



# Call to Arms

Brunswick Civil War Round Table Newsletter

## THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER - MIKE POWELL



Thanks to **Thomas Flagel**, who graciously agreed to come and speak to us on extremely short notice. I think it was one of the best talks we have ever had. He combined a solid knowledge base with a good story, told with the passion he feels for

his topic. He will be back in 2021!

Tom spoke on the 1913 Gettysburg Reunion of Civil War veterans, coinciding with the fiftieth anniversary of the battle. If you're interested in leaning more about this event, there is some really interesting footage on the internet. Just search, "1913 Gettysburg

Reunion," and you can watch several minutes of film on this historic gathering.

I got curious and started poking around. I found that Southport was the venue for many reunions held around 1900 by the Confederate veterans from Brunswick County. They held annual meetings consisting of speeches, election of officers, more speeches, a dance and dinner. And, of course, a lot great interaction between the old soldiers. The gatherings were



generally held in conjunction with Memorial Day celebrations.

Participants camped in tents around the Court House and met at the Masonic Lodge or Southport High School auditorium, site of the current post office. The WILMINGTON MORNING STAR, dated May 26, 1901, reported it was the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the organization of Company G, 20<sup>th</sup> Regiment, North Carolina State Troops. One of Southport's legends, Miss

Kate Stuart, was president of the Monument Association that tried to raise money for a statue honoring Confederate war veterans to be placed in Franklin Square Park.

Ironically, the area the veterans met in is the same locale where BCWRT was born — the Trinity Methodist Church, next to the

Masonic Lodge and across the street from the post office. I hope to find some time to go through local town records to see if I can learn anything more. I'll let you know.

Finally, BCWRT has set another milestone. In January, we broke the 1,300 member barrier and our average attendance per meeting has also risen every year. Ten years in and we are still growing, thanks to all of you. *Mike*

# Saddle Up, Join the Cavalry, and Help Your Army

We are in for one heckofa ride at our February meeting. It's 1865, the war's twilight, and Union Gen. William T. Sherman is advancing to North Carolina from Savannah. He will do battle with Confederate Gen. Joseph Johnston. Both Union and Confederate cavalry are playing pivotal roles for their respective armies.

To help us learn more of these brave horsemen and their exploits, Wade Sokolosky will address our February 4 meeting. His talk, like others he's given to BCWRT, will surely keep us glued to our saddles and seats. Titled "Success and Failure in the Saddle: Union and Confederate Cavalry in the 1865 Campaign in North Carolina," Wade's delivery will not only entertain, he will give us a captivating account of the actions leading to the Battle of Bentonville, the war's final major engagement.

Written histories often reserve the "glory and ink" for the infantry, relegating the mounted arm of the military to the sidelines. Yet in the last decade, historians have dug deeper into the



cavalry's contributions, helping to illuminate this previously unexplored part of history.

The story of the horse soldier during the Carolinas Campaign is one of bravery and

sacrifice. Operating often times far out on the flanks of the army, men toiled for hours in the saddle, unaware of the dangers that lurked beyond a bend in the road. It is a fascinating bit of history and one that deserves its rightful place in the annals of the campaign.

Returning guest speaker Col. (Ret.) Wade Sokolosky is a graduate of East Carolina University, and a 25-year veteran with the U.S. Army. He is one

of North Carolina's leading experts of the 1865 Carolinas Campaign. He has lectured throughout the Carolinas speaking at round tables,



societies, organizations and historical sites, all related to the Civil War.

As usual, the Tuesday, February 4 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](mailto:mikepowell260@gmail.com). Our website is [brunswickcivilwarroundtable.com](http://brunswickcivilwarroundtable.com). You may also visit our Facebook page for interesting facts, comments, comments, announcements and updates.

# THIRD STRING CARRIES THE FIELD

*A review of Thomas Flagel's January Presentation*      **By Jim Medeiros**

**F**or **Thomas Flagel**, the Fiftieth Gettysburg Reunion in 1913 failed as a story of peaceful reconciliation between old antagonists, failed as political theater for the President and governors who spoke; nor did it work to show national gratitude—a show of thanks for the veterans/civilians. Instead, Flagel focused on the reasons the veterans returned to face their bloody past, a much more difficult story to fathom. Part of the story was H.H. Hodges, an illiterate veteran of the 21<sup>st</sup> North Carolina who took trains up from Surry County, past the battlefields of Virginia, to the fields of Gettysburg that sprouted a brown tent city beside the real city of Gettysburg of stone and wood.

The veterans came to Gettysburg:

**Because they wanted to return to some place they had survived through the war, some place that carried intense personal meaning.** One man pointed out a house explaining that he had been held prisoner there two days. Another identified a field where he saw his brother fall. And for Hodges (who had missed the battle), he could walk the ground where his friends and family were slaughtered, where 25% of the 21<sup>st</sup> North Carolina died leaving a unit that never regained its full effectiveness. Certainly, where his mates suffered carried personal meaning for H.H. Hodges, just as it did for all the men, however, for many men and Hodges surviving must have fulfilled a recipe for survivor's guilt.

**To find old comrades.** In some ways, the Union veterans might have found this easier than the Confederates. Gettysburg National Cemetery held the Union dead. The Confederate dead had mostly

been reburied far away in Richmond. Nonetheless, forty percent of all Union and over fifty percent of Confederate dead lay in unmarked graves. July 1<sup>st</sup>, Veterans Day, consisted of speeches, but none by veterans. Instead, the veterans constantly wandered the fields and graves. Speeches weren't important. Women, too, walked the battlefield. "My Jim didn't make it back to me," said one. "I can make it back to him here," averred the widow of General James Longstreet.



**To find *other* survivors.** Men could not comprehend what actually happened much less why it happened. The Reunion allowed them the chance to find clarity in their confusion. Suddenly the

survivors had someone to talk to, someone who would understand, someone who had been there. There can be no understanding unless you belong to the fraternity, for there can be no comprehending the incomprehensible unless you actually experienced the cauldron.

Even today those who have survived great trauma become ever vigilant, attuned to the backfire of a truck, the crash of an iron bar, all battle echoes. Thus, fabulous fireworks display proved one of the underappreciated events for these survivors.

**To reaffirm life.** Boarding their trains, men brought Gettysburg with them. Their remembrances did not come from cheap trinket sales. Rather, the veterans brought back leaves, branches, cups, flowers, the dirt of Gettysburg. They brought home the place, the memory, but no implements of war. They reaffirmed their lives alive and survived Gettysburg yet again.

H.H. Hodges, too, walked to the train to return to North Carolina on July 4, however, he died waiting for it.

# Ladies' Department — *By Charen Fink*

We are all familiar with the name Ulysses Grant, but his birth name was actually Hiram Ulysses Grant. Growing up he was teased because his initials spelled “HUG,” so he transposed his name to become Ulysses Hiram. When Grant applied for West Point his Representative, Thomas L. Hamer, inadvertently used Grant’s mother’s maiden name of “Simpson” on the admissions paperwork. When Grant presented himself for enrollment, he discovered the name change - Ulysses Simpson Grant - and it was met with his satisfaction. At the surrender of Fort Donelson, TN, is when he was first known as “Unconditional Surrender” Grant because he offered no terms for surrender to the Confederates.



Hugh Judson Kilpatrick, who never liked his baptismal name which he considered effeminate, proceeded to introduce himself as Judson. When enrolling to attend West Point his application was never checked to note that he was

the son of a farmer from Deckertown, N.J. He feared being called a sissy, hence after many promotions he came to be called “Kill Cavalry” because he drove his men and horses so furiously.

Women, too, had name changes. Clarissa Harlow Barton of Oxford, Massachusetts, kept her name while a schoolgirl then changed it. When applying to the U.S. Patent Office she listed herself as Clara. The name remained for the



rest of her life. Many people are not aware that she should be properly be addressed as Clarissa Barton, founder of the American Red Cross.

This daughter of slaves in Maryland worked as a maid, field hand, cook, and a woodcutter. She was known on the plantation as Aramenta, daughter of Harriet Greene. She later became known as “the Moses of her people,” helping an estimated three hundred slaves to freedom. Her name: Harriet Tubman, wife of John Tubman, a free black and used her mother’s first name.



Cincinnati native Delia Swift changed her name when she moved to New Orleans at age thirteen. She was a prostitute, pickpocket, and a skilled mugger. Locally she was known as Bridget Fury. In 1858 she was imprisoned for murder but when the city fell under Union hands all prisoners were given a blanket pardon if convicted prior to Federal occupation. She became a folk heroine in part due to her self-chosen name of Bridget Fury.



Valentine’s Day was first celebrated in 1382. During the Civil war bags of valentines from soldiers at war were sent to the women they loved back home.

Women and children prepared cards to send to husbands and fathers. Harper’s Weekly magazine from February 20, 1864, has an extensive article on Valentine’s Day during the Civil War.

**Reference** Garrison, Webb; *More Civil War Curiosities*; Nashville, Tennessee; Rutledge Hill Press, 1995, pgs. 70-79.

# Our 2020 Officers

At our January meeting members elected the following officers for the year: **Mike Powell** continues as President; **Charen Fink** carries on as a Vice President; **Gar Dowell** is a newly elected Vice President; **Jennifer Chapman** remains Secretary; and **Gary Krupp** continues as Treasurer.

“Once again the organization is led by outstanding and dedicated officers,” President Powell noted. “I also wish to thank outgoing Vice President **Jim Johnson** for his significant contributions to our round table. He made us a better organization in so many ways.”

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## Horace Mewborn - A Remembrance by Mike Powell

**2019** was a sad year for the world of Civil War history as we lost three of the good ones. First, Dick Sommers, then Bud Robertson, and most recently a local historian, Horace Mewborn, Jr. Horace was a native North Carolinian and resided in New Bern. After graduating from Campbell College, he spent seven years in the U. S. Army, including 30 months in Vietnam. After the military, Horace joined the FBI as an anti-domestic terrorism specialist, serving in New York City and Washington, DC. He was a member of FBI Hostage Rescue Team.



edited "From Mosby's Command," the book on Mosby's unit, the 43rd Battalion, Virginia Cavalry. Horace also wrote for BLUE AND GRAY MAGAZINE on Mosby, as well as Wade Hampton's "Beefsteak Raid" and Stuart's ride around McClellan in 1862.

Until his health forced him to slow down, Horace was president for many years of the New Bern Civil War Round Table. Some of our long-time members will remember that he spoke to the BCWRT when we were still at Trinity Methodist Church. He was an active speaker and tour guide for North Carolina Civil War sites in and around the New Bern-Kinston area. We extend our condolences to his family and friends. We will miss the hero and historian that Horace Newborn personified.

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From Horace's Obituary:  
He served two and one-half tours in the Republic of South Vietnam as part of the Fifth Special Forces Group Mike Force. There he was awarded his Combat Infantryman's Badge, Purple Heart, Bronze Star, Senior Parachutist's Badge, other awards from the South Vietnam Government, and was promoted to Captain. While on his last tour in the Republic of South Vietnam, he was assigned as the personal escort for Lieutenant Colonel Martha Raye with whom he formed a life-long friendship, often visiting her in Hollywood.



## Lions Donate to BCWRT

Following Mike Powell's January talk to the Southport Lions Club, the organization made a \$200 donation to the BCWRT. "The Lions are very generous and they are extremely dedicated with their public service support," he stated. Shown presenting the check to the round table's Powell (on left) is Roger Albizu, Southport Lions Club President.



## 155th Anniversary of Fort Anderson's Fall

**D**uring the winter of 1865, Fort Fisher fell to Union forces. Then, before break of dawn on February 19, 1865, Confederate troops were forced to evacuate Fort Anderson, the last major defensive fortification on the lower Cape Fear. Within 72 hours, Wilmington, the Confederacy's last remaining port, would fall into Union hands, depriving Robert E. Lee of any hope of resupplying his desperate army in Virginia.

Brunswick County's Fort Anderson/Brunswick Town will commemorate the 155th anniversary of the fall of Fort Anderson with two days of historic entertainment. On Saturday and Sunday, February 15&16, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., see Civil War living history actors re-live battles demonstrating the heart of both sides of the engagements. In addition, enjoy Civil War historians and browse the pristine, and normally inaccessible, northern and southern batteries of the fort. There is no charge and no need to register for these events.

**A very special event** will be held at Fort Anderson on Saturday night, February 15, from 6-7 p.m. "Plunging Shot and Screaming Shell: A Nighttime Bombardment at Brunswick Town/Fort Anderson" will light up the night sky with a realistic reenactment of the bombardment and evacuation of the Fort. Fort Anderson's reproduction 32 pounder heavy seacoast cannon will fire its inaugural shots



and the Federal Navy will return fire! (BCWRT helped purchase the carriage that supports the cannon.) Admission for this event is \$10 for ages 16 and up, children 15 and under are admitted free. Tickets for this night time segment of the program **MUST** be purchased in advance **ONLINE** through Eventbrite and must be shown for admittance.

Fort Anderson/Brunswick Town is located just off Route 133 at 8884 St. Philips Rd. SE, Winnabow, NC, 28469. Contact information is: Shannon Walker - shannon.walker@ncdcr.gov; 910 371-6613. Online information is at [historicsites.nc.gov/events/155th-anniversary-fall-fort-fort-anderson](http://historicsites.nc.gov/events/155th-anniversary-fall-fort-fort-anderson) and at [wilmingtonandbeaches.com/event/the-155th-anniversary-of-the-fall-of-fort-anderson](http://wilmingtonandbeaches.com/event/the-155th-anniversary-of-the-fall-of-fort-anderson).

# 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](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](mailto:b_hagerman@msn.com)**.

BCWRT member **Tom Sheppard's** 4X great grandfather Malachi Denmark married Jane "Jincey" Wise. They had 13 children, five of which served as soldiers for the Confederate States of America.



The oldest of the five brothers, Dr. Redden Denmark, served in the 36<sup>th</sup> Alabama regiment, Company E. The second son was Allen, who although 45 years old when the "War to Resist Northern Aggression" commenced, stepped forward to serve. However, on September 14, 1861, he was discharged from his unit, the 9th Georgia Infantry, due to disability.

The next brother, James, served in the 50<sup>th</sup> Infantry, McLaw's Division and fought at Gettysburg at Warfield Ridge among other battles. Sadly, his son, Thomas John, was killed near Richmond in 1861.

Tom's 3X great grandfather, William D. Denmark, served as a private in the 25<sup>th</sup> Georgia Infantry, Wilson's Brigade until Oct. 3, 1863, when he was also released for disability. (His grave is in Red Hill Church cemetery near Statesboro, GA.)



Also at Gettysburg and a member of the 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry was the fifth brother, Malachi, who fought at Bushan Ridge in the Wheatfield where he was seriously wounded. He was captured and sent to Baltimore for treatment. Once able, he was transferred to "Hell-Mira" (Elmira, NY) to be later exchanged.

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**The Civil War prison camp Elmira had two observation towers constructed for onlookers. Citizens paid 15 cents to look at the inmates. Concession stands by the towers sold peanuts, cakes, and lemonade while the men inside starved.** - "101 Interesting Civil War Facts," Fact Retriever, August 2019.



# 155<sup>th</sup> Anniversary "Last Grand Charge of the Army of Tennessee"

Bentonville Battlefield Tours

Reserve a Date

February 8, February 22, and March 6, 2020

Tours begins at 9:00a.m.



As part of the 155th Anniversary of the 1865 Carolinas Campaign, Wade Sokolosky, noted author and historian of the campaign, will lead a special tour in commemoration of the historic "Last Grand Charge of the Army of Tennessee" at the Battle of Bentonville.

Come follow in the footsteps of the army as we explore the Bentonville battlefield examining critical aspects of the Army of Tennessee's role in the battle: its movement to the Carolinas, organization and command, the final charge, and its failure south of the Goldsboro Road. Highlighting the tour is a detailed examination of the wonderfully preserved trenches dug by the army during the battle, parts of which are normally restricted to the public.

Cost is \$15 per person, a portion of which goes directly to Bentonville battlefield preservation. Tour is limited to 25 participants. To maximize time on the battlefield, participants will need to bring their lunch. A cooler will be on hand to keep drinks and food items. Please wear comfortable walking shoes and seasonal wear.

For information on how to reserve your spot contact Wade Sokolosky at (252) 646-5553 or email at [sokolosky1@aol.com](mailto:sokolosky1@aol.com)



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## RECONSTRUCTION SYMPOSIUM COMING TO SOUTHPORT

Ever wanted to learn what Reconstruction was like in North Carolina? On Saturday, April 4, you will have the opportunity to hear from leading historians during a symposium hosted by the NC Maritime Museum at Southport.

According to BCWRT member Katy Menne, who is the museum's Curator of Education, the event, scheduled from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. will feature Dr. Angie Zombek from the UNCW speaking on *Competing Visions of the Post-War World: Military Reconstruction and Southern Resistance in North Carolina*; Dr. Adam Dombay from the College of Charleston who will discuss *North Carolina's Unique*

*Memory of Reconstruction*; and Dr. Stephen West from Catholic University talking on *Reconstruction in the Carolinas in the Eyes of the Nation*.

In addition to formal presentations there will also be a panel discussion. Lunch is included. The symposium's venue is Murrow Hall in Trinity United Methodist Church across from the Southport post office.

Registration is required and runs \$40 per person. To register or receive more information, visit the museum's website — <https://ncmaritimemuseumsouthport.com> - or contact Katy Menne at [katy.menne@ncdcr.gov](mailto:katy.menne@ncdcr.gov) or 910-477-515.



## CALLING ALL CREATIVE MEMBERS - A Request from President Mike Powell

The Civil War Round Table Congress is an organization of Civil War round tables from across the country. We have been active for two years, and I'm pleased to say we've been successful energizing and improving every round table in the country. These accomplishments are making us want to formalize the Congress. To that end, we're looking for...a logo! We want to express our nationwide footprint. The words CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE CONGRESS or CWRT CONGRESS should appear. If you are the creative sort, try to work something up for us. We appreciate any help we can get. Please send your ideas via email to [mikepowell260@gmail.com](mailto:mikepowell260@gmail.com). Many thanks.

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

**[This month we feature member Katy Menne's visit in January to the 155th anniversary of the second battle of Ft. Fisher, where everyone seemed to enjoy listening, watching, and practicing life during the war's end. All photos by Katy Menne.]**



# Pictured at our January Meeting

Speaker Thomas Flagel and 451 attendees (including 28 new members and 8 guests!) were present for our January 8 meeting. Some of the those on hand paused for our cameras. (Photos by Chuck Roedema)



# **MUSTER NOTES and NOTABLES**

**The February meeting of the BCWRT is Tuesday, February 4, 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](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.**

## **2020 Officers, Directors, Advisors, and Liaisons**

**Mike Powell: President & Director**

**Charen Fink: VP, Director & Ladies' Forum Coord.**

**Gar Dowell: VP, Director**

**Jennifer Chapman: Secretary & Director**

**Gary Krupp: Treasurer & Director**

**Tish Gordon: Director**

**Kathy O'Donnell: Director**

**Chuck Roedema: Director**

**E. Gifford Stack: Director**

**Peter Carmichael: Advisor**

**Jack Carpenter: Advisor & Ft. Anderson Liaison**

**Chris Fonvielle: Advisor**

**Tom Kehoe: Advisor**

**Paul Laird: Advisor**

**Jim McKee: Advisor**

**Roy Pender: Advisor**

**Leslie Rivers: Advisor**

**Wally Rueckel: Advisor**

**Lori Sanderlin: Advisor**

**Dave Shultz: Advisor**

**Wade Sokolosky: Advisor**

**Len Trizinsky: Advisor**

**Peter Whalen: Advisor**

**Max Williams: Advisor Emeritus**

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