

The Realities of Slavery.”

# ***The Knapsack***

***Raleigh Civil War Round Table***

***The same rain falls on both friend and foe.***

***July 9, 2012  
Our 137th Meeting***



***Volume 12  
Number 7***

## **Blythe Toussaint to Speak at July 9 Meeting On ‘What Price Freedom? The Realities of Slavery’**

Blythe Forcey Toussaint, a novelist and consultant, will speak at the Raleigh Civil War Round Table’s July 9 meeting.



Blythe has studied 19th Century American history and culture for many years. In 1992, she received her Ph.D. in 19th Century American Literature from the University of Colorado at Boulder. Her academic career included several years at North Carolina State University and some visiting assignments at the

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Blythe chose to leave academe for industry more than 15 years ago, and has built a career around marketing, training, and business writing. More than four years ago, she founded her own consulting firm, Performance Trajectories LLC, and now splits her time between consulting projects and the writing of fiction.

She recently published *Year of Disunion: A Novel of the Dawn of the American Civil War*. The novel tracks the life of a family from the start of the war and includes events in Raleigh and Hatteras Island in North Carolina. She is working on her next novel, tentatively titled *Gilead’s Fate: The Life of a House*, set in upstate New York beginning in 1811.

Blythe comes from a long line of writers, including her grandmother, Anya Seton, and great-

grandfather, Ernest Thompson Seton. She currently lives in Longmont, Colo., with her husband, David Toussaint, a native of Raleigh, and three dogs. She enjoys visiting family and friends in Raleigh several times a year.

Blythe’s presentation to the Round Table at this month’s meeting is titled “At What Price Freedom?”

### **~ Slavery and Freedom ~**

The slave population at the start of the Civil War was about 4 million. Approximately 75 percent of the people enslaved worked as agricultural laborers, the bulk of them in cotton fields. Some 15 percent of slaves were domestic servants, and about 10 percent were in commerce, trade, or industrial work.



Of the African-Americans in the United States in 1860, approximately 500,000 were free. About half of those free blacks lived in the South, generally in urban centers such as New Orleans.



# The Sesquicentennial



July 1862

## Morgan Raids Kentucky!

On July 4, Confederate Col. John Hunt Morgan launched a cavalry raid into Kentucky. Morgan's first raid of the state involved about 900 men and took about three weeks.

Morgan would take Tompkinsville, Ky., on July 9, and capture Lebanon on July 12. He reported the capture of some 1,200 Federal troops and several hundred horses, while destroying large quantities of supplies.

The raid alarmed the pro-Union military government of Kentucky, slowed the advance of Maj. Gen. Don C. Buell on Chattanooga, Tenn., and was a factor in the decision to launch a Confederate offensive into the state that fall.



John Hunt Morgan

During July 1862, Abraham Lincoln would begin to craft his Emancipation Proclamation. Lincoln would present his proclamation to his Cabinet on July 22, and Secretary of State William Seward would tell the President he should wait for a military victory before unveiling it to the nation.

Also during July, the ironclad CSS *Arkansas* would meet Federal ships north of Vicksburg, Miss., on the Yazoo River and damage three of them.

July also would see U.S. Maj. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant take command of the Army of Tennessee, Army of the Mississippi, and other western troops, as well as the appointment of Maj. Gen. Henry Halleck as commander of Federal forces. The U.S. Congress passed a law allowing the confiscation of property on July 17, and a pact on the exchange of prisoners was reached July 22.

## Belle Boyd Arrested

One of the most famous Confederate spies, Isabella "Belle" Boyd, was arrested on July 29, 1862, after being betrayed by the lover who had supplied her with information. Boyd was held for a month at the Old Capitol Prison in Washington, D.C., before she was exchanged.



Boyd had passed valuable information to Generals Turner Ashby and "Stonewall" Jackson during the Valley Campaign that spring, for which she was awarded the Southern Cross of Honor and honorary military titles. This was the second of what would be three of her arrests as a spy.

## The Army Medal of Honor

The Army Medal of Honor was authorized by Congress on July 12, 1862. The award was to be given to enlisted personnel who distinguished themselves through gallantry. Officers became eligible in March 1863.



The pendant was identical in design to the award previously authorized for the Navy, but its suspension and the clasp differed. The Army's version had a suspension with crossed cannons, balls, sword, and eagle and its clasp consisted of two cornucopias and the arms of the United States. 1,522 individuals received the Army's highest award for valor for their actions during the American Civil War.

## New Home for the CSS Neuse

On June 23, the Confederate ironclad CSS *Neuse* was moved into a new climate-controlled location in downtown Kinston, N.C.



The move of the remains came after several years of planning and preparation, and aims to preserve what is left of the vessel, which was scuttled and burned by her crew in March 1865, as Union forces approached.

## Upcoming Events

**July 14:** Fort Fisher Historic Site in Kure Beach, N.C., will hold a talk on wounds, fevers, and diseases. Free. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Telephone (910) 458-5538 or go to <http://www.nchistoricsites.org/fisher/fisher.htm>.

**July 14:** Bentonville Battlefield near Four Oaks, N.C., will host a free living history program on African Americans in North Carolina during the Civil War. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call (910) 594-0789 or go to <http://www.nchistoricsites.org/bentonvi>.

**July 14:** The N.C. Maritime Museum in Beaufort, N.C., presents a free lecture on "The Burnside Expedition." Event at 3 p.m. For details, call (252) 728-7317 or go to <http://www.ncmaritimemuseums.com/beaufort.html>.

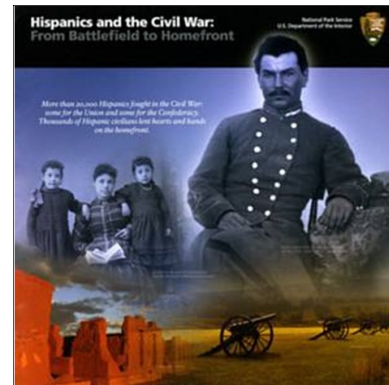
**July 14:** Lenoir Community College in Kinston, N.C., holds a lecture on African Americans' Role in the Civil War. Free event at 2 p.m. For details, call (252) 522-2091 or go to <http://www.nchistoricsites.org/neuse>.

**July 8:** Duke Homestead State Historic site in Durham, N.C. presents lecture, "Slaves and Soldiers, The Expansion of Bright Leaf Tobacco in NC." 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Free. For more information, call (919) 477-5498 or see <http://www.nchistoricsites.org/duke/duke.htm>.

**August 4:** The Iredell County Agricultural Center in Statesville, N.C., presents conference on "The Civil War in the Yadkin Valley." 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. \$20 payable at the door. More information at [rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ncyadvha](http://rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ncyadvha) or telephone (336) 428-8471.

## Hispanics and the War

The National Park Service has recently released a publication focusing on Hispanics and the Civil War.

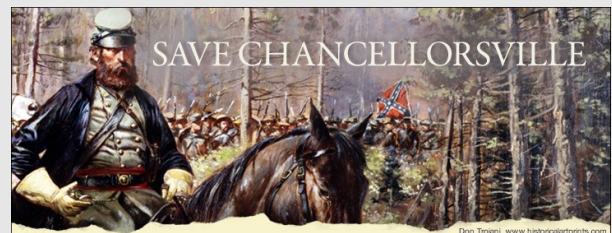


More than 20,000 Hispanics fought in the war, and served on both sides, and the conflict affected many civilians. The new softcover book looks at their lives, stories, and achievements.

The book is available from the Park Service for \$4.95 at <http://www.eparks.com/store>.

## Preservation News

The Civil War Trust seeks to preserve 14 key acres at the Chancellorsville battlefield in Virginia. The targeted property is associated with Stonewall Jackson's famous flank attack.



The May 2, 1863, flank attack by Jackson turned the tide of the battle, but cost him his life.

The Civil War Trust's goal in this campaign is to raise \$95,000. Donations will be matched 5 to 1.

For details on the Trust's new effort to save more of Chancellorsville, go to <http://www.civilwar.org/battlefields/chancellorsville/chancellorsville-2012>.

# News of the RCWRT



## Upcoming RCWRT Meetings

- August:** Chris Meekins, Mayor Respass, traitor  
**September:** James Clark, Walt Whitman  
**October:** Josh Howard, new NC casualty estimates  
**November:** Chris Fonvielle, photo history of Ft. Fisher  
**December:** Christmas party at State Capitol  
**January:** Annual event with Ed Bearss  
**February:** Lerae Umfleet, Wilmington race riots  
**March:** Ernie Dollar, PTSD and war's end in NC  
**April:** Marvin Nicholson, the African-American experience  
**May:** Sandy Barnard, a private in the Irish Brigade

## Milus, Waller on Talk Radio

Former RCWRT presidents Kevin Milus and David Waller will be guests on the Tom Kearney Show (WPTF 680 AM). The broadcast will be on Monday, July 2 at 9 p.m. Milus and Waller will discuss the Battle of Gettysburg on its 149<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Please tune in!

## A Message From The President

"Several of our upcoming speakers and presenters have recently authored books upon which their presentations are based. Please consider bringing your checkbooks or cash to our meetings to support their efforts!"

## Loss of a Member

On June 6, the Raleigh Civil War Round Table lost long-time member and friend, Beverly Parks Honeycutt, after a long battle with breast cancer. We express our deepest sympathy to Beverly's family. She will be missed.



## The Knapsack

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### RCWRT Score Card

|         |     |
|---------|-----|
| Members | 110 |
|---------|-----|

**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, (5 Edenton St. across from the State Capitol). Members and guests are encouraged to meet for supper at K&W Cafeteria (511 Woodburn Rd, Cameron Village) at 5:15; and for further discussion at The Mellow Mushroom (Glenwood Avenue & Peace Street) immediately after the meeting. Annual membership dues are \$30 (individual and family) and \$15 for students. Half-year memberships are available March through May for \$20.