

The Knapsack

Raleigh Civil War Round Table

The same rain falls on both friend and foe.

September 9, 2013
Our 151st Meeting



Volume 13
Number 9

September 9 RCWRT Meeting to Feature Terry Winschel on the Battle of Vicksburg

The Raleigh Civil War Round Table's upcoming meeting will feature Terry Winschel, a historian and author who served in the National Park Service for 35 years. He currently resides in Mississippi.

A native of Pittsburgh, Pa., Terry is a graduate of Penn State University. He also earned a Masters of Social Science and an Education Specialist degree from Mississippi College.



During his 35 years with the National Park Service, Terry has served at the military parks at Gettysburg, Pa., Valley Forge, Pa., Fredericksburg, Va., and Vicksburg, Miss. He recently

retired from working as a historian at Vicksburg.

Terry has written some 75 articles on the Civil War and more than 125 book reviews on the subject. He is the author of *Triumph & Defeat: The Vicksburg Campaign* (Vols. I and II), *Vicksburg is the Key: The Struggle for the Mississippi River*, *Vicksburg: Fall of the Confederate Gibraltar*, and *The Civil War Diary of a Common Soldier*.

He is the 2004 recipient of the Nevins-Freeman Award and the 2006 Dufour Award. He also was named National Park Service Preservationist of the year in 2007 and the Carrington Williams Battlefield

Preservationist of the Year in 2013 by the Civil War Trust. Terry's presentation to the RCWRT at our Sept. 9 meeting will be on the Battle of Vicksburg.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: A Civil War book raffle will be held at the meeting. Also, please remit your annual dues if you have not done so!

~ Vicksburg NMP ~

The city of Vicksburg, Miss., was surrendered by Confederate defenders in July 1863 after several weeks of siege. Victory at Vicksburg helped Federal forces gain control of the Mississippi River.



To help commemorate those events, the Vicksburg National Military Park was established in February 1899. The park's national cemetery is the largest burial site for Federal soldiers and sailors, with more than 17,000 graves. Nearly 13,000 of those buried there are unidentified.



The Sesquicentennial



September 1863

Bloody Fight at Chickamauga

On Sept. 19 and 20, at West Chickamauga Creek, southeast of Chattanooga, Tenn., the Union army would suffer one of its most significant defeats in the Western Theater of the Civil War.

Federal forces under Maj. Gen. William Rosecrans had occupied Chattanooga after Confederate Gen. Braxton Bragg withdrew from the city. Rosecrans would head south and engage Bragg, who had been reinforced by Lt. Gen. James Longstreet's forces.

Longstreet would launch an attack and force about one-third of the Union army to retreat. The battle would end after a rally by Federal forces, now led by Maj. Gen. George H. Thomas.



Chickamauga

After heavy losses to both sides, Union troops would withdraw to Chattanooga, and Confederates would hold the surrounding heights south of the city. Union casualties would total about 16,170, while Confederates would see some 18,454 of their troops killed, wounded, or missing.

Also during September 1863, Federal troops would fight Sioux warriors in the Dakota Territory, and Knoxville, Tenn., fell to Union forces led by Maj. Gen. Ambrose Burnside. On Sept. 8, during the Second Battle of Sabine Pass, Texas, Confederates will gain a stunning victory when 44 men repelled four Union gunboats and seven troop transports.

Habeas Corpus Suspended

On Sept. 15, President Abraham Lincoln signed Proclamation 104, suspending the writ of *habeas corpus*, which prohibited unlawful imprisonment.



Article One of the U.S. Constitution provides that the protection "shall not be suspended, unless when in cases of rebellion or invasion the public safety may require it." Congress had given Lincoln the authority to suspend the writ in March, and the President said it was needed to deal with prisoners, spies, traitors, deserters, and draft dodgers during the "rebellion."

Little Rock Falls!

On Sept. 10, Confederate forces led by Maj. Gen. Sterling Price evacuated Little Rock, Ark., after being pressured by troops under Union Maj. Gen. Frederick Steele.



Maj. Gen. Sterling Price, CSA

A Union-led government would be set up in the capital and Confederate Gov. Harris Flanigin would move to Washington, Ark., and govern from there until the war's end. The loss of Little Rock would weaken the Confederacy's hold on the area to the west of the Mississippi.

Lee's View at Gettysburg

The Smithsonian Institution has made available an interactive, panoramic map that helps illustrate the disadvantage in surveillance Gen. Robert E. Lee and his commanders faced at Gettysburg.



Researchers used historical maps, coupled with modern digital technology, to provide views from strategic points in the battle. The creators say that the tools show that Lee never had a clear view of enemy forces due to the terrain.

To see what Lee saw at Gettysburg, go online to <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/history-archaeology/A-Cutting-Edge-Second-Look-at-the-Battle-of-Gettysburg.html>.

Upcoming Events

Sept. 13-15: Liberty University in Lynchburg, Va., holds its 2013 Civil War Seminar, "1863-The Conflagration Continues." Lectures, artifact displays, vendors. Tickets required. Visit <http://www.liberty.edu/civilwar> or call (434) 592-4366 for more information.

Sept. 14-15: Bentonville Battlefield near Four Oaks, N.C., presents "North Carolina 1865: a Civil War Symposium." Six speakers, including Ed Bearss, discuss the 1865 Carolinas campaign Saturday at Johnston Community College. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Battlefield bus tour with Bearss and Mark Bradley on Sunday. For details, or to purchase tickets, call (910) 594-0789 or go to <http://www.fobb.net/nc-1865-civil-war-symposium>.

Sept. 17: The Hampton Roads Naval Museum in Norfolk, Va., will host Pulitzer Prize winning author James McPherson, who will speak on his new book, *War on the Waters: The Union and Confederate Navies, 1861-1865* 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. Free, but reservations are required. Visit <http://www.history.navy.mil/museums/hrnm/index.html> or call (757) 322-3108 for details.

Oct. 3: The history center in Morrisville, N.C.'s town hall will host Ernest Dollar, who will be speaking about the local Carolina Grays and their role at Gettysburg. 6 p.m. Free. For additional information, go online to <http://www.ci.morrisville.nc.us> or telephone (919) 463-6194.

Preserving Uniforms

On Sept. 10, the North Carolina Museum of History will present a webcast about techniques being used to preserve Civil War uniforms.



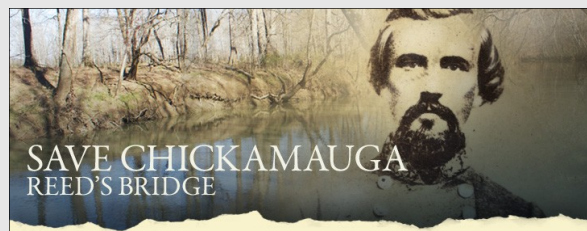
Museum Conservator Paige Myers will demonstrate the techniques she uses to treat uniforms, including the methods she used for the blood-stained frock coat worn by Lt. Col. Thomas H. Ruffin, with the 1st North Carolina Cavalry, when he was mortally wounded in October 1863 (see photo, above).

The webcast will be held from 6-7 p.m. on Tues., Sept. 10. Future programs covering flag and civilian garment conservation are planned.

To register, fill out the form at <http://www.ncdcr.gov/CivilWarTextiles>.

Preservation News

The Civil War Trust seeks to preserve the land where the battle of Chickamauga began.



The 109 targeted acres include Reed's Bridge, a critical crossing over West Chickamauga Creek in north Georgia where Confederate troops engaged the left flank of the Federal army on Sept. 18, 1863.

The Trust's goal in this campaign is to raise \$140,000. Donations are matched 10 to 1.

For details, see <http://www.civilwar.org/battlefields/chickamauga/reeds-bridge-2013/help-save-chickamauga-2013.html>

News of the RCWRT



Upcoming RCWRT Meetings

October: Tom Crouch, Civil War ballooning
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

Treasurer's Report

Cash Balance as of Sept. 1, 2012	5,668
Receipts:	
Dues	2,750
Ed Bearss event, net	410
Other receipts	250
Disbursements:	
CSS Neuse Museum	(1,000)
Speakers	(1,437)
Rent	(1,190)
Web Site	(370)
Newsletter	(198)
Other disbursements	(279)
Cash Balance as of Aug. 31, 2013	4,605

Contact Treasurer Griff Bartlett with any questions you may have on the report (see info, right column).

Two New Members

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



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Staff

Andrew Ballard, Editor
George Long, Proofreader
Arlene & Art Wills, Circulation

Contributors

Griff Bartlett
Charles Hawks

Readers are encouraged to submit photos, events, & articles for publication to
Andrew Ballard, Editor
(anballard@yahoo.com; 215-7304)

RCWRT Board of Directors

Ted Kunstling, President, 787-5282, trkunstling@aol.com
Griff Bartlett, Treasurer, 848-6562, griffb@yahoo.com
Andrew Ballard, Director, 215-7304, anballard@yahoo.com
Pat Ford, Director, 395-8104, pford1@nc.rr.com
George Mills, Director, 847-8581, g.c.mills.iii@earthlink.net
Kevin Milus, Director, 815-4360, kmilus@aol.com
Frank Ragsdale, Director, 847-1005, fr1947@gmail.com
Steve Savia, Director, 846-6908, sagegroup1@aol.com

RCWRT Score Card

Members 127

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.