The two best things about fall: the change in weather and the reconvening of BCWRT. I hope you could visit a national or state park in your travels over the summer. Though we had no meetings, that does not mean we have been dormant. Here are a couple things we got done.

Working with Chris Fonvielle, we were able to publish a brochure highlighting the little-known interpretative markers on Bald Head Island, marking the boundaries of Fort Holmes, as well as identifying several shipwrecks. We’ll offer the brochures on the Sutler’s Table, so please pick one up for your next visit to Bald Head Island. The brochure tells Fort Holmes’ Civil War history with a map, GPS coordinates and directions to guide you to the markers.

Also look for the 2019-2020 rack cards. Thank you, E. Gifford Stack, for design work on the cards. The cards give our speaker schedule for the upcoming year and are also offered at the Sutler’s Table. We have a great list of speakers, including some old friends and some new folks. Note the two special events. On November 5, Carolyn Evans will tell the story of Harriet Tubman through Carolyn’s portrayal of the famous abolitionist. On March 3, 2020, we have a three-act play that tells the story of the extraordinary relationship of William T. Sherman and U. S. Grant. The three acts cover three different periods in the war when Grant and Sherman met and discussed the strategy and planning of the war. Sherman once wrote, “I stood by Grant when they called him a drunk, Grant stood by me when they called me crazy. Now we stand together.” This trust had an important impact on the war and the fame of both generals.

Thanks to your support, our donations, and yearly dues we are able to accomplish preservation as a major part of what we do. Last year we brought interpretive markers to Fort Caswell. This year we sponsored markers at Goldsboro Bridge in Wayne County. In 1862, Burnside’s invasion of North Carolina by way of the Outer Banks and New Bern had Goldsboro as its objective. In 1865, John Schofield advanced from the coast with William T. Sherman marching from the south, and chose the important railroad crossing at Goldsboro as their objective point. BCWRT continues to compile an impressive record in the preservation of deserving Civil War sites in North Carolina (see p.7).

2019 also was the initial year for the BCWRT Scholarship Fund in conjunction at UNCW. Last year we honored Ed Bearss with the donation.

(Continued on page 11)
Incredible Story of Bravery Kicks Off Our New Season

The Brunswick Civil War Round Table is pleased to begin our new season of monthly meetings on Tuesday, September 3, with an unusual and seldom written account of the Branch-Lane Brigade. This topic will be presented by guest historian and scholar, Michael Hardy. His presentation is entitled, “General Lee’s Immortals,” and is based on his 2018 book recounting the battles and campaigns of the brigade during the war.

This storied brigade, first led by Lawrence Branch until his death at Sharpsburg, and then James H. Lane, served with Lee’s Army of Northern Virginia during its entire existence. The names emblazoned on its battle flag read like a history of that army, beginning with the Seven Days’ Battles and ending with the final roll call at Appomattox. Originally part of A.P. Hill’s famous “Light” Division, the Branch-Lane Brigade earned spectacular plaudits for its disciplined defense, hard-hitting attacks, and incredible marching abilities. Its constant position at the front, however, resulted in devastating losses, so that its roll call of casualties by the end of the war far exceeded its number of survivors.

The guest speaker, Michael Hardy, is an independent scholar of the Civil War and Southern Appalachian history. The author of twenty books, he was honored as the North Carolina Historian of the Year by the North Carolina Society of Historians in 2010, and received the 2012 Alice Parker Award for Outstanding Literature and Arts from his alma mater, the University of Alabama.


As usual, the Tuesday, September 3 meeting takes place at Hatch Auditorium on the grounds of Fort Caswell. Registration and refreshments begin at 6:15 p.m. and the program starts promptly at 7 p.m. The guest admission fee is $10, and can be applied toward the $25 annual membership dues. For more information, contact president Mike Powell at (910) 278-3545, or email to mikepowell260@gmail.com. Our website is brunswickcivilwarroundtable.com. You may also visit our Facebook page for interesting facts, comments, announcements and updates.
The genesis of any talk provides context for the listener. Bud Robertson originally set down his thoughts on Civil War memorials specifically to address the concerns facing the citizens of his home state of Virginia, particularly as regards native son Robert E. Lee. Then too, as a biographer of Stonewall Jackson, Robertson confessed his years of study had eroded the objectivity the scholar should retain. All of that undergirded his remarks to our roundtable. For in spite of his cry of anguish to preserve history, the question of Civil War monuments is personal for Bud Robertson.

“People have no right to take my history and heroes away from me,” Robertson declared. You may not like history, but you can’t change it. Further, Robertson insists our children cannot know democracy without knowing true history. He used the example of Robert E. Lee, a man who chose loyalty to a state his family inhabited for 200 years while only being part of the United states for seventy years. Again, Robertson cited Lee’s behavior after the Civil War to buttress his assertion that far from deserving condemnation as a traitor, Lee deserved admiration for his refusal to support nostalgia for the lost cause of war and insistence that the correct path of the future was as faithful citizens of the union. Today, Robertson insisted, Lee would feel shame to see rebel flags flying over state buildings and homes. Tearing down his monuments ignores the good in all this.

As if Lee were not enough, Stonewall Jackson, further received Mr. Robertson’s unabashed approbation. Readily admitting he had lost the professional detachment of the historian on his subject, Robertson, confessed admiration for a man who grew up orphaned yet remained so devoted to his God that it guided his whole life including an unswerving devotion to his military cause.

Both Lee and Jackson inspired their men to follow them into the fiercest battles. For Robertson, monuments to either general stand as remembrances not of traitorous intent but as markers in the history of individual men and a greater amalgamation of all men in our nation.

Robertson had other anguished cries for history. Most Americans, he said, remain ignorant of history. One in ten will know basics such as who Abraham Lincoln was. One in ten will know what the Declaration of Independence means. The study of computer science and science in general has too often displaced history and geography. Our sense of time is disappearing with the ability to read the analogue clock. Our memory of history has become an endangered species.

For these reasons and more, James Robertson regrets any loss of our monuments for they sit smack astride aspects of our history. In Robertson’s view, you cannot look at any action in the past without the lens of history on your head.
Ladies’ Department — By Charen Fink

The Wives who went beyond the call of domestic duties to help the war effort

Fanny Ricketts—was the wife of U.S. Army Capt. James B. Ricketts. Her husband was in the Battle of Bull Run and when he did not return with his unit, Fanny secured a pass from Lt. Gen. Winfield Scott to go through the lines to the site of the conflict. When she got as far as the Confederate outpost, the pass was worthless. Her husband had been a friend of J.E.B. Stuart who gave her a pass that enabled Fanny to go to the Manassas battlefield. She found her husband in a field hospital at the Lewis house. She remained in Richmond while her husband was a prisoner in Libby Prison. She had visiting privileges until he was exchanged in 1862.

Julia Grant—was probably the only wife of a Union major general to be taken prisoner by a Confederate force. Nathan Bedford Forrest learned the identity of the civilian as Julia Grant. He gave the oral command, “Pass that woman through the lines, and waste no time!”

Unknown Union female—crew members of the Confederate privateer Retribution captured the coal brig P. Ellicott. They were rejoicing over how much prize money the vessel would bring when sold. But the crew members were replaced by Confederates. The wife of the Ellicott’s mate was left aboard and when the Confederate ship Retribution sailed out of sight, she broke out a store of rum and the captors became thoroughly drunk. Then the wife put irons on the Confederates and sailed the bark into St. Thomas where she delivered it and her captives to the U.S. consul.

Kady Brownell—joined her husband with the First Rhode Island Volunteers rather than be left behind. She went with him to Bull Run in 1861 and won the nickname “Child of the Regiment.” When they were near the fighting at Manassas, she picked up the regimental flag from a fallen standard bearer. Then Kady was wounded while carrying it across the field. She relinquished it but picked up a trophy, a “Secessia rifle.”

Princess Agnes Salm-Salm—was married to Prussian nobleman and soldier of fortune, Felix Salm-Salm. She stayed with her husband throughout the conflict spending her energy caring for the sick and wounded. Governor Richard Yates of Illinois was so impressed he gave her a commission as an honorary captain.

References
Garrison, Webb. “Civil War Curiosities.”
Perhaps some members are not aware that in addition to his responsibilities as our round table president, Mike Powell is the person who secures our speakers. For the coming year, he earns a gold star for our lineup of extraordinarily talented presenters. Here is our scheduled speaker list for 2019-20.

**Tuesday, September 3:** Michael Hardy, independent scholar of the Civil War, college professor, and award-winning author of twenty books. His topic: “General Lee’s Immortals,” considered one of the hardest-fighting units in Robert E. Lee’s Army of Northern Virginia.

**Tuesday, October 1:** Larry Hewitt, Ph.D., college professor, prolific author, served as Managing Editor and Book Review Editor for North & South Magazine, and past Historic Site Manager of the Port Hudson. His topic: “Fightin’ Dick Anderson: Lee’s Most Maligned General.”

**Tuesday, November 5:** Carolyn Evans, a New York actress will perform what is considered a “histo-drama,” a one-woman show portraying Harriet Tubman, an American abolitionist, political activist, and one of the most heroic women in America. Tubman was known most notably for her involvement in the Underground Railroad, rescuing slaves via a network of antislavery activists and safe houses.

**Tuesday, December 3:** Jim McKee, Site Manager of Brunswick Town/Ft. Anderson State Historic Site, and one of the original advisors of our Civil War round table. His topic: “Fort Anderson in the Civil War.” The fort was pivotal in protecting the Cape Fear River inlets and Wilmington for the Confederate army.

**Wednesday, January 8:** Ed Bearss returns for his eighth visit. He is a renowned Civil War historian, prolific author, battlefield guide, and television commentator. His topic: “Reflections of the Civil War,” recounting highlights of his vast knowledge of Civil War events, without the benefit of a single note or script.

**Tuesday, February 4:** Col. (Ret.) Wade Sokolosky, a 25 year veteran of the U.S. Army is one of North Carolina’s leading experts of the 1865 Carolina Campaign. He lectures throughout the Carolinas speaking to Civil War round tables, societies, organizations and at historical sites. His topic: “Success and Failure in the Saddle: Union and Confederate Cavalry in the 1865 Campaign in North Carolina.”

**Tuesday, March 3:** Derek Maxfield, associate professor of history at Geneseo Community College in Batavia, NY. He and his associate, Tracy Ford, will portray Union generals Ulysses S. Grant and William Tecumseh Sherman in a three act theatrical “conversation” which took place near the end of the Civil War. The title of this portrayal is, “Now We Stand by Each Other, Always.”

**Tuesday, April 7:** Chris E. Fonvielle, Jr., Ph.D., popular Wilmington historian, frequent guest speaker, outstanding Civil War battlefield tour guide, prolific author, and retired assistant professor of history at UNCW. His topic: “Closing Down the Kingdom: The Battle of Ft. Fisher: 1864-1865.”

**Tuesday, May 5:** Brian Luskey, Ph.D., Director of Graduate Studies and Associate Professor in the History Department at West Virginia University. He is a prolific author of books, journal articles, book chapters, and essays. His topic: “The Bounty Men.” These were men who enlisted in the Union or Confederate army, collected a bounty, and then deserted to a new area to enlist again to earn another bounty.

**Tuesday, May 26:** Scott L. Mingus, Sr., an award-winning historian and the author of 21 books on the Civil War and the Underground Railroad. His great-great-grandfather was a 15-year-old drummer boy in the 51st Ohio Infantry. Other family members fought in the Army of the Potomac at Antietam and Gettysburg. His topic: “Eastern Theater Railroads.” Railroads were a major factor in the Civil War, especially in the North which had a commanding advantage given its industrial strength and miles of railroad track.
Be one of 50 BCWRT members joining our bus tour to the well-preserved Bentonville Battlefield, led by retired Colonel Wade Sokolosky, the expert on this battle, on Saturday, October 26!

March 1865: The Union has captured Fort Fischer and Wilmington and on March 3 Lincoln is inaugurated for his second term. In Virginia, Grant has Lee in a desperate situation while Sherman's seemingly unstoppable army marches speedily north, devastating Columbia SC and capturing Fayetteville on the way to Goldsboro. General Joe Johnston's tired and outnumbered forces launch the Confederacy's last major offensive of the Civil War against Sherman's flank at Bentonville, NC, on March 19. After Johnston's initial success, the Union wins a substantial victory in a hard fought three-day battle resulting in over 4,000 casualties, the largest conflict of Sherman's Carolinas campaign.

Here are the details.

- Our air conditioned luxury bus will leave the parking lot in front of Brunswick Forest in Leland, with Wade on board providing an overview, at 8:15 a.m. for the 1 1/2 hour trip up I-40 to Bentonville. (There is a "Park and Ride" area for our use in front of the Lowe's food store at Brunswick Forest.)

- We'll tour numerous sites at the battlefield by bus, with Wade narrating at frequent stops.

- Lunch will be provided and is included in the cost.

- The cost for the trip is $50 for BCWRT members, and $55 for non-members.

- We'll return to Brunswick Forest around 5 p.m.

- To sign up, simply send a check, made out to BCWRT, to John Walsh, 2795 Golfmaster Ct, Southport NC 28461. Include number of attendees, full name of each, your cell phone number and e-mail address.

We expect this trip, limited to 50 attendees, to sell out early, so mail your check today!

Any questions? E-mail or text John at jdwalsh1@gmail.com, or 609-651-7719.
BOARD APPROVES DONATIONS

At their meeting on August 13, the BCWRT Board of Directors approved a contribution of $6,000 to the Goldsborough Bridge Battlefield Association for five signs providing interpretive information on the Battle of Goldsborough Bridge. These are replacement signs for ones destroyed by Hurricane Florence flooding.

According to President Mike Powell, “The Goldsborough Bridge donation perfectly exemplifies our round table’s mission to promote, encourage, and support Civil War battlefield preservation.” The Board also approved $1,000 for a 2020-21 scholarship, given to honor our co-founder Tom O’Donnell, at UNCW to a student (graduate preferably) studying Civil War history. Last year the Board approved a similar amount, given in honor of Ed Bearss, for the 2019-20 school year which begins this month. We hope to have the scholarship recipient attend one of our meetings during the program year.

Since our founding in May 2010, the BCWRT has made donations of over $45,000 to various Civil War sites or to organizations promoting, teaching, and expanding interest in this epic conflict. (See below.)

Summary by Organization of BCWRT Donations Since 2010:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>Friends of Fort Anderson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Goldsborough Bridge Battlefield Association</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friends of Fort Fisher</td>
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<tr>
<td>NC Baptist Assembly (Fort Caswell)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friends of the Graveyard of Atlantic Museum - Hatteras</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trinity UM Church</td>
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<td>Friends of NC Maritime Museum - Southport</td>
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<tr>
<td>NC Literary &amp; Historical Assoc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNCW Scholarship (2019-20)</td>
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<td>Pamplin Historical Park</td>
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<td>Richmond Battlefield Assoc.</td>
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<td>CSS Nuese Museum</td>
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<td>City of Southport - Fort Johnson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oak Island Station, U.S. Coast Guard</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fort Holmes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kennesaw State University</td>
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<tr>
<td>National Civil War Museum</td>
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<tr>
<td>Loenoir City Tourism</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Angel House - Cape Fear Hospice</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brunswick County Charters of Freedom</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oak Island Rec. Center - Veterans Park</td>
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$45,022
The tenth Ladies’ Forum for WOMEN ONLY, sponsored by BCWRT, featuring three different programs, is scheduled for Tuesday, October 29, 2019.

Returning is Rhonda Florian, of Leland, NC, presenting “From Natchez to New York: The Former Confederate First Lady in the World of Journalism.” Who was Varina Davis? Why, the wife of Confederate President, Jefferson Davis, of course! But Varina was far more than that. The death of Jefferson Davis was the opening of Varina’s Act II.

Follow the Confederate First Lady into the exciting world of journalism. Join her in breaking the glass ceiling. Salute her as she applies a healing balm to the wounds of a torn nation…all while making a life for herself and her daughter. Take an unforgettable journey with the Confederate First Lady…to New York City!

The second segment of the evening features Marion Martin, a resident of Southport, NC, who will present a program on the making of Civil War era quilts, using period patterns and reproduction fabric. She will display lap quilts, some of which will be available for sale, and full-size quilts. The art of making these quilts will be discussed in detail.

Completing the evening’s program is the chairperson for the Forum and the BCWRT Vice President, Charen Fink. Charen, also a resident of Southport, will present on the topic of Mary Lincoln. There are so many misconceptions and myths surrounding the life of the wife of Abraham Lincoln. While many slanderous statements will be dispelled, the numerous acts of her kindness will also be brought out. Also discussed will be the negative comments about the Lincoln’s private lives, and the oft-mentioned opinion of Mary’s sanity. Part of the presentation will be in first person.

The Forum will be held at Trinity United Methodist Church’s Murrow Hall on Nash St. in Southport, NC. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and the program begins promptly at 6 p.m., ending at 8 p.m.

There is no charge for BCWRT members (again, WOMEN ONLY) while the guest fee is $5. In addition to the featured speakers, there will be period-made refreshments and door prizes.

To insure there is plenty of food and beverages, reservations are a must. Please call Charen Fink at 330-507-2773 or email at dcftandm@hotmail.com. Also, there will be a registration table in front of the Hatch stage, open before and after our program.
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - Help Enhance BCWRT

If you enjoy the round table and are interested in giving a few hours of your time to help out, here's your opportunity!

We are seeking assistance with three BCWRT activities. First, we need a couple of volunteers to help with our popular 50/50 raffle. Specifically, you'll replace member Roger Albizu (thanks, Roger!!!) who is stepping aside to head up a local service organization. You’ll sell 50/50 tickets throughout the auditorium, as well as outside our entrance door.

Secondly, we need volunteers for two new positions assisting with online sales of donated civil war books and art objects. The positions require knowledge with online sales via one or more of the following: eBay, Facebook, YouTube, Craig’s List, and local Home Owner Association websites such as St James. You do not need to have experience in all of these networks, but at least one is preferable.

Finally, the presidency responsibilities have grown (as expected when we are the largest round in the country!), and Mike Powell would like help from time to time with miscellaneous projects.

Please remember all three activities assist with bringing in quality speakers, supporting Civil War preservation, and working with youth to understand our Civil War history.

If you are interested in volunteering or have questions, please contact Wally Rueckel at 248-252-6844 or wrueckel@outlook.com.

LAST SIGN INSTALLED AT FORT CASWELL

As noted on page 7, BCWRT donated $5,281 for new interpretive signs on Ft. Caswell. Over the summer the last two signs were installed adjacent, in front of Hatch Auditorium (in background). The signs provide information and pictures of the fort’s construction, how it defended and protected the Cape Fear River during the Civil War, the fort’s post-war history, and the various guns utilized. Members are urged to view the signs prior to one of our meetings. (Photo by M. Powell)
Only two speakers have declined an invitation to speak to BCWRT. Earl Hess is one of them. But we will not hold that against him. A leading authority on the use of field fortifications in the Civil War, Hess in this book challenges a long held belief that the rifled musket with its added range and accuracy proved decisive factor in Civil War battles.

The typical musket of the Civil War, a smoothbore, muzzle-loading weapon, had an effective range of 100 yards and a maximum range of 500 yards. Rifling the inside of the barrel (adding spiral grooves) spun the projectile as it left the barrel. This spin increased range and accuracy. Being able to shoot accurately from 350-400 yards rather than 100-150 yards, would seem to be a decisive advantage on the battlefield.

However, Hess expands the research done by such Napoleonic War historians as Paddy Griffith and Brent Nosworthy. Their research shows that most lines of battle in the Civil War did not engage until within 100-125 yards of each other. The line of battle negated the range advantage.

“The impact of the rifle musket in Civil War combat has been exaggerated, misunderstood and understudied ever since Union and Confederate volunteers shouldered firearms.” (Hess, p. 197) Hess acknowledges that rifled weapons did provide a great advantage to skirmishers and snipers who engaged at longer ranges, but not to the regular private in the line of battle. Nosworthy and Griffith’s research shows that the line of battle in the Napoleonic Wars engaged at very similar distances to those in the Civil War leading them to call the American Civil War the “last battle of the Wars of Napoleon.”

In addition to range and accuracy, rifled weapons have also been credited with motivating soldiers to dig earthworks and throw up field fortifications to escape the deadly fire. Earl Hess also disputes this claim. His study of fortifications revealed that the rise of field defenses and earthworks resulted from the closeness of Civil War armies before battle, especially in 1864-5. And, the fact that these positions were held for days, not just hours, made the men dig for safety. Anyone who has visited the battlefield of Cold Harbor surely noticed the small distance between the battle lines. The terrain is such that you can easily see both enemy lines of battle. This proximity to the enemy again negated the advantage of additional range in the rifled weapon.

So, what was decisive on the Civil War battlefield? Hess says that—besides his beloved fortifications—only an increase in the rate of fire could be decisive. The mostly Springfield rifled muskets charged by muzzle loading. The Civil War soldier could usually fire 2-4 rounds per minute at the start of a battle. As the battle wore on, the rate of fire decreased.

Hess’s book is not for everyone. A prerequisite knowledge of the military history of the war improves the book’s reading as it uses hundreds of examples of the effectiveness or ineffectiveness of regimental fire in combat. Scientific in nature, the topic does not lend itself to prose. But if you want a better understanding of the use and effectiveness of firepower on the Civil War battlefield, this book offers a good read by a leading expert.
This year we honor one of the co-founders of BCWRT, Tom O’Donnell. His time with BCWRT was too short, but his ideas remain and still impact us. I know Tom would be proud of what we have accomplished. Tom insisted that we do all we could to include the ladies and not just have a “boy’s club”.

Those of you who were lucky enough to know Tom know why it is so appropriate to honor him with the 2020-21 BCWRT Scholarship Fund.

Mike

Fonvielle Joins Hole-in-One Club

Congratulations to Chris Fonvielle who usually gets recognition for his knowledge of Civil War happenings in the Cape Fear and North Carolina area. On July 16, at the third hole on Wilmington’s Inlands Green Golf Course, Chris did what many BCWRT golf members only WISH they could achieve: a hole-in-one. Said Chris, “I thought I’d hit my shot short of the green and was shocked when one of my buddies said, ‘Your ball is in the hole!’” No doubt we’ll hear more about this achievement the next time Chris presents at one of our meetings!

Pamplin Historical Park’s 23rd Annual Civil War Symposium

If you are looking for an educational opportunity to expand your knowledge of the Civil War, Pamplin Historical Park’s Annual Symposium, held this year from October 18-20, near Petersburg, Va., may do the trick.

Recognized for always offering some of the nation’s greatest Civil War scholars, the symposium begins Friday night with a reception at the park (a little over 250 miles from Oak Island) where attendees and speakers can meet and enjoy refreshments. Saturday is filled with lectures and opportunities to purchase published works by the speakers for autographs and participation in a silent auction. Sunday features additional speakers and a panel discussion.

The authors and topics are as follows:
- Peter Cozzens – Battle of Iuka
- Jerry Desmond – Battle of Ringgold
- Rod Cragg – Battle of Fort Fisher
- Jeff Hunt – Battle of Mine Run
- James Morgan – Battle of Ball’s Bluff
- Timothy Smith – Champion Hill
- Brian Steel Wills – Battle of Fort Pillow

The cost of the symposium is $339 per attendee, which includes all lectures, the Friday night reception, two mid-morning coffee breaks, two lunches, and a Saturday night banquet.

Call (804) 861-2408 or visit http://www.pamplinpark.org for more information and to register today. Space is limited. See and print the registration form at https://pamplinpark.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/.
America’s leading organization to preserve Civil War battlegrounds and educate the public about what happened there and why it matters, is seeking our support for an important matter. And it couldn’t be simpler.

The Civil War Trust, a division of the American Battlefield Trust, is asking Civil War enthusiasts to tell their elected officials to support HR 307, and the companion Senate bill, S 225. The legislation, which has bipartisan support, funds the Battlefield Land Acquisition Grants Program up to $20 million a year and includes provisions to enable nonprofit groups like the American Battlefield Trust to restore and interpret battlefield sites.

Contacting our representative (David Rouzer) and senators (Thom Tillis and Richard Burr) is done efficiently — and quickly — by using the Civil War Trust online letter form. Simply go to this site: https://www.battlefields.org/tell-your-federal-legislators-protect-americas-battlefields. Fill in six boxes with your name and address, then hit send. Done. You’ve contacted your elected officials in Washington regarding your support for this legislation.

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Raffle Winner

Member Mary Carman (left) had her lucky raffle ticket pulled at our May 28 meeting, making her the winner of the Dale Gallon signed and numbered print. (Kindly donated by member Charles Gormley.) Skip Maxwell, BCWRT’s Artifacts Manager (right), said all money raised through the raffle goes toward the BCWRT mission of education and battlefield preservation. (Photo by Dave Carman)
Peter Carmichael, Director of the Robert C. Fluher Professor of Civil War Studies at Gettysburg College, spoke to our round table last December about the fate of a confederate deserter. Afterwards, Wally Rueckel introduced me to him, noting my distant relative is General William Dorsey Pender. Dorsey and his wife are buried in Tarboro along with many other of my Penders. Peter said, “great, come on up,” and he’d give me a personal tour focused on Pender’s two days in Gettysburg, because Pender is one of his favorite generals.

He quickly learned that you should never tell a Southerner to come visit unless you mean it. Working around his overwhelmingly busy schedule and what ended up with my two sons’ and three of their children’s schedules, we finally got together, Friday morning, July 26, in Gettysburg, a day that turned out to be long, hot, sunny, educational and very entertaining.

Right up front, let me tell you that Peter was a most gracious host and an amazing guide who kept three generations of Penders entranced. First, he took us out to Thaddeus Stevens’ iron furnace west of town and told us that this is where Pender was first given orders on July 1, 1863, at 4 a.m. to move towards Gettysburg. The fact that Stevens was a rabid abolitionist probably had a lot to do with the ironworks being destroyed. Then to the Cashtown Inn where along the march, Dorsey probably stood on the roofed front porch. Then to where the first probing and then fierce fighting took place west of town, across the rocky and beautiful Willoughby Run, and finally up Seminary Ridge late that day. As Peter described that day of violence, he said that today it is still not well known as being so bloody.

In the hot afternoon, Peter guided us up to what is now known as Confederate Avenue, showing us how Pender’s troops were not in the middle of the July 2 battle. However, (see next page)
as always, the general was close by, just behind the Confederate’s lines. Peter walked back across the road and pointed into the trees west of the road, saying, “There is where I believe Dorsey was mortally wounded,” by stray shrapnel.

Even with busy Peter’s schedule, he took the time prior to our visit to pull together comprehensive folders showing where Pender was those two days, plus historical letters, correspondence, army strengths, casualties and more. A full college semester of learning for one day of classes.

He ended our day in the field among boulders west of Rose Wood, where dead soldiers from one army were rearranged among the boulders, photographed, and then described as fallen heroes of another army to help inspire a dispirited public. Peter then showed us via battle sketches and modern photographs how one determined researcher walked every inch of the battlefield until he found the lie, and proved the truth.

The next day we spent touring with a Gettysburg native and old friend, who shared with us his knowledge and perspective as a young person and now a preservationist, growing up with the park as his neighbor. A full two days plus two days of travel. Well worth it.

Photos: Roy and Peter pause on a Civil War-era cannon. The Pender family down in Willoughby Run, where Dorsey’s troop ran into the Iron Brigade - Roy, son Dow, grandson Sawyer, granddaughter Hunter, son Cliff, and grandson Dow. (Photos - family member & Peter Carmichael)

More Civil War Views - E. Gifford Stack headed south on a spring motorcycle ride, stopping to admire the multi-war historic Ft. Moultrie on Sullivans Island, SC. (Photos by EGS and passerby)
Pictured at our May 28 Meeting
Bud Robertson and 493 members attended our May 28 meeting (two attendees shy of the record 495 set at our May 7 meeting!). Some of the happy attendees, including the $212 winner of our 50/50 raffle, paused for our cameras. (Photos by E. Gifford Stack)
Pictured at our May 28 Meeting - Continued
The next meeting of the BCWRT is Tuesday, October 1, 2019. The meeting will be held at Hatch Auditorium, NC Baptist Assembly, Fort Caswell, Oak Island, NC.

Registration and refreshments begin at 6:15 p.m., and the meeting starts promptly at 7 p.m.

BCWRT is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization, co-founded by Tom O’Donnell and Wally Rueckel, and organized in May 2010.

The BCWRT website, brunswickcivilwarroundtable.com, contains helpful information and is available to everyone, no user name or password required. Our Facebook page is at https://www.facebook.com/brunswickcivilwarroundtable/. Visit both sites to learn of future speakers, trips, and interesting Civil War information.

2019 Officers, Directors, Advisors, and Liaisons

Mike Powell: President & Director
Charen Fink: VP, Director & Ladies’ Forum Coord.
Jim Johnson: VP, Director & Ft. Fisher Liaison
Jennifer Chapman: Secretary & Director
Gary Krupp: Treasurer & Director
Tish Gordon: Director
Kathy O’Donnell: Director
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E. Gifford Stack: Director
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Jack Carpenter: Advisor & Ft. Anderson Liaison
Chris Fonvielle: Advisor
Ken Keast: Advisor

Tom Kehoe: Advisor
Paul Laird: Advisor
Jim McKee: Advisor
Roy Pender: Advisor
Leslie Rivers: Advisor
Wally Rueckel: Advisor
Lori Sanderlin: Advisor
Dave Shultz: Advisor
Nathan Sloan: Advisor
Wade Sokolosky: Advisor
Len Trizinsky: Advisor
Peter Whalen: Advisor
Max Williams: Advisor Emeritus

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Call to Arms co-editors: Charen Fink and E. Gifford Stack