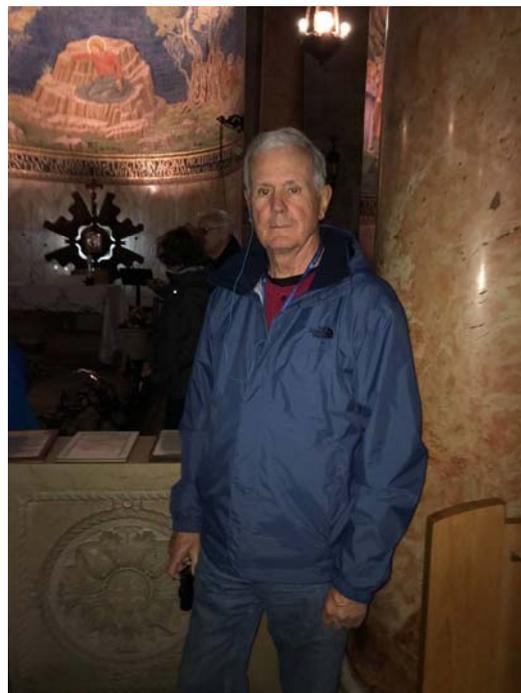


MESSAGE FROM BILL JAYNE, PRESIDENT, CAPE FEAR CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

November 17, 2018: Here's a roundup of some of the activities that have transpired in the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table (CFCWRT) in recent months. After serving as vice president for a couple of years, I took over from Bob Cooke last spring. We all owe Bob a great debt of thanks for his many years of service to the Round Table.

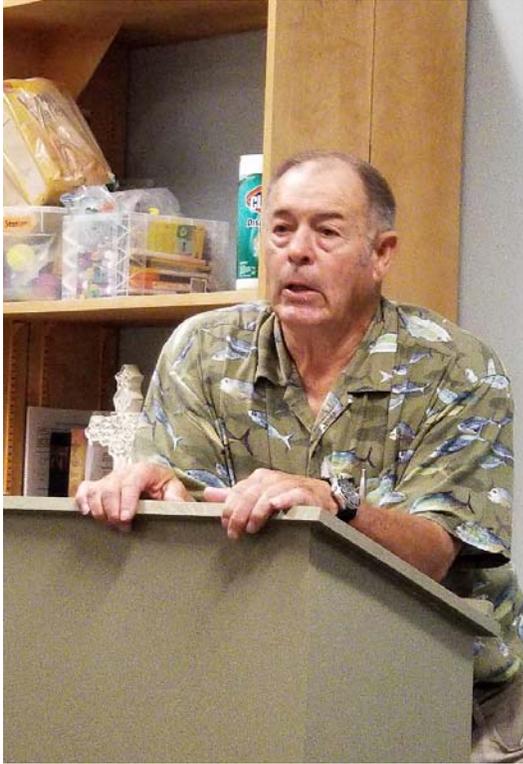


Bill Jayne (left) and Bob Cooke

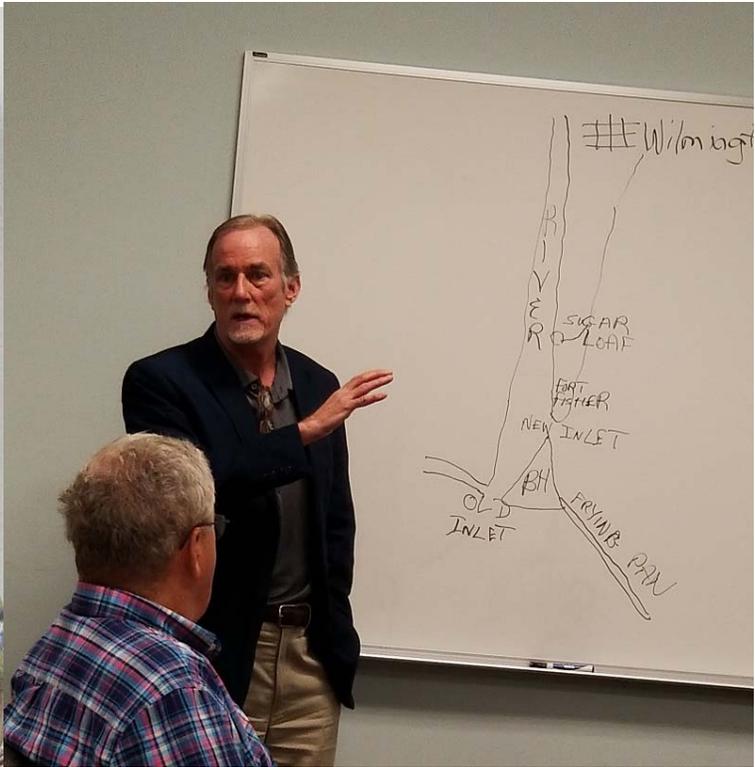


Greg Willett

Our new Vice President is Greg Willett. Greg was born in Jacksonville, NC, the son of a career Marine who fought on Guadalcanal in WWII. Greg served in the Air Force as a medical technician, including a tour in Korea. He earned a degree from UNC-W with a double major in history and political science and worked for General Motors for 26 years. His interest in the Civil War was sparked by attending living history events with his son and both of them becoming re-enactors. He's been a resident of Wilmington most of his life.



Gary Henderson



Chris Fonvielle

In May member Gary Henderson presented a fascinating and enjoyable first-hand account of SCUBA diving on many of the blockade-runner wrecks along our shores. Personal reports of diving going back decades were enlivened by pictures and stories of spearing gigantic and delectable flounder found around the wrecks. It was standing room only and more as the audience spilled out into the hallway.

In June, the Round Table inaugurated a new series of summertime events designed to provide our members with even more value for their membership dollar. Recently retired Professor (and former CFCWRT president) Chris Fonvielle highlighted a real round table discussion about the failure of Confederate Generals Bragg and Hoke to attack the rear of the Union force assaulting Ft. Fisher in January 1865. It was an illuminating event as many members offered insights gleaned from specific readings and study of the events.



Round table (ok, rectangular) discussion about Ft. Fisher

On Sunday, July 15, Round Table members Bob Cooke and Ed Gibson led a walking tour of Oakdale Cemetery that focused on all



Past president Bob Cooke



Ed Gibson

war veterans but with special attention paid to the graves of Civil War veterans in the historic and beautiful cemetery. More than 50 people—non-members as well as members—attended and many joined the Round Table.

In August we returned to Harbor United Methodist Church and former CFCWRT president David Norris led a discussion about the battle of Bristoe Station, the virtually forgotten battle in October 1863 that might easily have turned into a “Third Manassas,” that is, another victory for the Confederacy that drove a beaten Union army back into the defenses of Washington, DC. Instead after the terrible attrition of leaders and troops at

Chancellorsville and Gettysburg, the Army of Northern Virginia seemed to falter. Two brigades of North Carolina troops spurred on by Corps Commander Lt. Gen. A.P. Hill, rushed to engage Union troops fording a stream to their front but were surprised by a larger Union force to their right. Bravely, the North Carolinians turned to attack the force on the right but they were outnumbered and the Federals were protected by a railroad cut. Confederate President Jefferson Davis thought the defeat was due to “a want of vigilance.”

These three summer events were considered very successful and a program is being planned for summer 2019. If you have ideas for summer events, please contact Bill Jayne at 910.386.9203 or jayne.bill@gmail.com.



David Norris

While summer was a time of pleasant and welcome change in the routine of our round table, September turned into an unpleasant and unwelcome upheaval.

Hurricane Florence greatly damaged our area and upset everyone’s routine. Some members are still dealing with repairs and efforts to get back to “normalcy.”

We had to cancel our September program and then, a month later, when the remnants of Hurricane Michael blew through, we postponed our October program one week. An unexpected benefit of all the upheaval was a change in venue for our meetings.

Our normal meeting room in Harbor United Methodist's education building was unavailable because the building served as a shelter for residents rendered homeless by the storms. Graciously, the church offered us the use of the large general purpose room that serves as the worship center for the congregation. The classroom where we had held our meetings was well suited to discussion but a bit cramped. Meeting in the worship center at the front of the church offers much more seating and room in the vestibule for displays and mingling before and after the meetings.

Our book raffles are a primary source of funding that allows us to bring speakers from locations that are beyond our local area. The success of the



raffles is central to the success of our round table and proceeds are up since we have been meeting in the worship center.

Graciously, on October 18 a week after the originally scheduled date, Rachel Rhine, the energetic and erudite manager of the Lower Cape Fear Historical Society's Latimer House, presented a lively program centered on the Latimer family during the Civil War. The highlight was learning about Zebulon Latimer's timely and substantial aid to a young cousin from Connecticut who was captured at the Battle of the Wilderness and faced life-threatening conditions at the Andersonville prisoner of war camp. Latimer was a native of Connecticut but had lived in Wilmington for some time and married Elizabeth Savage, whose family had also come from the north.

Rachel Rhine

Elizabeth's brothers were Confederate officers and the family supported the Confederacy. When young cousin Charles Brandegee joined the Union cause, serving in New York Zouave units, his older cousin Zebulon expressed his disapproval. Yet, when Charley's father informed Zebulon that the young soldier had been captured, Zebulon and his family did all they could to aid the young man. It was a case study of a family torn by war



In November, our original September speaker, Michael Hardy, regaled us with a stirring account of the fabled “Branch-Lane Brigade” of the Army of Northern Virginia. The all-North Carolina brigade served—usually where the action was hottest—throughout the life of the Army of Northern Virginia, from the Seven Days Battles right through Petersburg and Appomattox. They truly earned the sobriquet “General Lee’s Immortals.” Michael’s presentation, without slides and with only infrequent recourse to his notes, was memorable and entertaining. He spoke with the authority of someone who truly knew his material and enjoyed the chance to share his knowledge with an engaged audience. The author of 23 books about the Civil War, Michael is a graduate of the University of Alabama and a

Michael Hardy

distinguished North Carolina historian. CFCWRT members happily snapped up several of his volumes after the meeting

Our next meeting is December 13 and we will once again meet in the worship center of Harbor Church, located at the front of the campus. The

speaker will be Sam Hood, who has visited us in the past to talk about General John B. Hood. This time, Sam will talk about “Confederates Once, Americans Twice,” a look at the civilian careers of prominent Confederate figures.

In addition to our fine web site <http://www.cfcwrt.org> (thanks to webmaster Richard Buggeln), we have also started a Facebook page (thanks to Linda Lashley). Look for Cape Fear Civil War Round Table on Facebook

We wish everyone a happy and blessed Thanksgiving. If you'll be travelling to be with family, be safe and enjoy the precious time together.

We look forward to seeing you in December. Remember, the meeting room is at the front of the church campus.



Worship Center Entrance