The Knapsack

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

March 14, 2016 Our 181st Meeting



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http://www.raleighcwrt.org

March 14 Event Features Wade Sokolosky On the March 1865 Battle of Wyse Fork

Author, historian, and retired U.S. Army Colonel Wade Sokolosky will speak at the Raleigh Civil War Round Table's March 14 meeting.



Wade was born and raised in Beaufort, N.C., and graduated from East Carolina University in 1986. He then entered the U.S. Army as a 2nd Lt. in the Ordnance Corps. In 2011, he retired after 25

years of active duty service.

Wade's interest in the American Civil War arose from the historic significance of his home town and its close proximity to Ft. Macon. His interest in the war grew while he was stationed at Ft. Campbell, Ky., when he made several trips with a fellow officer and friend to battlefields in middle Tennessee.

Wade wrote a master thesis on Sherman's logistical operations, which became the root of his first book, *No Such Army Since the Days of Julius Caesar*, co-authored with Mark Smith. That book, released in 2006, covers Sherman's Carolinas campaign from Fayetteville to Averasboro. Wade's second book, *To Prepare for Sherman's Coming: The Battle of Wise's Forks, March 1865,* was published last year.

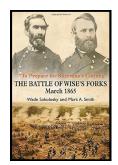
Wade discussed the Battle of Averasboro in the RCWRT's documentary DVD, *The Civil War in North Carolina: The Final Campaigns, 1865.*

Wade lives in Beaufort, is married, has two grown children, and re-enacts, metal detects, and collects Civil War artillery ordnance. His talk at the Round Table's March 2016 meeting will be on the Battle of Wyse Fork, the subject of his most recent book.

Copies of Wade's books will be offered for sale at the meeting and he will be happy to sign them.

~Wyse Fork ~

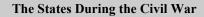
The Battle of Wyse Fork (also known as Wise's Forks) took place on March 8-10, 1865, near the town of Kinston, N.C.



After some initial success, Confederate attacks led by Gen. Braxton Bragg stalled because of faulty communications. Union forces were reinforced and Kinston would fall. Confederate casualties were about 1,500 of approximately 8,500 engaged. The Union losses totaled some 1,100 of the 12,000 men who fought.



South Carolina





'The Palmetto State'

South Carolina, was one of the original Thirteen Colonies, and became the ninth state to ratify the U.S. Constitution. It was the first Southern state to secede, doing so on Dec. 20, 1860. South Carolina was re-admitted to the Union on July 9, 1868.

In 1860, South Carolina had a population of 703,708. Of that total, 402,406 were slaves. The state adopted a flag with a white palmetto tree on an indigo background that is based on a Revolutionary War banner. South Carolina was an important source of men, textiles, food and other resources for the Southern cause.

Approximately 60,000 men or 23 percent of the total white population of South Carolina served in the Confederate forces and about 18,000 of them died during the Civil War. Several thousand black men from the state also served in the Union army. The bombardment of Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor by Confederate forces in April 1861 is generally considered the beginning of the Civil War.



CSA Defenders Monument, Charleston

1860 Election Results:

John C. Breckenridge (Dem) 8 Electoral Votes (selected by state Legislature)

Secession Vote (Legislative Convention):

For	169 (100.0%)
Against	0 (0.0%)

Governors:

 Francis W. Pickens (Dem)
 Dec. 14, 1860–Dec. 17, 1862

 Milledge L. Bonham (Dem)
 Dec. 17, 1862–Dec. 18, 1864

 Andrew G. Magrath (Dem)
 Dec. 18, 1864–May 25, 1865

'Hampton's Legion'

South Carolina provided some 30 infantry regiments and several other units to the Confederate cause, along with a number of cavalry and artillery units. Four full Union regiments of African-American men also were raised in the state.



Men of Co. E, 1st South Carolina (Orr's Rifles)

Among the notable units from South Carolina was Hampton's Legion, an integrated command raised by Wade Hampton in early 1861. It initially had six infantry companies, three cavalry companies and an artillery battery. Elements of the Legion fought at First Manassas and in many other significant battles in the Eastern Theater of the war.

Another South Carolina unit of note was Gregg's Brigade, five regiments from the upcountry of the state that saw 971 casualties out of 2,500 men that were engaged in the Seven Day's Battles of 1862. They suffered more than 600 casualties at Second Manassas and lost their commander, Brig. Gen. Maxcy Gregg, at Fredericksburg.

Although the Civil War is generally considered to have begun in South Carolina and the state played a key role in the conflict, besides a lengthy attempt by Federal forces to take Charleston, the state did not see many battles until near the end of the war, when the Union forces under William T. Sherman invaded. Columbia and a number of other towns were destroyed by Sherman's men.

In addition to Wade Hampton, the famed horseman, and Maxcy Gregg, other Confederate generals from South Carolina included States Rights Gist, Richard H. Anderson, and Joseph B. Kershaw. Mary Boykin Chesnut, the famed diarist, and Richard Rowland Kirkland, known as "the Angel of Marye's Heights," also were from the Palmetto State.

Barringer Book Available!

A biography of the famed North Carolina cavalry general, Rufus Barringer, is now available.



Fighting for General Lee: Confederate General Rufus Barringer and the North Carolina Cavalry was written by a relative of his, Sheridan R. "Butch" Barringer. General Barringer fought with the 1st North Carolina Cavalry in some of the most significant fights of the Civil War including Second Manassas, Sharpsburg, and Fredericksburg. He was severely wounded at Brandy Station in June 1863.

Copies of the book are available on Amazon.com or from the author's own website at http:// www.generalrufusbarringer.com.

Upcoming Events

March 5, 12, 19, 26. Bennett Place Historical Site in Durham, N.C., presents a "The Road to Surrender: The Final Campaigns," a four-week lecture series on the 1865 campaigns, battles, and troop movements that led Gen. William T. Sherman and Gen. Joseph Johnston to meet at the site to negotiate the Confederate surrender. The talks are scheduled for the four Saturdays in March. Free. 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on all four days. For more information, go to http://www.bennettplacehistoricsite.com or telephone (919) 383-4345.

March 12. The CSS *Neuse* Civil War Interpretive Center holds a commemorative living history event on the final days of the ironclad gunboat. Talks include Wade Sokolosky on the Battle of Wyse Fork, Andrew Duppstadt on the Final Days of the Neuse, and Holly Brown giving personal stories from the crew of the Neuse. Admission is \$5 for adults. Go to http://www.nchistoricsites.org/neuse/ neuse.htm or call (252) 526-9600 for more.

March 19-20. Bentonville Battlefield near Four Oaks, N.C., presents "The Ground Trembled Under Our Feet," a mass artillery demonstration. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sat. and Sun. Go online to http://www.nchistoricsites.org/bentonvi/ bentonvi.htm or call (910) 594-0789 for details.

What Do You See?

In 1865, the same year the Civil War ended, Frederic Edwin Church unveiled his painting, *Aurora Borealis*, which some believe is a tribute to the war's end.



Jeffrey J. Love, a scientist with the U.S. Geological Survey, says in an article that the painting "is thick with symbolism." While Church's work *Our Banner in the Sky*, painted in 1861, was a more overt tribute, some also see the American flag in *Aurora*, unfurled over a cold and barren landscape, Love says.

The painting can be viewed at the Smithsonian. Love's article on the artwork is at https://eos.org/ features/aurora-painting-pays-tribute-to-civil-wars-end



The land targeted for preservation is 70 acres that include the 430-foot long stone fence behind which Col. John Starkweather's Union brigade stopped the advance of Gen. Ben Cheatham's division during the October 1862 fight.

The Trust's goal in this campaign is to raise \$297,500. Donations are matched at a 2:1 rate!

For details, go to http://www.civilwar.org/battlefields/ perryville/perryville-2016.

News of the RCWRT



Upcoming RCWRT Meetings

April: Jim Gaddis, Gen. Richard Gatlin May: Mary Bandy Daughtry, Rooney Lee June: Mike Parker, Lee & Jackson's religion July: Marshall Conyers, Gettysburg poetry August: Richard McAdoo, CW artillery September: Susanna Lee, Sioux Uprising October: Doug Mattox, CSA currency and stamps November: Fitzhugh Brundage, Frederick Douglass December: annual Holiday Party

A Call to Arms!

President Ted Kunstling is seeking volunteers to serve on teams that will focus on marketing and promotion as well as member recruitment and retention.

Are you willing to serve in that role or share another skill with the group? Contact Ted at (919) 787-5282 or email him at tkunstling@aol.com.

Check Us Out on Facebook!

Don't forget to join us on Facebook...we now have more than 50 members in our online group! Search for our page using "Raleigh Civil War Roundtable" and join us to share stories and photos of Civil War trips, relatives, period photos and information about battles, equipment, and anything else related to the Civil War with fellow campaigners and friends. Signing up is free. Go to http://www.facebook.com.

Welcome New Members!

The RCWRT welcomes our two newest members, Pete Benda and John W. Grimes Jr., both of Raleigh. If you know someone who is interested in the Civil War, bring them to a meeting and encourage them to join!



The Knapsack

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> RCWRT Score Card Members 167

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 (located at 5 Edenton Street, across from the State Capitol). Members and guests are encouraged to meet for supper at K&W Cafeteria, 511 Woodburn Rd., in Cameron Village before the meeting, at 5:15 pm.

Annual membership dues are \$30 (individual and family) and \$10 for teachers. Students are free. Halfyear memberships are available March through May for \$20.