

The Knapsack

Raleigh Civil War Round Table

The same rain falls on both friend and foe.

***March 14, 2016
Our 181st Meeting***



***Volume 16
Number 3***

<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 Averagesboro. Wade's second book, *To Prepare for Sherman's Coming: The Battle of Wise's Forks, March 1865*, was published last year.

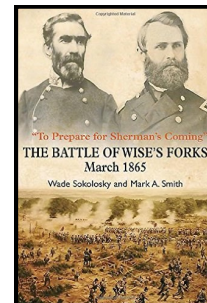
Wade discussed the Battle of Averagesboro in the RCWRT's documentary DVD, *The Civil War in North Carolina: The Final Campaigns, 1865*.

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 ~

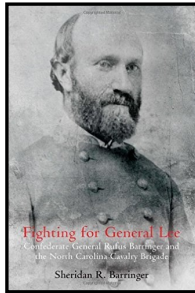
The Battle of Wyse Fork (also known as Wise's Forks) took place on March 8-10, 1865, near the town of Kinston, N.C.



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.

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 Dupstadt 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>

Preservation News

The Civil War Trust is seeking to preserve important ground at the Perryville, Ky., battlefield.



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. Half-year memberships are available March through May for \$20.