

The Knapsack

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

***March 12, 2018
Our 205th Meeting***



***Volume 18
Number 3***

<http://www.raleighcwr.org>

March 12 Event Features Ryan Reed Speaking on the Surrender at Bennett Place

The Raleigh Civil War Round Table's March 2018 meeting will feature a presentation by Ryan Andrew Reed, Assistant Site Manager and Lead Historian and Volunteer/Special Events coordinator for the Bennett Place State Historic Site in Durham, NC.



Ryan was born in Raleigh and is a 10th generation North Carolinian with family that hails from all over the Piedmont region of the state. He graduated from Western Carolina University in 2010 with a bachelor's degree in history and social science. Ryan has been working at the Bennett Place State Historic Site since April 2013 and was promoted to his current position in September 2015.

Ryan has been interested in the American Civil War since he was young, helping his Grandmother place flags on the Confederate graves in historic Oakwood Cemetery in Raleigh during Confederate Memorial Day.

Ryan has been reenacting for about seven years and participated in many of the 150th anniversary commemoration reenactments including those held at Gettysburg, The Wilderness, Fort Fisher, and Spotsylvania Courthouse.

~o~

Ryan's presentation to the RCWRT will be about the negotiations between Confederate Gen. Joseph Johnston and Union Gen. William T. Sherman at the Bennett Place in Durham that would result in the largest surrender of Confederate troops during the Civil War.

~ Bennett Place ~

At the Bennett Place, Confederate General Joseph E. Johnston surrendered more than 89,000 active Southern troops from the Carolinas, Georgia, and Florida.



The first deal was reached by parties April 18, 1865, but those terms were rejected by President Andrew Johnson and his cabinet as too lenient and broad. After further discussions, a final agreement was reached April 26.



Minnesota

The States During the Civil War



The 'North Star State'

Minnesota entered the Union in May 1858, the 32nd state to ratify the U.S. Constitution. Its nickname, the "North Star State," came from its motto L'Etoile du Nord. The state was important for its fur trading, logging, and farming and, later, for its railroads and iron mining.

In 1860, Minnesota had a population of 172,023. It was the first state to offer volunteers and one of the last to still have volunteer units on duty when the Civil War ended. In late 1862, the state saw another conflict when the Dakota Indian war began. About 24,000 men from the North Star State served in the Union army during the Civil War, fighting in several major battles and campaigns.



1st Minnesota Monument, Gettysburg

1860 Election Results for Minnesota:

Abraham Lincoln (Rep)	22,069 (63.5%)
Stephen Douglas (Dem)	11,920 (34.3%)
John Breckenridge (Dem)	748 (2.2%)

1864 Election Results for Minnesota:

Abraham Lincoln (Rep)	42,433 (59.0%)
George McClellan (Dem)	17,376 (40.9%)

Minnesota's Civil War Governors:

Alexander Ramsey (Rep)	Jan. 2, 1860 – July 10, 1863
Henry A. Swift (Rep)	July 10, 1863 – Jan. 11, 1864
Stephen Miller (Rep)	Jan. 11, 1864 – Jan. 8, 1866

'The Indian Regiment'

Minnesota provided 11 regiments of infantry, two regiments and 10 companies of cavalry, one heavy regiment and three light batteries of artillery, and a number of other units to the Union cause. 2,584 Minnesotans were killed in the conflict and hundreds more were wounded.



3rd Minnesota Regiment

Among the notable units from the state was the 1st Minnesota, which was heavily engaged in many of the significant battles of the war, including First Bull Run and Antietam. At Gettysburg, where it defended Cemetery Ridge during the second day of fighting, it suffered an 82 percent casualty rate, the largest of any Union unit during the war. The 8th Minnesota, also known as the "Indian Regiment," claimed to have covered more miles and had more variety in its service than any other Union regiment, serving from deep in the Dakota Territory to Washington, D.C., and North Carolina, among other locations.

No Civil War battles were fought in Minnesota, but the state saw bloodshed during the Dakota War of 1862. For several weeks, Dakota Indians fought against settlers and later, the United States Army, with up to 800 civilians and dozens of soldiers and Native Americans killed in that conflict.

Before the war, Minnesota had been the temporary home of Dred Scott, a slave at Fort Snelling, who argued in the infamous case that bears his name that he and his wife should be emancipated as they lived in free territory. The state also was home to Jane Gray Swisshelm, an abolitionist who also was the publisher of the *St. Cloud Democrat*. The last surviving Union veteran, Albert Henry Woolson, a drummer boy in the 1st Minnesota Heavy Artillery Regiment, died in Duluth in 1956.

New Wyse Fork Marker

On March 10, a new marker commemorating the March 1865 Battle of Wyse Fork was dedicated.



The historical marker is outside of Kinston, N.C., off of Highway 70, and commemorates the attack by Brig. Gen. William W. Kirkland's Brigade.

The granite stone lists the names and ranks of the casualties from the 17th, 42nd, and 66th North Carolina Regiments, which saw more than 300 men either killed, wounded, or captured.

It's dedication was on the 153rd anniversary of the battle. A discussion of the battle is included on the RCWRT's documentary DVD, "The Civil War in North Carolina: The Final Campaigns, 1865."

Disowning Thomas

George Henry Thomas was a Virginian by birth, but remained loyal to the Federal government after his state seceded. He served notably in the Western Theater of the Civil War, and earned the nickname of "The Rock of Chickamauga" due to his stout defense at that battle when Union forces were faltering.



Although Thomas had the support and admiration of his men, he was disowned by his family and fellow Virginian, J.E.B. Stuart, said he would like to hang him as a traitor. Thomas' sisters turned a painting of him in their home to face the wall and, after the Civil War, he was never welcomed back into his family's presence again.

Upcoming Events

March 10: CSS Neuse Civil War Interpretive Center in Kinston, N.C., is offering a presentation on Victorian mourning customs and a battlefield tour of the first battle of Kinston led by Lonnie Blizzard. Lunch to be provided by Hawk's Nest Café. Noon to 4 p.m. \$12. For details, visit <https://www.ncdcr.gov/lunch-and-learn-mourning-customs-and-battlefield-tour> or call Rachel Kennedy at (252) 526-9600 ext. 222 .

March 11: Museum of the Cape Fear in Fayetteville holds a lecture and living history event commemorating the 1865 Union occupation of the town. Free. 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call (910) 500-4241 or visit <https://museumofthecapefear.ncdcr.gov/events>.

March 17-18. Bentonville Battlefield near Four Oaks, N.C., offers a living history event covering the American military through the ages. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free. Visit <http://www.nchistoricsites.org/bentonvi/bentonvi.htm> or call (910) 594-0789 for details.

April 4-8. Chambersburg (Pa.) Civil War Tours is holding its 5th annual Ed Bearss symposium on military leadership and combat. Call (717) 264-7101, ext. 206, or see <http://www.civilwarseminars.org> or for more.

Preservation News

The Civil War Trust is seeking to preserve key ground at the Appomattox Court House Battlefield in Virginia.



The targeted property totals 74 acres in three tracts, including part of the land where Union Gen. Joshua Chamberlain led his last charge of the war as well as an important piece at the heart of the park.

The Trust's goal in this campaign is to raise \$386,500. Donations are matched at a 1.8:1 rate!

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

News of the RCWRT



Upcoming RCWRT Meetings

April: Gene Schmiel, Union Gen. Jacob D. Cox
May: Scott Mauger, Maj. John Pelham, CSA
June: William H. Brown, NC in Army of Tennessee
July: Michael Hardy, the Branch-Lane Brigade
August: Angela Robbins, NC women post-war
September: Chris Fonvielle, Gen. Braxton Bragg
October: Wade Sokolosky, Confederate hospitals
November: Keith Hardison, first person CS soldier

More Raleigh Occupied Trolley Tours!

The four Raleigh occupied trolley tours hosted by the city's Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources Department and led by our own President Ted Kunstling that were scheduled for April 10 and 16 have already been sold out!



Because of the high level of interest, additional tours have been scheduled for May 9 and 10. For more information and registration details, contact the city's Adult Program Staff at (919) 996-4730 or (919) 996-4720, or see the RCWRT's website at www.raleighcwr.org/special-events.

So You Think You Know The Civil War?

Want to test your knowledge of the battles, leaders, events and other Civil War trivia? A weekly quiz is now available on our website. Check it out at www.raleighcwr.org under "Weekly Quiz." Standings by participant initials also will be posted. Good luck!

Three New Members!

The Raleigh Civil War Round Table welcomes our newest members, Susan and Mike Eaves of Fuquay-Varina and Paul Cox of Raleigh. If you know of someone who has an interest in the Civil War, bring them to our next meeting and encourage them to join!



The Knapsack

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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.raleighcwr.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.