

The Knapsack

The Same Rain Falls On Both Friend and Foe.

June 12, 2006
Our 64th Meeting

Your Raleigh
CWRT Newsletter

Volume 6
Number 6

Nora Brooks returns to RCWRT as Widow Jackson



Miss Millie Childe Lee

June 12 RCWRT meeting: One Special Program Two Special Events

During our May 2005 meeting Nora Brooks, of Monroe, entertained us as Miss Millie Lee, the youngest daughter of Robert E. Lee.

On June 12, she returns as Mrs. Thomas Jonathan Jackson, widow of Stonewall Jackson. Nora is a most entertaining re-enactor who will enlighten us about both Stonewall and his wife.

In addition to this great program, RCWRT members and guests will enjoy a "dutch treat" of hot dogs and hamburgers on the plaza in front of the museum prior to the meeting.

We will serve hot dogs from Snoopy's and hamburgers from the Char-Grill. The menu, costs, and directions for ordering are found on page 7.

Also, the Museum Gift Shop will be open from 5:15 to 7:00 for our members to shop. In addition to items for yourself, think birthdays and Christmas presents!

Please make a special effort to attend this special meeting and program. Even "non-CW spouses" would enjoy this program. Please bring them too.

Mrs. Thomas Jonathan Jackson



Anna & Julia

The performance you are about to experience is a presentation of the life of Stonewall Jackson told through the heart of his wife, Mary Anna Morrison Jackson. It is done in first-person and attempts to transport you back to the 19th century and the years just after the war.

Anna, as she was called, married the great Confederate general in 1857 and shared his life until his death in 1863. Mrs. Jackson is visiting today from the year 1889. She will share with the audience her memories of growing up as the child of a great Presbyterian minister, Robert Hall Morrison, as well as relate the experiences of her courtship and marriage to one of the most famous men of the age.

Mrs. Jackson will welcome questions about her famous husband and their life together in Lexington, her life since his death, and the demise of the Confederacy. Please limit your questions to the period before 1889.

After the presentation, Nora will return to answer any other questions you may have concerning the social, military, and political perspectives of this period of history.

Because Mrs. Jackson has no knowledge of microphones, she will not use one. Therefore, everyone is requested to sit in the first fifteen rows.

Ms. Nora Marie Brooks (aka)

Mrs. Thomas J. Jackson & Miss Millie Childe Lee

Born in Monroe, NC (Union County)

Attended:

Piedmont High School
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
BS in Administration of Criminal Justice and Sociology
University of North Carolina at Charlotte
Teacher Certification

Family:

mother, father, 2 sisters, 1 brother,
3 nieces, and 4 nephews

Employed by Union County Public Schools
Teaches at Sun Valley High School (19 years)

Courses taught:

Honors and Advanced Placement United States History
Civil War History
Revolutionary War History

Personal Interests:

history in general, but particularly the 1861 – 1865 time period
foreign and domestic travel
anything to do with the State of Virginia

Member of the Col. Francis Marion Parker Civilian Alliance attached to the 30th North Carolina Troops Living History re-enactor organization

Awards:

Teacher of the Year at Sun Valley: 1992
The Jefferson Davis Medal for promotion and preservation of Southern history and heritage awarded by the NC Division of the United Daughters of the Confederacy
The Zebulon Vance Award 1998

Alumni of the Civil War Institute,
Gettysburg College (10 years)

Beauvoir's construction methods are now in plain sight

BILOXI - Beauvoir, the retirement home of Confederate President Jefferson Davis, survived 21 hurricanes before Katrina. Sturdy construction also made it a Katrina survivor, but the mid-19th century structure is badly battered and Katrina demolished other historic buildings on the 56-acre grounds. Ten students from the Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD) this week are drawing the home's exposed framework, photographing for future study, counting beams and measuring.

"As terrible as things are, we have a rare opportunity to see exposed areas in Beauvoir House, to see how it was constructed," said Beauvoir executive director Patrick Hotard. "For example, we have never seen the wall studs. Now it's all being documented."

One trip organizer, Adrián Pérez, a SCAD architectural student from Honduras, believes his work is a rare chance to examine early craftsmanship: "When you think of how many hurricanes this withstood, you realize how well-crafted it is, and you realize there are things that could be done differently today."

The living space of Beauvoir was raised high, with the bottom "floor" designed as surge flow-through, says Beauvoir curator Richard Flowers. But in the 20th century, the flow-through was walled in for space.

When Beauvoir is renovated, the original flow-through ideas will likely be reinstated. Because Beauvoir's large porches are gone, passersby have thought the house too damaged to restore, but inside painted frescoes remain and the heart-of-pine floor is not buckled.

"Everything is so exposed we can see how things are connected to make this house. It's impressive," said architecture student Kellie Fassbender from Mobile.

Beauvoir was built as a summer home in 1856 and Davis moved there 20 years later. In 1903 the estate became home to Confederate veterans, and after that the owner, Mississippi Sons of Confederate Veterans, converted it to a museum.

SCAD students are also sifting through debris to find historic pieces from the now-gone Confederate Soldiers' Museum, library pavilions or main house. The pieces range from giant cypress beams to small

balustrades.

"We want to identify as much as we can so they can be used in rebuilding," said Margaret Emanuel of Gaithersburg, Md., an interior design student. "Things like square nails help identify if it is an old or new piece."

*Kat Bergeron, Sun Herald
Submitted by Andrew Ballard*

The Return of Eric Wittenberg

Civil War enthusiasts who might occasionally tire of hearing the same major battles of the war hashed and re-hashed by different speakers might well have found it refreshing to hear Eric Wittenberg discuss the more obscure Battle of Monroe's Crossroads at the RCWRT's May meeting.

Members and guests in attendance were treated to a learned discussion of the importance of this rather unknown battle fought very late in the war. Led by Wade Hampton, the Confederate cavalry attacked elements of Judson Kilpatrick's Union cavalry, initially routing Kilpatrick himself, along with many of his troops. Although by the end of the struggle, Kilpatrick and his troops had retaken the battlefield, the delaying action provided time for Confederate General William J. Hardee to successfully evacuate his troops from the Fayetteville area, and for General Joseph E. Johnson to better position his troops.

Viewed in this light, the battle of Monroe's Crossroads could be considered something of a Confederate success in that it clearly disrupted Sherman's deployment of troops during his ongoing march into North Carolina. In a nod to local enthusiasts who are familiar with the battle of Bentonville, Mr. Wittenberg made the credible observation that without the action at Monroe's Crossroads, the historical record at Bentonville would likely be much different.

While the discussion of the action surrounding the battle of Monroe's Crossroads was both interesting and informative in its own right, it seems that Mr. Wittenberg's personal belief in (and previous talk on) Wade Hampton's role as the "TRUE Wizard of the Saddle" continues to stimulate the most serious animated discussion and responses following his visits.

A tip of the RCWRT cap to Mr. Wittenberg for all the lively talk and debate that his discussions engender.

Christening of the *USS Monitor* Replica on June 11

Get out the bubbly. On June 11, at 2 P.M., The Mariners' Museum and its partners at the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration, Northrop Grumman, and the U.S. Navy will christen the full-scale replica of the *USS Monitor*. This impressive model serves as an icon to the 63,500-square-foot *USS Monitor* Center opening March 9, 2007. Keynote speaker and famed author Clive Cussler will kick off the day by providing a book signing within the Museum beginning at 12 P.M. Built using scrap steel donated by the U.S. Navy, the *USS Monitor* replica was constructed by the employees from Northrop Grumman and students of its Apprentice School, who have spent hundreds of hours piecing together this landmark for the *USS Monitor* Center, which will prove to be one of the premier Civil War attractions in the country. When the Center opens, visitors will be able to walk the deck of the replica Union ironclad and imagine what life was like 145 years ago when the *Monitor* forever changed history. The *Monitor* Center is located at the Mariners' Museum in Newport News, VA.

For more information go to www.mariner.org or www.monitorcenter.org.

Submitted by Chris Grimes

Reader's Corner Book Reviews by Members

Battle of Monroe's Crossroads and the Civil War's Last Campaign by Eric Wittenberg

Eric Wittenberg continues to prove he is the leading Civil War cavalry historian of all times. He continues to get better and better and this book is a masterpiece. Eric has taken a relatively unknown battle and brought it alive with great research that resulted in a very readable book. Don't treat this book as another battle story that is difficult to understand because of detailed battle tactics. It is very informative and a joy to read. It will appeal to all CW readers as it covers battle tactics, human interest stories, personalities of the participants, and the military significance of the battle.

The battlefield is located on the Ft Bragg military installation and is not available to the public. Therefore, most of you will never have the opportunity to visit the site. Eric's description of the terrain and the twenty-nine excellent maps gives you such a vivid picture that little is left to your imagination. Many illustrations will show you pictures of the participants and further help you to understand the area.

The book begins at the end of the story when Kilpatrick and Hampton have a heated confrontation outside the Bennett House during the surrender proceedings. He gives the reader a clear description of the commanders at Monroe's Crossroads and the characteristics of each cavalry force including their strengths and weaknesses. The story then moves to the opposing forces entering North Carolina and continues cross country to the battlefield. The battle is then fought and continues until the forces occupy Fayetteville and move north over the Cape Fear River.

Weather conditions, terrain features, command decisions, and troop control all play an important role in the outcome of this see-saw battle. Who won? How did the battle's outcome affect the future operations of both armies? How did Hampton and Kilpatrick perform as commanders? Read the book!!!

The last chapter summarizes the book and gives a good later life story of the participants. The appendices are not just filler material but an order of battle and a detailed list of the battle casualties plus two great human-interest stories. One addresses who was the woman in Kilpatrick's headquarters (Monroe House) and the last one deals with the correct rank of Confederate General "Fighting" Joe Wheeler. The answers to these two questions may surprise you as they did me.

Don't get caught with your pants down as Kilpatrick did early on the morning of Hampton's surprise attack. Buy the book, go to your favorite beach, take lots of your favorite beverage, and spend a glorious weekend of great reading of **The Battle of Monroe's Crossroads and the Civil War's Final Campaign**. Leave all your non-civil war friends, relatives, and spouses at home. You will neither have the time nor interest in entertaining them.

Harold Pearman

Each month (as space permits), our members and others will review books which they have read. All members are encouraged to submit their reviews to the Editor.

May 20, 1861 ~ An Important Day for North Carolina

May 20, 2006 ~ A Busy Day for RCWRT Members

May 20, 1861 was North Carolina's secession date and May 20, 2006 was a very busy day for members of the RCWRT. On the latter day, at least 20 members took part in various CW events, however, none of which related to Secession Day.

David Waller leads Hollywood Cemetery & Richmond Area Tour



Photo by David Waller

On May 20, six members of the Round Table and their guests toured Richmond's famed Hollywood Cemetery and surrounding battlefields and defenses. Grave hunter David Waller guided Ron Perry and his wife Linda, Debbie Lee, Doug Wise, and Andrew Ballard on the trip.

The group started its tour at Drewry's Bluff, overlooking the James River. In May, 1862, prior to the Seven Days' battles, Confederate marines, naval personnel, and army troops drove off five Union ships including the ironclad *USS Monitor*. The group was well-informed by naval reenactors stationed at the fort, including Chris Grimes, who is scheduled to provide our Round Table with a program in the coming months.

At Hollywood Cemetery, the group was led by David to the resting places of former generals, presidents, and other notables. Among the graves visited were those of Confederate President Jefferson Davis, U.S. Presidents Monroe and Tyler, Generals J.E.B. Stuart and Fitzhugh Lee, and Hunter McGuire, Jackson's staff surgeon. In addition to our group, David aided several other visitors to the cemetery in finding graves they sought.

Following the cemetery tour, the group visited Gaines Mill and Malvern Hill, two pivotal engagements in the Seven Days' Battles, a series of attacks launched against George McClellan in 1862 by Robert E. Lee after assuming command of the Confederate army. Visiting those sites provided members of the group a telling view of the obstacles facing Confederate assaults against Union defensive positions and artillery.

The group also visited the Cold Harbor battlefield, site of an engagement in the Union's 1864 overland campaign. At Cold Harbor, excellently well-preserved entrenchments gave the group a good perspective on the massive,

ill-conceived assaults launched by Union troops under Grant.

Overall, the group was blessed with an incredibly well-informed tour guide in David Waller, wonderful weather, and good company.

Andrew Ballard

National Park Service Tour of Petersburg's Fortifications



Jim, Dave, & Griff at Drewry's Bluff

May 20, 2006 was an absolutely beautiful day in Virginia with perfect conditions to enjoy the annual Spring Tour of the Petersburg Campaign, sponsored by the Petersburg Park Service. This year the event, which was led by National Park Service Ranger Randy Watkins, centered predominately on the construction of fortifications used by both the Confederate and Union Armies during the 1864-65 campaign. This played well with those RCWRT members who attended and have been involved with the Raleigh Defenses Project, and added a unique dimension to our efforts over the last several months. For those of you who could not attend, you missed an extremely informative day and the opportunity to learn a great deal about why and how the armies did what they did when involved in siege warfare.

We began the tour where Grant began his campaign – at City Point (his Headquarters), and roughly followed events around the city as they unfolded, focusing on the batteries, forts,

and redoubts including some remarkably well-preserved ones on the Bermuda Hundred, Drewry's Bluff, Howlett's Line, Deep Bottom, Fisher, Gregg, Wadsworth and McConihie to name a few. There were over 110 miles of entrenchments dug around Petersburg by early 1865, not counting untold miles constructed by soldiers acting on their own in acts of self-preservation. By that time trench lines sliced through the once lush woods and rolling farm fields, forever changing the land, and giving us today a fascinating look at life of the armies at this stage of the war.

Scientifically, it is remarkable how well engineered and customized these fortifications were, with incredible forethought given to the type of enemy force and munitions that they were expected to face. It is easy to see why a well-constructed fort or defensive position was rarely assaulted, given the overwhelming advantage to those who fought behind dirt and wood.

Ranger Randy Watkins was an extremely knowledgeable historian on events for this period of Petersburg and was well-equipped with facts and background information to address the many questions that were posed by the tour group of about twenty participants, including Griff Bartlett, Jim Shue, and Dave Downing of the RCWRT. He gave us a full and comprehensive day, but even without an informed guide, the many miles of works still available for exploration make a day trip on your own to the Petersburg defenses well worth going.

David Downing

RCWRT members lead NC Military Historical Society meeting

The annual meeting of the NCMHS featured four excellent speakers discussing various CW topics. Nine RCWRT members attended this meeting. At least five of our members are also members of the NCMHS and many of them worked during this event including: Sion Harrington, President; Wayne Campbell, Tom Alexander and Jim Hill.



Round Table's Corner News of the RCWRT

Three New Members

The RCWRT welcomes our three newest members: Pat Mims (wife of Dwight), Bob Milbourne, and Dennis Barbour (all of Raleigh). This brings our total membership to 104.

Volunteers Needed

For the fourth year in a row, the RCWRT will have a recruiting booth at the Fourth of July Celebration at the Capitol. If you are interested in helping with this booth (about 4 hours), please contact President Debbie.

RCWRT Travelers

RCWRT members and guests frequently travel as a group to CW locations and other CW group meetings to hear additional speakers. During May, RCWRT members and guests attended the following:

MOSB Ladies Night	20
NPS Fortifications of Petersburg	4
Hollywood Cemetery & Blandford Church	6
NC Military Historical Society program	9

Future Programs & Events

June 12	Nora Brooks: Widow Jackson
July 10	Chris Grimes: <i>USS Alligator</i>
Aug. 14	RCWRT member Horace Mewborn: Great Beefsteak Raid
Sept. 11	Annual picnic
Sept. 29-Oct. 1	Lexington Trip
Oct. 9	Andrew Dupstadt: CW Navy Uniforms
Nov. 13	TBA
Dec. 11	Christmas Party

"Picnic on the Plaza" menu and ordering instructions

(see article on Page 1)

Snoopy's:

Hot Dog	2.10
Hot Dog & Fries Combo	3.75

Char-Grill:

1/4lb. Hamburger Steak Jr & Fries Combo	3.85
1/2lb. Hamburger Steak & Fries Combo	5.87

Soft drinks (assorted)	.50
Chips	no charge
Desserts	no charge

For those with dietary needs or others failing to timely order, brown baggers are welcome to come and eat with the group. In case of rain, we will eat inside.

It will be NECESSARY to place your order with Bob Farrell PRIOR to June 11. All food will be delivered in bulk and condiments will be provided to you. Everything will be picnic simple. Please plan to arrive on the mall about 5:15 and the food will arrive at 5:30. For simplicity, plan to pay by check. No cash will be on hand.

For food orders contact Bob Farrell (not later than Saturday) at cwan2@aol.com or 788-0013.

Sympathy

Our members extend our deepest sympathy to Lee Sherrill upon the passing of his wife, Lynn, on May 18, 2006.

4th Quarter Memberships

New members joining the RCWRT during June, July, and August pay annual dues of \$25 which includes membership for the entire next year ~ to September 1, 2007. (Three free months!)

**We will not have supper
at BBQandRibs in June!**

The Knapsack

Raleigh CWRT Newsletter

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Beauvoir, 3-2-06 Photo by Jim Brenner

RCWRT Score Card

New Members	3
Total Membership	105

May 2006 Attendance

Supper	21
Meeting	56
Fellowship	14

Knapsack Circulation

USPS mailing	117
Email distribution	183
Total Distribution	300

Raleigh Civil War Round Table (Founded March 12, 2001)

The Raleigh Civil War Round Table meets monthly on the 2nd Monday at 7:00 pm, (except January) at the NC History Museum, located at the corner of Edenton and Wilmington Streets, across the street from the Capitol. Members and guests are encouraged to meet for supper at BBQandRibs located at 512 St. Mary's Street at 5:15 and for further discussion at The Mellow Mushroom (corner of Glenwood Ave and Peace Street) immediately after the meeting. Annual membership dues are \$25 (individual and family) and \$15 for students. (Half year memberships are available March through August for \$15.)

www.raleighcwrt.org is the official website and members are encouraged to submit items of interest (including links to other websites) to the Web Master.

The Knapsack is the official newsletter of the Raleigh CWRT and is published nine days before each meeting. Members are encouraged to submit interesting articles and items to the Editor.

In the Campfire's Light is located on the website each month and honors a member's CW ancestor, regiment, re-enactment group, etc. Cost is \$10 per month. Contact the Web Master.

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