

The Knapsack

Raleigh Civil War Round Table

The same rain falls on both friend and foe.

June 10, 2013
Our 148th Meeting



Volume 13
Number 6

Stephen Wise to Speak at June 10 Meeting About Southern Blockade Running

The Round Table's June 2013 speaker is historian and author Dr. Stephen R. Wise.

Steve is a native of Toledo, Ohio, and received his bachelor's degree from Wittenberg University and a master's degree from Bowling Green State University. He earned his doctorate at the University of South Carolina to study under the direction of noted Civil War historian, the late Thomas L. Connelly.



Steve became the director of the Parris Island Museum in South Carolina in 1983. His duties were expanded in 1992 to include the manager of cultural resources at the site.

Steve is a noted Civil War historian, having written and edited a number of works, including *Lifeline of the Confederacy*, *Blockade Running During the Civil War* and *Gate of Hell: The Campaign for Charleston Harbor 1863*.

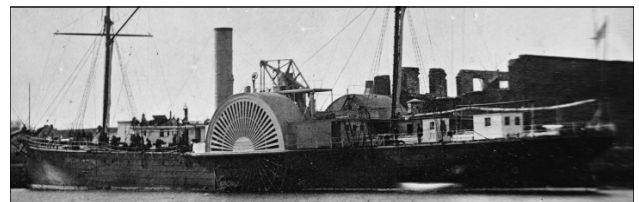
Since 1984, Steve has taught for the University of South Carolina at Beaufort's military program as an adjunct professor. He also serves as an advisor to the South Carolina Battleground Preservation Trust and is currently seated on the board of the Beaufort County Historical Society and the South Carolina Historical Society Magazine editorial board.

Steve lives in Beaufort, S.C., and is married to Alice Parsons Wise.

His talk to the Raleigh Civil War Round Table at its June 2013 meeting is on blockade running and based on the book he published in 2001. He will emphasize North Carolina and Wilmington's role in blockade running during his presentation to our group.

~ Blockade Runners ~

Just six days after the fall of Ft. Sumter in April 1861, President Lincoln ordered a blockade of the Southern states from South Carolina to Texas. A few days later, the blockade was extended to cover Virginia and North Carolina.



USS Malvern (formerly the *Ella and Annie*)

Blockade running was critical for the arming and supplying of the Confederacy. It was performed by vessels of all types and sizes. However, Southern blockade running was hampered by a lack of central control, multiple competing efforts, and an over-reliance on private enterprise.



The Sesquicentennial



June 1863

A Massive Cavalry Fight

On June 9, 1863, the largest cavalry engagement to ever take place on American soil would be fought at Brandy Station, Va. Although neither side could claim victory, the battle was the first time the Union cavalry would match Confederate horsemen in their skill and determination.

The battle started with a surprise attack at dawn launched by about 11,000 men under Union Maj. Gen. Alfred Pleasonton on Confederate Maj. Gen. J.E.B. Stuart's cavalry force of some 9,500 troopers.

After the surprise arrival of a Union cavalry division under Brig. Gen. David Gregg, Confederate forces began to pull back.



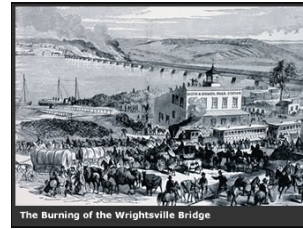
Union casualties numbered 907, with 69 killed, 352 wounded, and 486 missing. Confederate casualties totaled 523 men.

Although the battle's outcome was inconclusive, it is considered to mark the end of Confederate cavalry's domination of mounted fights in the Eastern theater of the Civil War.

Also in June 1863, the Tullahoma campaign would begin as Federal forces would attack Confederates in middle Tennessee, and West Virginia would be accepted into the Union as the 35th state.

Confederates Seize York, Pa.

On June 28, more than 5,000 Confederate soldiers under Maj. Gen. Jubal Early occupied York, Pa., as the army of Northern Virginia continued its advance into Union territory.



After obtaining a ransom from York, part of Early's force would move east toward Wrightsville, but its advance would be stopped by local militia that burned the bridge over the Susquehanna River which led to the town. Early soon would be called upon by Robert E. Lee to join in the concentration of Confederate forces at Gettysburg.

Meade Takes Command

On June 28, Maj. Gen. George Meade would replace Joseph Hooker as commander of the Union Army of the Potomac.



Meade took command after Hooker resigned over a dispute over defensive forces at Harpers Ferry. Meade would take charge of Union forces in pursuit of Robert E. Lee just three days before the battle at Gettysburg, Pa.

Confederate Grave Registry

An effort to identify all the graves of Confederate veterans located in North Carolina is under way.



The North Carolina Sons of Confederate Veterans already has about 8,200 graves in its database, but seeks to be notified of the name, county of burial, GPS coordinates, date of birth, date of death, name of cemetery, company, and unit number of any other Confederate soldiers buried in our state.

The database is available at <http://www.ncgenweb-data.com/csaburials>. Submissions may be sent to ncdivcemproject@hotmail.com.

Upcoming Events

June 8: Bentonville Battlefield near Four Oaks, N.C., presents "A day in the life of a Civil War Soldier." Living history demonstration with artillery and musket fire. Free. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Go to <http://www.nchistoricsites.org/bentonvi/bentonvi.htm> or call (910) 594-0789 for more.

June 8: Bennett Place in Durham, N.C., hosts a living history demonstration with cavalry. Free. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Visit <http://www.nchistoricsites.org/bennett/bennett.htm> or telephone (919) 383-4345 for more.

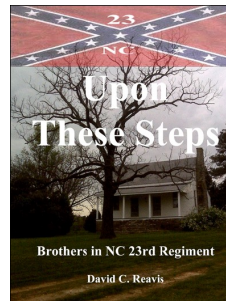
June 8: Ft. Fisher at Kure Beach N.C., offers a free event on historical modeling. Modelers and local historians will display their creations. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. For details, see <http://www.nchistoricsites.org/fisher/fisher.htm> or phone (910) 458-5538 for more.

June 29: The Vance Birthplace state historical site in Weaverville, N.C., presents a free event, "Women's Fashion and Music of the Civil War." 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. For details, go online to <http://www.nchistoricsites.org/vance/vance.htm> or call (828) 645-6706.

July 4: The state capitol in Raleigh, N.C. holds its annual Independence Day celebration. This free event includes historical displays, patriotic music, vendors, and more. 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Go to <http://www.ncstatecapitol.org> or call (919) 733-4994 for more.

'Upon These Steps'

A new historical novel, based on the experiences of two Tarheel brothers is now available.



Upon These Steps chronicles the experiences of two brothers that served in the 23rd North Carolina's 'Granville Rifles.' One voluntarily enlisted and the other was drafted.

Author David C. Reavis based his tale on more than 35 years of genealogical research, with many of the events described through eyewitness accounts.

For more information on the book, visit <http://www.uponthesesteps.com>.

Preservation News

The Civil War Trust has an opportunity to preserve a long sought-after 56-acre parcel of the Brandy Station, Va., battlefield.



The property targeted for preservation was the site of J.E.B. Stuart's headquarters during the June 9, 1863 battle, the largest cavalry engagement of the Civil War.

The Trust's goal in this campaign is to raise \$193,000. Donations are matched 18.63 to 1.

For details, visit <http://www.civilwar.org/battlefields/brandystation/brandy-station-2013>.

News of the RCWRT



Upcoming RCWRT Meetings

July: Rick Walton, Raleigh's Pettigrew Hospital

August: Debbi Blake, using the State Archives

September: Terry Winschel, Vicksburg

October: Tom Crouch, Civil War ballooning

November: Ansley Wegner, artificial limbs

December: Period music at state capitol

In Memoriam

The RCWRT mourns the loss of one of its members, Carl Regutti, who passed away April 30. Among his other gifts, Carl was a renowned sculptor, having crafted the statue of Confederate Gen. Joe Johnston at the Bentonville, N.C., battlefield site as well as the state's fallen firefighters' memorial and other famous works of art (see *The Knapsack*, Vm. 10, No. 3, p. 1). Carl's scientific career involved microbiology, chemistry, engineering, and international business management. He was 77. We extend our sympathies to his family.



The Round Table also offers our thoughts and prayers to the family and friends of 'Colonel Black Jack' Travis, a founding member of our group who died May 2 at the age of 70 in Wilmington, N.C. Jack was an author, historian, speaker, and Civil War re-enactor. He will be missed.

Our Newest Member

The Raleigh Civil War Round Table welcomes our newest member, Ron Garber of Raleigh. If you know someone that has an interest in the Civil War, please bring them to a meeting and encourage them to join!



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RCWRT Score Card

Members	124
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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.