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NORTH CAROLINA UNITES!

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By Carol VanOrnum

While not officially “sister” CWRTs, the Cape Fear (Wilmington) and Brunswick (Oak Island) CWRTs are building a valuable relationship. Leaders Bill Jayne of CFCWRT and John Butler of BCWRT have had many discussions on achieving close cooperation regarding speakers, programs, and activities, especially local tours. Both organizations have been trying to keep up with the *Save Wyse Fork* Battle-field movement, located in Kinston, NC. Butler shares his thoughts on Cape Fear, “Since they are a much smaller organization, sometimes they cannot

fill all of their space for a tour. They coordinate with us, and we make those events open to our membership. We make sure they have a full tour, allow members to take advantage of something that we are not offering at the time, and help build synergy between the two groups.”

So far, BCWRT has helped CFCWRT fill seats for a historical boat tour of the Cape Fear River and also a twilight tour of Fort Fisher. “The Twilight Tour was a first of its kind for our group and was a big hit,” says Butler.

Jayne agrees. “From our perspective, close cooperation on tours and outings is a very positive experience.” In October of 2022 they are collaborating on a tour of Fort Anderson, located over the ruins of the colonial town of Brunswick in Brunswick County.

The evening ended as the moon rose over the ocean and lightening flashed to the north, and Professor Fonvielle told how Col. William Lamb, CSA, the commander of the fort took a solitary walk to the ruins of the Northeast Bastion as veterans—north and south—gathered at the site of the battle in later years.



Members of Cape Fear and Brunswick CWRTs listen to Prof. Emeritus Chris Fonvielle. Photos by Bill Jayne.

Wilbur King's ancestor fought in Kirkland's brigade, the CSA unit that lost heavily in a charge across the land over Wilbur's shoulder and back to his left.



Register now!

**CWRT Congress
Sustainability
Conference**

**Kenosha Civil War
Museum**

Sept 16-18, 2022

WILL YOUR CWRT EXIST IN FIVE YEARS?

By Mike Movius, President

I have been pondering something that a friend recently suggested. He posited that most round table members “take their membership lightly...they view it as a hobby, a pastime, a sometime thing, but not a passion.” He added that there are, of course, many exceptions – stalwarts he calls them – those who jump into their membership and the study of the war, the events leading up to it and the events following it, taking it very seriously; and making it very much a part of their lives.

We are all aware that “stalwarts” are few and far between. That makes me wonder how many round tables have “stalwarts” in leadership positions and, what is more, how the CWRT Congress might help to encourage more to assume that level of involvement. For we know that without them, most CWRTs would cease to exist.

That brings me to this question: Does your CWRT have an over-

arching purpose? The vast majority of round tables have mission statements that include studying the events that led up to, during and after the Civil War, preservation of battlefields and other historic places, and perhaps retaining Civil War memory. These are all laudable goals, but I’m after the “why,” rather than the “what.” Why is it important to study, preserve, and discuss the Civil War?

The why answer is important to the very existence of the Civil War Round Table movement. As those of us in the traditional and baby boom generations are summoned to our great reward, unless we insist that new stalwarts of Generation X (The Lost Generation) and Generation Y (Millennials) take on the mantle of leadership, the movement is DOA. I’m not trying to be dramatic, only realistic.

Of course, my final question has to do with our upcoming conference in Kenosha, September 16-18. As round tables emerge from the pandemic scourge, some are having to find new meeting venues, others are struggling with low in-person response rates and still others are wondering where their former members went. Will you spend a couple of days with us asking questions, networking, and learning techniques to sustain your CWRT? We will address the issues above through a very interactive format.

More importantly, we have designed an agenda that makes YOU the focus, answers your challenges and inspires you to make your CWRT a welcoming, worthwhile, and sustainable organization. Be sure to register ASAP.

www.cwrtcongress.org/2022.html



IMPROVEMENT THROUGH EDUCATION AND NETWORKING

Register Now!

CWRT Congress

Conference

Kenosha Civil War Museum

Sept 16-18, 2022

Kenosha Civil War Museum



Please see Pages 8 and 9 for conference agenda details and descriptions.

THE COLLABORATIONS OF PIPE CREEK CWRT

By Carol VanOrnum with
Steven W. Carney, Pipe Creek
CWRT

In perusing CWRT websites, I came upon the [Pipe Creek CWRT](#), located in Westminster, MD, population 18,650. I was intrigued by the number of outreach programs they offer and asked their Outreach Coordinator, Steven W. Carney, about them.

CWRT Congress: How and why did you come to have the many collaborations and partnerships within your community?

Carney: I believe that collaborating and partnering with the community is an extremely important part of historical preservation. Within our local community, there are a number of historical organizations, and our partnerships formed somewhat naturally because our organizations share members. Within the PCCWRT, we have members of the local Carroll County Historical Society, the Genealogy Society, Sons of Union Veterans, Sons of Confederate Veterans, United Daughters of the Confederacy, and living history organizations. We all share the interest in preserving history, so whenever possible, the PCCWRT supports the efforts of other historical organizations and in return these organizations help the PCCWRT. We all have similar missions, so we should not stand alone working on our individual projects when there are other organizations that have shared interests. Also, by

mutually supporting other organizations, the members of the organizations tend to get more interest in our organization and become members of the PCCWRT. It is a symbiotic relationship.

CWRT Congress: One of the things you do has to do with Living History Programs. How did that come about?

Carney: We are lucky to have members who are active within the reenacting/living history community. We are very fortunate to have members who have studied the Civil War era and can give presentations/lectures/demos and share their expertise with the group as well as in public forums. I recommend organizations to take note of the resources they have within their groups and encourage these members to be active participants within the organization's programming.

CWRT Congress: Tell me more about Corbit's Charge, your signature event.

Carney: The Corbit's Charge event was started in 2003 with a collaboration with the PCCWRT,

the City of Westminster, and the Historical Society of Carroll County. Since then, the PCCWRT has been the driving force behind the event. Corbit's Charge commemorates the Battle of Westminster, which took place on June 29, 1863, as part of the Gettysburg Campaign. This battle, although short, was a fierce and brutal fight between the heavily outnumbered Delaware troopers and the vanguard of the Confederate Cavalry. It is named "Corbit's Charge" in recognition of Captain Charles Corbit of the 1st Delaware and it is said that these troopers fought with a "suicidal bravery." Historians have noted that his fight in Westminster was a significant factor in Stuart's delay in arriving at Gettysburg until July 2nd and contributed to the Union Victory at Gettysburg.

In 2016, we received a Governor's Citation from Maryland Governor Larry Hogan in recognition for our efforts to preserve Carroll County's Civil War history through events such as Corbit's Charge. The event is truly a source of pride for the

PCCWRT.

CWRT Congress: Where do you "advertise" your services besides on your website?

Carney: We utilize other forms of social media such as Facebook, but we also advertise through the Carroll

"I recommend organizations take note of the resources they have within their groups and encourage these members to be active participants."

Steven Carney

County Tourism, Maryland Tourism, the Maryland Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area. We also ensure that our contact information is up to date within our local directories. We participate in local parades and distribute printed materials to local businesses as well.

CWRT Congress: What other partnerships in your community do you have?

Carney: Our members have regularly participated as volunteers for the Historical Society of Carroll County, the Union Mills Homestead, the Carroll County Farm Museum and other organizations throughout Carroll County, MD. Recently, our members were contacted by the Ellsworth Cemetery preservation group to help them with the installation of nine headstones for U.S.C.T. veterans. I encourage other groups to look for opportunities to collaborate within their local communities.



Robin Bush leads a sewing activity for young visitors.

THE BATTLE FOR WYSE FORK BATTLEFIELD

By Carol VanOrnum

Troops have rallied to try and save the Wyse Fork Battlefield from a major highway project, and the collaboration has been massive. The efforts to unite and fight are impressive while they wait for a decision from the North Carolina Department of Transportation.

The Battle of Wyse Fork occurred March 7-10, 1865. It was the second largest battle in North Carolina. Union and Confederates numbered 20,500 and approximately 2,600 were killed, wounded or captured. It was a Union victory.

CWRT, have teamed up with Gilbert (Skip) Riddle of Kinston CWRT to lead the campaign. Both the Raleigh and Barringer CWRTs are engaged. All have joined forces with Dennis Harper, chief facilitator of the Historical Preservation Group and leader of the Save Wyse Fork movement, as well as battlefield guide Wade Sokolosky. They've written letters to government officials, created a Facebook page "[Save Wyse Fork Battlefield](#)" which has a steady growth of views, comments, and shares, averaging 2,800 site visits and views per day. Riddle is pleased

Michael Lazzara and Representative Chris Humphrey all signed a letter in support of the battlefield preservation which was sent to J. Eric Boyette, Transportation Secretary of the NC DOT. And they treasure a compelling letter penned by David Duncan, president of the American Battlefield Trust.

The question of why the highway project remains so stubbornly in place is explained by Jayne. "I believe that the system used by NC to manage the construction of major highway projects is flawed. The system is intended to make sure the NC DOT expedites the process of meeting environmental responsibilities connected to highway construction. It is NOT intended, primarily, to ensure the preservation of historic resources. The people managing the process are conscientious and professional, but they're dealing with a flawed system when it comes to the task of ensuring our historical heritage is preserved."

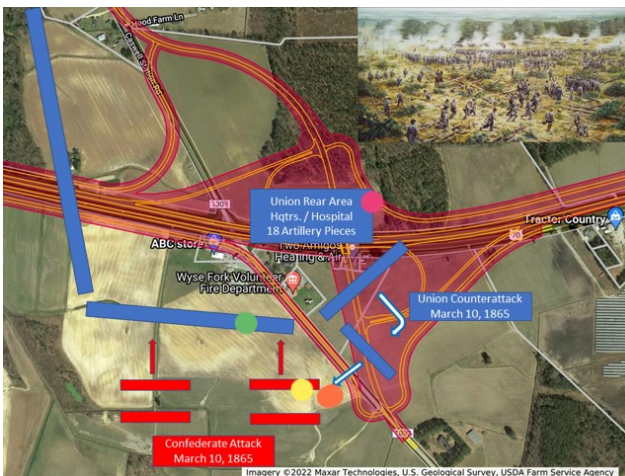
On June 15, 2022, a forum was held, attended by NC DOT officials, NC State Historic Preservation Organization, the Cape Fear and Kinston CWRTs, the Kinston-based Historical Preservation Group, the Sons of Union Veterans, and others. The key factor was whether the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers would issue a "Section 404" of the Clean Water Act because wetlands are impacted. A "Draft Environmental Impact

"... only choosing a different alternative that avoids the battlefield would be acceptable."

**Bill Jayne
Cape Fear CWRT**

Statement" was issued providing several alternatives for the route of the Kinston Bypass. And while they're looking for the best route, Jayne's team position has been that destruction of the battlefield will be catastrophic, and only choosing a different alternative that avoids the battlefield would be acceptable.

As they wait, and hopefully before it's too late, they are trying to get significant decision-makers to take a look at this project and encourage the NC DOT to look at choosing a different alternative that avoids destruction of the battlefield.



Today, the battlefield consists of 159 of the 700 battlefield acres in North Carolina. Alarmingly, the Kinston Highway Bypass plans will cut directly through a key portion of the field.

Bill Jayne, president of the Cape Fear CWRT, and John Butler, president of Brunswick

that the "outreach program is working effectively and relentlessly and continues to expand." They've reached out to organizations such as the American Legion, VFW, universities, and others both within North Carolina and around the world. The team was appreciative that North Carolina Senators Jim Perry and



TIPS FOR YOUR CWRT FIELD TRIPS

By Steve Smith, Harrisburg CWRT Field Trip Chair

Field trips are a great way to “walk the terrain” and build *esprit de corps* while fundraising to support battlefield preservation. Given the cost of gasoline, breaking even on field trips is becoming more challenging. Teaming up with a sister CWRT can help.

The Harrisburg and Hershey CWRTs have been co-sponsoring well-attended field trips for years, one in the spring and one in the fall. So far, we’ve managed to keep the cost to \$95 per person. That covers round-trip transport by bus, honoraria, entrance fees, lunch, and gratuities.

Our recent trips have included the Shenandoah Valley 1864 battles, Lee’s Retreat from Gettysburg, Monocacy & Frederick, Harpers Ferry, the Wilderness, Antietam, Fredericksburg, and the Pipe Creek Line. Future trips to Mosby’s Confederacy and Chancellorsville are planned.

Some key lessons learned:

- Day trips generate higher attendance than overnight ones.
- Inspirational tour guides help fill up a bus.
- Do a recon, particularly if a sit-down lunch is involved.
- Never schedule a trip the day after a monthly meeting or on a holiday weekend.
- Market the trip aggressively with flyers, newsletter articles, and announcements.
- Circulate flyers for the next field trip on the bus on the way home from a successful trip.
- \$25.00 deposit to reserve a seat; balance due one month prior to trip.
- Refunds allowed up to one month prior; after that, refunds only if all seats are sold.
- Create a waiting list; people always drop out.
- Make sure your CWRT and the bus company are properly insured.
- Plan for inclement weather and medical emergencies.
- Let participants know in advance how much walking is involved.
- Requiring participants to furnish proof of COVID-19 vaccination works.
- Finding a sponsor can help offset increasing fuel costs.

Questions? Contact the author at smith337@erau.edu.

Market the trip aggressively and circulate flyers for the next field trip.



Harrisburg and Hershey CWRTs Fall 2021 Field Trip to Antietam

HOW TO RESEARCH YOUR CIVIL WAR ANCESTOR

By Carol VanOrnum and Mark Radeleff

In early June 2022, Mark Radeleff, Treasurer and Researcher of the Inland Empire Civil War Round Table, completed an immense step-by-step guide for researching ancestors who may have served or lived during the Civil War era. It is comprehensive, yet laid out in an easy-to-read format. Mark is happy to share this labor of love with the CWRT community. You can find the document [here](#) under www.inlandempirecwr.org/member-submissions.

“It is quite an adventure, digging into the past, many blind paths, many golden ones.”

**Mark Radeleff,
Inland Empire
CWRT**

We asked Mark more about it.

CWRT Congress: When did you first start this project?

Mark: I have been conducting research for many years for the Lincoln Memorial Shrine / A.K. Smiley Heritage Room. Researching documents, diaries, artifacts, you name it. I had compiled a long list of sites on the web (good sites) regarding how to research people, soldiers, battles, politics, whatever regarding the Civil War.

All this information was lying about.

CWRT Congress: Why did you start it?

Mark: Over time when talking to people regarding how to research the Civil War I was astonished regarding the fact that people did not know how to go about researching anything regarding the Civil War. It is quite an adventure digging into the past, many blind paths, many golden ones. I decided to put together a "manual" on what and how to do research, collecting all this data, processes, procedures into a single document.

CWRT Congress: What was your goal for doing this? Family and friends? The entire CWRT community? National?

Mark: Once I started putting together, writing, organizing all the information I was confronted with what to do with it. Several people in round tables had asked me to research their Civil War ancestors, so I decided to at least put it on the IECWRT website so people can access it. Then I thought I'd just pass it around. I have no desire to "publish" it. I just let people who are interested in using it.

CWRT Congress: What part of it did you find most interesting and surprising to you?

Mark: Starting with the 1940 census and working back in time. The research is basically a genealogical search. There is



Mark Radeleff and his office assistant, Bonnie

a significant amount of information in the census reports, compiled military service records, pension records, tax records, organization of the armies, women's records, prisoner of war records, etc. The process of the search for another link to recover information can lead to exciting discoveries, documents, unknown family members, the true meaning of life in the middle of the Civil War in the 19th century.

CWRT Congress: What is your next project going to be?

Mark: I am putting together two more manuals: "The Use of Atlases and Maps as Research Aids When Researching Your Civil War Ancestors" and "How to Use Cemetery

Resources as Research Aids When Researching Your Civil War Ancestor."

CWRT Congress: What do you find most rewarding about your project?

Mark: I have found when I go back to North Carolina to visit my wife's family that I end up searching for Confederate graves and researching the men buried in them. Besides the "official cemeteries" there is an extensive number of graves of Confederate men who died post war and are buried with federally provided tombstones or family tombstone which identify the dead Confederates. I enjoy discovering their stories.

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERISM AND COLLABORATION- CUMBERLAND VALLEY AND SHIPPENSBURG CWRTS



Members of the Cumberland Valley and Shippensburg CWRTs volunteer to clean and repair gravestones at the Mt. Vernon/Lebanon Cemetery.

By Carol VanOrnum

The Cumberland Valley CWRT of Chambersburg, PA, joined with the Shippensburg CWRT for a worthwhile community service project on July 16, 2022. The group of about 18 members volunteered to perform general maintenance and cleaning of more than 50 gravestones of Civil War soldiers who belonged to the U.S. Colored Troops and other Union Black regiments interred at Mt. Vernon/Lebanon Cemetery.

At least a half dozen of the soldiers were from the 54th Massachusetts, and although designated a Massachusetts regiment, close to 20 percent were from Pennsylvania and nearly 50 called Franklin County home.

Joining the group was Dr. Steven Burg,, a professor of history at

Shippensburg University. He was invited to join the round tables when they learned that he had given one of his classes the assignment of going to this cemetery, choosing a gravestone, and researching the soldier interred there.

Tracy Baer, a Licensed

Battlefield Guide at Gettysburg National Military Park and member of Cumberland Valley CWRT, felt the collaborative effort was so successful that they will make it an annual event. A semi-local TV station in York, PA, featured the event as well as the local news radio and NPR out of Harrisburg.

William Watkins would be pleased.

“Co. H 24th U.S. Col. T.

Died June 9, 1910”



2022 SUSTAINABILITY CONFERENCE—SATURDAY AGENDA

TIME	ACTIVITY	PERFORMED BY
60 minutes - 7:30	REGISTRATION & CHECK-IN	Rosemary Nichols & Milwaukee CWRT
	COFFEE, GATHERING & NETWORKING	
10 minutes - 8:40	CONFERENCE OPENING & WELCOME	Mike Movius
	Introductions - Board & Advisors	Olympia CWRT
10 minutes - 8:50	HOST CWRT WELCOME & HOUSEKEEPING	Museum Staff
	WELCOME & INTRODUCTION OF Milwaukee CWRT STAFF	Bruce Klem Milwaukee CWRT
20 minutes - 9:10	MASTER OF CEREMONIES	Andrew Mizsak
	Flag Ceremony Attendee introductions	James A. Garfield CWRT
70 minutes - 10:20	SLOW-MOVING CRISIS & DISCUSSION	Mike Movius
20 minutes - 10:40	BREAK	
30 minutes - 11:10	AWARDS PRESENTATIONS	John Bamberl Scottsdale CWRT
10 minutes - 11:20	THE SUSTAINABILITY BLUEPRINT	Rich Jankowski Old Baldy CWRT
10 minutes - 11:30	SUSTAINABILITY CHALLENGE	Carol VanOrnum Twin Cities CWRT
75 minutes - 12:45	LUNCH, MUSEUM & NETWORKING	
70 minutes - 1:55	DESIGNING THE SUSTAINABLE CWRT - PANEL	Carol VanOrnum, Michael Kirschner & Paul Eilbes
15 minutes - 2:10	BREAK	
70 minutes - 3:20	DEVELOPING SYSTEMS FOR SUSTAINABILITY - PANEL	Rich Jankowski, Mike Hoover & 1 other
15 minutes - 3:35	BREAK	
70 minutes - 4:45	COMMUNITY EXPANSION - PANEL	Andrew Mizsak, John Bamberl & Mary Koik
5 minutes - 4:50	TRANSITION	
30 minutes - 5:20	TRIVIA CONTEST	John Bamberl
20 minutes - 5:40	PRIZE DRAWING	Andrew Mizsak
6:00	DINNER - THE BOAT HOUSE	

SUSTAINABILITY CONFERENCE AGENDA IN DETAIL

Slow-Moving Crisis & Discussion

This presentation focuses on why so many CWRTs are failing or “going dark.” We explore how the momentum can be reversed and discuss the key actions CWRTs can take.

The Sustainability Blueprint

This walkthrough explains one blueprint that has some promise. It involves developing short-term planning objectives and how they relate to the next generation of Civil War historians and enthusiasts.

Designing the Sustainable CWRT

Our first panel explores changing the trend by re-designing the CWRT to engage members by seeking their guidance, instituting an advisory council as a leadership training ground, establishing a succession plan, amending the governance process, re-examining the traditional mission statement, and other methods.

Systems for the Sustainability

This panel discusses developing systems for success including marketing materials and videos, establishing an effective social media presence, initiating Sister-CWRT relationships, and gathering, collating, and analyzing CWRT data – all to improve the member experience.

Community Expansion

Most CWRTs operate within a vacuum as compared with other nonprofits in their communities. This panel will discuss ways to market your “brand” by partnering with both history and non-history organizations and becoming a force for good in the community.

- ▶ Panel Discussions
- ▶ Interactive
- ▶ Lively
- ▶ Educational

RECIPIENTS OF THE WALLACE L. RUECKEL INNOVATION AWARD AND DR. JOHN A. BAMBERL PHOENIX AWARD

By Carol VanOrnum

The CWRT Congress initiated two awards in 2022: the Wallace L. Rueckel Innovation Award and the Dr. John A. Bamberl Phoenix Award. The Innovation Award celebrates the Civil War Round Table (CWRT) that has most successfully sought to improve their organization through innovations while the Phoenix Award recognizes a CWRT that ceased to exist or was dormant but was revived. After rating the nominations, the CWRT Board of Directors unanimously selected

recipients of each award.

[Inland Empire CWRT](#) of Redlands, CA, was selected to receive the Phoenix Award. Citing lack of member numbers and leadership, once COVID-19 hit, the round table closed its doors. However, member Mike Hoover began to create zoom meetings. Past officers invited members into leadership positions. They expanded their newsletter, created two new websites, revised their Facebook page, and much more. They feel they now have a more commit-

ted board of officers, a mission and vision statement, an advisory panel, an alliance with other local CWRTs, and above all, “a willingness to achieve.”

[Old Baldy CWRT](#) of Cherry Hill, NJ, was selected to receive the Innovation Award for their multiple efforts to find alternative marketing methods, improve the member experience for both existing and new members, adding member benefits, as well as branching out their use of social media. Their outreach to other local and national organizations has enhanced their ability to make a solid presence in not

only their local community but the national Civil War community. The OBCWRT has built a strong culture, adapting to the many changes and challenges it has encountered in recent years and is much deserving of this award.

Both round tables will receive their awards and a check for \$500 at the 2022 Sustainability Conference this September in Kenosha, Wisconsin. Well done!

Find us on the web!
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Youtube: [CWRT Congress](#)
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TELL US

If your round table has a unique situation or is successful in any way, please share with us.
 Contact Carol VanOrnum

While this photo is post-Civil War, 1874, one can imagine there must have been some former soldiers within the line. Imagine their state of mind.

Wagon train passing through Castle Creek Valley in the Black Hills of South Dakota



Photo: The J. Paul Getty Museum, no known restrictions

No. 809. Wagon train passing through Castle Creek Valley.

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