



Call to Arms

Brunswick Civil War Round Table Newsletter

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER



We have two things to celebrate this month. Most significantly, it is our 12th anniversary, when we recall our first meeting in May 2010 with 85 attendees! We now average over 300 members and guests both in person and

on Zoom. With almost 1,100 members we continue to be “The largest Civil War Round Table in the Country.” However, the second celebration is for our volunteers who make this all possible.

Our first two volunteers, co-founders Wally Rueckel and Tom O'Donnell decided in 2009 to start a CWRT in Southport. They used their business skills and previous experience with round tables to work with a small group of advisors to create what we today know as the Brunswick Civil War Round Table.

With this in mind, I would like to thank all of the volunteers past and present that have worked to make this round table such a success. In this issue of the *Call to Arms* newsletter you will see lots of pictures of our volunteers. As you all know, volunteers are essential in making a great organization. Whether they help you with registration, 50/50, Sutler's table, newsletter or speakers, everyone is essential to the round table's success. The

BCWRT needs over 50 volunteers to support all we do in this 1,000-plus member organization.

You might now realize that you get as much or more from volunteering as the organization you help. Here are some of the benefits of volunteering.

1. Connects you to others.
2. Good for your mind and body, keeps you mentally stimulated.
3. Brings fun into your life, reduces stress.

Volunteering is not all about work.

4. Offers vital help to the organization, but the benefits can be even greater for you, the volunteer.



In a study published in the *Journal of Happiness Studies*, researchers examined data from nearly 70,000 research

participants in the United Kingdom, who received surveys about their volunteering habits and their mental health, including their distress and functioning in everyday life. Compared to people who didn't volunteer, people who had volunteered in the past year were more satisfied with their lives and rated their overall health as better. Additionally, the researchers found that people who volunteered more frequently experienced greater benefits: those who volunteered at least once a month reported better mental health than participants who volunteered infrequently or not at all.

(continued on page 8)

Greenwalt Here (Finally!) for 12th Anniversary Meeting

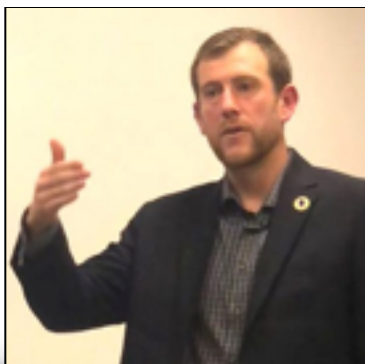
Next month's speaker was originally supposed to be here in January, but got stuck in a nasty snowstorm. Phillip will be present May 3 on the 12th anniversary of your BCWRT.

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, May 3, 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 Catoctin Mountain Park in Thurmont, Md.

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83776120227?pwd=UllkRlZUWFXNXdBzBeDNZaXM3UkNBUT09>

Meeting ID - 837 7612 0227 Passcode - 304157

If attending in person, we encourage you to pre-register. Remember you must pre-register for each meeting, so last month's pre-registration won't work for

May's meeting! Starting Friday, April 22, and lasting until noon on Tuesday, May 3, 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, May 3 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: Wearing a mask while inside Hatch Auditorium is OPTIONAL. Masks and hand sanitizer are available for those who might want them.

THE PSYCHOLOGICAL COMFORT OF ESCAPE

A review of Angela Zombeck's April Presentation

By Jim Medeiros

If a soldier in battle fights with his guns, imprisoned soldiers wield a different weapon from their POW camps: escape. With successful escape a POW could return to war and resume using his primary weapon. Although we could argue that POWs helped to tie up enemy supplies, munitions, and manpower by just being there, the truth, according to Dr. Angela Zombeck, offered no more than illusory hope. At best, the faint whiff of freedom served best to enable to endure the unendurable in camps both North and South.

The problem for both sides: prison overcrowding. Repeatedly, the war forced men into strait confines which gave little rest, little food, and death by disease. Consider a few examples:

Union Prison Johnson's Island, Ohio—built for 1,000 men but housed 3,256

Union Prison Camp Chase, Ohio—built for 3,500-4,000 but housed 9,423

Confederate Libby Prison, Richmond, Virginia—built for 1,000 but maximized with 4,221

Salisbury Prison, Salisbury, North Carolina—built for 2,000 but housed 10,321

Confederate Prison, Andersonville, Georgia—built for 10,000-12,000 men but peaked with 32,899

Union Fort Taylor, Key West, Florida—Not built as a prison but ended up holding 8-10 prisoners such as blockade runners

Even the most infamous Confederate camp in Andersonville started out as a bid to reduce overcrowding and starvation but gained its place of prominence by fostering just the reverse.

As Dr. Zombeck pointed out, however, the promise of breakout meant more than the reality that few POWs succeeded in and most who made it outside the walls were returned to captivity. In Andersonville, for example, a

severe storm turned a spring in the compound into a river and washed away some yards of the wooden stockade, yet no mass escape succeeded at the obvious opening. Tunneling, in fact, gave real purpose and hope to the men in their unbearable situation, however, despite eighty-three excavations discovered by guards only a handful



succeeded. At Libby Prison, dozens of Union officers tunneled across the street and in one night trickled into the darkness over a series of hours, yet nearly half were recaptured. At Camp Chase, thirty enlisted Confederates escaped when the prison opened to admit the sanitary cart, however, again, most were recaptured.

Even with the failure of breakout attempts, POWs kept digging. The attitude on both sides embraced the idea that a prisoner had a duty to escape. Nonetheless, Zombeck acknowledged, that the impetus for flight had more to do with morale than high concepts such as duty. "Instead of fighting the enemy, they were fighting poor conditions and the psychological stigma of captivity." Punishments for escape attempts ranged from solitary confinement, hanging by the thumbs, and even death. The threats of constant mistreatment with mortality rates in the camps of twelve to eighteen percent still made escape attractive. Over the door at Fort Taylor in Key West, the words of Dante in the Inferno greeted the few prisoners there as all should have been—Abandon Hope All Ye Who Enter Here.

SUMMER RECESS

Please remember that May is our last meeting for the 2021-22 program year. We take a break over the summer months to enjoy travel (perhaps Civil War sites where we can snap photos for the “Civil War Views” section of this newsletter!), hosting visitors to our beautiful county, and catching up on projects around the home.

According to Gar Dowell, our Vice President and Program Manager, we have a terrific line up of speakers for the 2022-23 Program Year. We'll kick things off in September with returning acclaimed speaker Jack Davis whose topic is “The Letters of General Gabriel Wharton and his Wife Nannie.” In October, Sarah Bierle, who was a smash Zoom hit last year, will present live and on stage “A Tale of Two Artillerymen: Robert Beckham and Justin Dimick at Chancellorsville.” According to the SurveyMonkey questionnaire you wanted more naval presentations. In November your wish will be granted...Dwight Hughes will discuss “Unlike Anything That Ever Floated: The USS *Monitor*.” And talk about an early Christmas gift, our December speaker is none other than Curt Fields, the historian who portrays General U. S. Grant, who will be on the Hatch stage December 6. Curt was one of our highest watched Zoom presentations in the past three years!

BCWRT Board of Director Notes

Your Board of Directors, along with interested Advisors, meets 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 with a packed agenda that he keeps moving right along. These meetings, open to all members, are at Trinity United Methodist Church in Southport, one week following our gathering at Hatch, and begin at 10 a.m. If you wish to attend or have suggestions for the Board, please contact John at jlbutler2007@gmail.com. The next meeting is Tuesday, May 10.

Here are the main items of interest from the Board's April 12 meeting.

1. Treasurer Tom Kehoe reported our current cash balance is \$13,239. The income and expenses for our budget year (July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022) shows no anomalies.

2. New Advisor Jim Dunn volunteered to help sell tickets for the 50/50 raffle.
3. The Board unanimously approved Angela Zombeck becoming a BCWRT Advisor.
4. Gar Dowell, the VP who is in charge of securing program speakers, reported six of our nine presenters for the 2022-23 program year are confirmed and the remaining three speakers should be booked soon.
5. Jim McKee's April tour of Fort Caswell was, as expected, a sold out hit. The May tour is also sold out.
6. We now have 1,081 members and President John Butler thanked members for renewing, and new members for joining “The Larges Civil War Round Table in the Country.”

Ladies' Department — *By Charen Fink*

1860s Conversation

- In a room full of company, you should never take a person aside to whisper.
- Never introduce professional topics in general conversation at a party.
- In speaking of anyone, do not say Mr. A., Mrs. B., or Miss C. Pronounce the whole name.
- Do not engage in an argument.
- Do not find fault, although you may gently criticize.
- Do not talk of your private, personal and family matters.
- Do not appear to notice inaccuracies of speech in others.
- Men should refrain from trying to prove that everyone present is wrong but him.
- He should not lose his temper in society.
- Never talk at people.



- The gentleman should be neatly dressed.
- The hostess sees that each lady is conducted by a gentleman.
- Always separate a husband and wife as they are supposed to enjoy each other's society at home.
- Do not ask any lady to take wine, until she has finished her fish or soup.

Dining Table Manners

- Do not overload the fork.
- Do not rise from the chair to reach anything.

- Never cut bread, but break it, buttering each piece as it is eaten.

- Bread should be buttered on the edge of the plate, never in mid-air.

Women's Gloves

- Wear gloves in church or places of public amusement and to shake hands.

- Gloves are NOT worn while eating.

- Crochet mitts were worn and popular in the 1840s and out-of-date in the 1860s.
- White kid gloves or light-colored gloves extending to cover the wrists were popular.

The Ball Room

- Always escort a lady to her seat after dancing with her.

Miscellaneous Hints

- Keep clean.
- Clean and white teeth are an absolute necessity.
- Do not pick your nose, dig in the ears, pare your nails, pick your teeth or comb your hair in company.

Reference:

Fink, Charen Bishop. "The Civil War Ladies' Department." Austin, Texas: Next Century Publishing, 2017.

Dinners and Dinner Parties

- Give a prompt reply to a dinner invitation.
- You may decline a dinner invitation without breach of etiquette.
- The lady hostess seats herself at the head of the table and the host at the foot.
- The lady should always appear in full dress.
- Mix up ladies, gentlemen, and members of the same family.
- Do not insist upon your guests partaking of particular dishes; it is extremely ill-bred, though extremely common, to press one to eat of anything. Never ask more than once.
- Soup is always served first and then the fish.
- Avoid second helpings as this holds up the next course.

OUR STATE QUIZ

Continued from last month. Thanks to VP Gar Dowell for sharing his 2009 issue of *Our State* magazine which included their monthly quiz, this time testing the reader's knowledge of North Carolina's Civil War events and places. (Reprinted with permission of *Our State* magazine and the quiz's author, Alan Hodge.)

1. In April 1862, Union forces in Carteret County captured the Confederate fort near Atlantic Beach. What is this fort's name? A. Fort Macon B. Fort Sumter C. Fort Defiance
2. Fort Fisher was a Confederate bastion that fell to Union amphibious assault on January 15, 1865. What port did Fort Fisher defend? A. Morehead City B. Wilmington C. Elizabeth City
3. Another important Civil War action in the eastern part of North Carolina was the Battle of Bentonville that took place during March 1865. Who lead the Confederates?
A. Gen. Joe Johnston B. Gen. Stonewall Jackson C. Gen. A.P. Hill
4. The mountain region of North Carolina didn't see any big Civil War battles but endured several sharp skirmishes. On April 13, 1865, local militia turned back a force of about 1,000 federal cavalry during a fight in what Buncombe County town? A. Waynesville B. Boone C. Asheville
5. On March 4-7, 1865, part of the Union General Sherman's army entered the Tar Heel State from South Carolina. The army marched into North Carolina near Everetts Mill and present-day U.S. Highway 1 in what county? A. Richmond B. Scotland C. Robeson
6. Siding with the Confederacy, a considerable number of Cherokee Indians joined the 69th Regiment North Carolina Troops led by storekeeper William Thomas. This unit went by what nickname? A. Thomas' Brigade B. Thomas' Legion C. Thomas' Mountain Lions

ANSWERS: See page 13

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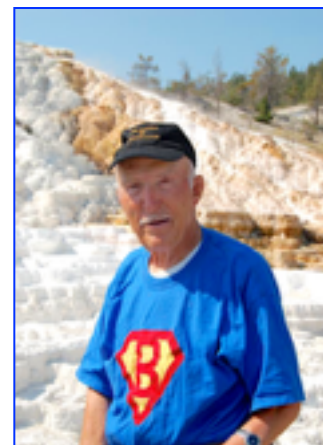
Celebration of Life for Ed Bearss

The family of Ed Bearss and American Battlefield Trust (ABT) have organized a Celebration of Life for Ed who is every Civil War buff's dear friend. It will be held at 1 p.m., Sunday, June 26 (Ed's 99 birthday) on land owned by the ABT adjacent to the Lutheran Seminary in Gettysburg. Everyone is invited to attend. For other information, please contact ABT - <https://www.battlefields.org/about/contact>

Ed graced our stage eight times, but more importantly he promoted our round table to other

historians, Civil War round tables, and his many friends.

Whenever he visited, Ed would ask for a tour to some local Civil War site, always absorbing the significance of the locale no matter how meaningful. Rest in peace, Ed.



Chancellorsville

A Review of Stephen Sear's Book - By John Butler

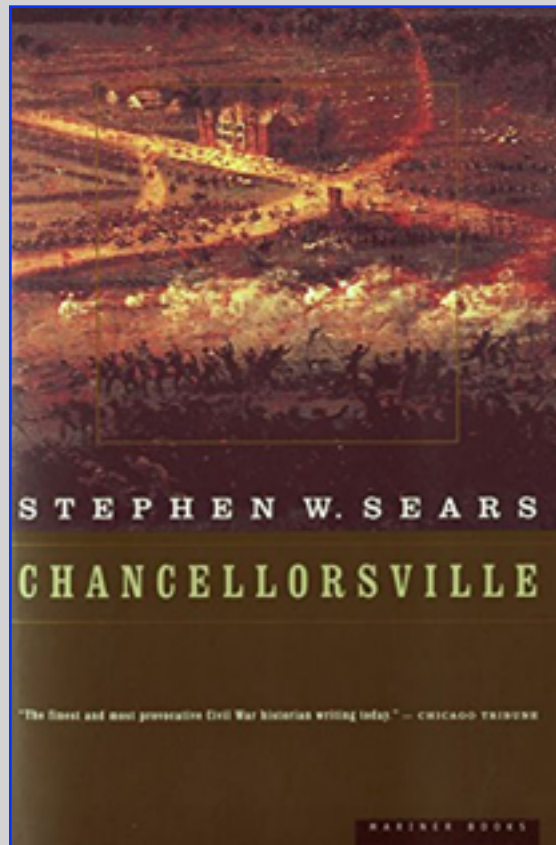
If you have never read a book by Stephen Sears you ought to try it. He does extensive research and writes in a very readable style.

Chancellorsville is an excellent book, first published in 1998, about the six months leading up to battle and the hour by hour description of the conflict. This is a well-researched book and offers some new information on the use of military intelligence by the Union army and Gen. Hooker's conduct of the battle. Spoiler alert: after reading the book you may change some of your opinions about Gen. "Fighting Joe" Hooker.

Some interesting facts about the battle are how Gen. Hooker turned the Army of the Potomac around after the Battle for Fredericksburg. The army's morale was horrible and desertions were running rampant. Also, Gen. Hooker reorganized the military intelligence efforts of the Union Army. His intelligence apparatus worked so well that he had very accurate information on Gen. Robert E. Lee and his troops and their deployment.

Gen. Hooker had developed a sound strategic plan to attack Lee. But as all military veterans know, no plan survives contact with the enemy. The book shows how if your subordinates don't execute as directed, or communications fail, then your plan has little hope of success. Also, it must be remembered the enemy gets a vote, so their actions can determine the outcome.

As all books on battles it could always use more maps, especially in the Kindle version. A nice bonus was the excellent description of Gen. Jackson's famous attack and his subsequent wounding and death.



(President's Corner Continued from page 1) -

Why don't you take this opportunity and give back to the BCWRT where you have enjoyed some great historical presentations.

"There are three kinds of people: Those who make things happen, those who watch things happen, and those who say, 'what happened?'" – Casey Stengel

Again, I would like to personally thank each and every volunteer for all of their heartfelt efforts to make the BCWRT such a wonderful success.

John

Fort Caswell Tour



Jim McKee led a sold out tour of Fort Caswell prior to our April meeting. Attendees were treated to a descriptive history of the fort and an opportunity to explore many of the old rooms and tunnels. The tour for May is sold out. *(Photos by John Walsh and E. Gifford Stack)*

BCWRT Volunteers, Current and Former

Below is a list of the volunteers that have worked to make the BCWRT the great organization that it is. An organization is only as good as its volunteers and these people have been tremendous. Thank you for all of your good work.

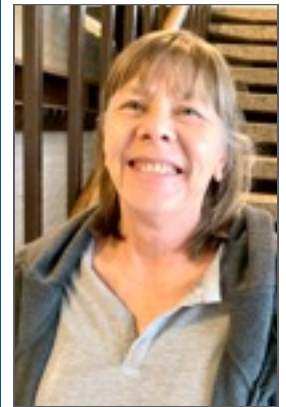
Current Volunteers

Ann Birdsall	Bob Benedict	John Butler	Peter Carmichael
Jack Carpenter	Jennifer Chapman	Pam Collins	Ron Collins
Jim Conklin	Tom Currier	Pat de Barros	Hema De Silva
Bob DiMattia	Gar Dowell	Jim Dunn	Charen Fink
Chris Fonvielle	Angela Zombeck	Bob Hagerman	Connie Hendrix
Donna Italiano	Matt Italiano	Bruce Jordan	Joe Kaczvinsky
Jim Kane	Barbara Kanto	Tom Kehoe	Naomi Macey
Chris Mackowski	Skip Maxwell	Jim McKee	Jim Medeiros
Helen Morschauser	Rick Morschauser	Dale Mullarkey	Kathy O'Donnell
Roy Pender	Woody Petchel	Gary Pyle	Chuck Roedema
Wally Rueckel	E. Gifford Stack	Wade Sokolosky	Bobbi Sullivan
Fred Taylor	Len Trizinsky	Fred Truelove	Ralph Ventola
Frances Ventola	John Walsh	Peter Whalen	Jim Wheeler

Former Volunteers

Roger Albizu	Alan Armstrong	Mo Beers	Sam Benson
Teresa Benson	Frank Bevenour	Deb Bevenour	Mary Boose
Dave Boysen	Wayne Briggs	Cindy Brochure	Tom Brown
Rob Clarke	Tom Conaty	Dianna Conaty	Kirk Davis
Joe Day	Paul Douglas	Mike Duffy	Matt Farina
Dan Fink	Doug Friedman	Anne Hager	Marv Hamer
Harvey Hosid	John Hoskin	Carolyn Hubbard	Jim Johnson
Ken Keast	Joan Kelly	Frank Kelly	Gary Krupp
Betsy Kumnick	Paul Laird	Richard Largent	Ginny Largent
Carol Lehr	Linda Lewis	Wayne Lewis	John Lewis
Martha Loughlin	Nick Mastorides	Diane McCorkle	Lee McCorkle
Sharon McCoy	Katy Menne	Carol Lee Morris	John Nowell
Tom O'Donnell	Rich Palazzi	Ruth Ann Petzinger	Frank Pinto
Mike Powell	Warren Pratt	Jon Richmond	Leslie Rivers
Maggie S. Roedema	Nan Rueckel	Lori Sanderlin	Gail Savell
Dan Sellers	Dave Shultz	Nathan Sloan	Lee Smyre
Bobby Springle	Gene Sullivan	Roseann Summerville	Elizabeth Szala
Barry Thomas	Richard Turek	Christine Volpe	Bill Voorhees
Barbara Voorhees	Robin Ware	Susanna Whalen	Pete Whalen
Max Williams	Tony Zezza	Tish Gordon	

SOME OF OUR CURRENT (HAPPY) VOLUNTEERS



*Photos by
Chuck Roedema &
E. Gifford Stack*



Pictured at our April Meeting

Speaker Angela Zombeck and 264 attendees (including 17 new memberships and 5 guests!) were present for our April 5 meeting. Some of the happy attendees, including the winner of \$99 from the 50/50 drawing, paused for our camera. Another 54 members attended the meeting via Zoom! *(Photos by Chuck Roedema and E. Gifford Stack)*



Pictured at our April Meeting - Continued



(1. A. Ft. Macon; 2. B. Wilmington; 3. Gen. Joe Johnston; 4. C. Asheville; 5. A. Richmond; 6. Thomas' Legion)

MUSTER NOTES and NOTABLES

The May BCWRT meeting is Tuesday, May 3, 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.

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
(Vacant): VP & Director
Gar Dowell: VP & Director
Jim Kane: Secretary & Director
Tom Kehoe: Treasurer & Director
Ann Birdsall Director
Bruce Jordan: Director
Chuck Roedema: Director
E. Gifford Stack: Director
Peter Carmichael: Advisor
Jack Carpenter: Advisor

Jim Dunn: Advisor
Charen Fink: Advisor
Chris Fonvielle: Advisor
Jim McKee: Advisor
Chris Mackowski: Advisor
Kathy O'Donnell: Advisor
Roy Pender: Advisor
Woody Petchel: Advisor
Wally Rueckel: Advisor
Wade Sokolosky: Advisor
Peter Whelan: Advisor
Angela Zombeck: Advisor

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