

# *The Knapsack*

*Raleigh Civil War Round Table*

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

*June 11, 2012  
Our 136th Meeting*



*Volume 12  
Number 6*

## **Gerald Prokopowicz to Speak at June 11 Meeting On the Chattanooga Campaign of 1862**

Gerald Prokopowicz, chair of the history department at East Carolina University, will speak at the Raleigh Civil War Round Table's June 11 meeting.

Gerry specializes in public history and the Civil War era. He earned his undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Michigan, and practiced law for several years in Chicago.



Gerry earned his Ph.D. from Harvard, and served for nine years as the Lincoln Scholar at the Lincoln Museum in Fort Wayne, Ind. While at the Lincoln Museum, he co-wrote an award-winning permanent exhibit and edited the

quarterly bulletin, *Lincoln Lore*.

Gerry has written numerous articles and reviews for popular and scholarly periodicals. He is the author of *All For The Regiment: The Army of the Ohio, 1861-62* (2001), and *Did Lincoln Own Slaves? And Other Frequently Asked Questions About Abraham Lincoln* (2008).

Gerry's current research interests include Civil War military tactics and public perceptions of Abraham Lincoln.

He also is the host of Civil War Talk Radio online (<http://www.impedimentsofwar.org>).

Gerry's presentation to the Round Table is titled "Last Clear Chance? The Chattanooga Campaign of 1862." His books will be available for purchase at the meeting.

**NOTE:** There will be a picnic for RCWRT members and friends at the museum prior to the June meeting. See back page for details.

### **~ Chattanooga, Tenn. ~**

During the Civil War, Confederate and Union forces would do battle in or around the city of Chattanooga in southeastern Tennessee three times.



In the Spring of 1862, Union Brig. Gen. Ormsby Mitchel took Huntsville, Ala. Ormsby then planned to move on Chattanooga and conspired with James Andrews, a civilian, to destroy the railroad to that city in an event later known as "The Great Locomotive Chase." After that raid failed, Mitchel abandoned his effort to capture Chattanooga.



# The Sesquicentennial

June 1862



## Seven Bloody Days!

Six notable battles fought from June 25 to July 1, 1862, would mark the end of Union Maj. Gen. George McClellan's Peninsula Campaign.

McClellan had advanced to within 15 miles of the Confederate capital of Richmond, Va. He initially was aggressive, and Union forces attacked on June 25 in the relatively minor Battle of Oak Grove.

On June 26, the Confederate forces under Gen. Robert E. Lee took the offensive, with fighting at Mechanicsville on June 26, a Confederate defeat, and Gaines' Mill on June 27, a victory for Lee's army.



Swamp Fighting, Seven Days

Other battles would be fought in the "campaign," ending with the Battle of Malvern Hill on July 1, in which Confederate forces would suffer heavy losses in frontal assaults on the hill. The seven days of fighting would result in McClellan's withdrawal to Harrison's Landing on the James River.

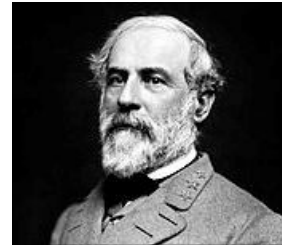
The Seven Days Battles would result in nearly 16,000 Union casualties and more than 20,000 in dead, wounded, and captured Confederates.

Also in June 1862, Confederate forces evacuated Fort Pillow, a garrison on the Tennessee side of the Mississippi River. The withdrawal from that fort would allow the capture of Memphis by Union forces.

On June 5, the United States established diplomatic relations with Haiti and Liberia.

## Lee Takes Command

After Confederate Gen. Joseph E. Johnston was severely wounded at the Battle of Seven Pines (or Fair Oaks), President Jefferson Davis appointed Gen. Robert E. Lee as commander of the Army of Northern Virginia.



Lee, somewhat previously criticized, would push against McClellan's advance on Richmond and gain the admiration of his men and respect from the Southern public.

## Slavery Banned in U.S. Territories

On June 17, 1862, the U.S. Congress passed a bill to eliminate slavery in the nation's territories. The measure, which did not affect states, was signed into law by President Lincoln on June 19. The law was aimed at overturning the *Dred Scott* decision of 1857, and affected the territories of Colorado, Dakota, Nebraska, Nevada, Utah, and Washington.



*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That from and after the passage of this act there shall be neither slavery nor involuntary servitude in any of the Territories of the United States now existing, or which may at any time hereafter be formed or acquired by the United States, otherwise than in punishment of crimes whereof the party shall have been duly convicted.*

## More Civil War Stamps

The U.S. Postal Service has released two more stamps commemorating the Civil War. The first set of two were issued in April 2011 and featured Fort Sumter and First Bull Run (see *The Knapsack*, Vm. 11, No. 3, p.3)



This year's release are stamps commemorating the Battle of New Orleans and the Battle of Antietam (see images above).

The 2012 stamps went on sale April 24.

## Upcoming Events

**June 9:** The N.C. State Capitol will host a living history event from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. Free. For more, call (919) 733-4994 or go to <http://www.nchistoricsites.org/capitol>.

**June 9:** The N.C. Maritime Museum in Beaufort presents a free lecture on North Carolina ironclads. Event at 3 p.m. For details, call (252) 728-7317 or go to <http://www.ncmaritimemuseums.com>.

**June 9:** Bentonville Battlefield near Four Oaks, N.C., will host free living history program, camps, demonstrations. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For details, call (910) 594-0789 or go to <http://www.nchistoricsites.org/bentonvi>.

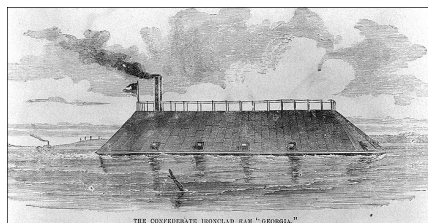
**June 9:** The CSS *Neuse* historic site in Kinston, N.C., will present a free living history program on "the troops come marching." From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For details, call (252) 522-2091 or go to <http://www.nchistoricsites.org/neuse>.

**June 16:** North Lenoir High School in La Grange, N.C., hosts event "The Civil War: Up Close and Personal," with speakers on journals, letters, uniforms, and civilians. 9 a.m. to 3:15 pm. Free. For details, call Bob Tolar at (252) 527-9184, x1357 or email him at [jtolar@lenoir.k12.nc.us](mailto:jtolar@lenoir.k12.nc.us).

**June 26-27:** The commemoration of the blockade runner *Modern Greece*. Historical, archeological symposium Tues. eve from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. in Azalea Room, UNCW campus. On Weds., 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., tour of underwater archaeology lab at Fort Fisher in Kure Beach. For more information, contact Chris Fonvielle at (910) 962-3449 or [fonviellec@uncw.edu](mailto:fonviellec@uncw.edu).

## Ironclad to be Raised

Prior to deepening the Savannah River to allow for larger ships, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers plans to raise and preserve the remains of the C.S.S. *Georgia*.



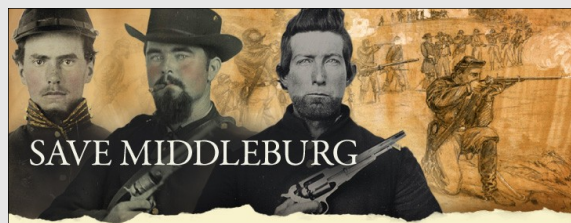
CSS *Georgia*

The *Georgia* was a Confederate ironclad ram that was built in Savannah, Ga., in 1862. Anchored about 3 miles below Savannah, the 120-foot long vessel served as a floating battery that protected the city from Union assault. She was scuttled by her crew in December 1864 when Union Gen. William T. Sherman's troops took Savannah.

More information on the C.S.S. *Georgia* is available at <http://www.sas.usace.army.mil/CSS>.

## Preservation News

The Civil War Trust seeks to preserve five key acres at the Middleburg battlefield in Virginia. The targeted property is the Mount Defiance tract.



The June 18, 1863, Battle of Middleburg was one of the first battles of the Gettysburg campaign. It was fought when Federal cavalry was looking for the location of the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia.

The Civil War Trust's goal in this campaign is to raise \$54,000. Donations will be matched 10 to 1.

For more information on the Trust's effort to save Mount Defiance, go to <http://www.civilwar.org/battlefields/middleburg/middleburg-2012>.

# News of the RCWRT



## Upcoming RCWRT Meetings

**July:** Blythe Toussaint, the realities of slavery

**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

## Nominating Committee Sought

RCWRT President Steve Savia is preparing to appoint a committee that will nominate officers and other board members to serve two-year terms. Elections will be held during our annual business that will take place in August prior to the presentation by our speaker. Interested in serving on this committee? Contact Steve at (919) 846-6908 or email him at [ssavia@nc.rr.com](mailto:ssavia@nc.rr.com).

## A Message From The President

"It's summer and many of us are traveling. But be sure to try and make the Round Table programs. The Program Committee has scheduled exceptional programs throughout the year and a strong attendance will help encourage repeat visits from the speakers."

## RCWRT Donation

The Round Table contributed \$1,000 in the name of Ed Bearss to North Carolina's Civil War 150 programs. The donation will be used toward new exhibits at the CSS Neuse site in Kinston and promotional materials.

## Picnic Prior to June Meeting!

At 6 p.m., prior to our June meeting, the RCWRT will hold a picnic social with hot dogs, hamburgers, fries, and drinks in Fletcher Garden, at the northwest corner of the history museum. \$5 per person. See you there!



## The Knapsack

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### RCWRT Score Card

Members	110
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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 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.