



Call to Arms

Brunswick Civil War Round Table Newsletter

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER - JOHN BUTLER



Our 2022-2023 season closes with the May 2 meeting. It's been a great year full of excellent tours, outstanding speakers and a steady growth in membership. This didn't happen without teamwork. We've been

blessed with dedicated, creative volunteers and BCWRT Board members and Advisors working together to ensure you enjoy the full benefit of wide variety of educational presentations.

We owe a special THANK YOU to our volunteers who show up month after month. They arrive early and stay late, actively search out membership feedback and ensure a constant improvement to your round table. They greet you as you enter Hatch and welcome new members and guests, as well as regulars. Between meetings your Board of Directors and Advisors get timely information out to the members via publicity, produce tours of Civil War sites, conduct the Ladies Forum, update our website daily, make Facebook entries, and post YouTube videos.

A special thank you to our volunteers: (see pages 8 & 9) Naomi Macey, Jennifer Chapman, Pat de Barros, Len Trizinsky, Wally Rueckel, Charen Fink, Bob Benedict, Robert DeMattia, Barbara Kanto, Beth Linton, Ralph Ventola, John Wall, Jim Dunn, Woody Petchel, Gar Dowell, John Walsh, and Steve Rauschkolb. Apologies for any omissions.

And a very special thanks to the BWRT Board Members: Tom Kehoe, Bruce Jordon, E. Gifford Stack, Chuck Roedema, Jim Kane, and Ann Birdsall.

A special thanks to the Hatch Auditorium crew and audiovisual team for their hard work and support of our presentations. Generations Church also deserves kudos for hosting us while Hatch underwent remodeling.

But most of all, THANK YOU to you – our very engaged membership. You are the reason we continue to thrive as an educational venue and attract quality speakers on varied topics and viewpoints.



But, like any dynamic, growing organization we need more volunteers to sustain ourselves. We mention this at every meeting and do continue to attract some volunteers. However, there's room for more as current volunteers leave the area or retire for health and family reasons.

We are looking forward to the 2023-24 program year with excellent speakers on a wide variety of topics beginning with Marble Nash Taylor and Edward Stanley's presentation "North Carolina's Two Civil War Union Generals" at our September 2023 meeting. The tour committee is putting the finishing touches on Cape Fear River tour this fall to include Ft Anderson, Orton Plantation, and more historical sites.

Have a safe summer break and we look forward to seeing you again in a few months. And remember to send us an email/photos of your visits to Civil War venues!

John

GOOD-BYE...AND WELCOME

IT'S TIME TO SAY SO LONG.

YEP, AFTER SIX YEARS PRODUCING *CALL TO ARMS*, WE ARE MOVING TO GEORGIA TO BE CLOSER TO FAMILY.

THANKS FOR YOUR READERSHIP, BOOK REVIEWS, SUGGESTIONS, SPEAKER REVIEWS, PICTURES, ARTICLES, AND ESPECIALLY THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMNS.

I ENJOYED PUTTING OUT EVERY ISSUE!

AND I'M DELIGHTED THAT JENNIFER CHAPMAN IS THE NEW EDITOR! SHE IS A FORMER BOARD MEMBER AND SECRETARY OF OUR BCWRT. SHE'S A DARN GOOD EDITOR AND YOU'LL ENJOY HER EDITIONS STARTING WITH THE SEPTEMBER ISSUE. WELCOME, JENNIFER!!!!

ALL THE BEST.

E. GIFFORD STACK

IMPRESSED LABOR AND THE WILMINGTON FORTIFICATIONS

Our last meeting of the program year features a seldom discussed, but highly engaging, Civil War topic. Coincidentally, the Tuesday, May 2 meeting is the thirteenth anniversary of BCWRT's founding. The presentation is entitled, "Raising Corn, Embankments, and a Little Hell: Impressed Labor and the Wilmington Fortifications". Our guest speaker is Jaime Amanda Martinez, Professor and Chair in the Department of History at the University of North Carolina at Pembroke.

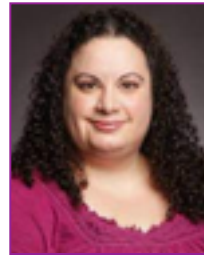
The presentation begins with an overview of impressment laws enacted in North Carolina in the summer of 1862, and lasted throughout the war. Impressment was the legislated policy of the Confederate government to seize food, fuel, slaves, and other commodities to meet the needs of the Confederate army. Despite protests from slave owners, slave impressment proved critical in allowing the Confederate government to shore up fortifications and keep the war machine churning out arms and ammunition until the end of the war.



The summer of 1864 became a key point in time when North Carolina Governor Zebulon Vance was running for re-election. At

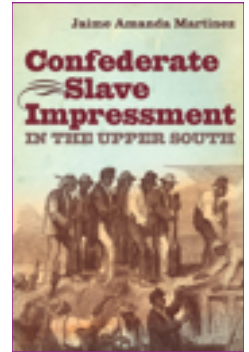
question was his level of support for the war effort. This involved the Confederate government centralizing slave impressment, and Vance's concern for the fate of enslaved men impressed to work at Wilmington, while the grain planters needed their labor at home. As a result, American Indian men were impressed as laborers, leading to armed conflict between Lumbee men and the North Carolina Home Guard in Robeson County by the end of the war.

Dr. Martinez arrived at UNCP in 2008 shortly after completing her PhD at the University of Virginia. Her first book is entitled, *Confederate Slave Impressment in the Upper South*. She has



taught an impressive array of courses at UNCP, including ones on the Civil War and Reconstruction, Jacksonian America, African-American history, Historical Theory and Practice, and Public

History, among others. Dr. Martinez is a frequent speaker at Fort Fisher events to talk about the role of enslaved, free black, and American Indian men in building the Wilmington fortifications, and is a member of the North Carolina Historical Highway Marker Advisory Committee.



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/86240143888?pwd=L3hmV3JBcGIET0wrZ3lRZ1FvTm9KZz09>

Meeting ID - 862 4014 3888 **Passcode -** 490735

If attending in person, we suggest you pre-register. *Remember you must pre-register for each meeting, so any previous pre-registration won't work for May's meeting!* Starting Friday, April 21, and lasting until noon on Tuesday, May 2, 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 Auditorium and enter through the door on the far right. 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 2 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.

The War for the Common Soldier

A review of Peter Carmichael's March Presentation By Jim Medeiros

I make no bones about it: Dr. Carmichael did an outstanding job on March 7 back at the Hatch. His dynamic message cautioned historians cherry picking facts from one or two sources and risking nearsightedness by ignoring human complexity. Heeding his warning, I will not try to generalize a good speaker from Carmichael's performance; rather, I will cite the strategies that worked for Carmichael as he translated his insights for us.

Passion Humanizes - Too often the hallowed halls of academe birth speakers who choke on the chicken bones of their erudition. They weave an impenetrable thicket of thought because they have to appear calm and weighty. Some obscure teacher misled them into believing that serenity looked like bored self-control. Dr. Carmichael missed that class. Instead, he marched about our podium gesticulating, repeatedly peering into the eyes all around him in his earnestness. At one point early on, he stopped to contradict the dictum that our young students have no interest in history. Urging us to peek into his classes, he promised his students cherished the story of the Civil War as much as he does. Carmichael never hesitated to show us his own humanity. He refused to strangle his own passion and something of that piqued our interest in his story.

Fear Flogs Us to the Straight and Narrow - One of the greatest fears of mankind is not a minié ball in the face but facing any audience greater than five. Imagine how intimidated some of our speakers must feel facing our 200-300 living breathing people. Some speakers harness the fear of public speaking to power them through an hour of eyeball-to-eyeball contact. Carmichael did this. He didn't seem to fear us and that tide of apparent confidence bore us along on its crest to build trust. Neither did Carmichael fear to point out that many popular Civil War historians insist that some single notion motivated most soldiers. In spite of the complexities and contradictions of the human animal,

Carmichael insisted we must consider those contradictions in all martial motivations. He kept his gaze on that.

Keep It Simple - Carmichael's evidence has to be considered among the most accessible. He looks to the letters left behind by soldiers where one month **they** could bemoan a moth-eaten coat and the next extol it as a prized possession; letters decried boredom and danger and filth today to threatening desertion in the last sentence and then in the next letter praised the devotion to liberty, comrades, bravery apparently forsaking desertion for maintaining comrades and personal reputation. In both north and south, men sometimes deserted to return home for several months, only to appear back in ranks and continue fighting. Somehow,



the human animal expertly simultaneously holds two contradictory ideas in the heart. You don't need a war to bring that out. Consider the spouse who declares undying devotion today and goes home with a coworker tomorrow, the loyal employee who sells secrets to a competing company, the admired leader who betrays his country for its own good.

This behavior appears complex, yet we see it in the simplest human and the most famous as well.

Don't Lose Ten Percent of Your Audience with Your Mouth - Naturally, the complexity of the human brain undergirded Peter's presentation. Other pieces formed the bones. Simple things such as speaking loudly enough (ten percent of any audience cannot hear us), effectively using audiovisuals (we don't go for the Powerpoint, we go for the human interaction), and giving the chance for personal contact to the audience whether as an audience question, a beer afterwards at the bar, or buying the speaker's autographed book all formed part of Dr. Carmichael's charm.

Tell them what you're going to tell them, tell them, and tell them what you told them - That's an old formula for good speakers. Dr. Carmichael just seemed to embrace it all. Or perhaps I'm over simplifying?

NOTES FROM MARCH AND APRIL BOD MEETINGS

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 along. These meetings, open to all members, are held 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 9.

The main items of interest from the March and April meetings:

1. Our current balance as of April 11 is \$6,410.
2. The tour advisors are working on a Cape Fear River cruise for this fall. Details are still being finalized.
3. Pat Trizinsky, wife of Len Trizinsky who does our IT work including the data base and website, passed away in March. The Board made a donation for \$100 in Pat's name to the St. Peter Lutheran Church Moretz Scholarship Fund.
4. May's meeting will mark the thirteenth anniversary of BCWRT's founding. No special event is planned except recognizing this milestone at the beginning of the meeting.
5. Advisor Gar Dowell, who won the April 50/50 drawing, donated the entire \$180 back to the round table. The Board gave him loads of thanks for his generosity and kindness.

Sex in the Civil War!

You ladies are in for a treat. Chris Fonvielle returns with an updated edition of his famous talk "Sex in the Civil War" which he first presented to the Ladies' Forum over five years ago. (Ladies only) Mark your calendar for Monday, October 30, for a 6 p.m. start in Murrow Hall at Trinity United Methodist Church in Southport.



There is no cost for BCWRT women members, and guests are only \$5. As usual, there will be light period-appropriate refreshments, free Civil War books involving women, and a second speaker. The programs ends at 8 p.m.

The Ladies' Forum is for WOMEN ONLY, and according to chair Charen Fink, it is likely the only one of its kind in North Carolina. "We are looking for volunteers to help with the evening's entertainment, including registration, setting up several tables, and displaying the books. We would also welcome volunteers to help with future forums. And this year Ann Birdsall will assist as the Forum's vice-chair," Charen stated.

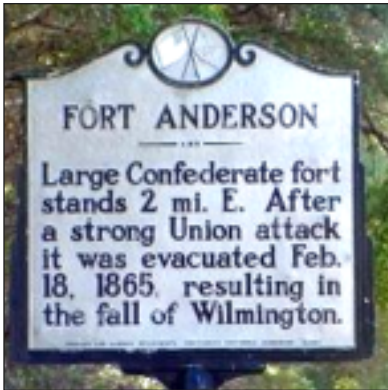
For questions or volunteering, contact Charen at 330-507-3773 or deftandm@hotmail.com.

+++++

Civil War Fact - "There were some 200,000 desertions from the Union side and more than 120,000 from Confederate ranks. Robert E. Lee estimated he lost at least 20,000 during the September 1862 march to Antietam alone, with an equal or greater number on the return. The Army of the Potomac experienced an exodus of similar size after the December 1862 debacle of Fredericksburg." *The History Buff's Guide to the Civil War*, by Thomas Flagel, page 161.

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL FT. ANDERSON TOUR

Despite some light rain and several “no-see-ums,” nearly 30 BCWRT members and guests in late March received a first-rate tour of Fort Anderson from Chris Fonvielle, **THE** Civil War expert in North Carolina. According to tour organizer John Walsh, everyone seemed to appreciate Chris’ ability to tour and relate the almost firsthand history. Noted one participant, “To have someone walk you through the site as if the battle was going on simultaneously is a gift.” Another member stated, “The tour was great. I look forward to future events.” (Photos by John Walsh, Gar Dowell and JJ Prats)



Grant's Turning Point(s)

A review of Chris Mackowski's April Presentation [By Jim Medeiros](#)

Gettysburg as the turning point of the Civil War? “Balderdash,” according to Chris Mackowski. He further challenged us last meeting, calling nearly all Grant’s milestones as similar balderdash.

Remembered for breaking Vicksburg and the South’s noose on the Mississippi, Grant’s turning point could hardly have been Gettysburg (he wasn’t there). Battles at Belmont, Ft.

Donelson, Ft. Henry, Shiloh, Corinth and Chattanooga did not turn the world upside down.

Furthermore, was one of Grant’s battles a turning point for the Civil War? Or Grant? Or both?

All discussion of the beginning of the war’s end too often ignores the actual impact of battles. Gettysburg, for example, presented the North, the Union, Lincoln and his generals their first real victory in the face of repeated Confederate invasions of the North, but the fighting went on. Or, if Grant had not won at Chattanooga would Lincoln have made him

general-in-chief? Did the battle of the Wilderness mark a change in the tide for Lee or was it another signpost for Grant’s maturity into his promotion?

For Chris Mackowski, the crossroads of the Wilderness carried geographic significance and progress in the War. Prior to the Wilderness, generals north and south engaged in battles for a few days and then one or both sides withdrew to reorganize, resupply, and lick their wounds.

Mackowski pointed out that Grant, confronted by an inflexible Robert E. Lee, simply went around him when faced with the same battle lines. For Mackowski, this was the key change Grant wrought

in the Union’s war. And it was hardly a lesson learned in a day.

After the Mexican War Grant had little battlefield experience. As he undertook operations in the department of the Tennessee, each taught new pieces of a battle plan. The fight for Belmont schooled Grant to eschew the mob and maintain

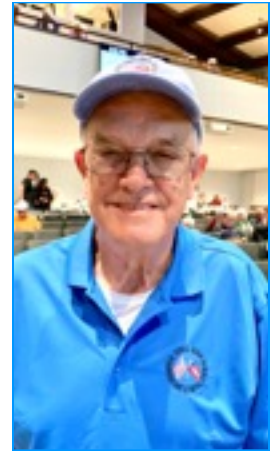
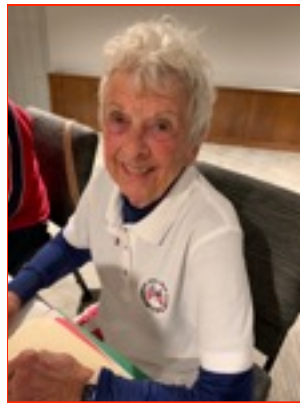
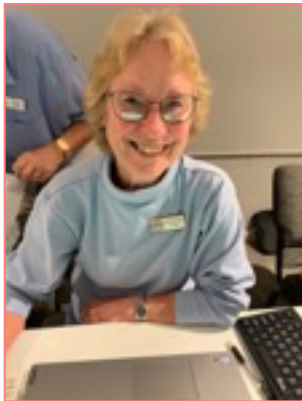
control of his men. With that lesson came the importance of coordinating with the navy. This he carried to Forts Donelson and Henry, only to be taught at Fort Henry that a well-entrenched enemy could certainly repel naval guns by sending their own “Iron Valentines.” Nonetheless, it was Grant’s demand of unconditional surrender at Ft. Donelson that helped construct the mythic figure of the hard-driving cigar-chewing general snapping at the heels of surrendering rebels. Whether the legends were well-earned, the images of victories helped to build Grant’s fame. At the least, Grant offered the

success that politicians, voters, and soldiers alike so desperately needed. Since he fitted the north’s wish fulfillment so well, many hailed each of his victories as “turning points”.

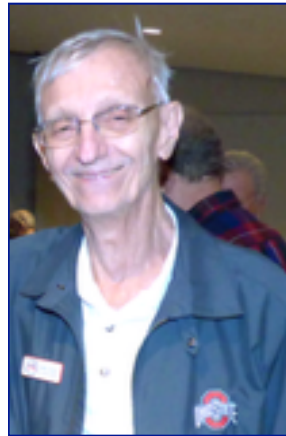
For Chris Mackowski, each of Grant’s battles formed another piece in the wall that Grant slowly climbed a step at a time. Grant’s successes held nothing of the inevitable about them. As with all human beings, he learned to walk slowly, a progression of new steps, not a spurt of genius preordained by god or Lincoln. Lincoln may have felt Grant was his and he belonged to Grant, but Grant grew into his job rather than—Shazam—being created for it.



Our 2022-23 Volunteers



Our 2022-23 Volunteers - *Continued*



Apologies for missing 2022-23 volunteers...you may not be pictured, but you are sincerely appreciated!

Summer Conferences

This summer there are many Civil War conferences, symposiums, and retreats that we could possibly attend, but two stand out for their excellence and relationship to BCWRT. For nearly 40 years, the Civil War Institute at Gettysburg College, lead by BCWRT Advisor Peter Carmichael, has hosted a premiere annual summer conference bringing leading historians and public audiences together for lectures, battlefield tours, small group discussions, and roundtable conversations about the Civil War era. Sessions, lodging, and meals are held on the 200-acre college campus. This year's event, June 9-14, features 35 distinguished speakers and tour guides. See their website for details:// www.gettysburg.edu/civil-war-institute/summer-conference/2023-cwi-conference. Ask for a round table discount.

As mentioned by BCWRT Advisor Chris Mackowski, our April speaker and head of Emerging Civil War, their Ninth Annual Symposium, Aug 4-6, is focusing on 1863 and some of the most pivotal events of that year. The speakers are tops in their field and the tours are first-rate. See https://emergingcivilwar.com/ecw_event/2023-symposium/ for complete details.



CANNON SHOTS



As President Butler mentioned on page 1, we've got great speakers in September to kick off our 2023-34 Program Year. In fact, our first four months feature outstanding presenters: **September** - Marble Nash Taylor and Edward Stanley, "North Carolina's Two Civil War Union Generals"; **October** - Dwight Hughes, "Naval Theaters of War"; **November** - Hampton Newsome, "Gettysburg's Southern Front"; and **December** - Gary Adleman, "Civil War Photograph Extravaganza."



Our friends at the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table invite all BCWRT members to their Thursday, May 11 meeting featuring retired US Navy Captain Edward Gantt speaking on "The United States Colored Troops in the Civil War." The meeting will be held at the Cape Fear Museum, 814 Market Street in Wilmington. The doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the program begins at 7 p.m. BCWRT members are invited to attend at no charge. Additionally, Capt. Gantt will present a special program on Friday, May 12, at the Wilmington National Cemetery located at 2011 Market St. The venue is the final resting place of more than 500 USCT soldiers, the vast majority buried as unknowns. The event begins at 4 p.m. and attendees are asked for a \$10 donation.



The Civil War and Coca-Cola

A Confederate officer named Lt. Col. John Pemberton took a saber slash to the chest while defending a bridge in Columbus, Ga., one week after Appomattox when Union troops who hadn't heard the news charged the bridge. After the war ended, he became addicted to the morphine used to ease the pain. In trying to cure his addiction, he created not only a \$260 billion business but an entire global industry.

Pemberton had been a doctor since the age of 19 and was a skilled chemist with a drug store in Columbus. He began creating patent medicines after the war, and started selling his first popular medicine, Pemberton's French Wine Coca.

A derivative of a celebrated European beverage of wine and cocaine, Vin Mariani, it was a potent mix of caffeinated kola nuts and damiana, a flower used to make early versions of margarita cocktails. The active ingredient, however, was still cocaine mixed with wine. As one might imagine, it was marketed as a remedy for almost any ailment, which technically worked. Cocaine was widely regarded as a cure for morphine addicts.

Pemberton wasn't the only wounded Confederate veteran addicted to morphine. There were many of them. To top it all off, the people of the rapidly changing South were known for suffering from fatigue, headaches, anxiety and depression, later called "neurasthenia" by doctors, after the war. Pemberton was looking for a cure-all to help veterans and civilians alike.

French Wine Coca seemed to do the trick, and it was, of course, really popular. He soon moved his operation to Atlanta, where it sold even more. Everything was going smoothly until 1886, when alcohol was outlawed in Fulton County. He kept selling the French Wine Coca elsewhere, but in Atlanta, he needed to reformulate.

In trying to make a non-alcoholic version of his medicine in a brass kettle in his backyard, he experimented with different ingredients (the final recipe, called 7x flavoring, is still a trade secret). While at a pharmacy, he mixed the syrup with carbonated water and knew he'd found the magic. He called it Coca-Cola because he liked the alliteration.

His new beverage, marketed as "The Temperance Drink," still contained the coca leaves and kola nuts, but used sugar syrup instead of wine. He sold it at the soda fountains in and around pharmacies, still selling it as a cure "for nervous affections." Although he found interested investors, he didn't really see Coca-Cola's potential and gradually sold off his own interest in the company.

Pemberton died in August 1888, but Coca-Cola lived on. It wasn't long before Atlanta businessman and former druggist Asa Griggs Candler controlled the entire enterprise. Candler's operation began bottling the beverage, then sold licensing rights for others to bottle Coca-Cola throughout the country. Aggressive marketing led to an explosion in popularity.

The Coca-Cola company claims the soda never contained actual cocaine, but fact checkers have found evidence the recipe contained cocaine until the turn of the twentieth century. It still uses coca leaves in the recipe, but the cocaine has been removed from its coca extract by the New Jersey-based company Stepan. The Coca-Cola Company sells an estimated 1.9

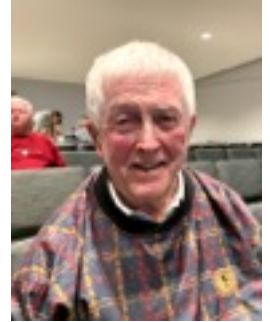
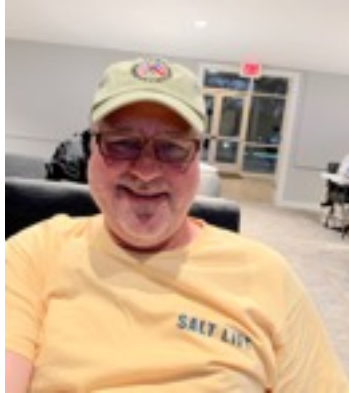
billion drinks every day, all without wine, cocaine or any other intoxicating substance.

(Thanks to Matt Farina, President of the Rufus Barringer Civil War Round Table, who published this article by Blake Stillwell (military.com) in the April 2023 edition of *The Provisional*, the round table's newsletter. p.s. the BCWRT newsletter editor worked almost 13 years for the National Soft Drink Association and never heard this story.)



Pictured at our March and April Meetings

Speaker Peter Carmichael and 352 attendees, including the 50/50 winner of \$203, were at our March meeting. For April's gathering, speaker Chris Mackowski spoke to 304 attendees, including the lucky winner of \$180 in the 50/50 drawing. Some of the participants from both meetings paused for our camera. (Photos by Chuck Roedema, Pat de Barros, and E. Gifford Stack)



Pictured at our March and April Meetings - *Continued*



MUSTER NOTES and NOTABLES

The May BCWRT meeting is Tuesday, May 2, 2023.
The meeting will be held at Hatch Auditorium, NC Baptist Assembly, Fort Caswell, Oak Island, NC. See pages 3 for details to attend via Zoom.

Registration begins at 6:15 p.m., and the meetings 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 <https://www.facebook.com/brunswickcivilwarroundtable/>.

The YouTube BCWRT site is located at: https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=brunswick+civil+war+round+table.

Our website address is: <https://brunswickcivilwarroundtable.com>

Contact us at: 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

E. Gifford Stack: Director

Peter Carmichael: Advisor

Gar Dowell: 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

John Wall: Advisor

Peter Whelan: Advisor

Call to Arms Editor:

E. Gifford Stack (egstack44@gmail.com)

