



Call to Arms

Brunswick Civil War Round Table Newsletter

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER



As we get ready to welcome 2022, it's worth noting that BCWRT is on the way to the normalcy of pre-Covid times. Former members have returned, we have had over a 100 new members join since September, giving us over 1,000 members. We continue as largest Civil War round table in the country! Below are some random thoughts and answers to questions I have read or heard several times from members.

During the past four months, we have had some interesting speakers starting with Chris Mackowski and ending with Jim McKee. We think we have all the kinks worked out with the Hatch Auditorium sound system and the hybrid Zoom format. If you want to see any of our 2021 programs you can go to either our Website under meeting highlights, scrolling down to the meeting you want to watch, or you see our Youtube site at: https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=brunswick+civil+war+round+table. We have 30 videos posted on the Youtube BCWRT site. We plan to continue doing both live and Hybrid Zoom meetings for all of our speakers. Pat de Barros and the interns at Hatch auditorium work hard to make sure you have a quality live program and Zoom video.

The statue commemorating the U.S. Colored Troops is called "Boundless" and was done by Artist Stephen Hayes. It is located at the Cameron Art Museum which

is the site of some of the trench works from the Battle of Forks Road. The museum eventually plans to create a park-like setting surrounding the statue, which BCWRT helped sponsor. Cameron Art Museum is located at 3201 S. 17th St. in Wilmington. Chris Fonvielle, an BCWRT Advisor and frequent speaker at our meetings, served as the historian for the project and wrote a book on the battle, "Glory at Wilmington: The Battle of Forks Road".

Joseph Ryder Lewis, Jr. Civil War Park (Sugar Loaf Battlefield) is the newest Civil War Park in the area. It includes part of

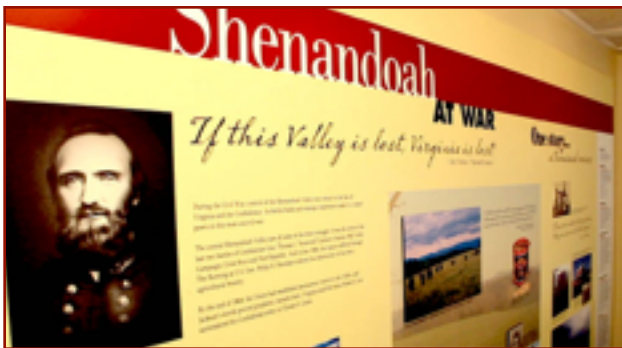


the Sugar Loaf Line of Defense Site on Carolina Beach. It was dedicated in February 2021 and is almost 12 acres in size. Chris Fonvielle also served as historian for the site. (Does he ever stop? If you have ever gone on a walking tour with him, you know the answer to that question! LOL.) The park has approximately 150 yards of Civil War earthworks.

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“déjà vu” All Over Again in the Shenandoah Valley

Most members might recall that in the spring of 1862, General Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson successfully spearheaded the Shenandoah Valley Campaign charged with defending western Virginia from an invasion



by Union troops. At that time, he wrote to a staff member, “If this Valley is lost, Virginia is lost.” Two years later, battle returned to the same Shenandoah Valley with Confederate General Early facing off against Union General Sheridan. The South won the 1862 campaign, and to tell us what happened in the second go-round - and its aftermath - is recognized Civil War historian, Phillip Greenwalt. The title for his Tuesday, January 4, presentation is aptly named, “If this Valley is Lost...”



Phillip Greenwalt is the co-founder of *Emerging Revolutionary War* and a full time historian with *Emerging Civil War*. He is the author or co-author of five books on the American

Revolutionary and American Civil War. A fourteen-year veteran of the National Park Service, he is currently the Chief of Interpretation and Education at Catoclin

Mountain Park in Thurmont, Maryland.

You are encouraged to attend the meeting either via Zoom or in person. If participating via Zoom, simply use the following:

Link - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83398034654?pwd=VnFVT3hHamU0NThyS0MzV2taQzZVdz09> Meeting ID - 833 9803 4654 Passcode - 855057

If attending in person, we encourage you to pre-register. If you used this convenient process for any of our first four meetings this program year, you must pre-register again as a meeting ticket is only good that (one) month. Starting Friday, December 24, and lasting until noon on Tuesday, January 4, current members may log into the system - <https://olr.bcwrt-nc.org/> - to print a ticket (one each for yourself and your spouse) showing you've registered. Bring the ticket(s) to Hatch and enter through the special door on the far right. (Please do not go to the registration tables.) When you use the online system it will clearly show if you are current (dues paid)...and what to do if you are not up to date. It's that simple! The Tuesday, January 4 meeting takes place at Hatch Auditorium on the grounds of Fort Caswell. Registration begins 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.

Please note: The BCWRT Leadership Team is asking all members and guests to wear a mask while inside Hatch Auditorium. We appreciate your cooperation.

(Editor's Note: This month there is no Speaker Review or Ladies' Department. We hope both return in February.)

Farina Offers Top Ten Civil War Turning Points



At our November meeting, Jay Jorgensen presented his ten turning points of the Civil War, and we asked what would your choice for such a list would be. Matt Farina (at left), a retired doctor from Albany, NY, who lives in Southern Pines, NC, and is the editor of the Rufus Barringer Civil War Round Table newsletter, sent us his suggestions. We think they are worth sharing.

1. The impact on CW medicine and military medicine in general by Surgeon General William Hammond and Dr. Jonathan Letterman, medical director of the Army of the Potomac.

2. Joe Hooker's (shown) revitalization of the Army of the Potomac after Burnside's debacle at Fredericksburg, including good food for the troops, amnesty for AWOLs, corps badges to improve esprit de corps, consolidation of the Union cavalry into a corps, and use of field telegraph at Chancellorsville.



3. Performance of the Union cavalry at Brandy Station showing that the North's cavalry was now as good at Confederate cavalry.

4. Battle of Franklin where Hood 'killed' the Army of Tennessee just to prove the point that he felt the army under Joe Johnston had gone 'soft.'



5. The CSS Hunley, the first combatant submarine to sink a warship.

6. The Second Battle of Ft. Fisher, essentially closing the South from outside supply.

7. The Emancipation Proclamation and its effect on foreign governments supporting the South and changing the moral goal of the war from 'save the Union' to 'end slavery.'



8. The Battle of Five Forks and the capture of 5-6000

Confederates. Grant realized that Lee had been stretched to the final breaking point, so Grant ordered the all out assault of the entire Petersburg line on April 2, 1865.

9. The industrial might of the North. Just two examples: 1) The Burden Ironworks in Troy, NY, produced almost all the horseshoes for the Union. Burden had ten machines, each of which produced one horseshoe PER SECOND, not per minute. 2) The textile mills in New England boasted one million spindles for cloth making. The South had 30,000.

10. The fall of New Orleans in 1862 - read the book, *The Night the War was Lost*.

NEW OFFICERS CHOSEN FOR 2022



At the December BCWRT meeting, members elected new officers for the upcoming year. John Butler (right) remains our President, Gar Dowell and Cindy Brochure are the two Vice Presidents (both were unavailable for the photo), Jim Kane (left) continues as Secretary, and Gary Krupp (center) returns as Treasurer. The five officers, who also are on the Board of Directors, join four other Board members (Ann Birdsall, Bruce Jordan, Chuck Roedema, and E. Gifford Stack),

along with 14 Advisors (listed on the last page of every issue of the newsletter) to form the BCWRT Leadership Team. *(Photo by E. Gifford Stack)*



SCHOLARSHIP HONORS DAN FINK

Board members honored **Dan Fink**, who was instrumental in helping develop BCWRT, at their December meeting by awarding the 2022 BCWRT \$1,000 scholarship in his name to the University of North Carolina Wilmington. In addition to helping launch our round table, Dan was a regular contributor to our newsletter. His review of our speakers was a popular column, perfectly capturing the topic and the presenter's delivery. Dan always included the same catchy line that made anyone not attending think they probably missed something good:



"Ya just had to be there to hear what (so and so) was doing during this crucial time!" Dan passed away in April 2018.

This is the fourth year BCWRT has provided a \$1,000 scholarship to UNCW. Past awards honored co-founder Tom O'Donnell, frequent speaker and nationally known Civil War historian Ed Bearss, and Advisor Emeritus Max Williams. Since our founding in 2010, BCWRT has donated over \$60,000 to organizations supporting our mission of education and interest in the Civil War, as well as battlefield preservation.

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER - (Continued from page 1)

There is a gravel trail with several interpretive signs (BCWRT funded two of the signs). The park sits behind a swath of commercial development on Carolina Beach Road including an ABC Store and Dollar General. It is on the north side of the Publix grocery store, sharing a parking lot entrance at 1018 Lake Park Blvd (old Federal Point Shopping Center).

Our new online registration system is working well. Len Trizinsky single-handily developed the system, as well as the database that we use for both online and in-person registration. A couple of reminders: (1) you must register each month if you want to do online registration and bypass the normal check-in process, (2) you must be current in your dues, (3) you register yourself and then your spouse separately, as well as print tickets for each of you, (4) bring your printed ticket to the meeting and enter through the marked door on the far right, (5) if you forgot your ticket, no problem, someone will be there to check your name off of the online registration signup sheet, and (6) you can do online registration beginning the day of

the first meeting announcement email until noon the day of the meeting.

Before we can bring back 60 our coffee and cookies, we need a couple of volunteers to help organize and manage it at each meeting. Ideally, we would like two teams of two volunteers so they can rotate the task. In the past, couples have found this to be an interesting task to do together.

We are also looking for someone to replace Peter Whalen at the Sutler's Table. After running the program for five years, Peter wants move on to something else. The Sutler's Table is a two or three person job.

Mark your calendars. On April 5 and May 3, Jim McKee has agreed to lead a 45-60 minute tour of the Fort Caswell casement next to Hatch. These tours, which always sell out, are done prior to the start of our monthly meetings and are very informative and entertaining. John Walsh, our expert tour coordinator, will provide more details in future editions of the newsletter.

John

CIVIL WAR VIEWS



BCWRT member and intrepid traveler John Walsh went to Columbia, SC, in November. Among the sites visited were the beautiful state house where John C. Calhoun still stands; the First Baptist Church (at the time the largest meeting place in the city), site of the state's 1860 succession vote; and informational signage. (Photos by John Walsh)

Pictured at our December Meeting

Speaker Jim McKee and 215 attendees (including 15 new members and 4 guests!) were present for our December 7 meeting. Some of the happy attendees, including the winner of the \$91 50/50 drawing, paused for our camera. (Another 57 members attended the meeting via Zoom!) (Photos by Pat de Barros, Chuck Roedema, and E. Gifford Stack)



Pictured at our December Meeting - Continued



MUSTER NOTES and NOTABLES

The January BCWRT meeting is Tuesday, January 4, 2022. The meeting will be held at Hatch Auditorium, NC Baptist Assembly, Fort Caswell, Oak Island, NC. See page 2 for details to attend via Zoom.

Registration begins 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, contains helpful information and is available to everyone, no user name or password required. Our Facebook page is at <https://www.facebook.com/brunswickcivilwarroundtable/>. The YouTube BCWRT site is located at: https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=brunswick+civil+war+round+table. Contact us at brunswickcwr@gmail.com.

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

2022 OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AND ADVISORS

John Butler: President & Director
Cindy Brochure: VP & Director
Gar Dowell: VP & Director
Jim Kane: Secretary & Director
Gary Krupp: Treasurer & Director
Ann Birdsall Director
Bruce Jordan: Director
Chuck Roedema: Director
E. Gifford Stack: Director
Peter Carmichael: Advisor
Jack Carpenter: Advisor

Charen Fink: Advisor
Chris Fonvielle: Advisor
Tom Kehoe: Advisor
Jim McKee: Advisor
Chris Mackowski: Advisor
Kathy O'Donnell: Advisor
Roy Pender: Advisor
Leslie Rivers: Advisor
Wally Rueckel: Advisor
Wade Sokolosky: Advisor
Peter Whelan: Advisor

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