

# ***The Knapsack***

***Raleigh Civil War Round Table***

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

***May 11, 2015***  
***Our 171st Meeting***



***Volume 15***  
***Number 5***

<http://www.raleighcwrt.org>

## **Lee Craig to Speak at May 11 Round Table Meeting On The Economics of the American Civil War**

Dr. Lee A. Craig, the head of North Carolina State University's Economics Department, will speak at the Raleigh Civil War Round Table's meeting on May 11.



Lee, Alumni Distinguished Professor of Economics, teaches courses at NC State covering the financial markets and economic history. He also has been a research fellow and economist at the National Bureau of Economic Research in Cambridge, Mass.

Lee earned his undergraduate degree and a master's at Ball State University in Muncie, Ind. He obtained a second master's and a doctoral degree from Indiana University in Bloomington, Ind.

Lee has published six books and more than 90 scholarly articles, chapters, and reviews. He was a chapter editor of *Historical Statistics of the United States* (Cambridge University Press) and currently serves on the editorial boards of *Cliometrica* and *Historical Methods* and the board of governors of the University of North Carolina Press. He has given lectures and seminars at universities around the world.

Lee is a former winner of the NC State College of Management's Outstanding Teacher Award and is a member of the North Carolina Academy of Outstanding Teachers. His presentation to the Round Table at our May 2015 meeting will focus on the economics of the American Civil War.

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### **~ Inflation in the Confederacy ~**

At the beginning of the Civil War, a Confederate dollar was worth about the same as a United States dollar. By the end of the war, Confederate currency was nearly worthless.



However, inflation in the Southern states actually fell during 1864 because the Confederate Congress mandated a currency reform aimed at reducing the stocks of money. Price declines resulted despite the dire military situation, decline in foreign trade, and other negative forces impacting the Confederacy at that time.



# The Sesquicentennial

May 1865



## A 'Grand Review' in Washington

On May 23 and 24, Union soldiers participated in a "Grand Review" before President Andrew Johnson, General Ulysses S. Grant, and other officials in Washington, D.C. For many of those participating in the parade, it was their last act as soldiers.

President Johnson had declared the Civil War to be "virtually at an end" on May 10 and planned for a review of the victorious Federal forces. A two day parade of the main Union armies was called for by Special Order No. 239, issued May 18.



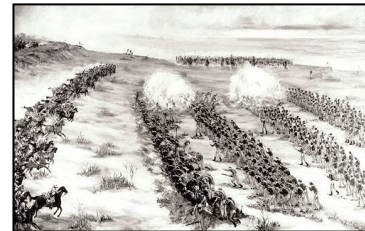
At 9 a.m. on May 23, a sunny day, a signal gun fired a shot and Maj. Gen. George Meade led some 80,000 men of the Army of the Potomac down Pennsylvania Avenue before a crowd of thousands. The procession lasted about six hours.

The following morning, Gen. William T. Sherman led about 65,000 soldiers of the Army of the Tennessee and the Army of Georgia in a review of those forces.

Also in May 1865, President Lincoln was buried in Springfield, Ill., Union troops captured Confederate President Jefferson Davis in Irwinville, Ga., the trial of the Lincoln conspirators began, an explosion of gunpowder leveled a section of Mobile, Ala., and Confederate Gen. Edmund Kirby Smith surrendered the Army of Trans-Mississippi in New Orleans.

## A Battle in Texas

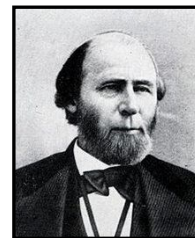
On May 12, an attack by Union forces on Fort Brown near Brownsville, Texas, resulted in what is generally regarded as the last land battle of the Civil War, known as Palmito or Palmetto Ranch.



Despite the existence of an official truce, Union Col. Theodore Barrett launched an attack on the fort with about 500 men. The Federal forces were repulsed the next day by about 300 Confederates. Private John J. Williams of the 34th Indiana (US), who was killed in the battle, is thought to be the last combat death in the Civil War.

## N.C. Governor Appointed

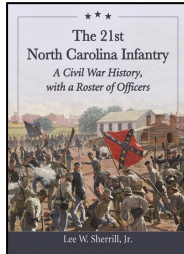
On May 29, U.S. President Andrew Johnson appointed William Woods Holden to be North Carolina's 38th governor.



Holden, a newspaper editor, had criticized the Confederate government and led the state's peace movement. In an 1864 election, he had been soundly defeated by incumbent Gov. Zebulon B. Vance. Holden would lose a special election held later in 1865, but be elected in 1868 before being impeached and removed from office.

## The 21st North Carolina

Lee Sherrill Jr., a founding member of the RCWRT, has published a history of the 21st North Carolina Infantry, one of only two Confederate regiments from the Old North State that could boast “from Manassas to Appomattox.”



The book is written from the perspective of the 1,942 men that served in the regiment and is full of anecdotal material gleaned from more than 700 letters and memoirs. A roster of the unit’s officers and numerous maps and illustration are included. For details, call Lee at (919) 690-1380 or email him at [21stnc@21stncanv.com](mailto:21stnc@21stncanv.com).

## Upcoming Events

**May 8 - 10:** Speakers and living history events will commemorate the May 1865 Battle of Waynesville, N.C. Lecture Fri., at 7 p. m., Re-enactment on Sat., 9:30 a.m., living history and other events on Sat. and Sun. Events supported by donations. Go online to <http://www.lastshotfired.com> or call (828) 452-1551 for details.

**May 16:** The Somerset Place State Historic Site in Creswell, N.C., presents “Music and Literature of the Civil War Era,” a walking tour of the plantation featuring music and stories. 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. For more information, see <http://www.nchistoricsites.org/somerset/somerset.htm> or telephone (252) 797-4560.

**May 16:** Fort Macon at Atlantic Beach, N.C., hosts a living history event with the 1st NC Volunteers. Lectures on flags and women’s dress as well as musket firings and drills also among the free events offered. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Visit <http://ncparks.gov/Visit/parks/foma/main.php> or call (252) 726-3775.

**May 23, 24:** The Bennett Place Historical Site in Durham holds a living history tribute event for Memorial Day. Free. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, see <http://www.bennettplacehistoricsite.com> or telephone (919) 383-4345.

**June 1:** Fort Macon at Atlantic Beach, N.C., presents a program on the “Flags of the Confederacy.” 10 a.m. Free. Visit <http://ncparks.gov/Visit/parks/foma/main.php> or call (252) 726-3775 for details.

## Rally ‘Round The Flag!

The 6th North Carolina State Troops re-enactment group is continuing its fundraising effort to preserve the original silk flag presented by the Young Ladies of Cedar Fork to the North Carolina Grays in June 1861 at Morrisville, N.C.



The group seeks to raise the \$15,000 needed to conserve the fragile flag before it can be displayed at the North Carolina Museum of History.

For more information on the effort to preserve the flag of the North Carolina Grays, call William O’Quinn at (919) 682-2580, or go online to <http://www.6thncst.org>. Donations may be made at <http://www.gofundme.com/h02u00>.

## Preservation News

The Civil War Trust is seeking to preserve critical ground at three battlefields in the Western Theater of the war.



The land targeted for preservation is 19 acres at the battlefields of Mill Springs, Ky., Perryville, Ky., and Stones River, Tenn. The battles were fought in 1862 and early 1863.

The Trust’s goal in this campaign is to raise \$185,000. Donations are matched at a 4:1 rate!

For details, go to <http://www.civilwar.org/battlefields/mill-springs/western-theater-2015>.

# News of the RCWRT



## Upcoming RCWRT Meetings

**June:** Will Hansen, Research at the Duke Library  
**July:** Doug Mattox, Civil War Coins and Stamps  
**August:** Rex Hovey, The Battle of South Mountain  
**September:** Susannah Lee, Sioux Uprising

## RCWRT Documentary

A documentary covering the end of the Civil War in North Carolina is being offered by the Raleigh Civil War Round Table. It is available at our meetings for donations to the RCWRT that will be used for educational and preservation activities related to North Carolina and the Civil War.



The film features historians and authors speaking on the major events of 1865 including Ed Bearss (Overview/Monroe's Crossroads), Chris Fonvielle (Fort Fisher/Fort Anderson/Wilmington), David Waller (Wyse Fork), Andrew Dupstadt (CSS *Neuse*), Wade Sokolosky (Averasboro), Mark Bradley (Bentonville), Chris Hartley (Stoneman's Raid), Ernest Dollar (Raleigh/Morrisville), Bob Farrell (Logan), and John Guss (Bennett Place). The experts were all filmed at the applicable historical sites and re-enactment footage from the sesquicentennial events at Fort Fisher, Fort Anderson, and Bentonville are included. Music by the Liberty Hall Drum & Fife Corps and the 26th North Carolina Field Music/Carolina Fifes and Drums, artwork by Stephen McCall, Martin Pate, and Darrell Combs, and maps by Mark A. Moore and Hal Jespersen also are in the documentary.

See the RCWRT's website (<http://www.raleighcwr.org>) for information on obtaining DVD copies of the new film.

## New Members!

The RCWRT welcomes our newest members, Ed Jones and Naomi Tsujimura, both of Raleigh, as well as Mark Bradley of Alexandria, Va. 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	136
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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) after the meeting. 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.