

The Knapsack

Raleigh Civil War Round Table

The same rain falls on both friend and foe.

February 13, 2012
Our 132nd Meeting



Volume 12
Number 2

LeRae Umfleet to Speak at February 13 Meeting On North Carolina Women on the Home Front

Our February speaker, LeRae Umfleet, joined the N.C. Department of Cultural Resources in 2003 as a research historian at the state Office of Archives and History.

While in the archives office, LeRae completed an extensive report on the 1898 Wilmington race riot, which became the basis for her book, *A Day of Blood: The 1898 Wilmington Race Riot*.



She was later promoted to serve as the chief of collections management for the agency. In that capacity, she manages the collection, storage, and exhibit of objects in the state agency's custody.

Throughout her career in public history, LeRae has worked with numerous sites in a variety of capacities including the N.C. State Archives, the Joel Lane Museum House in Raleigh, Historic Hope Plantation in Windsor, the North Carolina Collection in Chapel Hill, and the Davis Library in Chapel Hill.

LeRae has served on the board of directors for the North Carolina Museums Council, the Bertie County Arts Council, the Raleigh Heritage Trail, and the Historic Stagville Foundation.

Originally from Bath, N.C., LeRae graduated from UNC-Chapel Hill in 1991 with a bachelor's degree in history. She then attended the archival management program at N.C. State University and transferred to East Carolina University where she received her master's degree in 1998.

LeRae is married and has two children. Her Feb. 13 presentation to the Raleigh Civil War Round Table will be on North Carolina women on the home front.

~ The Home Front ~

During the Civil War, women faced many significant struggles, as most men were away serving in the military and the conflict created economic hardships.



Soldiers' wives became the sole providers for their families and often had to take care of family farms.

Southern women were impacted by the Northern blockade and other economic conditions stemming from the war. Inflation and increasing shortages of food and other commodities added to the struggles faced by women on the home front.

More information about women on the home front in North Carolina during the Civil War is available from the N.C. Museum of History's website at http://www.ncmuseumofhistory.org/exhibits/civilwar/about_section4a.html#.



The Sesquicentennial



February 1862

Union Victory at Fort Donelson

Union forces saw their first major victory since the Civil War began with their capture of Fort Donelson in Tennessee.

The battle of Fort Donelson was fought from Feb. 11 to Feb. 16, 1862, a few days after nearby Fort Henry was captured.

Following probing attacks by Federal ground forces led by Brig. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant, navy gunboats bombarded the fort on Feb. 14, but were forced to withdraw after taking damage from the fort's guns.



The Storming of Fort Donelson

The following day, with the fort surrounded, the Confederate defenders under Brig. Gen. John B. Floyd launched a surprise attack against the Union forces. However, after a Union counterattack, Floyd ordered his troops back to the fort.

On the morning of Feb. 16, the new Confederate commander, Brig. Gen. Simon Bolivar Buckner asked Grant for terms. Grant replied that "no terms except unconditional and immediate surrender can be accepted." Buckner surrendered and Grant's success gained him fame.

Willie Lincoln Dies

William Wallace "Willie" Lincoln, the President's third son, died on Feb. 20, 1862, at the age of 11.



The most likely cause of Willie's death is said to be typhoid fever that he contracted from contaminated drinking water. Both the president and his wife, Mary, were deeply affected by the loss of their son.

Battle Hymn of Republic

Julia Ward Howe's famous and popular patriotic song, "The Battle Hymn of the Republic," was first published in the February 1862 edition of *The Atlantic Monthly*.



Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of
the Lord:
He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes
of wrath are stored;
He hath loosed the fateful lightning of His terrible
swift sword:
His truth is marching on.
(Chorus)
Glory, glory, hallelujah!
Glory, glory, hallelujah!
Glory, glory, hallelujah!
His truth is marching on.

Civil War Newspapers Online

Virginia Tech recently launched its American Civil War Newspapers website.



Users can perform keyword searches and access period newspaper articles. Currently, the Macon (Ga.) *Daily Telegraph* has been indexed from July 1860 to June 1865, but the university seeks to eventually include “a representative group” of such journals that students and researchers can access. Newspapers from both the North and South, urban areas and small towns, East and West, and with differing political views are planned for inclusion.

The online research tool is available at <https://dcr.emd.vt.edu/vital/access/manager/Index>.

A Better View of *Hunley*

The legendary Civil War submarine, *H.L. Hunley*, is fully visible to the public for the first time since 1864.



The *Hunley*

A few weeks ago, conservators in Charleston, S.C., removed the metal truss that was used to lift the sub from the ocean when it was recovered in 2000. The *Hunley* now is completely visible for the first time since Feb. 17, 1864, when she went down after sinking the *USS Housatonic*. Fresh water has been used to stabilize the sub until she is soaked in a chemical bath scientists will use to conserve her.

Upcoming Events

February 13: At 11 am, free program at N.C. Museum of History about a slave’s escape from a plantation in Durham. For more information, call Michelle Lanier at (919) 477-7103 or see <http://www.ncculture.com>.

February 18-19: The Fort Anderson Historic Site near Winnabow, N.C., commemorates the 147th anniversary of the surrender of the fort. For details, call (910) 371-6613 or go to <http://www.nchistoricsites.org/brunswic/brunswic.htm>.

February 25: From 2 pm until 4 pm, Duke Homestead in Durham provides a genealogy workshop on Civil War Ancestors. For more information, telephone (919) 477-5498 or visit <http://www.ibiblio.org/dukehome>.

February 26: The New Bern-Craven County Library presents “Forged in Battle: The Civil War Alliance of Black Soldiers and Their White Officers.” Free event begins at 3 pm. For more information, call (252) 638-7813 or see <http://newbern.cpclub.org/ltai/civilwar.htm>.

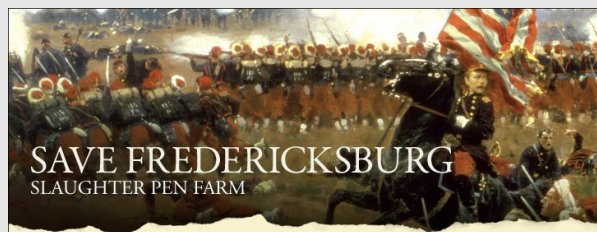
March 3: Longwood University in Farmville, Va., hosts its annual free Civil War seminar. This year’s topic is “1862: A Year of Battles” and features John Quarstein, John Hennessy, Thomas Clemens, Thomas McGrath, and Frank O’Reilly. More information is available from Dr. David Coles at (434) 395-2220 or Patrick Schroeder at (434) 352-8987, ext. 32, or <http://www.nps.gov/apco>.

Preservation News

The Civil War Trust continues to need financial support of its five-year effort to preserve the Slaughter Pen Farm section of the Fredericksburg, Va., battlefield.

The Trust entered into an agreement to acquire the important ground, covering 208 acres, in 2006. It was the single most expensive private battlefield preservation effort in American history.

Of the \$12 million needed to complete its effort, the Trust has raised \$7 million.



For more on the Trust’s preservation activities, see <http://www.civilwar.org/land-preservation>.

News of the RCWRT



The 2012 T. Harry Gatton Award

The recipient of the RCWRT's 2012 T. Harry Gatton Award is Leslie Rivers. The award was presented at the Round Table's Ed Bearss event in January.



Steve Savia and Leslie Rivers
(photo by Frederick Walton)

Leslie has taught history in both high schools and middle schools, and currently teaches at Anson Middle School. She also has worked diligently to update the historical records of Anson and Union counties. She is a member of a number of organizations and an inspiring educator.

Since 1993, Leslie has been associated with the North Carolina Museum of History as a sponsor of history clubs. Under her direction, her student teams have won several awards through the museum. In 2007 and 2010, films she made with students related to the Civil War in Anson and Union counties won a state history competition and were shown at the museum throughout the following year. Her students also won a state history competition for photographs they took.

Leslie earned her bachelor's degree in history and her masters in school administration from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

The T. Harry Gatton award was made possible though a generous endowment by Mary Gatton in the memory of her late husband. Previous awardees are Ed Bearss (2008), Nora Brooks (2009), Charles Hawks (2010), and Mark Bradley (2011).

Two New Members

The Raleigh Civil War Round Table welcomes our two newest members, Tim Chalmers (Raleigh) and Bill Wall (Chapel Hill). If you know someone who is interested in the Civil War, please bring them to our next meeting!



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RCWRT Score Card

Members 105

January 2012 Attendance

Ed Bearss Event 101

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, (5 Edenton St. across from the State Capitol). Members and guests are encouraged to meet for supper at K&W Cafeteria (511 Woodburn Rd, Cameron Village) at 5:15; and for further discussion at The Mellow Mushroom (Glenwood Avenue & Peace Street) immediately after the meeting. Annual membership dues are \$30 (individual and family) and \$15 for students. Half-year memberships are available March through May for \$20.