



Call to Arms

Brunswick Civil War Round Table Newsletter

The President's Corner by John Butler



The BCWRT is looking for a new **Secretary**. Jim Kane had to unexpectedly leave, so we have an immediate opening. The principal responsibility of this job is to take notes at our monthly Board meetings and to assist with the set up prior to the start of the monthly meetings. See me if you have some interest or call or email me.

Jim McKee will conduct his **tour of Fort Caswell** prior to the meeting in April and May. Because these tours sold out quickly after they were announced, we will see about doing it again next fall. The tour will start at 5 pm at the Hatch Auditorium. If you can, I recommend you pre-register for the monthly meeting online. The link is: olr.bcwr-nc.org

We are **always looking for ideas** and ways to make the meetings more enjoyable. The latest idea we got from a member was to put a podium at the front with a microphone for the question and answer period. That way you can come to the front and ask your question. We need to do the microphone so everyone can hear and also for the people on Zoom.

If you ever miss a meeting, remember you can always see it on our **YouTube page** where you will find every meeting since the COVID pandemic. We post the new meeting within two weeks of the presentation. You will find a link to our YouTube page on our website, on the last page of the newsletter each month, and here: bcwr.YouTube.

Ladies, remember to mark your calendars for our **Ladies' Forum**. It is scheduled for 6 pm, October 14, 2024 at the Trinity United Methodist Church.

Our **Sutler's Table** continues to be in need of some new books. If you have any Civil War books you no longer need or you want to make room for some new additions, think about donating them at our next meeting.

As a reminder, the May 7th meeting will be our **14th Anniversary**. Come and help us celebrate.

John

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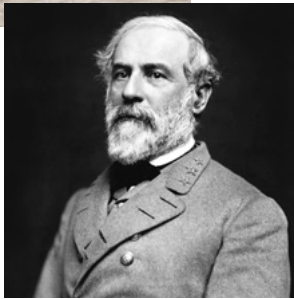
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BCWRT Upcoming Events

Tuesday, April 2, 2024 Program

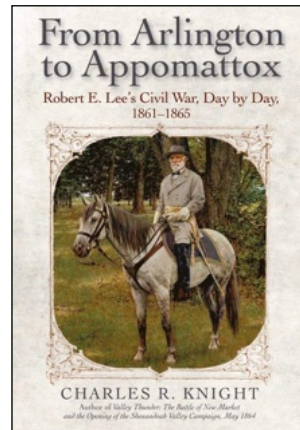
“From Arlington to Appomattox: Robert E. Lee’s Civil War, Day by Day, 1861-1865”

Lost in all of the military histories of the Civil War, and even in most of General Robert E. Lee’s biographies, is what the general was doing when he was out of history’s “public” eye. Charles Knight’s much-acclaimed book entitled, *From Arlington to Appomattox: Robert E. Lee’s Civil War, Day by Day, 1861-1865*, is based on hundreds of first-person accounts of what the man experienced on a daily basis.



Focusing on where he was, who he was with, and what he was doing day by day offers an entirely different appreciation for Lee. Mr. Knight will offer a significant glimpse into unique and rare information about Lee’s life and allow us to get a fresh sense of Lee’s struggles, both personal and professional.

In anticipation of our upcoming meeting, we can be assured this will not be “just another” Lee biography-type presentation, but excerpts of rare information of which most of us never knew or even heard.



Charles Knight is a native of Richmond, Virginia and an award-winning historian. He has worked at museums and historic sites for more than two decades with a focus on education, collections, exhibits, and administrative areas. He is a prolific writer/author of two books (three more in progress), journal articles, and book reviews. In addition, he is an experienced public speaker and presenter on a wide variety of historical presentations to audiences across the country.



You are encouraged to attend the meeting either in person or via Zoom.

If participating via Zoom, simply use the following link:

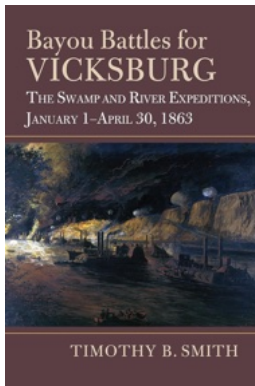
<https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/83006121641?pwd=SzdCZkFZZmdac2ZMSiNLSHRzQU44QT09>

Meeting ID: 830 0612 1641

Passcode: 750825

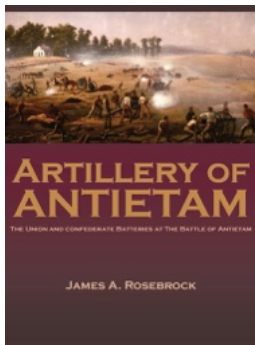
2023 Civil War Books

This concludes John Butler's list of new books published in 2023 about the Civil War. We have much to read.



*Bayou Battles for Vicksburg:
The Swamp and River
Expeditions,
January 1-April 30, 1863*

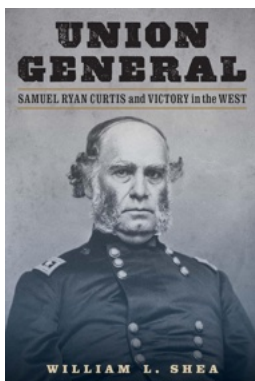
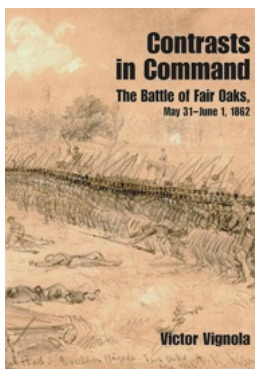
by Timothy B. Smith



*Artillery of Antietam:
The Union and Confederate
Batteries at the Battle of
Antietam*

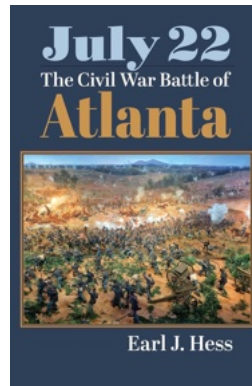
*Contrasts in Command:
The Battle of Fair Oaks,
May 31-June 1, 1862*

by Victor Vignola



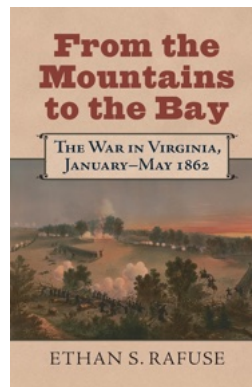
*Union General:
Samuel Ryan Curtis and
Victory in the West*

by William L. Shea



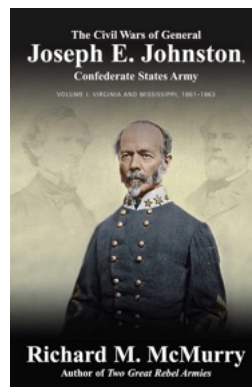
*The Civil War Battle of
Atlanta*

by Earl J. Hess



*From the Mountains to the Bay:
The War in Virginia, January-
May 1862*

by Ethan s. Rafuse



*The Civil Wars of General
Joseph E. Johnston,
Confederate States Army -
Volume I: Virginia and
Mississippi, 1861-1863*

by Richard M. McMurry

Civil War Books

If you have any Civil War books that you can donate to the BCWRT, we would be most appreciative to have them.

Please contact John Butler at
jlbutler2007@gmail.com



Save the Date

The Ladies' Forum

Monday, October 14, 2024.

6:00 - 8:00 pm.

Murrow Hall at Trinity United Methodist Church
Nash St., Southport



A Request from Robbin Smith

Speaker for the October Ladies' Forum

We are looking for any ladies who would like to present at the October Ladies' Forum and we would like to feature local talent before going outside the area. Speakers for the Forum receive an honorarium.

Please contact Robbin Smith at 704-756-5286 or at robbinsmithnc@yahoo.com

Women on a plantation in the Civil War are often thought of or portrayed as Southern belles and having somewhat of a leisurely life. These assumptions are dispelled through research by Catherine Clinton in her book "The Plantation Mistress: Woman's World in the Old South." Robbin Smith provides a quote:

About The Ladies' Forum

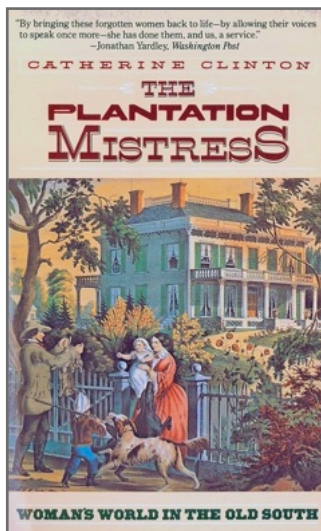
The Ladies' Forum is for women only and is a free event each year for members of BCWRT. Guests are always welcome and pay only \$5.00.

The Forum features speakers with topics related to the Civil War of particular interest to women.

Light refreshments are served and those offered are of the Civil War period.

The Ladies Forum is offered as part of your BCWRT membership.

The Ladies' Forum was started by Board Member, Charen Fink who led and organized the event through 2023. Robbin Smith has now taken the lead and her first event will be the October 2024 Forum.



"Most often the matron of the house was up shortly after dawn, directing the daily housekeeping and seasonal activities. She might send breakfast upstairs to her daughters still abed, but the plantation mistress was less than any other member of the white household able to enjoy such luxury from slaveholding. One woman complained to her husband of her rigorous routine during the winter season: "As for myself I am constantly astonished that after the fatigues

of the day (which are not trifling) that I am able to sleep sound and rise without a headache. For the last three or four days I have been very busy with my hogs and all the troubles that the season brings. Now at half past 10 o'clock I am watching a corn husking in fear lest some mischief may happen."

Inspiring Women in the Civil War

This article is an excerpt from "The History Buff's Guide to the Civil War" by Thomas R. Flagell.



For the most part, women still remained heavily ensconced in the domestic sphere, where labor was often arduous. Most heroines of the war remain unsung. (There are) standouts among the often overlooked, who risked their financial, professional, or physical safety in the service of their country and cause.

Clara Barton (Massachusetts, 1821-1912)

Throughout the war and on both sides, eight out of every ten nurses were men, and very few traveled to the front lines. Clara Barton made herself the exception. Thirty-nine years old when the war broke out, she witnessed soldiers of FIRST MANASSAS (FIRST BULL RUN) returning from the battlefield. Caring for the men with supplies from her own home, she vowed to become a nurse.

Affiliated with no organization or charity, she served in several battles, including SECOND MANASSAS, FREDERICKSBURG, BATTERY WAGNER, and THE WILDERNESS. Chartering wagons, collecting food and medicine, helping with surgeries, and dressing wounds, she personified calm resilience.

Remarkably focused under fire, she often found her clothes drenched with blood and pierced by lead. At Antietam, Barton was caring for a wounded soldier when a bullet passed through her sleeve and into his chest, killing him instantly.

A divinity to the enlisted, perhaps her greatest service was to the families of those missing in action. Late in the war, Lincoln enlisted her to identify the unknown buried at Andersonville. With a team of forty headboard makers and other assistants, a burial list, and thousands of feet of pine

board, she helped mark and catalog more than 12,000 graves, and managed to identify all but 451 of the interred.

Continuing her assignment at other sites, she encountered constant obstruction. Leading her detractors was the U.S. War Department, unappreciative of her divulging its lethargy in assisting families of missing veterans. Despite the challenges, including tremendous personal debt, she and her crew wrote and received tens of thousands of letters, and identified nearly as many graves. Such a service was particularly important to widows and dependents. Aside from learning the fate of their loved ones, they could collect pensions, as the government required proof of death before payment. Yet by Barton's own calculations, at least forty thousand Union dead had no known burial place and would remain missing forever.

After the war, she traveled as a public speaker, sharing her experiences and supporting veterans programs. To one audience, she revealed the extent of her tolerance for battle: "Men have worshipped war, till it has cost a million times more than the whole world in worth, poured out the best blood and crushed the fairest forms the good God has ever created...All through and through, thought, and act, body and soul - I hate it."

Barton went on to become the founder and first president of the American Association of the Red Cross. She continued her work as a nurse during the Spanish-American War at the age of seventy-seven.

Although the War Department routinely undermined her services during and after the Civil War, the American public was far more appreciative. For generations, hundreds of newborn girls were named Clara Barton.

Notes from the March 2024 Board of Directors Meeting

1. Our current balance is \$3,939.
2. A survey of all members is being planned for May.
3. For the BCWRT 14th Anniversary in May, a collage of pictures through the years is being planned for the meeting as well as a short talk by Wally of the history of the organization.
4. The position of Secretary is open now and a volunteer is being sought.
5. The Bentonville sign that BCWRT sponsored is complete. Pictures of it will be obtained.

Our next Board meeting is Tuesday, April 9, 2024. Meetings are held monthly to discuss items that will make our round table more interesting, run better, and keep our membership engaged. President John Butler leads the two-hour meeting that includes interested Advisors and members. The meetings are held at Trinity United Methodist Church in Southport one week following our gathering at Hatch and begin at 10:00 am. If you wish to attend or have suggestions for the Board, please contact John at jlbutler2007@gmail.com.

Preserving Local History: Community Scanning Day

Saturday, April 6, 2024

11:00 am - 3:00 pm

Harper Library

109 W. Moore St, Southport

The Brunswick County Library, the UNCW Randall Library and the Southport Historical Society are hosting a community scanning day - an opportunity for community members to preserve local history by having their family photographs and documents about the Southport area digitized at no charge.

In addition to having photos, letters, and other historical documents digitized and added to local digital archives, community participants keep their original materials and will be given a digital copy of their items on a free flash drive.

Southport Historical Society Program

History of the John N. Smith Cemetery

Presented by Alexis Gore Graves

Tuesday, April 9, 10:00 am, Harper Library

The John N. Smith Cemetery was established in 1880 when the trustees of an African American Methodist Church in Smithville (now Southport) purchased land for the sole purpose of making it a graveyard. In 2021 it was listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The program is free and open to the public.

Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Guest speaker Victor Vignola's presentation will be on the battle of Fair Oaks, Virginia, on May 31 and June 1, 1862 and is based on his award winning book, *Contrasts in Command*. His book is a finalist for the first annual prize in history awarded by the American Battlefield Trust.

April 11, 2024, 7:00 pm

St John's Episcopal Church
1219 Forest Hills Dr., Wilmington



The new building at Fort Fisher is beginning to look as it will be when finished.

BCWRT Photos

March 2024 Meeting Photos



Photos from our March meeting and the presentation by Angela Zombek:
"Treated Worse Than Felons Before Prisons Were Reformed: The Civil War's Crisis of Imprisonment"



Our Volunteers



Our Volunteers

We appreciate all of our volunteers who make our meetings run smoothly - getting everyone checked in, signing up new members, handling renewals, selling at our Sutler's Table and the 50/50 tickets.
Thank you, all!

Have you thought about volunteering? We could always use your help and hope you join us. Contact John Butler at jlbutler@gmail.com.

Photos by Chuck Roedema



Muster Notes and Notables

The April BCWRT meeting is Tuesday, April 2, 2024.

Hatch Auditorium, NC Baptist Assembly, Fort Caswell, Oak Island, NC.

See page 2 for details to attend via Zoom.

Registration begins at 6:15 pm and the meeting starts promptly at 7:00 pm.

Mail Dues Checks to: BCWRT, PO Box 10161, Southport, NC. 28461.
(Please include your current phone number, street address, and email.)

2024 Officers, Directors, and Advisors

John Butler: President & Director
Ann Birdsall: VP & Director
(Vacant): VP & Director
(Vacant): Secretary & Director
Tom Kehoe: Treasurer & Director
Bruce Jordan: Director
Chuck Roedema: Director
Peter Carmichael: Advisor
Gar Dowell: Advisor
Jim Dunn: Advisor
Charen Fink: Advisor

Chris Fonvielle: Advisor
Jim McKee: Advisor
Chris Mackowski: Advisor
Skip Maxwell: Advisor
Roy Pender: Advisor
Woody Petchel: Advisor
Steve Rauschkolb: Advisor
Wally Rueckel: Advisor
Wade Sokolosky: Advisor
John Wall: Advisor

Connect with us



We Welcome Your Suggestions for our Speakers, Website, Meeting Procedures, Membership Retention, etc.

BCWRT is a 501 (c) (3) tax exempt organization,
co-founded by Tom O'Donnell and Wally Rueckel and organized in May 2010.

Call to Arms Editor: Jennifer Chapman (jennifer.chapman3@icloud.com)