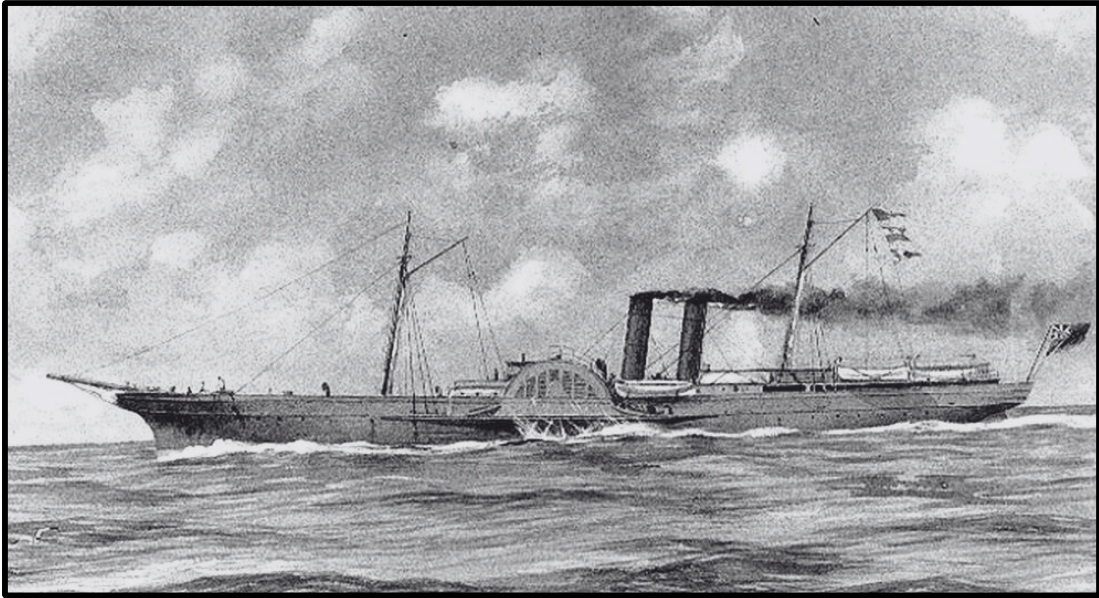


The Runner

The Official Newsletter of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table



September 2024 | Volume 2 | Number 9

Dear Members of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table,

I am deeply honored to have been entrusted with the responsibility of serving as your newsletter editor. This role is a privilege, and I look forward to continuing the tradition of excellence that has defined our organization.

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to Fred Claridge, our previous editor, whose dedication, wisdom, and hard work have been invaluable. Fred has set a high standard, and I am grateful for his support as I step into this role.

Thank you for your confidence in me. I look forward to serving you and contributing to our shared passion for history.

Warm regards,

Matthew Howell

Editor, Cape Fear Civil War Round Table Newsletter

President's Report

By: Bill Jayne

I have had the privilege and honor to preside over more than 60 meetings of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table since 2018. It has been an honor to be in the company of previous presidents including George Slaton, Dr. Chris Fonvielle, David Norris and Bob Cooke.

I have not regularly submitted a "President's Report" for *The Runner*, rather choosing to only write such a report when there was something of more than routine import to communicate. This report is such a case.

In the past year we have developed and adopted bylaws to govern our round table in the future. Of most importance, I think, we have adopted rules to govern the orderly transition of leadership to new officers every year.

We will have five officers: President, Vice President, Secretary/Historian, Treasurer and Quartermaster. All will serve one-year terms. The president and vice president are limited to only two consecutive terms. The other three officers are not limited to a specific number of terms.

As the first order of business at our September meeting, we will elect the new officers for the 2024-25 term. We will also elect the at-large members of our inaugural executive committee. The executive committee will comprise the five officers, the immediate past president, and five at-large members. As immediate past president, I will serve as a member of the 11-person Executive Committee. An ad-hoc nominating committee has agreed on a slate of officers and executive committee members to put before the membership of the round table.



PRESIDENT: The nominee is Yelena Howell, our current Director of Tours and Trips. She has proven herself to be a most loyal, dependable and effective member of the round table. She is energetic, creative, and personable. Yelena Howell (Mrs. Matt) is a mother of three and a proud U.S. citizen of approximately two decades. Matt Howell, a native of eastern North Carolina, will be taking over the editorship of our newsletter.

Yelena hails from northern Russia, although the happiest days of her childhood passed in the Crimea and Mariupol, Ukraine. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in French Literature with a History minor and a Master of Science in Educational Psychology from the University of Tennessee.

She is also a certificated commercial pilot and flight instructor and a registered nurse of 16 years currently pursuing a doctorate in the Family Nurse Practitioner program at UNCW. Lena, as friends call her, loves field trips and is an impassioned student of Southern history and literature. Her simple motto is "let's go!" I thank her for her support and help during my term as president and I thank her for volunteering to serve as our first elected president. She will make a wonderful president.

President's Report Cont.

By: Bill Jayne



VICE PRESIDENT: Chris Langlois has quickly become a valued member of the round table team. He has stepped in to assist with any job needed, especially with set-up of the meeting room, raffles and book sales.

He is a native of Jeanerette, Louisiana, who has worked at several important public safety and emergency management posts around the country. He started as a firefighter and has risen in the ranks to public safety director.

Among other professional accomplishments, Chris is a graduate of the Executive Fire Officer Program at the National Fire Academy, has a bachelor's degree in Public Fire Administration from Upper Iowa University and a master's degree in Executive Fire Service Leadership from Grand Canyon University, and holds numerous certifications from the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress. His interest in history goes back to ancestors who fought in the Civil War.



SECRETARY/HISTORIAN: Fred Claridge has been editor of our newsletter, The Runner, for more than a year. He has done an excellent job, putting out an informative, interesting newsletter that is timely and reliable. Like Chris Langlois, Fred has had a distinguished career in emergency medical and public safety services.

Fred grew up in Falls Church, Virginia, and is a graduate of Atlantic Christian College (now Barton College) in Wilson, N.C. He is retired but he worked in increasingly important

jobs in EMS in North Carolina, Kentucky, and California, including director of emergency medical services for two large counties in Northern California. His bachelors degree was in History and he is a dedicated volunteer at the Bentonville State Historic Site as well as with our round table.

TREASURER: Mike McDonald, a Harvard graduate with a degree in economics, has been doing a great job as treasurer and has agreed to stay on for at least one more term. He provides the leadership of the round table with a wealth of pertinent information about our finances and membership trends. A native of Maryland, Mike said he grew up thinking "damn Yankee" was one word.



QUARTERMASTER: William Jordan is a digital creator who is a reenactor cook par excellence. He specializes in camp cooking from the 18th and 19th centuries and reenacts a sutler named "W. C. Pag."

William has spoiled the round table membership with his cooking at past meetings as well as presenting an informative program about sutlers. He has also successfully run our raffle program for the past year, adding very importantly to our budget.



William's wife, Kim, is an active member of the round table, too, directing our Wreaths Across America program. Son, David, is also an avid reenactor and has given the membership informative programs about drum calls.

President's Report Cont.

By: Bill Jayne

To recap, the slate of officers recommended for election is:

President: Yelena Howell

Vice President: Chris Langlois

Secretary/Historian: Fred Claridge

Treasurer: Mike McDonald

Quartermaster: William Jordan

We will also be electing five at-large members of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee comprises the five elected officers plus five elected directors, plus the immediate past President, for a total of up to eleven members. The Executive Committee is responsible for conducting the business of the Round Table and will report to the membership as required. Perhaps the most important function of the Executive Committee is to serve as the Nominating Committee. The Executive Committee will also have oversight over functional activities of the round table such as Membership, Program, Tours, Newsletter, etc.

The nominees for at-large members of the Executive Committee are:

Al Turner - our current Vice President.

Jim Gannon - leader of our Program function, which selects and works with our speakers.

Kim Berger - our Membership chair.

Roman Berger - our Audio-Visual Chief.

Tom O'Connor - a graduate of the USMA at West Point, Tom has been an active member of the round table.

I need to take some time to try to appropriately thank Colonel Bruce E. Patterson, U.S. Army (ret.). Most recently, Bruce has been the secretary of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table as well as membership director. I don't think I would have made it through my six-year term as president without Bruce's great leadership, support, guidance and assistance. Moreover, I've been greatly blessed to have had the opportunity to get to know him better and count him as a friend.

Born on December 13, 1930, Bruce marked his 90th birthday a few years ago with a family get-together facilitated by Zoom, a technology that even Dick Tracy couldn't have imagined in 1930 (actually, the comic strip detective with his wrist radio, etc., didn't make his debut until 1931).

In addition to his current duties as secretary and membership director, Bruce has been our treasurer at times, functioned as the key liaison with our speakers, facilitating their visits to Wilmington and their remote presentations when that was necessary. He is also a key volunteer for several other endeavors including the Southeast North Carolina Military Officers Association, the Remembering our Military Heroes group, Wreaths Across America, the N.C. Military Historical Society and the Wilmington Philatelic Society.

Originally from New York City, Bruce grew up in a small town in Western Massachusetts and joined the U.S. Army in 1948 after graduating from high school. He graduated from Officers Candidate School in 1951 and was commissioned in the Field Artillery, which was fitting since his father was a Coast Artilleryman who served in France in World War I. Bruce also counts Civil War veterans among his ancestors and perhaps that helps account, in part, for his interest and expertise in history.

Bruce went on to a distinguished career in the Army, retiring as a Colonel in 1979. He was inducted into the Hall of Fame of the OCS Alumni Organization. He holds an MBA from George Washington University and is a graduate of the Command and General Staff College, the Armed Forces Staff College and the Army War College.

With election of our new slate of officers and Executive Committee members, Bruce will step down from his various posts and enjoy the camaraderie and conviviality of our club. Best wishes, Bruce, and many thanks.

Membership Report

By: Bruce Patterson

In what became my penultimate membership report, I noted that we had a renewal challenge awaiting us in August and I fully expected to receive several, if not many renewals at the August meeting.

As you are all aware, the August meeting never occurred, thanks to a storm called Debby. I am pleased to report however, that we received 14 renewals during the period and while that number is short of our goal, it is a substantial number, given the circumstances.

Our next meeting is 12 September and our **Treasurer, Mike McDonald** will be most happy to receive both August and September renewals that evening. If in doubt as to your renewal month, just check your name tag. Your renewal month appears at the bottom of the tag.

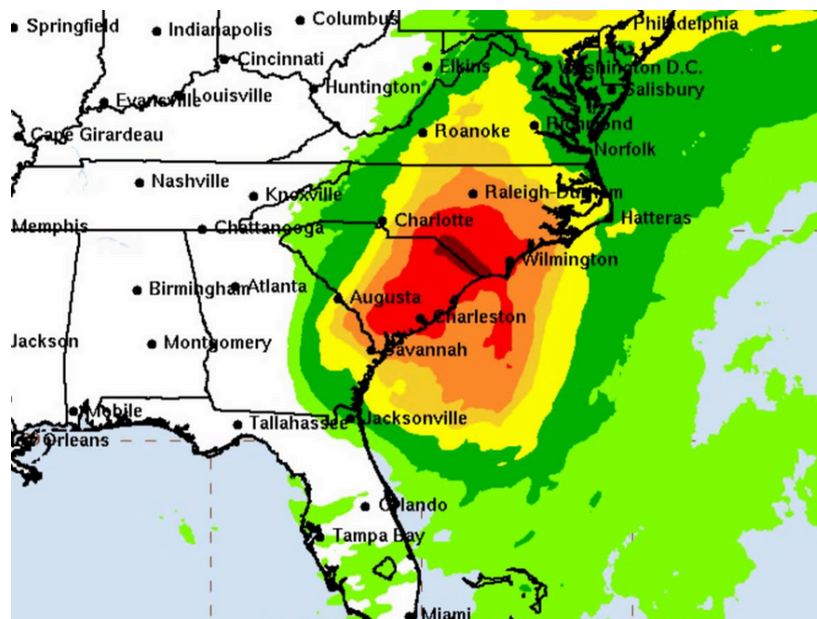
As always, you may mail your \$30 renewal to **CFCWRT 8387 E Highcroft NE, Leland, NC 28451** or you may renew online if that is more convenient.

As was announced in last month's *Runner* and effective at our next meeting, member **Kim Berger** will be assuming the duties associated with the Membership Chair. Her resume is solid, and she is far more charming than myself. In short, it's been a fun run, and I thank you all for your cooperation, indeed, your round table membership. I plan to remain active in round table activities.

Bruce Patterson



Tropical Storm Debby Cancels August Meeting



In early August, the National Weather Service predicted the “potential for Extreme Flooding Rain across all of northeast South Carolina and southeast North Carolina” because of Tropical Storm Debby. “Life-threatening flash flooding” and “tropical storm force winds” were also in the forecast. Local governments closed their offices and warned residents of the Lower Cape Fear to stay home on August 8, when our meeting was scheduled.

In light of the forecast, I decided to cancel the regularly scheduled meeting of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table on Thursday evening, August 8. Hopefully, all our members and friends were made aware of the fact that the meeting had been cancelled. As it turned out, the storm had little serious impact in our area and that’s a good thing. I hope everyone is safe.

We were planning to elect new officers at the August meeting but, instead, election of officers will be the first order of business at our September 12 meeting.

The August meeting was to feature the third session in our summer Members Forum series. Titled “Generalship: Theory and Substance,” this audience-participation program was to have been presented by round table member John Weisz, a West Point graduate and retired U.S. Army officer.

The presentation has been re-scheduled for December 2024. John will describe the characteristics of successful generals in the Civil War. He will bring the audience into the study of campaigns through practical exercises. Teams will form and will be provided with the information needed by the commander and several options as to which maneuver to execute. The audience will not be provided with the identity of the generals and where the engagements were fought ahead of the exercise but, by the end, will surely be able to determine who and where. Looking forward to the program in December!

Events Celebrating History in the Cape Fear Region

By: Yelena Howell

Wednesday, September 4, 1:30-2 pm. Cameron Art Museum, 3201 South 17th St., Wilmington. Public Museum Tour. Free with admission; recurs every Wednesday of this month. <https://cameronartmuseum.org/events/> CAM: (910) 395-5999

Saturday, September 7, or Saturday, September 21, 8-9 pm. Latimer House Night Tour: "Step Into the Era of Gas Light!" 126 S. 3rd St., Wilmington. Tickets are \$22: <https://latimerhouse.org/tours/>

Wednesday, September 11, 6:30-8 pm, Burgwin-Wright House, 224 Market St., Wilmington. Cape Fear Revolutionary War Table quarterly meeting featuring Nancy Fonvielle's marvelous fudge. James Legg, historical archaeologist, will discuss the archaeology of the Battle of Camden (1780), including the excavation of the remains of fourteen soldiers. Non-members welcome to attend with a \$5 contribution or to join CFRWRT at the door. Info: cfrwrt@gmail.com

Friday, September 13, 9-10:30 am. Burgwin-Wright House, 224 Market St., Wilmington. Colonial Wilmington & The Revolution Walking Tour. Join storyteller extraordinaire Hunter Ingram to learn about Wilmington in the 1770s by visiting important period places like the former jail, courthouse and market sites. \$20+ tax, call to book: (910) 762-0570

Friday, September 13, 6-7:30 pm. Bellamy Mansion Museum, 503 Market St., Wilmington. Past Meets Pavement: Wilmington and the American Civil War walking tour. \$20, no walk-ups, please: <https://tinyurl.com/BellamyACW> Info: (910) 251-3700 or info@bellamymansion.org

Tuesday, September 17, 7-8 pm. North Carolina Maritime Museum, Community Building, 223 E. Bay St., Southport. Rod Gragg, historian and award-winning author of *Confederate Goliath* and more than twenty other books, will discuss the role of the Federal Navy in the fall of Fort Fisher. No charge to attend, but pre-registration is needed: <https://tinyurl.com/MrRodGragg>

Sunday, September 22, 10am-12pm. Dr. Chris E. Fonvielle Jr. and Wilmington Water Tours present a river cruise themed around Wilmington and the Lower Cape Fear after the Civil War and through the end of the nineteenth century. \$25 (ages 4-12), \$45 (ages 13+): <https://tinyurl.com/ThePostWar>

Wednesday, September 25, 9:45-11 am. Remembering Our Heroes (ROH) at NHC Senior Center, 2222 South College Road (Shipyard and College). WWII Tank Warfare lecture series concludes with "Armored Cavalry" by John Weisz. No charge. Info: (910) 798-6400 or <https://tinyurl.com/ROHTanks>

Saturday, September 28, 5-8 pm. Cameron Art Museum, 3201 South 17th St., Wilmington. Second Annual Barbecue Bourbon Bash. Summer comfort foods, including a variety of barbecue favorites, sides, and cocktails from a local distillery. At 6 pm, the local band Hood's Creek will cover a selection of classic rock hits. CAM members: \$45, general public \$65, children 10 y.o. and under \$15: <https://tinyurl.com/CAMBBCue> or (910) 395-5999

Wreaths Across America



Wreaths Across America - that annual Wilmington community-wide effort, to place a Christmas wreath on every Christian grave located within our Wilmington National Cemetery (some 5200 wreaths).

Our Cape Fear Civil War Round Table has been a part of that effort for the past decade and have contributed greatly to the success of the community effort. We planned to begin our campaign a month earlier than usual, but a storm called Debbie thought differently, thus our inaugural 2024 effort begins at our September 12th meeting.

Please consider contributing to this worthy effort by purchasing a wreath, priced at only \$17 each. We can accept your personal check made out to Wreaths Across America (WAA) or cash. Many members purchase a package of 5 wreaths at \$85. Recall please that our round table receives \$5 for every sponsored wreath, thus this effort also becomes a fund-raising benefit for us as well.

Please see members **Kim Jordan** or **Bruce Patterson** at the next meeting to make your contribution.

If you prefer to sponsor a wreath online, here is CFCWRT's 2024 link:

<https://tinyurl.com/CFCWRTWreaths>

September Meeting Features

Jefferson Davis, George W. Rains, and the Confederate Gunpowder Strategy

Our Cape Fear Civil War Round Table invites all members and friends to attend the first meeting of our 2024-25 “Campaign” year. This year marks the significant milestone of 30 years of learning about the history of the Civil War through stimulating, entertaining presentations by some of the foremost Civil War historians in the country. As usual, the meeting will be held on Thursday evening, September 12, 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.



Fittingly, our first speaker this campaign year is Theodore P. “Ted” Savas. A native of northern Iowa, 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, and has been a full-time publisher and writer since 1990.

An organization called the Civil War Round Table Associates met in Wilmington in the summer of 1993 and Ted was one of the speakers at the conference. That conference became the catalyst for the establishment of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table in 1994.

Ted has authored many books as well as publishing literally hundreds of important military history studies. He is the owner of Savas-Beatie Publishing. He was one of the authors of *Never for Want of Powder: The Confederate Powder Works in Augusta, Georgia*, with co-authors C. L. Bragg, Gordon A. Blaker, Charles D. Ross, and Stephanie A. T. Jacobe.

We have all been taught to believe Confederate President 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. This strategy is known as the “Perimeter Defense.” The Union, of course, famously adopted the “Anaconda Plan” devised by chief Union general Winfield Scott. Scott’s plan called for a naval blockade of the south coupled with a powerful joint Army-Navy offensive down the Mississippi River.

While controlling the waters along the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico, the United States sought to defend the line of the Ohio River in the north and gain control of the Mississippi River in the west and then invade the south at key points to end the rebellion. In a letter to Major General George B. McClellan, Lt. General Scott said his strategy aimed “to envelop the insurgent states and bring them to terms with less bloodshed than any other plan.” Should the plan to open the Mississippi to U.S. control fail, General Scott foresaw the necessity of conquering “the seceding states by invading armies.” His prediction, of course, was right on point.

September Meeting Features Jefferson Davis, George W. Rains, and the Confederate Gunpowder Strategy Cont.



The U.S. Army Center for Military History states: “in 1861 the geographic situation appeared to favor the South. Borrowing from the antebellum U.S. Army system, Davis divided the Confederacy into eight departments. He dispersed his military forces around the Confederacy’s perimeter in the hope that the sheer size of the new nation would work in its favor by making it difficult for Federal commanders to coordinate multiple thrusts into Southern territory. The Southerners planned to counter Federal offensives by transferring troops from unthreatened areas to reinforce any department under attack. A successful defense of Confederate borders would demonstrate that the new nation could protect its sovereignty, increasing its chances of international recognition.”

According to Ted Savas, it is demonstrably false to blame the loss of the war on Davis’s Perimeter Defense Strategy, 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.

Ted links Davis’s success to the immensely significant but generally unknown Confederate Colonel George Washington Rains, one of the two “Bomb Brothers.” George Rains was a native of New Bern, N.C., who graduated from West Point and became an officer in the U.S. Army. He was always fascinated by chemistry and became a noted expert on chemistry, including a stint as an assistant professor at West Point. After U.S. service that included combat in the Seminole Wars in Florida and the War with Mexico, he left the Army and became proprietor of an iron works in New York’s Hudson Valley, manufacturing steam engines and boilers. His older brother, Gabriel, also graduated from West Point and went on to become a Confederate general in charge of the Confederacy’s mine program, devising, manufacturing and planting “infernal machines” including both land mines and nautical mines.

In partnership with George Rains, Jefferson Davis employed a strategy that avoided defeat early in the war and contributed to the Confederacy’s chances for ultimate success. Although little remembered today, Col. Rains went on to establish the Confederacy’s very modern and very successful gunpowder works in Augusta, GA. The war you think you understand was not the war that was actually waged, according to Ted Savas.

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. 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 members of the round table. And, remember, we will be electing new officers in September. Bring a friend! For information about membership in the round table, go to our website at <http://cfcwrt.org> and click on “Join”.

See you there!

Brunswick Civil War Round Table Announcement



Returning on Tuesday, September 3rd to captivate his audience with another dramatic performance is popular historian Chris Mackowski, award-winning author and co-founder of Emerging Civil War. His presentation is entitled, “The Battle of Spotsylvania Court House.”

Chris will describe one of the bloodiest battles of the war between Generals Lee and Grant; a battle that cost over 30,000 lives over a 12-day period in May, 1864. It was an incredible battle that ended in a draw. Lee then retreated to Richmond, and Grant ordered his troops to continue their march also toward Richmond. Both were determined to be victorious, and eventually put an end to the war.

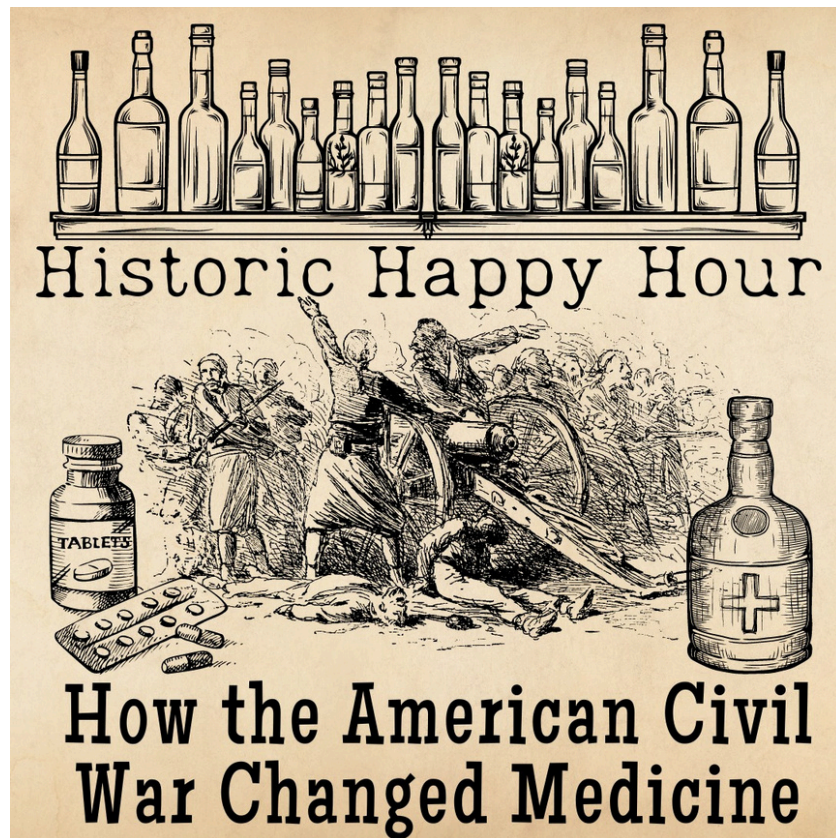


This will be the first meeting of the new season, and will take place at Hatch Auditorium on Caswell Beach. Everyone is welcome. Registration for this first meeting begins Tuesday, the day after Labor Day, at 6:15PM. The program starts at 7:00PM.

The guest fee remains \$10, and can be applied toward the \$25 annual membership dues, which can include a spouse. For more information, contact president John Butler at Brunswickcwrtable@gmail.com, or call him at (404) 229-9425. Or, visit their website at <https://brunswickcivilwarroundtable.com> and their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/brunswickcivilwarroundtable>.



Old Baldy Lighthouse and Smith Island Museum of History



Join us on September 10th at 4:30 PM
For an enlightening evening at the iconic Old Baldy Lighthouse!

Topic: "How the American Civil War Changed Medicine"

Speaker: Desiree Bridge – Historian, Customer Liaison and Merchandise Specialist at Turtle Central, and Baker

Bring a chair and discover the surprising truths behind medical advancements that emerged from the American Civil War. Desiree will debunk myths from movies and shed light on how the U.S. lagged behind Europe in medical practices.

Enjoy a unique blend of history, beers, and a selection of wines, all with a stunning lighthouse view. Don't miss this chance to dive deep into local history and sip on delicious drinks!

Book your tickets here: <https://bit.ly/3UKwhO6>

“Don’t Use The Stuff!”

By: Bill Jayne



The venerable, tabloid-style *Civil War News* has transitioned to a glossy, bimonthly magazine. The first issue has an interesting article about Civil War food titled “Peanuts and Parched Corn.” Apparently “peanut coffee” was a thing in the south because it was difficult to import coffee beans because of the blockade and given all the other supplies needed by the Confederacy.

So, several alternatives to coffee sprouted up. The magazine article says that peanut coffee was made from $\frac{1}{3}$ cup of peanuts, $\frac{1}{3}$ cup rye or wheat, and $\frac{1}{3}$ cup of cow peas (black-eyed peas). “The three ingredients are roasted black, then ground up and brewed.”

Interestingly enough, the article then quotes the Wilmington, N.C., *Daily Journal* of October 3, 1861, for a review of the finished cup. The newspaper opined:

“Don’t use the stuff. There isn’t one cook in five hundred who ever did anything else than ruin it. Some of the papers are recommending substitute-parched beans, rye, peans, acorns, etc. Swamp mud will blacken water just as effectually but neither will it make coffee...Think of paying forty cents a pound for charcoal to embitter and blacken the water you drink. The practice should be suppressed by the Board of Health, if there were no war to do it.”

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