

NC's Confederate Hospitals Topic of Cape Fear Round Table

Wade Sokolosky, Col. U.S. Army (Ret.), will present a program titled "North Carolina's Confederate Hospitals" at the Thursday, February 9 meeting of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table. The Round Table meets at St. John's Episcopal Church, Wilmington, NC. The doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting begins at 7:00 p.m.

A resident of the sound side town of Beaufort, NC, where he grew up, Col. Sokolosky is a graduate of East Carolina University and a 25-year veteran of the U.S. Army. He is one of North Carolina's



leading experts of the 1865 Carolinas Campaign, the name given to Union General William T. Sherman's audacious march across both South Carolina and North Carolina in the winter of 1864-65. Wade has lectured throughout the country speaking to Civil War round tables, various clubs and organizations, and at historical sites. He is a top-notch battlefield guide.

Col. Sokolosky's topic, "Confederate Hospitals in North Carolina," is based on his recently published book *North Carolina's Confederate Hospitals, Vol. I: 1861-1863*. Dr. Chris E. Fonvielle, Jr., Professor Emeritus, UNC Wilmington, and one of the founders of the Cape Fear Civil War Round Table, wrote, "Wade Sokolosky, one of the leading historians of the Civil War in the Old North State, has turned his keen research skills on exploring the Confederate health care system." Moreover, "he examines the organization and administration of care facilities on both the home front and the battlefield. Sokolosky's study is a constructive reference work and a captivating narrative of an overlooked but important aspect of North Carolina at war."

In an informative and very positive review, of "Confederate Hospitals," the Civil War Books and Authors website writes: "As Sokolosky abundantly demonstrates, management of the hospital system in North Carolina during this period mirrored many other aspects of the Confederate war effort in that it was subjected to frequent and often intense States Rights versus centralization clashes. With North Carolina governor Vance being one of the most ardent defenders of state prerogatives, that tug and pull between Richmond and Raleigh was present at all levels of medical department leadership and management. Who should manage, supply, and fund general hospitals in North Carolina was an ongoing subject of debate. As the war progressed, however, the forces of centralized integration gathered momentum, and by December 1863 the Confederate Medical Department was in charge of all of North Carolina's general hospitals and the majority of its wayside hospitals."

Wade is the co-author (with Mark A. Smith) of *To Prepare for Sherman's Coming: The Battle of Wise's Forks, March 1865*, chosen as the winner of the Civil War Books and Authors Best Book of the Year for 2015.

The battlefield of Wyse Fork (contemporary spelling), just east of Kinston, is under imminent threat of destruction by the NC Department of Transportation. Fought over three days in March after the fall of Wilmington and just before the Battle of Bentonville, Wyse Fork saw two hastily formed armies of heterogenous troops—the Confederates under Braxton Bragg and the Union under Jacob Cox—clash as part of a plan to halt Sherman’s northward march toward Goldsboro and, ultimately, the battlefields of Virginia. More than 2,500 casualties were sustained. In the early 1990s the Federal Civil War Sites Advisory Commission surveyed some 10,500 armed conflicts during the Civil War and published a report that classified the encounters according to their historical significance. Of the 10,500 sites surveyed, Wyse Fork was listed as one of the 384 most significant clashes in the Civil War. Yet, NC DOT plans to destroy the site that is today much the same as it was in 1865.

Wade and Mark Smith are also the authors of *No Such Army Since the Days of Julius Caesar: Sherman's Carolinas Campaign from Fayetteville to Averasboro*. Books Monthly wrote of the volume that “Smith and Sokolosky are military historians with a particular interest in what happened in the Carolina States. What they bring to the table regarding Sherman and Johnston is remarkable, a revelation.”

Wade is also the author of *Final Roll Call: Losses during the Carolinas Campaign*.

The February 9, 2023 meeting of the round table will be held at Elebash Hall at the rear of St. John’s Episcopal church at 1219 Forest Hills Drive, Wilmington. The church parking lot, close to the entrance to our meeting room, is easily accessed via Park Avenue off of Independence Boulevard. For more information

about membership in the Cape Fear Civil War Round table, go to <http://www.cfcwrt.org> and click on “Join/Rejoin.” See you there!



General Hospital Number 5 was previously the U.S. Marine hospital for seamen, located in Wilmington on S. 8th St.

North Carolina's Confederate Hospitals

1861 - 1863
Volume I

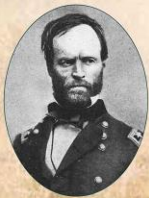


Wade Sokolosky



**“No Such Army Since
the Days of Julius Caesar”**

Sherman's Carolinas Campaign from
Fayetteville to Averasboro, March 1865



Mark A. Smith and Wade Sokolosky

authors of
“To Prepare for Sherman's Coming”: The Battle of Wise's Forks, March 1865

