

The Knapsack

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

October 10, 2011
Our 128th Meeting



Volume 11
Number 10

October 10 Meeting Features Wade Sokolosky On Preparations to Face Sherman

Our October presenter, Wade Sokolosky, is a recently-retired U.S. Army Colonel, author, and historian with a particular interest in U.S. Gen. Sherman's Carolinas Campaign.

Wade was born and raised in Beaufort, N.C., and graduated from East Carolina University in 1986. Following his graduation, he entered the Army as a 2nd Lt. in the ordnance corps.



Wade's interest in the 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 friend and fellow officer to battlefields in middle Tennessee.

Wade's touring buddy, an Illinois native, regaled him with tales of "Uncle Billy's Boys" marching through the South. To counter such assaults on his roots, Wade became a Civil War scholar, with a particular focus on the contributions of Tar Heel troops.

Wade's master's thesis on Sherman's logistical operations 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

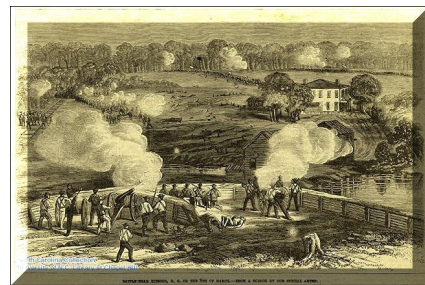
from Fayetteville to Averasboro. Wade and Smith soon will release another book on Wyse Fork' and Wade also is working on a solo project titled *Final Roll Call: Confederate Losses During the 1865 Carolinas Campaign*.

Wade is married, has two grown children, and also re-enacts, metal detects, and collects Civil War artillery ordnance.

His talk at our October meeting will focus on the massive military effort along the North Carolina coast in anticipation of Sherman's arrival.

~ Wyse Fork ~

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



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



The Sesquicentennial



October 1861

Union Disaster at Ball's Bluff

On Oct. 21, 1861, poor communication and faulty leadership would result in a Union disaster at Ball's Bluff in northern Virginia.

The day before, a small Union patrol had spotted what was believed to be a Confederate camp. The division commander, Brig. Gen. Charles P. Stone, ordered a raid on the camp, which was located across the Potomac River near Leesburg, Va.

Not finding the camp, the Union troops sent on the raid sought new orders. Following enemy contact, more Federal forces were slowly moved to the bluff.

Although the opposing forces both numbered around 1,700 men, Union troops were trapped at one end of a clearing on the bluff above the river, with little room to maneuver due to the rough terrain.



Union Troops Retreat into the Potomac River

Late in the afternoon, the two opposing forces clashed in a confused and continuous melee, with frequent hand-to-hand fighting. Now in command of the Federal troops at the top of the bluff was Col. Edward D. Baker, a U.S. senator from Oregon. Baker would be killed in the fighting, becoming the only senator ever to die in combat.

Following Baker's death, the new Union commander attempted a breakout. When that failed, Federal troops panicked, and many drowned trying to cross the Potomac.

Union casualties were estimated to be 223 killed, 226 wounded, and 553 captured. Confederate forces lost about 36 killed and 117 wounded, with three soldiers taken prisoner.

West Virginia Votes to Secede!

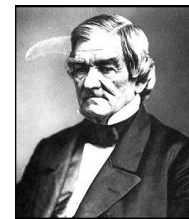
On Oct. 24, 1861, residents of the western part of Virginia voted 18,408 to 781 in favor of the creation of a new state, Kanawha. The overwhelming vote is questionable, as Union troops occupied the territory and likely had significant influence on the outcome.



The new state would be admitted into the Union as West Virginia on June 20, 1863.

Confederate Indian Treaties

In October 1861, the Confederacy signed treaties with the Cherokee, Osage, Quapaw, Seneca, and Shawnee Indian tribes. The negotiations were conducted by Albert Pike. Although he favored neutrality, Cherokee Chief John Ross (Guwisguwi) would agree to the alliance due to his tribe's geographic proximity to the South and their "domestic institution" of holding slaves.

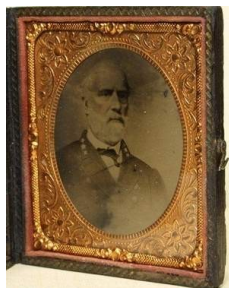


Chief John Ross

The Confederate government previously also had signed treaties with several other tribes. Nearly 29,000 Native Americans would fight in the Civil War on both sides, including a Cherokee, Stand Watie, who rose to the rank of Brigadier General in the Confederate Army.

Rare Lee Photo Brings \$23k

An item found in an overflow bin at a Goodwill in Murphreesboro, Tenn., turns out to have been quite a donation for the charity. The tintype, what is believed to be a rare photograph of Robert E. Lee, recently was auctioned by Goodwill online.



The winner, Richard Schaffer of West Chester, W. Va., bid \$23,001, a record haul for Goodwill.

See <http://giveit2goodwill.org/releases/494>.

Upcoming Events

October 1-29: The Department of Cultural Resources' Civil War photo exhibit, "Freedom, Sacrifice, Memory," depicting Confederate soldiers, African Americans, and women will simultaneously visit the High Point Public Library and the New Hanover County Public Library in Wilmington, N.C. For details on the High Point exhibit, call (336) 883-3631. For more on the Wilmington exhibit, telephone (910) 798-6300.

October 8: From 3 p.m. until 4 p.m., the N.C. Maritime Museum in Beaufort, N.C., will host a free lecture by Chris Meekins of the N.C. State Archives on pro-Union residents of North Carolina. Call (252) 728-7317 or see <http://www.ncmaritimemuseums.org/beaufort.html>.

October 8-9: Bennett Place in Durham, N.C., hosts "The Road to Secession." Event includes live music, dancing, military encampments, a 19th Century baseball game, wagon rides, wet-plate photography, and lectures that provide a taste of life during the early months of the Civil War. For more information, telephone (919) 383-4345 or visit <http://www.nchistoricsites.org/bennett>.

October 20: At 7 p.m., the Durham Civil Roundtable hosts a talk on the proper protocol of mourning during the Civil War. Call Jean Eno (919) 643-0466 for details.

October 29: Tony Horwitz will be at Quail Ridge Book Shop in Raleigh talking about his new book on John Brown's raid at 3 p.m. Call (919) 828-1588 for details.

November 5-6: Re-enactment at Fort Branch near Hamilton, N.C. Camps, exhibits, demonstrations, music, and battles. Small parking charge. Call (800) 766-8566 or visit <http://www.fortbranchcivilwarsite.com>.

Alabama Still Taxes For Vets

Although it has been many decades since the last of the more than 82,500 Alabamians that served in the Civil War died, the state is still collecting a tax that was levied to support Confederate veterans.



Alabama's property tax was first imposed to pay for pensions, then used to support a soldiers' home, which closed in 1939. A small portion of the tax now funds the Confederate Memorial Park in Mountain Creek, Ala., about 30 miles north of Montgomery.

For more information on the memorial park, see <http://www.preserveala.org/confederatepark.aspx>.

Preservation News

The Civil War Trust has launched a new effort aimed at preserving another important piece of the Parker's Cross Roads battlefield in Tennessee. The targeted land is at the center of the battlefield where Nathan Bedford Forrest gave his legendary order "Charge 'em both ways!"

Forrest's daring and decisive action during the Dec. 31, 1862, battle saved his force from capture or destruction.



The Trust's preservation campaign at Parker's Cross Roads targets 52 acres.

The Trust's goal in this campaign is to raise \$180,000. Donations will be matched 7.22 to 1.

For more information on the Trust's effort to save an important piece of the Parker's Cross Roads battlefield, see <http://www.civilwar.org/battlefields/parkerscrossroads/parkers-cross-roads-2011>.

News of the RCWRT



Upcoming RCWRT Meetings

November: George Kundahl, Stephen Dodson Ramseur

December: Arch T. Allen III, pardon Gov. Holden

January: annual event with Ed Bearss

February: Lerae Umfleet, N.C. women on the homefront

March: Kevin Milus, the Irish experience during the war

Gatton Award Nominations Sought

Each year, the Raleigh Civil War Round Table honors an individual who has distinguished themselves through their work or efforts related to the study of the Civil War through its T. Harry Gatton Award. The person may be an author, scholar, artist, historian, speaker, or anyone whom the RCWRT's Board of Directors believes should receive this honor.

Prior winners are: Ed Bearss (2008), Nora Brooks (2009), Charles Hawks (2010), and Mark Bradley (2011). Any member wishing to nominate someone for this honor should send the name and an explanation of why they believe that person should be considered to President Steve Savia at 10409 Leslie Dr., Raleigh, NC 27615 or via email to ssavia@nc.rr.com. Nominations are due Nov. 30. The award will be presented at our Ed Bearss event in January 2012.

Have You Renewed?

Annual dues (\$30, individual or family) should have been remitted in September for 2011-12. If you have not renewed, please either mail your check to:

David June, Treasurer
3912 White Chapel Way
Raleigh, NC 27615

or, bring your check to the October meeting.



The Knapsack

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RCWRT Score Card

Members 127

September 2011 Attendance

Meeting 42

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) immediately after the meeting. Annual membership dues are \$30 (individual and family) and \$15 for students. Half-year memberships are available March through May for \$20.