



# Call to Arms

Brunswick Civil War Round Table Newsletter

## The President's Corner by John Butler



With the cooler weather of fall approaching, you might want to get out and visit some of the many Civil War sites in the area. If you do not have the NC Civil War Trails Map, you should try and see if we have any left at the Sutler's table. We got 100 for the last meeting and still have some left. We have also ordered additional copies.

### Some places to visit in our area:

**Bentonville Battlefield** (Open Tuesday - Saturday).  
5466 Harper House Rd., Four Oaks, NC. 27524

On September 15, 2023, a new mile of walking trail for the "NC Mountains to Sea Trail" was opened in Bentonville. Your BCWRT is supporting signage for this new trail. We will update you when it is installed.

An upcoming event at Bentonville is their Fall Festival on October 23. This annual event includes wagon rides, music, vintage baseball, food trucks, and more.



**Fort Anderson** (Open Tuesday thru Saturday).  
8884 St Phillips Rd SE, Winnabow, NC 28479

Fort Anderson has a nice museum and plenty of trails and colonial era ruins to see.

### In this Issue

#### Page 1

The President's Corner  
by John Butler

#### Page 2

Our Upcoming October 3 Program:  
*"The Naval Civil War in Theaters Near and Far"* with Guest Speaker Dwight Hughes

#### Page 3

Ladies' Forum:  
*"Sex in the Civil War"* with Guest Speaker Chris Fonvielle and a presentation by Marion Martin.

Notes from the September 2023 Board of Directors Meeting

#### Page 4

The President's Corner continued

#### Page 5 - 6

Chattanooga and Chickamauga National Military Park

#### Page 7

*The Fight to Save Wyse Fork Battlefield Continues...*an update from the Charlotte Observer by Richard Stradling

#### Page 8

Muster Notes and Notables

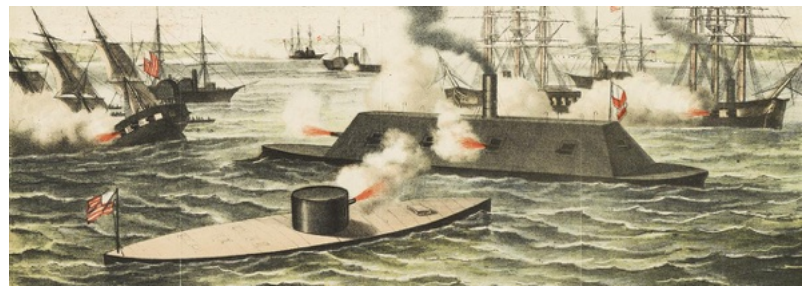
# BCWRT Upcoming Events

## Tuesday, October 3, 2023 Program

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



“The Civil War was principally a land conflict, but it was not only that; naval operations were more than just peripheral or supporting,” says our guest speaker Dwight Hughes. The Civil War Navy was a major turning point in the history of naval warfare; e.g., the introduction of steam power and ironclad ships leading to new naval tactics, shallow-draft vessels, torpedoes, submarines...



**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 an 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/81785926581?pwd=cFQ5a1ZscHEyOHZDNjhuZ1ZXaUUEZzo9>

**Meeting ID:** 817 8592 6581

**Passcode:** 141800

# BCWRT Upcoming Events



## Ladies' Forum

Ladies, this Civil War program is only for you.

**Monday, October 30, 2023 6:00 - 8:00 pm**

Murrow Hall at Trinity United Methodist Church, Nash St., Southport

The cost is free for members of the BCWRT and \$5.00 for guests. Doors open at 5:00 pm and coffee will be available. The program begins PROMPTLY at 6:00 pm and features retired history professor, Chris Fonvielle. His topic is “**Sex in the Civil War**” enhanced with power point.

The round table men are envious so you do not want to miss this appropriately done program. Dr Fonvielle will have his book for sale at the meeting.

Light refreshments will be available and Civil War books, either about women or authored by women, will be available for free.

A second program will follow the refreshments. Marion Martin, a frequent presenter, will talk about North Carolina women during the war and their contribution to the war effort amid many trials and hardships. Mrs. Martin is a native North Carolinian and shares many personal stories about her family during the War Between the States.

For more information, call: Charen Fink, Form Coordinator, at 330-507-2773



---

## Notes from September 2023 Board of Directors Meeting

The main items of interest from the meeting:

1. There was a problem getting into the September meeting via **Zoom**, and this has been addressed.
2. **40 people have already signed up** for the History Cruise on the Cape Fear with Chris Fonvielle.
3. A **Rack Card** for the upcoming program year has been distributed to various locales throughout the county. Also, we now show “Rack Card” as an option on the new member sign-up sheet where you ask how they heard about BCWRT.
5. Our **current balance** \$4,644. Expenses are pending for the Scholarship awarded in September and \$1,600 for the Bentonville trail sign.

*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*

## The President's Corner by John Butler ... continued from page 1

**Cameron Art Museum** (Open Tuesday - Saturday)  
3201 S 17th St. Wilmington, NC 28412

The museum is located on part of the Forks Road Battlefield. They have created a Civil War park on part of that site. It includes a sculpture entitled, *Boundless*, by NC artist Stephen Hayes commemorating the United States Colored Troops and their fight for freedom. These troops were the principal combatants for the Union in this battle for the possession of Wilmington, the South's main seaport and most important city.



Photo from the Cameron Art Museum website announcing the new sculpture, *Boundless*.

You can read the full story in Chris Fonvielle's book, [Glory at Wilmington: The Battle of Forks Road.](#)

The BCWRT has contributed monies for the park seating and signage at the site.

### **Latimer House Museum and Gardens**

(Open Saturday)  
126 South Third Street, Wilmington, NC. 28401

This well preserved Victoria house was built in 1852 and was the home of three generations of the Latimer family. Learn more about the history of the region or attend one of the special events throughout the year.

[latimerhouse.org](http://latimerhouse.org)

**Fort Fisher** (Open Tuesday - Saturday)  
1610 Fort Fisher Blvd S, Kure Beach, NC 28449

A new museum is being built at Fort Fisher and the hoped for date is June 2024.



In the meantime, the old museum is still open for your enjoyment. Fort Fisher was the site of the largest amphibious assault during the Civil War. For information about upcoming events, go to [friendsoffortfisher.org](http://friendsoffortfisher.org)

### **Joseph Ryder Lewis Jr. Civil War Park at Carolina Beach**

The park is built around remnants of the fortifications of the "sugar Loaf Line of Defense" from the Civil War and is located on the north side of Publix at 1018 Lake Park Blvd, Carolina Beach, NC. It features a raised walkway and picnic areas. The BCWRT supported the construction of this park by paying for two signs for the trail. It is open year round and the self-guided tour takes about an hour to walk.

### **Moore's Creek National Battlefield**

(Open Tuesday - Saturday)  
40 Patriots Hall Dr, Currie, NC. 28435

On February 27, 1776, this was the site of the first significant Patriot's victory in the Revolutionary War.

Chris Fonvielle is currently writing a book about this battle.

# Civil War Views

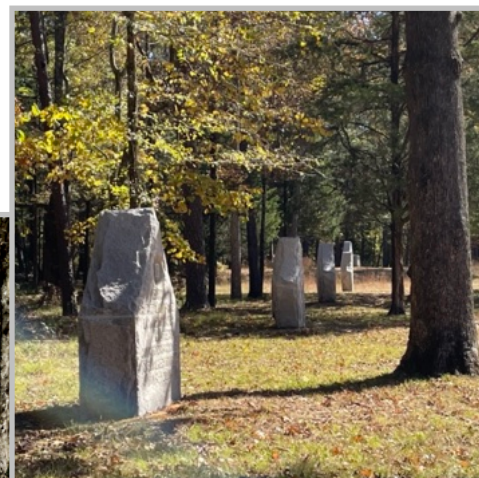
## Chattanooga and Chickamauga National Military Park

*In October 2022, Jennifer Chapman and her husband visited Chattanooga and Chickamauga National Military Park.*

The first national military park to be authorized by Congress was the Chattanooga and Chickamauga National Military Park in 1890 and was officially dedicated in 1895. In its early years, in addition to being a memorial, it was managed by the War Department and used for military study and training. In 1933 the National Park Service took over its management.



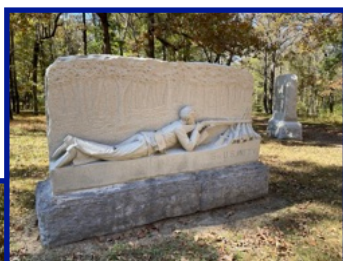
The entrance to Lookout Point Park at the National Military Park



Monument to the Georgia 30th Infantry, Wilson's Brigade and one of a line of monuments marking the Confederate line through the trees.



Much of the battle along Chickamauga creek was fought in heavily treed forests. The casualties of the Battle of Chickamauga, September 18 - 20, 1863, were the largest in the western theater and second only to Gettysburg in the war. There were more than 16,000 Union and 18,000 Confederate casualties. Although it was a Confederate victory under Maj. Gen. Braxton Bragg against Union Gen. William S. Rosecrans, it caused the Confederates to lose 20 percent of their army.



The Union line through the trees marked by some beautiful and elaborate memorials.



*All photos by Jennifer and Mike Chapman*

# Civil War Views

## Chattanooga and Chickamauga National Military



The Wilder Brigade Monument honoring the Lightning Brigade led by John T. Wilder. The tower monument was the first to be erected on the battlefield.



Jennifer Chapman pictured at the Florida monument



Lookout Point

### “Chickamauga” by Thomas Wolfe

Thomas Wolfe is best known for his heavily autobiographical novel, *Look Homeward Angel*. This novel mirrors Wolfe’s life and all of the people in it, so much so that when it was published in 1929, he received many angry calls and letters from those who were convinced they were included in the story. Wolfe worried about the backlash from the citizens of his home town and decided to stay away from Asheville for almost 8 years. On his return visit to Asheville in the spring of 1937, Thomas Wolfe stopped briefly in Burnsville, NC, where he met with his then ninety-five-year-old great uncle, John Baird Westall, at his home on the Toe River.

John Westall was born in Yancey County in 1842. At the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861, he enlisted at the age of nineteen in a company of soldiers made up of family members, friends, and neighbors. Jubilant over leaving their mundane farms and shops in Yancey County and entering a new life as soldiers, the new recruits marched southward to Asheville where they

were organized as Company B of the 29th North Carolina Regiment.

Captivated by the aged veteran’s story of fighting in the battle at Chickamauga, Wolfe feverishly began jotting notes in his journal as the old man relived the horrific battle. Wolfe left the meeting having a renewed a relationship with his mountain kinship and excited about writing a story based on the interview.

Thomas Wolfe’s short story “Chickamauga” was published in 1938. Wolfe wrote: “my idea was simply to tell the story of a great battle in the language of the common soldier—the kind of country mountain boy who did so much of the fighting in the war.” Unfortunately, John Westall never lived to see the story in print. He died in November of 1937, at the age of ninety-six, just months after recounting the Battle of Chickamauga to his young nephew. Wolfe rightfully declared “Chickamauga” to be “one of the best stories I ever wrote.”

The full story of “Thomas Wolfe Uses Interview for Civil War Story” can be found at:  
<http://wolfememorial.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/Wolfe-Use-Interview-for-Civil-War-Story.pdf>

## The Fight to Save Wyse Fork Battlefield Continues ...

Condensed from an article by Richard Stradling, The Charlotte Observer, September 10, 2023

The battle at Wyse Fork ranged over 4,069 acres. Altogether, about 2,600 Confederate and Union soldiers were killed, wounded or captured at Wyse Fork, eclipsed only by the Battle of Bentonville less than two weeks later.

Today, the NC Department of Transportation plans to convert US 70 into an interstate highway, I-42, through the heart of the battlefield and proposes building an interchange at Caswell Station and Wyse Fork roads.

Wade Sokolosky and Dennis Harper created the [Save Wyse Fork Battlefield Commission](#), a branch of a local preservation group, in hopes of persuading NCDOT to move the planned interchange a mile or so east or perhaps do without it altogether. They've erected a billboard near the site and solicited letters of support, including from legislators such as Republican Rep. John Hardister of Greensboro, the second-highest ranking member in the House.

In late July, Harper and two others met with now outgoing Transportation Secretary Eric Boyette and came away encouraged that he might intercede. But NCDOT has not ruled out moving the interchange. There is an option to redesign it to make it smaller, something NCDOT estimates it could do in about 30.5 acres. Because NCDOT needs a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the federal government must review the Kinston project's potential impact on historic properties. Among the organizations weighing in is the State Historical Preservation Office, which helped get the battlefield added to the National Register of Historic Places.

For the full article <https://www.charlotteobserver.com/news/state/north-carolina/article278859129.html>



Proposed US Highway 70 bypass at Wyse Fork. Courtesy, Wade Sokolosky.



# Muster Notes and Notables

**The October BCWRT meeting is Tuesday, October 3, 2023.  
Hatch Auditorium, NC Baptist Assembly, Fort Caswell, Oak Island, NC.  
See page 3 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: [brunswickcwrt@gmail.com](mailto:brunswickcwrt@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.

**Call to Arms** Editor: Jennifer Chapman ([jennifer.chapman3@icloud.com](mailto:jennifer.chapman3@icloud.com))