

# The Knapsack

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

December 14, 2020  
Our 238<sup>th</sup> Issue



Volume 20  
Number 12

<http://www.raleighcwrt.org>

## Dec. 14, 2020 Event Features Michael K. Brantley Speaking on His New Book

### *Galvanized: The Odyssey of a Reluctant Carolina Confederate*

Our upcoming meeting will be on Monday, December 14, 2020. 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.**

December's meeting will feature a presentation by Michael K. Brantley on his new book *Galvanized: The Odyssey of a Reluctant Carolina Confederate* (University of Nebraska Press/Potomac Books, May 1, 2020). This book details the extraordinary tale of Michael's great-great-grandfather, Wright Stephen Batchelor, a North Carolina farmer who fought for both sides in the Civil War, spent time in a horrific POW camp, walked halfway across the continent, and later became a Radical Republican before being involved in a bizarre murder.

As has been part of the new normal, our new 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](mailto:RaleighCWRT@Yahoo.com) if you do not receive this invitation by December 7<sup>th</sup>.**



Michael K. Brantley is a native of Spring Hope, located west of Rocky Mount, in Nash County in eastern North Carolina. He was destined to have two passions: writing and photography. He started writing sports columns for local newspapers when he was 15. At that same age, he cleaned the press after every run at *The Nashville* (NC) *Graphic* newspaper. In fact, he has worked with *The Nashville Graphic* in some capacity ever since then, with the exception of 18 months when he served as editor of *The*

*Spring Hope Enterprise*, his first job after graduating from Barton College. Michael graduated from Southern Nash High School and received a Bachelor of Science degree in Communications from Barton College (1991). He earned a Master of Arts degree in English from East Carolina University (2012) and a Master of Fine Arts degree in Creative Writing from Queens University of Charlotte (2014).

After graduating from college, Michael served as managing editor at two papers. Following that, he worked in public relations for two years. He then pursued his other passion as he went into business with his wife Kristi as professional photographers.

He earned his Master of Photography and his Craftsman degree from the Professional Photographers of America, and his Fellow of Photography from the Professional Photographers of North Carolina. Over his 18 year career, his photographs have won state, regional, and international honors, including three Fuji Masterpiece Awards, three Southeastern Professional Photographers Association (SEPPA) Distinguished Awards, and a PPA International Loan Print. His NC awards include several first place honors, and a Best of Show in 2003.

During his career as a photographer, Michael also worked as a freelancer for state, national, and regional magazines covering music, agriculture, sports, collectibles, and business. His column, *The Soapbox*, won Best Humor Column for Weekly Papers in 2000 from the North Carolina Press Association.

In 2016, Michael was blessed to be the recipient of a liver transplant, and is an advocate for organ donor registration, Donate Life, and Carolina Donor Services.

Now 51, Michael currently works at his *alma mater*,

Barton College in Wilson, as a Professor of Communications, teaching journalism, creative writing, and English. He also advises the student newspaper, *The Collegiate*.

His research and writing interests include North Carolina history, baseball, bluegrass and roots music, American history, Southern culture, and folklore. Brantley has published nonfiction, fiction, and poetry in numerous journals including *The Broad River Review*, *The First Day*, *The Dunes Review*, *Word River*, *Bartleby Snopes*, *Stymie*, *Crack the Spine* and others.

Brantley's first book, *Memory Cards: Portraits from a Rural Journey*, is a memoir about growing up in eastern North Carolina. *Memory Cards* (published by Black Rose Writing, 2015) reached #1 in Nonfiction, #1 in Memoir, and #1 in Top 100 Kindle Free in October 2016.

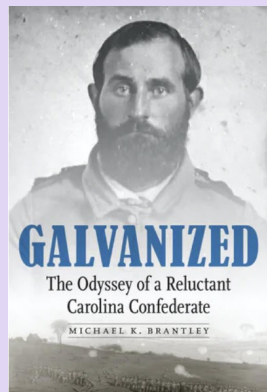
In 2019, Michael was awarded an Archie K. Davis Fellowship from the North Caroliniana Society for research on a third book project.

Michael lives near Spring Hope, NC with his college sweetheart wife, Kristi (a historian), and their three children on a plot of land that used to be part of his family's farm where he grew up.

### ***Galvanized: The Odyssey of a Reluctant Carolina Confederate***

Michael K. Brantley is the author of the new book *Galvanized: The Odyssey of a Reluctant Carolina Confederate*, released May 1, 2020.

This biography offers a history of the Company A "Chicora Guards" of the 47th North Carolina Regiment, as well as North Carolina. It is also about Michael's discovery of an unknown relative with a controversial past. This ancestor, Michael's great-great-grandfather Wright Stephen Batchelor, was a survivor against overwhelming odds.



Batchelor was a Nash County North Carolina farmer who was opposed to both secession and war. He never owned slaves and simply wanted to work his land and raise a family. His plans were interrupted when the Civil War upended the nation.

Despite his opposition, he was directed into the conflict by many pressures. During his time in each uniform, Batchelor barely avoided death at the Battle of Gettysburg, was captured twice, and survived one of the war's most infamous prisoner-of-war camps. He escaped and, after walking hundreds of miles, rejoined his comrades at Petersburg, Virginia, just as the Union siege there began. Paroled at Appomattox, he then walked home to his Nash County farm.

After the war, Batchelor became a supporter of rights for

freed slaves, attempted local politics, becoming a Radical Republican, and was involved in a bizarre hometown murder on the steps of the county courthouse.

*Galvanized* challenges readers to examine the conflict from the view of the people, not the more commonly studied leaders. It looks at how the complexities of loyalty and personal belief governed one man's actions—and still influence the ways Americans think about the conflict today.

*Galvanized: The Odyssey of a Reluctant Carolina Confederate* is available in hardcover at Quail Ridge Books in Raleigh, NC, as well as at other bookstores such as Barnes & Noble. It is available in hardcover, paperback, and Kindle ebook format at Amazon.com. It is also available through Michael Brantley's publisher, University of Nebraska Press/Potomac Books:

<https://www.nebraskapress.unl.edu/potomac-books/9781640121225/?fbclid=IwAR36fsFZnetlZlr5TOLM6oiw2pjoZGv-IJTEV3Bve3k7opOtCnWNLWFVXRA>.

His publisher has a new code out for 50% off your total purchase. Just enter **6HLW20** at checkout.

Finally, both of Michael's books are available on his own website, <http://www.michaelbrantley.com>. If ordering there, just add a note in the comments section if you'd like your book signed and/or personalized for free.

**ISBN-10:** 1640121226; **ISBN-13:** 978-1640121225.

**Publisher:** Potomac Books; Illustrated edition (May 1, 2020).

### ***Current Status of the Coronavirus Pandemic***

As of a month ago, 11-01-2020, there were 9,110,096 reported cases and 230,316 reported deaths in the U.S. caused by the novel coronavirus. Those figures, as of 12-01-2020, have increased to 13,696,060 reported cases (+50.3%) and 270,369 reported deaths (+17.4%), respectively. This represents a huge spike as the cooler fall weather has driven people indoors.

Compared to the current world-wide reported totals of 63,679,175 cases and 1,476,949 deaths, the U.S. has 21.5% of all reported cases compared to 20% a month ago and 18.3% of all reported deaths compared to 19% a month ago. These rates remain mostly unchanged.

As predicted, the second wave of coronavirus infections has begun to surge. The U.S., on Friday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, posted a record number of cases for a single day, 132,700. The past seven days saw a record 1,114,190 new cases.

For the past seven day period, as compared to the week before, the number of new cases has increased in 6 states, declined in 31 states, and held steady in 13 states.

Please continue to follow medical and governmental guidelines of social distancing, washing hands frequently, and wearing a mask.

## *The Madman and the Assassin: The Strange Life of Boston Corbett, the Man Who Killed John Wilkes Booth*

**Question:** what do Jack Ruby and Boston Corbett have in common? Pretending you don't know, given the hint in the title, read on!

This is a synopsis of the book *The Madman and the Assassin: The Strange Life of Boston Corbett, the Man Who Killed John Wilkes Booth*. It was written by Scott Martelle (Chicago Review Press; 1<sup>st</sup> Edition, April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015). It documents the life, times, and fifteen minutes of fame of the man who, like the abolitionist John Brown and the fictional character Forrest Gump, witnessed and influenced several defining historical events during their period in U.S. history. I have expanded on certain topics based upon additional research of my own.

Thomas Corbett was born in England and emigrated to the U.S. in 1840 with his father and siblings when he was 10 years old. It is unknown why his mother was not present. The family settled in Manhattan, New York. In adulthood, Corbett changed his first name to "Boston".

At a young age, Corbett became an apprentice silk hat finisher, a respectable, skilled trade. Hats were made of felt, a textile material produced by matting, condensing and pressing fibers together. At that time in the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century, felt was made of natural fibers such as wool, animal fur, or silk. Corbett's specialty was a lucrative choice in that a well-made silk hat could fetch \$7.00, the equivalent of \$226 today.

On the other hand, hat making was also a dangerous profession because of the mercuric nitrate used to form the felt. The mercury stiffened fur while it was still on the hide, making it easier to remove and, with the application of liquids and heat, press into the basic felt forms around which the hats were made.

There is a story passed down in the hatter industry as to how mercury became associated with felt. In Turkey, camel hair was used for felt material, and it was discovered that the felting process was speeded up if the fibers were moistened with camel urine. When the felting process was introduced in France in the mid-17<sup>th</sup> century, there being no camels, human urine was used instead. One worker in particular was found to make superior felt. It turned out that he was being treated for syphilis with a mercury compound. Thus, the connection was made.



The downside to this method of felting was that it gave off a mercury-laden mist. Hatmakers of the time who inhaled and ingested the mercury often became irritable, with slurred speech and unsteady balance. Those more heavily exposed were prone to fits of paranoia. By 1865, when Lewis Carroll (Charles Dodgson)

published *Alice in Wonderland*, which included the character "The Mad Hatter", the association between hatters and madness was well-recognized. Its use in the hat industry in the U.S. was not banned until December 1<sup>st</sup>, 1941, the week prior to Pearl Harbor. This freed up the U.S. stock of mercury, a conductive metal liquid at room temperatures, to be used in the manufacture of bomb detonators.

As Corbett practiced his trade as a silk hat finisher on and off for decades, exactly how much exposure he had to mercury is unknowable. In



adulthood, he would exhibit some of the traits associated with mercury poisoning, including bouts of paranoia. He was a slender man with longish dark hair parted in the middle and slicked back behind his ears. He wore a scraggly beard and had soft brown eyes. He was about five feet, four inches tall, and would have been considered short as the height of the average

Union soldier in the Civil war was five feet, eight inches.

In his mid-twenties in 1856, Corbett underwent a religious epiphany following the death of his young wife. This was during the third in a series of national surges in religious fervor that manifested itself in new memberships in evangelical Protestant churches and the creation of new sects and communities. From that point on, Corbett became a religious zealot, proselytizer and street preacher, exhorting fellow sinners to heed the word of God and avoid the temptations of drink and sin. So committed was Corbett, and perhaps already under the influence of mercury poisoning, that in 1858 he castrated himself so as to be able to "preach the gospel without being tormented by his passions".

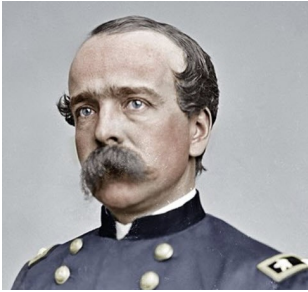
Less than a week after the firing on Fort Sumter, Corbett, who was twenty-eight years old, signed up on April 19<sup>th</sup>, 1861, for a three-month stint with the New York City 12<sup>th</sup> Regiment Volunteers. He had agreed to serve as a substitute for his hat-maker boss, James Brown, whose health was not good. It is not known if Corbett was paid a fee for his service. Corbett saw the war as not only necessary but also a just act to preserve the Union and to end slavery.

Commanding the 12<sup>th</sup> Regiment was none other than Col. Daniel Butterfield, the soldier who later wrote "Taps" and devised the set of symbols used to easily identify the various Union Corps and their Divisions.

On April 29<sup>th</sup>, 1861, a day after the Regiment arrived in Washington City, President Lincoln and Secretary of State William Seward stopped by to welcome and thank the volunteers. Lincoln roamed among the men, shaking each one's hand, including that of Corbett. Thus, the paths crossed between the man who would be the nation's first assassinated president and the obscure religious zealot who would kill his assassin.

Although Corbett fully participated in the military life, he didn't stand out to his superiors as he was never men-

tioned in any report. However, among his fellow soldiers, he did gain a reputation of being deeply religious and devout, but a very odd man nonetheless.



On the other hand, Corbett's commander Butterfield was noticed up the command chain due to his strict leadership, and the response of his troops. In May, he was given the honor of taking his 12<sup>th</sup> Regiment as lead in the first Union movement into Virginia where they then occupied Alexandria.

A few days later, a woman complained to Col. Butterfield that one of his soldiers had robbed her. Butterfield called the 900 men of the Regiment in camp at that time to face an inspection. He lectured them about the breach in decorum and civility, and yelled "I will have no damned thieves in this regiment!"

Corbett immediately took two steps forward and called out his commander for swearing. If Butterfield had heard this insubordination, he didn't acknowledge it. However, Corbett's captain witnessed the outburst and had Corbett arrested for disorderly conduct. Corbett spent the next two days on a hunger fast, loudly singing hymns. Finally, Corbett was released, unbowed and unrepentant.

When his 3-month enlistment was up, Corbett declined to re-enlist and was mustered out. However, on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1862, he was back in Manhattan and rejoined the Union army. He fell in with the new incarnation of his old regiment, the 12<sup>th</sup> Regiment Volunteers, this time in K Company at the rank of corporal.

Three months later, during Lee's Maryland Campaign, Corbett participated in the defense of Harpers Ferry, which was captured by Stonewall Jackson on September 15<sup>th</sup>, just days before the nearby battle of Antietam. The surrendered force totaled 12,419 men captured, the largest group of Union prisoners taken during the Civil War. (This total was not exceeded until World War II, when a force of 78,000 U.S. troops [66,000 Filipinos and 12,000 Americans] surrendered to the Japanese at Bataan, Philippines.) In comparison, against Grant, more than 7,000 Confederates had surrendered at Fort Donelson, 29,495 Confederates had surrendered at Vicksburg, and 28,000 Confederates had surrendered at Appomattox.

In the Harpers Ferry surrender, Corbett's weapon was confiscated. He was then paroled and sent home to Manhattan. Here his second tour ended when he was mustered out on October 8<sup>th</sup>, 1862.

During the next eight months, Corbett divided his time between working as a hatter and taking part in street prayer meetings. In these meetings, he espoused that the war was not only necessary but also a just act to preserve the Union and to end slavery and that he was perfectly willing to "shoot men like dogs", even though "before shooting a Rebel he always prayed, God have mercy on your souls".

By June 20<sup>th</sup>, 1863, Corbett had re-enlisted again in the

reconstituted 12<sup>th</sup> Regiment. On that date, the 12<sup>th</sup> Regiment joined the Gettysburg Campaign. It marched to Harrisburg, Pennsylvania and then a bit further north to Marysville in order to block Lee had he continued North instead of concentrating at Gettysburg. Thus, Corbett had only a minimal involvement with that Campaign.

On July 13<sup>th</sup>, 1863, military draft riots broke out in New York City and the 12<sup>th</sup> Regiment and other New York troops were sent home to defend the city from itself. By the time they arrived on July 19<sup>th</sup>, the riots had petered out and, again, they had little to do and thus were mustered out of service again.

On August 4<sup>th</sup>, Corbett re-enlisted for a three-year tour but switched to Company L of the 16<sup>th</sup> New York Cavalry, and was mustered in on September 5<sup>th</sup> in Washington City as a private. The next day, he was promoted to corporal.

The 16<sup>th</sup> was based in northern Virginia near Washington City and spent its time playing a game of cat and mouse with Mosby's Rangers. On February 21<sup>st</sup>, 1864, the 16<sup>th</sup> was surprised in camp by Mosby's troopers and were routed. Corbett survived but 5 days later, guilty of some unrecorded infraction, was busted back down to private.

On June 24<sup>th</sup>, Corbett and 33 others in his company were captured by Mosby and became prisoners of war. Corbett and 13 of his cohorts were sent to Belle Isle, a prisoner of war camp in Richmond. Days later, on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 1864, they were moved to the infamous Andersonville prison near Americus, Georgia. Only a few months old, it was already overcrowded with Union prisoners. It was actually just a massive 16 acre outdoor holding pen with a feeble foul stream running through it that served as a source for drinking water and bathing, and as a sewer.

A total of 14 members of the 16<sup>th</sup> Cavalry were held in the prison over the next four months. Only two, one of whom was Corbett, lasted long enough to make it out alive during a forced move to a new, cleaner, and larger outdoor prison. Although he was terribly wasted and would never fully regain his health, Corbett felt that it was his complete faith in God that had seen him through the ordeal.

In mid-November 1864, Corbett, along with several thousand other Union soldiers was paroled. On November 19<sup>th</sup>, he boarded the same ship, the Baltic, that had taken his original regiment from New York City to Washington City nearly 5 years earlier. He arrived at Fortress Monroe off Hampton Roads, VA on November 24<sup>th</sup> where he was triaged. His condition earned him a spot in the 1,117-bed USA General Hospital Division No. 1, at the US Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD. Although his body was wrecked, his faith remained unshaken.

In December 1864, Corbett was released from the hospital and furloughed back to Manhattan. Despite all he had gone through, on January 28<sup>th</sup>, 1865 Corbett rejoined the 16<sup>th</sup> New York Cavalry, which was still assigned to guarding Washington City. Three days later, Corbett was promoted to sergeant, retroactive to the

beginning of the previous November. With the war winding down, his work was light.



On Good Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, 1865, the night the acclaimed actor John Wilkes Booth assassinated Abraham Lincoln, Sergeant Corbett and his 16<sup>th</sup> New York Cavalry were based across the Potomac in Vienna, Virginia. Saturday morning the regiment was sent out to search the northern Virginia countryside

between Vienna and the Potomac looking for signs of the assassins. The cavalrymen returned empty-handed, as did other searchers.

Secretary of War Stanton as well as Secretary of the Navy, Gideon Welles, wanted Booth captured alive and then imprisoned in irons on the ironclad Montauk, at anchor off the Navy Yard in Washington City.

Based on a tip, on the afternoon of April 24<sup>th</sup>, ten days after Lincoln was assassinated, 26 men of the 16<sup>th</sup> New York Cavalry, including Corbett, were issued orders to

search south in Virginia for Booth and his accomplice, David Harold, instead of north in Maryland, where the hunt had previously been focused. The detachment traced Booth and Harold to the farm of John Garrett on the south side of the Rappahannock River on the road to Port Royal.

The officers in charge coerced Garret's son to divulge Booth's and Harold's location, which turned out to be in the farmyard's tobacco barn. Upon orders to surrender, Booth refused, but Harold was coaxed out and subdued. Kindling was place against the rear wall of the barn and set ablaze to encourage Booth to come out. Soldiers were spaced about ten yards from each other around the barn to ensure that Booth couldn't flee.

Corbett had taken up a position just outside the side of the barn. Due to gaps in the wall's wood planks, in the flickering light of the growing flames, Corbett was able to see Booth raise his rifle toward the open door and the soldiers and officers beyond. Believing that Booth was about to kill again, Corbett took careful aim through the gap at Booth's shoulder and fired.

Corbett later credited Providence for the decision to



*The Killing of Booth, The Assassin -- The Dying Murderer Drawn from the Barn Where He Had Taken Refuge On Garrett's Farm Near Port Royal, VA, April 26, 1865*

shoot, and for the path the bullet took. Booth had been standing only had a few yards from Corbett but either Corbett's aim had slipped or Booth had moved at the moment Corbett pulled the trigger. In any event, the bullet hit Booth at the left base of the skull, shattered the fourth and fifth cervical vertebrae and severing the spinal cord. (Ironically, the wound to the base of Booth's skull was also the general area where Booth had wounded Lincoln.) Upon being hit, Booth collapsed, paralyzed and mortally wounded. He was dragged from the blazing building and moved onto the Garretts' porch, where he expired about three hours later.

None of the first statements of the officers present after Booth's capture and death made any mention of Corbett having violated any orders, nor did they suggest that he should have had to face disciplinary action for shooting Booth.

As the man who killed the man who killed Lincoln, Corbett found himself a sudden celebrity. Newspapers had closely followed the search for Booth, and after his death they tracked the transport of the body, the autopsy, and the burial. (Although the authorities conducted a charade of sinking the body with weights in the Potomac, the remains were secretly buried at the Old Arsenal at Greenleaf's Point to avoid sympathizers using the corpse for propaganda purposes.)

Corbett's celebrity life had its downside. Some condemned him for acting in what they presumed to be haste and against orders to take Booth alive. But no such orders existed. Because of the secretive methods the government used to bury Booth, doubts were raised about whether Corbett had, in fact, shot Booth, doubts that grew over the years.

On August 17<sup>th</sup>, 1865, Corbett's service in the Union Army came to an end. He had signed up on four different occasions and was in uniform just three months short of four years, including nearly five months as a prisoner of war. In the end, he was released because of his health: military doctors recommended he return to New York City to get away from the fetid summer atmosphere in Washington City.

After the war, Corbett continued to combine preaching with hat making. During the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia in 1876, Corbett worked there as a guard.

Corbett finally gave up on his hat-finishing profession. Packing up his few belongings, Corbett headed west to Kansas on September 14<sup>th</sup>, 1878. He had staked a claim near Concordia on an 80 acre piece of rocky and uneven property on which he planned to farm.

Unable to make a go at farming or raising sheep, and with a limited military pension of \$8 a month based upon the permanent disability caused during his confinement at Andersonville Prison, a friend, newly elected as a Kansas state representative, wrangled an honorary post for Corbett as assistant doorkeeper of the Kansas House of Representatives at \$3 per day when congress was in session. Corbett immediately became a tourist attraction.

However, one day Corbett drew a pistol on a fellow attendant at the House of Representatives. Taken before a judge, he was found insane and a danger to others. He was committed to the Kansas State Insane Asylum at the Topeka State Hospital. Ten months later, the judge made the stay permanent. Shortly after that, Corbett escaped from the Asylum on a pony and disappeared forever, never to be seen or heard from again.

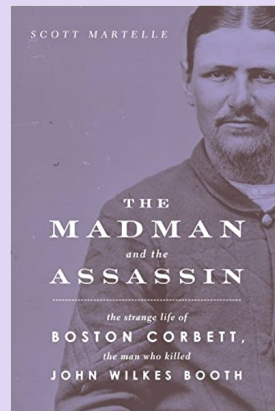
Decades after Corbett disappeared, a theory was advanced that he might have been among the more than four hundred people who perished in the disastrous 1894 Hinckley wildfire in Minnesota. But the theory was based on speculation about the appearance of the name "Thomas Corbett" on the list of the dead, and a second-hand account by someone who said the fire victim had claimed to be Boston Corbett. Historians have debunked this theory as claiming too tenuous a connection to be believed. Thus, the Boston Corbett story ends in mystery.

### *Madman and the Assassin: The Strange Life of Boston Corbett, the Man Who Killed John Wilkes Booth*

Scott Martelle is the author of the book *Madman and the Assassin: The Strange Life of Boston Corbett, the Man Who Killed John Wilkes Booth*, published April 1, 2015 by Chicago Review Press.

A native of Maine, Martelle grew up in Western New York and now lives in Irvine, California as an editorial writer for the Los Angeles Times.

*The Madman and the Assassin* is the first full-length biography of Boston Corbett, a man thrust into the spotlight during a national news event and into an unwelcome transformation from anonymity to fame, and back to obscurity.



Union cavalryman Boston Corbett became a national celebrity after killing John Wilkes Booth, but as details of his odd personality became known, he also became the object of derision. Over time, he was largely forgotten to history, a minor character in the final act of Booth's tumultuous life. And yet Corbett led a fascinating life of his own,

a tragic saga that weaved through the monumental events of nineteenth-century America.

This book is available in hardcover at Quail Ridge Books in Raleigh, NC, as well as at other bookstores. It is available in hardcover, paperback, and Kindle ebook format at Amazon.com. ISBN-10 : 1613730187; ISBN-13 : 978-1613730188.

Errata from the Nov. 2020 *Knapsack* newsletter: a *Did You Know* factoid should have stated that a Civil War soldier had about a **3-in-4** chance of surviving the war (instead of **1-in-4**).

# News of the RCWRT



## Upcoming 2020-21 RCWRT Meetings

Note: until further notice, due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, RCWRT meetings will be held remotely via use of Zoom software.

Date	Speaker	Topic
Dec. 14, 2020	Michael Brantley	Galvanized - The Odyssey of a Reluctant Carolina Confederate
Jan. 11, 2021	Leonard Fullenkamp	Gen. Ulysses S. Grant in the Western Theater
Feb. 8, 2021	Curt Fields	Gen. Ulysses S. Grant - role playing/reenactment

### Did You Know?

- At the start of the Civil War, the value of all manufactured goods produced in all the Confederate states added up to less than one-fourth of those produced in New York State alone.
- Missouri sent 39 regiments to fight in the siege of Vicksburg, Mississippi — 17 to the Confederacy and 22 to the Union.
- George Pickett's doomed infantry charge at Gettysburg was the first time he took his division into combat.
- Not fond of ceremonies or military music, Ulysses S. Grant said he could only recognize two tunes. "One was Yankee Doodle, the other one wasn't."
- Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr., future chief Justice, was wounded three times during the Civil War — in the chest at Ball's Bluff, in the back at Antietam and in the heel at Chancellorsville.
- By the end of the war, Unionists from every state except South Carolina had sent regiments to fight for the North.



The American Battlefield Trust doesn't just acquire historic land. It also seeks to restore these battlefields to their wartime condition. Civil War battlefields at three locations are in need of your support toward restoration. The goal is to raise \$153,000. The battlefields include Cedar Creek, South Mountain, and First Deep Bottom, just outside Richmond. For more information, go to <https://www.battlefields.org/give/save-battlefields/help-restore-battlefields>.

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 6:30 pm, at the N.C. Museum of History (located at 5 Edenton Street, across from the State Capitol). The programs begin at 7:00 p.m. Check the RCWRT website (<http://www.raleighcwrt.org>) for program dates and timing.

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.



### The Knapsack

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(November 2020 Circulation: 293)

#### Staff

Bob Graesser, Editor

#### Contributors

Griff Bartlett

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

### RCWRT Board of Directors (2020-22)

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

Paying Memberships / Total Members: 75 / 89

New members during November: None.



In Smithsonian Magazine by L. Boissoneault: "Appearing on 1-3-1863 in Harper's Weekly is Thomas Nast's 1<sup>st</sup> depiction of Santa Clause. Santa is distributing presents in a Union Army camp. Lest any reader question Santa's allegiance in the Civil War, he wears a jacket patterned with stars and pants colored in stripes. In his hands, he holds a puppet toy with a rope around its neck, its features like those of Confed. president Jefferson Davis."

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