

# ***The Knapsack***

***Raleigh Civil War Round Table***

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

***March 11, 2013***  
***Our 145th Meeting***



***Volume 13***  
***Number 3***

## **Ernie Dollar to Speak at March 11 Meeting On PTSD and the War's End in North Carolina**

Our speaker for March is long-time friend of the RCWRT and local historian, Ernie Dollar.

Ernie is a North Carolina native who began working at historic sites in North and South Carolina in 1993 after completing his bachelor degrees in history and design from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. He received his M.A. in History from N.C. State University in 2006.



In 1991, Ernie took interest in the little-known Battle of Morrisville. He researched the last weeks of the Civil War and organized efforts to preserve the remaining parts of the Morrisville battlefield. That work led to the erection of a roadside marker in 1999, and the incorporation of a battlefield park in the

town's master development plan.

In 2008, Ernie published a photographic history of Morrisville.

Ernie previously has served as the executive director of the Preservation Society of Chapel Hill and now is the executive director of the City of Raleigh Museum.

His presentation to the Round Table will focus on how the end of the Civil War was viewed in North Carolina and how post-traumatic stress disorder shaped the way soldiers and civilians remembered, and sometimes forgot, this tumultuous period of time.

Ernie's talk is the thesis of his upcoming book, *Whipped by War: An Emotional History of the Civil War's Final Campaign*.

"Examining the last campaign of the war, from Goldsboro to Greensboro, reveals a history shaped by traumatic experiences that left survivors little to celebrate," Ernie told *The Knapsack*.

### **~ 'Soldier's Heart' ~**

As with other conflicts, soldiers and sailors who served in the Civil War suffered both physical and psychological injuries.



During the Civil War, what is now generally termed post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) was called "soldier's heart." Other terms for such a diagnosis applied at that time were "insanity," "melancholia," and "irritable heart."

The only federal mental health facility in the United States during the war was the Government Hospital for the Insane in Washington, D.C. Founded by Dorothea Dix, it later was renamed St. Elizabeths Hospital.



# The Sesquicentennial



March 1863

## Death of a Hero

On March 17, 1863, Confederate and Union cavalry would clash in Culpeper County, Va., at the Battle of Kelly's Ford. Although the federal horsemen outnumbered their Southern counterparts by about 2,100 to 800, it would be the first time Union cavalry would hold their own against Confederate Maj. Gen. J.E.B. Stuart's men, regardless of the odds.

Although the total number of casualties would be just over 200 combined, the Confederate forces would suffer a significant loss with the death of Lt. Col. John Pelham while he charged the enemy. The 24-year old artillery officer had proven himself to be gallant and very effective at the use of horse artillery in past battles, including Fredericksburg.



Lt. Col. John Pelham, CSA

Throughout the South, towns, roads, and other landmarks were named for "Gallant Pelham."

On March 5, Confederate cavalry defeated Union infantry at Thompson's Station in Williamson County, Tenn. During that month, Federal forces continued their efforts to capture Vicksburg, Miss., the U.S.S. *Mississippi* sank in the river for which it was named, and infamous Confederate raider John Singleton Mosby captured U.S. Brig. Gen. Edwin H. Stoughton in bed at his headquarters in Fairfax Court House, Va.

Also in March 1863, the Idaho territory was created, and unionist voters in West Virginia would approve statehood and the gradual emancipation of slaves within its boundaries.

## Lincoln's Amnesty

On March 10, with desertion becoming a major problem for Union forces, President Lincoln would issue an amnesty covering all soldiers who were currently absent without leave.



Union soldiers returning to duty by April 1 would not be punished. It is estimated that, at the time, some 125,000 Federals had deserted the ranks.

## Richmond Arsenal Blast

On March 13, a massive explosion tore apart the Confederate Laboratory on Brown's Island in Richmond, Va. The blast killed dozens of young women and injured several more.



The facility employed mostly poor white young females between the ages of nine and 20, who produced some 1,200 cartridges a day for the Confederate war effort. The tragic incident was not isolated — a September 1862 explosion at a Union arsenal near Pittsburgh, Pa., had claimed the lives of 78 people, mostly young women.

## New *Hunley* Evidence

Researchers recently announced a major discovery related to the sinking of the Confederate submarine *H. L. Hunley*.



The *Hunley* went down in February 1864 after it became the first submarine to sink a warship, the USS *Housatonic*. All eight members of the *Hunley*'s crew perished after the attack.

Indications now are that the torpedo used by the *Hunley* in the attack detonated while attached to the vessel's spar, meaning the submarine was just about 16 feet away from the explosion, much closer than previously believed.

## Saving Battle Flags

Working with the North Carolina Museum of History, the 26th North Carolina Regiment, a re-enactment and preservation group, has raised funds to restore seven battle flags carried by N.C. regiments.



33rd North Carolina Regimental Flag  
Image Courtesy of the NC Museum of History

The group's latest project is the restoration of the flag carried by the 33rd North Carolina Regiment, which was captured at the Battle of New Bern on March 14, 1862, and returned to the state in 1917.

For more information on the 26th's flag preservation efforts, go to <http://www.26nc.org/Supplemental/for-the-good-of-the-old-north-state.html>.

## Upcoming Events

**March 9-10:** Re-enactment of Union occupation at Tryon Palace in New Bern, N.C. Talk on D.H. Hill both days. Events from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on March 9, 12:30 p.m. to 4 p.m., March 10. Regular admission price. For details, call (252) 639-3500 or visit <http://www.tryonpalace.org>.

**March 14:** Wayne County Museum in Goldsboro, N.C., hosts living history lecture with D.H. Hill as commander of Confederate forces in N.C. Free event at 7 p.m. Call (919) 734-5023 or go to <http://www.waynemuseum.org>.

**March 16-17:** Bentonville Battlefield Site at Four Oaks, N.C., presents "One Continuous Fire of Destruction," a program on artillery as part of 148th anniversary events. Free. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. on both days. For details, call (910) 594-0789 or see <http://www.nchistoricsites.org/bentonvi/bentonvi.htm>.

**March 23-24:** Bennett Place in Durham, N.C., presents living history event: "Tar Heels: Soldiers of the Old North State." Free. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on March 23, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., March 24. Telephone (919) 383-4345 or go to <http://www.nchistoricsites.org/bennett/bennett.htm> for details.

**April 5-7:** UDC Chapter 78 presents annual Salisbury Confederate Prison Symposium in Salisbury, N.C. Events include banquet, lectures, memorial service. \$65 due by March 15. For more information, call (704) 637-6411 or email [southpaws@salisbury.net](mailto:southpaws@salisbury.net).

## Preservation News

The Civil War Trust seeks to preserve 69 acres at three key battlefields near Richmond, Virginia.



Portions of Glendale, Malvern Hill, and First Deep Bottom, each of which saw significant action during Union offensives against the Confederate capital, are the target of the Trust's latest campaign. The land would be added to more than 2,300 acres that already have been preserved around Richmond.

The Civil War Trust's goal in this campaign is to raise \$271,675. Donations are matched 4.94 to 1.

For details, visit <http://www.civilwar.org/battlefields/malvernhill/malvern-hill-2013/save-glendale-malvern-hill-and-first-deep-bottom-2013.html>.

# News of the RCWRT



## Upcoming RCWRT Meetings

**April:** Marvin Nicholson, the African-American experience

**May:** Sandy Barnard, a private in the Irish Brigade

**June:** Stephen Wise, blockade running

**July:** Rick Walton, Raleigh's Pettigrew Hospital

**August:** Debbi Blake, using the State Archives

**September:** Terry Winschel, Vicksburg

## Road Trips Planned

Members are invited to attend two upcoming Civil War-related field trips. On Saturday, April 20, a tour of the new CSS Neuse museum and replica, as well as the Kinston battlefields are planned. Travel will be by private vehicles, with departure from Raleigh scheduled for 8:30 am and arrival back in town planned for 9 pm. On May 11-12, members have been invited to join the Brunswick Civil War Round Table on a guided field trip covering the Civil War from Petersburg to Appomattox. Cost is \$234 plus hotel and meals. For details, contact President Ted Kunstling (787-5282, [trkunstling@aol.com](mailto:trkunstling@aol.com)).

## Getting the Word Out

The RCWRT board encourages all members to bring a friend to a meeting, share our website address (<http://www.raleighcwr.org>), and take other steps to help grow our membership! RCWRT business cards to hand out at Civil War meetings and events are available. Contact Kevin Milus ([Kmilus@aol.com](mailto:Kmilus@aol.com)) for details and ideas!

## Bylaws Vote

To ensure members had sufficient notice, a vote on recent by-laws changes was postponed until our March meeting. The proposed amendments include expanding the Treasurer's role to Secretary-Treasurer and adding the immediate past president to the board. The changes also would allow the president, in addition to the board, to create ad hoc committees. A "red-line" version of the amended by-laws has been posted on our website (<http://www.raleighcwr.org>).



## *The Knapsack*

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### RCWRT Score Card

Members	121
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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.