

The Knapsack

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

March 8th, 2021
Our 241st Issue



Volume 21
Number 3

<http://www.raleighcwrt.org>

March 8th, 2021 Event Features Al Bredenberg, M.A., Speaking on the Topic *Raleigh Civil War Fortifications*

Our upcoming meeting will be on Monday, March 8th, 2021. Due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, we will **NOT** be meeting at the NC Museum of History in Raleigh. **Instead, we will meet remotely via an online web session using the application Zoom.**

March's meeting will feature a presentation by Al Bredenberg, M.A., speaking on the topic *Raleigh Civil War Fortifications*

Raleigh CWRT President, Josie Walker, will email an invitation to you for the Zoom event along with instructions and a link for joining the online meeting. **Please contact Josie at RaleighCWRT@Yahoo.com if you do not receive this invitation by March 2nd.**

Al Bredenberg is a writer and a native of Raleigh, NC. He is the creator of <https://raleighswall.wordpress.com/>, a website entitled *Raleigh's Wall and the American Civil War: Exploring the Civil War Fortifications Around the City of Raleigh, NC, USA*. Here he shares his research into the Civil War fortifications that were built around North Carolina's capital during the great conflict of 1861-1865. He is also working on a book on this topic.



A second Civil War project of Al's can be seen at the web site www.civilwarnuances.com, *Civil War Nuances: Stories, Ironies, and Ambiguities of the American Civil War*.

Al has worked for over 25 years as a writer, editor, and online content producer. He has a broad range of interests and has written about subjects as diverse as business, the arts, history, travel, technology, personal finance, construction, home improvement, and popular culture, with a focus mainly on business and technology topics.

Mr. Bredenberg also works as an independent scholar with a special interest in the American West and Native American history and culture. He wrote the first biography of Natalie Curtis Burlin (1875-1921), a pioneer ethnologist studying Native American music and folklore. While working as senior editor for the educational website <http://www.edgate.com>, Al edited *Lewis and Clark: Mapping the West*, an educational website focusing on the use of maps during the Lewis and Clark expedition of 1803-1806.

Al also writes under the pen names A. Roy Bredenberg and A. Roy King. He holds an M.A. degree in management and organization from Antioch University. Early in his career, he worked in business and human services.

Al may be reached at ab@broadmountain.com. For more information, access his up-to-date LinkedIn profile at <https://www.linkedin.com/in/albredenberg/>.

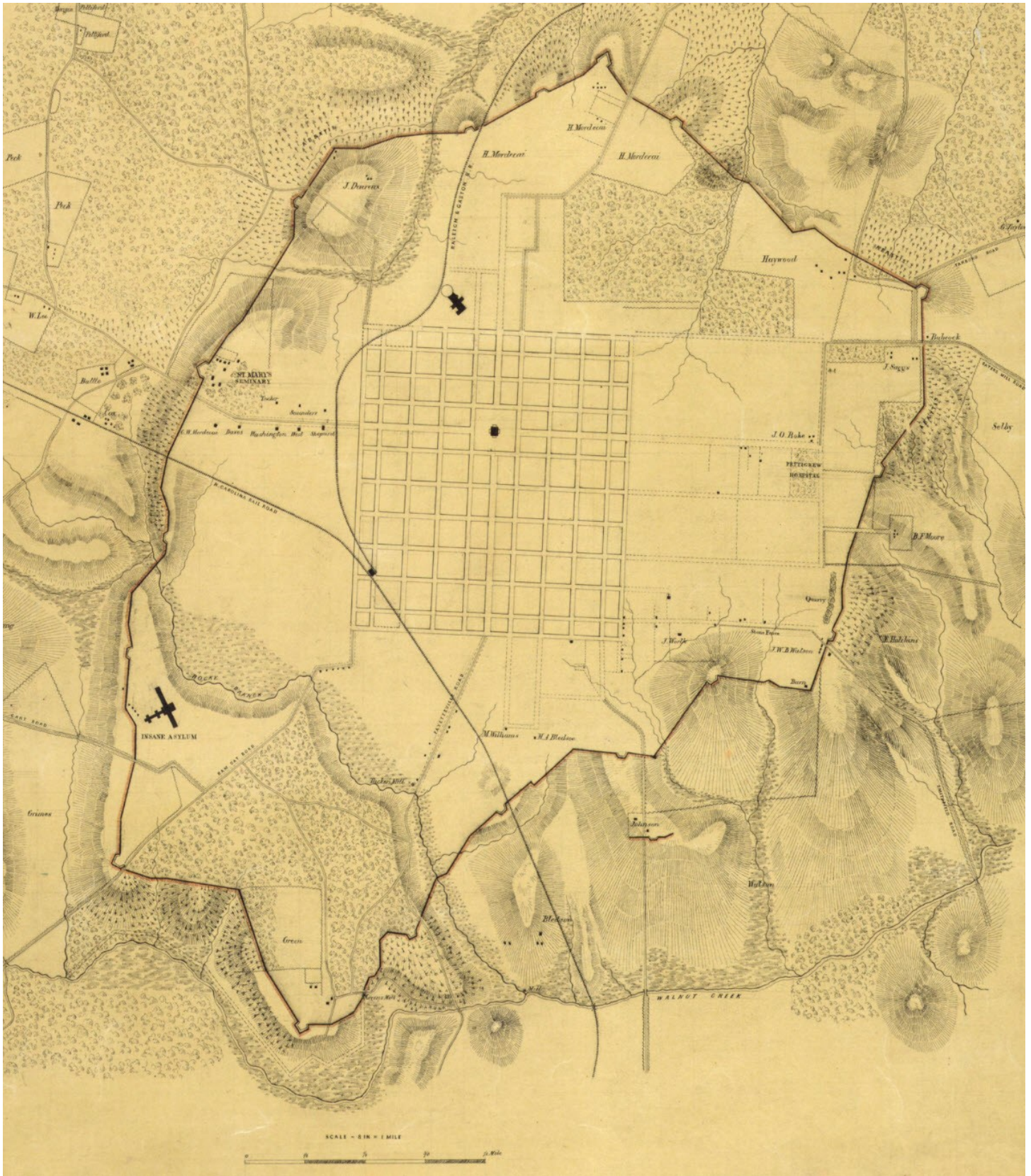
About the Raleigh Civil War Fortifications

In 1863, in the midst of the American Civil War, the Confederate government built a set of fortifications to protect the city of Raleigh, the capital of North Carolina. These fortifications (see map on p. 2) consisted of 18 artillery emplacements, or redans, connected by a rough circle of entrenchments about eight miles in circumference.

The location of these entrenchments can be traced with a fair level of precision on today's landscape, thanks to surviving Civil War maps, and the efforts of researchers to lay out their locations and explore their remnants. The Raleigh earthworks speak not only to the Confederate history of the city and the state, but also to the history of the tens of thousands of Union troops who camped around the city at the war's end, and of the hundreds of enslaved and free Black workers who built the entrenchments.

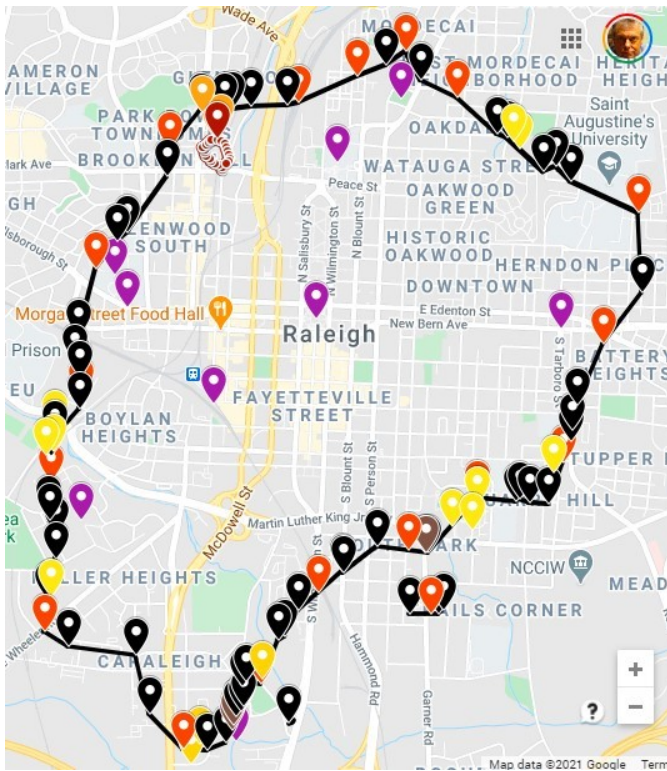
Raleigh-area students of the war believe that the remnants of these fortifications could constitute a valuable cultural and historical resource, worthy of study and preservation.

Civil War-era Map of Raleigh, NC Showing Fortifications



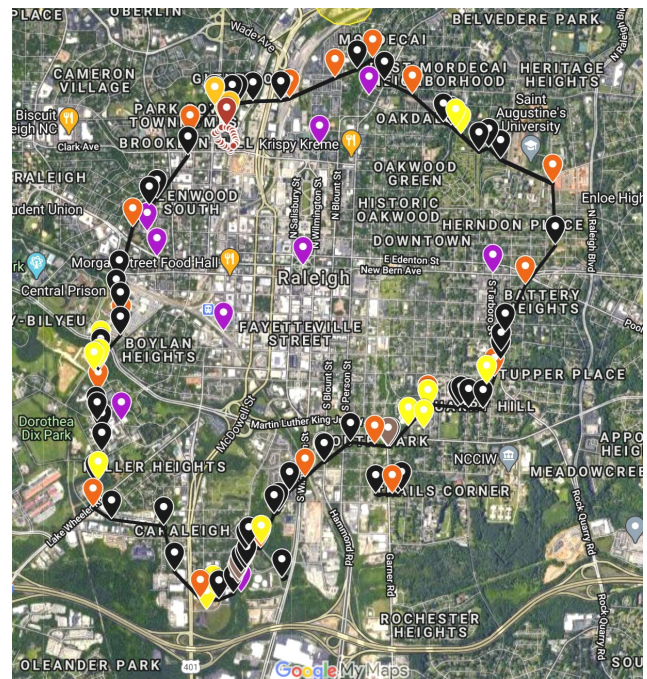
Henry T. Guion, Confederate Lt. Col. Arty and Eng., designed the Raleigh fortifications in 1863, supervised their construction, and drew a detailed map in Oct. 1863. Guion's map fell into the hands of B. Drayton of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as a result of the Federal occupation of Raleigh in April 1865. Shown above is the 1865 map made by B. Drayton from Guion's original 1863 map.

Google Maps of Raleigh, NC Showing Locations of Civil War Fortifications Based Upon Al Bredenberg's Research



As Bredenberg explains on his website: "Henry T. Guion, Lt Col Arty and Eng, designed the fortifications in 1863, supervised their construction, and drew up a map when the works were completed The fortifications consisted of 18 redans with connecting lines of entrenchments that ran about six miles in circumference. Although various enthusiasts have tried mapping out the earthworks on the modern landscape, there's never been any concerted effort to do any archaeological investigation or historic preservation on these works, so they are slowly but surely disappearing."

The satellite view shown below represents the same Google map depicted in the left column. It can be viewed directly on Al Bredenberg's website at <https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/viewer?mid=18wH-6qk3Uuw6Lj3qWudsWGYiLY3Qae0&ll=35.78045832407332%2C-78.63722969999999&z=13>.

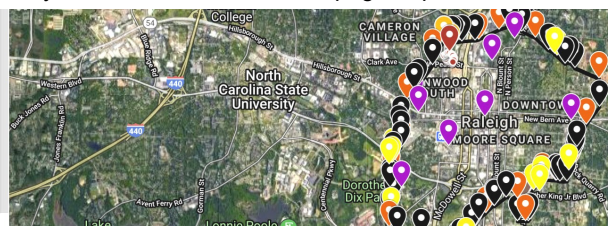


The above customized Google map is taken from Al Bredenberg's website <http://www.raleighwall.com>, *Raleigh's Wall and the American Civil War: Exploring the Civil War Fortifications Around the City of Raleigh, NC, USA*.

Bredenberg developed this map as a correlation between the modern landscape and the 1863 Henry T. Guion map of Civil War earthworks (precursor of the map made by B. Drayton as shown on p. 2).

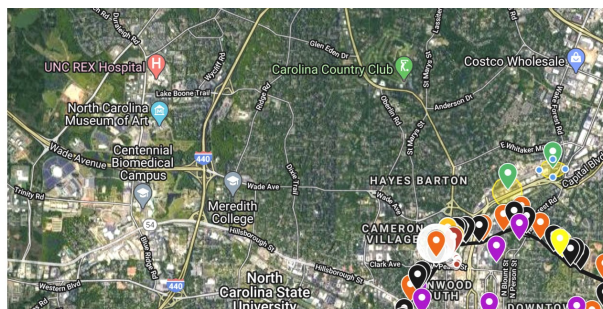
The above satellite view is an interactive map, having a key on the left side of the webpage, a portion of which is shown below:

- West Redans
- Devereux Redan
- St Mary's Redan
- Boylan Redan (Central Prison)
- Dix Redan
- ... 76 more



Clicking on a key entry in the left column produces a circle around the related icon on the map to the right. The left column then provides details about the specific site identified by the icon, including +/- variance error in feet or percent as shown below:

Devereux Redan
 description
 Location verified to Mordecai with 13' variance,
 Hillsborough bend with 14', Capitol with 36'.



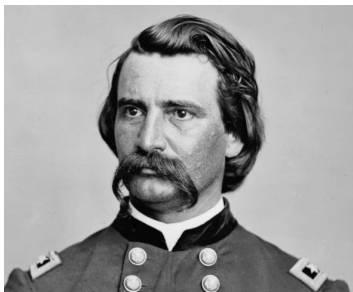
FRIDAYS WITH U. S. GRANT



The Civil War Round Table Congress proudly presents *Fridays with U. S. Grant* wherein Dr. Curt Fields, the preeminent Grant living historian, tells the Grant story in Grant's own words. To register for a virtual seat, select from the URLs below.

MARCH REMEMBRANCES

Mar. 5 at 7:00 pm EST — GENERAL JOHN A. LOGAN - PART 2:



General Grant recalls his experiences with General John A. Logan and how he came to describe him as the best political general of the Civil War. #32; <http://www.cwrtcongress.org/grant/G32.php>

Mar. 12 at 7:00 pm EST — COLD HARBOR: General Grant recalls the Battle of Cold Harbor including the intelligence he received, the strategy employed and the battle outcome. #33; <http://www.cwrtcongress.org/grant/G33.php>

Mar. 19 at 7:00 pm EST — WEST POINT CLASS OF 1843: General Grant recalls his classmates from the United States Military Academy, their participation in the War and their lives afterwards. #34; <http://www.cwrtcongress.org/grant/G34.php>

Mar. 26 at 7:00 pm EST — INAUGURAL ADDRESS: Ulysses S. Grant recalls his first inaugural address and his hopes for his first year in office as the 18th President of the United States of America. #35; <http://www.cwrtcongress.org/grant/G35.php>

Current Status of the Coronavirus Pandemic

As of 02-01-2021, there was a U.S. total of 26,186,817 reported cases and 441,324 reported deaths. As of 03-01-2021, one month later, these figures have increased to 28,605,652 cases (+9.2%) and 513,091 U.S. deaths (+16.2%), respectively.

The Feb. 2021 U.S. death total was 71,767 compared to 94,000 deaths in the U.S. in Jan. 2021, where the Jan. total was the highest of any month. The Jan.-to-Feb. decrease of 22,233 total monthly deaths is a sign that social distancing, wearing masks, and the initiation of the vaccine program are having a positive effect.

Compared to the current world-wide reported totals of 114,067,962 cases and 2,530,723 deaths, the U.S. has 25.0% of all reported cases and 20.3% of all reported deaths. These rates remain virtually unchanged from the previous month.

The U.S. death rate stands at 1.8% of U.S. cases. This is significantly better than the global death rate which stands at 2.2% of global cases. These rates are also virtually unchanged from the previous month.

Please continue to follow medical and governmental guidelines of social distancing, washing hands frequently, wearing a mask, and getting vaccinated when your group is called.

Fire!

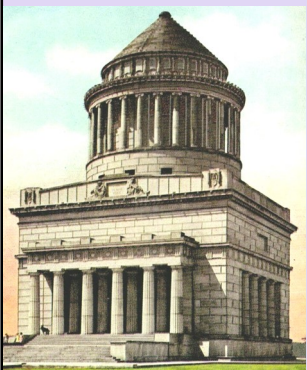
- The fire that destroyed much of Columbia in 1865 is considered the foremost event that shaped the subsequent history of South Carolina's capital. But the debate over who's responsible for the fire has been raging for 156 years. Most of the blame is leveled at Gen. William T. Sherman, whose blatant war on civilians in 1864 and 1865 left a swath of destruction through Georgia and the Carolinas. He torched Atlanta. He orchestrated the fiery March to the Sea from Atlanta to Savannah. Columbia, however, is more complicated. It appears that Sherman didn't order his troops to burn Columbia, but he does appear to have allowed it. According to various estimates, anywhere from one-third to four-fifths of Columbia was consumed by flames.
- After the Union Army of the Potomac finally flanked the Confederate entrenched lines southwest of Petersburg on April 1st, 1865, Jefferson Davis, upon Lee's advice, ordered the abandonment of Richmond on April 2nd. As government officials began burning any potentially sensitive documents in the streets, drifting embers were caught by the wind. First a single building, then the entire business district, caught fire. It was left to the Union cavalry, upon entering Richmond on April 3rd, to finally put out the flames, but not before all or part of more than 800 buildings were destroyed.
- The original copy of the Emancipation Proclamation was donated to the Chicago Historical Society in 1864. Sadly, it was destroyed in the Great Fire of 1871.
- Old Abe, a tame bald eagle, was the mascot of the 8th Regiment of Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry in the Civil War. After the war, he spent the rest of his life in captivity on display at the capitol building in Madison. In 1881, a small fire broke out in the basement of the Capitol. Although the fire did not reach Old Abe, he was affected by smoke inhalation and died a month later. After his death, the state had Old Abe's corpse preserved by taxidermy. He was displayed at the Wisconsin Historical Society until 1903 when he was moved to the G.A.R. Memorial Hall in the Capitol. A fire the next year in 1904 consumed his remains.

Grant's Tomb: The Epic Death of Ulysses S. Grant and the Making of an American Pantheon

By Louis L. Picone

This recently published tomb tome is the moving story of Ulysses S. Grant's final battle, and the definitive account of the national memorial honoring him as one of America's most enduring heroes

The final resting place of Ulysses S. Grant, the victorious general in the Civil War and the eighteenth president of the United States, is a colossal neoclassical tomb located in the most dynamic city in the country. It is larger than the final resting place of any other president or any other person in America. Since its creation, the popularity and condition of this monument, built to honor the man and what he represented to a grateful nation at the time of his death, a mere twenty years after the end of the Civil War, have reflected not only



Grant's legacy in the public mind but also the state of New York City and of the Union.

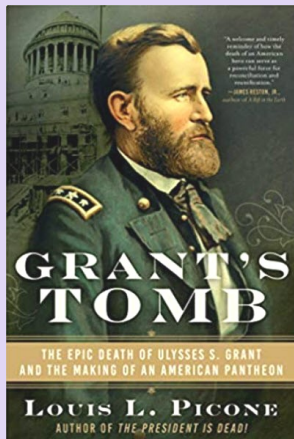
In this fascinating, deeply researched book, presidential historian Louis L. Picone recounts the full story. He begins with Grant's heroic final battle during the last year of his life, to complete his memoirs in order to secure his family's financial future while contending with painful, incurable cancer. Grant accomplished this just days before his death, and his memoirs, published by Mark Twain, became a bestseller.

Accompanying his account with numerous period photographs, Picone narrates the national response to Grant's passing and how his tomb came to be: the intense competition to be the resting place for Grant's remains, the origins of the memorial and its design, the struggle to finance and build it over the course of twelve years, and the vicissitudes of its afterlife in the history of the nation up to recent times.

About the Author

Louis L. Picone is the award-winning author of the following:

- *Grant's Tomb: The Epic Death of Ulysses S. Grant and the Making of an American Pantheon*
- *The President Is Dead! The Extraordinary Stories of the Presidential Deaths, Final Days, Burials, and Beyond*
- *Where the Presidents Were Born: The History & Preservation of the Presidential Birthplaces.*



Louis is a member of the Authors Guild, Mensa International, the American Historical Association, and is also a trustee on the board of the Grover Cleveland Birthplace Memorial Association in Caldwell, NJ. He holds a Masters in History and also teaches at William Paterson University

Louis has spoken widely on the topic of the presidents and the places we commemorate them including Morristown National Historical Park, James A. Garfield National Historic Site, and the international conference *U.S. Presidents and Russian Rulers* at the Russian Academy of Sciences in Moscow. He has been featured on BBC News, NPR, The Washington Post, The New York Times and the Travel Channel. For more information visit <https://www.louispicone.com/>.

Reviews

"The death of Ulysses S. Grant helped unite a nation still healing from the Civil War, but it also touched off a fascinating and often contentious debate: How best to memorialize the general who saved the Union? In *Grant's Tomb*, Louis Picone superbly weaves the somber with the absurd, and brings to vivid life the colorful cast of characters that built the memorial, from titans of industry to children holding bake sales. *Grant's Tomb* also examines the memorial's enduring place in the American psyche, from Groucho Marx to hip hop. At the end, readers will learn that there's more than one answer to the question 'Who's buried in Grant's Tomb?'"—**Matthew Algeo**, author of *Harry Truman's Excellent Adventure*

"Sometimes a tomb tells a story all its own. In his moving new book, Louis Picone reveals the fascinating and forgotten tale behind the creation of a memorial befitting Ulysses S. Grant. Like the tomb itself, this book embodies the courage and complexity of a celebrated Civil War hero, flawed former president, and one of history's most memorable men."—**Candice Millard**, New York Times bestselling author of *The River of Doubt*

"Louis Picone has done us all a great service in this readable and richly detailed overview of the most visible yet least-studied aspect of U. S. Grant's life: his death and burial. *Grant's Tomb* was the place where my own awakening, as a descendant and name-bearer of the great general, began. The rise and fall and phoenix-like rebirth of the Tomb embodies the reality of the public's perception of Ulysses S. Grant over 150 years. Picone not only gives us the facts, but he puts the Tomb, and its occupants, into the fascinating and complicated historical and social context of this country over the past turbulent century."—**Ulysses Grant Dietz**, great-great-grandson of Ulysses S. Grant

This book is available in hardcover and paperback at Quail Ridge Books in Raleigh, NC, as well as at other bookstores. It is available in hardcover and Kindle ebook format at Amazon.com.

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ISBN-13: 978-1950691708

156th Anniversary Bentonville Battlefield Tours

Reserve a Date & Time

AM tours: 9:00 am to Noon / PM tours: 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm



Mar. 4, 2021 (Thu.)

AM Tour: Last Grand Charge of the Army of Tennessee (Mar. 19, 1865)

PM Tour: U.S. and C.S. Artillery during the Battle of Bentonville

Mar. 5, 2021 (Fri.)

AM Tour: N.C. Junior Reserves & Confederate Red Infantry (Mar. 19, 1865)

PM Tour: 20th Army Corps Fight at Morris Farm (Mar. 19, 1865)

Mar. 6, 2021 (Sat.)

AM Tour: Last Grand Charge of the Army of Tennessee (Mar. 19, 1865)

PM Tour: 20th Army Corps Fight at Morris Farm (Mar. 19, 1865)

Mar. 18, 2021 (Thu.)

AM Tour: Last Grand Charge of the Army of Tennessee (Mar. 19, 1865)

PM Tour: U.S. and C.S. Artillery during the Battle of Bentonville

Mar. 19, 2021 (Fri.)

All Day 156th Anniversary Tour. Special full-day adventure focused entirely on Day One of the Battle (Mar. 19, 1865): Last Grand Charge of the Army of Tennessee / Confederate Red Infantry / Assault on the Morris Farm

Tours are conducted in accordance with COVID protocols. Cost is \$25 per person per tour or \$40 per person for both tours, a portion of which goes directly to Bentonville Battlefield preservations. Each tour is limited to 12 participants. Individuals will pay in advance to reserve a spot. Please wear comfortable walking shoes and seasonal wear.

For information on how to reserve your spot, contact Wade Sokolosky at (252) 646-5553 or email at sokolosky1@aol.com. All tours subject to cancellation at a moment's notice based on COVID Federal and State Executive Orders. Refund options: donate to the Battlefield or personal refund.

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The American Battlefield Trust (ABT) has announced three opportunities to save hallowed ground in the New Year — the first is a 94-acre tract at Mill Springs, Kentucky, the second is a 9-acre tract at Petersburg, Virginia, and **the last 7-acre tract is at Bentonville, North Carolina**. Combined, that's 110 acres at stake!

Each of these battles tells the story of an important "beginning":

- The beginning of the second year of the war and the beginning of the long-term effort to secure the important border state of Kentucky at Mill Springs.
- The beginning of the Richmond-Petersburg Campaign and the 292-day siege that would eventually lead to General Lee's surrender.
- The opening day fighting at Bentonville, which marked the beginning of the final standoff between General William Tecumseh Sherman and General Joe Johnston.

The good news is that the ABT has already secured or applied for the grant funding to cover more than a million dollars of the total needed to complete these projects, but must still raise the final \$432,000 necessary to see all three of these important tracts saved forever.

Your donation will be matched \$3.26-to-\$1, more than tripling the power of your donation dollar!

Concerning Bentonville, our Round Table has already initiated a project to donate funds to honor Ed Bearss with a memorial plaque at the Bentonville Battlefield. If you are planning to donate to the Ed Bearss Tribute, please do so by calling 1 (888) 606-1400 or by mailing a check made out to **American Battlefield Trust**, specifying in the memo line that the donation is to be applied to the Ed Bearss Tribute. Mail the check to:

American Battlefield Trust
PO Box 79535
Baltimore, MD 21279-0535

Otherwise, to donate for the preservation of all three tracts, you can do so online at https://www.battlefields.org/save-110-acres-three-civil-war-battlefields?utm_campaign=011921&utm_medium=ask&utm_source=email&emci=112b1ead-7e56-eb11-a607-00155d43c992&emdi=044fc4b3-775a-eb11-a607-00155d43c992&ceid=303079 or call 1 (888) 606-1400.

The American Battlefield Trust's non profit tax ID is #54-1426643.

News of the RCWRT



Upcoming 2021 RCWRT Meetings

Due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, RCWRT meetings will be held remotely via Zoom software until further notice.

Date	Speaker	Topic
Mar. 8, 2021	Al Bredenberg	Raleigh Civil War Fortifications
Apr. 12, 2021	Douglas Waller, M.A.	Lincoln's Spies
May 10, 2021	Dr. Gene Schmiel, Ph.D.	The Civil War in West Virginia and the Role of Jacob Cox
June 14, 2021	Jeff Hunt, M.A.	Meade and Lee After Gettysburg: The Forgotten Final Stage of the Gettysburg Campaign from Falling Waters to Culpeper Court House, July 14-31, 1863

Paying Memberships / Total Members: 121 / 151

We Welcomed A New Member During February:

Emerson Scarborough, from Raleigh

A Message from Charles Hawks, a Founder and First President of the Raleigh CWRT, Addressing His Battle with Congestive Heart Failure

(Feb. 24th, 2021) I thought I would give you an update on my medical condition.

Please pass this information on to other longtime Civil War friends I might have missed.

For the last six months, I have dodged a bullet many, many times. However, there is nothing else the doctors can do and I am under Hospice care. Hopefully I will be back in Burlington at the Hospice House tomorrow. They have discontinued all of my medications and I am in a comfort care room at Moses Cone in Greensboro.

I have greatly enjoyed your friendships for many years. If you wish to call me, that is fine. I cannot remember the names of the "three amigos," but I know one of them is Jim Shue. Please feel free to call me at anytime.

Best regards to all,
Charles Hawks,
(336) 264-1616

P.S. I have made this decision easily and gladly.



The Knapsack

is the official newsletter of the RCWRT and is published around the 1st of each month.

(February 2021 Circulation: 301)

Staff

Bob Graesser, Editor

Contributors

Griff Bartlett, Charles Hawks

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

RCWRT Board of Directors (2020-22)

Name	Position
Josie Walker	President / Program Committee
Ted Kunstling	Past President
Johnny Wood	Vice President / Program Committee
Griff Bartlett	Secretary / Treasurer
Pattie Smith	Program Committee
Bob Graesser	Knapsack Editor / Webmaster
Wayne Shore	Member
Lloyd Townsend	Member

Did You Know?

- The average life expectancy of drafted horses and other animals during the Civil War was around 7 months.
- An estimated 85,000 Union men fled to Canada. Roughly 76,000 of them were caught and returned to duty.
- The University of Mississippi saw almost its entire student populace join the Confederate Army. They experienced a 100% casualty rate.
- It was required for soldiers to have opposing front teeth so they could rip open gunpowder pouches. Some of those drafted into war removed their front teeth to avoid service.
- The Confederacy was never recognized by any foreign country during the American Civil War.

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 each month. Due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, we have been meeting via Zoom, starting at 7:00 p.m. Check the RCWRT website (<http://www.raleighcwrt.org>) for program dates and access information.

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 Griff Bartlett, Treasurer, 908 Kinsdale Drive, Raleigh, NC 27615-1117 by **September 15** each year.

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