

VOLUME 2; NUMBER 1  
JUNE 2019



President: Jay Ferris

Vice President : Scott Peeler

Treasurer: James "Spike" Speicher

## THE TAMPA BAY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE BUGLE CALL

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### Thoughts from the President

Hello everyone.

This is the first newsletter to be published since I was elected President of the Tampa Bay Civil War Round Table. As many of you know, Jack Bolen decided to step down after holding this position for almost 7 years.

First, I want to thank Jack for all his time, work, and dedication to the Tampa Bay Civil War Round Table. Jack is the founding father of the TBCWRT. He is the only president the group has had, and for years was also the Program Chairman. It is safe to say that without Jack this group would not exist. Please join me in thanking Jack for his years of service to the TBCWRT.

The task before us now is to build on what Jack has started. An important part of that process has been getting this newsletter up and running again. Many thanks to Jim Weiss for stepping up and taking on the job. I know it is not easy. If any of you would like to contribute an article to the newsletter, please contact Jim and he will give you the details. As of now, the newsletter will be published on a quarterly basis.

In order for any group such as ours to be successful and to grow, there needs to be people willing to volunteer to fill open positions. Jack mentioned many times our need for a Recording Secretary to take notes at the meetings. We also need a Communications Director. According to our Bylaws, this person "shall coordinate external TBCWRT communications, including but not limited to, publicity for programs and other TBCWRT events in various media (flyers, newspapers, radio, television public service announcements, etc.)".

Another open position is Sergeant-at-Arms. The Bylaws states this person is to "act as liaison between the TBCWRT and the designated meeting places. He or she also arranges the meeting room set-up including A/V equipment as needed." This means emailing the Children's Board once a month to reserve the room (the form is prefilled except for the date). We usually have the room reserved 4-6 months in advance to make the scheduling of speakers easier.

None of these 3 positions should take more than a few hours each month to perform. If you are interested in helping, please contact me at [jferris18@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:jferris18@tampabay.rr.com).

I want to thank Scott Peeler, our Vice President, for continuing to serve in that position. Scott is one of our charter members and the only VP we have had. Scott has always done a great job of filling in when Jack was unable to attend a meeting. He is also President of the Brandon Area Genealogical and Historical Society.

I also want to welcome our new Treasurer, James "Spike" Speicher. Spike is a graduate of The Citadel, and served in the U.S. Army for over 30 years before retiring in January 2001 as a full colonel. He later worked for the FBI in Kansas City before retiring in January 2013. While in Kansas City, Spike was a member of the local Civil War Round Table. I thank Spike for agreeing to serve as our new Treasurer.

I look forward to working with our officers and all of you to continue building what Jack has started. If anyone has a suggestion for a speaker, or if you want to do a program, please let me know. I hope to see all of you soon at an upcoming meeting.

## **Past Meeting Review**

**Tuesday, January 29, 2019**

Our speaker was our new Treasurer, Jim "Spike" Speicher. The program is entitled "A Tale of Two Soldiers" in which he discussed letters written by Confederate and Union soldiers.

**Wednesday, February 27, 2019**

Our speaker was Joseph McAuliffe and he discussed how the victory in the Mexican War led to the Civil War. Mr. McAuliffe is the head of The Liberal Arts Classes at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at the University of South Florida. He has taught classes on Pre and Post Civil War as well as the Civil War itself.

**Wednesday, March 27, 2019**

Our speaker was Richard Isinghood. His topic was Confederate General Bushrod Johnson, an Ohio native and one of the few Northerners who became a Confederate general.

**Wednesday, May 29, 2019**

We were asked to bring a subject that we were wondering about or wanted to know more about to ask other members to help us. Our membership is really a great information resource. Almost always, some member will have an answer to your question, or an interesting opinion about the facts of the situation. And the variety of knowledge among our membership amazes me.

We found that there are facts and then sometimes there are "alternate facts," as Kellyanne Conway would say. And opinions can open our minds about some events.

This was a very interesting meeting format instead of having a speaker. Most all in attendance enjoyed this meeting enormously.

**We meet from 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. at:**

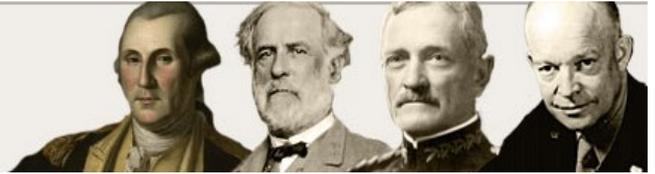
**The Children's Board Building**

**1002 E. Palm Ave. Tampa, FL 33605**

I hope to see you soon. If you would like to do a program for us, or know of a speaker, please let me know.

Jay H. Ferris

You are invited to submit information or articles to be included in our Newsletter. These can be anything you feel will be of interest to our membership. They must be submitted by the 12<sup>th</sup> of each month. They must be in the form of an attachment that can be copied completely into the newsletter without having to be retyped. Please remember, we are non-partisan and non-political. Submit your information to Jim Weiss [jimweiss@verizon.net](mailto:jimweiss@verizon.net)



## The Civil War Home Front

*September 10, 2018 by Trevor*

During the Civil War more than two million soldiers left their families, homes, farms, and jobs to join the fight. The women were left to maintain the home front. This shift brought increased responsibility and opportunity that would shape the country long after the war ended.

Women were needed to fill critical gaps outside of their typical domestic spheres. In addition to managing homes and families, women worked in factories, mills, and munition plants. They sewed uniforms and bandages. Some served as nurses, such as Carrie Wilkins Pollard, who spent two years caring for the wounded. In 1892, she appealed to Congress and was granted a pension. Although women weren't eligible to enlist as soldiers, as many as 400 did; many under male aliases.

Occasionally, the battlefield and the home front merged into one. Such was the case for Susan M. Alsop. The young widow was in her early 20s and struggling to maintain her farm when in 1864, the Battle of Spotsylvania raged in her front yard. Her property became a burial ground for many. Twenty years later, soldiers visited the Alsop farm, hoping to mark the exact spot where Union Gen. John Sedgwick was killed. One of them presented a \$5 bill to the son of Susan Alsop saying, "On this day twenty years ago I stole a side of bacon from your mother, and I want you to give her this to pay for it." When Alsop sold her farm in 1895, a newspaper article noted that "the Confederate earthworks were still in a good state of preservation."

During the war, many soldiers suffered injuries that resulted in life-long disabilities, including thousands of amputation surgeries. After the war, men and women had to navigate and define new roles and responsibilities. Many women had become accustomed to making decisions, managing finances, and operating farms and businesses. With the men back home, adjustments were required. Some had to adjust to the fact that their men were never coming home. The death of 740,000 Americans left the country stunned and mourning. Typical of mourning practices at the time, many widows donned black dresses to express their grief.

Widows of Union soldiers were entitled to a federal pension. Confederate soldiers and widows weren't eligible and needed to apply to the individual state where they resided to receive a state pension. It wasn't until the 1900s that federal pensions were available to all Civil War soldiers and widows.

Women emerged from the Civil War with a taste of social empowerment that permanently shifted their attitudes. Wartime exposure to responsibilities traditionally managed by men taught women that they were, in fact, capable of filling these roles. This gave a boost to the suffrage movement, and in 1869, the National Woman Suffrage Association formed with the goal of procuring the vote for American women. Search our Civil War archives, including the Civil War Pensions Index and the Civil War Widows Pensions file to learn more about the role women played during the Civil War!

## Upcoming Programs

**June 26, 2109.** This will be a group discussion on the causes of the Civil War. Was it slavery, the tariff, Northern disregard for the Constitution, a Southern power grab? A combination of these? In our group discussions, everyone is encouraged, but not required, to participate.

**July 31, 2019.** This will also be a group discussion. The topic will be: Who do you think is the most under appreciated general on each side? This is the guy who consistently turned in a good performance but has been more or less forgotten.

There will not be a meeting in August.

**September 25, 2019.** Jesse Marshall returns as our guest speaker His topic is entitled: " At Dallas We Did Our Share Of Fighting..." The Florida Brigade at the Battle of Dallas, Georgia, May 28, 1864.

**October 30, 2019.** I hope to have a speaker to do a presentation on the Filibusters of the 1850's and their efforts to conquer Cuba and other countries in Central America and have them added as slave states to the United States.

**November 20, 2019.** Please note that this is a week earlier than normal because of Thanksgiving. I will do a program entitled: "Braxton Bragg Misses an Open Net: The Fiasco at McLemore's Cove during the Chickamauga Campaign"

We do not meet in December.

## Here is where we meet.



**Mark Your Calendar Now**

**The June Meeting will be Wednesday, June 26, 2019**

**Always the last Wednesday of the month.**