

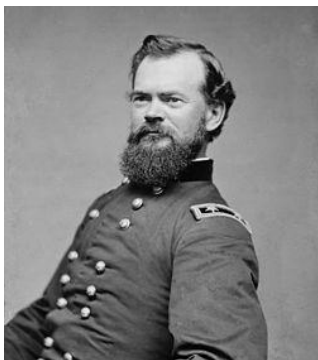
BRUNSWICK CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

February 3rd, 2026

The battle that changed the course of history

The grueling campaign began on May 1, 1864. Atlanta was the linchpin of the South's hopes and the North's determination, and the city became the epicenter of a battle that would change the course of history forever. Volumes have been written about the Atlanta Campaign. But none more than historian David A. Powell, guest speaker at the Tuesday, February 3rd meeting of the Brunswick Civil War Round Table. His presentation is entitled, "The Atlanta Campaign: Missed Opportunities."

"I've got Joe Johnston dead!" Or so Union Gen. William T. Sherman exclaimed upon hearing that fellow Gen. James B. McPherson won the Battle of Resaca on May 13 – 15 over Gen. Joseph E. Johnston and his Army of Tennessee. Famously, that turned out not to be true, one of the great "lost opportunities" of the entire war. But in fact, there were other such turning points in the first month of the campaign, each perhaps more significant than Resaca. By the summer of 1864, the struggle reached its peak. It was also the time when the nation's destiny hung in the balance, and pivotal to the reelection of Abraham Lincoln.



Gen Joseph E. Johnston

Contrary to popular belief Sherman did not set out to capture Atlanta. His orders were to move against Johnston's army, to break it up and to get into the interior of the enemy's country, inflicting maximum damage against their war resources which were vital to the Confederate war effort. Over time, Johnston retreated, and Southern fears for the city grew. As Sherman advanced, Northern expectations increased. Despite these early encounters, the Atlanta Campaign was far from over.

David Powell is a graduate of the Virginia Military Institute. He is an award-winning author, has published numerous articles in various magazines, and more than fifteen historical simulations of different battles. His current project is a five volume study of the Atlanta Campaign, which promises to be this generation's definitive treatment of one of the most important and fascinating confrontations of the entire Civil War. Furthermore, his endeavors are a clear indication of the knowledge he has amassed to captivate and entertain his audiences.



This will be the second meeting of the New Year, and will take place on Tuesday, February 3rd at Hatch Auditorium on Caswell Beach. Registration begins at 6:15PM. The program starts at 7:00PM. The visitor fee is still only \$10, and may be applied toward the \$25 annual membership dues, which importantly can include a spouse. Incidentally, about one-third of our audiences are female!

For more information about this meeting, and the incredible “unlimited FREE books” offer at the Sutler’s Table, please contact president John Butler at Brunswickcwr@gmail.com, or call him directly at (404) 229-9425. Or, visit their website at Brunswickcivilwarroundtable.com for background and current information, news, and updates, or their Facebook page.