

The Knapsack

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

August 8, 2011
Our 126th Meeting



Volume 11
Number 8

‘Colonel Black Jack’ Travis to Discuss E. Porter Alexander at August 8 Meeting

Our August speaker, ‘Colonel Black Jack’ Travis, is an author, historian, and professional Civil War re-enactor.

Jack was raised in Allapattah, Fla., and earned his bachelor’s degree in administration from Lakeland College, Wis., with a minor in history.



Jack at Alexander’s Grave

Prior to his retirement, he was the national sales manager for a large orthopaedic company and owned Action Orthopaedics in Raleigh.

Jack has written several historical articles for national publications and is the author of *Men of God, Angels of Death*, for which he received the Gold Medal Book Award from the United Daughters of the Confederacy. He also serves as a board member of the Lower Cape Fear Historical Society as well as the Federal Point Historical Preservation Society.

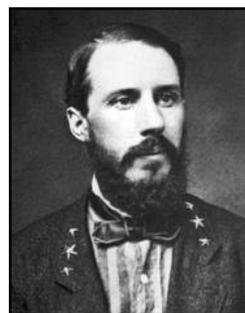
A founding member of the Raleigh Civil War Round Table and an active participant in our

group for several years, Jack currently lives in Wilmington, N.C. At our August meeting, he will give us a presentation on “E. Porter Alexander, Rebel Gunner,” the subject of his latest book.

EDITOR’S NOTE: Per our bylaws, a business meeting also will be held at our August event.

~ E. Porter Alexander ~

Edward Porter Alexander was born on May 26, 1835, in Washington, Ga. Alexander began his service in the Confederate army as a captain of engineers, but is best known as an artilleryman who was prominent in many of the major battles of the Civil War.



Alexander commanded the Confederate artillery for Longstreet’s corps at Gettysburg, guiding the massive cannonade before what commonly is known as Pickett’s Charge. Alexander also is credited with transmitting the first message in combat using signal flags over a long distance, at First Manassas (Bull Run). He died in 1910.



The Sesquicentennial



August 1861

A Battle in the West!

On Aug. 10, 1861, the first significant battle of the Civil War west of the Mississippi River took place at Wilson's Creek, near Springfield, Mo. The battle would play a significant role in determining the fate of Missouri, a slave-holding border state.

At the Battle of Wilson's Creek, approximately 5,400 Union troops Under Brig. Gen. Nathaniel Lyon would engage more than 12,000 Confederates. The Missouri State Guard under Maj. Gen. Sterling Price had been reinforced by soldiers from Arkansas and states west of the Mississippi, serving under the overall command of Brig. Gen. Benjamin McCulloch.



Gen. Lyon is killed at Wilson's Creek

Lyon had divided his command in a two-pronged attack on the enemy. Although the Union assault was initially successful, with Federal troops gaining the high ground, fire from the Confederates' Pulaski Arkansas Battery would check the advance.

Confederate forces would launch counter-attacks and gain a tactical victory. However, disagreement among their leaders would keep the Confederates from capitalizing on their gains, and Missouri would remain in the Union.

About 1,300 Federal troops would be killed, wounded, and captured in the Battle of Wilson's Creek. The Confederate forces would suffer more than 1,200 casualties.

Among the Union casualties was Lyon, who was shot in the chest while leading his troops. He would become the first general officer of the United States to be killed in combat since the War of 1812. The first Confederate general killed during the war was Robert Garnett, who had died in Virginia on July 13.

Hatteras Batteries Seized

On Aug. 26, 1861, Federal forces under Maj. Gen. Benjamin Butler and Flag Officer Silas Stringham launched a joint amphibious operation aimed at the capture of Hatteras Inlet, which was used as shelter by Confederate blockade runners. Success would prevent the Confederates from using nearly every port in North Carolina, except Wilmington.



As the Navy bombarded forts Clark and Hatteras, Union troops attacked the rear of the Confederate batteries. On Aug. 29, the Confederate garrison of 670 men was surrendered by Col. William Martin. The Union victory was a much-needed morale boost for the North. The batteries' capture also bottled up privateers and blockade runners, and established a strategic Federal foothold in the South.

The First Federal Income Tax

To help fund the war effort, Abraham Lincoln signed into law the Revenue Act on Aug. 5, 1861, establishing the first federal income tax in the country's history.



Individuals earning between \$800 and \$10,000 were taxed at a rate of 3 percent. Those with larger incomes were subject to a higher rate of taxation.

Jewish Soldiers in the War

A new film, “Jewish Soldiers in Blue & Gray” documents the involvement of Jews in the Civil War, highlighting their unique struggles. About 7,000 Jews served as Union soldiers and some 3,000 fought for the Confederacy.



For information on how to purchase the movie, go to <http://www.civilwarjews.com>.

Upcoming Events

August 13: From 10 a.m. until 4 p.m., Fort Fisher at Kure Beach, N.C., presents “Sounds of Fort Fisher: 19th Century Music and Artillery.” The free program includes cannon and rifle demonstrations, music, and costumed tours. For more information, telephone (910) 458-5538 or see <http://www.nchistoricsites.org/fisher>.

August 13: The CSS Neuse Historic Site in Kinston, N.C., will hold a Civil War social and discussion of women’s roles in the war from 12:30 p.m. until 3 p.m. Period dress welcomed, but not required. Call (252) 522-2091 or visit <http://www.nchistoricsites.org/neuse>.

August 18-21: In Waxhaw, N.C., a living history event, “March to Glory,” recreates a 35-mile march to war made by local men in 1861. For more information, call (704) 573-0726 or see <http://www.35thnct.org>.

August 25-27: A 150th anniversary event will be held in Hatteras, N.C. The conference, “Flags Over Hatteras,” is \$175 and includes some meals. Call (252) 728-7317 or visit <http://www.flagsoverhatteras.com> for details.

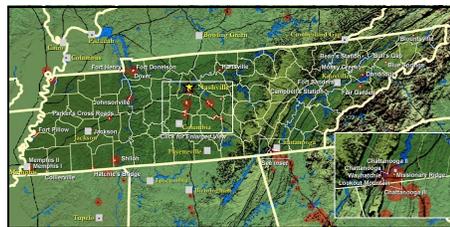
August 27: Bentonville Battlefield site near Four Oaks, N.C., holds a living history event, “A Day in the Life of a Civil War Soldier.” 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Free. Call (910) 594-0789 or see <http://www.nchistoricsites.org/bentonvi>.

August 27-28: Living history Sesquicentennial program at the Cape Hatteras lighthouse. Free event includes camps, music, and demonstrations by re-enactors. Call (252) 728-7317 or visit <http://www.flagsoverhatteras.com> for details.

The Knapsack

Going to Tennessee?

In June, Tennessee became the first state to launch a Geographic Information System (GIS) survey that shows hundreds of sites where battles and other military actions took place during the Civil War.



The website (at <http://tnmap.tn.gov/civilwar>) allows the overlay of modern aerial photography, street maps, and land-use maps onto sites where Civil War engagements took place. The site also links to narrative information about those events from the *Tennessee Civil War Sourcebook*. Military units also are searchable by county.

Preservation News

The Civil War Trust seeks to preserve one of the largest remaining unprotected expanses of land at the Manassas battlefield in Virginia. The targeted property is near what is known as the “Deep Cut,” the scene of bloody fighting during the Second Battle of Manassas on Aug. 30, 1862.

After Confederates under Stonewall Jackson turned back an assault by approximately 10,000 Union soldiers under Fitz John Porter, James Longstreet would smash into the Federal left flank.



The Trust’s current preservation effort involves a 44 acre section within the current boundaries of the battlefield park.

The Trust’s goal in this campaign is to raise \$100,000. Donations will be matched 11.25 to 1.

For details on the effort to save another critical piece of the Manassas battlefield, see <http://www.civilwar.org/battlefields/secondmanassas/second-manassas-2011>.

News of the RCWRT



Upcoming RCWRT Meetings

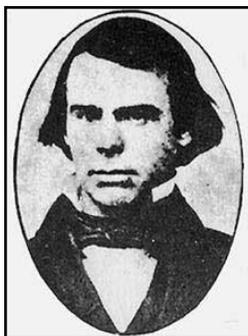
September: Betty Vaughn, a first person presentation
October: Wade Sokolosky, the Fayetteville arsenal
November: George Kundahl, Stephen Dodson Ramseur
December: Arch T. Allen III, pardon Gov. Holden
January: annual event with Ed Bearss
February: Lerae Umfleet, N.C. women on the homefront
March: Kevin Milus, the Irish experience during the war

A Message From The President

Several of our upcoming speakers and presenters have recently authored books on which their presentations are based. Please consider bringing your checkbooks or cash to our meetings to help support their efforts!

For The Record

North Carolina has long been credited with being home to the first Confederate soldier killed in battle, Henry Lawson Wyatt (see *The Knapsack*, Vm. 11, No. 6, p.2). However, a Virginian, John Quincy Marr, died in a battle several days before Wyatt met his demise. Marr was captain of the Warrenton (Va.) rifles and was killed in a skirmish with Federal cavalry at Fairfax Court House, Va., on June 1, 1861. It was dark, and no one was around Marr when the fatal shot was delivered, so it is unclear whether he was deliberately shot by the enemy. Distinctions between Wyatt and Marr also have been made due to the size of the fight and because one was an enlisted man, the other, an officer.



Capt. John Quincy Marr



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RCWRT Score Card

Members 125

July 2011 Attendance

Meeting 42

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.