed baseball should be recognized as an "All-American sport," not an offshoot of some British sport. Spalding called for a commission to gather letters, diaries, anything showing the origins of baseball.



Abraham Mills, Spalding's secretary and chairman of the commission, gathered information for three years. In 1908, what became known as the Mills Commission delivered its report. It maintained that baseball was the American invention of Abner Doubleday. The only evidence rested on two letters written by Albert

Graves, of Denver, Colorado.

Graves claimed to have seen Doubleday lay out the game in the dirt with a stick at Cooperstown in 1839. The letter responded to an ad in the New York

Beacon Journal requesting information on the origins of the game. For Mills and Spalding, the letters fit the bill perfectly. Not only did they show that the game was born in America, but its father was a general and Civil War hero. However, we now know that Doubleday was at West Point in 1839, and he makes no mention of inventing baseball in his diaries and never claimed to have invented it. However, like Washington chopping down the cherry tree, it made for good press. The story became embedded in our culture.

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HISTORY COMES ALIVE AT MARCH MEETING!

If there was ever a time to enjoy a theatrical performance about the Civil War, it will take place at our March 3 meeting when a three-act play, entitled “*NOW WE STAND BY EACH OTHER ALWAYS*” will be performed on the Hatch Auditorium stage.

The performance features associate professors **Derek Maxfield** and **Tracy Ford** of Genesee College in Batavia, N.Y. Maxfield portrays Union Gen. Ulysses S. Grant while Ford plays the part of the more charismatic Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman. Their performance is captivating, at times humorous, and always entertaining!

To better understand the relationship between these two generals, Gen. Sherman once chided a critic of his friend and superior Gen. Grant by responding, “Grant stood by me when I was crazy, and I stood by him when he was drunk, and now, sir, we stand by each other always.”

The program is in three acts with the first one taking place in Vicksburg, Miss., in mid-June,

1863. General Grant is laying siege to the city that Lincoln wants badly to capture. Grant and Sherman meet to consider next steps in the grand chess match of war. Act II is set in Cincinnati, Ohio, in March 1864, where the two generals meet to design an end to the war. The final act takes place in City Point, Va., in March 1865, when Sherman arrives from North Carolina to confer with Gen. Grant who is besieging Petersburg.



Derek Maxfield is an associate professor of history at Genesee College, and coordinator of the college’s Historical Horizons Lecture Series. He was awarded the SUNY Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Scholarship and Creative Activities for his work coordinating the college’s programs related to the Civil War sesquicentennial. Tracy Ford is in his nineteenth year of teaching English at Genesee.

As usual, the Tuesday, March 3 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 p.m. The guest admission fee 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 facts, comments, announcements and updates.

CALL IN THE CAVALRY

A review of Wade Sokolosky's February Presentation

By Jim Medeiros

According to **Wade Sokolosky**, cavalry have several traditional roles which General William Sherman embraced along with some nontraditional usages extremely important for an army operating in enemy territory. Cavalry firstly probed ahead of the main army to screen the movements of the infantry from the enemy, detect ambushes, and forage for food. Because of their mobility, cavalry could also function as raiders, either to seize and destroy important objectives such as fixed defensive positions, or simply to terrorize and destroy. Raids could also misdirect, convincing the enemy the main army was where it wasn't.

Sherman's Carolinas cavalry mostly fulfilled the nontraditional role of feinting to the left of his front, simulating a screening force truthfully beyond his main force, a ploy that sometimes didn't work since his General of Cavalry, Hugh Judson Kilpatrick ("a hell of a damned fool") had a Carolina streak of bad luck.

A womanizer and politically ambitious man, Kilpatrick's debacle at Monroe's Crossroads drew Sokolosky's wry attention. Kilpatrick made his headquarters in a cozy house protected by his lines. Confident of his security, he went to bed with his lady, Alice. Unknown to him and his two brigades of cavalry, two-thirds of all the rebel cavalrymen in North Carolina massed to ambush him. In the middle of the night they attacked, including a group specifically detailed to kill Kilpatrick. In the midst of the firing and rout of his men, Kilpatrick (wearing nothing but his underwear) burst onto the porch of his headquarters. Never having met the general,

the Confederate cavalrymen pulled up to the gentleman and asked if he knew where to find General Kilpatrick. Without hesitation, he pointed down the road, saying the general had fled. The Confederates chased into the darkness. Meanwhile, still in his underwear,



the general fled to the swamp behind his retreating men to regroup them. The Civil War, famous for many martial encounters, remembered Monroe's Crossroads as "Kilpatrick's Shirt-Tail Skedaddle."

Other ignominious Union cavalry embarrassments dogged them such as the Battle of Wise's Fork where 1,000 cavalry suffered death, wounding, or capture. The whole story there, however, included the fact that infantry on foot somehow overwhelmed the horsemen, an abnormal reversal. Looking at the captured men and extensive equipment, a junior Confederate infantryman observed in a letter home that the Yankees had smelled like liquor. Again, Kilpatrick bore the onus of a commander who could not control his men.

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Ladies' Department — *By Charen Fink*

Name changes

There was a pregnant slave on a Maryland plantation by the name of Harriet Bailey. The white father's name was not known so she decided to give the boy an impressive name: Frederick Augustus Washington Bailey. After he purchased his freedom, he chose to sever all ties with his past. A friend suggested he borrow a name from Sir Walter Scott's *Lady of the Lake*.



Frederick Douglass was the only African American of his era to become an adviser to U.S. presidents.

Disguises

We often hear of women dressing as men but there are numerous cases of men dressing as women. Captain Nathaniel Lyon wanted a firsthand look at a Southern military camp. He dressed as an "old Mrs. Alexander, a society woman," and on another occasion as a farm woman.

In Kentucky, a tiny Marcellus J. Clarke disguised himself as Sue Mundy and continued his double life until 1865. When he was hanged, this guerrilla leader was no doubt a male.

Some men disguised themselves as slaves by using burnt cork on their hands and faces to escape prison.

A young Jesse James (shown) would dress as a woman to scout Federal positions. He was small in stature with little or no beard.



Many men altered their facial appearance, donned women's clothing, posed as a "horse doctor," an organ grinder, or posed as a Texas ranger. Some

wore uniforms of the opposing army, while others claimed to be exempt surgeons or pastors. There was no end to the resourcefulness of men and women to hide their identity!

Trivia

- Andrew Carnegie started his career as a bobbin boy in a Pennsylvania cotton mill at \$1.20 for a worksheet of seventy-two or more hours.
- When the Gettysburg National Cemetery plans were underway, a big job to be done piece-by-piece was exhuming thousands of bodies. The average rate of pay was... \$1.69 per body.
- Pay scales in New Orleans in early 1861: boys earned \$.50/day; adult women were paid \$.75/day; unskilled men made \$1/day and some skilled workers received \$9 for a six-day workweek.



Popular Songs of the Civil War

"Dixie"; "Old Black Joe"; "John Brown's Body"; "Maryland, My Maryland"; "The Vacant Chair"; "Battle Hymn of the Republic"; "Where, Oh Where, Has My Little Dog Gone"; "Beautiful Dreamer"; "When Johnny Comes Marching Home"; and "Drafted into the Army."

Reference

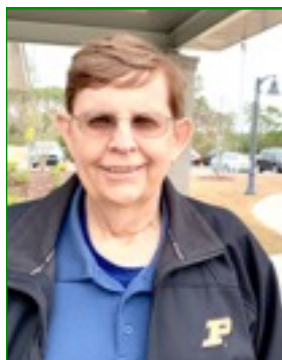
Garrison, Webb. *More Civil War Curiosities*. Nashville, TN: Rutledge Hill Press, 1995, pgs. 81, 87-89, 198.
Cartmell, Donald. *The Civil War Book of Lists*. Franklin Lakes, NJ: New Page Books, 2001, pg.19.

Members Elect 2020 Officers



At our February meeting members elected 2020 officers, shown during a break from a recent Board of Directors Meeting. L to R: Mike Powell (President), Charen Fink (Vice President), Jennifer Chapman (Secretary), Gary Krupp (Treasurer), and Gar Dowell (Vice President)

New Director and Advisor



At their February meeting, the BCWRT Directors elected a new Director and Advisor. **John Butler** was selected to assume the responsibilities formerly held by Jim Johnson who stepped down due to medical issues. In his Director role, John will coordinate all activities at Hatch Auditorium including meeting logistics, speaker needs, and volunteer requirements. John, who resides in St. James, is retired from the US Army and owing to his interest in military history, has visited battlefields in Korea, Europe, and the US. He's toured every major Civil War battle site except Shiloh and Vicksburg.

You may recognize John as the "traffic director" at the Hatch's front door for the past three years.

At the same Directors' meeting, **Katy Menne**, BCWRT's social media coordinator, was elected as a new Advisor. Katy is the Curator of Education for the Southport Maritime Museum.



Board Approves Donation to Honor Colored Troops

The BCWRT Board of Directors recently approved a \$5,000 contribution to the **Cameron Art Museum** to honor the 5th US Colored Troops, recognizing their fighting that helped the Union win the Battle of Folks Road.

The engagement took place February 20-21, 1865, on property where the art museum now sits. The battle sealed the fate of Wilmington.

According to BCWRT’s President Mike Powell, “Many of the men, including three holders of the Medal of honor, who fought in that unit, where from the area and many settled there after the war. Our donation is in keeping with our mission of battlefield preservation and education.”

The Cameron Art Museum’s project is a figurative work of public art by Stephen Hayes depicting members of the 5th USCT. A completion date for the project is not yet set.



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BCWRT Donations Since Our Founding

The Cameron Art Museum donation brings BCWRT contributions to over \$52,000 since our inception in May of 2010. “All donations have gone to various Civil War sites or to organizations that help promote, teach, or expand interest in the Civil War,” noted Mike Powell, BCWRT’s President.

Starting over three years ago, articles have appeared in our *Call to Arms* newsletter describing the projects approved by the Board of Directors. “We want members to have a clear and transparent explanation of where their donation dollars go, as well as the rationale behind the giving,” Mike added.

Our contributions by year:

2010 - \$100	2013 - 4,150	2016 - 5,950	2019 - 10,278
2011 - 1,478	2014 - 9,120	2017 - 1,950	2020 (to date) 5,000
2012 - 1,615	2015 - 3,550	2018 - 9,204	<u>TOTAL</u> \$52,395

Winner's Choice for One of 3 Framed Prints

If you like choices, you will certainly enjoy BCWRT's next raffle!

Skip Maxwell, BCWRT's Artifacts Manager, says one lucky winner will be able to select the print of his or her choice from the three displayed at our March, April and (first) May meetings. The beautifully framed prints are all from recognized Civil War artists: Dale Gallon, Mort Kuntzler, and Lafayette Ragsdale. Kuntzler's "I'll Be Moving Within the Hour," capturing a scene from the Second Manassas Campaign in

August of 1862, is shown below, without the frame. (Our subsequent newsletters will show the Gallon and Ragsdale prints.)

Tickets are one for \$2; three for \$5; or seven for \$10. They will be available for sale in front of Hatch Auditorium, alongside the prints. The winning ticket will be drawn at our May 5 meeting and the winner gets to select which print they'll take home!

All monies raised will go for our mission of education and battlefield preservation.



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Bring a Little Cheer to Ed Bearss

Most of you know **Ed Bearss**, the preeminent Civil War historian, author, battlefield guide, and television commentator, who has spoken seven times to our round table. Ed, a young 96, is not getting around much these days, spending most of his time at home. Word is he would love to get letters from those touched by his dedication to history, his shared vast knowledge, or his unique delivery. Letters, in 12 to 14 point or equivalent, can be sent to Bearss, who probably will not reply or sign books. Send letters to Ed Bearss, 1126 17th St. S, Arlington, VA 22202. Thank you.



It's All Relative

Being a member of the BCWRT is special for many of you — your relative participated in the Civil War! Members **Brenda and Bob Hagerman** are in charge of sharing your unique stories. From time-to-time, *Call to Arms* will feature a capsulized view of a family's Civil War history. You may also visit our website (http://brunswickcivilwarroundtable.com/member_relatives%20) for expanded stories. If you've not done so already, please contact the Hagermans to tell of your family's CW involvement: **910-854-0326, or b_hagerman@msn.com.**



BCWRT member **Carlene "Connie" Kaneer Hendrix** has three great-grandfathers who were Confederate soldiers:

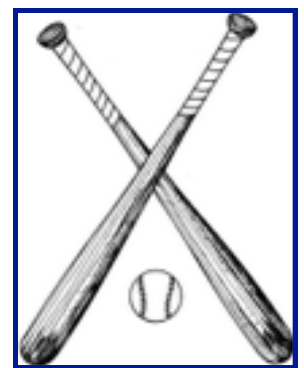
John Right/Wright Kenier/Kaneer, PVT, Company F, 49th Infantry Regiment, NC Troops. (Mecklenburg County, NC). Joined at age 31 in March 1862 and was released June 8, 1865.

Armajah/Armage Hayes Johnson, CPT, Company C, 10th SC Infantry, SC Troops (Horry County, SC). Born Jan 14 1821, died May 30, 1871.

John Wesley Marlow, PVT, Tuckers Company, SC Cavalry, SC Troops (Horry County, SC) and PVT, Company F, 7th Regiment, SC Cavalry, SC Troops (Horry County, SC).



(Continued from Page 1) One of the positives to come from the Civil War was the role it played in making baseball the "national pastime." Up until the war baseball was only known and played in the Northeast. It had not caught on in the South or west of the Mississippi. A lithograph by Otto Botticher captured Union POWs at Salisbury Prison in North Carolina playing baseball in the prison yard. Prisoners introduced the game to the southern guards and to prisoners from the West and other parts of the country. This scene was played out in many POW camps until the living conditions



deteriorated and curtailed amusements. Nonetheless, guards and former prisoners carried the game home with them. Within twenty years baseball occupied the national stage.

Mike

Civil War Views

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



Member Jim Johnson (on left) joined fellow Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War at the 155th Anniversary of the Battle of Fort Fisher held January 18 & 19. The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) is a Congressionally chartered organization, and the legal successor to the original veterans Grand Army of the Republic (GAR).

Relive the Last Battle!

The largest Civil War reenactment in North Carolina is coming to our area, March 21-22, at the Bentonville Battlefield!



Located near the intersection of I-40 and I-95 and less than a two hour drive from Southport, the battlefield will host some 2,000 reenactors as part of the 155th anniversary of the last major battle in the state...and the war. There is a full schedule of activities, including presentations by our own Wade Sokolosky and Chris Fonvielle. Saturday's events run from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m., beginning with Wade's talk on the Battle of Wise's Fork at 9:30 a.m. and ending with a re-enactment of "The Fight for the Morris Farm" at 3 p.m. Sunday's events are scheduled from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m., with Chris speaking on the Wilmington Campaign at 11:30 a.m. and the 'Last Grand Charge of the Army of Tennessee and Morgan's Stand' at 1:30 p.m.

Tickets for each of the battle re-enactments are available on-line, \$12 for adults, \$6 for children. All other events are free. For more information and to purchase tickets for the battles, see www.johnstoncountync.org/155th-bentonville-reenactment.

RECONSTRUCTION SYMPOSIUM COMING TO SOUTHPORT

Ever wanted to learn what Reconstruction was like in North Carolina? A limited number of seats are available for “Spring into History: Remembering Reconstruction Symposium,” which will explore subjects related to post-Civil War Reconstruction in the Carolinas.

The symposium, which is hosted by the N.C. Maritime Museum at Southport, will be held April 4 from 11 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. at Murrow Hall, 209 E. Nash St. in Southport. Limited seats are available, and advance registration is required. Registration is \$40, which includes lunch.

The symposium features three formal presentations followed by a panel discussion on Reconstruction and its lingering impacts. Dr. Angie Zombek, assistant history professor at UNCW, will start the day with “Competing Visions of the Post-War World: Military Reconstruction & Southern Resistance in North Carolina,” a discussion of how the U.S. Army attempted to implement Congressional Republicans’ vision for ending slavery and extending many civil rights to black Americans. Zombek will also look at how North Carolina re-wrote its constitution and ultimately rejoined the Union. “Reconstruction is, in many ways, one of

the most complicated and least understood periods in American history,” Zombek said.

Dr. Adam Dombay of College of Charleston will follow with “North Carolina’s Unique Memory of Reconstruction,” which discusses how Confederate monuments and white supremacy shaped our memory of Reconstruction. His newly released book, *The False Cause: Fraud, Fabrication, and White Supremacy in Confederate Memory*, discusses this topic in depth.

The final presentation of the day is “Reconstruction in the Carolinas in the Eyes of the Nation.” Dr. Stephen West from Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. will take a look at how Reconstruction was portrayed in the media, with a particular look at Albion W. Tourgee’s novel *A Fool’s Errand*, and D.W. Griffith’s film *Birth of a Nation*. The symposium will wrap up with a panel discussion following West’s presentation.

Registration for the symposium closes at 5 p.m. March 28 or when all available spaces are filled. For more information on the symposium or to register, contact Katy Menne at katy.menne@ncdcr.gov or 910-477-5153.

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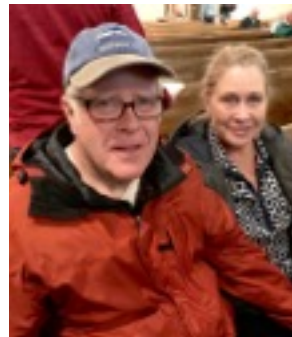
Though not considered traditional cavalry, Sherman’s “bummers” and “mounted infantry” certainly also performed some traditional cavalry functions. Bummers sent out daily foraged for food on horseback and returned each evening to the moving column. Then too, away from the main army they could fall victim to



enemy cavalry in firefights. All this served as a screening force much as cavalry. Mounted infantry could similarly provide maneuverability and rapid response much as the flexible movement of real cavalry, however, often equipped with mules, mounted infantry lacked the true fluidity of cavalry. Sherman used his mounted infantry to his front and right flank, away from the left feint of the real cavalry. Although only a small percentage of all forces, cavalry of both sides made memorable (not always *positive*) impressions in the battle for North Carolina.

Pictured at our February Meeting

Speaker Wade Sokolosky and 509 attendees (including 32 new members and 8 guests!) were present for our February 4 meeting. Some of the happy attendees, including the \$237 winner of our 50/50 raffle, paused for our cameras. (Photos by Chuck Roedema and E. Gifford Stack)



MUSTER NOTES and NOTABLES

The March meeting of the BCWRT is Tuesday, March 3, 2020. 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 meeting starts promptly 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.

2020 Officers, Directors, Advisors, and Liaisons

Mike Powell: President & Director
Charen Fink: VP, Director & Ladies' Forum Coord.
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Max Williams: Advisor Emeritus

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