

The Knapsack

Raleigh Civil War Round Table
The same rain falls on both friend and foe.

April 10, 2017
Our 194th Meeting

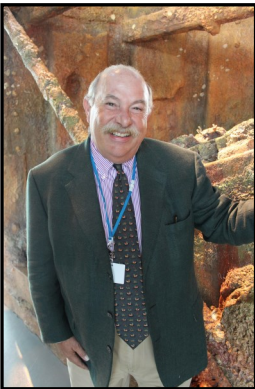


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April 10 Meeting Features John Quarstein Speaking on the Power of Iron Over Wood

The Raleigh Civil War Round Table's April 10 event will feature award-winning historian, preservationist, and author John V. Quarstein, who will speak to the group about the *USS Monitor*.



John is the director of the *USS Monitor* Center at The Mariners' Museum and Park in Newport News, Virginia. He served as historian for the city of Hampton's 400th anniversary and has previously worked for 30 years as the director of the Virginia War Museum and as consultant to the *USS Monitor* Center at The Mariners' Museum.

His passion for historic preservation is evidenced by the creation of Civil War battlefield parks like the Redoubt Park in Williamsburg and Lee's Mill Park in Newport News as well as historic house museums such as Lee Hall Mansion and Endview Plantation. He has been instrumental in the preservation of the Big Bethel battlefield, Rebecca Vaughan House, Lee Hall Depot, and Causey's Mill.

The author of 15 books, his titles include *A History of Ironclads: The Power of Iron Over Wood* and *The Monitor Boys: The Crew of the Union's First Ironclad*, which received the 2012 Henry Adams Prize for excellence in historical literature. He also has produced, narrated, and written a number of PBS documentaries including the film series, "Civil War in Hampton Roads," a 2007 Silver Telly awardee.

John is the recipient of the National Trust for Historic Preservation's 1993 President's Award for Historic Preservation, the Civil War Society's Preservation Award in 1996, the UDC's Jefferson Davis Gold Medal in 1999, and the Daughters of the American Revolution Gold Historians Medal in 2009.

He lives in the historical (1757) Herbert House in Hampton, Va.

~ USS Monitor ~

The *USS Monitor*, launched in January 1862, was designed by Swedish-born inventor John Ericsson and was the first ironclad warship commissioned by the Union Navy. She was nicknamed a "cheesebox on a raft" due to her unique design.



The *Monitor* is famous for her March 1862 fight against the C.S.S. *Virginia* at Hampton Roads, Va., the first clash of ironclads. That battle changed the nature of naval warfare.



Illinois

The States During the Civil War



The 'Prairie State'

Illinois entered the Union in 1818, the 21st state to ratify the U.S. Constitution. The "Prairie State" was an important source of manpower and leadership for the Union cause. The key speeches and events that brought national attention to Abraham Lincoln took place in Illinois. The state's southernmost city of Cairo was an important staging area for manpower and materials flowing into the Ohio and Mississippi river valleys.

In 1860, Illinois had 1,711,951 residents. More than 250,000 men from the Prairie State served in the United States army, navy, and marines. Men from Illinois primarily served in the Western Theater, and the state suffered 34,834 war-related deaths, of which 7,243 were men killed in action.



Illinois Memorial, Vicksburg

1860 Election Results:

Abraham Lincoln (Rep)	172,171 (50.7%)
Stephen Douglas (Dem)	160,215 (47.2%)
John Bell (Union)	4,914 (1.5%)
John Breckenridge (Dem)	2,331 (0.7%)

1864 Election Results:

Abraham Lincoln (Rep)	189,512 (54.4%)
George McClellan (Dem)	158,724 (45.6%)

Governors:

Richard Yates (Rep)	Jan. 14, 1861 – Jan. 16, 1865
Richard J. Oglesby (Rep)	Jan. 16, 1865 – Jan. 11, 1869

'Greyhounds'

Illinois provided some 157 regiments of infantry, 17 cavalry regiments, and several batteries of artillery to the Union cause. The 29th U.S. Colored Infantry was raised in Illinois.



7th Illinois Volunteer Infantry Regiment

Among the notable units from the state was the 8th Illinois Volunteer Cavalry Regiment, credited with taking the first shot at Gettysburg and which played an important role at Monocacy in July 1864. Other notable units included the 7th and the 37th infantry regiments, the latter of which was also known as "Fremont's Rifles" and the "Illinois Greyhounds." The 9th Illinois Infantry had 107 men, more than 17 percent of the regiment, killed at Shiloh. The 8th and 11th Infantry were heavily engaged and suffered significant casualties at Fort Donelson and the 55th and 43rd Infantry also saw heavy fighting at Shiloh.

Although Illinois did not see any major battles, it's river towns were important depot sites and the state hosted several prisoner of war camps, including Camp Butler near Springfield and Camp Douglas in Chicago as well as the infamous Rock Island Prison in the northwestern part of the state.

Both Abraham Lincoln and his 1860 adversary in the presidential election, Stephen Douglas, were from Illinois. Among other notable people from the Prairie State were Elijah Lovejoy, an abolitionist journalist. Among the Union generals from Illinois were Ulysses S. Grant, John Buford, John Pope, John M. Schofield, John A. Logan, and John A. McClernand.

Painting Available!

RCWRT friend Martin Pate is offering this large, 3 foot x 15 foot original oil on canvas for sale. It was reproduced as a backdrop in the Grenada Lake (Miss.) Museum for a Confederate camp exhibit.



Martin is based in Newnan, Ga., and his paintings of Monroe's Crossroads are featured in the RCWRT's documentary on the 1865 events in North Carolina. They were originally commissioned by the National Park Service.

If you or someone (group, business, etc.) that you know is interested in purchasing the artwork, email Martin at pateart60@gmail.com.

To see more of Martin's artwork, visit his website at <http://www.pateart.com>.

In the Cards

In this detail of a photograph, taken in the Petersburg, Va., area, four soldiers of the 170th New York are getting some time to relax and play cards, a common activity in Civil War camps. Euchre, Keno, Poker, and Twenty-One were among the favorites.



Sadly, the photo of the men of Company B was taken just months before all four of the card-players would become casualties. From left to right, Pvt. George L. Silkworth was killed at Petersburg on June 16, 1864, Cpl. John J.F. Vandewater was killed at Hanover Junction, Va., on May 24, 1864, Cpl. George W. Thomas was wounded at Petersburg on June 16, 1864, and Pvt. Washington Katen (aka George W. Keating) was wounded at Petersburg on June 16.

Upcoming Events

April 18. Museum of the Cape Fear in Fayetteville, N.C., hosts Charen Fink speaking on the role of women during the Civil War. Free. 7 p.m. Go to <http://museumofthecapefear.ncdcr.gov> or telephone (910) 486-1330 for details.

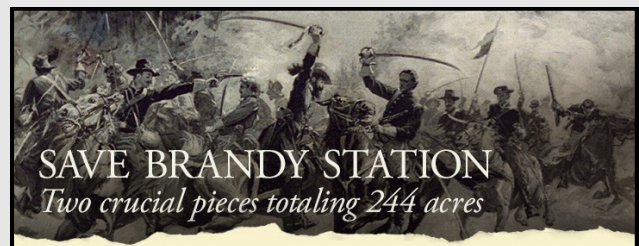
April 21-23. Plymouth, N.C., hosts a living history weekend commemorating the 1864 battle there with land and sea skirmishes among a wide range of living history events. See <http://www.portplymouthmuseum.org> or call (252) 793-1377 for more information.

April 22. Bennett Place Historical Site in Durham, N.C., holds a living history event commemorating the end of the Civil War in North Carolina, the 152nd anniversary of Johnston's surrender to Sherman. Free. 8 p.m. For details, telephone (919) 383-4345 or go online to <http://www.nchistoricsites.org/bennett/bennett.htm>.

April 26-29. The National Civil War Conference in Winchester, Va., offers a conference on Confederate Gen. Stonewall Jackson's exploits in the Shenandoah Valley. Lectures and tours. \$575. Call (540) 740-4545 or see <http://www.shenandoahatwar.org> for details.

Preservation News

The Civil War Trust is seeking to save 244 critical acres at Brandy Station in Virginia.



The targeted property comprises of important land on which the largest cavalry battle in North America ever fought occurred on June 9, 1863. The effort involves 70 acres at the northern end of Fleetwood Hill and 174 acres at Hansbrough's Ridge.

The Trust's goal in this campaign is to raise \$190,000. Donations are matched at a 6.5:1 rate!

For details, go to <http://www.civilwar.org/battlefields/brandystation/brandy-station-2017>.

News of the RCWRT



Upcoming RCWRT Meetings

May: Michael Hardy, NC as last Confederate capital

June: Symposium on Reconstruction

July: John Peacock, NC in the Maryland Campaign

August: Jeff Bockert, blockade runners

September: Randy Sauls, Battle of Goldsboro Bridge

October: Debbie Blake, Rose O'Neal Greenhow

In Memoriam



The Raleigh Civil War Round Table mourns the loss of Pat Ford, a charter member, who died Feb. 26. Pat was a native of Richmond (Short Pump), Virginia, an army veteran, IBM retiree, and has served on the RCWRT's Board of Directors.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Pat's family and friends. He will be missed.

New Member!

The RCWRT welcomes our newest member, Jeff Ellinger of Raleigh. If you know of someone who has an interest in the Civil War, bring them to our next meeting and encourage them to join!



The Knapsack

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RCWRT Score Card

Members 134

The Raleigh Civil War Round Table was formed on March 12, 2001 and is a 501(c)(3) "tax exempt organization."

We meet on the second Monday of most months at 7:00 pm, at the N.C. Museum of History (located at 5 Edenton Street, across from the State Capitol). Members and guests are encouraged to meet for supper at K&W Cafeteria, 511 Woodburn Rd., in Cameron Village before the meeting, at 5:15 pm.

Annual membership dues are \$30 (individual and family) and \$10 for teachers. Students are free. Half-year memberships are available March through May for \$20.