

The Knapsack

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

December 10, 2018
Our 214th Meeting



Volume 18
Number 12

<http://www.raleighcwrt.org>

Dec. 10 Annual Holiday Event Features Presentation by Betty Vaughn on Origins and Traditions of Christmas Celebrations in the mid-1800's

December features our annual holiday event which is being held at the Church of the Holy Cross, 2301 W. Millbrook Rd., Raleigh, NC. The event begins at 6:30 pm. Attendees are asked to park on either side of or in back of the church. Entrance to the church is on either side directly into the narthex.

Everyone is asked to bring a covered dish. The usual hors d'oeuvres, drinks, and desserts will be provided. Dining will take place off the narthex in the Fellowship Hall.

The evening's presentation is by Betty Vaughn and begins at 7:30 pm. Her topic will be the origins and traditions of Christmas celebrations in the mid 1800's (with emphasis on the Civil War period). The presentation will be in the Sanctuary on the opposite side of the narthex from the Fellowship Hall.



Betty J. Vaughn, former department chair and art teacher at Enloe Magnet High School in Raleigh, NC, following 32 years of teaching, launched a career as an author. Previously her books *The Man in the Chimney* (first published as *Muddy Waters*) and *Turbulent Waters* (first published as *Blue Waters*) won historical fiction awards from the North Carolina Society of Historians for 2011 and 2012, respectively. She is the 2013 winner of the award for historical fiction for her book *Run, Cissy, Run*. The fourth book in the series, *The Intrepid Miss LaRoque*, won the award in 2015. Her book *Yesterday's Magnolia* is not part of the historical fiction series. Her most recent book published is *The Tiger's Code*, a CIA thriller. Currently, Betty is working on *The Dragon's Sword*, the second book in this series.

In honoring her books, in a unanimous decision, the judges commented: "It is gratifying to find an astute historian whose skills far exceed that realm; someone who can take facts and weave them together with fiction and end up with a story that actually could have happened...[It is]

a wonderful story full of emotion, unexpected twists and turns, close calls and tragic moments...Mrs. Vaughn can consider herself a seasoned novelist...[Her books] are fast paced, action packed, and full of adventure...Her work simply isn't just a flurry of words, dry, and boring...She is a master of literary technique as she weaves together her tapestry of words."

A prize winning visual artist with paintings in collections worldwide, Mrs. Vaughn designed the magnet art program at Enloe where her students consistently won top honors. The recipient of a three year Federal Grant to the Wake County School System, she led Enloe Enterprises, Inc. in operating an art gallery, a summer arts camp, and an Emmy award-winning television production company. As a result, Enterprises Enloe was selected as one of the ten best art schools in the nation by Business Week Magazine. She wrote and published a monthly newsletter for the Enterprises and is the author of numerous professional articles.

Betty loves to travel and led study tours of Europe for many years. History, art, and books are a lifelong passion. Both as a teacher of advanced placement art history and as a writer, Mrs. Vaughn brings the story of the past alive through the people who lived it.

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"Christmas Eve," an illustration by Thomas Nast for Harper's Weekly, January 3, 1863



North Carolina Museum of History - Current Exhibits in the Civil War Gallery

By Charlie Knight, Curator of Military History



30th North Carolina Infantry Flag

Those who attended the RCWRT November meeting got to see up close the NC state flag issued to the 30th North Carolina Infantry Regiment in 1861. As hopefully most, if not all of the RCWRT members, know, the Roundtable has “adopted” this flag for conservation and eventual exhibit at the NC Museum of History. For those who were not able to attend the meeting, or for those budding vexillologists out there: a brief history of the 30th and what little is known regarding this flag.

The 30th NC was formed in September 1861 at Camp Mangum, Raleigh. The ten companies comprising the regiment came from a number of counties: Sampson, Warren, Brunswick, Wake, Granville, Duplin, Edgecombe, More, Nash, and Mecklenburg. After a very short stay at Mangum, the regiment was sent to Wilmington; it spent next eight months primarily in the lower Cape Fear region. The regiment was commanded by Col. Francis M. Parker, who served with the “Enfield Blues” of the 1st NC Volunteers – the so-called “Bethel Regiment” – at the war’s first major land battle at Big Bethel, VA, in June 1861.

As part of the build-up of troops around Richmond in response to Union Major General George McClellan’s Peninsula Campaign, the 30th was transferred to Virginia in June 1862. It was placed in a brigade commanded by Brigadier General George B. Anderson along with the 2nd, 4th, and 14th NC regiments, and had its baptism of fire at Gaines Mill on June 27. The 30th participated in nearly every major battle and campaign in Virginia, as part of the Second Corps division commanded by D. H. Hill, Robert Rodes, Stephen Ramseur, and Bryan Grimes. It surrendered 153 officers and men at Appomattox.

The flag is a variant of the North Carolina state flag; the white and blue bars are reversed, with the white on top. There are a handful of other known flags of this pattern, but nothing is recorded as to why the colors were placed as they were; it may be that the description of the new state flag did not clearly state which color was to be above the other:



AN ORDINANCE IN RELATION TO A STATE FLAG

Be it ordained by this Convention, and it is hereby ordained by the authority of the same,

That the Flag of North Carolina shall consist of a red field with a white star in the centre, and with the inscription, above the star, in a semi-circular form, of "May 20th, 1775," and below the star, in a semi-circular form, of "May 20th, 1861." That there shall be two bars of equal width, and the length of the field shall be equal to the bar, the width of the field being equal to both bars: the first bar shall be blue, and second shall be white: and the length of the flag shall be one-third more than its width. [Ratified the 22nd day of June, 1861.]

Like most government-issued flags, it is of wool bunting, but it lacks a unit designation. A closer look shows that it also has a “ : “ embroidered for some unknown reason after the May 20, 1861 date. It also lacks a sleeve or any other form of attachment along the hoist edge for attaching to a pole. There are a small series of cloth loops sewn along the top edge that date to the post-war period and may be remnants of how it was exhibited in the early days in the Hall of History.

According to the museum’s records, this flag was received ca. 1916 from Miss Susie B. Foxhall of Tarboro, a niece of Col. Parker. The museum’s founder, Col. Fred Olds, was not shy about soliciting artifacts for the Hall of History; his pursuit of this flag was no different. In late July 1916 he wrote a Mrs. J. D. Thrash of Tarboro:

There is in your good town a flag which ought to be in our steel and plate glass cases in [the] North Carolina fire proof Hall of History. It is that of the 30th North Carolina regiment, and I think Miss Susie Foxhall can tell you about it. I am told it was presented to her by the late Col. Francis M. Parker... Do North Carolina a favor to take this matter up and secure the flag... Flags are too important to be out of such safe keeping as we can give in our splendid building, the safest in the South.

No known correspondence with Miss Foxhall herself exists, only a reply from Mrs. Thrash informing Col. Olds that the flag would be sent to the Hall of History shortly.

(continued on page 3)

30th North Carolina Infantry Flag (continued from page 2)

Unfortunately, this becomes a case where the history, or provenance, of the artifact was not recorded and has thus become lost. It is likely that Col. Parker kept this flag – which may be the original state flag issued to the 30th in 1861 – when another was issued to the regiment; but there is no evidence to prove this. What the flag itself tells us is that it saw very little field use – the weathering and other signs of wear and use present in other flags simply does not exist on this flag. The 30th would have received the familiar Army of Northern Virginia pattern battle flag soon after its arrival in Virginia, which would have replaced any state flag the unit was carrying at that time. The NCMOH also has in its collection a battle flag carried by the 30th which was captured at Spotsylvania in May 1864; but that flag dates to Spring 1863 and very likely is not the one which replaced this state flag.

Although not much is known about the history of this flag, it is still a very historically valuable one, because of it being an unusual variant of the state flag. Once conserved, it will join the rotation of early war flags in the Civil War section of the NCMOH exhibits.



NC Museum of History employees Paige Myers (Textile Conservator) and Charles Knight (Curator of Military History), shown here describing the 30th NC Regiment flag to be conserved.

For those interested in the 30th, three main sources exist:

Rev. Alexander D. Betts, *Experience of a Confederate Chaplain, 1861-1864* – Betts was the Chaplain of the 30th and his memoirs of the war were published in the early 20th C and are available on-line via the “Documenting the American South” project at UNC.

Michael W. Taylor, ed., *To Drive the Enemy from Southern Soil* – the wartime papers of Col. Francis M. Parker, commander of the 30th NC (the originals are at UNC).

William T. Venner, *The 30th North Carolina Infantry in the Civil War* – a very thorough regimental history of the 30th just published in 2018 complete with regimental roster.

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Upcoming Events

Dec. 1, 2018. 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. “A Civil War Christmas” Holiday Open House. Bentonville Battlefield State Historic Site, 5466 Harper House Rd., Four Oaks, NC 27524. Come celebrate a Civil War Christmas during this Holiday open house event. Costumed interpreters will decorate the kitchen in festive themes using natural materials such as holly, magnolia, fruits, & popcorn strands. Visitors can enjoy cookies and cider while listening to period music. Costumed military interpreters will be available to discuss how the common soldier spent his time on furlough with friends and family. Cost: Free! For details, contact Amanda Brantley at amanda.brantley@ncdcr.gov or phone (910) 594-0789 ext 203. For online access, go to <http://www.fobb.net> or <http://www.nchistoricsites.org/bentonvi/bentonvi.htm>.

Dec. 1, 2018. 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Fort Branch Christmas. Fort Branch Confederate Earthen Fort Civil War Site, Hamilton, NC. Located 3 miles southeast of Hamilton, N.C. Just off NC Hwy 125/903 at 2883 Fort Branch Road in Martin County on the Roanoke River. The Fort holds a candlelight tour of recreated Christmas scenes. Visitors enjoy refreshments, sharing an interest in history with the participants and caroling around the campfire. For details, go to www.fortbranchcivilwarsite.com or send email request to fort.branch.nc@gmail.com.

Dec. 15, 2018. 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Christmas in the Piedmont during the Civil War. Bennett Place State Historic Site. 4409 Bennett Memorial Rd., Durham, NC 27705. Visit Bennett Place during the Christmas season and witness how this occasion was celebrated in the Piedmont Carolinas during the American Civil War. Living historians will decorate the farm in a typical modest fashion of the time. There will be cooking demonstrations in the kitchen house, Christmas decorations and packages in the main house, soldiers will be on hand to demonstrate Christmas in the field and of course, a visit with Ole St. Nick. Complimentary hot apple cider will be available. There will also be a bake sale where you can purchase some sweet treats. All proceeds from the bake sale go towards the preservation of the site. Cost: FREE. For details, phone (919) 383-4345 or send email to benett@ncdcr.gov.

Dec. 15, 2018. 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Christmas Candlelight Tour Program. Bennett Place State Historic Site. . 4409 Bennett Memorial Rd., Durham, NC 27705. Under the glow of candle light, you can take a special guided tour around the farm and experience first-hand how soldiers and civilians experienced the holidays during a time of war. Tours will take place every 20 minutes and tickets will be required. Groups will need to be limited to approximately 15 people. Complimentary hot apple cider will be available. Cost: \$3.00 per adult and \$2.00 per child ages 5-16. Under 5 free. For details, phone (919) 383-4345 or send email to benett@ncdcr.gov.

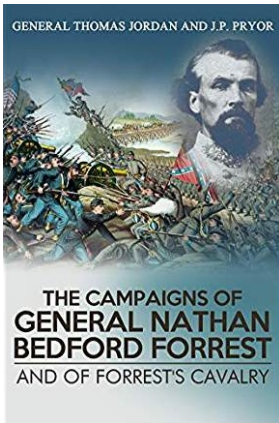
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Re-Release of a Classic

The Campaigns Of General Nathan Bedford Forrest And Of Forrest's Cavalry

by General Thomas Jordan and J.P. Pryor

General Thomas Jordan was a Confederate general and major operative in the network of Confederate spies during the American Civil War. After the war he became a newspaper editor and author, writing articles about the American Civil War. He co-wrote this book with J. P. Pryor who was a professional journalist. Their book, *The Campaigns Of General Nathan Bedford Forrest And Of Forrest's Cavalry*, was first published in 1868, was then re-released as a paperback on August 22, 1996, and was finally just re-released in digital format on October 31, 2018.



General Forrest gave the authors complete access to his

military papers, conducted numerous interviews and worked closely with them to create this fascinating book.

Both Jefferson Davis and Robert E. Lee, in their postwar memoirs, agreed that the outcome of the war might have been different if they had made better use of Forrest's talents.

General William T. Sherman considered "Forrest ... the most remarkable man our Civil War produced on either side ... he had a genius of strategy which was original, and to me incomprehensible."

Paperback edition ISBN-13: 9780306807190
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Available at Quail Ridge Books, Raleigh, NC, as well as other book stores and online at Amazon.com.

"Git thar fustest with the mostest."

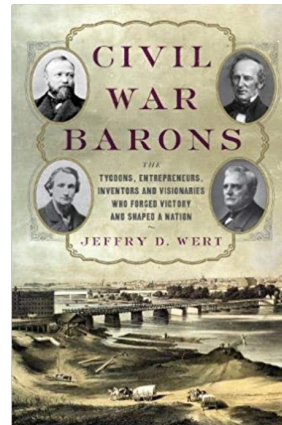
Although not a trained professional soldier, General Nathan Bedford Forrest's natural talent, aggressive actions, energy, and determination led to many victories on the Civil War battlefield. His motto is often erroneously reported as "Git thar fustest with the mostest." The statements he is actually reported to have said include "I always make it a rule to get there first with the most men" and "I just took the short cut and got there first with the most men."

A New Release

Civil War Barons: The Tycoons, Entrepreneurs, Inventors, and Visionaries Who Forged Victory and Shaped a Nation

by Jeffery D. Wert

Before the robber barons of the last third of the 19th century, there were the Civil War barons -- a remarkable yet largely unknown group of men whose contributions won the war and shaped America's future. Their innovations sustained Union troops, affected military strategy and tactics, and made the killing fields even deadlier.



Their ranks included men such as:

John Deere, whose plows helped feed large armies

Gail Borden, whose condensed milk nourished the Union army

The Studebaker Brothers, whose wagons moved war supplies from home front to war front

Robert Parrott, whose rifled cannon was deployed on countless battlefields

Historian Jeffery D. Wert has delved extensively into manuscript collections, company records, and contemporary newspapers to cast a revealing light on the individuals most responsible for bringing the United States into the modern age.

Hardcover ISBN-13: 9780306825125.
Publisher: Da Capo Press, November 6th, 2018

Available at Quail Ridge Books, Raleigh, NC, as well as other book stores and online at Amazon.com.



Funding Effort Toward Conservation of Our "Adopted" 30th NC Infantry Regiment's State Flag

As of November 30th, thanks to proceeds from sales of Andrew Ballard's documentary DVD covering the end of the Civil War in North Carolina, plus generous donations from the Raleigh CWRT Board and others, and including proceeds from the raffle at our November meeting, we have now raised \$6,580 (plus one outstanding pledge of \$250) toward the estimated \$7,500 - \$8,000 conservation cost!

News of the RCWRT



Upcoming RCWRT Meetings

Date	Speaker(s)	Topic
Dec. 10	Betty Vaughn	Holiday Party at Church of the Holy Cross, 2301 W. Millbrook Rd., Raleigh, NC.
2019		
Jan. 12	Ed Bearss	Vicksburg Campaign; 2019 T. Harry Gattton Award winner announced
Feb. 11	Susanna Lee	Motivations of the Civil War Soldier
Mar. 11	Harold Knudsen	Modern War Methods of General Longstreet

Preservation News



Help the American Battlefield Trust in their 2018 projects. There are five battlefields and 317 Acres you can help save today.

Two of the battlefields are in NC and total 51 acres.

- ◆ **Wilson's Creek, MO** - August 10, 1861 (6 acres)
- ◆ **Rappahannock Station, VA** - Nov. 7, 1863 (201 acres)
- ◆ **Bentonville, NC** - Day One - March 19, 1865
- ◆ **Averasboro, NC** - March 16, 1865
- ◆ **Fort Blakeley, AL** - April 9, 1865 (59 acres)

Generous public and private matching funds will allow all 317 acres to be saved for just \$136,222. That means every \$1.00 you can commit today will be multiplied into \$32.74.

For more information on donating, go to <https://www.battlefields.org/give/save-battlefields/save-317-acres-five-civil-war-battlefields>.



The Knapsack

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Readers are encouraged to submit photos, events, & articles for publication to **Bob Graesser, Editor**
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Paying Memberships / Total Members: 128 / 201

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 6:30 pm, at the N.C. Museum of History (located at 5 Edenton Street, across from the State Capitol). The programs begin at 7:00 p.m. Check the RCWRT website (<http://www.raleighcwr.org>) for program dates and timing.

Annual membership dues are \$30 (individual and family) and \$10 for teachers. Student membership is free. Half-year memberships are available March through May for \$20. Dues should be submitted to the Treasurer by **September 15** each year.