

# BRUNSWICK CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

## Living History Brought to Life: Meet Gen. Robert E. Lee



At the first meeting of the new season on Tuesday, September 1<sup>st</sup>, the Brunswick Civil War Round Table will welcome returning living historian Thomas Jessee in full Confederate uniform portraying General Robert E. Lee. Known for his meticulous attention to detail and compelling first-person portrayals, Jessee will offer his audience a captivating look into the mind, character, and legacy of one of American

history's most prominent military figures. The meeting will take place at Hatch Auditorium on the grounds of Fort Caswell on Caswell Beach.

Rather than a standard lecture, this immersive presentation provides a deep dive into Lee's early life from his West Point days and antebellum military career through the high-stakes battlefield decisions of the Civil War. One of the most compelling features of Lee's visit will be his desire to interact with his audience to answer questions and reveal perhaps little known facts and events throughout his life. This might include his early childhood, his relationship with wife Mary Custis and their seven children, or his life after resigning his commission. His comments usually include little known facts rarely if ever found in history books. Jessee's appearance in Lee's uniform will seem so genuine, it's as if General Lee was there in person, just saying it like it was!

So, who is really inside Lee's uniform? Thomas Jessee is quite a guy. He is a well-known living historian and reenactor who has portrayed Lee at major national events since 1969, including the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemoration of the surrender at Appomattox Court House. He is approved by the National Park Service to portray General Lee across the national park system, including the



Appomattox visitor center film. His busy schedule includes frequent speaking engagements at historical symposia, schools, and Civil War round tables. Coincidentally, he serves as the Commanding General of Confederate Forces for the annual reenactment of the Battle of Olustee. This battle will be discussed by Capt. Ed Gantt (U.S. Navy, Ret.) at our October 5<sup>th</sup> meeting.

This first meeting of the season promises to be both interesting and quite engaging. Please join us. Registration begins at 6:15PM. The program starts at 7:00PM. Visitors can attend for only \$10, and it can be applied toward the \$25 annual membership dues, which can include a spouse. For more information about the meeting, or if you wish to become a member now, please contact president John Butler at [Brunswickcwr@gmail.com](mailto:Brunswickcwr@gmail.com), or call him directly at (404) 229-9425. Or, visit their website at [Brunswickcivilwarroundtable.com](http://Brunswickcivilwarroundtable.com). for additional background, news, and updates.