



Civil War Round Table announces programs for September 2023 thru May 2024

The Brunswick Civil War Round Table is pleased to announce an exceptional lineup of monthly programs beginning September 5th. Meetings will focus on Civil War events and highlights designed to enlighten and entertain its audiences. Guest speakers include renowned historians, battlefield guides, authors, and college professors discussing unique and interesting topics of interest to both men and women, young and old, and, of course, Civil War enthusiasts, who wish to learn more about this important period in our country's history. These thought-provoking programs are the main reason this non-profit organization, now in its 13th year, continues to hold the coveted reputation of being the largest Civil War round table in the country, adding 193 new members just this past season. Programs scheduled for the upcoming season are sure to continue this momentum.

Tuesday, September 5th: **“Marble Nash Taylor and Edward Stanley: North Carolina’s Two Civil War Union Generals.”** Interesting events unfolded in 1861 when two pro-Northern “governors” emerged proclaiming themselves to be the true loyal governor of the state; one self-proclaimed, the other named a “real” Union governor by President Lincoln. **Guest speaker:** Max Longley, an associate with the Emerging Civil War Speakers Program, and a prolific writer of numerous articles and books on various Civil War topics.

Tuesday, October 3rd: **“The Naval Civil War in Theaters Near and Far.”** Naval operations, or “theaters,” are rarely highlighted when discussing Civil War military history. This presentation, however, will discuss distinctive strategic, tactical, technological, and command characteristics of naval theaters and their contributions to land campaigns. **Guest speaker:** Dwight Hughes is a U.S. Naval Academy graduate, a Civil War historian, author, and speaker on naval history, combining his love of the sea with his fascination of Civil War history.

Monday, October 30th: Civil War Ladies’ Forum (Sponsored by BCWRT): **“Sex in the Civil War.”** A tastefully implemented PowerPoint presentation for the ladies which was first presented five years ago is returning by popular demand! **Guest speaker:** Chris E. Fonvielle, Jr. is Professor Emeritus, Dept. of History at UNCW, a native of Wilmington, award-winning Civil War historian, author, tour guide, and always ready to entertain his audiences on a variety of Civil War topics.

Tuesday, November 7th: **“Gettysburg’s Southern Front: Opportunity and Failure at Richmond.”** We will get an in-depth look into this little-known Federal advance against Richmond during the Gettysburg Campaign. This includes military operations, as well as issues of diplomacy, U.S. war policy, and involvement of enslaved people. **Guest speaker:** Hampton Newsome is an attorney, and a highly acclaimed, award-winning author of books on Civil War history, including this presentation based on his book of the same title.

Tuesday, December 5th: **“Civil War Photography Extravaganza.”** Prepare for a unique and dramatic photographic tour of the Civil War in a manner available nowhere else. Our presenter will also explain the birth of photojournalism, technological innovations, and while difficult to see, the first photos of American dead soldiers. **Guest speaker:** Garry Adelman is a nationally renowned expert of Civil War photography. Plus, he is a prolific award-winning author, licensed battlefield guide, frequent guest lecturer, and is currently the chief historian of the American Battlefield Trust.

Tuesday, January 2, 2024: **“Civil War, Uninterrupted: Jefferson Davis, George Washington Rains, and Confederate Gunpowder Strategy.”** George Rains was instrumental in providing Jefferson Davis’s army with gunpowder. This enabled

the South to achieve early success at the Battle of Bull Run in 1861, building momentum and confidence in the South's war effort. It was referred to as the "Confederate gunpowder strategy," a critical component of their war effort. **Guest speaker:** Ted Savas is an award-winning author, college professor, attorney, and publisher of a company specializing in military and general history subjects.

Tuesday, February 6th: **"A Great Race between Two Rivers: Sherman's March toward Fayetteville."** As part of the Carolinas Campaign, Sherman's army took control of Fayetteville, destroying the Fayetteville Arsenal, foraged for food and supplies, burned private homes and businesses which demoralized Confederate forces and the civilian population. This was a strategic effort toward ending the war. **Guest speaker:** Colonel Wade Sokolowsky (Ret.) is a 25-year U.S. army veteran, author, frequent lecturer, and one of North Carolina's leading experts of the 1865 Carolinas Campaign.

Tuesday, March 5th: **"Treated Worse Than Felons Before Prisons Were Reformed: The Civil War's Crisis of Imprisonment."** Both the Union and Confederates were unprepared for the large number of prisoners taken in during the war. This led to a crisis of overcrowding, poor treatment, and unsanitary conditions, eventually leading to extensive prison reform. **Guest speaker:** Angela Zombek is Assistant Professor of History at UNCW, and is the author of a book, numerous articles, and book chapters on imprisonment in the Civil War era.

April 2nd: **"Why the Civil War is Still Important."** Consider the fact that we became a single nation. It marked the end of slavery. It brought great innovation and technological advancements; e.g., new weapons, transportation systems, and medical techniques. The sheer bloodiness of the conflict shocked our senses, strengthened democracy, resulting in optimism and prosperity ever since. **Guest speaker:** Chris Fonvielle, Wilmington's favorite local historian and dynamic speaker, returns once again by popular demand to enlighten and entertain us.

May 5th: **"Contributions of the USCTs During the Civil War."** Fact: nearly 200,000 African American soldiers fought in the Civil War. While their contributions are too numerous to mention here, it is worth noting their many contributions resulted from their involvement in every major battle throughout the

war, earning 20 Medals of Honor. **Guest speaker:** Edward W. Gantt is a retired U.S. Navy Captain, high school teacher, Civil War re-enactor, and currently president of the re-formed 23rd Regiment USCT in Spotsylvania, Virginia.

Everyone is invited to visit or become a member. Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of every month except June through August in the comfort of the newly renovated Hatch Auditorium on Caswell Beach. Registration begins at 6:15PM. Programs start at 7:00PM. The visitor fee is \$10, which can include a spouse, and may be applied toward the \$25 annual membership dues. For more information, please contact President John Butler at Brunswickcwr@gmail.com, or call him at (404) 229-9425. Also, visit their website at Brunswickcivilwarroundtable.com to become a member or renew your current membership, or visit their Facebook page for additional information, news and updates.