



Call to Arms

Brunswick Civil War Round Table Newsletter

The President's Corner by John Butler

I want to welcome everyone back to the start of our 13th season. We already have a jammed packed schedule.

Max Longley will kick off our first meeting on September 5 with a presentation on Marble Nash Taylor and Edward Stanley, North Carolina's CW Union Generals.

Make plans to take a Civil War tour of the Cape Fear River with Chris Fonvielle. This tour will fill up quickly.

Back by popular demand, the Ladies' Forum will have a special presentation on October 30 by Chris Fonvielle on "Sex and the Civil War." Sorry guys, this is for women only.

The remainder of the program year will have a number of great presentations. One of these will be a very special presentation by Garry Adelman on Photographs of the Civil War. Garry is the Director of History and Education at the Civil War Trust. This will be a unique treat for the members as this is a program that he rarely gives.



John Walsh and Jim Dunn are working on a couple of tours for next Spring.

We have a new editor for our *Call to Arms* newsletter. Jennifer Chapman is taking over for our excellent and long-time editor, E. Gifford Stack.

In this Issue

The President's Corner by John Butler
Page 1

History Cruise on the Cape Fear River,
Ladies' Forum
Page 2

2022-2023 Season Calendar
Page 3

BCWRT Scholarship Award
Speaking Opportunity for a BCWRT member
Speaker John V. Quarstein at Cape Fear CWRT
Bentonville Battlefield adds another 144 acres
Page 4

Notes from May & September Board Meetings,
Our newest Advisor, Skip Maxwell
Page 5

Billy Graham's Grandfather's Cabin,
Buried Treasure Found in Kentucky
Page 6

Franklin, TN Battlefield Preservation,
Carnton Plantation & McGavock Confederate
Cemetery
Page 7

The Fight to Save Wyse Fork Battlefield
Page 8

CWRT Congress recognizes the BCWRT
and its volunteers in their latest issue
Page 10

Photos of some of our volunteers
Page 11

Farewell E. Gifford Stack
Page 12

Muster Notes & Notables
Page 13

BCWRT Upcoming Events

History Cruise on the Cape Fear River

Sunday, October 1, 2023

10:00 am

101 S. Water Street, Wilmington, NC

Join us for an exclusive history cruise conducted by Dr. Chris Fonvielle, *the* NC Civil War expert. His tour will be a concentration on “Wilmington and the Lower Cape Fear from Civil War, Revolutionary War, pirates and shipping industry”.

Dr. Fonvielle will talk about Wilmington’s transformation from a backwater seaport to the Las Vegas of the south, blockade running at Tar Heel port town, Union military operations to capture the Confederacy’s most important seaport and city in 1864-1865. And so much more...



The cost per per is \$65 and the cruise is limited to 45 people. If you are interested and want to buy a ticket, please contact Jim Dunn at Jdunn44516@aol.com

Ladies’ Forum: Sex in the Civil War

**Monday, October
30, 2023**

6:00 - 8:00 pm

**Murrow Hall at Trinity
United Methodist**



Ladies, don’t miss Dr. Chris Fonvielle when he returns to Ladies Forum with an updated edition of his famous talk “Sex in the Civil War” which he first presented over five years ago.

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 Ladies’ Forum is for WOMEN ONLY (except for Chris) and according to Charen Fink, it is likely the only one of its kind in North Carolina. “We are looking for volunteers to help with evening’s entertainment, including registration, setting up several tables, and displaying the books. We would also welcome volunteers to help with future forums. This year Ann Birdsall will assist as the Forum’s vice chair,” Charen stated.

2023-2024 Season Calendar

Monthly Speakers,
Tour, Women's Forum

September 5, 2023

Max Longley

"Marble Nash Taylor and Edward Stanley, North Carolina's Two Civil War Union Generals"

October 1, 2023

Chris Fonvielle

Tour:
Cape Fear River Civil War

October 3, 2023

Dwight Hughes

"The Naval Civil War in Theaters Near and Far"

October 30, 2023

Chris Fonvielle

Women's Forum:
"Sex in the Civil War"

November 7, 2023

Hampton Newsome

"Gettysburg's Southern Front: Opportunity and Failure at Richmond"

December 5, 2023

Garry Adelman

"Civil War Photography Extravaganza"

January 2, 2024

Ted Savas

"Civil War Uninterrupted: Jefferson Davis, George Washington Rains, and Confederate Gunpowder Strategy"

February 6, 2024

Wade Sokolosky

"A Great Race Between Two Rivers: Sherman's March Toward Fayetteville"

March 5, 2024

Angela Zombie

"Treated Worse Than Felons Before Prisons Were Reformed: The Civil War's Crisis of Imprisonment"

April 2, 2024

Chris Fonvielle

"Why the Civil War is Still Important"

May 7, 2024

Ed Garrett

"Contributions of the USCTs During the Civil War"

Meeting Location:

Hatch Auditorium
NC Baptist Assembly
Fort Caswell, Oak Island, NC

Tuesday, September 5, 2023 Program

"Marble Nash Taylor and Edward Stanley: North Carolina's Two Civil War Union Generals"

Interesting events unfolded in 1861 when two pro-Northern "governors" emerged proclaiming themselves to be the true loyal governor of the state; one self-proclaimed, the other named a "real" Union governor by President Lincoln.

Guest speaker: Max Longley, an associate with the Emerging Civil War Speakers Program, and a prolific writer of numerous articles and books on various Civil War topics.

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

Link: <https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/86390649398?pwd=N2l4RW9McVNyeTdoL3RFS0Zldm1Odzo9>

Meeting ID: 862 4014 3888

Passcode: 490735

Brunswick Civil War Round Table - Scholarship in History

In 2019, the Brunswick Civil War Round Table, in conjunction with University of North Carolina Wilmington, created the Brunswick Civil War Round Table Scholarship in History. It's an annual scholarship of \$1,000 awarded to a deserving student who is pursuing a graduate degree in history at UNCW. The scholarship will be awarded annually in the name of a person who made significant contributions to the BCWRT.

The Scholarship for 2023-2024 is in honor of Gary Krupp, the former Treasurer of the Brunswick Civil War Roundtable. The BCWRT is pleased to announce that the scholarship was awarded to Ryan Richards, an entering M.A. student at UNCW, who just received his undergraduate degree in May 2023 from the State University of New York at New Paltz. We congratulate Ryan and wish him all the best in his studies.

Speaking Opportunity for a BCWRT Member

Jamie Justice, the Education Manager for the Museum of Coastal Carolina in Ocean Isle Beach, is looking for someone who would like to give a Civil War presentation. The museum has monthly meetings and is looking for speakers available to talk about the Civil War and the Cape Fear region. The BCWRT has a few artifacts that may be used, if desired, by anyone interested in volunteering to speak. The dates that are available are September 12, October 10, November 17, and December 12, all at 6:00 pm at the museum.

Please contact Jamie Justice if you are interested.

Jamie Justice
Education Manager
Museum of Coastal Carolina
education@MuseumPlanetarium.org
910-579-1016, Ext 102

Renowned Speaker John V. Quarstein at Cape Fear CWRT

Wilmington's Cape Fear Civil War Round Table invites the public to attend a presentation by John V. Quarstein, the director emeritus of the USS Monitor Center at the Mariners' Museum and retired director of the Virginia War Museum in Newport News, VA. Come to learn about the CSS Albemarle's crushing defeat of Union gunboats guarding the strategic sounds of NC, the sinking of the Albemarle and the battles of New Bern and Plymouth.

The meeting will be held on Thursday, Sept 14, at St. John's Episcopal Church, 1219 Forest Hills Dr, Wilmington near Independence Mall. Doors open at 6:30 and the meeting begins at 7:00 pm. No cost to BCWRT members.

Additional 144 Acres Saved at Bentonville Battlefield

The Bentonville Battlefield State Historic Site has recently increased in size by 144 acres. Per the American Battlefield Trust, with this addition, the Trust, members and partners have saved *"more than 2,000 acres of battlefield land at Bentonville, the most acres saved at any battlefield outside of Virginia and the Eastern Theater of the Civil War."*

As noted in historicists.nc.gov, "The Battle of Bentonville, fought March 19-21, 1865, was the last full-scale action of the Civil War in which a Confederate army was able to mount a tactical offensive. This major battle, the largest ever fought in North Carolina, was the only significant attempt to defeat the large Union army of Gen. William T. Sherman during its march through the Carolinas in the spring of 1865."

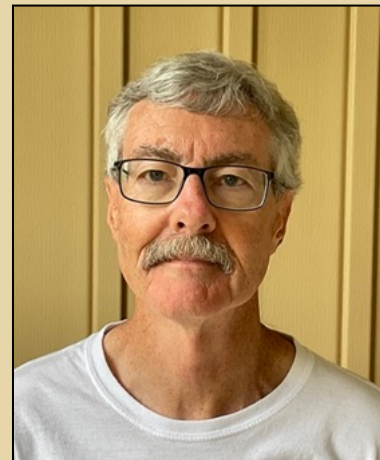
Per the Trust: [Take a 360° virtual tour of Bentonville Battlefield State Historic Site on our website!](#)

Notes from May and August 2023 Board of Directors Meeting

The main items of interest from the two meetings were:

1. **Skip Maxwell was elected as an Advisor.** Skip has been a volunteer for a number of years and we are pleased to welcome him as our newest Advisor. See sidebar for more information about Skip.
2. The **Tour Committee** decided on planning a three-hour Cape Fear River tour. See page 4 for details. Discussions have begun for a future trip to Fort Liberty (formerly Fort Bragg).
3. A **Rack Card** for the upcoming program year has been produced and is being distributed to various locales throughout the county.
4. **Dues** will remain at \$25. There was a discussion about raising the amount, but it was decided to keep the original amount in place. There have been no increases since the start of BCWRT 13 years ago.
5. Our **current balance** \$5,782. Our financial/budget year runs July 1 - June 30. The budget for the next year was reviewed and approved. \$800 expenditure was approved for the Ladies' Forum on October 30, 2023.
6. The Board voted to approve a **donation of \$1,700** for a trail sign for the Bentonville Battlefield which will include the information stating that the sign was a BCWRT donation.

Our next Board meeting is Tuesday, September 12, 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.



Skip Maxwell

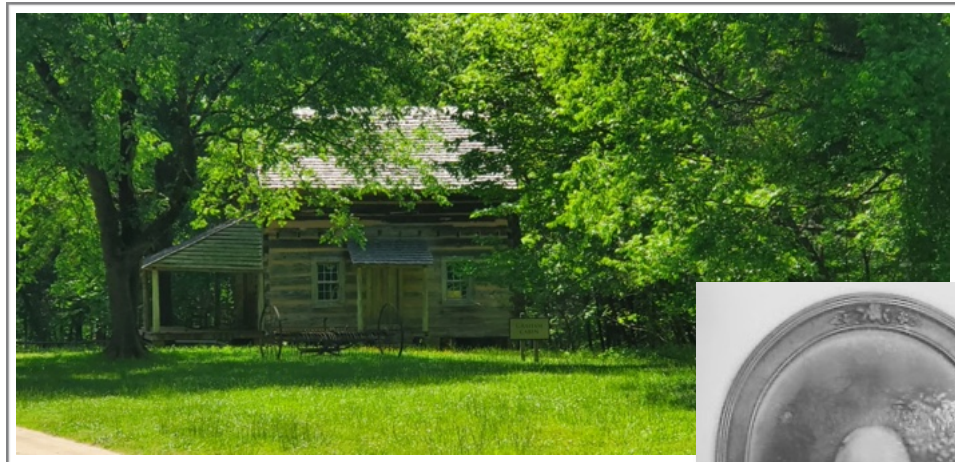
I was born in Auburn, NY (immediate connectivity to Civil War personalities); raised in Syracuse. I grew up interested in historical matters (probably due to watching a lot of movies on TV), seeing a lot of statues around town of Civil War characters, and I especially remember my mom taking me at an early age to see a traveling display which featured the Emancipation Proclamation.

I received a BA in history/education from Providence College, MA in history from SUNY Cortland. Retired federal employee and worked as a high school history teacher/coach prior to federal service. Many trips have been taken to Civil War locations, some well known and others not so much, over the years. I've been a BCWRT member for +/- 9 years and assisted with donations for about the last 3 years. I look forward to doing what I can to further assist the organization in an advisory capacity.

Civil War Views

Anne Springs Greenway, Fort Mill, SC

In May, John Walsh and Edie Day traveled in South Carolina and visited the Anne Springs Close Greenway, a nature preserve in Fort Mill. There he visited the log home of W. Crook Graham, the grandfather of world famous evangelist, Billy Graham.



Restored home of W. Crook Graham. Photo by John Walsh

Written on the information sign at the site: “In his autobiography, *Just As I Am*, Billy Graham describes his grandfather, William Crook Graham, as a ‘hard-drinking, hard-cursing veteran whose service with the Sixth South Carolina Volunteers left him with a Yankee bullet in his leg for the rest of his life.’ He was deeply religious and Billy Graham was the first of his grandchildren to become a preacher. The log house was built around 1780 and lived in for about 200 years. It was moved from its original location to the Greenway in 1999.



Buried Treasure in Kentucky

Earlier this year more than 700 gold coins dated 1840 to 1863 were discovered by a Kentucky man buried on land he now owns and which is understandably undisclosed. The coins include Lady Liberty \$10 gold pieces, rare Double Eagle \$20 pieces, and according to one report have been valued at between \$1 million and \$2 million. The coins are being cleaned and will be sold. It is thought that as the Civil War progressed and it became inevitable that Kentucky would most certainly be involved in the war, the owner of the coins buried them in the hopes of safekeeping for after the war.

More information is available on multiple news sites as well as the online Smithsonian Magazine through this link:

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/trove-of-700-civil-war-era-gold-coins-discovered-in-kentucky-180982569/>



Photo from [smithsonianmag.com](https://www.smithsonianmag.com)

Franklin, Tennessee

The Mission of the American Battlefield Trust is that it *“preserves America’s hallowed battlegrounds and educates the public about what happened there and why it matters.”* One of its success stories was told in the May 2023 issue of Emerging Civil War newsletter by its editor, Chris Mackowski. Very little of the battlefield remained but through the efforts of the Trust and many others, what must have seemed impossible was done: where land was planned for a golf course, used by a strip mall,

restaurants and other places of business it now has been reclaimed for the battlefield. Efforts are continuing in expanding the amount of this battlefield in Franklin, TN.

You can read more about impressive work accomplished on the website of the American Battlefield Trust, <https://battlefields.org> and may consider supporting them in their continued work of battlefield preservation.

Carnton Plantation and the McGavock Confederate Cemetery

The family home of John and Carrie McGavock at Carnton Plantation in Franklin, Tennessee became a Confederate field hospital after the Battle of Franklin, TN on November 30, 1864.

The family assisted the surgeons and helped to tend to the hundreds of wounded who had been brought to their house. After the War, to preserve the graves of the bodies of Confederate dead soldiers who had been buried in the fields where they died, the McGavocks set aside two acres of land at Carnton for a cemetery. The bodies were arranged in groups by state and the markers are numbered and correspond to a Cemetery Record Book created and maintained by Carrie McGavock. This remains today as the only privately owned Confederate cemetery. Carnton and the cemetery are now a National Historic Landmark.



A fictionalized story of these events and of Carrie McGavock who was committed for the rest of her life to honoring and identifying the dead is told in the book The Widow of the South by Robert Hicks.

Through his efforts at Franklin, Roberts Hicks was instrumental in what the American Battlefield Trust Protection Program has called “the largest battlefield reclamation in North American history,” and is one of the Trust’s Preservation Champions.

War Isn't Over: Lenoir County Historians Fight to Save Wyse Fork Battlefield

By: Anna Kathryn Creech, The Free Press. August 9, 2023

There is a threat facing one core historic site in Kinston: construction of a 56-acre interchange at the Wyse Fork Battlefield.

Concerned residents have started a battle of their own against the NCDOT project, while others in the community are dismissing the distress, sighting progress.

But what do experts and enthusiasts say? Dennis Harper is the man leading efforts to save Wyse Fork. Harper is Chairman of the Save Wyse Fork Battlefield Commission, Board Member of The Historical Preservation Group, and is representing the Historical Preservation Group to the US Army Corps of Engineers during the interchange project.

“The threat to the Wyse Forks Battlefield is the future Interstate 42,” Harper said. “There is a 55-acre interchange at Wyse Forks in Jones County that will destroy a major piece of the core battlefield area, specifically, the final day of the battle, March 10, 1865.”

Harper explained there is great historical significance of the land.

First, the American Battlefield Protection Program has identified it as “Nationally Significant,” according to Harper. The Program recognized 384 American Civil War Battles out of more than 10,000, as meeting the criteria, two of which were Wyse Fork (1865) and the First Battle of Kinston (1862).



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

Second, more than 2,000 soldiers were killed, wounded, or captured during the four-day battle of Wyse Fork, the vast majority of whom were U.S. Army. For some of them, Wyse Forks National Register District is their final resting place.

Harper explained the land's history reaches back to Revolutionary War skirmishes fought on August 16 and August 21, 1781, during punitive raids by British Major James Henry Craig out of Wilmington which also included future North Carolina governor, then brigadier general, Richard Caswell.

Describing the battlefield's meaningful ties to minority communities, Harper said, "a forgotten piece of significant history regarding Wyse Fork is the contributions of African-Americans and Native Americans. The battlefield contains some of the best-preserved earthworks from the Civil War. Both enslaved and impressed Free Blacks constructed these fascinating examples of military engineering."

African-Americans also played a key role in the battle by providing valuable intelligence to the U.S. Army regarding Confederate troop movements, Harper added.

It is also important to point out that Native American soldiers belonging to the 132nd New York, many of whom were Tuscarora Indians, whose ancestors once lived in Eastern North Carolina, fought and died on that ground

Local educator and Lenoir County Historical Association President, Chadwick Stokes, shared his thoughts about the location.

"This site is unique, not just for Kinston, but really the broader country as a whole," Stokes said. "Wyse Fork doesn't have the aura of Gettysburg, but it is a critical piece of the state's role in the Civil War." Stokes described a marker placed to commemorate the battle. The marker was placed by The Civil War Trails Program and is planned to be removed once construction on the interchange begins. "You can read that marker and visualize what it must have been like during the battle."

A battle that continues...Recently, The Save Wyse Fork Battlefield Commission met with NCDOT Transportation Secretary, Eric Boyette.

We had an excellent dialogue and the Secretary heard our voices, and at the end of the meeting," Harper said, "We already have signed letters of support from Senator Jim Perry (Lenoir), Senator Mike Lazzara (Onslow Jones), and Representative Chris Humphrey (Lenoir). Also a letter of support from House Majority Whip John Harvester."

NCDOT is expected to head out into the field with engineers to see if they can come up with a way to handle the interchange and save this crucial core area of the battlefield.

For more information, visit the Save Fork Battlefield Facebook group.

Help Planning Your Civil War Battlefield Visits

If you find yourself needing help in planning your trip to various Civil War Battlefields in North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, Tennessee, or Pennsylvania, here is a resource for you. The group that produces the **Civil War Trail Maps** for those states can also provide you some help in figuring out what to see, where to stay and eat at these various sites.

Just email Drew Gruber, Executive Director, Civil War Trails, executivedirector@civilwartrails.org.



BRUNSWICK CWRT: THE VALUE OF VOLUNTEERS

By Carol VanOrnum

The CWRT Congress issues a quarterly issue of their publication, "The Lamp Post" in which they *"feature different CWRTs and highlight those things that make them successful. We also find unique challenges CWRTs face and share their strategies to make lemonade from lemons."*

The most recent of this quarterly, August 2023, features an article by Carol VanOrnum about the BCWRT which is copied here in its entirety with permission.

At the conclusion of this past season, the Brunswick CWRT's President expressed his heartfelt thanks to the company of volunteers in the BRCWRT newsletter. President John Butler stated, "We've been blessed with dedicated, creative volunteers who've worked together with our Board members and Advisors to ensure that our members receive and enjoy the full benefit of the wide variety of educational presentations." He continued, "But like any dynamic growing organization, we need more volunteers to sustain ourselves."

The BCWRT doesn't have a volunteer committee or someone overseeing the recruitment and organization of volunteers. Rather, they utilize Team Captains who are responsible for certain areas of volunteers, e.g., registration, the sutlers' table, and the monthly drawing. Registration Team Captain Naomi Macey shared, "I enjoy working with a group of dedicated volunteers, many who have given their time for years. They help make our monthly meeting for the largest Civil War Round Table in the country an enjoyable, well-attended event."

The Board encourages the volunteers to stay connected with its members. Keeping it personal in an auditorium-style setting filled with 350 members plus 30 to 60 Zoomers can be a challenge. That makes mingling really important. Volunteer Beth Linton agreed. "I enjoy interacting with new members and giving them information about our group so they can be well informed and get the most out of their membership."

The volunteers engage the speaker as well. Prior to the formal commencement of the meeting, volunteers and Board members escort the speaker through the crowd to make introductions to members. Not only are the members afforded an opportunity to meet with the speaker, but the speaker has a moment to individually interact with his audience. At the conclusion of the program, the volunteers and Board members circulate among the audience to gain feedback on the effectiveness of the program.

Between the Team Captains' recruiting efforts and the president's plea for help, volunteers do step forward. Butler is adamant that the best way to reach all potential volunteers is by approaching them in person. Few can resist.

Volunteers are welcome to attend a board meeting and have an opportunity to report on their areas. One of the extensions of the BCWRT Board is serving as an Advisor, again a volunteer position. Both new and seasoned members can apply and be voted in by the Board. These positions, responsible for tours, donations, the women's forum, and others, offer a deeper role in the Round Table. This sometimes leads to an interest in serving on the Board, proof that the greater the engagement, the deeper the commitment.

We Could Not Do Without Our Volunteers

These are the people who work to make it happen at our meetings...



from greeting you and welcoming new members and guests...



To selling 50-50 Raffle tickets...



and handling the SutlersTable merchandise.

We can always use more volunteers. Join us!



Farewell, E. Gifford Stack...

You will be missed. We thank you for your many years of being a dedicated member, Director, and volunteer. You have done so much to make the BCWRT the wonderful organization it is today.



E. Gifford Stack

EG: Extraordinary job editing, and writing *Call to Arms* for so many years. Really appreciated your rewriting - and improving - my submissions. Other than hounding us on deadlines, you've been a great friend. Enjoy GA!

John Walsh

My thanks and gratitude for your friendship, initiatives, and assistance related to BCWRT (as well as OIL). You certainly made the experiences so much better; you are well aware of how much you'll be missed. Hope you and Sylvia are enjoying your new adventure. All the best.

Skip Maxwell

Thank you very much for all the help and guidance you have given me. It's great to know you and all the hard work you have done for BCWRT.

Naomi Macey

Congratulations! Best of luck to you and Sylvia in your new destination. We had good times together.

Wally Rueckel

We all have enjoyed your newsletter every month and found it filled with such variety of news, articles, history and people. You set a high standard. As the *Call to Arms* continues, I am thankful to know that I can turn to you for help, suggestions, and that all-important proofreading! All while you are enjoying your new home and being with your family - and finding new places to explore. We do look forward to pictures now and then.

Jennifer Chapman

Gifford, you and I have had a great/effective relationship, both personally and "professionally". I did publicity to attract new members, and you did the newsletter to retain current members. What a team!! Your newsletter in my mind was clearly the best newsletter of any Civil War round table. I would describe it as creative, comprehensive, informative, and always interesting. Without a typo!! You have always been conscientious when it came to your BCWRT advisory responsibilities - always willing to participate, contribute ideas, and a fondness for Civil War history. You will be sorely missed, but your many contributions will be remembered forever.

Chuck Roedema

Gifford, you were a tremendous editor for the BCWRT *Call to Arms* newsletter. You did a masterful job. You were the model for what a volunteer should be and were always available to help regardless of the task. You will be sorely missed. Enjoy your time in Georgia with your family.

John Butler



Muster Notes and Notables

**The September BCWRT meeting is Tuesday, September 5, 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

Website: <https://brunswickcivilwarroundtable.com>

Email: 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©(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)