

The Knapsack

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

February 14, 2011
Our 120th Meeting



Volume 11
Number 2

David Waller to Speak at February 14 Meeting On Post-War Lives of Civil War Personalities

Our own David Waller, who has served as president and program chair, among his many contributions to the Round Table, will be our February speaker.

David is a native of Eastern North Carolina, growing up on the site of the first battle of Kinston (December 1862). He is proud of his Confederate ancestry, having eight forefathers that served.

David has been a Civil War grave researcher for more than 30 years, and has been featured in a number of newspapers and publications on this topic, including an article in an April 2002 edition of the *News and Observer*. He also has contributed information to numerous books and periodicals about gravesites of Confederate notables.

In pursuit of his passion, David has visited hundreds of cemeteries and gravesites, including many on private property. Through these efforts, David has befriended a number of descendents of Confederate generals.

David also has spoken to more than 40 groups on topics related to the Civil War as well as a national forum that included such notable historians as Ed Bearss, Chris Fonville, Mark Bradley, and Richard McCaslin. He also has led group tours at several cemeteries. His photos and research are on file at several college libraries.



In 2003, David became the RCWRT's first elected president.

David's Feb. 14 presentation to the Round Table will be on the post-war lives and careers of selected Civil War commanders that had served in both the Union and Confederate armies.

EDITOR'S NOTES: This month's meeting will be back at our usual location in downtown Raleigh, the N.C. Museum of History.

Also, if you are interested in carpooling to the Feb. 26 seminar at Longwood University (see p.3), email Kevin Milus at kmilus@aol.com.

~ St. Valentine's Day ~

Valentine's Day, when lovers traditionally have expressed their affection for each other, has been celebrated for hundreds of years.



There are stories of Civil War soldiers penning poems and other thoughts to their lovers at home in recognition of Valentine's Day. The illustration above is from the cover of the Feb. 16, 1861, edition of the then-popular *Harper's Weekly* magazine.



The Sesquicentennial



The Confederacy is Formed

The Confederate States of America was formed in February 1861.

On Feb. 1, delegates to a Texas convention voted to secede from the Union on a 166-8 vote, pending a referendum by its citizens (that vote took place Feb. 23, and secession was approved by a vote of 46,153 for and 14,747 against), despite the opposition to such a move by Gov. Sam Houston.

The six Southern states that now had seceded — South Carolina, Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, and Louisiana — along with Texas, sent delegates to Montgomery, Ala., to participate in the creation of the Confederate States of America.

On Feb. 9, delegates to the Confederate convention named Jefferson Davis the provisional president of the Confederate States of America and selected Alexander Stephens, both pro-Union and a friend of Abraham Lincoln, as vice-president.



**Davis is sworn in at the Alabama State Capitol
February 1861**

On Feb. 28, North Carolina held a vote among its citizens on whether to hold a convention to consider seceding from the Union. The question failed by a vote of 47,323 to 46,672, with unionists carrying the northeastern counties and most of the Piedmont and western counties.

A Peace Convention

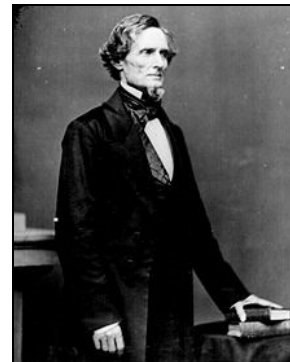
During January 1861, as states of the Deep South were adopting ordinances of secession, Virginia called for a “Peace Convention” as a last effort to resolve the escalating situation peaceably.

The convention began on Feb. 4 at the Willard Hotel in Washington, D.C. Representatives of 22 states, including North Carolina, participated (no delegates from the states that already had seceded attended). A compromise that would have amended the U.S. Constitution to guarantee slavery south of the line established under the Missouri Compromise of 1820 all the way to the Pacific Ocean, in addition to other provisions, was approved.

The convention’s plan was rejected by the United States Senate by a margin of 28 to 7 and never came to a vote in the House of Representatives.

President Jefferson Davis

Jefferson Davis (June 3, 1808 – Dec. 6, 1889) was sworn in as the provisional president of the Confederate States of America on Feb. 18, 1861, on the steps of the Alabama State Capitol.



Davis was a West Point graduate, had served in the Mexican-American War, and was a U.S. Senator from Mississippi prior to becoming the provisional president. He would be elected to a six-year term as the Confederate president in November 1861.

Harper House Reopens For Tours

After months of being closed for plaster repair work, the Harper House at Bentonville Battlefield State Historic Site at Four Oaks, N.C., has re-opened for guided tours.



During the 1865 Battle of Bentonville, the Harper House was used as a field hospital by the Union Army's XIV Corps, and hundreds of Union and Confederate soldiers were treated there.

The home was lived in after the battle until 1957, when it was purchased by the state for conversion to a house museum.

Tours are free to the public and given on the hour from 10 am until 4 pm. Call (910) 594-0789 or see <http://www.nchistoricsites.org> for details.

Upcoming Events

February 12-13: The Museum of the Albemarle will hold a living history event Feb. 12 to commemorate the 149th anniversary of the Battle of Elizabeth City, N.C. (fought Feb. 10, 1862) from 9 am to 4 pm. Re-enactors, display of artifacts, period music, and children's activities are a part of the festivities. Program continues with talk on Feb. 13 at 2:30 pm. Event is free. Call (252) 335-1453.

February 17: The Durham Civil War Roundtable will have Col. Black Jack Travis speak on his book, "Men of God, Angels of Death." The meeting is free and will be held at the historic Bennett Place in Durham, N.C., and begins at 7 pm. For more information, email Janet Eno at jceno7play@embarqmail.com.

February 19: An extensive car-caravan tour of the Civil War fortifications in the Richmond-Petersburg, Va., area will begin at the main visitor center of the Petersburg National Battlefield. Tour runs from 9:15 am until 5 pm. Reservations are required: call (804) 732-3531 ext. 205.

February 26: Longwood University and the Appomattox Court House National Historic Park host a free seminar, "The War Begins: 1861" in Farmville, Va. Doors open at 9 am and presentations will run until about 4 pm. Fort Sumter, First Manassas, Jeb Stuart, and images of Richmond are the scheduled topics. For details, contact Dr. David Coles at (434) 395-2220. Directions to the campus are available at <http://www.longwood.edu>.

Did Booth Escape?

At our special event in January, noted historian Ed Bearss gave an entertaining and informative talk on the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln and the pursuit and death of his killer, John Wilkes Booth. But was justice actually served on Booth?

Some descendants of Booth claim that the man shot by Federal soldiers inside the Garretts' barn in rural Virginia was someone else. Certain Booth family members assert that the actual assassin escaped capture, changed his name, and committed suicide in Enid, Okla., in 1903.

The rumors of Booth's escape and a government cover-up have existed since the assassin's death despite evidence and testimony to the contrary.

Joanne Hulme, a Booth family historian, recently told *The Philadelphia Inquirer* that descendants want to compare DNA from Booth's brother with a bone fragment from the man killed at Garrett's farm that is now at the National Museum of Health and Medicine in Washington, D.C., to uncover the truth. No word yet on whether the DNA testing will actually take place.

Preservation News

The Civil War Preservation Trust (now the Civil War Trust) has launched a new campaign aimed at preserving 538 acres of the Resaca battlefield, a key part of the Atlanta campaign.

On May 14-15, 1864, Gen. William T. Sherman hurled his soldiers against fortified Confederate positions, resulting in a bloody stalemate that foreshadowed the rest of the campaign that followed.

The Trust's goal in this campaign is to raise \$51,585. Donations will be matched 67 to 1.



For more information on the Trust's Resaca campaign, see <http://www.civilwar.org/battlefields/resaca.html>.

News of the RCWRT



The 2011 T. Harry Gatton Award

The recipient of the RCWRT's 2011 T. Harry Gatton Award is Mark Bradley. The award was presented at the Round Table's Ed Bearss event in January.



Steve Savia, Mark Bradley, and Mary Gatton

Mark is recognized nationally for his knowledge of the battle of Bentonville and the surrender of Confederate forces at Durham Station. He also has supported local preservation efforts. Prior to moving to Washington, D.C., he was a member of the RCWRT.

Mark currently is a staff historian at the U.S. Army Center of Military History in Washington, D.C. He is an award winning author, having written the books *This Astounding Close: The Road to Bennett Place*, *Last Stand in the Carolinas: The Battle of Bentonville*, and *Bluecoats and Tar Heels: Soldiers and Civilians in North Carolina During Reconstruction*. Mark also has authored numerous other articles and has written several book reviews.

He earned his bachelor's degree in history at N.C. State University and both his master's and doctoral degrees at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

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), and Charles Hawks (2010).

New Member

We welcome our newest member, David Zonderman (Cary), a professor of history at N.C. State. If you know someone with an interest in the Civil War, please bring them to a meeting and encourage them to join!



The Knapsack

is the official newsletter of the RCWRT and is published on Wednesday before each meeting.
(February 2011 Circulation: 217)

Staff

Andrew Ballard, Editor
George Long, Proofreader
Arlene & Art Wills, Circulation
Charles Hawks, Circulation

Contributors

Janet Eno
Bob Farrell
Charles Hawks
Kevin Milus
David Waller

Readers are encouraged to submit photos, events, & articles for publication to Andrew Ballard, Editor
(anballard@yahoo.com; 845-3379)

RCWRT Board of Directors

Steve Savia, President, 846-6908, ssavia@nc.rr.com
Ted Kunstling, Vice President, 787-5282, trkunstling@aol.com
David June, Treasurer, 844-7197, dmjune@bellsouth.net
Griff Bartlett, Director, 848-6562, griffb@yahoo.com
George Mills, Director, 847-8581, g.c.mills.iii@earthlink.net
Kevin Milus, Director, 815-4360, kmilus@aol.com
Darline Tellier, Director, 787-7539, telli001@mc.duke.edu

RCWRT Score Card

Members 122

January 2011 Attendance

Ed Bearss Event 108

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.