

The Knapsack

Raleigh Civil War Round Table

The same rain falls on both friend and foe.

March 10, 2014
Our 157th Meeting



Volume 14
Number 3

Bob Zeller to Present ‘The Civil War in 3-D’ At March 10 Round Table Meeting

Bob Zeller, author and co-founder of the not-for-profit Center for Civil War Photography Inc., will be the speaker at the Raleigh Civil War Round Table’s March 2014 meeting.

Bob is a native of Washington, D.C., and graduated from the University of Missouri School of Journalism in 1974. He spent 25 years as a newspaper writer and investigative reporter before becoming a self-employed writer in 1999.



From 1976 to 1990, Bob was employed as a reporter with newspapers in Mississippi and California. From 1991 through 1998, he covered NASCAR as the motorsports writer for the Landmark

Newspapers chain.

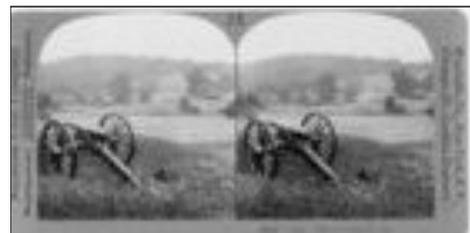
Bob’s most recent work is *Lincoln in 3-D* (2010), co-authored with John J. Richter. His *The Civil War in Depth – History in 3-D* (1997), was the first book to show Civil War photos in their original stereoscopic format. He also wrote *The Blue and Gray in Black and White: A History of Civil War Photography* (2005). His first novel, *Jacob’s Run* (2007), was co-authored with John Beshears and involves slave life insurance fraud in Wilmington, N.C., and a Yankee life insurance adjuster who comes south on the eve of the Civil War to expose the crime.

Bob is married, has two grown children, and resides in Troutman, N.C. His March 2014 presentation to the Raleigh Civil War Round Table is titled “The Civil War in 3-D: A Digital Stereoscopic Slide Lecture.” The lecture has been presented at the Library of Congress, Smithsonian, National Archives, Museum of the Confederacy, and many other venues.

For details on the Center for Civil War Photography Inc., go online to <http://www.civilwarphotography.org>.

~ Civil War Stereography ~

Stereo views were one of the primary forms of home entertainment during the Civil War. Thousands of such images were made and viewed in 3-D during the war.



Stereo cameras of that period used a single plate negative to capture both images, which were then viewed with a stereoscope, a device that created an image in 3-D. Such photographs were widely used in Ken Burns’ Civil War series on PBS.



The Sesquicentennial

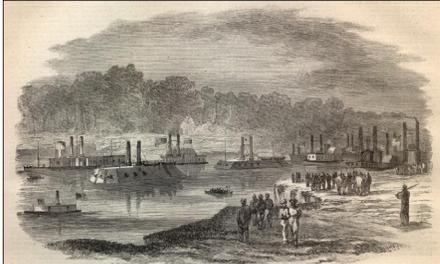


March 1864

Red River Campaign

On March 10, Union forces launched the Red River Campaign, a failed attempt at establishing a line of defense for Louisiana and Arkansas and a base of operations against Texas, an important source of supplies for the Confederacy.

The plan involved the movement of more than 40,000 Federal troops from three different locations that would converge on Shreveport, La., with the support of several ironclads and gunboats. Some 15,000 Federal troops under Brig. Gen. A.J. Smith left Vicksburg, Miss., to link up with about 20,000 men under Maj. Gen. Nathaniel Banks coming from New Orleans. Soldiers stationed in Arkansas under Maj. Gen. Frederick Steele were ordered to occupy Shreveport following its capture.



Admiral Porter's Flotilla

Smith and Banks' link-up in Alexandria, La., was delayed, one of many failures of execution that would take place during the campaign. A smaller force of Confederates under Lt. Gen. Richard Taylor successfully defended Shreveport and forced the Federal army to pull back. The Red River Campaign would end unsuccessfully in mid-May.

Also in March 1864, the U.S. Congress authorized the use of \$200 million in bonds to fund government expenses, Lincoln ordered a draft of 200,000 men for military service, Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant was given command of all Federal forces, and a group of about 100 anti-war Copperheads attacked Union troops on furlough in Charleston, Illinois and several soldiers were killed and wounded.

Arkansas Votes To End Slavery

In an election supervised by Federal soldiers who now controlled most of the state, the third Arkansas constitution was ratified on March 14.



The 1864 constitution was written under the terms of Lincoln's reconstruction plan. The constitution abolished slavery and renounced secession, but did not define the rights of former slaves. A pro-Union state government also was created under its terms, even as a Confederate government continued to exist in Hempstead County.

New States Approved

On March 21, the U.S. Congress approved acts enabling Nevada and Colorado to become new states (Ch. 36, 13 Stat. 30 and Ch. 37, 13 Stat. 32, respectively).



Lawmakers sought to add the states to boost Republican political control for the upcoming elections and support Lincoln's plans for the abolition of slavery and reconstruction. Nevada would become a state in October 1864, but Colorado voters first rejected statehood and President Johnson later vetoed a bill approving the move, and it did not become a state until 1876. Congress enacted enabling legislation for Nebraska in April 1864 (Ch. 59, 13 Stat. 47).

Online Artillery Demonstration

An online demonstration and discussion of artillery in the Civil War will be presented by the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources on March 11 at 10:30 a.m.



The topics covered in the webcast include different types of artillery pieces and projectiles, the process of teamwork it took to load a cannon, the science and math of artillery, and the impact that artillery had on the Civil War. The broadcast will come from Bentonville Battlefield and also will feature cannon firing demonstrations.

For more information and to register, go online to <http://www.ncdcr.gov/CivilWarCannon>.

Upcoming Events

March 12: The Chelsea Restaurant in New Bern, N.C., hosts a town historical society luncheon featuring a talk by Skip Riddle on searching for Federal soldiers that died in the March 1862 Battle of New Bern. 11:30 a.m. \$16 for members, \$18 for others. Price includes lunch. Make a reservation by calling (252) 638-8558.

March 15-16: Bentonville Battlefield near Four Oaks, N.C., commemorates the 149th anniversary of the battle with living history programs and a focus on conscription. Camps and demonstrations. Free. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days. For details, go to <http://www.nchistoricsites.org/bentonvi/bentonvi.htm> or call (910) 594-0789.

March 29-30: The Bennett Place State Historic Site in Durham, N.C., hosts a living history program titled "The Cruelty of War: Casualties and Medicine in the Civil War." Free. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sat., 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sun. Visit <http://www.nchistoricsites.org/bennett/bennett.htm> or telephone (919) 383-4345 for more information.

April 4-6: The Salisbury Confederate Prison Association holds its annual symposium in Salisbury, N.C. Banquet music, presentations, living history. \$65-\$75. Go online to <http://www.salisburyprison.org/AnnualSymposium.htm> or call (704) 637-6411 for details.

Meade Was On The Money

Maj. Gen. George Gordon Meade was appointed to command the Union Army of the Potomac just three days prior to its victory at the Battle of Gettysburg.



People who believe Meade has not been sufficiently honored by the United States for his service may not be aware he was featured on a \$1,000 bill in 1890 and 1891. The bill was nicknamed "The Grand Watermelon" due to its design and color scheme.

One of the 1891 notes was sold in April 2013 for \$2.5 million, an international record for paper money.

Preservation News

The Civil War Trust is seeking to preserve a small but key parcel of land at Stones River, Tennessee.



On Dec. 31, 1862, Union forces recovering from a surprise Confederate attack were reinforced and rallied to prevent a catastrophic breakthrough by Confederate troops aiming to cut the Federals' main supply line. The 1/8 acre being targeted for preservation is within the boundary of the national park and is a key piece of the Union defense of the Nashville Pike.

The Trust's goal in this campaign is to raise \$52,000. Donations are matched 1 to 1.

For details, see <http://www.civilwar.org/battlefields/stonesriver/stones-river-2014>.

News of the RCWRT



Upcoming RCWRT Meetings

April: William Davis, CSA secret servicewoman

May: William Harris, Lincoln and the Constitution

June: Earl Hess, Petersburg

July: Keith Hardison, Jefferson Davis

August: Stephen Davis, Battle of Atlanta

September: Margaret Humphreys, Civil War medicine

October: Marvin Nicholson, African-American experience

November: Noah Trudeau, Sherman's March

Road Trip?

For the past several years, members of the Raleigh Civil War Round Table have taken a trip to Farmville, Va., to enjoy the annual symposium at Longwood University. This year's free event will be held on Saturday, March 15 and begins at 9 a.m. Presentations by Eric Wittenberg on cavalry operations in the Overland Campaign, Gordon Rhea on Grant and Lee in the Overland Campaign, Stephen Engel on revisiting the New Market Campaign, Kevin Levin on Confederates assessing the Battle of the Crater, and Brian Wills on Thomas dashes Hood's hopes at Nashville are planned. Contact President Ted Kunstling if you want to coordinate travel with other members (see contact information at right).

New Members!

The RCWRT welcomes our newest members, John Budka (Durham), Ken Oppenheim (Raleigh), and Tom Howard (Cary). If you know someone that has an interest in the Civil War, please bring them to a meeting and encourage them to join!

Correction

In the last edition of *The Knapsack* (Vm. 14, No. 3, p. 2), on the article about the *H.L. Hunley* sinking the warship USS *Housatonic*, it stated that five men were killed when the submarine sank. Although five seamen died during a test, eight men actually died when the submarine sank on Feb. 17, 1864, after it engaged the *Housatonic*.



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Staff

Andrew Ballard, Editor

George Long, Proofreader

Arlene & Art Wills, Circulation

Contributors

David Downing

Lyle Holland

Readers are encouraged to submit photos, events, & articles for publication to
Andrew Ballard, Editor
(anballard@yahoo.com; 919-215-7304)

RCWRT Board of Directors

Ted Kunstling, President, 919-787-5282, trkunstling@aol.com

Griff Bartlett, Treasurer, 919-848-6562, griffb@yahoo.com

Andrew Ballard, 919-215-7304, anballard@yahoo.com

Pat Ford, 919-395-8104, pford1@nc.rr.com

George Mills, 919-847-8581, g.c.mills.iii@earthlink.net

Kevin Milus, — , kmilus@aol.com

Frank Ragsdale, 919-847-1005, fr1947@gmail.com

Steve Savia, 919-846-6908, sagegroup1@aol.com

RCWRT Score Card

Members

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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.