

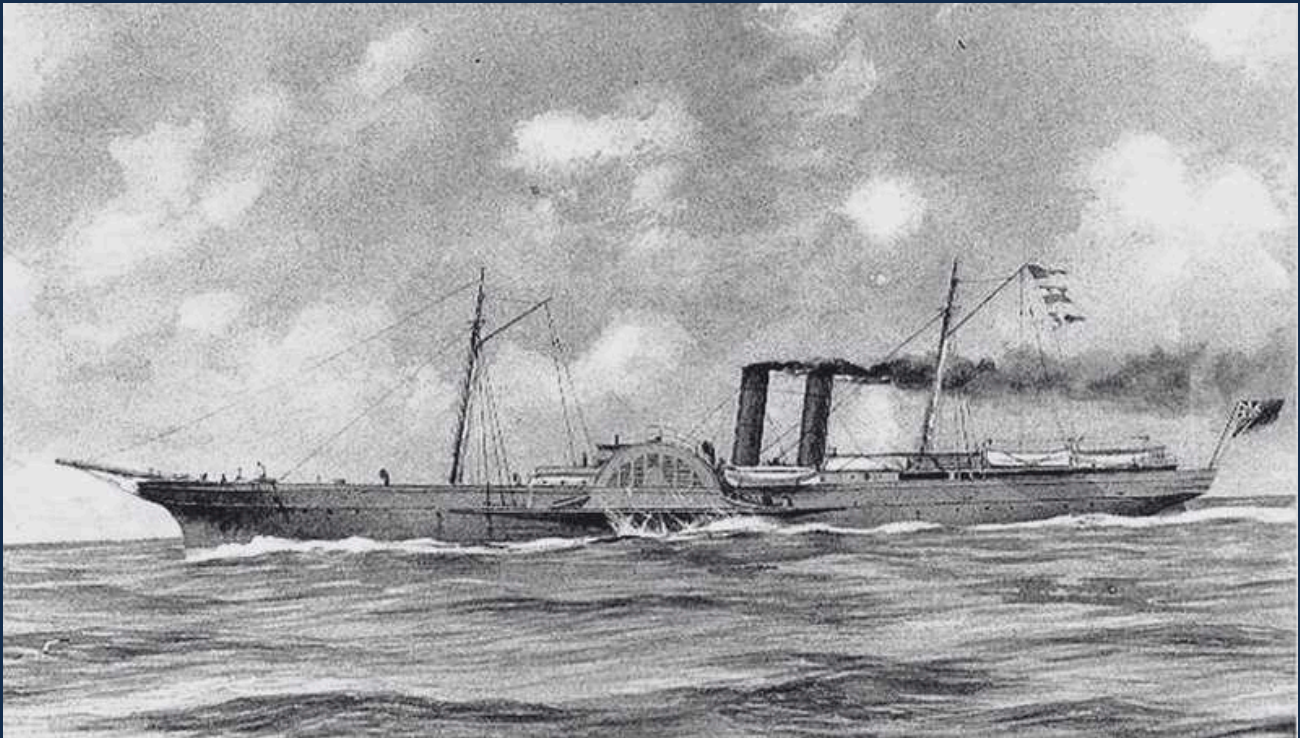
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# THE RUNNER

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THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE CAPE FEAR CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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Our intrepid pilot (AKA newsletter editor) Fred Claridge hit a figurative shoal last week. On May 20, Fred went to the emergency room because of significant problems walking and loss of feeling in his lower body. Doctors quickly discovered a mass on his spinal column that was pressing against his spinal cord. The next day Fred underwent an operation to remove the mass and a piece of spine. Pins, etc., were put in to stabilize his spine.

Thankfully, it was discovered the tumor was benign and Fred is now resting at home after the difficult ordeal. We solicit your best wishes and prayers for Fred's speedy recovery. He's been our newsletter editor for a year and he's done a great job. Fair winds and following seas, Fred, and we hope to see your steady hand on the wheel of the "Runner" again very soon.

And we offer our great thanks to Matt Howell who stepped in at a critical moment to take the wheel and deftly maneuver the Runner to a safe berth. Thank you, Matt!

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# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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As the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table approaches the anniversary of our first meeting 30 years ago, we can proudly announce that in the past year the leadership of the round table has produced our first set of **bylaws**. The bylaws were approved by approximately 40 members in attendance at the May 9, 2024 meeting.

I want to thank all those who participated in the many meetings we held to craft these bylaws. Officers Al Turner, Bruce Patterson and Mike McDonald all played a key role. Jim Gannon, Fred Claridge, William Jordan, Ray Repage, Bob Ferro and others also contributed greatly. Ed Gibson participated in those meetings and added much to the end result. Sadly, Ed is no longer with us to reap the benefits of our new organizational structure.



CFCWRT President, Bill Jayne

The biggest change effected by the bylaws is that we now have a blueprint for sustaining healthy leadership of the organization. There are five officers: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Quartermaster. Each officer will be elected by the membership for a one-year term. The President and Vice President are limited to two, one-year terms. That is, the President and Vice President cannot serve in those positions for more than two consecutive years. The other three officers are also elected for a one-year term but their number of terms is not limited. The bylaws state that the Vice President is expected to succeed the President.

This organizational structure will bring in new leadership with new energy, new ideas and new commitment. For the past 30 years, we have had just five presidents. Each served for six years except for one who served for four and his successor who served for eight years. Moreover, although there was some consistency in this pattern, each president served indefinitely. We are living in an age of rapid change. I feel confident that new leadership, openness to new ideas, and a welcoming attitude toward new contributors, will help the round table to thrive in such a period.

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# PRESIDENT'S REPORT CONT.

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Several people have stepped up and offered to serve as officers in the year ahead. Not all the positions have been spoken for, however, and we still welcome any and all volunteers. Please read over the bylaws looking especially at Articles 7, 8, 9 and 10. We want to be able to present the strongest possible slate of officers for approval of the membership at the August meeting. If you're willing to contribute to the success of our round table, please contact me. My contact information is below.

Article 8 deals with the Executive Committee which will be an important part of the governance of the round table. In addition to the five officers, the Executive Committee will comprise six additional members for a total of eleven maximum. The immediate past president will be a member plus five people from the membership at large.

Article 9 deals with the functional activities of the round table such as selecting and liaison with speakers, the newsletter, tours and special events, etc. Members of the Executive Committee will guide these functional activities and also serve as the Nominating Committee for new officers.

At this point, let me emphatically add two points for you to consider. Number one, we have a very healthy cadre of volunteers who are familiar with the workings of the club and donate their time and talents to keep us healthy. Number two, I don't plan to fade away into the sunset like a lonesome cowboy at the end of the movie. I hope to serve our new president and the other officers as a member of the executive committee and to remain active in both internal and external communications. Communications, whether you want to call it public relations or outreach, isn't an assigned duty of the president or any of the officers under the new bylaws.

There are a lot of new things that can be done and the new officers will put their own stamp on our operation, making our round table even better. We can do a lot more in battlefield preservation, encouraging young people to get involved, recognition of outstanding Civil War writers...and more. So, "Let's go!"

CFCWRT President, Bill Jayne

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# MEMBERSHIP REPORT

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Greetings, CFCWRT Members! A couple of brief announcements this month...

The May meeting saw us add six new members (including one couple) and welcome back a returning member. Brian Ballweg, and Ed Dominelli both hail from Wilmington, while Tom Thurman and Charles Gallucci show Castle Hayne as their residence. Returning member, Bob Maffitt (well steeped in blockade history) and Fort Fisher Site Manager Jim Steele are also Wilmington residents and following our Cape Fear River cruise, Mike & Dot Hamby (Wrightsville Beach) joined as well.

Indeed, the Membership Chair is pleased with our recruiting efforts where every member is a recruiter. Recall please, that our Cape Fear CWRT features an all-year program with our very popular member forum's scheduled for June thru August. Program Chair, Jim Gannon has performed yeoman service in lining up interesting and educational programs for the balance of the year. Our thanks to him and to all concerned.

Please renew as your anniversary month approaches (month shown on name tag) and either pay online, by cash or check at the next meeting or mail to our CFCWRT Treasurer at:

8387 East Highcroft Drive  
Leland, NC 28451.

Regards,  
Bruce Patterson  
CFCWRT Secretary





## **Professor Angie Zombek Regales Big Crowd With Story of Key West**

**By J. Fulton Reynolds**

**Dr. Angela Zombek, Ph.D., associate professor of history at UNCW, presented a lively program on Key West during the Civil War to a large group of approximately 50 members and guests at our May 9 meeting.**

**Dr. Zombek, an expert on the prisoner of war experience in the Civil War, provided much interesting background about Key West and Fort Zachary Taylor. Long recognized as a strategic point because of the narrowness of the Straits of Florida, Key West was a perfect harbor for any power attempting to control the sea lanes between the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic Ocean. Less than 100 miles wide from Florida to Cuba, the straits were regularly patrolled by U.S. ships in the pre-war era.**

**In 1822, Captain (later Commodore) David Porter was given command of the West Indies Squadron and on April 23, 1823 he established the Naval Station at Key West in the newly acquired Territory of Florida. This was the first permanent settlement on the island. The mission of the squadron was suppressing piracy in the West Indies. Pirates were operating freely near the coasts of Cuba and Puerto Rico. Commodore Porter assembled a Mosquito fleet of eight shallow draft schooners and five 20-oared barges to be used together with the USS Sea Gull, the first steam vessel to see active service. Porter was now able to follow the pirates into their havens in the shallow waters and channels of the islands. Porter's authoritarian style did not make him popular in Key West or in Congress. In fact, in 1833 he proclaimed martial law on the strategic island, a forerunner of things to come in the 1860s.**

**Commodore Porter, the father of Admiral David Dixon Porter, commander of the North Atlantic Blockading Squadron in the Civil War, was also the stepfather of Admiral David Glasgow Farragut of the Civil War.**

**In the decades before the Civil War, Key West was an important port for U.S. Navy ships engaged in the enforcement of the federal law ending the transatlantic slave trade. Although the law outlawing the slave trade went into effect in 1808, smugglers continued to acquire human beings in Africa, pack them into unsanitary ships and attempt to import them into the United States to be sold as slaves.**



For example, we learned that as late as April 30, 1860, U.S. Navy ships brought into Key West the bark Wildfire with 510 Africans to be sold as slaves. Approximately, 90 had died in the passage across the Atlantic from West Africa.

While the international slave trade was illegal, slavery was still legal in Florida and, as Dr Zombek explained, the U.S. Army ironically became the largest user of enslaved labor as they constructed the massive masonry Fort Zachary Taylor to protect the harbor of Key West.

The U.S. Army moved quickly to cement control of Key West when war broke out in 1861. William H. French, a Captain at the start of the Civil War, commanded the 1st U.S. Artillery, which was stationed at Fort Duncan, Eagle Pass, Texas. He refused to surrender his garrison to the Confederate-aligned state authorities as they requested. Instead, he moved his men to the mouth of the Río Grande in sixteen days and sailed to Key West, where he quartered at the Federal military post there, Fort Zachary Taylor and helped secure the fort from Confederate seizure. Shortly thereafter, he was elevated to major and assumed command of the base in conjunction with the Union Navy. He went on to achieve the rank of Major General and commanded the III Corps of the Army of the Potomac after Gettysburg.

Dr. Zombek went on to chronicle the salient events of the war at Key West as Federal officers maneuvered adroitly to maintain control of the strategic post. Enslaved people remained in Key West until the Emancipation Proclamation went into effect on January 1, 1863, at which time they were freed. Technically, perhaps, the slaves freed in 1863 weren't covered by the proclamation because Key West had never been under control of Confederate authorities. Regardless, they became free and later in 1864 a U.S Colored Troops regiment garrisoned the post.



The last act was the arrest of George Davis, the attorney general of the Confederate States of America in 1864 and 65. Davis, a native of Wilmington, became general counsel of the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad. Born in 1820 he became a Confederate senator and then attorney general. As Richmond fell and the Army of Northern Virginia surrendered in April 1865, Davis fled south and attempted to flee to England. He was captured at Key West on October 18, 1865. He was imprisoned at Ft. Hamilton in New York but freed by President Andrew Johnson in January 1866.

Dr. Zombek (PhD University of Florida) is an historian of the Civil War Era and is Associate Professor of History at the University of North Carolina Wilmington. She is also coordinator of the Masters Program in History at UNCW and the managing editor of "Interpreting the Civil War" series at Kent State University. She is the author of *Penitentiaries, Punishment, and Military Prisons: Familiar Responses to an Extraordinary Crisis during the America Civil War* (Kent State University Press). Her current book project, *Stronghold of the Union: Key West Under Martial Law*, is under contract with The University Press of Florida.



**A great favorite of our round table, Professor Zombek will be back soon!**

**Article By: J. Fulton Reynolds**

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# Events in the Cape Fear Region

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**Saturday, June 1, 9-11 am. Wilmington True History Tours.** Downtown Wilmington Civil War History Walking Tour. Dr. Chris E. Fonvielle Jr. in the lead. Tickets are \$25 for ages 14+, \$22 for Veterans/First Responders: <https://tinyurl.com/CFCWJune>

**Saturday, June 1, 11 am-3 pm (drop-in). North Carolina Maritime Museum at Southport.** 204 E. Moore St., Southport. Skippers Crew: Light It Up With Lighthouses. Hands-on activities for the whole family. The first two hours are adapted for children with sensitivities. Free of charge; donations appreciated. Info: (910) 477-5151. Additional topics on Wednesday, June 12, and Wednesday, June 26: <https://tinyurl.com/SMaritime>

**Friday, June 7, 1-1:30 pm. Cameron Art Museum.** 3201 South 17th St., Wilmington. Public Tour of Boundless, a sculpture by NC artist Stephen Hayes commemorating the United States Colored Troops and their fight for freedom. Free with museum admission. Daniel Jones will lead this tour on multiple other June dates as well: <https://cameronartmuseum.org/events/> CAM: (910) 395-5999

**Saturday, June 8, 9-10:30 am. Bellamy Mansion Museum.** 503 Market St., Wilmington. Wilmington's African American Heritage Walking Tour. \$20, advance tickets needed: <https://tinyurl.com/AAWNC> Info: (910) 251-3700

**Saturday, June 8, 10 am-4 pm. Avasboro Battlefield Museum.** 3300 NC-82, Dunn. Artillery Living History. Live firings every hour on the hour, displays of camp life. Free of charge. No pets. Info: (910) 891-5019

**Friday, June 14, 9-10:30 am, Burgwin-Wright House.** 224 Market St., Wilmington. Colonial Wilmington and the Revolution Walking Tour. Tickets are \$20 + tax: (910) 762-0570

**Sunday, June 16, 1-4 pm. Cameron Art Museum.** 3201 South 17th St., Wilmington. Juneteenth Celebration in recognition of African American freedom and achievement. Poetry, history, music, community conversations, and good food and libations for purchase. Suggested donation: \$5. CAM: (910) 395-5999

**Wednesday, June 19, 6:30-8 pm, Burgwin-Wright House.** 224 Market St., Wilmington. Cape Fear Revolutionary War Table quarterly meeting featuring Nancy Fonvielle's irresistible fudge. Notable historian Jack Fryar will present his 2024 book, When The British Came: Revolution in the Cape Fear, 1765-1782. Non-members welcome to attend with a requested \$5 contribution or may join CFRWRT at the door. Info: [cfrwrt@gmail.com](mailto:cfrwrt@gmail.com)

**Saturday, June 22, 10 am-4pm. Bentonville Battlefield State Historic Site.** 5466 Harper House Rd., Four Oaks, NC. Heavy Thunder: Artillery and Infantry Event. Demos, historical discussions, and activities for the whole family throughout the program day. Free of charge. Info: (910) 594-0789



## Member Forum at Next Meeting Highlights “Galvanized Yankees” and Camp Food

Our June 13 meeting features a presentation by member Pat Garrow, a retired archaeologist with an MA degree from the University of Georgia who will talk about the “Galvanized Yankees,” Confederate prisoners of war who volunteered to serve in the Union army in order to escape the prison camps and for other reasons including disillusionment with the Confederate cause.

Pat will present his soon to be published book about Confederate soldiers who joined the Union Army to escape imprisonment. This book is a companion volume to his earlier book about Union prisoners of war who changed sides to join the Confederate army.



*Confederate prisoners at Camp Douglas, Chicago, Illinois*

The new book updates and extends Dee Brown’s classic volume *Galvanized Yankees*. Pat’s book is titled *From Gray to Blue*, and it’s under contract with the University of Tennessee Press. Pat will address the six regiments of US volunteers raised in Union prisons and sent to the western frontier to protect settlers and travelers and will go well beyond that to address lesser known units such as the Union Regiments raised in North Carolina.

More than 6,000 Confederates served in the Union army. Some of them were “Galvanized Confederates,” that is Union soldiers who had been captured and imprisoned but accepted the chance to serve in the Confederate army in order to escape the deadly prison pens of the Civil War,

More than 400,000 soldiers—about 194,000 Union and 214,000 Confederate—were captured over the course of the war. Prison conditions were brutal with approximately 30,000 Union soldiers and 26,000 Confederates dying while imprisoned. Deaths occurred most often because of medical conditions including infectious diseases such as typhoid fever, cholera, yellow fever, malaria, etc. Many also died because of malnutrition and exposure to the elements.

Several regiments of Galvanized Yankees (Blue or Yankee on the outside but Gray or Rebel on the inside) served on the frontier, especially in Minnesota, to protect settlers from hostile Indians, and that part of the story is fairly well known. Pat's research has gone much deeper into the subject, however.

In addition to Pat's presentation, CFCWRT member William Jordan, a talented and expert reenactor cook, will offer some savory samples from his campfire. William recently prepared a massive feast at the Eastern Carolina Village and Farm Museum in Greenville. William and wife Kim prepared a feast of turkey, pork tenderloin, boiled ham and corned beef for 47 people at the museum's "Celebration of Trades and Skills of the 1800s." Guests included the Pitt County Commissioners. And it was all done over the campfire!



The June 13 meeting begins the seventh year of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table's "Member Forum" series of summer programs. Most Civil War Round Tables take the summer off but our round table is able to call on the talents and knowledge of our members to present programs through the summer.

Make plans to come and hear this fascinating story. The meeting will take place on Thursday evening, June 13, beginning at 7 p.m. Doors open at 6:30. As usual, the meeting will be held in Elebash Hall at the rear of St. John's Episcopal Church at 1219 Forest Hills Drive in Wilmington. The church parking lot and entrance to the meeting room is easily accessed via Park Avenue off of Independence Boulevard. Bring a friend! For more information about membership in the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table, go to <http://www.cfcwrt.org> and pick "Join/Rejoin."



Pat Garrow

See you there!

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# CFCWRT Upcoming Speaker

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9/12/24

Ted Savas

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



We have all been taught to believe Jefferson Davis made a significant strategic mistake during the first year of the war by choosing to defend nearly every square mile of Confederate territory, and that this mistake helped doom the Confederacy. According to Ted Savas, this is demonstrably false, and a significant body of objective evidence proves it. Davis's vision and decision-making were well-reasoned and much more successful than even he believed possible. Because of the partnership with George Rains and the strategy those two men employed to ward off invasion long enough to set the Confederacy up to fight.

The war you think you understand was not the war that was actually waged.

Theodore P. Savas is a luminary in the world of Civil War publishing. He is both an author and a publisher. He is the co-founder and majority partner of Savas Beatie, an award-winning independent book trade publishing company that specializes in military and general history, and especially the American Civil War.

Ted has a B.A. in history, most of a Masters, and a Juris Doctorate (with Honors) from the University of Iowa College of Law. He practiced law for many years in Silicon Valley, taught adjunct college classes in history, business, and politics for 20 years. He also founded and plays in the west coast rock band Arminius, flying back to Northern California to open for larger acts. Ted has no idea what he wants to do when he grows up. He and his wife Zoe recently moved to Myrtle Beach, SC.

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# CFCWRT Upcoming Speaker

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**10/10/24**

**Dr. Chris E. Fonvielle Jr., Ph.D.**

**Cape Fear Civil War Round Table  
30th Anniversary Celebration**



The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table held its first meeting in 1994, thirty years ago this coming October. To mark this important anniversary, our speaker for the October 10, 2024 meeting will be Dr. Chris E. Fonvielle Jr., Professor Emeritus in the Department of History at UNC Wilmington.

In 1994, the CFCWRT invited Chris, who lived in Currituck, North Carolina at the time, to be its premier speaker. He spoke on the Lower Cape Fear during the Civil War. After returning to his hometown of Wilmington the following year, Chris became active in the Round Table and eventually served as its second president, 2000 to 2006.

The first president was George Slaton (1994-2000), who now lives in Davidson, North Carolina. George has also been invited to the meeting, as have our other two presidents, David Norris (2006-10) and Bob Cooke (2010-18).

Chris will talk to us about the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table's early days and why we still find the Civil War so important and fascinating.

Much has changed since 1994. In fact, it often seems as if the pace of change has accelerated more quickly than we could have imagined. Yet, our organization is still growing and thriving.

Make plans to be with us on October 10, 2024 as we look back on the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table's past thirty years and look forward to the next thirty.



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# CFCWRT Upcoming Speaker

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11/14/24

John Quarstein

## Admiral Buchanan and The Battle of Mobile Bay



The CFCWRT is thrilled to welcome back the very popular and engaging John Quarstein. John, a premier Civil War naval war expert, will be speaking on the subject of “Admiral Buchanan and the Battle of Mobile Bay.”

Able, courageous, and experienced, Admiral Franklin Buchanan was perhaps the most aggressive senior officer to join the Confederate Navy. His strategic flair, discipline, and heroic qualities made him respected and admired by all those around him.

After being put in command of *CSS Virginia*, Buchanan led efforts that resulted in the Confederacy’s greatest naval victory before being appointed as the first Admiral in the Confederate Navy and selected to command the naval defenses in Mobile Bay, Alabama. As Admiral, he oversaw the construction of multiple ironclads and was on board *CSS Tennessee* during its battle against David Glasgow Farragut’s Union Fleet in 1864.

John V. Quarstein is a nationally known speaker and an award-winning historian, preservationist, and author. John served as the director of the Virginia War Museum until his retirement and is now Director Emeritus of the USS Monitor Center at The Mariners’ Museum in Newport News, Virginia. He has authored 18 books with three more on the way, He has served as an adjunct professor at the College of William & Mary.

John’s deep interest in all things related to the Civil War stems from his youth living on Fort Monroe, walking where heroes like Abraham Lincoln and R. E. Lee once stood. An avid collector of decoys, waterfowl/maritime art, and oriental rugs, John lives among them in his home, the 1757 Herbert House on Sunset Creek in Hampton, Virginia. On the National Register of Historic Places, this is the only house to have survived August 7, 1861, burning of Hampton.

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# CFCWRT Upcoming Speaker

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12/12/24

Bert Dunkerly

## The Battle of Stones River, Tennessee



With the fate of Middle Tennessee yet to be determined, President Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation went into effect on January 1, 1863. The president had signed the proclamation back in September of 1862, but he needed battlefield victories to bolster its authority. The stakes being gambled outside Murfreesboro along Stones River were enormous.

The battle of Stones River became a significant turning point of the Civil War, and one that had the highest percentage of casualties on both sides of any Civil War battle.

Lincoln himself would often look back on that fragile time and ponder all that was at stake. "I can never forget whilst I remember anything," he told Federal commander Maj. Gen. William S. Rosecrans, "that about the end of last year and the beginning of this, you gave us a hard-earned victory, which, had there been a defeat instead the nation could scarcely have lived over."

Robert M. Dunkerly (Bert) is a historian, award-winning author, and speaker who is actively involved in historic preservation and research. He holds a degree in History from St. Vincent College and a Masters in Historic Preservation from Middle Tennessee State University. He has worked at nine historic sites, written eleven books and over twenty articles. His research includes archaeology, colonial life, military history, and historic commemoration.

Dunkerly is currently a Park Ranger at Richmond National Battlefield Park. He has visited over 400 battlefields and over 700 historic sites worldwide.



**President: Bill Jayne**  
jayne.bill@gmail.com  
(910) 386-9203

**Vice President: Al Turner**  
allanturner67@gmail.com  
(703) 967-9667

**Secretary: Bruce Patterson**  
brucepatterson7338@gmail.com  
(910) 794-8905

**Treasurer: Mike McDonald**  
rmmassoc8@gmail.com  
(414) 708-9794

**Program Director: Jim Gannon**  
tjimgannon@gmail.com

**Tours/trips: Yelena Howell**  
ybh2035@uncw.edu

**Webmaster: Richard Buggeln**  
rcbuggeln@gmail.com

**Newsletter: Fred Claridge**  
frdclar@gmail.com

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