

The Knapsack

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

August 14th, 2023
Our 270th Issue



Volume 23
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<http://www.raleighcwrt.org>

August 14th, 2023, Meeting Features Charlie Knight, M.A., Speaking on the Topic “Uselessly Sacrificed” – The Destruction of Iverson’s Brigade at Gettysburg, July 1st, 1863



The Raleigh Civil War Round Table’s August 14th, 2023, in person/simultaneous Zoom meeting was scheduled to feature Kevin Shroyer, B.S., speaking on the topic *Virginians in Blue*. Unfortunately, Kevin has had a medical emergency and is unable to attend. We wish him a speedy recovery.

Charlie Knight, M.A. Charlie Knight, President of the Raleigh CWRT, has graciously offered to step in as a replacement speaker. Charlie’s topic is “Uselessly Sacrificed” – *The Destruction of Iverson’s Brigade at Gettysburg, July 1st, 1863*. His presentation synopsis appears at right.

The meeting will be held at the NC Museum of History’s Daniels Auditorium, located just inside the south entrance at 5 Edenton St. in downtown Raleigh, NC. 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 live-streamed on Zoom for those unable to attend in person. A video recording will be made available on <http://www.raleighcwrt.org>, our Raleigh Civil War Round Table website, following the event.

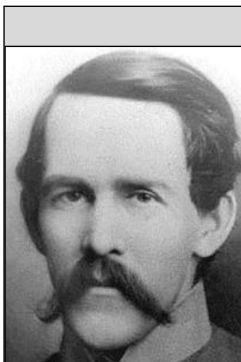
You should have already received an emailed invitation, including instructions and a link for joining online if you are unable to attend in person. Please send an email request to RaleighCWRT@Yahoo.com if you have not yet received an invitation.

Charlie Knight grew up in Richmond, VA, and developed a love of history from a very early age. He has more than 20 years working in museums and historic sites in VA, AZ, and NC, including New Market Battlefield State Historical Park; the Gen. Douglas MacArthur Memorial; the Arizona Capitol Museum; and the North Carolina

Museum of History. He has been at the NC Museum of History in Raleigh as Curator of Military History since Jan. 2017.

Knight has written articles for various publications including *Blue & Gray*, *Classic Trains*, and the Civil War Preservation Trust’s *Hallowed Ground* magazine. He has contributed to Virginia Tech’s *Essential Civil War Curriculum* website and the *Emerging Civil War* blog; served as historical advisor on the 2014 film *Field of Lost Shoes*; and has spoken at numerous conferences, reenactments, and historical organizations around the country.

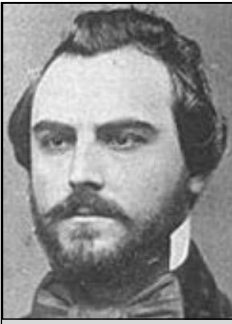
His first book, *Valley Thunder: The Battle of New Market and the Opening of the Shenandoah Valley Campaign May, 1864*, was published in 2010 by Savas Beatie, and his second book, *From Arlington to Appomattox: Robert E. Lee’s Civil War Day by Day, 1861-1865* was published by Savas Beatie in 2021. He is currently working on a biography of general and railroad magnate William Mahone and a biography of Charles S. Venable, professor at the University of VA and one of Lee’s aides.



Maj. Gen.
Robert Rodes

“Uselessly Sacrificed” – The Destruction of Iverson’s Brigade at Gettysburg, July 1st, 1863

When the officers and men of Maj. Gen. Robert Rodes’s infantry division arrived on the field at Gettysburg on July 1st, they found themselves squarely on the Union flank. Only a few weeks before the division had participated in “Stonewall” Jackson’s decisive flank attack at Chancellorsville that rolled up the right flank of the Army of the Potomac. Rodes thought he had an opportunity to repeat that success. Instead, what resulted was one of the most disjointed and costly attacks of the entire three-day Battle of Gettysburg.



**Brig. Gen.
Alfred Iverson**

The four NC regiments of Brig. Gen. Alfred Iverson's brigade suffered a combined casualty rate of more than 60%, had nearly every field officer killed or wounded, and each regiment had their flag captured by the enemy – all in a space of just a matter of minutes. Iverson, himself, quickly faced accusations of drunkenness and cowardice for failing to lead his men into the fight. Unsurprisingly his actions, or lack thereof, led to the end of his service with the Army of Northern Virginia.

Although their sacrifice achieved little tactically, their commanders lauded their performance. "No greater gallantry and heroism has been displayed during this war," wrote Iverson. "His men fought and died like heroes," Rodes reported. "These gallant troops obstinately stood their ground till the greater part of three regiments had fallen where they stood in line of battle," according to corps commander Richard Ewell. But perhaps the most succinct summation of the brigade's fight came from Lt. Walter Montgomery of the 12th NC: "Iverson's men were uselessly sacrificed."



Portion of *A Useless Slaughter*, a painting of Iverson's Brigade at Gettysburg by Michael Haynes: *The Gettysburg Collection*. Watercolor on Paper on board 16 x 27 x .25. Available for purchase from Hang With Marci & David Fine Art Concierge Artworks Gallery (hangwithus.art).

A History of the 23rd NC Battle Flag

by Charlie Knight, M.A.

All four NC infantry regiments (5th, 12th, 20th, and 23rd) of Iverson's Brigade lost their flag during the disastrous attack on the early afternoon of July 1st, 1863, just outside of Gettysburg.

However, only one of them is known to exist today – that of the 23rd NC, which is part of the collection of the NC Museum of History. The other three have simply vanished, possibly misidentified in another museum's collection, possibly in private hands, or possibly just no longer exist.

The 23rd was issued the flag shown in the right column,



Battle Flag of the 23rd NC Infantry Regiment (mounted on a wooden frame). This regiment fought in the following eight battles prior to Chancellorsville: Williamsburg, Seven Pines, Mechanicsville, Cold Harbor (aka Gaines' Mill), Malvern Hill, South Mountain, Sharpsburg, and Fredericksburg. A note attached to the upper left corner of the flag states: "Confederate Battle Flag of 23rd North Carolina Regiment captured by 2nd Division 1st Army Corps at the Battle of Gettysburg, Penn - July 2, 1863."

a 3rd bunting Army of Northern VA pattern, in the Spring of 1863. It has the battle honors for all the regiment's engagements prior to Chancellorsville painted on in dark blue. It is likely that Cpl. Edwin S. Hart carried this flag into battle at Chancellorsville, before his wounding and subsequent capture. Who succeeded him as color bearer and thus carried this flag onto the field at Gettysburg is not known.

The attack of Rodes's Division at Gettysburg was an uncoordinated bloodbath. Iverson's Brigade advanced blindly against an enemy hidden behind a

stone wall and suffered well more than 50% casualties – the dead laying "in a line as straight as a dress parade," as Iverson reported, struck down by the enemy's initial volley delivered at about 70 or 80 yards.

With the survivors pinned down under a galling fire, unable to advance and unwilling to retreat, several Union regiments advanced and scooped up scores of prisoners – and the flags of all four regiments. The Federals "swarmed over the wall and rushed down upon our weakened line," one veteran of the 23rd recalled. "Leaving the wounded, they drove off with bayonets and clubbed muskets 49 prisoners and carried our flag with them." Sgt. Edward L. Gilligan of the 88th PA Infantry was credited with the capture of the 23rd's flag, for which he later received the Medal of Honor.

The 23rd's flag was turned over to the U.S. War Dept. It was among a number of captured Confederate flags exhibited in New York City in April 1864. In 1905, the U.S. government returned all the captured and surrendered Confederate flags in its possession to the former Confederate states; 32 flags were returned to NC at that time, including that of the 23rd, and exhibited in the Hall of History, the forerunner of the NC Museum of History. Conservation of the 23rd's flag was completed in 2010 and funded by the NC Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

Raleigh CWRT Book Raffle at Aug. 14th Meeting

The Raleigh CWRT's Aug. 14th meeting will include a book raffle to raise money to sponsor a trail marker at the Bentonville Battlefield site. Those wishing to participate in the raffle, please bring cash and any book(s) for donation.

Best Universities/Colleges in 2023 for an Online Bachelor's Degree in History

By Bob Graesser,
Raleigh CWRT Newsletter Editor/Webmaster

Four years ago, I created [The Best Online BA History Degrees](https://raleighcwrt.squarespace.com/best-online-ba-history-degrees) webpage on the Raleigh CWRT website. To accommodate a new cadre of incoming Freshmen for this Fall 2023 Semester, I have just updated it with a curated list of the best 2023 university/college history programs offering an online bachelor's degree. It can be accessed from the following link: <https://raleighcwrt.squarespace.com/best-online-ba-history-degrees>.

Back in 2019, a reader of the Raleigh Civil War Round Table website sent this editor an email message wanting to know if I could add a link to the website of the University where she worked. Specifically, she wanted to promote her University's online bachelor's degree program in History.

She pointed out that people interested in the Civil War might be interested in History, especially American History, in general. Furthermore, online degrees offer maximum flexibility for working adults and retired seniors, the same demographic that makes up the vast majority of our Civil War Round Table membership. "Flexibility" denotes the fact that most online programs allow a student to start at any time and to work at their own pace.

The top three institutions for receiving an online out-of-state bachelor's degree remains unchanged from my 2019 survey: OR State Univ. in Corvallis, The Univ. of Central FL in Orlando, and the Univ. of IL at Springfield.

The Renaming of Nine Southern U.S. Forts Part 3: Fort Lee Becomes Fort Gregg-Adams

This article is part three of a nine part series on the renaming of southern U.S. forts. Some Army bases, established in the build-up and during World War I, were named for Confederate officers to court support from local populations in the South. That the men for whom the bases were named had taken up arms against the government they had sworn to defend was seen by some as a sign of reconciliation between the North and South. It was also the height of the Jim Crow laws in the South, so little consideration was given to the impact upon Black Soldiers who had to serve at bases named after men who fought to defend slavery.

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

Table 1: The Renaming of Nine Southern U.S. Forts, on p. 4 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 are being presented over a number of issues of [The Knapsack](#) in the chronological order of their renaming. The third fort to be renamed is [Fort Lee](#), which was renamed [Fort Gregg-Adams](#) in a ceremony on April 27th, 2023.

Fort Gregg-Adams



Lt. Gen. Arthur J. Gregg
&
Lt. Col.
Charity Adams Earley

[Fort Gregg-Adams](#) (formerly [Fort Lee](#)) is a U.S. Army post located next to Petersburg, VA, 25 miles south of Richmond, VA. It is named in honor of two Black officers: Lt. Gen. Arthur J. Gregg, the first Black male officer to achieve 3-star rank (pp. 5-6), and Lt. Col. Charity Adams Earley, the highest-ranking Black female officer during World War II. (p. 6.) It was previously named for U.S. Army Colonel and Confederate Civil War General-in-Chief Robert E. Lee (p. 5).

History of [Camp/Fort Lee](#)

World War I

Just 18 days after a state of war with Germany was declared, the first [Camp Lee](#) was selected as a state mobilization camp and later became a division training camp.

In June 1917, building began and within sixty days some 14,000 men were on the installation. The post was home to the 155th Depot Brigade. The role of depot brigades was to receive recruits and draftees, then organize them and provide them with uniforms, equipment and initial military training. Depot brigades also received soldiers returning home at the end of the war and carried out their mustering out and discharges.

When construction work ended, there were accommodations for 60,335 men. On July 15th, 1917, the War Dept. announced that the camp would be named after Colonel Robert E. Lee, a U.S. Army Colonel who later served in the Confederacy during the Civil War. In 2015, Brig. Gen. Malcolm Frost said, "Every Army installation is named for a soldier who holds a place in our military history." He further explained that the historic names chosen "represent individuals, not causes or ideologies," and that it was done "in the spirit of reconciliation, not division."

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

| 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.

After World War I, **Camp Lee** was taken over by the Commonwealth of Virginia and designated a game preserve. Later, portions of the land were incorporated into the Petersburg National Battlefield and the Federal Correctional Institution, Petersburg, VA.

In 1920, **Camp Lee** was still active, as the U.S. 1920 Census showed many soldiers still stationed there.

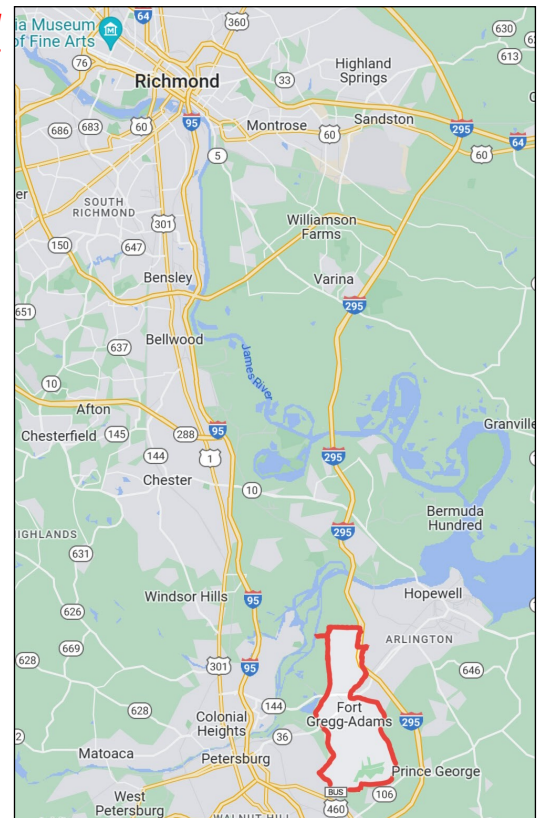
World War II

In October 1940, the War Dept. ordered the construction of another **Camp Lee** on the site of the earlier installation. Built as rapidly as the first, construction was still ongoing when the Quartermaster Replacement Training Center started operation in Feb. 1941. Their number grew to 25,000 in 1942, and peaked at 35,000 in 1944.

Camp Lee was also the home of a Medical Replacement Training Center, but as the Quartermaster training increased, it was decided to relocate the MRTC to Camp Pickett.

Later, the QMRTC was re-designated as an Army Services Forces Training Center, but it retained its basic mission of training Quartermaster personnel.

While the QMRTC was getting underway, the Quartermaster School was transferred to **Camp Lee**. A full program of courses was conducted, including Officer Candidate School. By the end of 1941, **Camp Lee** was



Site of Ft. Gregg-Adams east of Petersburg, VA

the center of both basic and advanced training of Quartermaster personnel and held this position throughout the war.

When World War II ended, the fate of **Camp Lee** was in question. In 1946, the War Dept. announced that **Camp Lee** would be retained as a center for Quartermaster training. Official recognition of its permanent status was obtained in 1950 and the post was redesignated as **Fort Lee**.

Troops immediately began Quartermaster training for the Korean War and continued for the next three years. **Fort Lee** also had a Women's Army Corps (WAC) training center. After the Korean War, progress was made on an ambitious permanent building program.

Under the twenty-year program, **Fort Lee** changed from an installation of temporary wooden structures to a modern Army post with permanent brick and cinder block buildings.

The Quartermaster Training Center, created to supervise the training of Quartermaster personnel and troop units, brought an intensification of training activity within the Quartermaster Corps. As a result, the courses formerly taught at other locations were incorporated in the curriculum of the Quartermaster School.

Fort Lee became the country's first army post to host a 'full-size' statue commemorating the service of women in the Army. The statue was unveiled in 2013.

In 2005 a Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) law was passed by Congress. One of BRAC's requirements was the relocation of the U.S. Army Ordnance Center and School headquarters, the Ordnance Mechanical Maintenance School, the U.S. Army Ordnance Munitions and Electronic Maintenance School, and the Ordnance Museum to **Fort Lee** by the end 2011. The transfer of artifacts from Aberdeen to **Fort Lee** began in Aug. 2009, with the former museum now designated the U.S. Army Ordnance Training and Heritage Center at **Fort Lee**.

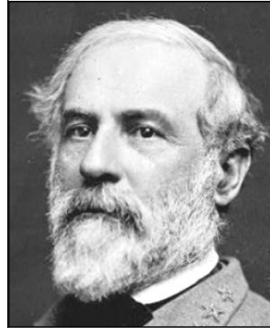
Fort Lee was redesignated on April 27th, 2023 as **Fort Gregg-Adams** in honor of the contributions of two Black officers who excelled in the field of Sustainment. Lt. Gen. Arthur J. Gregg rose from the rank of private to three-star general during his military logistics career. Lt. Col. Charity Adams Earley was the first Black officer in the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (later known as the Women's Army Corps) in World War II and led the first predominately Black WAC unit to serve overseas.



The Army Logistics University is located on Fort Gregg-Adams

The Knapsack

Confederate General-in-Chief Robert E. Lee



General Robert E. Lee was a West Point graduate and the leader of the Confederate Army. The U.S. Army named Camp Lee after him on July 15, 1917 during the mobilization for World War I. In 1950 it was renamed Fort Lee. On April 27th, 2023, it was renamed Fort Gregg-Adams. Fort Gregg-Adams is home to the Combined Arms Support Command.

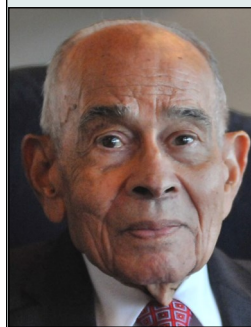
Confederate General-in-Chief Robert E. Lee Lee served the U.S. Army for 32 years, distinguishing himself during the Mexican American War and as Superintendent of the U.S. Military Academy.

He was President Abraham Lincoln's first choice to lead the U.S. in the Civil War. Instead, Lee joined the Confederacy when his home state, Virginia, seceded from the Union.

Lee took command of the Army of Northern Virginia in June 1862 during the Peninsula Campaign. For almost three full years, he prevented the Union Army from capturing the Confederate capital in Richmond, VA, only 100 miles from the Union capital of Washington City.

Historians generally agree that Lee was less enthusiastic about the cause than many of his fellow Southerners, but he did take command of the Confederate army. After the defeat, he spoke out in opposition to Confederate monuments, writing in 1869 that it is better, "not to keep open the sores of war but to follow the examples of those nations who endeavored to obliterate the marks of civil strife."

Lt. Gen. Arthur J. Gregg, Retired



U.S. Lt. Gen. Arthur J. Gregg, Retired, (born May 11th, 1928) is the first Black to achieve such a high rank. He served the U.S. Army for over 30 years, received his third star in 1977, served as the Army's deputy chief of staff (logistics), and retired on July 31st, 1981.

In 2022, the U.S. Dept. of Defense announced that Fort Lee in Petersburg, VA would be renamed Fort Gregg-Adams, to honor both Gregg and Lt. Col. Charity Adams Earley.

Gregg attended the April 27th, 2023, renaming ceremony. He is the only living person in modern history to have an American military installation named in his honor.

Early Life and Education

Gregg was born in Florence, SC in May 1928. He attended grade school near Florence. There were no high schools open to Blacks closer than 10 miles to Gregg's home, so an older brother arranged for Gregg to stay with

him in Newport News, VA to attend high school there.

After graduation from high school, Gregg briefly served in the U.S. Merchant Marine and studied at the Chicago College of Medical Technology before enlisting in the U.S. Army. He graduated *summa cum laude* from Saint Benedict College in Atchison, KS, in 1965, with a B.S. Degree in Business Administration. He also completed the Executive Program in National Security at the Harvard University.

Military Career

Arthur Gregg enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1946; one of his areas of service as a noncommissioned officer was in logistics - specifically as a supply sergeant in Europe. He was accepted into Officer Candidate School in 1950, and subsequently served in Vietnam, other parts of Asia, and at Fort Lee, VA - a facility which would later be named for him. In 1977, Gregg was ultimately promoted to Lt. General, serving as deputy chief of staff of logistics. He retired from the Army in 1981.

Honors

The Department of the Army established in 2015 the Arthur J. Gregg Sustainment Leadership Award which is presented annually to recognize leaders in the U.S. Army who have made significant and measurable contributions to the Army's logistics operations. Gen. Gregg was the eponymous first recipient of the award given in 2016.

Since the early part of the 21st century, Excelsior University annually awards its Arthur J. Gregg Award to a graduating active duty military service member who demonstrates outstanding academic achievement and outstanding career or professional achievement at each commencement ceremony.

In 2022, The Naming Commission announced that Fort Lee in Virginia would be renamed Fort Gregg-Adams in honor of Lt. Gen. Arthur J. Gregg and Lt. Col. Charity Adams Earley. The military installation was officially redesignated on April 27th, 2023.



Gregg with Maj. Gen. Mark Simerly in front of the newly named Gregg-Adams Club in 2023, a Fort Lee facility that was still off limits to him and other Blacks when he became an officer in 1950.

Lt. Col. Charity Adams Earley



Lt. Col. Charity Adams

Lieutenant Colonel Charity Adams Earley (Dec. 5th, 1918 – Jan. 13th, 2002) was an American U.S. Army officer. She was the first Black woman to be an officer in the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (later WACs) and was the commanding officer of the first battalion of Black women to serve overseas during World War II. Adams was the highest-ranking Black woman in the army by the completion of the war. The 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion's motto was "No Mail, Low Morale." A monument honoring this unique group of women was dedicated at Fort Leavenworth, KS, on Nov. 30th, 2018.

Early Life and Education

Adams was born on Dec. 5th, 1918, in Kittrell, NC and grew up in Columbia, SC. Her parents believed strongly in education and were high achievers. Her father, a college graduate, was an African Methodist Episcopal minister. Her mother was a schoolteacher. Adams was the oldest of four children. She graduated from Booker T. Washington High School as valedictorian and from Wilberforce University in Ohio in 1938, majoring in math and physics. After graduation, she returned to Columbia where she taught mathematics at the local high school while studying part-time for a M.A. degree in psychology at the Ohio State University, receiving her master's degree in 1946.

Career

Adams enlisted in the U.S. Army's Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC) in July 1942. She was the first Black woman to be an officer in the WAAC. At the time, the U.S. Army was still segregated, so she was placed in a company with fellow female Black women officers and stationed at Fort Des Moines. In 1943, she was assigned to be the training supervisor at base headquarters.

In early 1944, Adams was reassigned as the Training Center control officer in charge of improving efficiency and job training. She also had other responsibilities, such as surveying officer (finding lost property) and summary court officer (handling women's minor offenses).

In Dec. 1944, Adams led the only company of Black WACs ever to serve overseas. They were stationed in Birmingham, England. The women began to socialize with the citizens and broke through prejudices on both sides. Adams was put in charge of a postal directory service unit. Another part of her job included raising the morale of women. Adams achieved this by creating beauty parlors for the women to relax and socialize in.

In March 1945, she was appointed the commanding officer of the first battalion of Black women, the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion. They were stationed first in Birmingham. Three months later, they were moved to

Rouen, France, then to Paris. They were responsible for the delivery of mail to over seven million soldiers during World War II.

By the completion of the war, Lt. Col. Adams was the highest ranking Black woman in the military. At the conclusion of the war, when asked about her groundbreaking achievements, Adams responded simply, "I just wanted to do my job". She decided to leave the service in 1946 when she was called to serve at the Pentagon.

Fighting Segregation and Racism in the Army

Growing up in the south, Adams experienced the hardships of segregation. When she entered the Army, she still faced discrimination but was not afraid to speak up and fight for desegregation in the Army. One of the first battles Adams fought for equality was when the Army proposed segregating the training regiment. When she was told she would head one of the segregated regiments, she refused. The Army subsequently decided against creating separate regiments.

On another occasion, when a general stated, "I'm going to send a white first lieutenant down here to show you how to run this unit", then-Major Adams responded, "Over my dead body, sir." The general threatened to court-martial her for disobeying orders. She then began to file charges against him for using "language stressing racial segregation" and ignoring a directive from Allied headquarters. They both dropped the matter, and the general later came to respect Adams.

When the Red Cross tried to donate equipment for a new segregated recreation center, Adams refused it because her unit had been sharing the recreation center with white units.

Adams encouraged her battalion to socialize with white men coming back from the front and even the residents of wherever they were stationed. She wanted to create comradeship between enlisted personnel and officers and ease the tensions of racism.

Educator

After her service in the Army, she earned a master's degree in psychology from Ohio State University. She then worked at the Veterans Administration in Cleveland, OH, but soon left to teach at the Miller Academy of Fine Arts. She moved to Nashville, TN, and was the director of student personnel at Tennessee A&I College. She then moved to Georgia and became the director of student personnel and assistant professor of education at Georgia State College. She later served on the Board of Trustees at Sinclair Community College in Dayton, OH. Dayton Public Schools also named one of their schools the "Charity Adams Earley Girls Academy" in her honor.

Community Service

Adams devoted much of her post-war life to community service. She served on the Board of Directors of Dayton Power and Light, the Dayton Metro Housing Author-

ity, the Dayton Opera Company, the Board of Governors of the American Red Cross, and the Board of Trustees of Sinclair Community College. She volunteered for United Way, the United Negro College Fund, the Urban League, and the YWCA. She also co-directed the Black Leadership Development Program.

Personal Life

In 1949, Adams married Stanley A. Earley, Jr. They moved to Switzerland for a time while Stanley completed medical school. They returned to the U.S. in 1952 and settled in Dayton, OH, where they had two children, Stanley III and Judith Earley.

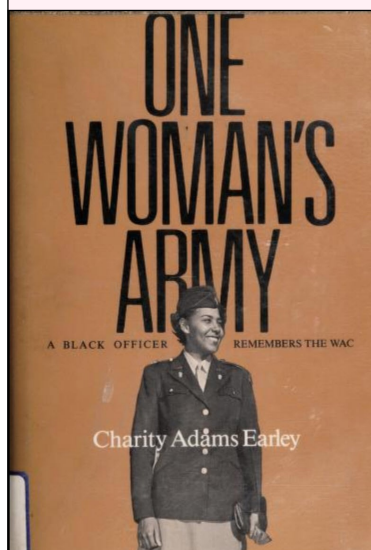
Adams died at age 83 on January 13, 2002, in Dayton.

Awards and Honors

Adams received many honors and awards, including a Woman of the Year from the National Council of Negro Women in 1946, the Top Ten Women of the Miami Valley Dayton Daily News, 1965 and Service to the Community Award from the Ohio State Senate in 1989. In 1987, she received the Senior Citizens Gold Watch Award. Adams was listed on the Smithsonian Institution's 110 most important historical Black women, Black Women Against the Odds, in 1982. She was inducted into the Ohio Women's Hall of Fame in 1979 and the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame in 1993. She was also inducted into the South Carolina Black Hall of Fame and named citizen of the year by The Montgomery County Board of Commissioners in 1991. In 1997, Adams was included in the BellSouth African-American History Calendar.

She also received honorary doctorates from Wilberforce University and the University of Dayton in 1991.

Dayton Public Schools named one of their all-girls elementary schools in her honor (the "Charity Adams Earley Girls Academy").



*The Autobiography of
Lt. Col. Charity Adams Earley*

On Jan. 1st, 1989, Texas A&M University Press published her autobiography, [One Woman's Army: a Black Officer Remembers the WAC \(Texas A&M University Military History Series, #12\).](#)

In 2022, The Naming Commission announced that Fort Lee in Virginia would be renamed Fort Gregg-Adams in honor of General Gregg and Lieutenant Colonel Charity Adams Earley. The military installation was officially redesignated on April 27th, 2023.

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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) | Topic |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|--|
| Aug. 14 th , 2023 | Charlie Knight, M.A. | "Uselessly Sacrificed" – The Destruction of Iverson's Brigade at Gettysburg, July 1 st , 1863 |
| Sept. 11 th , 2023 | Rob Orrison, M.A. | The Battle of Bristoe Station |
| Oct. 9 th , 2023 | TBD | TBD |



The Knapsack

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Contributors

Griff Bartlett, Charlie Knight

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: 110 / 133

We welcomed 2 new members to the RCWRT in July:

Barry Vaughn and his son Damon, Burlington, NC

CWRT Congress News & Events



Mike Movius is the founder and president of the **CWRT Congress**. He is also the former president of the Puget Sound CWRT in Seattle, WA.

Mike publishes a monthly emailing of Civil War-related **News & Events**. The current issue can be accessed from your internet browser at URL <https://mailchi.mp/48a0753ceb2e/cwrt-congress-news-events-13362652?e=09bb052ae9>. By this editor's count, some 29 upcoming events are listed.

Mike Movius, Pres., CWRT Congress

The Raleigh Civil War Round Table was formed on March 12th, 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. 15th** each year.

Heavy Thunder: Summer Artillery & Infantry Program



Bentonville Battlefield State Historic Site is located at 5466 Harper House Rd, Clayton, NC. It marks the site of the largest land battle fought in NC during the American Civil War and one of

the last engagements of the entire war. The Friends of Bentonville Battlefield is a non-profit 501 (c) 3 organization.

Heavy Thunder, the summer artillery and infantry program, is coming up at the Battlefield on **Sat., Aug. 19th, 2023, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** Hear the roar of cannon fire! Learn how cannons were loaded and fired during the Civil War. See how infantry maneuvered in the field. Reenactors will portray infantrymen and artillerymen to show what life was like for a Civil War soldier. Firing demonstrations and historical discussions will occur throughout the day. Concessions will be available. Attendance is free and open to the public.

If you are already a member of the Friends of Bentonville Battlefield, volunteers in four main areas are needed for this event: Parking, FOBB Info Table, Harper House Info Table, and "Happy To Help" Misc. Each of the stations will be manned in 4-hour shifts (10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.). There will also be a free lunch provided to all volunteers. Volunteers may sign up at https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c084eadac2fa1f5c16-heavy#.