



# Call to Arms

Brunswick Civil War Round Table Newsletter

## The President's Corner by John Butler



In December of this year, we will be holding our annual election of officers. The five positions up for election are: **President, Vice President, Vice President of Programs, Secretary, and Treasurer.**

Wally Rueckel will oversee the elections and will be seeking volunteers for each position. During the month of November see Wally at the monthly

meeting or contact him about your interest. The duties of each role per the By-Laws are listed below:

**President:** The President shall preside at all regular meetings and Board meetings and shall generally coordinate and supervise the affairs of the Round Table. One of the other officers shall preside in the absence of the President.

**Vice President:** This Vice President will assist the President in matters as requested.

**Vice President, Programs:** This Vice President shall be responsible in assisting the President in coordinating and arranging for speakers at the regular monthly meetings and such other duties as the President assigns.

**Secretary:** The Secretary shall be responsible for recording the minutes of all regular meetings as needed and Board meetings; all Round Table correspondence as directed, and other administrative duties that may be assigned by the Board.

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# BCWRT Upcoming Events

## Tuesday, November 7, 2023 Program

### “The Naval Civil War in Theaters Near and Far”

We are pleased that Dwight Hughes, who was unable to be with us for our October 3rd meeting, will be giving his presentation this month about the Civil War Navy.

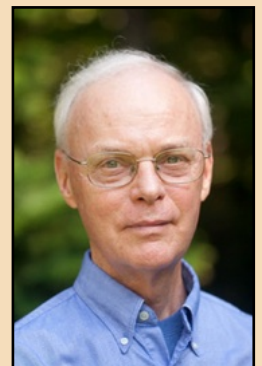
Almost nothing in the history and traditions of the United States Navy prepared it for the challenges of civil war in the early 1860s. At the onset of the war both sides faced the challenge with a lack of foresight and preparation. They could not possibly envision what eventually happened or the immense effort required to actively contribute to the war effort.



Dwight Hughes best summarizes his presentation about the Civil War Navy by saying, “the Civil War was principally a land conflict, but it was not only that; naval operations were more than just peripheral or supporting. Navy theaters of operation complete the picture, providing fascinating and enlightening perspectives on the conflict.”

**Guest speaker:** Dwight Hughes is a graduate of the U. S. Naval Academy who served 20 years as a Navy surface warfare officer, received a Bronze Star for Meritorious Service as well as a Purple Heart while serving in Vietnam. He taught Naval ROTC, earned a MA in Political Science and and MS in Information Systems Management and a second career in software engineering.

He is also a Civil War historian, author, and speaker on naval history, combining his love of the sea with his fascination with Civil War history.



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/86995164934?pwd=UkNWWnFaQ1VyVTZ2aExoWjFWbEFoUTo9>

**Meeting ID:** 869 9516 4934

**Passcode:** 954778

## BCWRT Fundraiser!

Three Civil War art pieces will be offered for sale at the November and December meetings.

They were painted by Mr. Wayne Merrick who was originally from Poughkeepsie, NY. Mr. Merrick is a retired art teacher and director and studied at SUNY, 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 October 2023 Board of Directors Meeting

1. It was resolved that BCWRT co-founder Wally Rueckel will be honored by having the UNCW 2023 scholarship awarded in his name.
2. The presentation viewed on Zoom will be improved by having the camera focused on the screen being highlighted by the speaker.
3. Our current balance is \$4,607. \$2,165 was approved to be paid for the Cape Fear History River Cruise.
4. Election of Directors will be held at the December meeting.

*Our next Board meeting is Tuesday, October 10, 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](mailto:jlbutler2007@gmail.com).*

## Photos from our October Cape Fear River Cruise



The weather was perfect for our recent history cruise on the Cape Fear River. Dr. Chris Fonvielle regaled us with fascinating and interesting facts and stories throughout the cruise. Good weather, great guide, fun, educational, scenic - the cruise had it all.



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### The President's Corner continued from Page 1

**Treasurer:** The Treasurer shall keep and maintain an accurate itemized accounting of all monies paid to the Round Table treasury and those monies paid out and will provide to the Board a detailed report at its regular meetings on the financial status of the Round Table. The Treasurer will be responsible for paying all debts approved by the Round Table.

In addition to these positions, the Board of Directors has a **Directors role** available. This role is by appointment of the Board. If you have an interest in this role, see the President.

*If you enjoy our Round Table, take a moment to volunteer and help the organization to continue to grow and improve. Volunteers are the life blood of this and any organization.*

# Civil War Views

## Chancellorsville Battlefield

These pictures are shared by BCWRT Advisor Skip Maxwell and his wife from their trip in September this year to Chancellorsville Battlefield at Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park.

“The six-day Battle of Chancellorsville left behind a human wreckage unmatched in Virginia to that time. Lee won an unlikely victory, but lost Stonewall Jackson. The Union army (under General Joseph Hooker) retreated in a gloomy rain, but would soon be ready to fight again - at Gettysburg.”

*Trail sign at Chancellorsville*



*“Civilians in the Crossfire”. Trail Sign*

In seventy-two hours the Chancellor family’s world was turned upside down. A Union soldier described the Chancellor women on April 30:

“Upon the upper porch was quite a bevy of ladies in light, dressy, attractive spring costumes. They...stated they had assurances from General Lee, who was just ahead, that he was there anxiously awaiting an opportunity to extend the ‘hospitalities of the country.’ They had little conception of the terrors in store for them...”

Three days later Confederate artillery shells set fire to the house, forcing Sue Chancellor and the other women to flee.

“The sight that met our eyes as we came out of the dim light of that basement room beggars description. The woods around the house were a sheet of fire - the air was filled with shot and shell - horses were running, rearing and screaming - the men, a mass of confusion moaning, cursing, and praying... At our last look, our old home was completely enveloped in flames.”



*“Memorializing Jackson’s Death” Trail Sign*

When General “Stonewall” Jackson died eight days after being wounded in these woods, shock waves rippled through the South...Few felt Jackson’s loss more keenly than Robert E. Lee, who confessed “I know not how to replace him.”



The remnants of the Chancellorsville house.

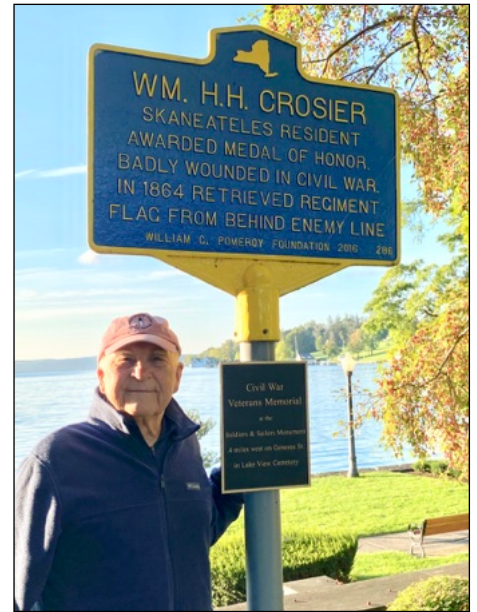
# Civil War Views

## Civil War Sites in Upstate New York

Former “Call to Arms” editor E. Gifford Stack and his wife Sylvia share photos and notes from their recent on a road trip in upstate New York where they unexpectedly found several Civil War related sites.



A stop in Auburn, NY, included a tour of William Seward’s home where the upper hallway is filled with portraits of foreign heads of state Seward met with during his time as Lincoln’s Secretary of State.



A monument on the shores of beautiful Lake Skaneateles to one of the 1,523 Civil War Medal of Honor recipients.



Within eyesight of the Falls, the town of Niagara’s monument pays homage to the residents who lost their lives in the Civil War

Down the road from William Seward’s home is the cemetery where Seward and Harriet Tubman are buried.



*Photos by EG Stack and Sylvia Swanson*

## Southport Historical Society Programs

### Thursday, November 2, in the Southport

**Community Building** at 223 E. Bay St.

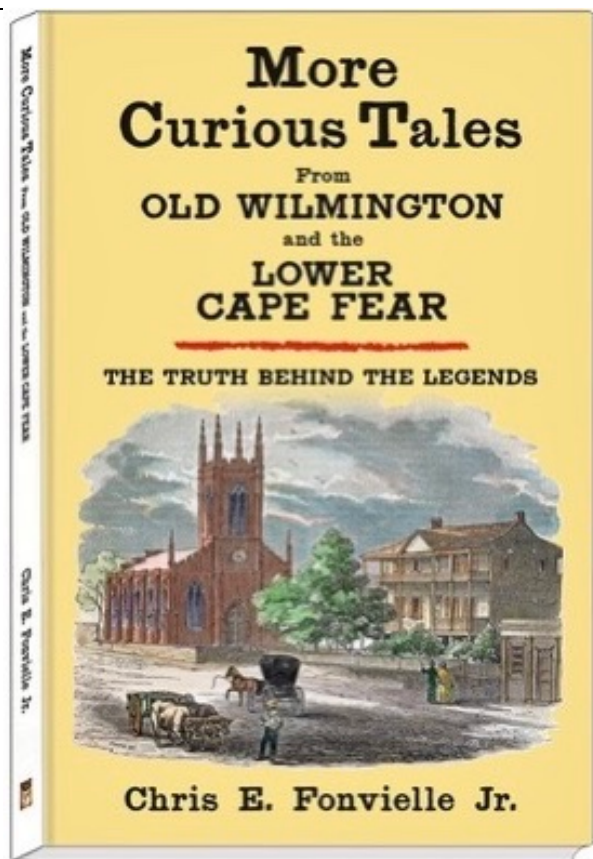
Dr. Chris Fonvielle will discuss his book More Curious Tales from the Lower Cape Fear. He will be talking about two of the five famous legends he covers in his book:

- Did Polly Slocumb really make a miraculous midnight ride to Moores' Creek Bridge to tend to her husband and other Patriot soldiers wounded in the battle in February 1776?
- Did the family of Nance Martin bury her in a cask of rum in which she had been placed after passing away on a round-the-world sea voyage with her father and brother in 1856? Today her grave is one of the most visited in Wilmington's historic Oakdale Cemetery.

### Tuesday, November 14, 10:00 am, at the Harper Library, 109 W. Moore St, Southport,

Thomas Milner will present "*The Ships of Southport.*"

From the first visit by Spanish explorers in 1526 the Cape Fear River was known as a difficult and dangerous place to navigate, yet its location, weather and natural resources made it an essential port. Looking at the ships that have passed by Southport provides a fascinating perspective on the history of our country and helps explain why Southport is still a window on the world.



Related to the pictures and information shared by Skip Maxwell on page 5, this picture from the American Battlefield Trust shows the Chancellorsville Battlefield with a gray highlighted area. This area might soon be developed with a gas station, convenience store and professional complex. If this does get approved, it could open up the area for even further development.



# Muster Notes and Notables

**The November BCWRT meeting is Tuesday, November 7, 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](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=brunswick+civil+war+round+table)

Website: <https://brunswickcivilwarroundtable.com>

Email: [brunswickcwr@gmail.com](mailto:brunswickcwr@gmail.com)

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

## 2023-2024 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

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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