

The Knapsack

Raleigh Civil War Round Table

The same rain falls on both friend and foe.

June 10, 2019
Our 220th Meeting



Volume 19
Number 6

<http://www.raleighcwrt.org>

June 10 Event Features Charlie Knight, M.A., Speaking on The Battle of New Market

Our upcoming meeting will be on Monday, June 10, 2019 at 7:00 pm in Daniels Auditorium at the NC Museum of History in Raleigh and will feature Charlie Knight, M.A., speaking on **The Battle of New Market**. This will be preceded at 6:30 pm by a social "half-hour".



Charlie Knight is Curator of Military History at the North Carolina Museum of History in Raleigh. He has 20 years of experience in the museum field, having previously worked as a Historical Interpreter at New Market Battlefield Park in New Market, VA; Curator of the Douglas MacArthur Memorial in Norfolk, VA, and; Director of the Arizona Capitol Museum in Phoenix, AZ. He joined the NC Museum of History staff in 2017.

Knight is originally from Richmond, VA, and is a graduate of Bridgewater College and American Military University, with degrees in U.S. History and Military History (M.A.). He has written numerous articles and book reviews for a variety of magazines, including Blue & Gray, Classic Trains, Hallowed Ground, and Shenandoah at War among others. His first book, **Valley Thunder: The Battle of New Market**, was published in 2010, and his second book, **Robert E. Lee: Day by Day**, will be published in late 2019; he is also working on a biography of Confederate General and railroad magnate William Mahone.

Knight has spoken to various historical organizations and at conferences around the country and was an advisor to the 2014 film **Field of Lost Shoes**, about the Battle of New Market. He is a past member of the Scottsdale (AZ) Civil War Round Table and current member of the Raleigh CWRT and of the Leonidas Polk Camp of the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

Charlie lives in Holly Springs, NC, with his wife and two children.

~ o ~

A Synopsis of Charles R. Knight's Book **Valley Thunder: The Battle of New Market**

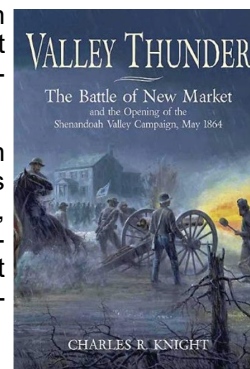
Charles R. Knight's **Valley Thunder** is the first full-length account in more than three decades to examine the combat at New Market on May 15, 1864 – the battle that opened the pivotal 1864 Shenandoah Valley Campaign.

One of Grant's keys to success in the Eastern Theater in 1864 was control of the Shenandoah Valley, a strategically important and agriculturally abundant region that helped feed Lee's Army of Northern Virginia.

Grant sent 10,000 troops under Franz Sigel to clear the Valley and threaten Lee's left flank. Opposing Sigel was 4,500 troops under John C. Breckinridge, including the cadets from VMI. The battle seesawed back and forth and was not concluded until the cadets were dramatically inserted into the battle line to repulse a Federal attack and launch one of their own. The Confederate victory drove the Union forces from the Valley, but within a month, the Federals returned with reinforcements and permanently swept the Confederates from the Valley.

Valley Thunder: The Battle of New Market is based upon years of primary research and a firsthand appreciation of the battlefield terrain. Knight's balanced and objective approach includes a detailed examination of the complex prelude leading up to the day of battle. His entertaining prose introduces a new generation of readers to a wide array of soldiers, civilians, and politicians who found themselves swept up in one of the war's most gripping engagements.

Publisher: Savas Beatie. New paperback reprint, April 30, 2018. SBN-10: 161121422X; ISBN-13: 978-1611214222. Available from Quail Ridge Books in Raleigh, NC, Amazon.com, and other book sellers.





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

By Charlie Knight, Curator of Military History



North Carolina at VMI

A few weeks ago, I happened to be in Lexington, VA, to speak to the Rockbridge CWRT. Lexington is of course home to Virginia Military Institute and Washington & Lee University and was called home by both Stonewall Jackson and Robert E. Lee, both of whose final resting places are in Lexington. I was there on May 15 – the anniversary of the Battle of New Market, in which VMI's Corps of Cadets distinguished itself. VMI holds a ceremony every year on that date to commemorate the battle and the loss of 10 cadets killed or mortally wounded at New Market. (To learn more about the battle, be sure to attend the June 10th meeting for a presentation by me on that very subject.)

Although the Confederate force at New Market was mostly Virginians (granted a good number of them were from what is now West Virginia) with some Marylanders thrown in for good measure, there were a handful of North Carolinians among the VMI cadets. A handful of other Tar Heels attended VMI over the course of the war as well, as the Institute had just begun admitting cadets from out of state in 1860.

Thomas Pollock Devereux of Raleigh attended VMI for two years as a member of the Class of 1866. His VMI record does not state when he left the institute, but in January 1864 he enlisted in the 43rd North Carolina at Orange Court House, where the Army of Northern Virginia was in winter quarters. Devereux was detailed as a courier for Brig. Gen. Junius Daniel, providing his own horse to do so.



Shell jacket, possibly VMI-issue, worn by Pvt. Thomas P. Devereux while serving as a courier in 1864-5. – NC Museum of History

After Daniel was killed at Spotsylvania, Devereux came home to Raleigh, probably recovering from a wound as he appears on a list of patients at Pettigrew Hospital in Raleigh, although the reason for his stay there is not given.

He returned to duty in late June, serving as a courier for Daniel's replacement, Brig. Gen. Bryan Grimes, and continued to serve in that capacity up to Appomattox where he received his parole. Decades after the war, Devereux wrote a short memoir of the final year of the war entitled *From Petersburg to Appomattox*, which resides among his papers at UNC's Wilson Library. The Library of Congress recently acquired a photograph taken of Devereux



while home in Raleigh in May/June 1864, and the jacket he is wearing in that image – which features VMI buttons – is in the collection of the NC Museum of History.

Thomas P. Devereux photographed in Raleigh in May or June 1864; note the mourning ribbon for Gen. Daniel on the crook of his right arm. – Library of Congress

Several months after Devereux joined the Army of Northern Virginia, his colleagues at VMI were called into service to aid in repelling a Union thrust into the Shenandoah Valley. The Corps of Cadets, roughly 250 young men, joined the Confederate forces of Maj. Gen. John C. Breckinridge and turned back a larger Union force under Maj. Gen. Franz Sigel at New Market on May 15, 1864.



Closeup of Benjamin West Clinedinst's 1914 painting of the VMI Cadets at New Market, which hangs in Jackson Memorial Hall at VMI. – VMI

North Carolina at VMI (cont.)

The cadets lost 10 killed or mortally wounded and another 47 wounded in what would be the largest engagement in which the student body from a military school participated.

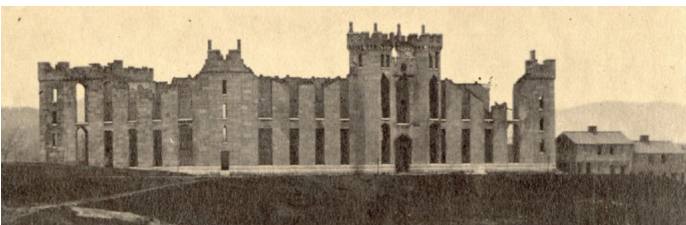
In the cadet ranks at New Market were seven North Carolinians, and one more was left behind in Lexington due to illness:

- Alva C. Hartsfield, 1866 – Wake Co.
- William J. Lumsden, 1867 – Greensboro
- William H. McDowell, 1867 – Iredell Co.
- Patrick H. Morgan, 1866 – Currituck Co.
- George M. Rose, 1867 – Fayetteville
- William B. Shaw, 1865 – Currituck Co. (left behind)
- William P. Watson, 1867 – Warren Co.
- Julian E. Wood, 1866 – Currituck Co.

Of those seven, McDowell was killed in the battle and Hartsfield died a month later due to wounds he sustained at New Market. McDowell's family was notified of his death shortly after the battle by one of his instructors, to which his father replied: "Your letter informing me of the death of my son has been received. It came upon me like a clap of thunder in a clear sky, as I was not aware the cadets had been called out."



William H. McDowell – VMI



Ruins of VMI after being burned by Union Gen. David Hunter's army in June 1864. – VMI

Hartsfield is buried in Blandford Cemetery in Petersburg, VA, and McDowell is one of six cadets buried at the base of the statue *Virginia Mourning Her Dead*, by noted artist Moses Ezekiel who was a New Market Cadet himself, on the grounds at VMI.



Virginia Mourning Her Dead, with several cadet graves visible at rear. – Charlie Knight

McDowell later became the central figure in a children's book about the battle entitled *Ghost Cadet* by Elaine Alphin. In it McDowell's ghost returns to the battlefield and enlists the aid of a student in looking for his gold pocket watch. Although obviously fiction, the part about the watch is true – McDowell's watch, given to him by his father, was not found on McDowell's body after the battle, nor was it among his effects in Lexington.

~ o ~

Upcoming Events

June 8, 2019: 2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Maritime History of the American Civil War: Summer on USS Monitor

The Mariners' Museum and Park, 100 Museum Drive, Newport News, VA 23606.

After the Confederates were forced to destroy CSS Virginia as they withdrew from Norfolk in early May, USS Monitor sailed up the James River to support the Union Army during the Peninsula Campaign. The ship participated in the Battle of Drewry's Bluff later that month and remained in the area giving support to General McClellan's forces on land.



John V. Quarstein is a renowned historian and director emeritus of the USS Monitor Center at The Mariners' Museum & Park. Join

him as he describes the Summer of 1862 aboard the USS Monitor and how the time spent on the river was marked with inactivity and hot weather which had a negative effect on the morale and health of USS Monitor's crew.

Lectures are FREE for Mariners' Members and included in the \$1 Museum admission for non-Mariners' Members. For more details about this lecture or to reserve your seat online (as seating is limited), please visit MarinersMuseum.org/Lectures.

~ o ~

July 23-28, 2019: Antietam: The Bloodiest Day -- Civil War History Conference and Tours

Symposium based at the Ramada Plaza Hotel, 1718 Underpass Way, Hagerstown, MD 17201.

Featuring Tom Clemens, Dennis Frye, Kevin Pawlak, Wayne Motts, Carol Reardon, John Priest and many others at the LARGEST Antietam Conference ever held!

More than 25 of the top historians and tour guides in the Civil War history field will cover diverse topics such as the opposing forces, medical care, photography, the historic Dunker Church and more.



In addition, you will have the opportunity to engage in micro tactical tours of the battlefield, and the campaign led by expert guides.

Note: All participants are responsible for arranging hotel accommodations at www.wyndhamhotels.com for the seminar, which is not included in tour price. \$110/night double occupancy plus tax.

Special pricing for participants based on room availability. When making hotel reservations, mention Chambersburg

Civil War Seminars / Lark Kennedy. Use code 072319LAR.

For full itinerary and pricing, go to http://civilwarseminars.org/?page_id=29. Register online at <http://business.chambersburg.org/events/details/antietam-the-bloodiest-day-27802>.

Chambersburg Civil War Seminars & Tours has been hosting Civil War Tours for more than 28 years. **Special discounts are available for Civil War Round Table members.** For more information, visit the Chambersburg Civil War Seminars & Tours website at <http://www.civilwarseminars.org>, or contact Lark Plessinger by phone at (717) 264-7101 ext. 206.

~ o ~

August 24, 2019: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Life on Campaign: Summer Living History at Bentonville Battlefield

Bentonville Battlefield, 5466 Harper House Rd, Four Oaks, NC 27524.

Hear the roar of cannon fire! Learn how artillery regiments loaded and fired during the Civil War. Infantry displays by the 27th NC Co. D will showcase a common soldier's daily life. Demonstrations will occur throughout the day. This event is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Amanda Brantley at (910) 594-0789 or email her at amanda.brantley@ncdcr.gov.

~ o ~

October 18-20, 2019: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. each day. 23rd Annual Civil War Symposium

Pamplin Historical Park, 6125 Boydton Plank Road, Petersburg, VA 23803

Hear from some of the nation's greatest Civil War scholars as they talk about **Small Battles, Big Results**.

The authors and topics are as follows:

- Mr. Peter Cozzens – Battle of Iuka
- Mr. Jerry Desmond – Battle of Ringgold
- Mr. Rod Gragg – Battle of Fort Fisher
- Mr. Jeff Hunt – Battle of Mine Run
- Mr. James Morgan – Battle of Ball's Bluff
- Dr. Timothy Smith – Champion Hill
- Dr. Brian Steel Wills – Battle of Fort Pillow

The Symposium begins on Friday night with a reception at the Park where attendees and speakers can meet and enjoy refreshments. Saturday is filled with lectures and opportunities to purchase published works by the speakers for autographs and participation in a silent auction. Sunday will feature additional speakers and a panel discussion. Symposium pricing is \$339.00 per attendee.

Call (804) 861-2408 or visit <http://www.pamplinpark.org> for more information and to register today. Space is limited so register now. See and print the registration form at <https://pamplinpark.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/symp19-flyerfinal2full.pdf>.

Raleigh CWRT Reaches Fund-Raising Goal for Conservation of State Flag Belonging to the 30th NC Infantry Regiment

Dr. Ted Kunstling, President of the Raleigh Civil War Round Table (RCWRT), is pleased to announce that, with anticipated incoming receipts over the next few weeks, the goal of raising \$8,000 to cover funding for conservation of a NC state flag belonging to the 30th NC Infantry Regiment will have been reached.



The flag was donated to the museum in 1914 by Susie Foxhall, a niece of Col. Francis Marion Parker, who commanded the Regiment until January 17, 1865, when he left that post because of his wounds.

A down payment of \$1,500 has already been made to start the conservation process. The outside conservator has indicated that they will start work on the project this fall. The conservation and mounting process will take up to a year to complete. Photos detailing progress will be taken throughout the conservation process.

As an interesting aside, this particular NC state flag is unique in that its horizontal blue and white color bars are reversed as compared to the officially designated description. North Carolina legislative records show that a "state flag" was not established or recognized until 1861. The constitutional convention of 1861, which passed the ordinance of secession, adopted a state flag. On May 20, 1861, the day the secession resolution was adopted, Col. John D. Whitford, a member of the convention from Craven County, introduced an ordinance. The law as it appears in the ordinance and resolutions passed by the convention is as follows:

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 center, 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.]

This state flag, adopted in 1861, is said to have been issued to North Carolina regiments of state troops during the summer of 1861 and borne by them throughout the war. It was the only flag, except the national and Confederate colors, used by North Carolina troops during the Civil War. This flag existed until 1885, when the Legislature adopted a new model.

After the conserved flag has been returned to the NC Museum of History, the RCWRT, with participation by Museum staff, will celebrate with a presentation ceremony at one of the Round Table's monthly meetings. This will include a review of the photos mentioned above. The flag will then be added to the collection of Civil War NC state flags for rotation into the Museum's Story of NC exhibit gallery. When displayed to the public, the flag will be accompanied by label copy which will include a line crediting the RCWRT as providing the funding for its conservation.

The notion of having the RCWRT provide the funds for conserving a Civil War NC state flag was originated by Andrew Ballard, editor emeritus of the RCWRT's *Knapsack* newsletter. To this end, Andrew produced a documentary film covering the end of the Civil War in North Carolina. For details, see the article [Member-Produced Civil War Documentary Film Available](#) on the front page of the Raleigh CWRT's website, <http://www.raleighcwrt.org/>. Donations for receiving this video



Andrew Ballard

have provided a significant portion of the funds needed for the conservation project.



Dr. Ted Kunstling

A second significant source of funding was obtained through donations obtained from a number of presentations made by Dr. Kunstling to the local community in 2018 and 2019 on the topic [Raleigh Occupied 1865](#). This concerned the occupation of Raleigh by Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman and his army in mid-April 1865. Dr. Kunstling also led follow-up bus tours through Raleigh as he pointed out the structures mentioned earlier in his talks.

Finally, generous donations from the RCWRT's Board of Directors and others, plus raffle proceeds, made up the bulk of the remaining funding.

It should also be noted that the achieved funding goal for this project does not end the RCWRT's fund-raising activities for future educational and preservation activities related to North Carolina and the Civil War.

News of the RCWRT



Upcoming 2019 RCWRT Meetings

Date	Speaker	Topic
Jun. 10	Charlie Knight, M.A. in Military History	The Battle of New Market
Jul. 8	James White, M.Ed.	New Bern in the Civil War
Aug. 12	Philip Gerard, M.F.A. in Creative Writing	The Last Battleground — The Civil War Comes to NC
Sep. 9	Amy Bauer	135th Infantry Regiment U.S. Colored Troops
Oct. 14	Wade Sokolosky, U.S. Army Col. (ret.)	NC Confederate Hospitals in 1865
Nov. 4	Ron Roth, M.T. in Museum Studies	Desperate Hours: Understanding the Battle of Gettysburg Through the Art of its Battlefield Monuments
Dec. 9	Holiday Party	Location and entertainment to be announced

Did You Know This About the Battle of New Market?

- Clarence Derrick was the only West Pointer on the field in gray at New Market. He was a classmate of George A. Custer in the Class of 1861, ranking 5th while Custer ranked last.
- There are two monuments on the battlefield which were erected by veterans of the engagement, the 1st Missouri Cavalry and the 54th Pennsylvania Infantry. Surprisingly, there is no actual monument to the VMI cadets on site.
- After the war, Henry A. DuPont, then a Senator from Delaware, procured Federal funds to repay VMI for damages it incurred when it was burned by Federal troops one month after the battle in retaliation for the Cadets' participation.
- New Market was the site of the earliest Memorial Day in the South, May 15, 1866.
- Some historians have called New Market the "most important secondary battle of the war" in that it may have extended the life of the Confederacy by nearly a year.

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.raleighcwrt.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.



The Knapsack

is the official newsletter of the RCWRT and is published on the 1st of each month.

(May 2019 Circulation: 301)

Staff

Bob Graesser, Editor

Contributors

Griff Bartlett, Charlie Knight, Ted Kunstling

Readers are encouraged to submit photos, events, & articles for publication to Bob Graesser, Editor

RCWRT Board of Directors (2018-2020)

Name	Position	Phone #	Email Address
Ted Kunstling	President	919-787-5282	trkunstling@aol.com
Adam Medlin	Vice President	919-478-5643	h46thnc@gmail.com
Griff Bartlett	Sec.-Treas.	919-848-6562	griffb@yahoo.com
Jack Milani	Trip Coord.	919-848-3670	1huntmstr@gmail.com
Pattie Smith	Prog. Chair	252-450-5040	rvpls00@yahoo.com
Bob Graesser	Knapsack Ed./ Webmaster	919-244-9041	bob.graesser@gmail.com
John Wood	Member	919-802-7996	john3wood@gmail.com
Beverly Thomas	Member	919-859-4474	bhthomas@nc.rr.com

Paying Memberships / Total Members: 134 / 214

New member: Jim Wilder from Raleigh, NC

Generous Donation of Civil War-Related Book Collection Received From Nancy Brenner

Nancy Brenner, widow of our former member Jim Brenner, has generously donated his collection of Civil War-related books to the Raleigh CWRT. Some 15-20 of the best titles will be raffled off at the June 10th meeting. The proceeds will seed a new pool for funding future educational and preservation activities related to North Carolina and the Civil War. **By the way, if you yourself have any books or items that you would like to donate, please bring them to the June 10th meeting to be included in the raffle. Raffle tickets will be \$5 each or \$10 for 3 tickets.**

Dr. Ted Kunstling is currently in possession of the collection and is in the process of inventorying it. The collection should be able to support several raffles of quality books.