

The Knapsack

Raleigh Civil War Round Table

The same rain falls on both friend and foe.

***October 14, 2013
Our 152nd Meeting***



***Volume 13
Number 10***

Tom Crouch to Discuss Civil War Ballooning At October 14 Round Table Meeting

The Raleigh Civil War Round Table's upcoming meeting will feature Tom Crouch, the senior curator for aeronautics at the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C.

A native of Dayton, Ohio, Tom received his B.A. in history from the University of Ohio, M.A. in history from Miami (Ohio) University, and his doctorate in American history from the Ohio State University.



Prior to working at the Smithsonian, Tom has been a social studies teacher, director of the Ohio Historical Society's Education Department, and lecturer of history and technology at the University of Maryland, among his other educational roles.

Tom has written numerous books on topics related to history, aviation, and aeronautics, including *Apollo: Ten Years Since Tranquility Base*, *The Eagle Aloft: Two Centuries of the Balloon in America*, *The Bishop's Boys: A Life of Wilbur and Orville Wright*, and *Wings: A History of Aviation from Kites to the Space Age*. He also has authored dozens of articles published in magazines and journals.

Since 1974, Tom has been a Smithsonian employee, working for both the National Air and Space Museum and the National Museum of American History.

Tom's presentation to the Raleigh Civil War Round Table at its October 2013 meeting will be on Civil War ballooning.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: *The November meeting will be one week early (Nov. 4) due to the Veterans Day holiday.*

~ The Intrepid ~

Balloons were used by both sides during the Civil War to conduct aerial reconnaissance and artillery spotting. In July 1861, Thaddeus Lowe was named to lead the Union's aeronautical program.



Lowe designed special sturdy balloons for military use. The largest of the seven balloons in the Union fleet was the *Intrepid*. The *Intrepid* carried five men and had a portrait of General McClellan suspended from the beak of an eagle on one side. The *Intrepid* was successfully used by Lowe in the 1862 Battle of Fair Oaks to report Confederate troop locations.



The Sesquicentennial



October 1863

Fight at Bristoe Station

On Oct. 14, an offensive thrust launched by Robert E. Lee a few days earlier ended with a Confederate defeat at Bristoe Station, in Northern Virginia.

Lt. Gen. A.P. Hill's corps unexpectedly encountered two retreating Union corps and would attack without conducting adequate reconnaissance. Two brigades of Henry Heth's division would be hammered by Federal troops posted behind a railroad cut.

Federal casualties numbered 546, and Confederate losses were about 1,378 in killed, wounded, and missing, including Brig. Gen. Carnot Posey and two of Heth's brigade commanders. Hill would lose his standing with Lee as a result of his hasty decisions at Bristoe Station.

"Well, well, general, bury those poor men and let us say no more about it," Lee reportedly said to Hill in response to his explanation for defeat.



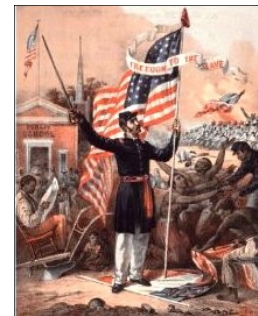
Bristoe Station

On Oct. 26, Maj. Gen. George H. Thomas and Maj. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant would launch the "Cracker Line Operation" in an effort to relieve Union forces under siege at Chattanooga, Tenn. A Confederate night attack on Wauhatchie Station would end after Federal troops continued to arrive. The Cracker Line effort would be successful and allow Union forces to receive reinforcements and supplies.

Also during October 1863, the Confederate torpedo boat CSS *David* attacked the USS *New Ironsides*, the submarine *H.L. Hunley* would sink for a second time, and a Federal bombardment of Fort Sumter would begin, all in the Charleston, S.C., harbor.

More Volunteers Sought!

On Oct. 17, President Abraham Lincoln signed Proclamation 107, calling for another 300,000 men to serve for up to three years in the Union army and navy. Lincoln said the additional volunteers were needed due to the expiration of current military terms of service and to help bring the war to a "prosperous end."



The proclamation called on governors to meet their quotas of men, which would be established by the War Department. Drafts would be held Jan. 5, 1864, in states not meeting their quotas.

Thanksgiving Holiday

On Oct. 3, President Lincoln proclaimed that a national observation of Thanksgiving would be held on the last Thursday of November.



Although Thanksgiving had been previously celebrated in the United States, Lincoln called for a united, national observation to take place in an effort to foster unity. A nationwide celebration would not actually occur until the 1870s, and the official holiday would later be moved to the fourth Thursday of November.

'Tell It With Pride'

The National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C., is holding an exhibition focusing on Augustus Saint-Gaudens' Shaw memorial which commemorates the storming of Fort Wagner, S.C., by the 54th Massachusetts in July 1863.



The exhibition seeks to explore the men behind the black soldiers who are anonymously represented in the sculpture through photographs, documents, and other material related to the unit.

'Tell It With Pride' will run through Jan. 20, 2014. For more information, see <http://www.nga.gov/content/ngaweb/exhibitions/2013/shaw.html>.

Upcoming Events

Oct. 12: Bennett Place State Historical Site in Durham, N.C., will commemorate the 90th anniversary of the Unity Monument's dedication from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Free. A special exhibit about the monument, dedicated to peace and the reunification of the United States, also will be on display. For details, go to <http://www.nchistoricsites.org/bennett/bennett.htm> or call (919) 383-4345.

Oct. 17-18: Old Salem, Winston-Salem State University, and Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, N.C., will host a symposium titled "Lay Down My Burden: Freedom and Legacies of the Civil War." The conference includes talks on the role of blacks during the Civil War and the impact of emancipation. Maya Angelou, Tim Tyson, Chris Fonvielle, Heather Williams, and William Link are among those presenting. Registration is \$20; \$10 for students. See <http://www.nccivilwar150.com/events/wsbrochure.pdf> or telephone (919) 807-7288 for details.

Oct. 26: The Valentine Richmond History Center will host a walking tour of the famous Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond, Va. Visit the graves of Confederate notables such as Jefferson Davis, J.E.B. Stuart, George Pickett, Fitzhugh Lee, and others. 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. \$15. Details available from <http://www.richmondhistorycenter.com/schedule> or (804) 649-0711, ext 301.

Chamberlain's Medal

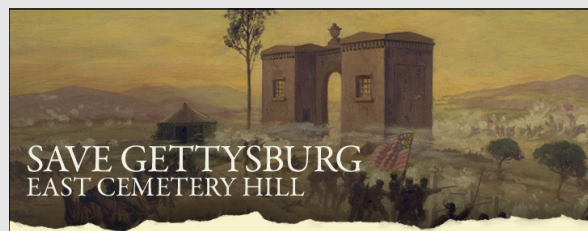
The original Medal of Honor earned by Col. Joshua Chamberlain for his gallantry at Gettysburg will now be displayed after being found at a church sale.



Chamberlain was awarded the medal in 1893 "for extraordinary heroism on 2 July 1863, while serving with 20th Maine Infantry, in action at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, for daring heroism and great tenacity in holding his position on the Little Round Top against repeated assaults, and carrying the advance position on the Great Round Top." The artifact was given to the Pejepscot Historical Society, which plans to display the item at its Chamberlain Museum in Brunswick, Maine.

Preservation News

The Civil War Trust seeks to preserve more land at the Gettysburg battlefield.



The 12 targeted acres are on East Cemetery Hill, scene of a July 2, 1863, evening charge by Gen. Harry T. Hays' Louisiana Tigers and Col. Isaac Avery's Tarheels against a Federal position held by the 25th and 75th Ohio. Union forces secured the critical position after reinforcements arrived.

The Trust's goal in this campaign is to raise \$174,000. Donations are matched 3 to 1.

For details, see <http://www.civilwar.org/battlefields/gettysburg/gettysburg-east-cemetery-hill-2013>.

News of the RCWRT



Upcoming RCWRT Meetings

November: Ansley Wegner, artificial limbs

December: period music at state capitol

January: annual Ed Bearss event

February: Keith Hardison, Jefferson Davis

March: Bob Zeller, photographic history

April: William Davis, CSA secret servicewoman

May: William Harris, Lincoln and the Constitution

June: Earl Hess, Petersburg

July: Steve Smith, Chamberlain at Gettysburg

August: Stephen Davis, Battle of Atlanta

Our Sympathies



The Raleigh Civil War Round Table expresses its deep sympathies to the family of long-time RCWRT member David Adams upon his passing. David was a native of Raleigh and retired from the North Carolina Department of Revenue. He died Sept. 20 at the age of 84.

Two New Members

The RCWRT welcomes our two newest members, Stan Abell and John Wood, both of Raleigh. If you know someone with an interest in the Civil War, please bring them to a meeting and encourage them to join!



The Knapsack

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RCWRT Score Card

Members	129
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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) 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.