

The Knapsack

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

June 11, 2018
Our 208th Meeting



Volume 18
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<http://www.raleighcwrt.org>

June 11 Event Features Archivist Bill Brown On N.C. Regiments in the Army of Tennessee

The Raleigh Civil War Round Table's June 2018 meeting will feature a presentation by state archivist and historian William Harris Brown.

Bill's presentation to the RCWRT at our June 11 meeting will be titled "North Carolina Regiments in the Confederate Army of Tennessee."



Bill is a native of Winston-Salem, North Carolina. He earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in History from High Point College in 1984 and a Masters Degree in History from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro in 1987.

He has served in the N.C. Office of Archives and History for 27 years. In his current position, the Registrar of the State Archives of North Carolina, he is responsible for accessioning incoming records to the State Archives.

Bill became interested in the American Civil War due to his aunt, Mildred Brown, who was a history buff and would give him history books for birthday and Christmas presents. He has given numerous presentations on African-American history, Civil War history, and public history topics to genealogical groups including the Wake County Genealogical Society and historical groups such as the Western North Carolina Historical Association.

He also has presented several programs to the North Carolina State University Encore Center for Lifelong Enrichment.

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~ The Army of Tennessee ~

The Army of Tennessee was formed in late 1862 and was the principal Confederate army operating in the Western Theater.



39th N.C. Battleflag

It fought at Stones River, Chickamauga, Franklin, and in battles during the Atlanta Campaign before its final fight at Bentonville. The army surrendered at Bennett Place in April 1865. Among its leaders were Braxton Bragg, Joseph E. Johnston, John Bell Hood, and Alexander P. Stewart. North Carolina units serving in the Army of Tennessee included the 29th, 39th, 58th, and 60th Regiments.



West Virginia

The States During the Civil War



The 'Mountain State'

West Virginia entered the Union in 1863, the 35th state to ratify the U.S. Constitution and the only one created during the Civil War. Its nickname, the "Mountain State," comes from its many mountains and hills, including the Appalachian Mountains. It would see political upheaval and military clashes, and was the center of significant national events.

In 1860, the counties which now make up the state had a population of 376,688 people, of which 18,371 were slaves. During consideration of West Virginia's statehood, a compromise was reached in Congress by which slaves would be gradually freed, based on their ages. Slavery was officially abolished by the state on Feb. 3, 1865.

West Virginia's statehood was largely accomplished by the Union Army, which took control of the region early in the war and maintained its hold on the area through several engagements that followed.



Monument in Charlestown, W.Va.

1864 Election Results for West Virginia:

Abraham Lincoln (Rep)	23,799 (68.2%)
George McClellan (Dem)	11,078 (31.8%)

West Virginia's Civil War Governor:

Arthur I. Boreman (Rep) June 20, 1863 – Feb. 29, 1869

'The Bloody Seventh'

West Virginia provided several dozens of infantry, cavalry, and artillery units to both the Union and Confederate causes during the Civil War. Estimates of the numbers of soldiers from the state that served in the Union and Confederate forces vary widely, but recent estimates place the numbers at between 20,000 and 25,000 on each side.



West Virginia State Archive photo

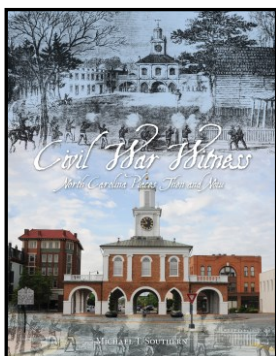
Among the notable units from West Virginia was the 7th Volunteer Infantry Regiment, part of the Union Army of the Potomac. The unit, which earned the nickname of "the Bloody Seventh," served notably at Antietam and Gettysburg. Among the units from western Virginia that served with the Confederate army was the 2nd Virginia, which fought at First and Second Manassas, Fredericksburg, Gettysburg, and Chancellorsville. The 1st West Virginia Cavalry was the most highly decorated Union regiment during the war, with 14 Medal of Honor recipients.

Harper's Ferry, the federal arsenal that saw John Brown's raid in October 1859, changed hands 14 times during the Civil War. It was also the site of the largest surrender of U.S. soldiers during the war, when 12,400 Union troops gave up in September 1862. The Battle of Philippi in June 1861 was the first organized land engagement during the war and the Union victory there boosted George McClellan's career. "Stonewall" Jackson, a native of western Virginia, swept through the area during his 1862 Valley Campaign. Despite it being generally under Union control, the Mountain State saw numerous raids and other actions throughout the war.

In addition to Jackson, notable individuals from West Virginia included the famous Confederate spy Belle Boyd and Union Maj. Gen. Jesse Reno.

A Structural Perspective

A recently published book takes a unique view of North Carolina during the Civil War.



Civil War Witness: North Carolina Places Then and Now was authored by Raleigh native Michael T. Southern, an architectural historian with the State Historic Preservation Office. Southern identifies structures in the state that existed during the Civil War still standing today to help tell the story of the conflict. Available at Quail Ridge Books as well as other book stores and online at Amazon.com.

New Look at Famous Photo

In the April 2018 edition of *Battlefield Photographer*, the journal of the Center for Civil War Photography, Paul Bolcik, Erik Davis, and Craig Heberton IV take an in-depth new look at the famous photograph of Confederates marching through Frederick, Md.



The authors make a convincing argument that the photo was actually taken in July 1864 during Jubal Early's advance into Maryland prior to the Battle of Monocacy rather than in September 1862 before the fight at Antietam because of the route, time of day, apparent bearing of the soldiers, and other factors. See <https://civilwarphotography.org/ccwp> for more information.

Upcoming Events

June 9: Bentonville Battlefield near Four Oaks, N.C., offers a program titled "The Summer Before Secession." Tensions are mounting as the nation prepares for war. Joined by their families, local men gather at John Harper's house for the Johnston County Militia muster to dress and hear the campaign speech of a local politician. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free. For details, go online to <http://www.nchistoricsites.org/bentonvi/bentonvi.htm> or phone (910) 594-0789.

June 19: Fayetteville State University in Fayetteville, N.C., is sponsoring a presentation by Hari Jones, one of the foremost authorities on the role of African Americans in the Civil War, who will speak on the topic: "How the Civil War Made America Great." 7 p.m. Free event. Held in the Rudolph Jones Student Center at Fayetteville State University, 1200 Murchison Road. Visit <http://www.nccivilwarcenter.org> or call (910) 491-0602.

June 25. Quail Ridge Books in Raleigh holds a fiction book discussion featuring *Lincoln in the Bardo* by George Saunders. Set after the February 1862 death of President Lincoln's beloved 11-year-old son, Willie, the book enters the supernatural realm. 7 p.m. Free. Go to <https://www.quailridgebooks.com/event/contemporary-fiction-book-club-lincoln-bardo> or call (919) 828-1588 for details.

Preservation News

The Civil War Trust (now the American Battlefield Trust) is seeking to preserve key undeveloped ground on the Gettysburg battlefield.



The campaign covers 18 acres on Seminary Ridge, just south of Chambersburg Pike and across the road from Lee's Headquarters, some of the most historically significant property at Gettysburg that is still privately owned.

The Trust's goal in this critical effort is to raise \$3.5 million. Matching grants are unavailable this time.

For details, go to <https://www.battlefields.org/give/save-battlefields/save-gettysburg>

News of the RCWRT



Upcoming RCWRT Meetings

July: Michael Hardy, the Branch-Lane Brigade
August: Angela Robbins, NC women post-war
September: Chris Fonvielle, Gen. Braxton Bragg

Knapsack Editor Wanted!!

Knapsack Editor Andrew Ballard is ending his eight-year run next month with the July 2018 edition of the newsletter. If you have any interest in taking over, please contact the RCWRT's Board of Directors at raleighcwrts@yahoo.com or call President Ted Kunstling at (919) 787-5282.

RCWRT Road Trip to Petersburg

On Saturday, May 19, nine members of the Raleigh CWRT visited the Petersburg National Battlefield. We rendezvoused at City Point, once one of the world's busiest ports when it was the supply depot of the Army of the Potomac and the site of Gen. U. S. Grant's headquarters (pictured). Our guide was Scott Mauger, the speaker at our May meeting, who grew up in Hopewell and, as a boy, played on this strikingly beautiful location where the Appomattox River joins the James. Scott's knowledge and enthusiasm greatly enriched our tour.



Other significant locations visited included Fort Stedman, site of Lee's last gasp effort to break the federal lines; Fort Morton, the staging area for the union assault on the Crater; and the Crater itself. Pete Benda expressed it well when he said, "It's not what I expected," demonstrating once again that one cannot really understand a Civil War battle until you have walked the "sacred ground." Many of these areas are being restored to their 1864-65 appearance and are worth a revisit if you haven't been for several years. We concluded our trip at Five Forks Battlefield, a truly unremarkable cross-road in the midst of thick piney woods but the site of a crucial turning point of the Petersburg campaign.

—Ted R. Kunstling 5/24/18



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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.raleighcwrts.org>) for program dates and timing.

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.