

The Knapsack

Raleigh Civil War Round Table

The same rain falls on both friend and foe.

***July 11, 2016
Our 185th Meeting***

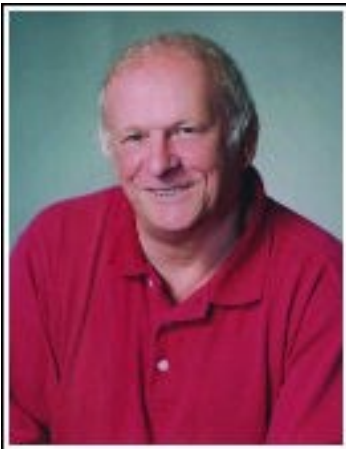


***Volume 16
Number 7***

<http://www.raleighcwrt.org>

July 11 Event Features Marshall Conyers Offering His Poetry on Gettysburg

“Of blood and honor ... death and glory”... thus opens *Amongst Immortals Raging: Gettysburg's Third Day Begins*, a collection of poems crafted by Marshall Conyers, featured speaker at the Raleigh Civil War Round Table's July 11 meeting.



Marshall was born Dec. 25, 1946, in Wilson, N.C. He graduated from Fike Senior High School in 1965, and from Atlantic Christian College in 1969, majoring in history and minoring in political science.

Marshall taught science and history in Windsor, N.C., also coaching track and basketball. Since

leaving the teaching profession, he has worked as a public health official, carpenter, surveyor, painting contractor, roofing contractor, home repairman, and supervisor of a large testing lab for an international corporation. He is a veteran of the Army National Guard, serving in a mechanized infantry unit until his honorable discharge in 1976.

Before suffering a knee injury last year, Marshall was an avid bicyclist and kayaker, with a passion for the natural world. He loves wandering in the woods with his beloved dog Pal and has been an amateur anthropologist since a child, amassing one of the finest Native American arrowhead collections. He also has authored a children's book, *How Many Feathers Does It Take to Make an Eagle Fly* and

Sing, Nonnieweetok, Sing, an epic about the early Native American. At our July 2016 meeting, Marshall will transport you back to Gettysburg's third day through his vivid, lyrical, and emotional poetry.

Copies of Marshall's book will be offered for sale at the meeting and he will be happy to sign them.

~o~

~ They Also Served ~

One of Marshall's poems is titled "O' Dan," taken from the perspective of a caisson-pulling mule with Porter Alexander's artillery in Gettysburg.



An excerpt from the poem: "I protest...but cannot shun this fate I did nothing to deserve. *Who will speak for me?* for us...our sad four-legged kind, so incapable of making carnage which so mars the race of *them*." Some 3,000 to 5,000 horses and mules were killed at Gettysburg alone, and tens of thousands more gave their lives during the conflict.



North Carolina

The States During the Civil War



'The Old North State'

North Carolina was one of the original colonies and the 12th state to ratify the U.S. Constitution. It was one of the last Southern states to secede, doing so on May 20, 1861. Just a few weeks before it left the Union, citizens of the "Old North State" voted 47,323 to 46,672 to remain in the United States. Although it reluctantly seceded, North Carolina provided more troops to the Confederacy and saw more casualties than any other Southern state.

In 1860, North Carolina had a population of 992,662. Of that total, 331,059, or about one-third, were slaves. The state's coastal city of Wilmington was a vital port of the Confederacy, especially late in the war. The state was politically divided, with few slaves living in the western region.

Approximately 125,000 men from North Carolina served in the Confederate forces and well over 30,000 of them died during the Civil War. Several thousand black and white men from the Old North State also served in the Union army and navy.



North Carolina Monument, Gettysburg

1860 Election Results:

| | |
|----------------------------|----------------|
| John C. Breckenridge (Dem) | 48,846 (50.5%) |
| John Bell (Union) | 45,129 (46.7%) |
| Stephen Douglas (Dem) | 2,690 (2.8%) |

Secession Vote (5/20/61 Delegate Vote):

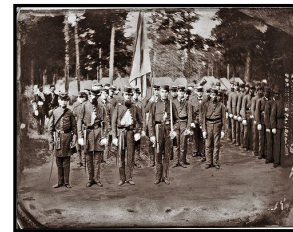
For 115-0

Governors:

| | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| John Willis Ellis (Dem) | Jan. 1, 1859 – July 7, 1861 |
| Henry Toole Clark (Dem) | July 7, 1861 – Sept. 8, 1862 |
| Zebulon B. Vance (Consv) | Sept. 8, 1862–May 29, 1865 |

'Tar Heels'

North Carolina provided some 69 infantry regiments to the Confederate cause, along with several more cavalry and artillery units. Troops from the state were nicknamed "Tar Heels," reportedly used as both a derogatory and complimentary term. North Carolinians played a major role in most of the fights in the Eastern Theater of the war.



The 20th N.C. Regiment

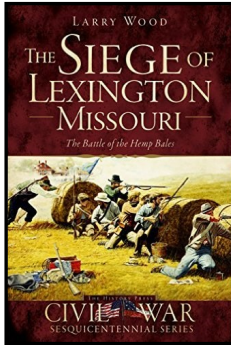
Among the many notable units from North Carolina was the 26th Regiment, which suffered nearly 72 percent casualties at Gettysburg, mostly during the first day. The 27th lost some 61 percent of its men at Antietam and the 2nd, 4th, 14th, and 40th fought bravely in the Sunken Road during that battle. The 21st fought in several significant Civil War battles.

Most of the action in the state during the early years of the war was on the coast, with Union Maj. Gen. Ambrose Burnside's attempt to capture key ports and cities from September 1861 until July 1862. During the closing months of the war, Union forces under Sherman marched into North Carolina, coastal forts and the vital port of Wilmington were captured, and the key battles of Averasboro and Bentonville were fought. The largest surrender of Confederate troops during the Civil War occurred at the Bennett Farm near Durham on April 26, 1865.

Andrew Johnson, who became the President of the United States after Lincoln's assassination, was born in Raleigh. Confederate generals from the Old North State included Gen. Braxton Bragg, Lt. Gen. Leonidas Polk, Maj. Gens. D. H. Hill, Robert F. Hoke, Dorsey Pender, Stephen D. Ramseur, and Robert Ransom, Jr. Among the brigadier generals from the state were George B. Anderson, Lewis A. Armistead, Rufus Barringer, Lawrence O. Branch, Junius Daniel, Bryan Grimes, James H. Lane, J. Johnston Pettigrew, and Matt W. Ransom.

Strange, But True

Bales of hemp helped secure a Confederate victory during a September 1861 battle.



Missouri State Guardsmen crafted a mobile breastwork out of hemp bales soaked in water to advance on the Union-occupied town of Lexington, Mo. More than 3,000 Federal soldiers were captured after the garrison surrendered.

For more about the battle, see Larry Wood's book, *The Siege of Lexington, Missouri: Battle of Hemp Bales* (Civil War Series, 2014).

Upcoming Events

July 16. Fort Fisher Historical Site in Kure Beach, N.C. presents Wade Sokolosky on the Battle of Wise's Forks. Free. 2 p.m. Go to <http://www.nchistoricsites.org/fisher> or call (910) 458-5538 for details.

July 16-17. Bennett Place Historical Site in Durham, N.C., presents a living history program featuring Civil War surgeons. Learn about the ambulance corps and Union and Confederate medical equipment. Free. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sat., 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sun. Call (919) 383-4345 or see <http://www.nchistoricsites.org/bennett/bennett.htm>.

July 23. Fort Fisher Historical Site in Kure Beach, N.C. presents Richard Triebe on the plight of the fort's POWs. Free. 2 p.m. Go to <http://www.nchistoricsites.org/fisher> or call (910) 458-5538 for details.

July 30. The CSS *Neuse* Civil War Interpretive Center in Kinston, N.C. offers a "Hands on History" program on Confederate blockade running during the Civil War. Go to <http://www.nchistoricsites.org/neuse/neuse.htm> or call (252) 522-2107 for details.

July 30. Fort Fisher Historical Site in Kure Beach, N.C. presents Michael Hardy on North Carolina as the capital of the Confederacy. Free. 2 p.m. Call (910) 458-5538 or see <http://www.nchistoricsites.org/fisher>.

Can You See It?

In 1861, artist William Bauly painted "The Fate of the Rebel Flag," which the Library of Congress calls one of his "militantly Unionist" works.



The LOC's online description reads: "In a spectacular nocturnal scene, a large warship sinks and burns on a calm sea littered with debris. The flames take on the configuration of the red, white, and blue flag of the Confederacy, the blue field with seven stars being formed by the night sky showing through the flames. Lightning strikes the flag from the upper left."

Preservation News

The Civil War Trust is seeking to preserve important ground at five battlefields in Virginia.



The land targeted for preservation is 313 acres in the "Old Dominion" at Gaines' Mill, Ream's Station, Sailor's Creek, White Oak Road, and Williamsburg.

The Trust's goal in this campaign is to raise \$91,000. Donations are matched at a 10.8:1 rate!

For details, go to <http://www.civilwar.org/battlefields/sailorscreek/old-dominion-2016>.

News of the RCWRT



Upcoming RCWRT Meetings

August: Betty Vaughn, first person

September: Susanna Lee, Sioux Uprising

October: Doug Mattox, CSA currency and stamps

November: Fitzhugh Brundage, Frederick Douglass

December: Holiday Party at the Capitol

January: annual Ed Bearss event

Business Cards

The RCWRT now has its own “business card” that includes a description of our organization, meeting times, and contact and website information. They are available at our monthly meetings— take some and hand them out at history events or to prospective members or guests!



What You Missed on Facebook!

Recent posts on our Facebook page included one by Eric Wittenberg on the anniversary of Brandy Station, information about the North Carolina Institution for the Deaf and Dumb and the Blind being pressed into Confederate service for the printing of money and the manufacturing of munitions, and a description of the origins of both the Confederate and U.S. Memorial Days. Regular stories about Iowa Confederates have also been featured. It's a great way to share and solicit information about the Civil War and related topics. Come and join us – its free! Go to <http://www.facebook.com> and search for “Raleigh Civil War Roundtable.”



The Knapsack

*is the official newsletter of the RCWRT and is published on the Wednesday before each meeting.
(July 2016 Circulation: 376)*

Staff

*Andrew Ballard, Editor
George Long, Proofreader*

Contributors

*David Connon
Eric Wittenberg*

*Readers are encouraged to submit photos, events, & articles for publication to
Andrew Ballard, Editor
(anballard@yahoo.com; 919-215-7304)*

RCWRT Board of Directors

Ted Kunstling, President, 919-787-5282, trkunstling@aol.com
George Mills, VP, 919-847-8581, g.c.mills.iii@earthlink.net
Griff Bartlett, Treasurer, 919-848-6562, griffb@yahoo.com
Andrew Ballard, 919- 215-7304, anballard@yahoo.com
Pat Ford, 919-395-8104, patford41@att.net
John Kucik, 919-616-0855, johnkucik@yahoo.com
David Waller, 919-602-8152 djcwaller@earthlink.net
Frank Ragsdale, 919-847-1005, fr1947@gmail.com
Steve Savia, 919-846-6908, sagegroup1@aol.com

RCWRT Score Card

Members 171

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.