The Knapsack

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

June 12th, 2023 Our 268th Issue



http://www.raleighcwrt.org

Volume 23 Number 6

June 12th, 2023, Meeting Features Andrew Duppstadt, M.A., Speaking on the Topic *Francis Lyell Hoge*



The Raleigh Civil War Round Table's June 12th, 2023, in person/simultaneous Zoom meeting will feature Andrew Duppstadt, M.A., speaking on the topic *Francis Lyell Hoge.*

Andrew Duppstadt

The meeting will be held at the NC Museum of History's Daniels Auditorium. Entrance is available from Edenton St., across from the State Capitol building. The wearing of a mask is optional.

Please join us at 6:30 p.m. EDT for refreshments. The program starts at 7:00 p.m. This event will also be livestreamed on Zoom for those unable to attend in person. A video recording will be made available on <u>http://www.raleighcwrt.org</u>, our Raleigh Civil War Round Table website, following the event.

You should have already received an emailed invitation, including instructions and a link for joining online if you are unable to attend in person. Please send an email request to RaleighCWRT@Yahoo.com if you have not yet received an invitation.

Andrew Duppstadt is an adjunct instructor in the History Department at the University of North Carolina at Pembroke and teaches a class in American Civilizations to 1877. He holds both a BA and an MA is History from the University of North Carolina Wilmington.

He is a public history professional, with extensive experience in event planning, including workshops, seminars, conferences, symposiums, and living history programs. Much of his career has been spent in historic site settings, including interpretation of both civilian and military history covering the periods 1750-1785, mid-1830s, and 1860-1875.

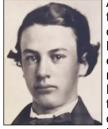
Andrew's writing and editing experience includes book reviews for numerous professional journals, articles, encyclopedia entries, and newsletters for various historical organizations. Examples of publications for which he has written include North Carolina Historical Review, Civil War Book Review, Nautical Research Journal, and Civil War Navy Magazine.

He is an experienced public speaker, having organized panel sessions and given presentations at numerous conferences including the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH), North Carolina Maritime History Council, and Southeastern State Parks Program Seminar. He averages 5-7 presentations per year to various civic and historical organizations on various topics.

Andrew serves on various boards and committees including North Carolina Military Historical Society, North Carolina Maritime History Council, Civil War Trails, Inc., and strategic planning committees at multiple historic sites.

He also has twenty years of classroom and online (Blackboard, Moodle, and Canvas) teaching experience at the community college and university levels. He currently teaches both sections of the US History survey, North Carolina History, and in the past has taught Western/World Civ surveys.

Andrew's topic at the June 12th meeting will be Francis Lyell Hoge. Hoge was educated at the Naval Academy at



Annapolis, graduating as a midshipman in the U.S. Navy on June 15th, 1860. Nine days later, Hoge resigned from the U.S. Navy and entered the navy of the Confederate States where he served first as a midshipman and then as a Lieutenant. Hoge was on the *Patrick Henry* when it took part in the Battle of Hampton Roads, often called the Battle of the Ironclads, on March 8th-9th, 1862.

Francis Lyell Hoge

After participating in a number of subsequent engagements throughout the war, Hoge's final duty was as executive officer aboard the Confederate ironclad *Neus*e. He served in that capacity near Kinston, NC from late Feb. 1864 until Kinston's evacuation on Dec. 14th of that year.

The Renaming of Nine Southern U.S. Forts

Introduction

This past week, on June 2nd, a ceremony was held near Fayetteville, NC, renaming *Fort Bragg* to *Fort Liberty*. This was the sixth U.S. Fort to be renamed so far in 2023. In all, three additional forts are subject to being renamed before the end of the year. What these nine forts hold in common is that they are all in states of the former Confederacy and all have names honoring Confederate military officers. It struck this editor that he was only vaguely aware of this ongoing renaming process, that others might also be uninformed, and that this topic might lend itself to a series of articles in *The Knapsack* newsletter.

The year 2015 marked the sesquicentennial of the end of the American Civil War. Around this same time, an increase in incidences involving police excessive force and violence against Blacks was documented by the now ubiquitous presence of smartphone video recorders. It also saw the rise of white nationalism. Despite this, the Pentagon declared in 2015 that it would not rename any military installations named after Confederate generals, saying "the naming occurred in the spirit of reconciliation, not division."

Further, the Pentagon declined to comment in 2017 following a white supremacist *Unite the Right* rally in Charlottesville, VA. The rally turned violent after protesters clashed with counter-protesters, resulting in more than 30 injured. It turned deadly when a white supremacist deliberately rammed his car into a crowd of counter-protesters about a half-mile away from the rally site, killing Heather Heyer and injuring 35 others.

Following the June 2020 murder in Minneapolis, MN, of George Floyd, a Black, by a police officer, nationwide protests against police brutality and systemic racism, especially towards Blacks, quickly spread across the U.S. and globally. During these protests, many monuments and memorials were vandalized or toppled by protestors, prompting those in charge of other similar monuments to remove them from public view. Similarly, many names, mascots, and other controversial forms of symbolism were changed or removed under direct or indirect public pressure. In other countries, race-related and colonial issues were also raised, and some were acted upon. In some cases, changes were already being planned or they had already been under consideration before the outbreak of the protests.

Faced with these additional incidents and the protests they generated, the U.S. government began rethinking its traditional connection to Confederate Army symbols, including base names. In 2021, the U.S. Congress created *The Naming Commission* in order to rename military assets that have names associated with the Confederacy. *The Naming Commission* was mandated by Section 370 of the U.S. National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021, enacted on Jan. 1st, 2021. Within three years of enactment, the U.S. Sec. of Defense is required to implement a plan developed by

The Naming Commission and to "remove all names, symbols, displays, monuments, and paraphernalia that honor or commemorate the Confederate States of America or any person who served voluntarily with the Confederate States of America from all assets of the Dept. of Defense." On Jan. 5th, 2023, William A. LaPlante, U.S. Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, directed the full implementation of the recommendations of *The Naming Commission*, Dept. of Defense-wide.

Table 1: The Renaming of Nine Southern U.S. Forts, on p. 3 shows the nine major southern U.S. military bases named in honor of Confederate military leaders, all in the former Confederate States of America, that will be renamed before the end of 2023. Their stories will be presented over a number of issues of **The Knapsack** in the chronological order of their renaming, beginning with Fort Pickett, which was renamed Fort Barfoot in a renaming ceremony on Mar. 24th, 2023.

Fort Barfoot

Fort Barfoot is a Virginia Army National Guard installation, located near the town of Blackstone, VA. Home of



the Army National Guard Maneuver Training Center, *Fort Barfoot* was originally named for the U.S. Army officer and Confederate Maj. Gen. George Pickett. *The Naming Commission's* recommendation was for the post to be renamed *Fort Barfoot*, in honor of Medal of Honor recipient Col. Van T. Barfoot (see biography on p. 5). The redesignation ceremony occurred on Mar. 24th, 2023.

Col. Van T. Barfoot

History of Camp/Fort Pickett

Camp Pickett was formally dedicated at 3:00 p.m. on July 3rd, 1942, exactly 79 years to the day and hour after

Maj. Gen. George Pickett, a Virginiaborn Confederate officer, helped lead the bloody and ill-fated assault known as Pickett's Charge at the Battle of Gettysburg. Pickett had graduated last in his class at West Point and had fought in the Mexican-American War before he resigned his commission in the U.S. military to join the Confederate Army in 1861.

At Gettysburg, July 1st to 3rd, 1863, Pickett's name became permanently linked, in both fact and myth, with Pickett's Charge, the doomed frontal

assault on the battle's third day. He had little responsibility for the attack's planning or failure, and the loss of his division, which he partly blamed on Robert E. Lee, devastated him. Accused of war crimes for executing twentytwo Union prisoners in 1864, Pickett ended the war bro-



Maj. Gen. George Pickett

Table 1: The Renaming of Nine Southern U.S. Forts

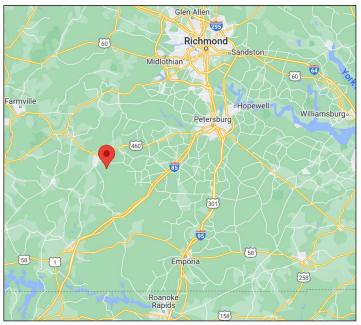
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Fort's Original Name	Confederate Namesake	Birthplace	Fort's Location (Near)	No. of Slaves Owned	Date Renamed	Fort's New Name	Namesake	Medal of Honor Recipient
Pickett	Maj. Gen. George Pickett	Richmond, VA	Blackstone, VA	0	3/24/2023	Barfoot	Col. Van T. Barfoot	Yes
Rucker	Col. Edmund Rucker	Murfreesboro, TN	Dale Co., AL	0	4/10/2023	Novosel	CWO4 Michael J. Novosel	Yes
Lee	Gen. in Chief of the Armies Robert E. Lee	Westmoreland Co., VA	Prince George Co., VA	4 families; managed 189 inherited by his wife	4/27/2023	Gregg- Adams	Lt. Gen. Arthur J. Gregg & Lt. Col. Charity Adams	No & No
Hood	Lt. Gen. John Bell Hood	Owingsville, KY	Killeen, TX	0	5/9/2023	Cavazos	Gen. Richard Cavazos	No
Benning	Brig. Gen. Henry L. Benning	Columbia Co., GA	Columbus, GA	89	5/11/2023	Moore	Gen. Hal Moore & his wife Julia Compton Moore	No & No
Bragg	Gen. Braxton Bragg	Warrenton, NC	Fayetteville, NC	105	6/2/2023	Liberty	Liberty, the state of being free	No
Polk	Episcopal Bishop & Lt. Gen. Leonidas Polk	Raleigh,NC	Leesville, LA	400	6/13/2023	Johnson	Sgt. William Henry Johnson	Yes
Gordon	Maj. Gen. John Brown Gordon	Upson Co., GA	Augusta, GA	1; father (4)	Late 2023	Eisenhower	Gen. of the Army and U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower	No
A.P. Hill	Lt. Gen. A.P. Hill	Culpeper, VA	Bowling Green, VA	0; father (20); uncle (30); & brother (38)	Late 2023	Walker	Dr. Mary Edwards Walker	Yes

Note that four Confederate officers owned no slaves, one owned a single slave, and the rest owned between 89 and 400 slaves. Three of the forts are located in Virginia, two in Georgia, and one each in Alabama, Texas, North Carolina, and Louisiana. Four of the nine namesakes for which the forts were renamed were recipients of the Medal of Honor. One of the namesakes was a U.S. Army surgeon and the military ranks of the others ranged from colonel to General of the Army/President of the U.S.

ken and in bad health. After the war, Pickett became an insurance salesman in Richmond, VA. He died on July 30th, 1875. His reputation, however, was thoroughly rehabilitated after his death by his third wife, LaSalle Corbell Pickett, whose writings turned the often-incompetent general into an idealized *Lost Cause* hero.

Late in 1941 a team of Army surveyors_visited the site of a former Civilian Conservation Corps camp near the small rural town of Blackstone, VA, some 46 miles SW of Richmond, VA, as the crow flies. There they found enough land, water and other resources needed to establish a post large enough to simultaneously train more than one infantry division. The site also offered easy railroad access to both mountain and coastal training sites. By Dec. 1941, 45,867 acres of land were acquired and cleared to prepare for construction of the first buildings.

Elements of the Virginia National Guard_had their first taste of what was then *Camp Pickett* on Dec. 6th-7th, 1941, when the 1st Bn., 116th Inf., camped here on the way back to its home station at Fort Meade, MD, having completed a series of war games in North Carolina.



Site of Camp/Fort Pickett near Blackstone, VA, 46 miles SW of Richmond, VA, as the crow flies

<u>World War II</u>

Two rail spurs were built into the camp in 1942-1943 to increase logistical efficiency and the rapid movement of troops on and off post. Air transportation to and from Fort Pickett became available with the completion of a Blackstone Army Airfield in late 1942. The tower was placed beside the only hangar built on post, and its steel beam frames and cinder block foundation are still visible today. Since each cement runway was 5,269 feet long and 300 feet wide, the four-runway airfield was large enough to allow the safe landing of the Douglas C -47 "Gooney Bird." Fighter planes could use the runway in an emergency, although none were stationed at the airfield. Aircraft fuel was delivered by rail and contained in fuel trucks, since permanent storage tanks were not constructed until after World War II. The airfield remained virtually unchanged until the 1990s.

By the end of 1942, more than 1,400 buildings were completed and in use across the post, including approximately 1,000 enlisted barracks and 70 officer's quarters. Twelve chapels, the post's hospital complex (later greatly expanded), and six firehouses were built, along with warehouses, headquarters, and administrative buildings. To ensure an adequate water supply for the post and its potential 60,000-soldier population, the Army built and maintained its own water pumping, filtration, and sewage treatment plants. In the 1980s the Army transferred control and operation of these facilities to the town of Blackstone.

For recreation, there were four movie theaters (two more were added later), a fieldhouse with a gym, several enlisted clubs, a main post exchange, and several "satellite" PXs. By the war's end, more than 300 additional buildings were constructed, including female barracks and facilities for two prisoner-of-war camps.

Cold War and Beyond

Although *Camp Pickett* seemed destined to once again be closed after the conclusion of the war, the demands of the Cold War and the need to train division-sized reserve component units in the mid-Atlantic region brought a redefined role for the post. In 1950, the 43rd Inf. Div., a national guard division from New England, was activated and sent to *Camp Pickett* for additional training. In 1951 this division was sent to Germany as part of the Army of Occupation. In 1960, portions of *Camp Pickett* were revamped to house battalions coming for a week or two each year to conduct specialized training. This included not only Guard/Reserve commands, but also Navy and Marine Corps personnel. These components still use Barfoot's facilities today under Virginia National Guard control.

The predecessor to the Virginia National Guard Maneuver Training Center was organized and stationed at *Camp Pickett* in 1961. Its primary mission, then as now, was to store and maintain pieces of equipment such as tanks and other armored vehicles that visiting units could use, rather than incurring the high cost of bringing their own machines from home station.

Pickett experienced two significant interrelated events in 1974. The first was its redesignation from *Camp Pickett* to *Fort Pickett* as a reflection of its new mission to offer training opportunities, not only to Reserve units, but also active-duty forces on a yearly basis. The second important event was the completion of the first new building on the post since the Korean War. Building 467, built of brick, contained space to house enlisted personnel, a mess facility, and administrative offices.

Ten years later, a new complex of barracks and support



structures was completed. Large enough to house an entire brigade, the complex was dedicated on June 8th, 1984, in memory of Tech. Sgt. Frank D. Peregory of the 116th Inf., exactly 40 years after he earned the Medal of Honor during the D-Day invasion. Other upgrades of facilities included a doubling of the existing telephone system from 2,600 to 5,100 lines in 1991 and renovation and extension of the Blackstone Army Airfield's runways in 1994 to allow use by C-130 and C-17

Tech. Sgt. Frank D. Peregory

D. Peregory transport aircraft. This permitted easy access for air-lifted troops and equipment coming to *Fort Pickett* for training.

In more recent years other structures were a

In more recent years, other structures were added or converted to meet the post's changing missions. Among these were a new firehouse and renovations on the remaining NCO Club, making it more of a community center where local town events as well as post functions are held.

Good community relations have always been important to the success of *Fort Pickett*. From its very beginning, the post has dramatically changed the lives of the citizens of Blackstone. It has created a number of good jobs and supported the town in a variety of other ways, from hosting elderly fishing trips at the on-post lakes to Fourth of July celebrations. Boy and Girl Scout organizations also have camped, fished and hiked the nature trails for many years. Currently, many activities attract many local citizens and former staff and personnel who had been stationed there during the war.

The decision to inactivate the regular Army garrison at *Fort Pickett* and turn over the operation of the post to the Virginia National Guard was finalized in 1995 and enacted in 1997. Since that time no regular Army personnel have been assigned there.

Today, the newly-renamed *Fort Barfoot* is still operated by the Virginia National Guard. It has 42,000 acres of Maneuver areas and provides many state-of-the-art facilities such as a live fire range, a forward operation base, urban assault, training villages, EST 2000, and several other training facilities. While its facilities are geared to train military personnel and units, non-military organizations use them too. These include the U.S. Dept. of State, the U.S. Marshals Service, FBI, ATF, the Virginia Wing of the Civil Air Patrol, the Virginia State Police, and local law enforcement agencies.

Col. Van T. Barfoot Biography

Van Thomas Barfoot (June 15th, 1919 – March 2nd, 2012) was a United States Army officer and a recipient of the United States military's highest decoration—the Medal of Honor—for his actions in World War II.

Barfoot was born on June 15th, 1919, in Edinburg, MS. His grandmother was Choctaw, but Barfoot himself was not an official member of the Choctaw Nation; although he was eligible, his parents never enrolled him.

After enlisting in the Army from Carthage, MS in 1940, and completing his training, Barfoot served with the 1st Inf. Div. in Louisiana and Puerto Rico. In Dec. 1941, he was promoted to sergeant and reassigned to the Headquarters Amphibious Force Atlantic Fleet in Quantico, VA, where he served until the unit was deactivated in 1943. He next joined the 157th Inf. Reg., 45th Inf. Div., and was shipped to Europe.

During the Italian Campaign, Barfoot participated in a series of amphibious landings: the Allied invasion of Sicily in July 1943, the invasion of mainland Italy at Salerno in Sept. 1943, and finally the landings at Anzio in late Jan. 1944. His unit pushed inland from Anzio, and by May 1944, had reached the small town of Carano in southern Italy, in the province of Latina. They set up defensive positions and Barfoot conducted patrols to scout the German lines.

When his company was ordered to attack on the morning of May 23rd, 1944, Barfoot, now a Tech. Sgt., asked for permission to lead a squad. Because of the patrols he had made, he knew the terrain and the minefield which lay in front of the German position. He advanced alone through the minefield, following ditches and depressions, until he came within a few yards of a machine gun nest on the German flank. After taking out the gun and its crew with a hand grenade, he entered the German trench and advanced on a second machine gun, killing two soldiers and capturing three others. When he reached a third machine gun, the entire crew surrendered to him. Others also surrendered, and Barfoot captured 17 German soldiers and killed eight.

When the Germans launched an armored counterattack with three Tiger tanks directly against his positions later



that day, Barfoot disabled the lead tank with a bazooka, killed part of its crew with his Thompson submachine gun, and turned the German attack. He then advanced into enemy-held territory and destroyed an abandoned German artillery piece. He returned to his own lines and helped two wounded soldiers from his squad to the rear.

Van T. Barfoot in 1944 as a newly promoted U.S. Army Lt.

For his actions in the Allied invasion of Sicily, Barfoot received the Bronze Star. His actions in the invasion of mainland Italy earned him the Silver Star. His division moved into France, and, by Sept. 1944, was serving in the Rhone valley. Lt. Barfoot learned he would



Lt. Van T. Barfoot receiving the Medal of Honor from Lt. Gen. Alexander Patch

awarded the be Medal of Honor and chose to have the presentation ceremony in the field, so that his soldiers could attend. He was formally presented with the medal on Sept. 28th 1944, in Épinal, France, by Lt. Gen. Alexander Patch.

Having grown up in

the strictly segregated south, Barfoot was noted for a comment he made in 1945 regarding Blacks. Mississippi senator and Ku Klux Klan member Theodore G. Bilbo asked Barfoot if he had much trouble with the Black soldiers he had served with during the war. To Bilbo's embarrassment, Barfoot responded, "I found out after I did some fighting in this war that the colored boys fight just as good as the white boys...I've changed my idea a lot about colored people since I got into this war and so have a lot of other boys from the south."

Barfoot later served in the Korean War and the Vietnam War, where he was awarded a Purple Heart. He reached the rank of colonel before retiring from the Army.

In retirement, Barfoot lived on a farm in Amelia County, VA, and later moved to Henrico County, VA, to be near

his daughter. In 2009, he gained national attention in his fight to keep the U.S. flag flying in his front yard. After he erected a 21-foot flagpole at his Sussex Square residence without the permission of his homeowners association, the association, which allowed flags to only be flown on angled poles attached to houses, ordered it removed and threatened legal action when he refused. The ensuing furor drew the support of two senators, a former Virginia governor, other leaders and veterans before the association backed down.



Col. Van T. Barfoot in retirement

Barfoot suffered a skull fracture and bleed-

ing in the brain from a fall in front of his home, and died two days later on March 2nd, 2012, at the age of 92. "Col. Barfoot was a remarkable man who demonstrated tremendous bravery in military service to his country during three wars," said Sen. Mark R. Warner, D-Va. "The actions that earned Col. Barfoot the Medal of Honor, the Silver Star and the Bronze Star still have the power to inspire. We all saw a bit of that same determination and grit when Col. Barfoot fought his neighbors over that flagpole. Our nation and our state has lost a remarkable man, and my thoughts tonight are with his family and friends."

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News of the RCWRT



Upcoming 2023 RCWRT Meetings

The wearing of masks continues to be optional in the NC Museum of History, our monthly-meeting venue.

Date	Speaker(s)	Торіс		
June 12 th , 2023	Andrew Duppstadt, M.A.	Francis Lyell Hoge (CSS <i>Neuse</i>)		
Jul. 10 th , 2023	Harry Smeltzer, M.B.A.	The Battle of 1 st Manassas		
Aug. 14 th , 2023	Kevin Shroyer, B.S.	Virginians in Blue		
Sept. 11 th , 2023	Rob Orrison, M.A.	The Battle of Bristoe Sta- tion		

<u>Without Concealment, Without Compromise:</u> <u>The Courageous Lives of Black Civil War Surgeons</u>

By Jill L. Newmark

Southern Illinois University Press, May 31st, 2023; 312 pages as reviewed by Carl Bollyson in the New York Sun Sunday

as reviewed by Carl Rollyson in the New York Sun Sunday edition of May 31st, 2023

[Ed. Note: Just as we've learned that Dr. Mary Edwards Walker was the only woman surgeon in the entire Union Army, here we learn that there were only 14 Black surgeons.]

Jill Newmark's research about the 14 Black men out of the 12,000 surgeons who served in the Civil War brings to light some astonishing reactions of the whites who refused to work beside them.

Unsurprisingly, certain white surgeons were racists who objected to even practicing within the vicinity of Black surgeons. Yet it is dismaying to learn that other white surgeons, while professing to support the liberation of slaves, believed that serving with Black surgeons would be detrimental to their careers.

Even serving under a Black surgeon who had proved himself after passing grueling exams and obtaining a medical degree in Canada, Alexander T. Augusta, seemed inconceivable to his less-qualified white colleagues.

Augusta heads the list of Black surgeons who persevered no matter the discrimination they suffered, no matter how often institutions such as Harvard expelled them, succumbing to protests from white students who thought their own degrees would be devalued if Blacks could also obtain them.

Yet surgeons like John van Surly DeGrasse risked their lives on the battlefield while others took up positions of authority that made it possible for other Blacks to earn medical degrees and enter other professions.

(Continued→)



The Knapsack

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

(May 2023 Circulation: 401)

<u>Staff</u> Bob Graesser, Editor

<u>Contributors</u> Griff Bartlett, George Mills

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

RCWRT Board of Directors (2022-24)

Name	Position		
Charlie Knight	President / Program Committee		
Griff Bartlett	Secretary / Treasurer		
Bob Graesser	Knapsack Newsletter Editor / Webmaster		
Ted Kunstling	Member / President Emeritus		
Jessica Hoover	Member		
Lynda Turbeville	Member		

Paying Memberships / Total Members: 107 / 129

We welcomed 4 new members to the RCWRT in May:

Joe Travers & son Michael Travers, Wake Forest Robert Ferro, Jackson Springs John & Jennifer Kelton, Zebulon

Seen from the perspective of a group biography of Black Civil War surgeons, the Civil War becomes not just a saga of divided families and a saga of how a people were liberated, but also about how to become an individual by becoming an American.

Ms. Newmark shows that these 14 surgeons pressed on because at stake was the fate of Blacks, one inextricably tied to what these men as individuals were trying to accomplish for themselves.

The book's splendid title, "Without Concealment," signals a kind of deliverance — not only for its subjects but for our sense of who we are and what our nation stands for.

The Raleigh Civil War Round Table was formed on March 12^{th} , 2001 and is a 501(c)(3) "tax exempt organization."

We meet on the second Monday of each month. 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 **Sept. 15**th each year.