

# ***The Knapsack***

***Raleigh Civil War Round Table***

***The same rain falls on both friend and foe.***

***May 8, 2017***  
***Our 195th Meeting***



***Volume 17***  
***Number 5***

<http://www.raleighcwrt.org>

## **May 8 Event Features Michael Hardy On the Capitals of the Confederacy**

The Raleigh Civil War Round Table's May 2017 meeting will feature a talk by award-winning author and historian Michael C. Hardy.



Michael is a native of Apopka, Fla., and graduated from the University of Alabama. He was first captivated by the Civil War in the early 1980s, when an uncle brought him to a reenactment and he was allowed to carry a flag. He became very involved in re-enacting,

through which he gained a deeper understanding of the events, tactics, firearms, equipment and clothing of the Civil War period.

In 1995, Michael moved with his wife to Boone, N.C., where he researched North Carolina units. His book on the 37th N.C. Troops, released in 2003, was the result of countless hours of research at the Appalachian State library. Other books he authored include the history of the battle of Hanover Court House, Virginia (2006), the 58th N.C. Troops (2010), Civil War Charlotte (2012) and Watauga County, North Carolina, in the Civil War (2013).

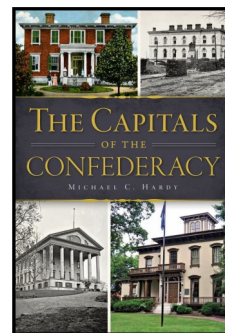
Michael also is the author of numerous articles that have been published in *Civil War Times*, *America's Civil War*, *Gettysburg Magazine*, *Tar Heel Junior Historians*, *Confederate Veteran*, and *Camp Chase Gazette*. In 2010, he was named the North Carolina Historian of the Year.

Michael's latest work is a history of the Branch-Lane Brigade, published by Savis Batie, and is scheduled to be released in December. His talk at the RCWRT's May 8 meeting will be based on a book published in 2015, *The Capitals of the Confederacy*.

Michael will have copies of his books available for purchase at our May 2017 event and will be happy to sign them.

### **~ Confederate Capitals ~**

Every nation, no matter how brief its lifespan, has a capital. The Confederate States of America, over the course of four years had five.



Montgomery, Ala., Richmond, Va., Danville, Va., Greensboro, N.C., and Charlotte, N.C., served as Confederate capitals. While some of these sites are commemorated with impressive monuments and museums, others provide scant evidence of their moment in the history of the Civil War.



# Alabama

The States During the Civil War

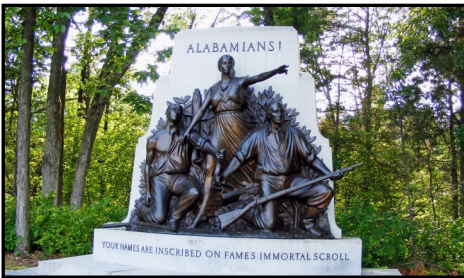


## The 'Yellowhammer State'

Alabama entered the Union in 1819, the 22nd state to ratify the U.S. Constitution. The "Yellowhammer State" seceded Jan. 11, 1861, the fourth Southern state to do so, despite some resistance to leaving the Union in the northern part of the state. Alabama was an important source of troops and material to the Southern cause. Montgomery served as the first Confederate capital, but logistics, accommodations and the climate led to the government relocation to Richmond in May 1861.

In 1860, Alabama had a population of 964,201. Of that total, 435,080, or nearly half, were slaves. The state's economy was primarily agricultural, but very little of its cotton could be sold during the Civil War due to the Federal blockade.

At least 75,000 men from the Yellowhammer State served in the Confederate forces. Approximately 3,000 white and more than 8,000 black men from the state fought for the Union cause.



Alabama Monument, Gettysburg

### 1860 Election Results:

John Breckenridge (Dem)	48,669 (54.0%)
John Bell (Union)	27,835 (30.9%)
Stephen Douglas (Dem)	13,618 (15.1%)

### Secession Vote (1/11/61 Convention):

For	61
Against	39

### Governors:

Andrew B. Moore (Dem)	Dec. 1, 1857 – Dec. 2, 1861
John Gill Shorter (Dem)	Dec. 2, 1861 – Dec. 1, 1863
Thomas H. Watts (Dem)	Dec. 1, 1863 – May 1, 1865

## 'Raccoon Roughs'

Alabama provided more than 60 infantry regiments, as well as dozens of cavalry and artillery units to the Confederate cause. Troops from the state were nicknamed by other soldiers "Yellowhammers" after brilliantly decorated uniforms worn by a cavalry unit from Huntsville.



Pvt. Alldredge, Co. A, 48th Alabama

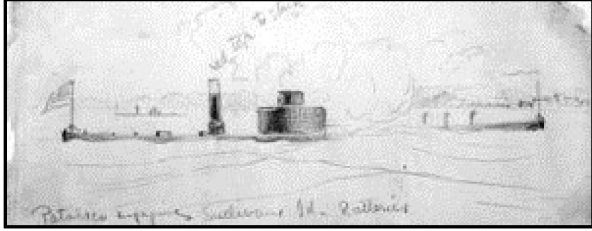
Among the notable units from Alabama was the 6th Infantry Regiment, units of which were nicknamed "the Raccoon Roughs" due to their attire. The 6th had a prominent role at Seven Pines, among other battles, and had a third of its men killed during the war. Other Alabama units of note included the 1st Battalion and 16th Regiment, which suffered heavy casualties at Chickamauga, and the 33rd Infantry Regiment, which had major losses at Perryville, Ky.

Although Alabama did not see many significant land battles during the Civil War, it was the scene of the largest naval engagement of the war, with the fight at Mobile Bay in August 1864. Land battles in the state included Athens, Decatur, Ebenezer Church, Selma, and Munford.

Notable individuals from the state included Admiral Raphael Semmes who captained the CSS *Alabama*, the most successful commerce raider in history. LeRoy Walker, the first Confederate Secretary of War, Josiah Gorgas, chief of ordnance, as well as generals Archibald Gracie, Danville Leadbetter, John Tyler Morgan, Philip Roddey and Robert Rodes were among those from Alabama, and John Brown Gordon and Pete Longstreet had ties to the state as well.

## The Union's Last Ironclad Sailor

On April 19, 1945 — less than three weeks before the end of World War II in Europe — *The New York Times* carried an article with the headline "Veteran of Monitor, 101, Dies."



The news article, datelined the previous day from Vineland, N.J., began "Andrew Fenton, who served on the iron-clad Monitor during the Civil War, died today in the Soldiers Home here." However, Fenton actually served on the USS *Patapsco*, an ironclad monitor commissioned in January 1863, according to Lt. Col. (USA Ret.) Steve Glazer.

Glazer's full, unedited story about Fenton's ironclad service is available from our website at <http://www.raleighcwr.org/last-union-sailor>.

## Upcoming Events

**May 20.** Bentonville Battlefield near Four Oaks, N.C., commemorates the 156th anniversary of North Carolina's secession. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sat. Re-enactors portray green recruits getting ready for their first experience of army life. Infantry and artillery demonstrations will be held throughout both days, as these "new soldiers" prepare for war. Visitors are encouraged to participate by filling out an enlistment form and joining in the drills. For more, see <http://www.nchistoricsites.org/bentonvi/bentonvi.htm> or call (910) 594-0789.

**May 27-28.** Bennett Place Historical Site in Durham, N.C., presents a "Memorial Day Timeline Event." The program includes living historians representing American soldiers throughout our history. Free. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday. For details, go to <http://www.nchistoricsites.org/bennett/bennett.htm> or telephone (919) 383-4345.

**June 10.** The CSS *Neuse* Civil War Interpretive Center in Kinston, N.C., presents a symposium on the homefront. Talks by William Brown, Michelle Lanier, Dr. Angela Robbins, and Dr. Jaime Martinez. \$15 (\$10 for teachers and students). 9:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. For more, telephone Rachel Kennedy at (252) 526-9600, ext. 223 or email her at [Rachel.kennedy@ncdcr.gov](mailto:Rachel.kennedy@ncdcr.gov).

## WAY Down South in Dixie!

Last month, hundreds of people celebrated their Confederate heritage at the Festa Confederada, an annual event held in Brazil's southeastern Sao Paulo state.



After the Civil War ended, thousands of former Confederate soldiers and family members left the United States and relocated in Brazil, a close ally of the Confederacy, as Reconstruction altered Dixie. Most of them would eventually return to the United States, but dozens stayed in Brazil. Their legacy lives on through their descendants and the yearly festival.

## Preservation News

The Civil War Trust's campaign to preserve key ground at three Virginia battlefields is still active.



The targeted property includes 333 acres at Cedar Mountain where an August 1862 battle was fought, as well as land associated with the June 1862 battle of Gaines' Mill and the site of Fletcher's Redoubt at Cold Harbor.

The Trust's goal in this campaign is to raise \$204,915. Donations are matched at a 10.48:1 rate!

For details, go to <http://www.civilwar.org/battlefields/cedarmountain/3-virginia-battlefields-2016>.

# News of the RCWRT



## Upcoming RCWRT Meetings

**June:** Symposium on Reconstruction

**July:** John Peacock, NC in the Maryland Campaign

**August:** TBA

**September:** Randy Sauls, Battle of Goldsboro Bridge

**October:** Debbie Blake, Rose O'Neal Greenhow

**November:** Jeff Bockert, blockade runners

## A Great Trip!

On April 22, RCWRT members took a road trip to Sailor's Creek, Appomattox, High Bridge, and the nearby American Civil War/Museum of the Confederacy in Virginia.



In addition to touring the historical sites, the group viewed Robert E. Lee's death mask, the uniform and equipment of Maj. Gen. Patrick R. Cleburne (CSA), and other unique and interesting artifacts. Visit the Raleigh Civil War Roundtable's Facebook page for more photos of the trip. Future road trips to Fredericksburg and Hampton Roads are planned...stay tuned!

## New Member!

The RCWRT welcomes our newest member, Steven Parker of Durham. If you know of someone with an interest in the Civil War, bring them to our next meeting and encourage them to join!



## The Knapsack

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### RCWRT Score Card

Members 138

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

We meet on the second Monday of most months at 7:00 pm, at the N.C. Museum of History (located at 5 Edenton Street, across from the State Capitol). Members and guests are encouraged to meet for supper at K&W Cafeteria, 511 Woodburn Rd., in Cameron Village before the meeting, at 5:15 pm.

Annual membership dues are \$30 (individual and family) and \$10 for teachers. Students are free. Half-year memberships are available March through May for \$20.