

The Knapsack

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

September 12, 2011
Our 127th Meeting



Volume 11
Number 9

September 12 Meeting Features Betty Vaughn On Women's Roles In The Civil War

Our September presenter, Betty Johnson 'B.J.' Vaughn, is an author, visual artist, and former educator.

B.J. grew up in Kinston, N.C., and holds a B.S. degree in art from East Carolina University. She pursued graduate studies at Spalding University in Louisville, Ky., and studied art history and Italian in Venice, Italy.



B.J. taught AP art history and painting at Enloe High School in Raleigh. As an educator, she conducted 18 study tours of Europe. B.J. was instrumental in the creation of the nationally-recognized magnet school art program at Enloe.

She is an accomplished visual artist whose works have been widely shown, both in the United States and abroad.

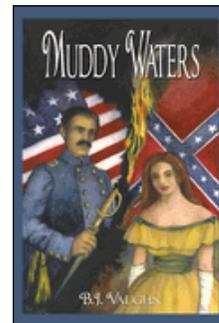
In addition, B.J. is the author of a number of professional articles and booklets associated with teaching and is working on her fourth novel set in the Civil War era. *Muddy Waters* (see the box on right) was published in August 2010. B.J. also has written a sequel, *Blue Waters*, and aims to publish another set of novels set in the same time period. Stories told by her family and B.J.'s childhood in eastern North Carolina gave her a love of history and inspired the books.

At our September meeting, B.J. will give us a first-person presentation involving the war in Eastern North Carolina and the roles of women during this period, including serving as spies.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Annual dues (\$30, individual or family) were due Sept. 1. Please bring your payment to our September meeting or mail it to: David June, Treasurer, 3912 White Chapel Way, Raleigh NC 27615.

~ Muddy Waters ~

B.J. Vaughn's book, *Muddy Waters: And the Man in the Chimney*, is the story of two lovers struggling to survive during the Civil War in eastern North Carolina.



An unlikely and forbidden love affair between a local woman and a Union officer requires both of them to make difficult choices. The decisions they make will tear the couple apart and force them to deal with the abandonment of their dream of a life together.



The Sesquicentennial

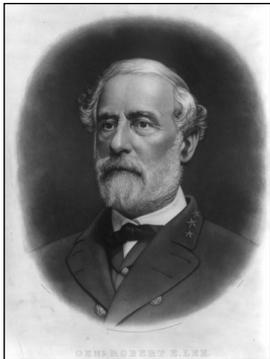


September 1861

‘Granny’ Lee’s First Fight

On Sept. 11, 1861, Confederate General Robert E. Lee would launch a five-day campaign in western Virginia. Lee’s first offensive operations of the Civil War would result in a defeat and withdrawal of his forces, temporarily damaging his reputation and earning him the nickname of “Granny Lee.”

Lee planned a two-pronged simultaneous attack on Union forces on the summit of Cheat Mountain and enemy entrenchments at Elkwater on the Tygarts Valley. Approximately 4,500 Confederate troops were to assault a Union fort on Cheat Summit, which was defended by about 1,800 Union soldiers.



Gen. Robert E. Lee

After encountering Federal skirmishers in dense woods, the uncoordinated attack on the fort was halted after Confederate officers were convinced they faced an overwhelming force. Another poorly executed attack on Elkwater also was repulsed. Rainy weather, rough terrain, and the fact that Lee was not actually given direct command contributed to the Confederates’ defeat and withdrawal.

At Cheat Mountain, Confederates would suffer some 100 casualties. Union losses were nine killed and 12 wounded.

Sept. 13, 1861 would see the first naval action of the Civil War, when Union sailors from the *U.S.S. Colorado* set fire to the privateer, *C.S.S. William H. Judah* following a daring night raid. The *Judah*, moored in the harbor at Pensacola, Fla., would sink the next day.

Kentucky Invaded!

On Sept. 3, 1861, Confederate forces under Maj. Gen. Leonidas Polk violated Kentucky’s neutrality by occupying Columbus, Ky., a Mississippi River port. Polk constructed Fort DuRusey on the town’s bluffs, which was defended by more than 17,000 men, 143 cannon, and electrically fired mines.

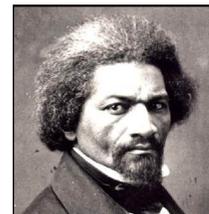


Seal of the Confederate government of Kentucky

Polk’s invasion was costly, as Kentucky’s Unionist Legislature invited Federal troops to drive out the invaders and declared its allegiance to the Union. A shadow Confederate government existed throughout the Civil War, but it would have little impact on events in the state. President Lincoln, in recognizing the importance of the state, reportedly said “I hope to have God on my side, but I must have Kentucky.”

Frederick Douglass

Frederick Douglass (1818-1895) was born the son of a slave in Maryland. Following his escape, he became an influential leader of the abolitionist movement and was known for his oratory and writing skills.



Douglass published a monthly abolitionist newspaper. In the September 1861 edition, he would call on the Federal government to make freeing slaves a goal of the Civil War. The current policy “hangs like a mill-stone about the neck of our people,” he wrote.

N.C. Flags to Come Home

Three Confederate flags captured at the Battle of New Bern, N.C., in March 1862 will be loaned to the Museum of the Albemarle in Elizabeth City, N.C., for a three-year period.



In August, the Worcester (Massachusetts) Grand Army of the Republic's board of trustees voted to temporarily return the flags, along with a bell that was on the ironclad *C.S.S. Albemarle*. The bell will be sent to the Port O'Plymouth Museum in Plymouth, N.C., on a 10-year lease. Thanks to Skip Riddle for his part in this effort (see *The Knapsack*, Vm. 11, No. 5, p.1).

Upcoming Events

September 10: From 2 p.m. until 4 p.m., the Somerset Historic Site in Plymouth, N.C., will host a free lecture at the town's conference center titled "The Civil War and It's Aftermath in Washington County, N.C." For details, call (252) 797-4171.

September 17: Kinston, N.C.'s *C.S.S. Neuse* Historic Site will hold a free living history event, "Military Through the Ages." For more information, call (252) 522-2091 or see <http://www.nchistoricsites.org/neuse/neuse.htm>.

September 17-18: Reenactment and living history event will be held at the Averasboro Battlefield Site in Dunn., N.C. For more information, telephone (910) 891-5019 or visit <http://www.averasboro.com>.

September 17-18: Living history, camps, drills, and more at Fort Macon in Atlantic Beach, N.C. Free event runs from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Call (252) 726-3775 or visit <http://www.ncparks.gov/visit/parks/foma/main.php>.

September 24: N.C. Maritime Museum in Beaufort, N.C., will host "The Occupation of Beaufort in 1862." Free event begins at 3 p.m. Telephone (252) 728-7317 or see <http://www.ncmaritimemuseum.org/beaufort.html>.

September 24-25: Zebulon B. Vance Birthplace historic site in Weaverville, N.C., will hold living history camps and demonstrations from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. Free. Call (828) 645-6706 or see <http://www.nchistoricsites.org/vance/vance.htm> for more information.

What Is It?

This Civil War artifact was recently found in southeastern Georgia by archeologists. It is a tourniquet buckle, used to cut off blood flow to an arm or leg prior to amputation. Amputations were common for Civil War soldiers suffering gunshot wounds to a limb.



The tourniquet buckle is one of many interesting Civil War items recently discovered in digs at Camp Lawton, a Confederate prison camp built about 50 miles south of Augusta, Ga. The camp, built to replace Andersonville, briefly held about 10,000 Union prisoners. The prison was abandoned after only about six weeks, when Union General William T. Sherman approached during his "March to the Sea" in November 1864.

Preservation News

The Civil War Trust seeks to preserve a significant section of currently unprotected property at the Perryville battlefield in Kentucky. The targeted land surrounds the Henry Bottom house and farm, the site of intense fighting on Oct. 8, 1862.

On this portion of the battlefield, Confederates from Brig. Gens. Bushrod Johnson, Daniel Adams, and Patrick Cleburne's brigades smashed into unsuspecting Union soldiers from Indiana, Kentucky, and Ohio.



The Trust's current preservation effort involves a 141 acre section within the current boundaries of the battlefield park.

The Trust's goal in this campaign is to raise \$181,250. Donations will be matched 4 to 1.

For more information on the Trust's effort to save an important piece of the Perryville battlefield, see <http://www.civilwar.org/battlefields/perryville/perryville-2011>.

News of the RCWRT



Upcoming RCWRT Meetings

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

Treasurer's Report

Cash Balance as of Sept. 1, 2010 4,275

Receipts:

| | |
|----------------------|-------|
| Dues | 2,905 |
| Ed Bearss event, net | 869 |
| Other receipts | 520 |

Disbursements:

| | |
|---------------------|---------|
| Civil War Trust | (1,000) |
| Speakers | (897) |
| Rent | (810) |
| Newsletter | (330) |
| Other disbursements | (718) |

Cash Balance as of Aug. 31, 2011 4,814

Questions? Contact Treasurer David June (see info, right)

Our Congratulations!

In June, Sandy Barnard received the John M. Carroll Award for *A Hoosier Quaker Goes to War*. The award is given by the Little Bighorn Associates for what the group considers the best book of the year. Barnard's award-winning book and its subject, Capt. Joel Elliott, were the basis of his presentation to the Round Table in March (see *The Knapsack*, Vm. 11, No. 3, p.1).

Two New Members

The RCWRT welcomes our two newest members, Adam Medlin (Sanford) and Myron Miller (Raleigh). 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.

(September 2011 Circulation: 192)

Staff

Andrew Ballard, Editor

George Long, Proofreader

Arlene & Art Wills, Circulation

Charles Hawks, Circulation

Contributors

David June

Skip Riddle

Steve Savia

Betty Vaughn

David Waller

Readers are encouraged to submit photos, events, & articles for publication to Andrew Ballard, Editor

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
Frank Ragsdale, Director, 847-1005, fpde2@nc.rr.com
Darline Tellier, Director, 787-7539, telli001@mc.duke.edu

RCWRT Score Card

Members 127

August 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.