



Call to Arms

Brunswick Civil War Round Table Newsletter

The President's Corner by John Butler



I wanted to take a moment to remind everyone about our **Online Meeting Registration** process. This allows *active members* to register for an upcoming meeting and avoid the processing lines at the meeting. You can register either yourself or your family members during the process as long as you are an active member.

In order to register you will need the following: your email address, web link to the registration system and access to a printer. You can pre-register 10 days prior to the meeting. The web link for the pre-registration is included in the meeting announcements that come out to all active members 10 days and then again 3 days prior to the meeting. This link does not change; it is permanent - <https://olr.bcwrnt-nc.org/>

If attending in person, we encourage you to pre-register. Remember, you must pre-register for each meeting, so any previous pre-registration will not work for an upcoming meeting. Starting 10 days prior to the meeting and lasting until noon on the date of the meeting you can pre-register.

When you access the system through the link it will ask for your email address. You must then verify your information is correct and it will also indicate when your dues are due. Once you verify the information, the next step is to print a ticket for yourself. The system will then ask you if you need to register anyone else or logout.

If you have a family member to register, you click that link, then access the database using your email address you used earlier. It will ask you to verify their info and you can then print their ticket.

Bring the tickets to Hatch Auditorium and enter through the door on the far right. (*Please do not go the registration tables unless you want to pay your upcoming dues. You can also pay your dues online via Paypal on the BCWRT website.*) When you enter the auditorium on the right there will be a separate table with someone there to take your ticket. If you forget your ticket, that person will have a list of all pre-registered members and can verify your attendance. It's a very simple process, try it the next time you come to a meeting.

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BCWRT Upcoming Events

Tuesday, December 5, 2023 Program

“Civil War Photography Extravaganza”

One of the most interesting and entertaining programs we have ever presented will take place on Tuesday, December 5. Nationally renowned expert of Civil War photography Garry Adelman will take center stage for his dramatic presentation entitled, “Civil War Photography Extravaganza.”

The Civil War was brought to life through the lens of photography. Photographers documented nearly every major theater of military operations, capturing the aftermath of battles, the daily lives of soldiers, and the devastating impact of the war on civilians.

Garry Adelman will captivate you at our next meeting with his fascinating photographic presentation covering all manner of Civil War events, people and places, answering your questions, and more!



Guest speaker:

Garry Adelman is the Chief Historian for the American Battlefield Trust, the vice-president of the Center for Civil War Photography, an award-winning author, and an editor of 20 books and 50 Civil War articles. He has lectured at the National Archives, the Library of Congress, and the Smithsonian and appeared on the BBC, C-Span, American Heroes Channel, and the History channel where he was a chief consultant and talking head on the Emmy Award-winning shows “Gettysburg” (2011), “Grant” (2020), and “Battles for America” (2022) among others. He has been a Licensed Battlefield Guide at Gettysburg for 27 years.



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/81820576928?pwd=UnkvS3RWU2JRZFG3aGJEcnFwR2pzdz09>

Meeting ID: 818 2057 6928

Passcode: 047392

Civil War Views

Civil War Symposium

In October, BCWRT Secretary, Jim Kane, and past President, Wally Rueckel, attended the *27th Annual Civil War Symposium: Bridges Over Troubled Waters*. The weekend included presentations by seven prominent historians on the vital role that existing bridges, or those that were constructed, played in the battles surrounding them.

The Symposium was held at Pamplin Historical Park & the National Museum of the Civil War Soldier in Petersburg, VA which Pulitzer Prize-winning historian James M. McPherson has called “the new crown jewel of Civil War sites in America.” You can learn about the Park and Museum at pamplinpark.org.



Jim Kane pictured with the restored Pamplin family home in the background.



Wally Rueckel pictured with the bust of Dr. Robert B. Pamplin whose family owned site of the current Park during the Civil War.

Wally Rueckel and Jim Kane pictured at the Museum



The land was purchased in the 1990s by the Pamplin Foundation to preserve and restore the site and create the National Museum of the Civil War Soldier. Today the Park and Museum is the largest privately-owned Civil War historic site in the country. *Photos by Jim Kane*

Fort Fisher Construction Project

The original visitors center and museum at Fort Fisher was designed for 25,000 visitors a year, but by 2021, the number exceeded one million.

Per [CoastalReview.org](https://www.coastalreview.org), construction on a new visitor center is well underway. There will be a 120-person capacity multipurpose room available to rent, a gift shop overlooking the fort's earthworks, a theater that will sit 100 people, and a changeable exhibit gallery of artifacts from the North Carolina Underwater Archeology Center.



Backside of the new center as of Nov. 15, 2023.
Photo from Fort Fisher State Historic Site Facebook.



Architects rendering of the finished visitors center. Photo from CoastalReview.org

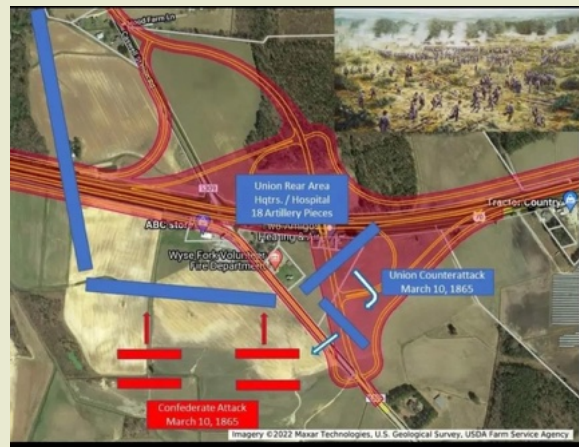
Glass walls will offer views of the ocean and natural landscape.

Construction is expected to be complete in mid-to late May 2024. Once the building is open to the public, the current center is to be torn down.

Wyse Fork Battlefield Update

This is a summary by Wade Sokolosky of the key takeaways from a meeting held November 9, 2023 with Local, State, Federal agencies and several non-profits.

1. NCDOT will go back and study the possibility of moving the proposed interchange 1/4 mile east, which would preserve the endangered left flank of the Union defensive line. Bottom line, the interchange is going to happen no matter what.
2. NCDOT may possibly use some of the mitigation money to help preserve additional land adjacent to the interchange.
3. American Battlefield Trust just closed on the 80+ acres we sought to gain. The Trust will transfer the property to Lenoir County Historic Preservation Group.
4. The historic Cobb House, used as a hospital during the battle is protected.



You can join the [Save Wyse Fork Battlefield Facebook](#) page here.

Local News

Southport Historical Society Programs

“Christmas Dinner Traditions from Charles Dickens”

Presented by Desiree Bridge

Monday, December 11, 2023, 10:00 am, at the Harper Library

Charles Dickens influenced Christmas menus as we know them today through his popular novel, *A Christmas Carol*. His book even inspired early American cookbook writers on what to prepare for dinner in the 1840s and '50s. His novel helped to make Christmas seem more family friendly, and the food discussed in the novel are still considered classic Christmas fare.

So join us on for a delightfully festive talk! Recipes will be included with this talk. Some tasty mincemeat pies and warm wassel will be provided!



Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

“Civil Warriors”

The December meeting of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table features local historian and former UNCW professor, Dr. Everard Smith.

His presentation will be on the volunteer soldier in both the Union and the Confederate armies and focus on some of the things he used and experienced in everyday army life including weapons, uniforms, tactics, medicine and camp.

The meeting will be on Thursday, December 14, at St John's Episcopal Church, 1219 Forest Hills Dr. in midtown Wilmington. Doors open at 6:30 pm and the meeting begins at 7:00 pm.

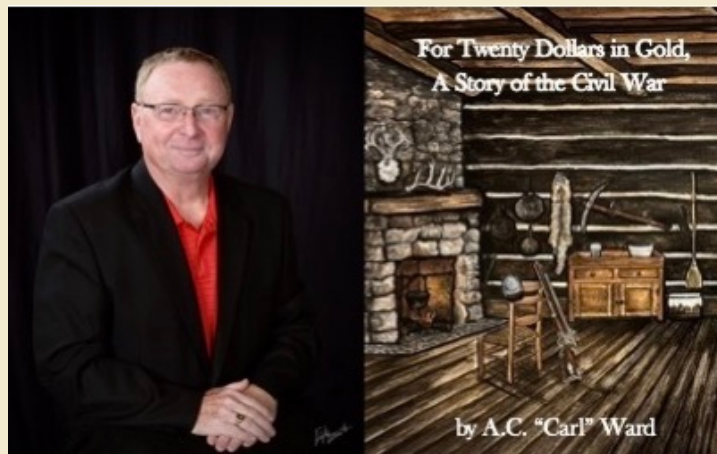
Book by Local Author and BCWRT Member

Local author, historian, and BCWRT member, Carl Ward, has written a novel, ***For Twenty Dollars in Gold, A Story of the Civil War.***

The story is based on the author's own ancestor, Private James Ward of Company E, 26th regiment of North Carolina troops. “This account is personal because it acknowledges what my historic family has gone through over time and the impact it has made on me as a direct descendant of one of the many who fought in the hot sun of July 1863 in a little community known as Gettysburg.” Men may sometimes make a decision regarding war “for nothing more than an enlistment bonus of twenty dollars in gold to purchase window glass and hinges for a partially built cabin for a soldier's new wife on a simple farm in rural North Carolina.”

Carl Ward has turned to writing after his retirement from 30 years of military

service followed by his consulting work. His books are [A Dragon Under the Mountain](#) (Amazon), [Thoughts of a Common Man - Volume I](#) (Amazon) and [For Twenty Dollars in Gold, A Story of the Civil War](#) (Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and other venues).



BCWRT Fundraiser!



Three Civil War art pieces will be offered for sale at the December meeting.

The artist, Wayne Merrick, is a retired art teacher and studied at SYNY, New Paltz. His Civil War reenacting is reflected in his artwork and he is portrayed in one of the pieces.



BCWRT is asking \$20 for each painting or \$50 for all three.



Notes from the November 2023 Board of Directors

Per the Treasurer's Report, our balance as of the end of October is \$3,918.

A tour of Fort Caswell may be planned for the new year.

A total of 342 attended our last meeting - 292 in person and another 50 via Zoom. There were 31 new members due to 17 new memberships.

Our Sutler's Table inventory for books is low and donations are needed.

Our next Board meeting is Tuesday, December 12, 2023. 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.

Help Planning Your Civil War Battlefield Visits



If you find yourself needing help in planning your trip to various Civil War Battlefields in North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, Tennessee, or Pennsylvania, here is a resource for you. The group that produces the **Civil War Trail Maps** for those states can also provide you some help in figuring out what to see, where to stay and eat at these various sites. There is no charge for this service.

Just email Drew Gruber, Executive Director, Civil War Trails, executivedirector@civilwartrails.org.



Muster Notes and Notables

**The December BCWRT meeting is Tuesday, December 5, 2023.
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.

Connect with us at

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/brunswickcivilwarroundtable>

YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=brunswick+civil+war+round+table

Website: <https://brunswickcivilwarroundtable.com>

Email: brunswickcwr@gmail.com

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

2023 Officers, Directors, and Advisors

John Butler: President & Director
Ann Birdsall: VP & Director
(Vacant): VP & Director
Jim Kane: 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

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

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