

The Knapsack

Raleigh Civil War Round Table

The same rain falls on both friend and foe.

March 12, 2012
Our 133rd Meeting

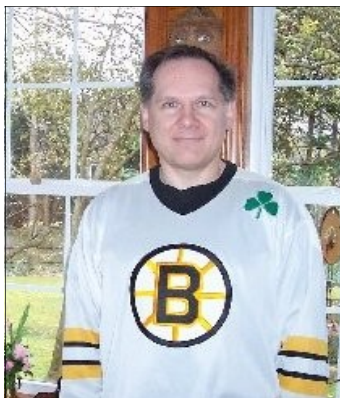


Volume 12
Number 3

Kevin Milus to Speak at March 12 Meeting On the Irish experience during the Civil War

The Raleigh Civil War Round Table's March 12 meeting features our own Kevin Milus.

Kevin was born in Bellfonte, Pa., and earned his B.A. from the State University of New York College at Cortland in public administration. He received a master's degree in urban and regional planning from Penn State University.



While a student, Kevin was fortunate enough to have studied under the late Ellis Johnson, who had been educated at both the University of South Carolina and the University of Chicago. Professor Johnson's background provided Kevin with a well-balanced approach for studying the Civil War.

Kevin is currently principal of KDM Planning, a planning consulting firm specializing in economic development, historic preservation, and sustainability. He also is the owner of Milus Historical Research, a firm offering individual, institutional, and corporate client information research services in the areas of genealogy and family history, ethnic research, and cartographic, architectural, and photographic records.

Kevin is a member of numerous professional groups, including the Association of Professional Genealogists, the National Genealogical Society, the Ulster Historical Foundation, the Lithuanian Global Genealogical Society, the Irish Genealogical Society, and the American Planning Association.

Kevin joined the RCWRT in 2006 and served as our group's president from 2008 until 2010. He also is a big sports fan and among his favorite teams is the defending Stanley Cup champion Boston Bruins.

His presentation at our March 2012 meeting is on the Irish experience during the Civil War.

~ Irish v. Irish ~

During the Civil War, about 140,000 men born in Ireland fought for the Union cause and some 40,000 served in the Confederate armed forces.



Colors of the 28th Massachussetts

During the December 1862 battle of Fredericksburg, Va., two units of Irishmen faced each other.

The Irish Brigade (U.S.), led by Brig. Gen. Thomas Francis Meagher, was involved in an assault on the sunken road in front of Marye's Heights. One of the defending Confederate regiments, led by Brig. Gen. Thomas Cobb, was predominantly Irish as well. Both units had men that were Fenians, or members of the Irish Republican Brotherhood, a group of Irishmen that sought to gain fighting experience in the Civil War to help gain their country's freedom from Great Britain.



The Sesquicentennial



March 1862

The Peninsula Campaign Begins

The “Peninsula Campaign,” a major Union operation aimed at capturing Richmond was launched in March 1862. The thrust was designed to circumvent the Confederate army in Northern Virginia.

On March 17, a huge expedition including about 121,500 men, 44 artillery batteries, more than 1,000 wagons and 15,000 horses sailed from Alexandria, Va., to disembark at Fort Monroe, Va., and advance up the Virginia peninsula to attack the Confederate capital.



Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan

Shortly before the expedition departed, President Abraham Lincoln removed McClellan as general-in-chief of the U.S. Army, ostensibly so McClellan could focus on his campaign. The operation would end in July as a failure.

Elsewhere, on March 14, 1862, Union forces would see a victory in the Battle of Newberne (or New Bern) in North Carolina, part of Brig. Gen. Ambrose Burnside’s amphibious operation to close the coastal ports of the state.

On March 23, the first battle of Kernstown, Va., marked the start of Confederate Maj. Gen. Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson’s famous Shenandoah Valley Campaign of 1862.

Battle at Pea Ridge

The Battle of Pea Ridge (also known as Elkhorn Tavern) was fought from March 6-8, 1862, at Pea Ridge in northwest Arkansas.



The battle was one of the few in which Confederate forces outnumbered Union troops. About 10,500 Union soldiers under Brig. Gen. Samuel R. Curtis defeated some 16,500 Confederates led by Maj. Gen. Earl Van Dorn, with about 1,400 and 2,000 casualties suffered, respectively. With its victory, the Federal government solidified its control of Missouri and northern Arkansas for the next two years.

A Clash of Ironclads

On March 8-9, 1862, the Battle of Hampton Roads, Va., marked the first clash of ironclads. Although inconclusive, the battle between the U.S.S. *Monitor* and the C.S.S. *Virginia* changed the nature of naval warfare.



Before the Monitor arrived on the scene, the wooden U.S. navy ship U.S.S. *Cumberland* was sunk by the *Virginia*, and other ships, including the U.S.S. *Congress* and U.S.S. *Minnesota* were run aground.

Online Civil War Photo Guide

The Center for Civil War Photography has recently released a guide to finding Civil War photographs online.

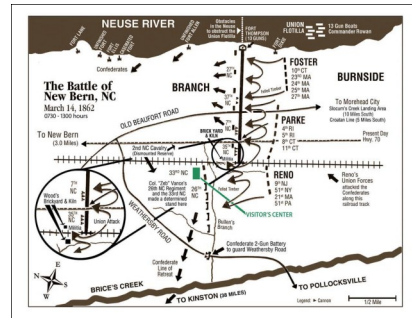


According to CCWP, there are more than 50,000 period images available on the Internet, with a large number provided free of charge. Information on how to access the photo collections at the Library of Congress, U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center, and National Archives, as well as other institutions, libraries, and societies are provided in the guide.

The CCWP's online research tool is available at <http://www.civilwarphotography.org/index.php/guide-to-finding-civil-war-photos>.

New Bern Anniversary

March 14 marks the 150th anniversary of the Battle of New Bern (or Newberne), N.C. The battle was a Union victory, with some 1,000 total casualties.



A battlefield walking tour now is available through the New Bern Historical Society. Visitors can view the railroad, earthworks, redans, and a memorial to the 26th North Carolina. A special commemorative event featuring noted authors and historians, among them Ed Bearss, will be held March 10.

Visit <http://newbernhistorical.org/battlefield-park>.

Upcoming Events

March 9-10: Symposium at the Cullman Performance Hall in New Bern, N.C., commemorates the battle's 150th anniversary. Speakers from 8 am - 6 pm on Sat. include Ed Bearss, Mark Bradley, Chris Fonvielle. \$85. Visit <http://newbernhistorical.org/sesqui-centennial-symposium> or call (252) 638-8558 for details.

March 17-18: Bentonville Battlefield Site at Four Oaks, N.C., presents "War So Terrible," a program on the trauma of wartime injuries. Free. 10 am - 4 pm on both days. For details, call (910) 594-0789 or see <http://www.nchistoricsites.org/bentonvi/bentonvi.htm>.

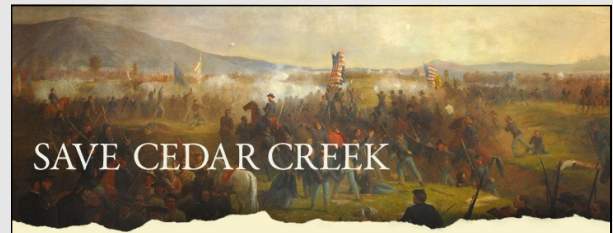
March 24: N.C. Maritime Museum in Beaufort hosts a variety of demonstrations on the waterfront, Civil War tours and live cannon firing from Fort Macon. From 10 am - 3 pm. Telephone (252) 728-7317 or visit <http://www.ncmaritimemuseums.com>.

March 24-25: Bennett Place Historical Site in Durham, N.C., presents free program: "Tarheels: Soldiers of the Old North State," life of a soldier from North Carolina. 10 am - 4 pm Sat., and 10 am - 3 pm Sun. Free. For more, information, telephone (919) 383-4345 or go to <http://www.bennettplacehistoricsite.com>.

April 3: The Brunswick Civil War Round Table has its monthly meeting in Southport, N.C., featuring Chris Fonevielle on Lt. Cmdr. William B. Cushing. For details, call Wally Rueckel at (910) 253-7382 or visit <http://www.brunswickcivilwarroundtable.com>.

Preservation News

The Civil War Trust has launched a new effort aimed at preserving two important sections of the Cedar Creek battlefield in Virginia. The October 1864 Union victory at Cedar Creek extinguished any hope of further Confederate offensives in the Shenandoah Valley.



The 77 acres targeted by the Trust include the ground upon which the 8th Vermont was sacrificed to stem a Confederate assault and reverse a Union rout. The Trust's goal in this campaign is to raise \$286,500. Donations are matched 4.4 to 1.

For details on the Trust's effort to save battlefield land at Cedar Creek, see <http://www.civilwar.org/battlefields/cedarcreek/cedar-creek-2012>.

News of the RCWRT



Upcoming RCWRT Meetings

April: Susanna Lee, Indians in the Civil War

May: William Harris, Lincoln and the border states

June: Gerald Prokopowicz, the Chattanooga campaign

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

16th NC Flag Conserved

The location of our monthly meetings, the North Carolina Museum of History, also is the home of one of the largest collections of Confederate flags.



26th NC Officers and Museum Officials with Flag

The museum has partnered with the 26th Regiment North Carolina Troops, Reactivated, a re-enactment group that has helped fund the conservation of flags in the state's collection. The latest flag the group, and other donors, have helped conserve is that of the 16th N.C., a banner carried at Gettysburg. The 16th N.C. was part of Pender's Division and suffered huge losses on July 3, 1863, the battle's final day.

Two New Members

The Raleigh Civil War Round Table welcomes our two newest members, Smokey Hay and Jack Milani, both of Raleigh. If you know someone who is interested in the Civil War, please consider bringing them to our next meeting and encourage them to join!

Our Sympathies

The Raleigh Civil War Round Table expresses its deepest sympathy to Ed Bearss at the loss of his daughter, Sara Beth Bearss, 51, of Richmond, Va., who died Feb. 13, following a brief battle with cancer.



The Knapsack

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RCWRT Score Card

Members	108
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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.