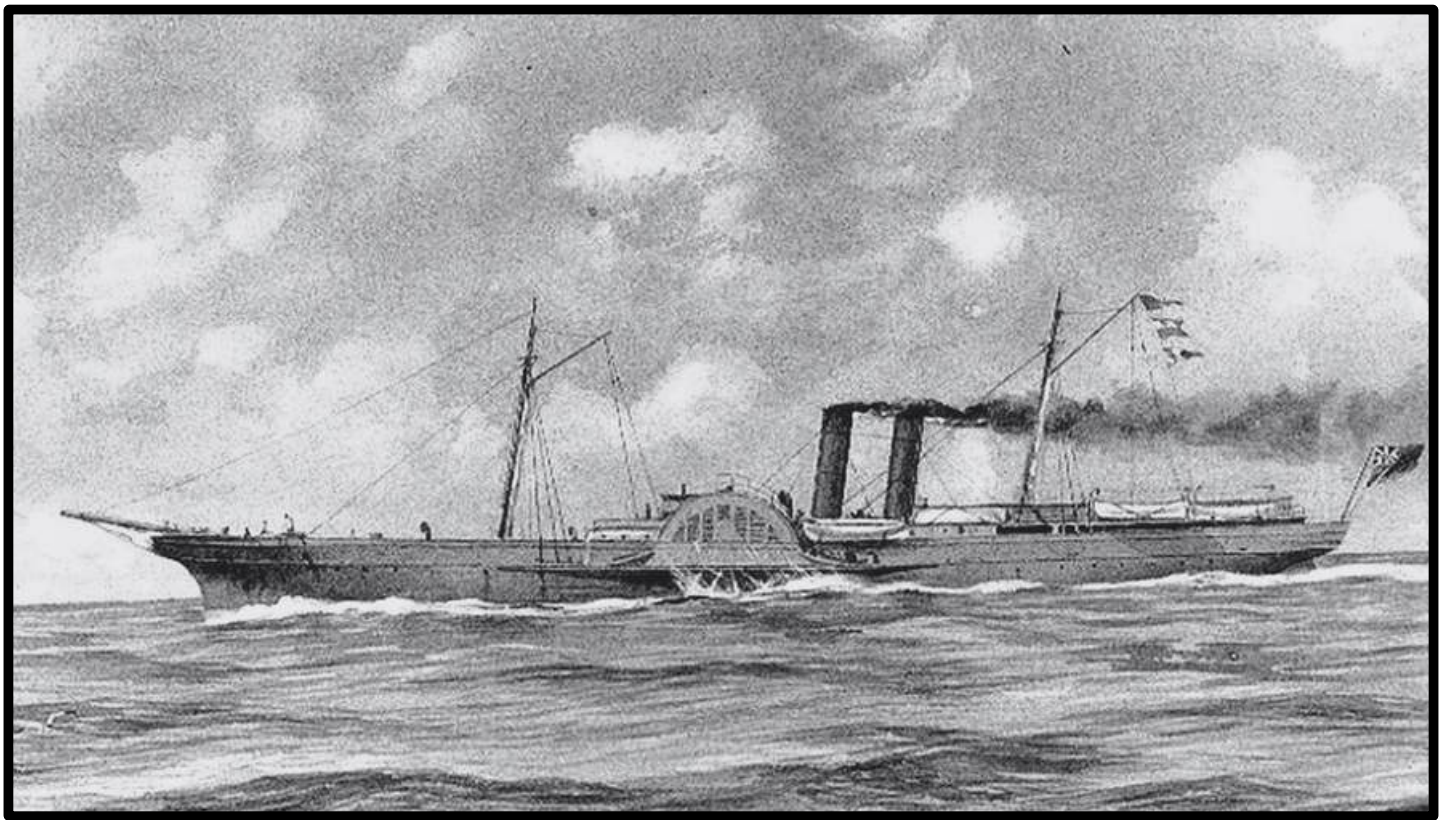


# The Runner

The Official Newsletter of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table



January 2025 | Volume 3 | Number 1

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## Letter from the Editor

Happy New Year, Members and Friends of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table!

I hope this message finds you well-rested and rejuvenated after a joyful holiday season spent with family and friends. As we step into the new year, let us carry forward the warmth and goodwill of the holidays, turning them into positive energy for the weeks and months ahead.

With 2025 upon us, we look forward to a prosperous and productive year for our Round Table. We are excited to share all that we have planned and invite you to participate in all of our upcoming programs, and special events.

This January also marks a particularly meaningful milestone in our community's story—160 years since the fall of Fort Fisher. The capture of this once-imposing Confederate stronghold was a pivotal moment as the war approached its end.

The year 1865 brought with it dramatic transformations, culminating in April with Lee's surrender and the assassination of President Lincoln. Reflecting on this anniversary gives us not only an opportunity to remember the immense sacrifices made by those involved but also to understand how these events shaped the cultural and historical landscape we live in today.

As we commemorate this historic anniversary, let us renew our commitment to learning, sharing, and honoring our past. May 2025 bring growth, understanding, and increased fellowship to our Round Table, so that we may continue to serve as thoughtful stewards of history for both our community and future generations.

Warm regards,

Matthew Howell  
Editor

Cape Fear Civil War Round Table



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# President's Address

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By Yelena Howell

Dear members and friends,

Marvelous “visions of sugarplums” are fading away like a dream, winter deepens, and the stark reality of festive excesses and New Year’s resolutions comes into focus. The beginning of the year can be sluggish. Not so for us: in the Lower Cape Fear, January and February will be anything but slow. The “high holy days” of regionally and nationally significant Civil War events are upon us. The year 2025 heralds the 160th anniversary of the Wilmington Campaign, with the momentous fall of Fort Fisher in January of 1865 precipitating a domino effect that brought down the embattled Confederacy. Several grand commemorative programs will take place at area historic sites.



Please refer to the contents section for additional information and join us in representing our organization (email [CapeFearRT@gmail.com](mailto:CapeFearRT@gmail.com) with your availability at Ft. Fisher on January 18th of half an hour or more if you would like to come staff our booth with us).

I am excited and hope you are, too! Relentless professional, family and civic demands notwithstanding, ongoing appreciation and preservation of local history also matter a great deal. There are remarkable speakers, reenactments and tours in the pipeline. Why don't we all partake and take part as able? Far beyond a way to wile away a Saturday afternoon among like-minded others, actively focusing on American history is a duty of citizenship and a solemn privilege. As you plan to make the most of upcoming programs, please take a lot of pictures and notes that we will gladly feature in the next *Runner*.

Nothing noteworthy happens without intent and passion. Indeed, “he’s a fool who plays it cool”—not he who errs on the side of engagement. Don’t cool your jets, don’t cool your hearts and minds, and don’t cool your schedules. The only cool and cold we need this winter belong in the weather forecast. In every other regard, January 2025 is red hot! I will see you in the field and at our upcoming meeting.

Best,

Tune in live to our next meeting at <https://www.youtube.com/@CapeFearCivilWarRoundTable>  
and view our archives anytime at <https://cfcwrt.org/>



## Fort Fisher's 160th Anniversary Commemoration



Program Schedule: Jan. 18, 2025 10a-4p

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10:00: **Weapons Demonstration** @ Shepherd's Battery

10:45: **Presentation and Book Signing** by Dr. Chris Fonvielle & Dr. Bob Browning - "Fort Fisher: Art of the Battle" @ Orientation Theatre

11:00: **Above the Scenes Tour**, leaving from Main Entrance Breezeway

12:00: **Weapons Demonstration** @ Shepherd's Battery

12:45: **Presentation and Book Signing** by Rod Gragg - "Cold Steel and the Butt of a Gun: The Fall of Fort Fisher" @ Orientation Theatre

1:00: **Above the Scenes Tour**, leaving from Main Entrance Breezeway

2:00: **Weapons Demonstration** @ Shepherd's Battery

2:45: **Presentation and Book Signing** by Dr. Angela Zombek - "Suspicious Characters and Captured Combatants: The Experiences of Prisoners of War" @ Orientation Theatre

3:00pm: **Above the Scenes Tour**, leaving from Main Entrance Breezeway

4:00: **Weapons Demonstration** @ Shepherd's Battery

\* Above the Scenes Tour tickets to be purchased at 1st Floor Info Desk, advanced booking not available

\*\*Schedule subject to change or cancellation without notice

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# Membership Report

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By Kim Berger

I hope this joyous holiday season finds you and your families well. Thirty-two members attended our audience-focused December 2024 meeting. We enjoyed sharing the festivities with every one of you and thought fondly of those of you who were with us in spirit. As Membership Chair, my goal is to streamline the meeting check-in process. I now offer an alphabetical sign-in sheet where members can simply initial by their names. A second sheet is for new folks and guests. Current members can also use this sheet to update their contact information. I continue to welcome any feedback on process optimization.

## **Name Tags**

Name tags are an amenity that facilitates communication among all attendees. Please be sure to return your badge at the end of each meeting or plan to bring it the next time you join us in person. If you need a new tag, just let me know.

## **Membership Renewals**

Your renewal month is printed on your name tag. Please feel free to check with me in person or by email at [CapeFearRT@gmail.com](mailto:CapeFearRT@gmail.com) if you have a question about your renewal month. There are several easy ways to “reenlist”:

- See membership options and renew online: <https://cfcwrt.org/>
- Mail a check to CFCWRT, 8387 East Highcroft Dr NE, Leland, NC 28451
- See Mike McDonald at the next meeting with a check or cash.
- See Yelena Howell for Venmo.

## **Spread the Word**

Remember, we are all ambassadors for the Round Table. Please invite your family, friends, co-workers, and neighbors to join us. We will ensure every guest feels welcome.

Sincerely yours,

Kim Berger  
Membership Chair, Cape Fear Civil War Round Table

# CFCWRT December Meeting

By John Gough



## WAR GAME PUTS ARMCHAIR GENERALS IN THE SADDLE

On 12 December round table member John Weisz presented a war game of sorts to an enthusiastic holiday audience. Prior to the meeting members enjoyed eggnog (spiked or not), mulled wine, wine, snacks and three fantastic cakes from W.C. Pag, a.k.a, William Jordan, sutler and cook extraordinaire. In addition, former president Chris Fonvielle, Ph.D., was on hand with copies of his newest book presenting 19th-century artwork on the subject of Ft. Fisher. The subject of the meeting was “Generalship: Theory and Substance.” John noted that great generalship may be analyzed by looking at eight salient characteristics.

### Characteristics of Great Generals:

- Risk - analyzing acting on incomplete information
- Tenacity - ‘tending to hold fast’
- Flexibility - ability to change plans when opportunities or crisis arise
- Innovation - being bold and imaginative when the odds are bad
- Mastering Information - know what is needed & what supports the plan
- Empowerment - mentoring & encouraging independent thought
- Moral Courage - making the right decision, sticking with it & accepting & ‘owning’ the consequences
- Vision - imagining how future technology, tactics/strategy or human factors can give advantage to military success

Besides defining what generalship was and the characteristics behind it, John led the audience in a participatory exercise intended to illuminate the elements of Civil War generalship.

Audience members first formed several teams of from two to four members. West Pointer Weisz provided participants with information and maps and options to decide which way to defeat the enemy. Using a contemporary military term, the acronym METT-T, summarized the information provided to each team: Mission, Enemy, Terrain, Troop availability and Time.

## CFCWRT December Meeting Cont.



William Jordan's Delicious Cakes

Three scenarios were played and the various solutions were rationalized. Teams came up with various rationales and options and Retired Lt. Colonel Weisz was impressed with many well-thought-out solutions arrived at by the participants.

Fictitious names—"Big Tom Junction," "Princeton" and "Knox"—tagged the three scenarios but they were all based on actual Civil War engagements. The scenarios corresponded to actual battles in the Atlanta Campaign of 1864, pitting Major General William Tecumseh Sherman of the U.S. Army against General Joseph E. Johnston of the Confederate Army.

Sherman, of course, succeeded in driving Johnston back into entrenchments around Atlanta. Major battles occurred around Dalton, Resaca and Kennesaw Mountain north of Atlanta and Sherman also maneuvered his adversary out of strong defensive positions in several cases. Eventually, the Confederates abandoned Atlanta on September 1. According to Weisz, the campaign demonstrated Sherman's tactical and operational expertise.

British military writer, Captain Basil Lidell Hart published a biography of the victor of the Atlanta Campaign in the 1920s. It was called *Sherman: Soldier, Realist, American*. Lidell Hart considered Sherman the most outstanding general of the Civil War. He explained that the campaign tied down resources needed in other theaters, had a positive psychological and political effect by lowering enemy's national morale and contributing to the election of Abraham Lincoln in the United States, and sustained high morale in his own army by constantly moving forward and avoiding frontal assaults for the most part.



## CFCWRT December Meeting Cont.

### Tactical & Operational Expertise

- **Respect entrenchments !!!**
- **Mentor subordinates** [let them learn from mistakes]
- Put the enemy on defense to secure **his** tenuous Line of Communication (LOC)
- Well planned and executed operations will allow distance from **OUR** LOC for reasonable periods of time
- Threaten many points of the enemy's position(s)
- Bad weather and terrain can be used to advantage (against enemy)
- Keep the enemy commander "on the horns of Dilemma" [Captain Basil Lidell Hart, **Strategy**]

Sherman remained in the Army after the war and was promoted to General, commanding the entire U.S. Army from 1869 to 1884. As commanding general, Sherman's vision was for a large professional army. Congress's was for a small frontier force supplemented by militia. Congress won. He had more successful influence over West Point where, while he was a jealous guardian of tradition, he oversaw the transformation of the academy from a de facto school for engineers to a school truly for soldiers. He was also not a traditionalist when it came to uniforms and weaponry, where he was always on the side of practicality and firepower.

Was he the greatest general of the Civil War? Second? Third? Such rankings are largely specious in the opinion of this writer but there's no doubt that our enjoyable audience participation program gave those in attendance a deeper understanding of the elements of good generalship as well as the challenges facing those who exercised such responsibility in the Civil War.



# CFCWRT December Meeting Cont.

Supplemental charts courtesy of John Weisz

	Start Campaign	Kingston	1st Kenesaw Mountain	2nd Kenesaw Mountain
·Risk	✓	✓		
·Tenacity			✓	✓
·Flexibility	✓			✓
·Innovation	✓			✓
·Mastering Information	✓	✓	✓	✓
·Empowerment	✓	✓		✓
·Moral Courage			✓	✓
· <b>Vision</b>	Entire Campaign Was Driven By <i>The Commander's Vision</i>			

7/10/2024

Generalship, JWeisz CFCWRT

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## Outcomes of this Campaign

- Tied down resources needed in other theaters
- Psychological /political
  - Lower ratio of casualties to benefit
  - Northerners take heart from success (Just before Presidential Election)
- Jumping off point for siege and assault on Atlanta
- Driving Confederate forces AWAY from his LOC
  - At least for a while
  - Constantly forced out of earth works while inflicting minimal casualties

## Attrition

	Atlanta Campaign May 7-Sep 1,1864		Overland Campaign May 4-Jun 29,1864	
	USA	CSA	USA	CSA
Soldiers	98,500	74,000	110,000	63,000
Casualties	21,656	27,565	55,000	32,000
% Casualties	22%	37%	50%	51%

# CFCWRT January Meeting

By Bill Jayne



## Yes, the Marines Were Here in the Civil War

The next meeting of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table, now celebrating its 30th year of operation, is Thursday evening, January 9, 2025, at centrally located St. John's Episcopal Church in Midtown Wilmington near Independence Mall. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. Members and friends are welcome. The best means of publicizing our round table is by word of mouth.

The January program is titled "US and Confederate Marines in North Carolina During the Civil War." Our speaker is Andrew Dupstadt, a crowd-pleasing favorite of our round table. This will be the eighth time Andrew has addressed our group going back more than 20 years.

His talk will take a brief look at the history of both the U.S. and Confederate Marine Corps in the Civil War and their involvement in actions in North Carolina. The Marine Corps tends to get overlooked in the broader scope of Civil War history, particularly the Confederate Marines, but both services were present in the Old North State, especially in the last year of the conflict, and both played crucial roles in the Second Battle of Fort Fisher in January 1865.

A veteran of the public history field with over 20 years experience, Andrew Dupstadt is currently the Education & Interpretation Supervisor for the North Carolina Division of State Historic Sites. He earned a BA in History and an MA in Public History from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. Previously, he had worked at Fort Fisher State Historic Site, Tryon Palace Historic Sites and Gardens, and the CSS *Neuse* State Historic Site. Andrew also serves as an Adjunct Instructor of History at UNC-Pembroke and Coastal Carolina Community College, teaching classes in American History and North Carolina History. Originally from Jacksonville, NC, Andrew currently resides in Kinston and is based at the NC Historic Sites East Region Office.

Interestingly, both the U.S. and Confederate Marine officers at the center of the second battle of Ft. Fisher, fought 160 years ago on January 15, 1865, had ties to distinguished families with somewhat conflicting loyalties. The U.S. Marine detachment that took part in the assault on the fort was led by Captain (later Major) Lucien Leconte Dawson who was born in Natchez, Mississippi in 1836.

## CFCWRT January Meeting Cont.

He was a son of a Maryland born former U.S. Army officer named James L. Dawson and the former Miss Sophia Elizabeth Baylor, a member of the historically prominent Baylor family of 19th century Kentucky, Alabama, and Texas.

A month old when the Alamo fell in Texas, Lucien accompanied his family from Mississippi to Arkansas during 1836-1842 and thence to the Indian Territory (Oklahoma) during 1842-44, where his father had found employment as a (Creek) Indian Agent.



*L. Prang & Co. Capture of Fort Fisher / J.O. Davidson ;  
Facsimile print by L. Prang & Co. Boston: L. Prang & Co.  
Photograph. Retrieved from the Library of Congress,  
<[www.loc.gov/item/93510336/](http://www.loc.gov/item/93510336/)>.*

Eventually, his mother and father divorced and with his mother and siblings, Lucien joined the Baylor family in the then independent Republic of Texas. In 1859, he was appointed from the state of Texas as a 2nd Lt USMC. Throughout his Marine Corps career, L.L. Dawson was carried on the rolls as a citizen of Texas.

Despite his ties to prominent Confederates in the Baylor family, Dawson remained loyal to the United States and served under the Stars and Stripes throughout the Civil War. In fact, at one point Confederate officials listed him as a Confederate officer because of his prominent family connections, but he never served in the Confederate military and never resigned his U.S. commission.

His Confederate counterpart at Ft. Fisher was Captain Alfred C. van Benthuisen, a member of a family that traced their origin to 17th Century Dutch settlers in New York who became very prominent in the history of the Empire State, particularly in Albany and the Hudson Valley. Remember, what we know today as New York was the Dutch colony of New Amsterdam until 1664 when the British took over the colony and named it New York.

Members of the van Benthuisen family emigrated to the south and Captain van Benthuisen was born in Natchez, Mississippi in 1836. He was connected to the family of Eliza van Benthuisen who became the wife of Joseph E. Davis, the older brother of Confederate President Jefferson Davis.

## CFCWRT January Meeting Cont.

Make plans to come and hear the story of the Marines in North Carolina and take advantage of the chance to get to better know one of the more prominent public historians of eastern North Carolina.

As usual, the meeting will be held in Elebash Hall in St. John's Episcopal Church. Enter at the rear of the church, which is located at 1219 Forest Hills Drive in Wilmington. The church parking lot, close to the entrance to the meeting room, is easily accessed via Park Avenue off of Independence Boulevard. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and there is ample time to browse our used books table, and talk to other members of the round table. Ask a friend to come along and find out more about the round table. For information about membership, go to our website at <http://cfcwrt.org> and click on "Join".

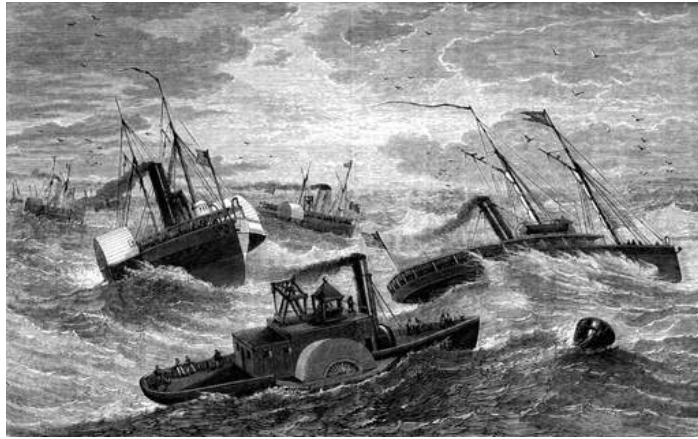
See you there!



*"Into the Hurricane of Fire," Col. Charles Waterhouse, USMC (ret), National Museum of the Marine Corps.*

# Continuing the Storm

By Matthew Howell



*A Union fleet was caught by a Nor'easter in January 1862 as it tried to cross the bar at Cape Hatteras on the way to attack Roanoke Island. Several ships were lost. (Print Collector/Getty Images)*

To My Fellow Round Table Members,

In last month's newsletter, we began Brandon Carter's thought-provoking essay, *Coincidence or Chemistry: Civil War Combat and its Effects on Weather*. In Part 1, we explored the aftermath of Malvern Hill, where torrential rain followed the brutal fighting, washing away the blood of the fallen but adding misery to the Union retreat. Drawing on Edward Powers' 19th-century work, *War and the Weather*, Carter introduced the intriguing idea that the violence of battle might influence weather patterns—a phenomenon that captured the attention of Civil War soldiers and historians alike.

In this month's installment, Part 2, Carter delves deeper, documenting patterns of post-combat precipitation across the Civil War. From Manassas to the siege of Lexington and even naval clashes like the *Monitor* and *Merrimac*, his research highlights the frequency and impact of rain following significant engagements. Drawing on letters, diaries, and Powers' meticulous observations, this section examines how weather influenced campaigns, disrupted troop movements, and shaped the experience of war.

Enjoy this unique perspective on Civil War history! As you ponder absorbing questions of correlation and causation, please note a comprehensive 2020 resource, Kenneth Noe's *The Howling Storm: Weather, Climate, and the American Civil War*, available at libraries and on Amazon at <https://www.tinyurl.com/ACWwx20>

Matthew Howell, Editor, CFCWRT

# Coincidence or Chemistry: Civil War Combat and its Effects on Weather

By Brandon Carter, Esq.; Serialized by Matthew Howell



"Charge of Duryee's Zouaves (Fifth Regiment New York Volunteers) at The Battle of Great Bethel" Harpers Weekly June 29, 1861, page 409.

## Part 2: Battles and Patterns of Post-Combat Rain

Precipitation followed battles in all theaters of the war and at all times of the year. The Appendix documents each Civil War battle that was followed by precipitation (within two days after the end of the fighting), as well as those which were not. One can quickly note that the pattern of combat preceding rain began with the first land battle of the war in June of 1861, and the last occurrence took place less than two weeks before the end of hostilities. I have gathered the data from various studies done on specific battles, works containing the weather logs of ships, diaries, journals, memoirs, and especially from Powers' book. He gathered data mainly through letters sent to him by the people who experienced the battles and their effects on weather firsthand. In a few cases, battles were fought during rainstorms. I have identified these in the chart. For the most part, however, rain followed very agreeable weather during combat.

Wet weather impaired the reliability of black powder, and movement of large armies over dirt roads or ground turned to mud created quagmires with which horse-drawn artillery and wagons could scarcely deal. Thus, Civil War commanders preferred to wait for dry conditions for maneuver and fighting.

Though it has already been noted that rain followed the war's first battle, the minor fight at Big Bethel, Virginia, on June 10, 1861, the first major battle of the war appears to have had an even greater effect on the weather. The first battle of Manassas or Bull Run was fought in Northern Virginia on July 21, 1861. The day dawned hot and clear, and a pitiless sun would both illuminate and exacerbate man's inhumanity to man until firing ceased late in the afternoon.

## Coincidence or Chemistry Cont.

The battle, which resulted in a Confederate victory, cost America nearly 5,000 casualties. Afterward the Union army resorted to what came to be known as the “Great Skedaddle,” as Federal soldiers almost literally ran the twenty-five miles back to Washington. Both Stonewall Jackson and President Jefferson Davis saw the importance of this and hoped for a pursuit of the demoralized enemy. The Confederates were exhausted and disorganized from the day’s fighting, however, and few troops followed the Union army that night. The next morning, Confederate officers awoke to heavy rain which would continue throughout the day. Any hope of pressing the defeated enemy was ended (Davis 244-45). After the war, some Confederates felt that this was one of the best opportunities the South had had to crush the Union army and win independence (Alexander 110). With the close of July 22, post-combat rain had made its first real effect on the course of the war.

The siege of Lexington, Missouri, which took place in September of that same year, is unique in that some Union officers apparently told their men that the continued artillery fire would bring them rain. The troops badly needed water, and their officers needed all the arguments they could muster to encourage the men to hold out as long as possible. It did in fact rain on the 17th. The men had no buckets with which to catch the water, so they wrung it out of their blankets. Powers got most of this information from General John McNulta, who was present at the fighting (Powers 154). This makes it clear that at least some Civil War soldiers saw a relationship between heavy cannonading and precipitation.

Even the world’s first ironclad warship to see combat appears to have had an effect on the weather. On March 8, 1862, the CSS *Virginia* (built out of the hull of the former USS *Merrimac*) ran wild through Hampton Roads, Virginia. Four U.S. vessels were sunk or run aground (Sears, *To the Gates of Richmond*, 15). The next day, during the famous fight between the *Virginia* and the USS *Monitor*, a rain set in. Powers received a good deal of this information from one Fred M. Patrick, a member of the 10th New York Volunteers. Mr. Patrick noted in his correspondence with Powers that he had believed that cannonading caused rain since 1861. He had even formed his own theory to explain the matter. He wrote, “It struck me as a curious fact that the amount of rain which fell after each battle, seemed to be very nearly in proportion to the amount of powder that was burnt” (Powers 188). This would not be the only time that a naval fight was followed by rainfall.

# Notable Events in the Cape Fear Region

By Yelena Howell

**Thursday, January 2, 10 am- 4 pm. Bellamy Mansion Museum's first day of 2025!** 503 Market St., Wilmington. Tours and programming resume at this outstanding historic institution. Info for visitors and prospective volunteers: <https://www.bellamymansion.org/>

**Friday, January 3, 3-4 pm. NHC Public Library, Oak Room at Northeast Branch, 1241 Military Cutoff Rd., Wilmington. Past Tense: Historical Fiction Book Club.** Info: <https://tinyurl.com/ReadFx>

**Friday, January 3, 8-9 pm, Burgwin-Wright House, 224 Market St., Wilmington. Candlelit Night Tour of the museum.** Tickets \$15 (+tax) ea. Please call (910) 762-0570 to reserve your spot.

**Saturday, January 4, and Saturday, January 18, 8-9 pm. Latimer House Night Tour** featuring a scholarly discussion of gaslight. 126 S. 3rd St, Wilmington; \$20. Info and tickets: <https://tinyurl.com/LatimerJan>

**Tuesday, January 7, doors open at 6 pm, program at 7 pm. Hatch Auditorium, Caswell Beach.** Brunswick Civil War Round Table welcomes **Wade Sokolosky** with his dynamic presentation on **North Carolina's Confederate hospitals.** The visitor fee is \$10 and can be applied toward the \$25 annual membership dues, which can include a spouse. Info: <https://brunswickcivilwarroundtable.com/>

**Wednesday, January 8, 1:30-2 pm, and every Wednesday of the month. Cameron Art Museum, 3201 S. 17th St., Wilmington. Public tour** of current exhibits. Info on this and other CAM events: <https://cameronartmuseum.org/events/>

**Saturday, January 18, 10 am – 4 pm. Fort Fisher State Historic Site.** 1610 Fort Fisher Blvd., Kure Beach. **Comprehensive 160th Anniversary Commemoration.** Save the date and see p. X for detailed schedule. CFCWRT will have a table and welcomes your help in half-hour or longer increments between 9 am (set-up) and 4 pm.

**Wednesday, January 22, 9 am. NHC Senior Center, 2222 College Rd., Wilmington. Remembering Our Heroes (ROH) Army Style, SOS Breakfast.** Full catered breakfast featuring chipped beef on toast. \$8. **Ken Brooks** will speak on “**Churchill's Commandoes**” at 10 am. Info: <https://tinyurl.com/ROH1Jan> or email [bppatterson1930@att.net](mailto:bppatterson1930@att.net)

**Saturday, January 25, 10 am-4 pm. Brunswick Town/Fort Anderson State Historic Site. Between the Devil and the Deep Blue Sea: Sailors and Tar Workers in the 18th Century.** An all-day living history event for all ages. Free of charge; donations graciously accepted. Info: <https://www.facebook.com/BrunswickTownFortAnderson/> or [brunswick@dncr.nc.gov](mailto:brunswick@dncr.nc.gov)

**Friday, January 31, 7:30 pm. Thalian Hall.** 310 Chestnut St, Wilmington. Musical theater: **NY Gilbert & Sullivan Players' H.M.S. Pinafore.** This “seaworthy satire”, first launched in London in 1878, has been sailing out of NYC for the past 49 years. Info and tickets: <https://www.thalianhall.org/pinafore>



## Remembering our Heroes



### **REMEMBERING OUR HEROES WARNING ORDER:**

**WHAT:** Army Style, SOS Breakfast (Chipped Beef on Toast)

**WHEN:** Wednesday, 22 January 2025, 0900 hours

**WHERE:** NHC Senior Center, (S College Road & Shipyard Blvd)

**DETAILS:** Sign up at regular December 18th meeting or respond to this Warning Order.  
We require a minimum of 35 paying attendees to commit.

Full catered breakfast cost is only \$8.00 (cash only) WW II Veterans eat as guests (free),  
Breakfast at 0900 hours.

**PROGRAM:** Ken Brooks, Churchill's Commandoes, begins at 1000 hours. Details to follow.

Your guests (friends, neighbors, family members) are encouraged and welcome.

Get the new year off to an early, nostalgic start with a traditional SOS breakfast. Stay for another exciting, superbly illustrated, presentation by Ken Brooks. He was there.

## Brunswick Civil War Round Table



### Civil War Hospitals: Challenges and Triumphs - A Presentation by Col. Wade Sokolosky (Ret.)

Throughout the Civil War, hospitals played a vital role in saving lives and treating both physical and emotional traumas. Yet, they faced immense challenges, from unsanitary conditions and overcrowding to scarce supplies and limited medical knowledge. To explore this often-overlooked aspect of Civil War history, the Brunswick Civil War Round Table welcomes returning guest speaker Col. Wade Sokolosky (Ret.) for an enlightening presentation at their upcoming meeting.

The event will take place on Tuesday, January 7th, at Hatch Auditorium, Caswell Beach. Registration begins at 6:15 PM, with the program starting at 7:00 PM. Visitors are welcome for a \$10 fee, which can be applied toward a \$25 annual membership, including a spouse.

Col. Sokolosky, a leading expert on North Carolina's Confederate hospitals and the 1865 Carolinas Campaign, will delve into the critical role hospitals played during the war. Drawing from firsthand accounts, he will detail the challenges and innovations that shaped medical care, including the expansion of hospital networks along North Carolina's railroads as Confederate resources dwindled.

A 25-year U.S. Army veteran and author of *North Carolina's Confederate Hospitals, Vol. 1, 1861–1863*, Sokolosky offers a unique perspective on how hospitals adapted to meet the increasing demands of wartime. His talk will shed light on both the successes and limitations of Civil War medical practices.



For more information, email president John Butler at [Brunswickcwrtable@gmail.com](mailto:Brunswickcwrtable@gmail.com) or call him at (404) 229-9425. Visit BCWRT online at <https://brunswickcivilwarroundtable.com/> or <https://www.facebook.com/brunswickcivilwarroundtable>

# The Timely Arrival of *Gun Crew at Fort Fisher*

By Yelena Howell



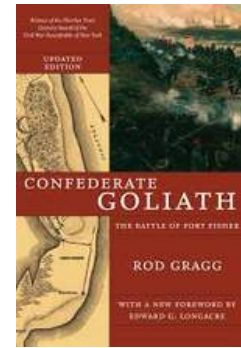
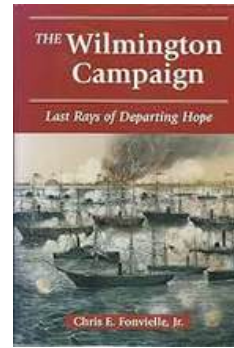
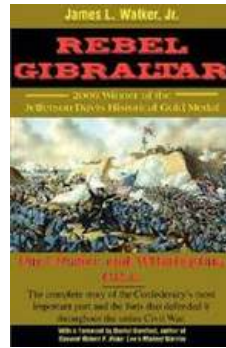
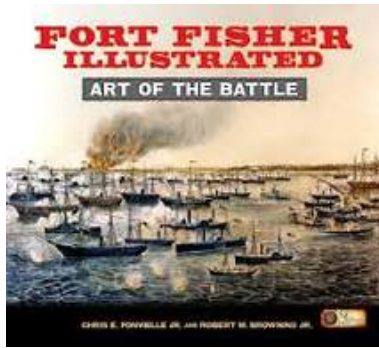
James C. Horton, affectionately known as Jim, is an acclaimed professional artist based in the Lower Cape Fear and an active, steadfast member of our organization. Jim's historical portfolio includes Civil War landmarks and scenes north and south of the Mason-Dixon line. *Blockade Runner*, *Guns of Fort Fisher*, *Cushing and the Monticello*, and *Beery's Shipyard* illustrate instantly recognizable local themes.

The collection is now joined by *A Gun Crew at Fort Fisher*, a 16" x 20" oil painting. The crew, commanded by Colonel William Lamb, loads a shell into a 32-pounder cannon to protect a blockade runner from U.S. gunboats. Congratulations to Jim on finishing this piece just in time for the 160th anniversary of the massive action at Fort Fisher that irreparably compromised the aorta of the Confederacy's failing heart (a former cardiac ICU nurse's choice of metaphor does not begin to approach the magnitude of bloodshed at the fall of the Fort, a chapter in our history that merits somber remembrance).

We will continue to feature announcements of Jim Horton's future public exhibits and new pieces. To peruse his work, connect with the artist, and purchase originals and prints, please visit <https://www.hortonart.net/>

# Read Your Way to January 18, 2025

By Yelena Howell



The body of nonfiction and fiction dedicated to the fall of Fort Fisher and the Wilmington Campaign is robust and growing. With the 160th anniversary of the decisive Second Battle of Fort Fisher now imminent, I would recommend to a serious student of history a two-step refresher over the next two weeks.

1. *Fort Fisher Illustrated: Art of the Battle* (Fonvielle & Browning, 2024).

This new book brings together the vast majority of extant XIX-century art featuring the Fort with expert commentary on the origin, veracity and significance of each piece. Visual learners and those desiring a succinct narrative summary will benefit tremendously from spending time here. Copies are available at Fort Fisher Visitor Center and directly from the authors:

<https://www.chrisfonvielle.com/>

2. Your choice of a scholarly non plus ultra, an abridged and more accessible account, or a journalistic masterpiece:

- If you can devote the next two weeks to a comprehensive review: *The Wilmington Campaign: Last Rays of Departing Hope* (Fonvielle, 2001).
- If you are shorter on time and would prefer a compressed take: *Rebel Gibraltar: Fort Fisher and Wilmington, C.S.A.* (Walker, 2005).
- If you appreciate the engrossing style of excellent journalism: *Confederate Goliath: The Battle of Fort Fisher* (Gragg, 1991).

While this is but my personal, focused pick from a broad bibliography, focus, availability and accessibility of book selections are senior to breadth as we review the basics to make the most of the upcoming commemorative program at Fort Fisher State Historic Site. Have you read these books and what other works would you recommend? Please let us know via this engaging reader's poll:

[https://uncw.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_eyXLbH32NdG7tRA](https://uncw.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eyXLbH32NdG7tRA)

# About Life on Mars

By Roman Berger



Life on Mars Beauty™ is the newest sponsor of the Cape Fear Civil War Roundtable. Founded by Cynthia Sansone and esthetician Rosemary Berger (half-sister of A/V Coordinator Roman Berger), Life on Mars seeks to develop and market beauty products without toxic chemicals.

Having assisted cancer patients with their Mondays Cancer Care program (documented in the Academy-nominated HBO documentary Mondays at Racine), they were particularly mindful of the need for beauty products free of harsh chemicals that could adversely impact the lives of their clients, including those in the fight of their lives. This is aided by Rosemary Berger's role in Research and Development.

By meticulously crafting and producing these products, all made in the USA and cruelty-free, Life on Mars seeks to reassure all those looking for beauty supplies that they can look wonderful and protect their skin and health.

<https://lifeonmarsbeauty.com/>  
<https://www.mondayscancercare.org/>

# Individual Sponsors Welcomed

By Yelena Howell

Yelena Howell, BSN, RN



## Doctoral Candidate in Nursing

I believe in our collective and individual ability to strengthen our Round Table in a variety of ways. There are multiple opportunities to contribute our time and treasure throughout each program year—it all adds up! Thank you for every single bit of it! How do you know if giving in a specific way is right for you? You just know. It should feel right, and it should feel fun.

Our organization has another Sterling sponsor: yours truly! I sent Mike McDonald a check for an additional \$20 to upgrade my current membership. When my renewal date comes up in August, I plan to re-enlist as a Gold member and, by then, a certified Family Nurse Practitioner.

In January and February, as a final-semester student, I am available to see you in primary and urgent care in Wilmington under the supervision of an award-winning internal medicine physician. Exclusive to our members, this winter I will be offering complementary follow-up over the phone, by email or in your home to see how you are and to make sure all your questions and concerns are addressed. *Disclaimer: there is no program or clinic requirement or incentive for me to bring in patients or to provide additional care. House calls can supplement, but do not replace your regular home health services.*

“No one has ever talked to me about all these things before.” –a patient

“Yelena is an outstanding student. She has surpassed all my expectations during this rotation.” – S. Staub, MD, FAAP

“Mrs. Howell is not only an exceptional student, but she is an exceptional human being. At all times, she displays cultural competence, compassion for the patient and the patient's family, superior critical thinking skills, and the ability to flow with ease and grace through many different clinic scenarios.” – S.T. Bowers, APRN, FNP-C

My goal is to exceed my patients' expectations. To connect: (910) 431-6102 cell.

## CFCWRT Lifetime Sponsors

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our strategic partners, whose generous support through discounts and services sustains the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table. Your ongoing contributions play an invaluable role in helping us preserve history, foster education, and connect our community. Thank you for standing with us in our mission!



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**New: a corporate membership adds your business or organization to our list of valued sponsors. Sterling (\$50), Gold (\$100), and Platinum (\$250) annual sponsorships are available. Contact [CapeFearRT@gmail.com](mailto:CapeFearRT@gmail.com) to join.**

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