

# The Knapsack

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

October 8, 2018  
Our 212th Meeting



Volume 18  
Number 10

<http://www.raleighcwrt.org>

## Oct. 8 Event Features Amanda Brantley Speaking on Carrie McGavock and Amy Harper

**NOTE:** Wade Sokolosky, our scheduled speaker for October, is unable to present due to his focus on more pressing matters. Hurricane Florence flooded his home and he and his family have had to move out while repairs and restoration are ongoing. Our thoughts and prayers are with Wade and his family.

The Raleigh Civil War Round Table's October 8, 2018 meeting will, instead, feature a presentation by Amanda Brantley. We are fortunate and appreciative that Amanda has graciously agreed to step in on short notice. Her topic will be **Carrie McGavock and Amy Harper**.



Carrie McGavock



John and Amy Harper

The homes of these two Confederate women and their families were fated to be located near the sites of the Battles of Franklin, TN and Bentonville, NC, respectively. As such, their homes were pressed into service as Confederate field hospitals during the battle and in the weeks and months that followed. Amanda will relate their stories of sacrifice and dedication to the wounded and dying.

Amanda Brantley is a Historic Interpreter at Bentonville Battlefield State Historic site, where she has served as the Programs Coordinator for six years. She is a graduate of UNC-Pembroke, where she earned her bachelor's degree in American Studies. In addition to the Carolina's Campaign, she focuses her research on Civil War medi-



cine and the experience of women during the war. She has published articles in the Citizens Companion and the Homefront Herald.

Amanda has been an avid re-enactor for years participating in events throughout the south east, including many at Bentonville. She and her husband live in Smithfield with their daughter.

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### ~ McGavock Confederate Cemetery ~



Carrie McGavock was revered in her lifetime for her devotion to the almost 1,500 Confederate war dead buried on her Tennessee plantation, Carnton (shown in the background).

### ~ Raleigh CWRT Dues Reminder ~

September was the month when we renew our membership in the Raleigh Civil War Round Table. Dues are \$30.00 (Individual/Family), \$10 Teachers, and is free for Students.

Your dues are used to pay the rent at the NC Museum of History, pay our speakers expenses, pay for our web site, and for other expenses of running the Round Table. If you have not yet paid your dues, you may do so at our October 8th monthly meeting or by sending a check to:

Griff Bartlett  
Treasurer-RCWRT  
908 Kinsdale Dr  
Raleigh, NC 27615



# North Carolina Museum of History

Focusing on Current Exhibits in the Civil War Gallery  
By Charlie Knight, Curator of Military History



## Brig. Gen. Thomas F. Toon's Wallet

The life of an army paymaster was certainly not the most glamorous, but yet he was the one officer that the troops loved to see. In the Confederate army, especially late in the war, paymaster visits became less and less frequent. At Appomattox, James Longstreet – himself a paymaster in the antebellum Army – famously noted that the government owed him several months' pay. As if the infrequency of pay was not bad enough, coupled to that was the depreciation of Confederate currency.

With the end of the war, of course, Confederate money became worthless, making many paupers literally overnight. Troops on both sides kept it as souvenirs, and today there is a large collector's market for it. But seldom is there ever any information attached as to who it belonged to, or how they acquired it.

Which is what makes one small collection of Confederate money at the NC Museum of History rather unique. When Gen. Thomas Toon's family donated some of his personal effects to what was then the Hall of History in 1914, they included his wallet that



[see article on page 3 -- Ed.]

Thomas Fentress Toon was born in Columbus County, NC, June 10, 1840, and was attending Wake Forest College when the war began. He joined the Columbus Guards, which became part of the 20<sup>th</sup> NC, and was elected First Lieutenant, rising to Captain when his half-brother William was promoted to Major. His regiment spent the first year of the war at Fort Caswell, at the mouth of the Cape



Col. Thomas Toon, age 23

Fear River. They then went to Virginia; their baptism of fire coming at the Battle of Seven Pines. They participated in all the engagements of the Army of Northern Virginia that year, and in early 1863 Toon was elected Colonel of the 20<sup>th</sup>. The regiment suffered heavily at Gettysburg on July 1, which

ultimately led to the relief of the brigade commander, Alfred Iverson.

During the Overland Campaign, the regiment distinguished itself at Spotsylvania, capturing an enemy flag; however, in the same action, Iverson's replacement, Brig. Gen. Robert D. Johnston, was wounded. As senior Colonel, Toon took command of the brigade, and received temporary promotion to Brigadier General to command the brigade while Johnston recovered. Toon reverted to Colonel and command of the 20<sup>th</sup> when Johnston returned a few months later.

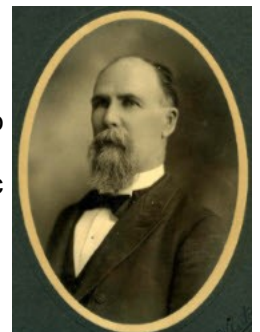


Bullet removed from one of his wounds.

Toon was wounded five times during the war, the last one coming March 25, 1865, at Fort Steadman outside Petersburg. Of this he wrote, "I fought my last battle, being desperately wounded,

standing on our breastworks rallying our troops to resist an expected attack...Dr. Schofield of Petersburg was kind to me. He took me into his own house and my wounds were tenderly dressed."

After the war, Toon lived in Columbus and Robeson counties where he served as a school principal and was twice elected to the state Senate. He was elected State Superintendent of Public Instruction in 1900, but his term was cut short by his death on February 19, 1902; he is buried in Raleigh's Oakwood Cemetery.



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## Relative Value Depends Upon Context

The preceding article, "[Brig. Gen. Thomas F. Toon's Wallet](#)", by Charlie Knight, mentions that one of Brig. Gen. Toon's artifacts passed down to the NC Museum of History by his family in 1914 included two 100 dollar Confederate notes, "specifically Criswell #494 and #547". Here is an example of that multiface note:



First, some definitions:

- "Numismatics" is the study or collection of currency, including coins, tokens, paper money, and related objects.
- "Provenance" is a record of ownership of a work of art or an antique, used as a guide to authenticity or quality.
- "Criswell" refers to Grover Criswell who cataloged Confederate banknotes in a book entitled *Confederate and Southern States Currency*, first published in 1957, with new editions released periodically.

As legal tender, the value of Toon's 100 dollar Confederate note is \$0. This is because the U.S. Congress addressed the matter of Confederate currency after the Civil War. The Fourteenth Amendment to the US Constitution, enacted on July 9, 1868, forbade recognition of Confederate debt:

"But neither the United States nor any State shall assume or pay any debt or obligation incurred in aid of insurrection or rebellion against the United States, ... but all such debts, obligations and claims shall be held illegal and void."

On the other hand, from a numismatic perspective, one of these notes in very fine condition is currently selling on eBay for \$89.00. But the fact that the provenance of this note is traceable directly to a Confederate Brig. Gen. and, furthermore, that this money was in payment by the Confederate Government to him for services rendered to the Cause is, as the MasterCard commercial says, "Priceless!"

Bob Graesser, Editor

*The Knapsack*

## Upcoming Events

### PAMPLIN HISTORICAL PARK TOUR -

#### RCWRT TRIPXC

October 6, 2018: Petersburg, VA

The Raleigh Civil War Round Table has organized a final field trip for 2018. RCWRT members are invited to join a trip to tour Pamplin Historical Park, located in Petersburg, VA, on Oct. 6, 2018. We will depart Raleigh by car at 8:00 am with an estimated time of arrival of 10:00 am. We expect to be back in Raleigh by 6:30 pm.

The Park is divided into 5 parts plus a Battlefield Center. We will interrupt our tour to have a leisurely lunch at a nearby restaurant and then return for the balance of the tour. The time required for the tour itself is approximately 5-6 hours. See our website for the detailed itinerary.

Admission is \$12 to \$13, depending on your age, and includes the services of a guide if we have a minimum of ten participants. We need to know of your intent to participate as soon as possible so that a guide can be reserved. To sign up and obtain details on meetup location, please contact Jack Milani, Trip Coordinator, at (919) 838-3670 or [1huntmstr@gmail.com](mailto:1huntmstr@gmail.com).

**Oct. 6, 2018. 11:00 am to 1:00 pm and 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm. "Follow the Fight" Tour.** Bentonville Battlefield State Historic Site, 5466 Harper House Rd, Four Oaks, NC 27524. Tours leave from the Battlefield's Visitors Center and will cost \$5.00 per person, with children 12 & under free. For details, go to [www.fobb.net/Tours.aspx](http://www.fobb.net/Tours.aspx), call 910-594-0789, or send email request to [info@fobb.net](mailto:info@fobb.net).

**Oct. 10-14, 2018: Chambersburg Civil War Seminars & Tours -- Mr. Lincoln's City & John Wilkes Booth Escape Tour.** Fairfield Inn & Suites By Marriott, 5220 Westview Drive, Frederick, MD 21703. This is a five-day symposium featuring bus and walking tours of Mr. Lincoln's Washington and John Wilkes Booth Escape Route (both led by Joan Chaconas and Dr. Ed Steer). Sites to be visited will include the following:

- Ford's Theatre
- Lincoln Memorial
- Old Soldiers' Home where Lincoln visited
- Surratt Tavern
- Dr. Mudd House

In addition, Dr. Gordon Dammann leads a bus and walking tour of historic Frederick, Maryland entitled "[Amongst the Clustered Spires: Touring Civil War Frederick](#)". Bonus tours will include "[In the Footsteps of the Presidents](#)" seeing unique places visited by Abraham Lincoln, James Buchanan, LBJ, and Dwight D. Eisenhower at Gettysburg, Antietam, and the Cumberland Valley. For details, see <http://www.civilwarseminars.org> for details.

## Upcoming Events (Continued)

**Nov. 2-4, 2018. Harpers Ferry Symposium.** Stratford Hall, home of the Lees of Virginia, announces this year's Robert E. Lee Symposium: [The Shenandoah Campaigns and Harpers Ferry](#).

Spend the weekend in historic Harpers Ferry! The symposium includes lectures by renowned historians, exclusive tours of Harpers Ferry and surrounding battlefields, and the opportunity to socialize with other history lovers.

Harpers Ferry, located on the border between North and South, changed hands eight times during the Civil War and witnessed five battles. The historic town has been restored to its Civil War era and its battlefields are well-preserved reminders of Harpers Ferry's strategic importance.

The last day to register for the entire symposium and all symposium options is Oct. 19, 2018. Contact Jon Bachman at (804) 493-1972 or [jbachman@stratfordhall.org](mailto:jbachman@stratfordhall.org) to register. A block of rooms has been reserved at the Claron Inn Harpers Ferry-Charles Town. Call (304) 535-6302 for reservations.

### NC 30TH FLAG RESTORATION CEREMONY

**Theme of RCWRT Nov. 5 Meeting (rescheduled from Nov. 12 due to Veteran's Day closure of the NC History Museum)**

The RCWRT is sponsoring the restoration of a battle flag belonging to the NC 30th Infantry Regiment. Andrew Ballard, Knapsack editor emeritus and originator of the idea for this flag project, will provide an overview. He will also discuss how the funds generated by the sale of the documentary he produced on the the end of the Civil War in North Carolina helps to fund the restoration project.

Charlie Knight, Curator of Military History at the Museum, will talk about the flag's history and about the conservation process, and David Waller will give the unit history of the 30th NC Infantry Regiment.

It is also envisioned that a raffle, silent auctions, and other fund-raising events will occur. Finally, the Demo Gallery at the Museum has been reserved to display "our" flag on Nov. 5 as part of the meeting.

### New Members

We welcome one new couple as members this month: Kenneth & Lois Crawley of Holly Springs, NC.

### From the Editor

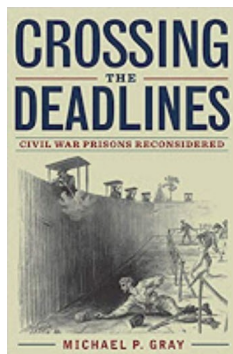
If you would like to be profiled in a future issue of the Knapsack as to your particular Civil War passion, e.g., reenacting camp life, drills, and battles, delving into genealogy, collecting Civil War-related items, playing Civil War boardgames, etc., please email me at [bob.graesser@gmail.com](mailto:bob.graesser@gmail.com). I think other Knapsack readers would be very interested in your story.

*Bob Graesser*  
Newsletter Editor & Webmaster, Raleigh CWRT  
Sept. 29, 2018

## New Civil War-Related Release

The website of the Raleigh Civil War Round Table, <http://www.raleighcwrt.org>, features a weekly quiz. The recent Quiz #32 (Sep-23-2018) concerns Prisoner-of-War Camps. The facts and figures presented in that quiz provide a backdrop to this month's new book selection.

***Crossing the Deadlines: Civil War Prisons Reconsidered***, edited by Michael P. Gray. The "deadlines" were boundaries prisoners had to stay within or risk being shot. Just as a prisoner would take the daring challenge in "crossing the deadline" to attempt escape, ***Crossing the Deadlines*** crosses those boundaries of old scholarship by taking on bold initiatives with new methodologies as described in the assembled nine essays representative of current trends in the Civil War prisons scholarship. As such, these essays provide a compilation of important



themes that are interwoven on a broader scale by investigating many prisons North and South.

themes that are interwoven on a broader scale by investigating many prisons North and South.

### Part 1 - Evolution of the Civil War prison historiography

- A study of the environment of Civil War prisoner of war camps
- A look at prisons and prisoners as tourist attractions for the home front civilian population
- An examination of the role of Catholicism and priests in military prisons

### Part 2 - Issues of race and retaliation

- How hostages and other punitive measures were aimed at ensuring the other side adhered to what they viewed as the tenets of civilized warfare
- The experiences of black prisoners in Confederate POW camps
- An examination of the use of black soldiers as prison guards

### Part 3 - The important role of archaeology in the study of Civil War prisons

- The captive experience at Johnson's Island
- The ongoing evolution of the work being done uncovering Georgia's Camp Lawton
- The role of prison memory and the historical challenges it represents

KSU Press, Publisher, Nov. 13, 2018. ISBN: 978-1-60635-341-7. Available at Quail Ridge Books, Raleigh, NC, as well as other book stores and online at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com).

For other 2018 Civil War-related releases, go to website <https://cwba.blogspot.com/2018/>.

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# News of the RCWRT



## Upcoming RCWRT Meetings

Date	Speaker(s)	Topic
Oct. 8	Amanda Brantley	Carrie McGavock, Amy Harper
Nov. 5	Andrew Ballard, Charlie Knight, & David Waller	Special 30th NC Infantry flag conservation event
Dec. 10	Betty Vaughn	Holiday party (venue TBD)

## Preservation News



Help the American Battlefield Trust in their 2018 projects.

### Cold Harbor

Remove residence built in 1976. Residence is in bad state of repair. \$18,000.

### Gettysburg

Demolition of commercial structure. \$18,000.

### Trevilian Station

Occurring on June 11, 1864, the battle at Trevilian Station was the largest all-cavalry battle of the Civil War. Union cavalry under Maj. Gen. Philip Sheridan clashed with Confederate cavalry under Maj. Gens. Wade Hampton and Fitzhugh Lee near Trevilian Station, Virginia. The cavalry forces engaged in the battle included 9,216 Yankees and 6,700 Rebels. The result was a Confederate victory as Sheridan was ultimately forced to withdraw.

For more information on this battle, go to <https://www.battlefields.org/learn/maps/battle-trevilian-station-june-11-12-1864>.

The project involves demolition and removal of two residential structures in disrepair, plus outbuildings. One dates to early 1900s, the other 1960s. Both are now vacant, in bad state of repair, and present a dangerous nuisance. \$30,000.

For more information on donating, go to <https://www.battlefields.org/help-restore-battlefields-their-wartime-appearances>.



## The Knapsack

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Bob Graesser, Editor

### Contributors

Griff Bartlett  
Charlie Knight

Readers are encouraged to submit photos, events, & articles for publication to Bob Graesser, Editor (bob.graesser@gmail.com; 919-244-9041)

## RCWRT Board of Directors (2018-2020)

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**Paying Memberships / Total Members: 128 / 201**

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. Student membership is free. Half-year memberships are available March through May for \$20. Dues should be submitted to the Treasurer by **Sept. 15** each year

T H I S P A G E I N T E N T I O N A L L Y B L A N K