

The Knapsack

Raleigh Civil War Round Table

The same rain falls on both friend and foe.

December 9, 2013
Our 154th Meeting



Volume 13
Number 12

Norm Boggs, Rob Morrison to Perform At December 9 Event at State Capitol

December features our annual holiday event at the State Capitol. We will again gather to hear “old time” music, hors d’oeuvres, drinks, and desserts.

The evening’s entertainment will be provided by Norm Boggs and Rob Morrison.

Join us for some holiday music, fun, and fellowship! Please bring a snack, dessert, or beverage to share.

~o~

EDITOR’S NOTE: *Our annual holiday event will once again be held at the State Capitol building, across the street from our usual meeting place. The event also will begin earlier than usual, at 6:30 p.m.*



Norm works as a professor of organic chemistry at St. Andrew’s University. He began playing and singing folk music in the early 1960’s and fell in love with Appalachian String band music after moving to North Carolina in the 1970s. Norm learned his fiddling from Byard Ray, J. P. Frayley, Lauchlin Shaw, and Nowell Creadick.

Rob is a recently retired clinical psychologist who also began playing guitar in folk and bluegrass bands in the early 1960s. He saw the Highwoods String Band at the 1972 Smithsonian Folklife Festival, fell in love with the music, and moved to North Carolina to be closer to the source. Rob learned banjo from Nowell Creadick and Blanton Owen of the Fuzzy Mountain String Band.

Norm and Rob first met at Christmas of 1978 and have played together off and on since that time in various bands and living history performances. They both have won first place ribbons for their respective instruments at the Fiddlers’ Grove Festival in Union Grove, N.C., the country’s longest running fiddler’s convention.

~ Christmas 1863 ~

The Civil War saw its third Christmas in 1863. The soldiers on both sides understandably yearned for their homes and families.



Harper’s Weekly, Dec. 26, 1863, edition

In his Christmas 1863 illustration for *Harper’s Weekly*, Thomas Nast features the visit of Santa Claus, a soldier home on furlough being greeted by his family, and children opening their gifts.



The Sesquicentennial



December 1863

Confederates Leave Knoxville

On Dec. 4, Confederate Lt. Gen. James Longstreet abandoned his siege of Knoxville, Tenn., heading northeast. Union forces under Maj. Gen. John Parke pursued the withdrawing Confederates.

A Federal force of about 4,000 infantry and cavalry under Brig. Gen. J.M. Shackelford was met by Longstreet at Bean's Station on Dec. 14. After an all day fight, Union forces withdrew. The Confederates suffered about 222 casualties in their victory, and Federal losses totaled 115.

The Knoxville Campaign would end following the battle of Bean's Station, with Longstreet setting up his winter quarters in Russellville, Tenn.



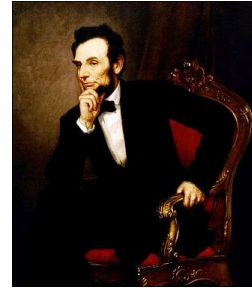
Joseph Johnston

On Dec. 27, Joseph Johnston would be appointed as commander of the Army of Tennessee after Gen. Braxton Bragg's resignation. Confederate President Jefferson Davis had first offered the post to William Hardee, the senior corps commander, but Hardee declined the offer.

Also during December 1863, Maj. Gen. Jubal Early would be given command of Confederate forces in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia, Union Maj. Gen. John Buford would die of an illness, the Confederate Congress would bar the use of military substitutes, and Confederate spy Belle Boyd would be released from prison after her third arrest.

Lincoln Offers Amnesty Plan

On Dec. 8, President Lincoln issued a Proclamation of Amnesty and Reconstruction, under which those who were involved in the "rebellion and treason" were offered a pardon.



The offer of pardon was not extended to higher ranking Confederate officials and military men who resigned their U.S. posts to join the Southern effort. In his plan, Lincoln also offered to reinstate any of the seceded states if 10 percent of their citizens who voted in the 1860 election took a loyalty oath to the Federal government and they barred slavery.

'In God We Trust'

The increased religious sentiment during the Civil War led to the adding of the motto "In God We Trust" to U.S. currency. Secretary of the Treasury Salmon P. Chase approved the use of new designs for one, two, and three cent coins with the motto included on Dec. 3, 1863.



"In God We Trust" first appeared on the 1864 two cent coin (shown above), and was later added to other coins as well as paper currency.

Preserving Flags

On Dec. 10, the North Carolina Museum of History will present a webcast about techniques being used to preserve Civil War flags.



Conservator Paige Myers will demonstrate the techniques she uses to treat flags, including the methods she used for the 6th Regiment, North Carolina Troops' banner (see photo above). The 6th was organized in May 1861 near Company Shops, a town now known as Burlington.

The webcast will be held from 6-7 p.m. on Tues., Dec. 10. A future program covering civilian garment conservation is planned.

To register for the program, fill out the form at <http://www.ncdcr.gov/CivilWarTextiles>.

Upcoming Events

Dec. 10: The Fort Fisher State Historic Site at Kure Beach holds an open house for the holidays. Seasonal refreshments, decorations, musical performances. Free. 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. For more information, go to <http://www.nchistoricsites.org/fisher> or call (910) 458-5538.

Dec. 14: A living history program about the "Edenton Bell Battery" will be held on the courthouse lawn in Edenton, N.C. Free. 1 p.m. until 5 p.m. See <http://www.visitnc.com/event/confederate-edenton-bell-battery-confederate-unit> or telephone (252) 482-2637 for details.

Dec. 14-15: Bennett Place State Historic Site in Durham, N.C., presents "Christmas in the Carolinas During the Civil War." Living history, special decorations, and music. Free. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sat.; 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sun. Go to <http://www.nchistoricsites.org/bennett> or call (919) 383-4345 for additional information.

Dec. 28: Somerset Place Historic Site in Creswell, N.C., hosts "Waves of Freedom," a lecture about the impact of Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation. See <http://www.nchistoricsites.org/somerset> or call (252) 797-4560.

Looking for a Gift?

A 2014 commemorative calendar covering the fourth year of the Civil War is available from eParks. The calendar includes illustrations and paintings that highlight the critical battles and events of 1864.



The opening of Andersonville Prison, passage of the 13th Amendment, Cold Harbor, the re-election of Lincoln, the Fort Pillow Massacre, and Sherman's Atlanta Campaign are among the events that are featured. The calendar sells for \$8.95 plus shipping.

To order the commemorative calendar, go online to <http://generalstore.eparks.com/store/product/105166/1864-the-Fourth-Year-of-the-War-Commemorative-Civil-War-Calendar-2014/>, or call (877) 628-7275.

Preservation News

The Civil War Trust is seeking to preserve 608 acres at two battlefields that saw heavy fighting during November 1863.



The effort targets battlefield land at Chattanooga, Tenn., and Rappahannock Station in Virginia that is threatened by development.

The Trust's goal in this campaign is to raise \$154,438. Donations are matched 36 to 1.

For details, see <http://www.civilwar.org/battlefields/chattanooga/chattanooga-2013>.

News of the RCWRT



Upcoming RCWRT Meetings

- January:** annual Ed Bearss event
February: Keith Hardison, Jefferson Davis
March: Bob Zeller, photographic history
April: William Davis, CSA secret servicewoman
May: William Harris, Lincoln and the Constitution
June: Earl Hess, Petersburg
July: Aldo Perry-N.C. Courts-martial
August: Stephen Davis, Battle of Atlanta

Tax-Exempt Donations

As 2013 comes to a close, please consider making a tax-deductible donation to the RCWRT or our Gatton Fund. Each year, the Raleigh Civil War Round Table honors an individual who has distinguished themselves through their work or efforts related to the study of the Civil War through its T. Harry Gatton Award. The next award will be presented at our annual event with Ed Bearss in January.

At The Museum

For Us the Living: The Civil War Art of Mort Kunstler, a free exhibit of 33 original paintings personally selected by the artist for display will be at the North Carolina Museum of History through Jan. 5. One of the paintings, *Capitol Farewell*, depicting a couple in front of the state capitol building, was unveiled especially for the exhibit.

Visit Us Online!

RCWRT event and Civil War period photos, previous editions of *The Knapsack*, membership information, and our bylaws all are available on our website. Visit us at <http://www.raleighcwr.org>. You can also "like" us on Facebook! Search for "Raleigh Civil War Roundtable."



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RCWRT Score Card

Members	131
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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) after the meeting. Annual membership dues are \$30 (individual and family) and \$10 for teachers. Students are free. Half-year memberships are available March through May for \$20.