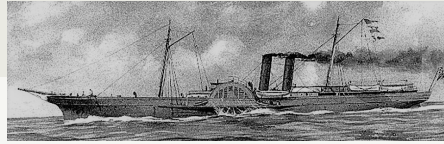




MAY 2019

# THE RUNNER



VOLUME 1 ISSUE 4

## *Brian Kraus - Retribution: Six Months Later*

On May 9th, we will welcome Brian Kraus, an expert on the Civil War, especially in Coastal Carolina. A resident of Morehead City, he's also a reenactor and artist. Brian has regaled our Round Table several times in the past and this time he returns to Wilmington to talk about the *Battle of New Bern* on March 14, 1862, and the *Battle of Sharpsburg* (Antietam) on September 17, 1862. Many of the same units and soldiers improbably faced off at both battles, with wildly different results. The events of the six months between these two battles were momentous ones for the nation and for the soldiers on both sides. Don't miss this presentation, which will be held at Harbor Church on Masonboro Loop.



## *Chris Fonvielle - The Wilmington Campaign*

With incomparable command of the subject, Chris Fonvielle, professor emeritus of history from UNCW gave our audience at the Cape Fear Museum an enlightening view of the Wilmington Campaign. Moving from the 30,000-foot strategic and political view to the ground level view of the soldiers and sailors at the guns, he kept the audience asking for more.

While Wilmington with its railroad connections and two channels connecting the Cape Fear with the ocean, was by far the most important blockade running port in the south, Charleston, S.C., gathered much more attention from the Federal commanders in Washington. In fact, Charleston, we learned, endured a 587-day siege, the longest in American history. While Charleston was also an important port with excellent rail connections, its political value served to focus the attention of President Lincoln and his military commanders on the "birthplace of the rebellion," while Wilmington continued to ship more cotton and offload more military materiel until the final stages of the war.

A Wilmington native, life-long student of the Civil War, and, in fact, the first speaker in the history of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table, Professor Fonvielle, told the story of the failure of the December 1864 attack on Fort Fisher, including personal details. When the fort's commander, Col. William Lamb, saw that the Federal ships seemed to be concentrating their fire at the flags of the fort, he had flags placed at locations where incoming fire would do the least harm. Young Private Kit Bland courageously shinned up a flagpole without halyards to place a flag at the top of the Mound Battery at the southern end of the sea face. Bland, we learned, took on the dangerous job because fellow Private Noah Bennett, at 198 pounds, was too heavy to climb

(Continued on page 2)

## NEXT PRESENTATION

- ◆ Thursday, 05-09-19
- ◆ Speaker: **Brian Kraus**  
**Retribution: Six Months Later**
- ◆ 6:30 Social 7:00 Meeting
- ◆ Harbor UMC  
4853 Masonboro Loop Rd.  
Wilmington



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## *Chris Fonvielle - The Wilmington Campaign, cont.*

the flagpole. Another flag near the river drew Union fire that most often overshot the fort and landed harmlessly in the river west of the fort.

The failure of December, however, led to the determination of U.S. Grant to immediately mount a renewed and improved effort that led to complete success in January 1865. The Union fleet learned its lesson and concentrated the fire of 627 guns on the fort's guns. With the fort taken, the port of Wilmington lost its value but continued to tie down a large number of Federal troops as they moved north up both sides of the river. Confederates were still capable of a counter attack that might succeed in retaking the fort and once again opening the port. In fact, Robert E. Lee and Jefferson Davis both argued the importance of a counterattack but General Braxton Bragg simply fell back on Wilmington and, in fact, at a crucial time after the fall

of the fort, travelled back to Richmond for more than a week in order to reorganize his staff in the Confederate capital, a staff that was no longer needed because Bragg was no longer the chief military advisor to President Davis.



CHRIS FONVIELLE



CINDY RICHARDS, CHRIS FONVIELLE,  
LINDA LASHLEY, BRENDA SHADRICK



ED GIBSON, GREG WILLETT, BRUCE PATTERSON, CHRIS  
FONVIELLE, BILL JAYNE, BOB COOKE

## June Round Table Discussion A Nearly Forgotten Campaign of 1863

As part of our expanded summer program, the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table will host a true “round table” discussion about the Charleston campaign of 1863.

Charleston, of course, was the “seat of rebellion.” It was the most important city in South Carolina, the state that led the way in secession and the place where the most destructive war in the nation’s history erupted when southern forces fired on Fort Sumter dominating the entrance to the harbor.

By 1863, Charleston remained a potent symbol and was also the most important blockade running port in the Confederacy. Its railroads connected the port to the primary Confederate armies in both Virginia and Tennessee.

The summer of 1863 seemed, even at the time, the most fateful of the war. Vicksburg fell and “the father of waters once again goes unvexed to the sea,” and the Army of Northern Virginia reached its “high water mark” at Gettysburg, and then receded. What would have happened if Charleston had fallen in that summer?

The pictures below were taken from Ft. Moultrie on Sullivan’s Island. The distance to Ft. Sumter is only 1800 yards. (*See map on page 4.*) On April 7, 1863, Admiral Samuel F. DuPont took a fleet of nine U.S. Navy ironclads, including seven monitors, into that narrow space and attempted to reduce the forts or run through the gauntlet into the harbor. An effective barrier in the channel and the overwhelming volume of accurate fire from the forts stopped the attempt, although more effective planning and joint Army-Navy operations might have led to success.



VIEW OF FT. SUMTER  
FROM FT. MOULTRIE

Another picture shows the lighthouse at the southern end of what was then Morris Island. The island has since washed into the ocean but in 1863 it was the scene of fierce fighting in which the Union army eventually reduced Battery Wagner and other Confederate positions, allowing them to virtually close off the main shipping channel, which ran parallel to the island. Firing from Morris Island, the Union battered Ft. Sumter into a pile of rubble. The famous fort was no longer effective as an artillery platform but, as a lightly manned infantry post, it anchored the

obstructions that prevented Union warships from steaming into the harbor. Although the Confederates didn’t abandon the fort until 1865, Charleston was no longer the premier blockade running port in the south. That distinction fell to Wilmington.

The monitor attack in April illustrated the limitations of those revolutionary little ships and led to the relief



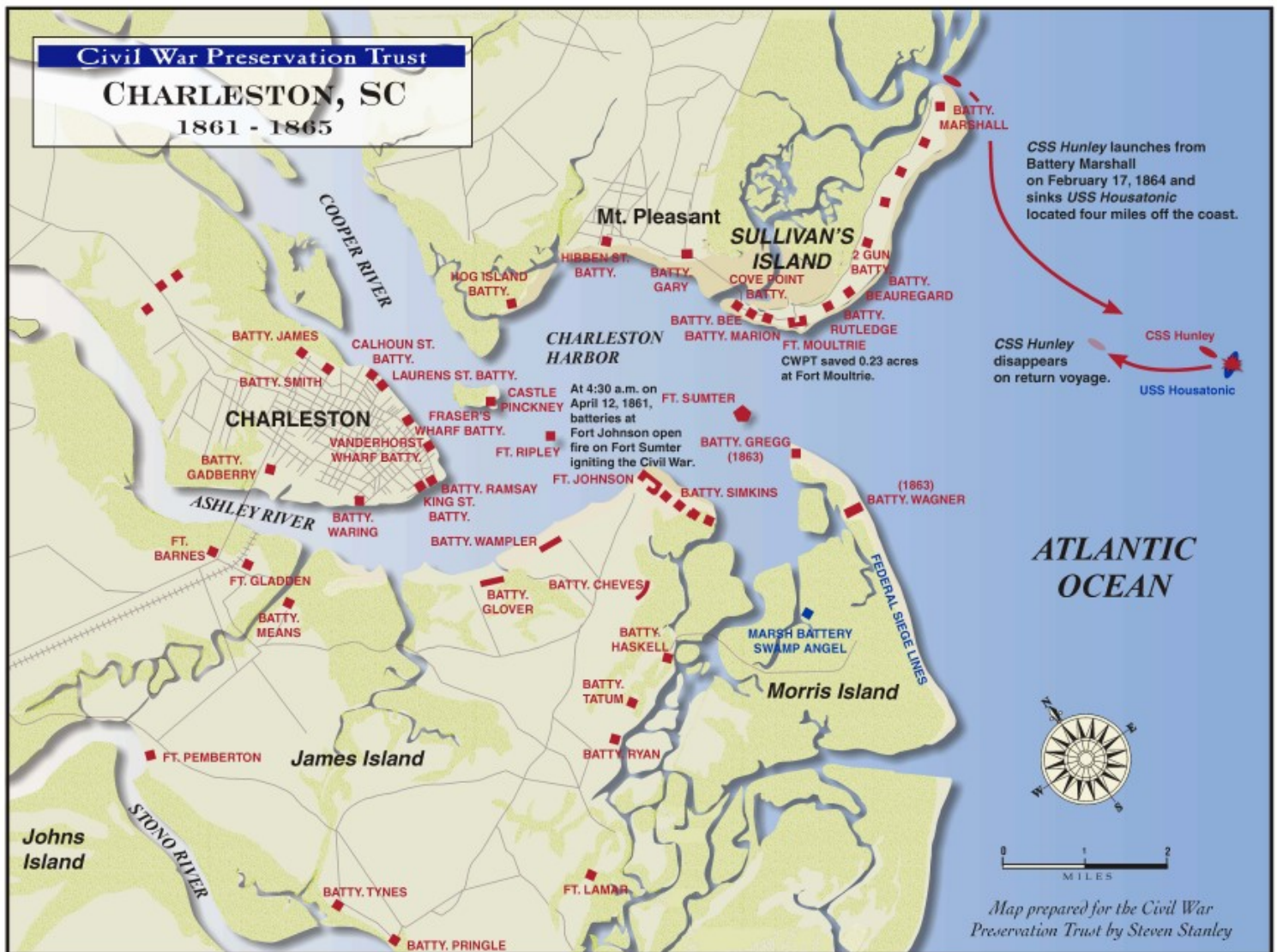
MORRIS ISLAND LIGHTHOUSE

(Continued on page 4)

## June Round Table Discussion A Nearly Forgotten Campaign of 1863, cont.

of Admiral DuPont. His replacement was Admiral John Dahlgren of gun invention fame. He was somewhat more cooperative with General Quincy Gillmore, commander of Union ground forces. The grinding summer campaign on Morris Island—with Battery Wagner at its heart—led to more than 2,318 Union casualties and over 1,000 Confederate losses. Those numbers don't include substantial losses to illness and disease.

(Continued on page 5)



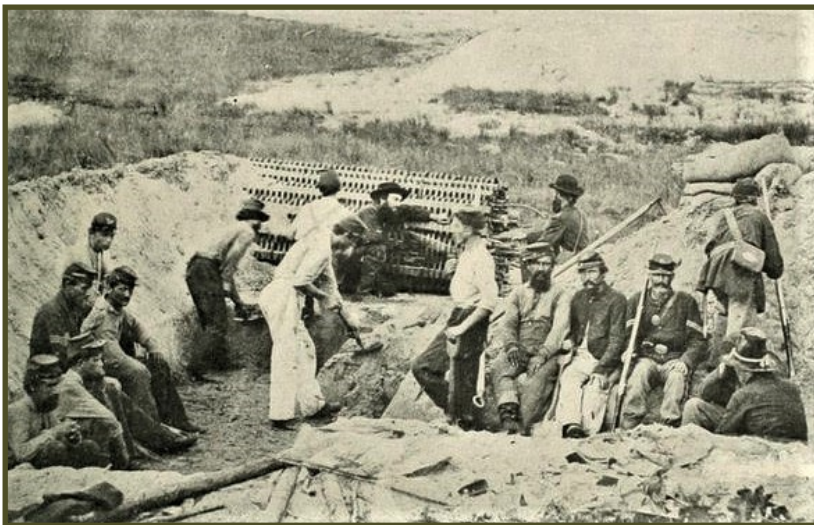
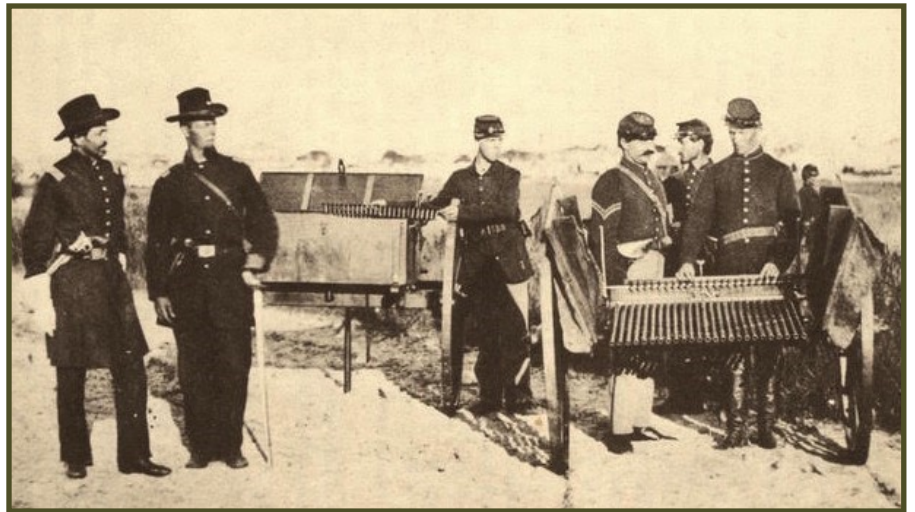
## *June Round Table Discussion A Nearly Forgotten Campaign of 1863, cont.*

The land campaign evolved into something that presaged the trench warfare of World War I. It featured extensive trenches, and regular relief of both Union and Confederate forces on the firing line because duty was so dangerous and trying. Technology came into play, too, as the Union developed a “sap roller” used to protect Union soldiers as they dug trenches perpendicular to the Confederate position. Several Requa Batteries, an early version of the machine gun, also made their appearance along with numerous “torpedoes” or mines.

The discussion will focus on the reasons for the Union failure to achieve total victory. Was it political meddling? Was it an overconfident reliance on new technology? Was it the personality conflicts and poor doctrine that made effective Union joint operations impossible? Was it the skill and tenacity of the Confederate defense, led by General P.G.T. Beauregard?

More will be forthcoming about the round table but there is a great deal of good information available online and the books **Success Is All That Was Expected** by Robert M. Browning, Jr., and **Gate of Hell** by Stephen R. Wise are excellent volumes.

SECTION OF REQUA BATTERY  
THIRTY-NINTH ILLINOIS  
MORRIS ISLAND, SC 1863



FEDERAL TROOPS EXTEND THEIR  
TRENCHES ON MORRIS ISLAND  
DURING THE SIEGE OF FORT  
WAGNER. A MOVABLE SAP ROLL-  
ER IS USED TO PROTECT THE MEN  
OF THE 1ST NEW YORK ENGI-  
NEERS AS THEY WORK.

*June Round Table Discussion  
A Nearly Forgotten Campaign of 1863, cont.*



THE CONFEDERATE SIGNAL STATION ON MORRIS ISLAND, AFTERWARDS OCCUPIED BY UNION TROOPS. A NUMBER OF SHOT AND SHELL HAVE PASSED THROUGH THE ROOF. THE CONFEDERATES USED THIS AS A BEACON TO SIGNAL THE BLOCKADE RUNNERS.

FROM THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS.

*Writers Wanted - The Runner*

Is there a particular part of the Civil War that interest you to the point you would be willing to share what you've learned? Do you have an opinion about a Civil War battle, campaign, or political shenanigans that you would like to share in *The Runner*? Are you a budding writer, blogger, or Civil War Pundit? If so, please contact [Sherry Hewitt](#), *The Runner* Editor.

## *CFCWRT Upcoming events*

### SUMMER SERIES

**June Round Table Discussion:** Discussion to be led by Bill Jayne on closing Charleston Harbor, including the Confederate defenses, the failures of Union joint operations and the defeats of the monitor attack on April 7, 1863 and the repulses of the Union army at Battery Wagner in July of 1863.

**July tour:** A weekend tour is being planned of Oakdale Cemetery. Details upcoming.

**August Member Forum:** Our August meeting will be an opportunity for 3 to 4 of our own Round Table members to share a short (5 to 15 minute) presentation on some aspect of the Civil War that they personally find interesting and that they feel would be of interest to the Round Table. This could be the story of an ancestor, something about a particular soldier or sailor, an event, an incident or anecdote, a little-known fact, or something about uniforms, equipment or technology. It could also be something involving local civil war sites or people.

The presentations should be factual, accurate, and, of general interest. If you elect to use a visual presentation, the usual computer and A/V equipment will be available.

Please contact [Jim Gannon](#) at 910-270 5534 if you would like to make a presentation.

## *Trivia Questions*

1. When was New Inlet created? How was it created?
2. Who was "Old Triplicate"?
3. Who played Secretary of the Navy Gideon Welles in Steven Spielberg's movie, "*Lincoln*"?
4. Why did Confederate General Braxton Bragg leave Wilmington after the fall of Fort Fisher?

Answers on Page 9

## *Raffle*

Although a raffle was not held in April, we do expect to hold one in May. If you have books, prints, or other items that you would like to donate to the raffle, contact Raffle Master [Ed Gibson](#) before our next meeting. The raffle is one of the components which the CFCWRT uses to fund our activities and our speakers. Please take part in our raffle by contributing items and/or purchasing tickets.

## *Ed Bearss - The First Shots in Charleston*

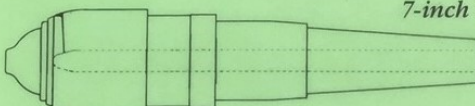
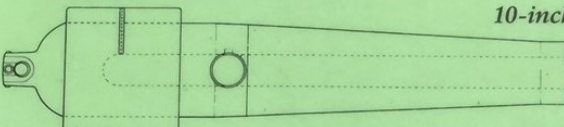
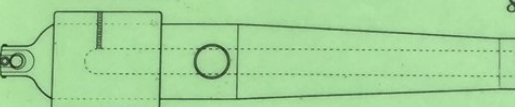

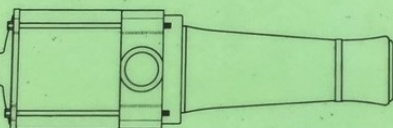

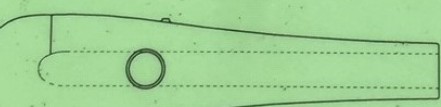
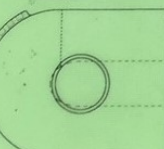
Edwin C. Bearss spoke to the Fort Sumter Civil War Round Table in Charleston on April 24th. For those who might not know, Ed Bearss, Historian Emeritus of the National Park Service, is America's premier Civil War historian. At age 96 Ed is still out doing programs all over the country.

Ed's program was "The First Shots in Charleston." He discussed political as well as military "first shots" and covered the period from the election of Abraham Lincoln on November 6, 1860 to the attack on Fort Sumter on April 12, 1861.



CANNON ROW AT FT. MOULTRIE ON SULLIVAN'S ISLAND

## Cannon Row

	<b>7-inch Triple-Banded Brooke</b> 21,290 pounds CS Army Produced: 3 Survivors: 1
	<b>10-inch Parrott Rifle</b> 26,900 pounds US Army Produced: 42 Survivors: 13
	<b>8-inch Parrott Rifle</b> 16,487 pounds US Army Produced: 178 Survivors: 8
	<b>10-inch Confederate Columbiad</b> 13,290 pounds CS Army Produced: 135 Survivors: 18
	<b>Modified 10-inch Columbiad</b> 22,000 pounds US Army/CS Army Produced: 149 Survivors: 14*
	<b>10-inch Rodman</b> 14,956 pounds US Army Produced: 1,291 Survivors: 98
	<b>10-inch Rodman</b> 14,980 pounds US Army Produced: 1,291 Survivors: 98
	<b>13-inch Mortar</b> 17,196 pounds US Army Produced: 90 Survivors: 27



### Trivia Answers

1. New Inlet was the northern channel into the Cape Fear River, just below Fort Fisher, that gave blockade runners a second entrance into the river and greatly complicated the Union Navy's mission to stop the runners. It was created in 1761 by a "severe equinoctial storm" that battered the region for four days. It was closed off in the late 19th Century in an effort to keep the river from filling up with silt from the ocean.
2. Admiral Samuel Phillips Lee was named commander of the U.S. North Atlantic Blockading Squadron in September 1862, at the age of 50. He was appointed a midshipman in 1825 and held many important posts in the Navy, yet he was known for his often distracting attention to detail. He was born at Sully Plantation in Fairfax County, Virginia, and he was the grandson of Richard Henry Lee, which made him a distant cousin of Robert E. Lee. He married the daughter of Francis P. Blair, Sr. His brother-in-law, Montgomery Blair, served as Postmaster General in Lincoln's cabinet. When Admiral Lee was asked about his loyalty to the U.S. Navy, he said "When I find the word Virginia in my commission, I will join the Confederacy."
3. Born in Greenwood, S.C., the role of "Father Neptune" was played by actor and polo player Grainger Hines.
4. In late January 1865, after Ft. Fisher had fallen, the Confederate government finally moved to install General Robert E. Lee as general in chief of all Confederate forces. This deprived Bragg of his position as military advisor to President Jefferson Davis, leaving Bragg's staff in Richmond in the precarious position of being without authorized billets. In typically officious and bureaucratic fashion, Bragg and his military secretary, John B. Sale, engineered an order from President Davis to Bragg telling him to come to Richmond. So, on February 10, with the fort fallen, Union ships in the Cape Fear River and Union divisions pressing Confederate defenders on both sides of the river, Bragg left for Richmond to reorganize his staff. He returned on February 21 but by that time the city had fallen. When he returned to the region, he wrote: "I find on arrival, that our forces are driven from the west bank of Cape Fear."

NEW INLET - IT  
WAS CREATED IN  
1761 BY A  
"SEVERE EQUI-  
NOCTIAL STORM"  
THAT BATTERED  
THE REGION FOR  
FOUR DAYS.

### Upcoming Events

#### CSS Neuse Civil War Interpretive Center

♦ **May 4, Special program, "[Long Arms of the Civil War](#)"**

Learn about the development of Long Arms during the Civil War and how they shaped our modern world in Kinston. 10 am-4 pm. Free.

#### Petersburg National Battlefield

♦ **June 15-16, [The Opening Attacks at Petersburg](#)**

Anniversary living history and walking tours at the Petersburg National Battlefield. 10 am-4 pm. Free with park admission. [nps.gov/pete](https://www.nps.gov/pete)

#### Bentonville Battlefield - State Historic Site

♦ **August 24, Life on Campaign: Summer Living History at Bentonville Battlefield**

Infantry displays by the 27th NC Co. D [Bentonville Battlefield](#)



## CAPE FEAR CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

YOU CAN FIND US ON THE WEB! [CFCWRT.ORG](http://CFCWRT.ORG)

VISIT US ON FACEBOOK: [CFCWRT](https://www.facebook.com/CFCWRT)

### *Links*

#### [The Center for Civil War Photography](#)

Currently, the Center serves as the only clearinghouse for information about Civil War photography on the Internet.

#### [Fort Fisher](#)

Site of Civil War's largest Amphibious (Land and Water) Battle, the remaining portion of the gigantic Fort Fisher earthworks, along with a restored palisade fence, impressive seacoast gun, exhibits, artifacts, and much more.

#### [Medicine in the Civil War](#)

This website covers the following Civil War medical topics: hospitals, transportation, sanitation, anesthesia, amputations, and medications.

### *Sponsor*



THE RUNNER is the official newsletter of the CFCWRT and is published monthly.

If you have member news or news about Civil War events that you think would be of interest to the CFCWRT membership, send an email with the details to the editor, [Sherry Hewitt](#). Thank you.

### *Steering Committee—Officers*

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CAPE FEAR CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

PO Box 15750

Wilmington, NC 28408

The Cape Fear Civil War Round Table is a non-profit organization made up of men and women who have a common interest in the history of the Civil War. The meetings include a speaker each month covering some aspect of the Civil War. This serves our purpose of encouraging education and research into that historical conflict.

Click here for membership information: [Membership Application](#)