

# ***The Knapsack***

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

***January 15, 2011  
Our 119th Meeting***



***Volume 11  
Number 1***

## **Ed Bearss to Discuss Lincoln's Assassination at January 15 Meeting in Archives Building**

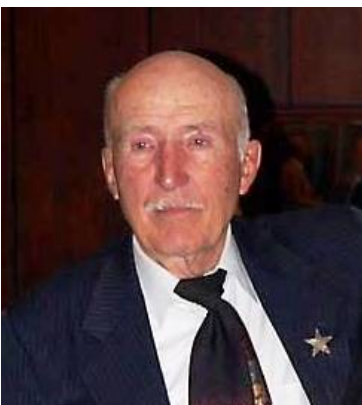
Edwin C. Bearss is one of the most respected Civil War scholars alive today and is considered by many to be a national treasure.

Ed served as Chief Historian of the National Park Service and was featured in Ken Burns' PBS series, *The Civil War*, as well as the Arts & Entertainment Channel's *Civil War Journal*.

He is an award-winning author, having written or edited more than 20 books in addition to more than 100 articles. Among his many works are *The Battle at Wilson's Creek*, *Forrest at Brice's Cross Roads*, *Hardluck Ironclad*, and *The Vicksburg Campaign*.

In 1983, Ed received the Department of Interior's Distinguished Service Award, its highest honor. Ed also was the first recipient of Civil War Preservation Trust's most prestigious national award, which is now named after him. In November 2005, he was identified in Smithsonian Magazine's cover story, "35 who made a difference."

In 2008, the RCWRT awarded Ed our first T. Harry Gattton Award for "his tireless efforts in support of the preservation of countless Civil War battlefields and the memory of those who fought and died on them."



Ed served in the Pacific theater with the Marine Corps during World War II, where he received severe wounds from machine-gun fire.

Ed's Jan. 15 presentation to the Round Table will be on the assassination of Abraham Lincoln and the pursuit of John Wilkes Booth.

**NOTE:** Our 9th Annual Meeting with Ed Bearss will not be held at the museum. Rather, it will be held across the street at the N.C. Library and Archives Building (109 East Jones St). Doors will open at 11:30, and the event will begin at noon. Tickets are \$10 each and may be purchased in advance from David June 3912 White Chapel Way Raleigh 27615 (send check and return envelope) or at the event.

### **~ Lincoln's Assassination ~**



President Abraham Lincoln was assassinated on April 14, 1865, while attending a performance of *Our American Cousin* at Ford's Theatre in downtown Washington, D.C.

The assassination came just as the Civil War was nearing its end; a mere six days after the surrender of Lee's Army of Northern Virginia.

Lincoln was shot by James Wilkes Booth, and the assassination was part of a larger plan to also kill the Vice President and Secretary of State. Booth was shot and other conspirators hanged.



# The Sesquicentennial

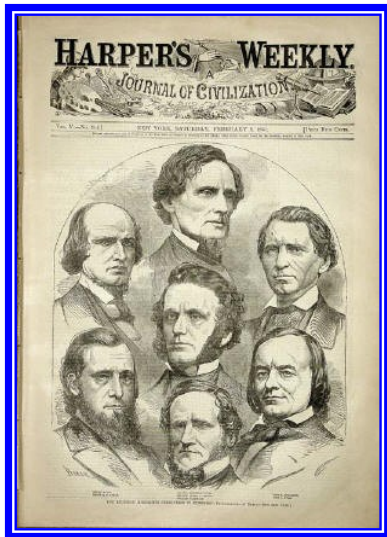


## Five More States Secede!

In January 1861, five more states joined South Carolina in seceding from the United States.

Mississippi became the second state to secede, on Jan. 9, passing its ordinance by a vote of 83-15. In a separate declaration, Mississippi stated the reasons it needed to secede, with the threat to the institution of slavery being a focal point of the state's list of grievances.

"There was no choice left us but submission to the mandates of abolition, or a dissolution of the Union, whose principles had been subverted to work out our ruin," Mississippi's declaration said.



**Mississippi's Congressional Delegation  
January 1861**

The day after Mississippi seceded, Florida followed suit. In its Jan. 10 ordinance, Florida declared itself "a Sovereign and Independent Nation." Florida passed its ordinance on a vote of 62-7.

Alabama became the fourth state to secede, with the adoption of an ordinance on Jan. 11. The vote was 61-39. In its ordinance, Alabama called on other states to join it in a convention to be held Feb. 4 in Montgomery.

Following a close vote for secession by its citizens, Georgia adopted its ordinance of secession on Jan. 19 by a vote of 208-89.

At Georgia's convention, Alexander Stephens, who would become the vice president of the Confederate States of America, spoke against secession. Stephens warned delegates that "all the baleful and withering consequences that must follow will rest on the Convention for all coming time," and he spoke of the horrors of war.

Louisiana became the sixth state to secede, with convention delegates approving its ordinance Jan. 26, by a vote of 113-17.

The states of the Deep South now all had left the Union.

## 'First Shot' of the War Fired

The 'first shot' of the Civil War occurred Jan. 9, 1861, when cadets from The Citadel fired upon the *Star of the West*, a civilian steamship hired to resupply the garrison at Ft. Sumter, S.C.

A battery on Morris Island fired a warning shot across the bow of the *Star of the West*, and the ship left Charleston Harbor without fulfilling her mission after several other shots were fired. She received minor damage from being struck.

Cadet George Edward Haynsworth has been credited with firing that first shot of the war.

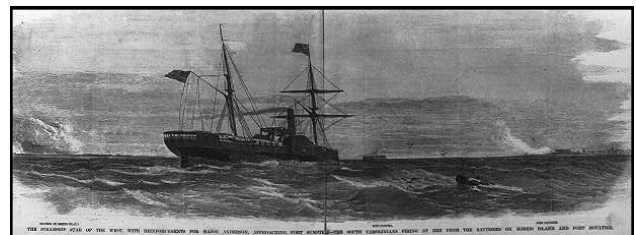


Illustration from *Frank Leslie's Weekly*



## Ed Bearss' 2011 Carolinas Campaign

Once again, Ed is touring North Carolina giving talks around the state. Below are dates of his events and tentative topics for his 2011 campaign:

**Thurs., Jan. 13 in Pinehurst.** Fort Sumter.

**Fri., Jan. 14 in Tarboro.** Gen. D.H. Hill.

**Sat., Jan. 15 in Raleigh.** Assassination of Lincoln.

**Sat., Jan. 15 in Greensboro.** Fort Sumter.

**Sun., Jan. 16 in New Bern.** Bentonville.



## Upcoming Events

**January 15:** Fort Fisher State Historic Site in Kure Beach, N.C. presents "Glory Enough For All," from 10 am to 4 pm. The program will focus on post-war reunions and efforts to memorialize the battle. A new temporary exhibit and unique tour are part of the free event. For more, see <http://www.ncculture.com>.

**January 15:** Slaves' perspective of the Civil War is the topic of a lecture at Somerset Place State Historic Site in Creswell, N.C. The presentation by former site manager Dot Redford is titled "The Impact and Implication of the Civil War from the Enslaved Person's Perspective: Forced to Aid My Enemies' Cause." Talk is at 2 pm. More information is available at (252) 797-4560.

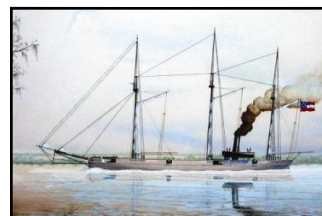
**January 15:** Jack Travis will give a lecture on battles for the coastal forts at the Fort Anderson State Historic Site in Winnabow, N.C. from 7 pm to 9 pm. Details on the event are available at (910) 371-6613.

**January 27:** A Civil War Quiz Bowl will be held at the Museum of the Cape Fear in Fayetteville, N.C. Event will be at 7 pm. Call (910) 486-1330 for details.

**January 29:** A Civil War Ball will be held at the Tara Ballroom at King's Restaurant in Kinston, N.C. The event includes dancing and music by the Huckleberry Brothers. \$25 a person. For details, call (252) 522-0540 or see <http://www.historicalpreservationgroup.org>.

## CSS Pee Dee Found

In November, researchers from the University of South Carolina said they found the wreck of the C.S.S. *Pee Dee*, a 170-foot Confederate gunboat destroyed by Confederate forces in February 1865 so it would not be captured by Union troops. The remains of the ship were found in the Pee Dee River, located in the northeastern part of South Carolina.



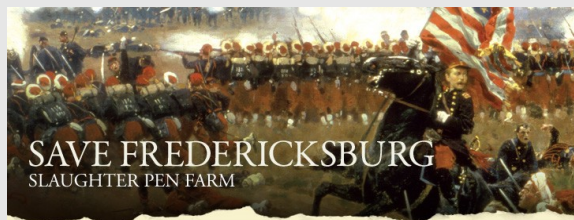
"This isn't a boat resting neatly on the river bottom," Chris Amer, one of the university researchers, said in announcing the find. "The remains are as messy as the history that put it there. Together, the wreck and cannon tell a story about the little known but very important role that inland Confederate naval yards played in the Civil War. Hidden along interior rivers, the naval yards let Confederate forces build and protect gunboats and support vessels."

## Preservation News

The Civil War Preservation Trust needs financial support to pay off a loan it took out to preserve 208 acres of the Slaughter Pen Farm section of the Fredericksburg, Va. battlefield.

CWPT entered into an agreement to acquire the important ground in 2006. It was the single most expensive private battlefield preservation effort in American history.

The CWPT's goal in this campaign is to raise \$12 million. Donations are matched 2 to 1.



For more information on CWPT's preservation efforts, see <http://www.civilwar.org/land-preservation>.

## News of the RCWRT



### Bylaw Amendment Proposed

The RCWRT's Board of Directors is proposing a change to our bylaws due to an oversight in the version that was previously approved by the members. The recommended change would add the immediate past president as a board member, as has been our tradition. The change would amend Section 2.3 of our bylaws and bring the number of board members to eight. Approval by the membership is required under our bylaws and a vote will be held at our February 2011 meeting.

### Founder Wins Print

Our founder, Bob Farrell, was the lucky winner of the John Paul Strain print, "Cavalier of the Sea." The print was donated by Ashley's Art Gallery in Fuquay-Varina for our benefit, thanks to Rick Mullen.



### Thanks From Darline

Darline Tellier would like to extend her thanks to all those who brought food and helped make our annual Holiday party a success. Darline also would like to thank those who sent her get well wishes.

### New Members

The RCWRT welcomes our newest members, Carl Flick (Wake Forest) and Rusty Quate (Wake Forest). If you know someone with an interest in the Civil War, please bring them to a meeting and encourage them to join!

RCWRT Score Card	
Members	112
December 2010 Attendance	
Holiday Party	65



### ***The Knapsack***

***is the official newsletter of the RCWRT and is published on Wednesday before each meeting.***

***(January 2011 Circulation: 216)***

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**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.