

The Knapsack

Raleigh Civil War Round Table

The same rain falls on both friend and foe.

November 13, 2017
Our 201st Meeting



Volume 17
Number 11

<http://www.raleighcwrt.org>

November 13 Event Features Jeff Bockert On Blockade Runners of the Confederacy

The Raleigh Civil War Round Table's November 2017 meeting will feature Jeff Bockert, historian and regional supervisor for the North Carolina Division of Historic Sites in Kinston, N.C.



Jeff has worked in the historic site and museum field for more than 20 years. He earned both his undergraduate degree in American History as well as a master's degree in European History from UNC-Wilmington.

Jeff's interest in the U.S. Civil War began after his family moved to Kure Beach when he was

young. His mother's side of the family had fought at Fort Fisher and, as a child, he walked the fort's grounds and his interest grew from there. He was a tour guide at the fort as a teenager.

Prior to his current job, Jeff has served as the N.C. Department of Natural & Cultural Resource's Civil War Specialist and has worked as the manager of the President James K. Polk Birthplace, associate curator on the Battleship North Carolina, and at the National Archives in Washington, D.C. He also is the author of several works on presidential and military history featured in publications that include *White House Studies* and *Public Historian*.

Jeff's November 13 presentation to the RCWRT will be on blockade runners.

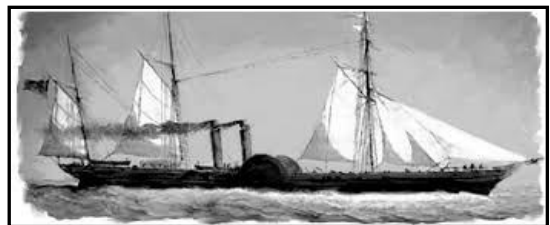
Social Time Added to Meetings!

A reminder that meetings now begin at 6:30 p.m. to provide members with an opportunity to socialize and meet with speakers.

Light refreshments will be served. The programs will still begin at 7 p.m.

~ Blockade Runners ~

When the Civil War began, Union Gen. Winfield Scott developed his "Anaconda Plan," consisting of a naval blockade that aimed to strangle the South's economy and cut off supply lines.



Because of the sheer length of the Southern coastline, the blockade was mostly ineffective during the first couple of years. Blockade runners were able to deliver cotton and other goods to England and France and import arms and military supplies for the Confederacy. Nearly all of the ships used in blockade running were privately owned.



Texas

The States During the Civil War



The 'Lone Star State'

Texas entered the Union as a slave state in 1845, the 28th state to ratify the U.S. Constitution. The Lone Star State overwhelmingly voted to leave the Union. Convention delegates voted to secede on Feb. 1, 1861, adopting the state's ordinance by a margin of 166 to 8. Texas citizens approved the move on Feb. 23 by a vote of 46,153 to 14,747. Gov. Sam Houston, hero of San Jacinto, had been opposed to secession and was forced from office.

In 1860, Texas had a population of 604,215. Of that total, 182,566, or nearly one-fourth, were slaves. The state was an important source of manpower for the Confederate cause and its ports could be used when others in the South were blockaded.

Texas did not suffer the devastation most other Southern states did during the war and consumer goods could still be transported to its citizens through Mexico.



Texas Monument, Vicksburg

1860 Election Results for Texas:

| | |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| John Breckenridge (Dem) | 47,548 (75.5%) |
| John Bell (Union) | 15,438 (24.5%) |

Secession Vote (2/1/61 Convention):

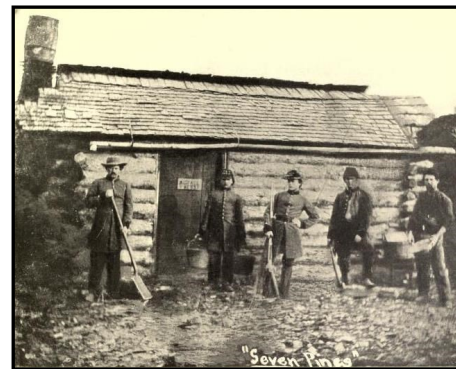
| | |
|---------|-----|
| For | 166 |
| Against | 8 |

Texas' Civil War Governors:

| | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Sam Houston (Ind) | Dec. 21, 1859 – March 16, 1861 |
| Edward Clark (Dem) | March 18, 1861 – Nov. 7, 1861 |
| Francis Lubbock (Dem) | Nov. 7, 1861 – Nov. 5, 1863 |
| Pendleton Murrah (Dem) | Nov. 5, 1863 – June 17, 1865 |

'Texas Brigade'

Between 70,000 and 90,000 Texans fought for the Confederacy, many of which served in cavalry units. Between 2,000 and 3,000 men from the state, some of which were former slaves, served in the Union forces. Texas regiments fought in every major battle during the Civil War.



1st Texas Regiment

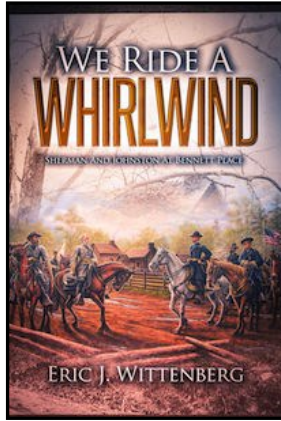
Among the notable units from the Lone Star State was the Texas Brigade, led first by Luis T. Wigfall and then by John Bell Hood. At Antietam, the 1st Texas, part of the brigade, suffered the highest rate of casualties of any Confederate regiment in a fight during the war, with 82.3 percent of its men killed or wounded. Hood's Brigade also became famous for its actions at Gettysburg's Devil's Den. Granbury's Texas Brigade in Gen. Patrick Cleburne's Division in the Confederate Army of Tennessee and the 8th Texas Cavalry, known as Terry's Texas Rangers, also were known for their service.

Early in the war, Confederate forces attempted to expand the Lone Star State's borders by capturing New Mexico and Arizona, but failed. While Texas did not see many significant fights during the Civil War, the last land battle of the war was fought at Palmetto Ranch near Brownsville on May 13, 1865.

In addition to Hood, notable individuals from Texas included Confederate Postmaster General John Henninger Reagan and generals Albert Sydney Johnston, John Wharton, and Hiram B. Granbury. Natives Brig. Gen. William T. Clark and Edmund J. Davis served in the Federal army.

Riding a Whirlwind

A new book by historian, author, and friend of the RCWRT Eric Wittenberg has recently been released. Eric's latest work, *We Ride a Whirlwind: Sherman and Johnston at Bennett Place* focuses on the end of the Civil War in North Carolina.



The informative and entertaining book covers the drama of military and political events as William T. Sherman and Joseph E. Johnston try to bring the war to an end. Numerous photographs and maps, along with words of the actual participants, help tell this interesting story.

Upcoming Events

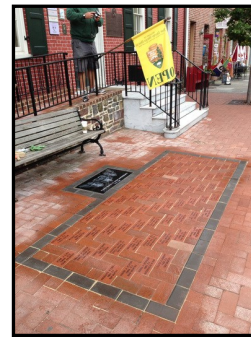
Nov. 15 - 18. America's History LLC offers a guided tour titled "The Civil War in Coastal Carolina." The event covers Ambrose Burnside's 1862 expedition, Foster's Raid, and the Battle of Wise's Forks, among other sites, led by Horace Mewborn and Wade Sokolosky. \$475 fee per person. Telephone (703) 785-4373 or go to <http://americashistoryllc.com/2017/the-civil-war-in-coastal-north-carolina> for details.

Nov. 18. The CSS Neuse Civil War Interpretive Center in Kinston, N.C., presents a program covering the range of aspects to naval, military, and civilian life. Navigation techniques, small arms, artillery, steam engines, rope and knot work, cooking, spinning, weaving, dyeing, Civil War medicine, period games among the topics. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sat. Free. For more information, visit <http://www.nchistoricsites.org/neuse/neuse.htm> or telephone (252) 522-2107.

Dec. 2. Bentonville Battlefield near Four Oaks, N.C., offers a holiday open house event that includes military and civilian programs. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sat. Free. For details, go online to <http://www.nchistoricsites.org/bentonvi/bentonvi.htm> or call (910) 594-0789.

Building a Legacy

Want to help preserve, improve and revitalize the town of Gettysburg while leaving a lasting legacy for yourself or a loved one?

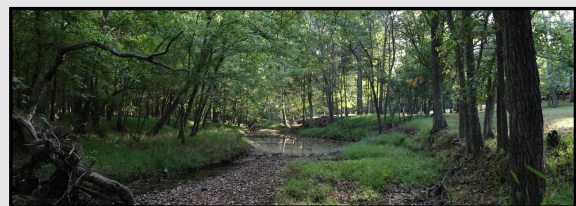


Main Street Gettysburg is offering engraved bricks for a \$125 donation. The group aims to preserve historic buildings and streets and the ambiance of the town and tell the stories of both the men who fought at Gettysburg and citizens who made a lasting impact on the town.

Go to <http://www.mainstreetgettysburg.org/buy-a-brick.html> or call (717) 337-3491 to offer your tax deductible donation for an engraved brick that will pave the town of Gettysburg.

Preservation News

The Civil War Trust has launched a new campaign to preserve key ground at Second Manassas and Kelly's Ford in Virginia.



The targeted property includes two tracts of land at the Second Manassas battlefield linked to the heavy fight around an unfinished railroad as well as a site at Kelly's Ford, representing a total of 145 acres.

The Trust's goal in this campaign is to raise \$215,000. Donations are matched at a 5.77:1 rate!

For details, see the Trust's website at <https://www.civilwar.org/give/save-battlefields/save-145-acres-second-manassas-kellys-ford>.

News of the RCWRT



Upcoming RCWRT Meetings

December: holiday party
January: annual Ed Bearss event

Archives Purchases Documents

The State Archives has added two Civil War-era documents to its collection that were purchased through a donation that the RCWRT made in the memory of former president Kevin Milus. The archives obtained from a private individual a broadside published in Raleigh's *Daily Progress* on April 27, 1865, about the end of hostilities and departure of Federal troops. A four-page letter written by Sgt. Maj. Stanley Bell of the 184th Ohio about his travels in our state accompanied the broadside is also now part of the collection.

Newport News Tour



On Oct. 6 and 7, RCWRT members Griff Bartlett, Chuck Hodges, and Jack Milani took a tour of historical museums in the Newport News and Norfolk, Va., area. Sites visited included the U.S. *Monitor* Center, Fort Monroe and its Casemate Museum, and the Nauticus, which features the battleship *Wisconsin*.

Five New Members!

The Raleigh Civil War Round Table welcomes our newest members, Chet Alexander, Jim Greene, Dean Harry, and Chuck Hodges, all of Raleigh, and Ed Burgess, a resident of Burlington. If you know of someone with an interest in the Civil War, bring them to our next meeting and encourage them to join!



The Knapsack

is the official newsletter of the RCWRT and is published on the Wednesday before each meeting.
(November 2017 Circulation: 398)

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RCWRT Score Card

Members 139

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.

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.