



# Call to Arms

Brunswick Civil War Round Table Newsletter

## THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER - MIKE POWELL



On Saturday, March 9, Wade Sokolosky led 45 members of the BCWRT on a tour of the battlefield at Wise's Fork. Wade is certainly the right guide for that tour. He literally wrote the book on the Battle of Wise's Fork.

Seeing the battlefield gives you answers you simply cannot get from books. How wide was the river they crossed? How far could the soldiers see ahead of them, behind them? How high were the earthworks they fought behind? How thick was the wooded area they marched through? Only by seeing the ground in person can we answer these questions the next time we read about it.

After a great lunch at King's BBQ Restaurant, we visited the *Neuse II*, a replica of the CSS *Neuse* ironclad. When you see the vessel's size, you wonder how these monsters operated on the rivers. Despite its size, the cramped interior shrinks further at the specter of the 120 crew complement in the narrow confines. Guns dominate the interior, reminding you this served basically as a floating gun platform. The smoke, the noise, the poor lighting and the recoiling guns could prove as deadly as the enemy's fire.

A short walk brought us to the CSS *NEUSE* museum to see the real thing. The remains of the CSS *NEUSE*, its two floors of artifacts and interpretive panels tell the story of wartime service and its recovery in the 1960s. The CSS *NEUSE* is one of only four Civil War ironclads extant.

We want to thank our members for a fun day. Spending time and exchanging thoughts with others who share a love of history forms an important part of any group tour. Thanks to Wade for taking us to the critical points on the battlefield and sharing his expertise.



Finally, thanks, John Walsh. John's hard work in organizing ensured a good experience for all. John is already anticipating fall and a day trip to Bentonville Battlefield. We hope to see our veteran campaigners and some new faces on that trip.

On our own Civil War earthworks, a project on Bald Head Island, needs a little help. Fort Holmes on Bald Head Island served as an integral part of the Cape Fear River Defense System. It sits at the mouth of the Cape Fear opposite Fort Caswell on Oak Island. The guns of these two forts controlled Old Inlet, the entrance to the river and Wilmington. With its remote location, development on Bald Head, along with time and tide, have diminished the remains of the Fort and interest in this site.

*(Continued on page 6)*

# Civil War Battle Flags: *Banners in the Breeze*

**B**attle flags were critical to both the Union and Confederate armies. But what is behind their design, symbolism, and use?

At our next BCWRT meeting on Tuesday, April 2, we are honored to host **Greg Biggs**, a foremost military historian and expert on military flags, as he discusses “Banners in the Breeze.”

Soldiers placed great importance on the flags of their regiments. They would



sacrifice their lives defending the flag to protect it from disgraceful capture by the enemy. The respect for the flag was partly a matter of pride and morale. But it also had a practical aspect closely associated with the conditions on the battlefield.

Flags served as a visual communication when voice commands and bugle calls could not be heard. A visual rallying point was essential, and soldiers were trained to follow the flag. A popular song of the Civil War, “The Battle Cry of Freedom,” made mention of how “we’ll rally ‘round the flag, boys.” The reference to the flag, while ostensibly a patriotic boast, does actually play upon the practical use of flags as a rallying point on the battlefield.

Distinctive battle flags of the Confederate armies were used beginning in 1861. The goal was to create flags that looked completely different to the United States Stars and Stripes used by Union regiments. The modern myth of “the Confederate battle flag” is dismissed as many flags with distinctive designs prove that no such single flag existed during the Civil War. The bulk of

these battle flag patterns were created in 1862, many of which continued for the rest of the war with some variations.

Greg is a career military historian with over 50 years of experience consulting with a number of museums, archives, libraries, and



authors. He has lectured across the country to Civil War round tables and history groups, including presenting flag programs to the Museum of the Confederacy, the National Civil War Museum, as well as contributor to the Civil War Trust’s video series entitled, *Flags of the Civil War*. In addition, Greg is an experienced tour guide, and the author of numerous articles in *Civil War Regiments* journal, *Blue & Gray Magazine*, *Civil War News*, *Citizens Companion*, *Civil War Trust’s Hallowed Ground*, as well as online publications. Greg resides in Clarksville, Tennessee, with his wife Karel, and their four cats named for Confederate Cavalrymen! He is president of the Clarksville Civil War Round Table, and an officer of the Nashville Civil War Round Table.

As usual, the Tuesday, April 2 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, announcements and updates.

# ONCE LOST and NOW FOUND: THE LONG-LOST GETTYSBURG ADDRESS

Review of David Dixon's March Presentation — *By Jim Medeiros*

Historian **David Dixon** furnished a smorgasbord of felicitous facts about **Charles Anderson's** Gettysburg address. Anderson's background — brother of **the** Major Anderson who surrendered Ft. Sumter, nephew of that William Clark who explored the Louisiana Purchase, son of **that** Anderson who served as the Marquis de Lafayette's Aide-de-Camp in the Revolution, Charles himself an Ohio state assemblyman and, briefly, state governor, a wounded Civil War colonel of very short career, a Lincoln antagonist (who would have rather seen the president paddling a canoe up Niagara Falls with a feather than support him), and a slave-owning abolitionist and escapee from a Confederate prison camp — spelled hero to the Union.

For Dixon, regardless of the voluminous personal history, Anderson's key in the Civil War lay in his place among the intentional triumvirate of Gettysburg Cemetery speakers: Everett, Lincoln, Anderson. But for us at BCWRT the impetus for Dixon's March speech, his enthusiasm and fascination for his listeners, blossomed in the serendipity of unearthing a plethora of dusty boxes with the long-lost third Gettysburg address.

The hook of obscure discovery drew us to Dixon's story and his enthusiasm carried us through his hour. Unafraid of hundreds of eyes watching his every move, Dixon abandoned hiding behind the lectern and paced casually

across the stage, stroking his chin, waving an arm (knocking off his earpiece microphone), unapologetic for his casual approach, in fact, apparently oblivious to his presentation.

Historians generally know their history, but that doesn't make them good speakers. Dixon's studied informality with his tieless shirt and loose sport coat offered a smokescreen hiding a polished presenter. His speech seeming more conversation than prepared thoughts for a thousand nonetheless took us into his vision of Charles Anderson and especially into Dixon's happy fortune of the treasures accompanying the third Gettysburg address.

As fellow co-conspirators, we felt Dixon's delight over Anderson's archive. Not only over thirty pages of lost Gettysburg speech emerged, but also personal letters, diaries, even books filled with personal marginalia. The dusty boxes held far more than paper; they formed transparent

windows into the mind of a man who walked with famed leaders from Lincoln to Robert E. Lee. Knowing even how a man reacted to what he read fed Dixon's glee as a biographer. In some ways with his constant tendency to give speeches against secession in the midst of the Texas secession meetings, his move to the South at the beginning of revolt, his antipathy for Lincoln, his unlucky multiple wounds, Anderson may not have been a hero for the modern day, however, Dixon's enthusiasm piqued our interest.

*(Continued on page 6)*



# Ladies' Department — *By Charen Fink*

**WAR OF FIRSTS** ~ The Civil War fostered many innovations which transformed every aspect of life in our country. Herewith are some of those inventions.

## Sewing Machine -

Perfected in the mid-1800s and could turn out wool uniforms ten times faster than those stitched by hand. The machines were widely used in Northern factories keeping Union soldiers from going threadbare and freezing.



McKay boot-stitching machine - This could turn out 50 pairs of shoes in the time it took to hand-sew a single pair.

Artificial Limbs - Confederate soldier, James Edward Hanger, sustained a leg amputation. He whittled barrel staves and fashioned them into an artificial limb. After a short imprisonment he went to Richmond and began making



artificial legs and arms for other crippled soldiers. He eventually became the world's largest manufacturer of artificial limbs.

Jonathan Letterman - A Union surgeon who organized the first ambulance corps, one of the greatest lifesaving advances in American medicine. General McClellan appointed Major Letterman as the army's medical director, and he reorganized the medical services. Corpsmen were trained to give first aid. At the battle at Antietam, 10,000 Federals fell wounded in one day and within 24 hours they were all carried off the field. At



Gettysburg, 20,000 were cared for and the death toll was down to 3,000. A system of triage was instituted. He also improved sanitation in army hospitals. His innovations carried over to World War II.



Railroads - The Civil War was the first conflict involving railroads on a large scale. The American rail network, the largest in the world, carried troops and supplies. Between 1850 and 1860, it grew from 8,500 miles of track to 31,000 miles. Two-thirds of that network lay in the North. A trip that took ten days by wagon a decade earlier could now be made in a single day.

Submarine Warfare Via the CSS Hunley - This was the first submarine to sink an enemy ship and named for Horace L. Hunley, New Orleans lawyer and business-



man. By 1863 the CSS Hunley was being tried out in Charleston Harbor. In 1864 it went into battle... for the first and last time.

Telegraph - Union officers and officials sent 6.5 million telegrams during the war, an average of 4,500 messages per day. Abraham Lincoln spent hours in the telegraph office of the war department awaiting news from his commanders.

## **Reference**

Robertson, James. *The Untold Civil War*. Washington, D.C: National Geographic Society, 2011, pgs. 192-199, 216.

# A Print Worthy of a Grand Finale Raffle!

Entitled "Time to Fight," this numbered and signed print (205 of 950) depicts Union Major General John Reynolds preparing to commit the First Corps at Gettysburg on July 1, 1863. The original painting was done by noted Civil War artist Dale Gallon and commissioned for the U.S. Army War College in Carlisle, PA.

This beautifully framed print measures 33.25" x 27.5" and was donated by BCWRT member **Charles Gormley**. Paperwork associated with the print's authenticity is also included. Online prices for other numbered prints of this



painting (without the frame!) run in the \$250 range!

Tickets for this BCWRT raffle are one for \$2, three for \$5, or seven for \$10. Tickets will be available at the April meeting, as well as both May meetings - May 7, and our season finale on May 28. **Skip Maxwell**, the BCWRT Artifacts Manager, will display the beautifully framed print in front of the Hatch stage. He'll also have a plethora of raffle tickets for sale!

As always, all money raised will go towards the BCWRT mission of education and battlefield preservation.

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## Remember to Use AmazonSmile

A friendly reminder: BCWRT members (and family/friends) who shop using the AmazonSmile program, contribute 0.5% of their purchases on eligible products to BCWRT.

To participate, members should log on to the AmazonSmiles website

(<https://smile.amazon.com>) and follow the easy steps to begin shopping (our name for the program is **Brunswick Civil War Roundtable**), giving a percentage of their sales to our organization. All monies go towards program services.



### President's Column - from page 1

Though never attacked, the Fort deserves remembrance for its importance in the defense system of the Cape Fear.

The fall of Fort Fisher on January 15, 1865, prompted the evacuation of all Confederates below New Inlet. The Confederates abandoned Fort Holmes (along with Forts Pender and Caswell) the next day. Union forces occupied Fort Holmes on January 18. Admiral David Porter upon inspecting the Fort wrote, "They certainly are the most formidable and best built earthworks I ever saw and do credit to the engineer who planned them..." Nevertheless, Fort Holmes' role as a military installation ended; by 1870 the sea had reclaimed much of the Fort's western wall including its main battery, Battery Holmes.

Enter **Jack Goree**. In the October 2006, Jack, a Bald Head Island resident, wrote an article for The North Carolina Historical Review (Volume LXXXIII, Number 4) entitled, "Mapping Fort Holmes: A Search for Confederate Ruins at Bald Head". Jack collects old and rare maps. His extensive research traced the history of Fort Holmes through maps made during the Civil War and

afterwards. Jack's work prompted the Village of Bald Head Island to fund 13 historical markers for the remaining outer walls of Fort Holmes and its four batteries. The markers also note the locations of several Civil War shipwrecks. **Chris Fonvielle** lent his expertise for the text on the plaques. Despite the debt we owe Jack Goree for his initiative in preserving the memory of the Fort, the site has not continued to receive much attention.

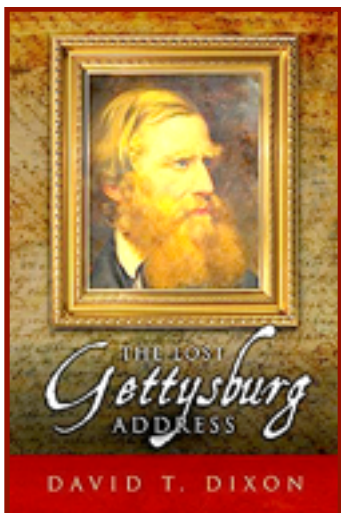
The board of directors of BCWRT has voted to promote this historic site by producing a brochure mapping the locations of the markers. Chris Fonvielle has stepped up again to script the brochure. **The history of the Cape Fear region has no better friend than Chris Fonvielle.** We plan to print 500 brochures and place them in various locations to publicize the importance of Fort Holmes and encourage visitors to the fort. We can only carry on this important work because of your continued support that is greatly appreciated.

It sounds like the April meeting is the last time we have to deal with the closed bridge. Hip, Hip...

*Mike*



### Review of David Dixon - from page 3



Hero or heel, Anderson lived a colorful life. Dixon's explanation of why he was tapped to speak at Gettysburg comes down to canny Republican politics. Everett argued reconciliation for

the secessionist South and the country. Lincoln gave us inspiration, a vision of what our country is in the future. Anderson, Lieutenant-Governor of the always key presidential election state of Ohio, spoke for the past, a voice of toughness on the rebels who had wounded him and his country. The contrast, with the addition of the third and long-missing voice from the three viewpoints, could not have been greater.

# Park Day 2019 - Sweat Equity Opportunity

On Saturday, April 6, members (and their families) are invited to apply a little elbow grease to help maintain two iconic local Civil War sites, as part of Park Day sponsored by the American Battlefield Trust.

Fort Fisher and the NC Maritime Museum at Southport (Fort Johnson) are seeking volunteers of all ages and skill levels for sprucing up these landmarks. Activities vary from cleaning, painting, gardening, trash removal, to trail maintenance. Hours are 8:30 a.m. to noon at Ft. Fisher and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Ft. Johnson.

Participants will receive a t-shirt

and lunch, as well as gaining satisfaction of helping preserve these historic sites.

Pre-registration is required at both venues. To sign up at Ft. Fisher, contact John Moseley at 910-251-7342 or [john.moseley@ncdcr.gov](mailto:john.moseley@ncdcr.gov). Reach Lori Sanderlin at the NC Maritime Museum at Southport at 910-477-5151 or [lori.sanderlin@ncdcr.gov](mailto:lori.sanderlin@ncdcr.gov).

According to the American Battlefield Trust,

Park Day started in 1996 and is designed “to bring history enthusiasts together in an effort to help keep our nation’s heritage not only preserved, but pristine.”



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## NOTES ON MAY MEETINGS

**M**embers should be aware there are two meetings in May: Tuesday, May 7, and Tuesday, May 28, which is our last gathering of the 2018-19 season. (We resume in September for the 2019-20 year.)

Why two? We are not able to hold our June meeting at our regular time. Hatch Auditorium has a long-standing contract for an event that precludes BCWRT from meeting on our regular first Tuesday of the month. Therefore, as we’ve done in the past several years, we’re bumping our June event up to the last Tuesday in May, i.e., May 28.

But, adhering to the old adage of going out with a bang, our speakers for both May dates are exceptional. On May 7 we’ll host the preeminent Abraham Lincoln scholar, **Harold Holzer**, a renowned author, speaker and TV commentator. His topic for this meeting, which could set an attendance record, is, “Fake News, Civil War Style: Lincoln, Dave and the Press.” An added bonus: the Masonboro Parlor Band returns to entertain us before our meeting begins!

Finishing off our 2018-19 season on May 28 is **Chris Mackowski**, an old BCWRT friend who invariably earns a well deserved standing ovation every time he speaks to us. Chris’ talk, “Second Guessing General Ewell at Gettysburg,” will likely continue our “Standing O” appreciation.

# Please Silence Your Phone



**Members are reminded to silence their cell phones when entering Hatch Auditorium. It is disruptive to fellow members and our speaker when a cell phone rings.**

**Or, a better suggestion: leave your cell phone in the car. Thanks.**



## Two Requests from the President

President Mike Powell kindly asks a couple of favors at our meetings:

**First**, immediately following our speaker's presentation, members and guests who must leave Hatch may do so, hopefully as quietly as possible. Once these participants have exited, the speaker will gladly conduct a 5-10 minute Q&A for members who appreciate the opportunity to learn more. (Mike suggests you 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!)

**Second**, if everyone would take a moment before leaving your seat, Mike asks 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. BCWRT wants to leave Hatch Auditorium in the condition we found it.

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## We Want Your Family's Civil War Stories

BCWRT has a link on our website (Members' Soldiers Relatives) containing nearly a dozen histories of our members' relatives that lived during the Civil War period, some even having fought in the war.

Members Bob and Brenda Hagerman are leading the project to find and document these histories. The Hagermans would be delighted if you have a family story to share. If you just have notes or knowledge of your family during the war, Bob and Brenda are willing to help write (or edit) your information. You may contact them at 910-854-0326 or [b\\_hagerman@msn.com](mailto:b_hagerman@msn.com).





CIVIL WAR INSTITUTE  
GETTYSBURG COLLEGE

## 2019 CIVIL WAR INSTITUTE SUMMER CONFERENCE

Join us, **June 14-19, 2019**, for a blockbuster year of CWI speakers! We are thrilled to feature eminent Civil War scholars, Gary W. Gallagher, Ed Ayers, Carol Reardon, and Peter Carmichael within our line-up of over 35 distinguished speakers and tour guides.

**Full-time and part-time packages available!**  
Register now at [www.gettysburg.edu/cwi/conference](http://www.gettysburg.edu/cwi/conference)



### TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- *Gettysburg: A Staff Ride*
- *Stonewall Jackson at Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville*
- *Mosby's Confederacy: Part II*
- *Treasures of the National Civil War Museum*
- *Voices of Antietam*

with guides Carol Reardon, Dennis Frye, Greg Mertz, Wayne Motts, and more.

### FEATURING

- Gary Gallagher, *Edward Porter Alexander*
- Ed Ayers, *The Thin Line of Freedom: The Civil War and Emancipation in the Heart of America*
- Peter Carmichael, *The Combat Experience of Civil War Soldiers*
- Earl Hess, *Tactics, Terrain, and Trenches in the Atlanta Campaign*
- Amy Murrell Taylor, *Embattled Freedom: Journeys Through the Civil War's Refugee Camps*
- Patrick Breen, *Nat Turner's Rebellion*

## 2019 CIVIL WAR INSTITUTE SUMMER CONFERENCE JUNE 14-19, 2019

For 35 years, the Civil War Institute at Gettysburg College has hosted an annual summer conference bringing leading historians and public audiences together for lectures, battlefield tours, small group discussions, and roundtable conversations about the Civil War era. Sessions, lodging, and meals are held on the 200-acre college campus.

The 2019 CWI Conference will feature a wide range of topics, including Civil War artifacts, the political crisis of the 1850s, the Civil War on the international stage, and more.

Participants will be able to tour the Gettysburg battlefield with expert scholars and guides, as well as explore other nearby battlefields and historic sites in Maryland, Virginia, and Harrisburg, PA. This conference will continue the recently added and highly popular Saturday evening tours of the Gettysburg battlefield and town, as well as both “lunch-in” and “dine-in” discussions with CWI faculty. The 2019 conference will offer something for everyone, from longtime students of the Civil War to those who are new to Civil War history.

*For rates, visit [www.gettysburg.edu/cwi/conference](http://www.gettysburg.edu/cwi/conference). BCWRT members receive a 15% discount. Please contact the CWI office to receive the appropriate discount code: 717-337-6590, or [civilwar@gettysburg.edu](mailto:civilwar@gettysburg.edu),*

# Memories of BCWRT's Trip to Kinston, March 9



Photos by  
E. Gifford  
Stack

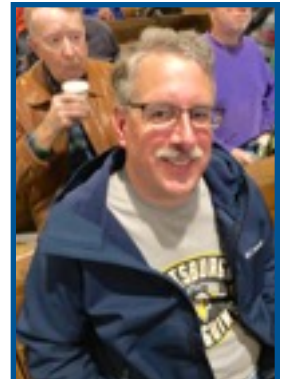


## Picture at our March 5 Meeting

David Dixon and 423 members (including 15 new memberships!) and guests (10) attended our March 5 meeting. Some of the happy attendees, including the \$139 winner of our 50/50 raffle, paused for our cameras. *(Photos by Chuck Roedema and E. Gifford Stack)*



Pictured at our March 5 Meeting - *Continued*



## **MUSTER NOTES and NOTEABLES**

**The next meeting of the BCWRT is Tuesday, April 2, 2019. 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.**

### **2019 Officers, Directors, Advisors, and Liaisons**

**Mike Powell: President & Director**

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

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

**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**

**Ken Keast: 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**

**Nathan Sloan: Advisor**

**Wade Sokolosky: Advisor**

**Len Trizinsky: Advisor**

**Peter Whalen: Advisor**

**Max Williams: Advisor Emeritus**

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

