



Call to Arms

Brunswick Civil War Round Table Newsletter

The President's Corner by John Butler



Mark your calendars for several very interesting upcoming events.

On February 17, you will have two events to choose from: *The 159th Anniversary of the Fall of Fort Anderson* and a *Tour of Bentonville Battlefield with Wade Sokolosky*.

On March 16 the *156th Living History of the Bentonville Battlefield* will take place. Details about these events can be found on Page 3.

We have some changes in the leadership of the Ladies' Forum (Page 6), but another Forum will be taking place on October 14, 2024.

Fort Fisher will have a soft opening this summer (Page 5). Once the visitor's center is fully open and all of the repairs to the earthen works are complete, we will schedule a tour by Chris Fonvielle of the fort in the fall of 2024.

Jim McKee wants to do more tours of Fort Caswell for our members prior to a meeting. John Walsh and Jim Dunn will be working on scheduling these.

We are fortunate that so much of Civil War history that we study is located so near to us and allows us so many opportunities to learn more.

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Battlefield Preservation - Wyse Fork

Wade Sokolosky, Administrator of [Save Wyse Fork Battlefield Facebook](#), recently posted: "NCDOT agreed to study the possibility of moving the interchange to the east, which would preserve the endangered left flank of the Union defensive line of March 10, 1865, and steering clear of core battlefield."

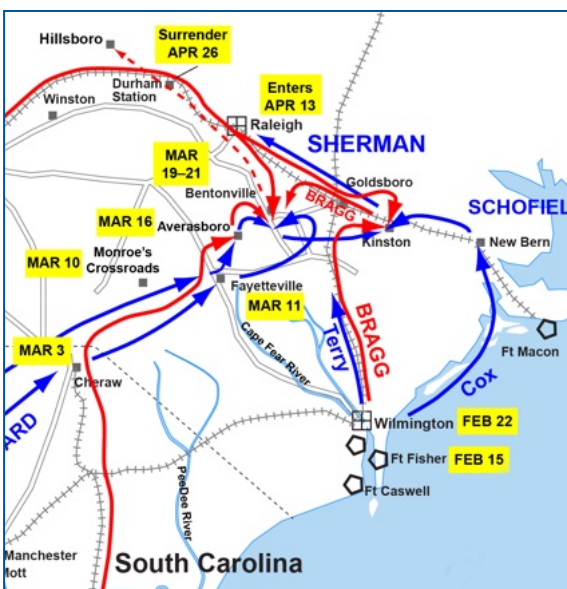
[Click here](#) to go to an article in the American Battlefield Trust Winter 2023 magazine, *Hallowed Ground*, about the importance of Wyse Fork and to sign their Letter of Opposition.

BCWRT Upcoming Events

Tuesday, February 6, 2024 Program

“A Great Race Between Two Rivers: Sherman’s March Toward Fayetteville”

About one hundred miles north of here lies Fayetteville, NC. In early 1865, this town played a significant role near the close of the Civil War following Union Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman’s well-known March to the Sea. While not directly on Sherman’s march route, which was primarily Atlanta to Savannah, he turned northward through the Carolinas in early 1865 as part of his broader campaign. His aim was to disrupt the Confederate supply lines, destroy military infrastructure, and break the morale of the Southern population. Fayetteville became a significant target in his campaign. In mid-March, 1865, his army of 60,000 marched between the Great Pee Dee and Cape Fear rivers. During a four-day siege, they destroyed the Fayetteville Arsenal, foraged for food and supplies, burned private homes, and captured this key transportation hub with its strategic position on the Cape Fear River.



The occupation of Fayetteville allowed the Union army to resupply and continue their march northward. Sherman’s forces continued their advance through North Carolina, participating in the Battle of Bentonville in late March, 1865, one of the last major engagements of the Civil War. Sherman’s March to the Sea and the subsequent Carolinas Campaign played a crucial role in hastening the end of the Civil War.



Wade Sokolosky is a native of Beaufort, NC, a graduate of East Carolina University, and a 25-year veteran of the U.S. Army. He is a renowned Civil War historian, and one of North Carolina’s leading experts of the 1865 Carolinas Campaign. In addition, Wade is a prolific author and co-author, popular lecturer throughout the country speaking at roundtables, various societies and organizations, and at historical sites. He is also a tour guide with the Friends of Bentonville Battlefield, and is a member of our Brunswick Civil War Round Table Advisory Board.

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

If participating via Zoom, simply use the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86399215851?pwd=V0hBTUJaaQ0dDdxYzA3UFI4SmFGZz09>

Meeting ID: 863 9921 5851

Passcode: 759339

Upcoming Events

Bentonville Battlefield Tour with Wade Sokolosky

Saturday, February 17 9 am - 4 pm Tour starts at the Visitor Center

Bentonville Battlefield has greatly expanded the park in the last several years and has added many acres, numerous trails, and markers. This tour will cover much of the fighting that occurred on March 19, 1865.

Highlights include: The Last Grand Charge of the Army of Tennessee, Hoke's Division, the "Bull Pen," and the Morris Farm.

This is a walking tour with a break for lunch at noon. (Must bring your own lunch).

Cost: \$40. A portion of the tour cost goes directly to the Friends of Bentonville for preservation work.

To reserve your spot, email Wade at nchistoricaltours@gmail.com or call (252) 646-5553.



Living History: The 159th Anniversary of the Fall of Fort Anderson

Saturday, February 17 10 am - 4 pm

Brunswick Town / Fort Anderson State Historic Site

Experience artillery firings and infantry demonstrations throughout the day.

Cost is Free

Contact Info: Makayla Coley, (910)371-6613, brunswick@dncr.nc.gov



Latimer House Night Tours

Saturday, February 3 and February 17

Saturday, March 2 and March 16

Time: 8 - 9 pm

The night tour features 19th century gaslight ambiance for 21st century entertainment.

They discuss the history of the technology, how gaslight functioned, and what it meant to people of all kinds who lived and worked under its "lurid glow."

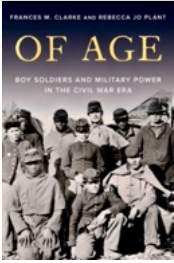
Cost: \$20



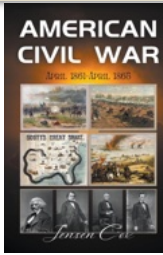
Latimer House
126 South Third St, Wilmington, NC

2023 Civil War Books

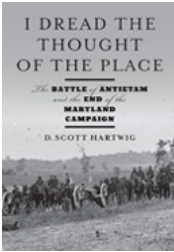
A partial selection of books published in 2023 compiled by John Butler. The March issue will contain the balance.



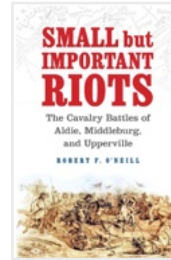
Of Age: Boy Soldiers and Military Power in the Civil War Era
(Oxford University Press),
by Frances M. Clarke and
Rebecca Jo Plant



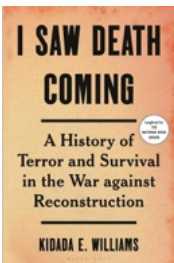
American Civil War, April 1861-April 1865
(Flood)
by Jensen Cox



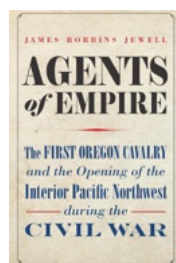
I Dread the Thought of the Place: The Battle of Antietam and the End of the Maryland Campaign
(Johns Hopkins University Press), the
long-awaited second volume
by D. Scott Hartwig



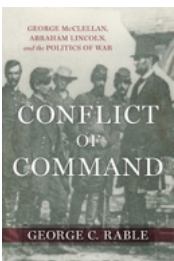
Small But Important Riots: The Cavalry Battles of Aldie, Middleburg, and Upperville
(Potomac Books)
by Robert F. O'Neill



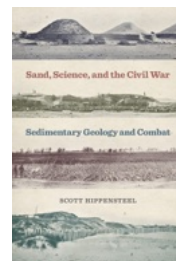
I Saw Death Coming: A History of Terror and Survival in the War against Reconstruction
(Bloomsbury Publishing)
by Kidada Williams



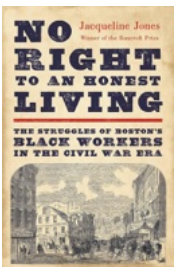
Agents of Empire: The First Oregon Cavalry and the Opening of the Interior Pacific Northwest during the Civil War
(University of Nebraska Press)
by James Robbins Jewell



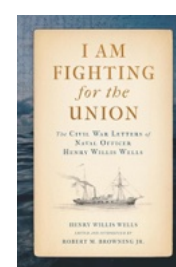
Conflict of Command, George McClellan, Abraham Lincoln and the Politics of War
(Louisiana State University Press)
by George C. Table



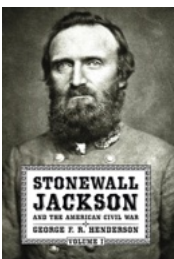
Sand, Science, and the Civil War: Sedimentary Geology and Combat
(University of Georgia Press)
by Scott Hippensteel



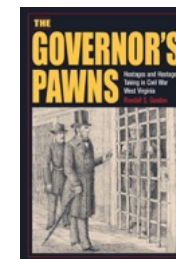
No Right to an Honest Living: The Struggles of Boston's Black Workers in the Civil War Era
(Basic Books)
by Jacqueline Jones



I Am Fighting for the Union: The Civil War Letters of Naval Officer Henry Willis Wells
(University of Alabama Press)
edited by Dr. Robert M. Browning, Jr



Stonewall Jackson and The American Civil War, Volume 1
(Da Capo Press)
by George Francis Robert Henderson



The Governor's Pawns: Hostages and Hostage-Taking in Civil War West Virginia
(Kent State University Press)
by Randall S. Gooden

Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

Well-known author, professor of communications, historian, and Editor-in-Chief of Emerging Civil War Chris Mackowski will be the speaker at the February meeting. His topic is the taking of Jackson, Mississippi, in the Vicksburg Campaign of 1863.

February 8, 2024, 7:00 pm

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

Doors open at 6:30 pm.

Fort Fisher

Jim Steele, the Manager of the Fort Fisher State Historic Site, provided these renderings of the new visitor center and reconstructed earthworks.

Jim says, "We are hoping to have a soft opening of the visitor center by July 4 weekend, opening just the ground floor of the building to the public. By Labor Day weekend, we expect that the exhibit gallery upstairs will be completed, as well as the reconstructed earthworks. At that time we anticipate a grand opening ceremony."



Southport Historical Society Program

Celebration of Miss Annie Clemmons
Southport's Secret Suffragist
One-Woman Show and Book

February 9, 2024, 6:00 - 8:00 pm
Southport Community Bldg at 223 E. Bay St.

Ms. Carolyn Evans, actor and storyteller, will portray Southport's own Annie Clemmons. Annie was thirty years old when the 19th Amendment was approved, guaranteeing women the right to vote. But when Annie went to register, the Brunswick County registrar refused to let her register. Come hear what Annie did next - and learn the secret that's been kept for 100 years!

Also, the new book, *Southport's Secret Suffragist* by Liz Fuller, will be launching. Books will be available for signing.

Free. Reservations required. RSVP at southporthistoricalsociety.org.

Part of the **12th Annual Brunswick County Black History 3-Day Symposium.**

"Scottish Influence in North Carolina"

Presented by Musette Steck

February 13, 10:00 am, Harper Library

Please join The Southport Historical Society for "Scottish Influence in North Carolina" presented by Musette Steck. Musette is a former president of the Southport Historical Society. She will share the Scottish values of family and faith, plus their love of working the land along with their affinity for having a good scuffle or two.

The program is free and open to the public.

BCWRT Ladies' Forum

The Ladies' Forum - A Retirement Letter

by Charen Fink

As many of you know who attended the Forum this past October, Ann Birdsall and I announced our retirement from organizing this Ladies event. It was not an easy decision to make, but I felt that we needed new leadership and fresh ideas.

Since the first programs in 2013, this has been a unique program encompassing speakers, period refreshments, door prizes and, for the past two years, giving away my collection of books on Civil War women's studies. We endeavor to have women speakers when possible, or men who have a knowledge of women's studies.

The very first meeting was an overview of women's clothing, medicine, and photography during the Civil War period along with refreshments and medicines used and made by the women. The next meeting was larger and expanded to Murrow Hall with Ed and Nancy Ovsenik. Ed portrayed a funeral director and Nancy was the official mourner.

Other programs covered marriage customs, period music and sing-a-longs, Civil War medicine, food and festivities, letters to and from soldiers, children, soldiers, spies, and femme fatales. There was a re-enactment of Mary Lincoln mourning the loss of her assassinated husband, as well as programs about the

lives of female slaves. We have had many speakers on various topics such as Betty Vaughn who spoke on Christmas customs and Chris Fonvielle whose topic was Sex in the Civil War.

Round Table ladies, your round table dues cover the expense of this program. Take advantage of it! Anywhere else you would have a fee to pay. The guest fee of \$5.00 has never changed in ten years.

Fortunately, Robbin Smith has stepped up to take on the role of Director of Women's Studies beginning with the Monday, October 14, 2024 program. Please give her your support and attend the programs; much effort is involved in securing interesting speakers. I can assure you that you will enjoy the programs.

I would like to extend my sincerest thanks for your support over the past ten years and I also thank the many volunteers I have known and with whom I have had the delightful pleasure of working. You have been priceless. I look forward to seeing you again in October.

Love to all, *Charen Fink*



An Introduction by Robbin Smith

As the new organizer of the BCWRT Ladies' Forum, I would like to introduce myself. I have big shoes to fill after the wonderful 10-year leadership of Charen Fink.

After retiring from my career in finance and supply chain about a year ago, my husband and I moved to Oak Island where we had vacationed for about 25 years. I have always been interested in American history and now I have the opportunity to concentrate on Civil War history.

I will be contacting Ladies' Forum volunteers shortly, if I have contact information. If not, feel free to contact me at robbinsmithnc@yahoo.com. New volunteers are always welcome. I am looking forward to planning this exciting and inquire event, the Ladies' Forum.

Robbin Smith

Volunteers & the Sutler's Table



Our Volunteers

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

Have *you* thought about volunteering? We could always use your help and hope you join us.

Calling All Book Lovers

Our sales at the Sutler's Table have gone so well that we are now in need of books to replenish our stock.

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

Please contact John Butler at jlbutler2007@gmail.com



Notes from the January 2024 Board of Directors Meeting

The Treasurer's Report shows our balance as of the end of December is \$4,907.

There was a very good attendance of 307 for our last meeting, especially following so closely after the holidays.

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

Discussions and plans are still going on for possible tours in 2024 at Fort Caswell, Fort Fisher and Fort Liberty.

Charen Fink will support but will no longer lead the Ladies' Forum. Robbin Smith will now take over that role with the next meeting on October 14, 2024.

Speakers for next year were discussed.

Our next Board meeting is Tuesday, February 13, 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.

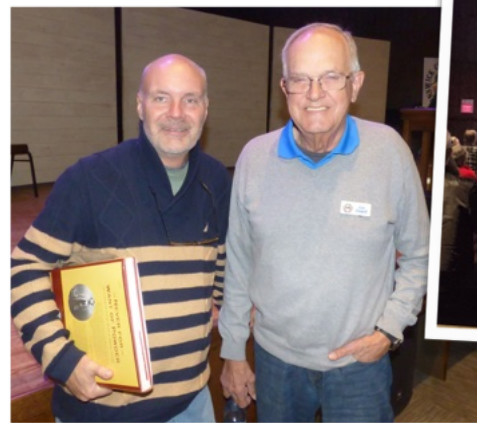
We Welcome Your Suggestions for our Speakers, Website, Meeting Procedures, Membership Retention, etc.

BCWRT Photos

January 2024 Meeting Photos



Photos from our January meeting and the presentation by Ted Savas:
"Civil War Uninterrupted: Jefferson Davis, George Washington Rains, and the Confederate Gunpowder Strategy"





Muster Notes and Notables

**The February BCWRT meeting is Tuesday, February 6, 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
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

Connect with us



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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