

The Knapsack

Raleigh Civil War Round Table

The same rain falls on both friend and foe.

***July 14, 2014
Our 161st Meeting***



***Volume 14
Number 7***

<http://www.raleighcwrt.org>

Keith Hardison to Speak at July 14 Meeting On Confederate President Jefferson Davis

Keith Hardison, director of state historic sites for the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, will be the presenter at the Raleigh Civil War Round Table's July 14 meeting.



Keith is a native of Nashville, Tenn., and has family ties in North Carolina that date back almost 300 years. For the last 28 years, Keith has worked at historic sites, museums, and government agencies that focus on history throughout the South.

In 1977, Keith earned his bachelor's degree in history from David Lipscomb University and earned his master's in museum science from Texas Tech University in 1983.

From 1986 until 1999, Keith served as the executive director of Beauvoir, the Jefferson Davis home in Biloxi, Mississippi, where he funded and constructed the Jefferson Davis Presidential Library and Museum. For about the next year, he worked at Pamplin Historical Park in Virginia where he helped to launch the National Museum of the Civil War Soldier. From 2000 to 2006, Keith worked as an administrator with the Louisiana State Museum.

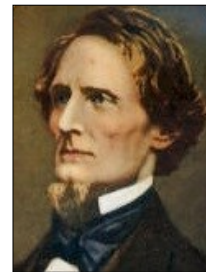
In 2006, Keith became the director of state historic sites for the N.C. Department of Cultural Resources.

Keith currently is the co-chair of the department's Civil War 150 Committee, was a former member of the Mississippi Civil War Battlefields Commission, and is active in several professional and historical organizations.

His topic to the Raleigh Civil War Round Table at our July 2014 meeting will be on Confederate President Jefferson Davis.

~ Jefferson Davis ~

Jefferson Davis was born in 1807 to a relatively prosperous farmer in Kentucky. While in his youth, he also lived on family plantations in Louisiana and Mississippi.



Davis graduated from West Point and served as an officer in the Mexican-American War. He also was the U.S. Secretary of War under President Franklin Pierce and a U.S. Representative and Senator from Mississippi before he was sworn in as the President of the Confederate States in February 1861.



The Sesquicentennial



July 1864

Wallace Saves Washington!

In June 1864, Confederate forces under Lt. Gen. Jubal Early moved down the Shenandoah Valley and into Maryland as part of an effort to relieve pressure on Robert E. Lee's forces entrenched at Petersburg, Va. With about 15,000 men, Early marched into Maryland and threatened the Union capital.

On July 9, a makeshift defensive force of about 6,500 Federals led by Maj. Gen. Lew Wallace met Early's advance south of Frederick, Md., near an important railroad junction by the Monocacy River.

Although the larger Confederate force drove off the Union defenders after crossing the river, Wallace's troops delayed Early's advance in what would be called "The Battle that Saved Washington."



Monocacy Junction

By the time Early reached Fort Stevens outside of Washington D.C., on July 11, Federal reinforcements had arrived to bolster the thin defenses, and the Confederate forces would withdraw back into Virginia after two days of fighting.

Also in July 1864, Congress passed a bill to allow seceded states to rejoin the Union, a measure that was not signed into law by Lincoln, martial law was declared in Kentucky, Confederate troopers burned Chambersburg, Pa., and Lt. Gen. John Bell Hood replaced Gen. Joe Johnston as commander of the Confederate Army of Tennessee as Union Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman continued to push toward Atlanta.

Trapped in the Crater

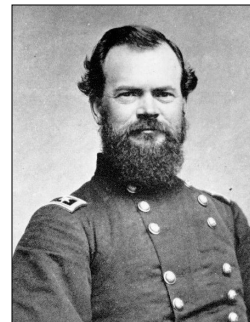
On July 30, Union soldiers detonated about 8,000 pounds of gunpowder under Confederate defensive positions around Petersburg, Va., in an attempt to break a stalemate after weeks of fighting.



The explosion created a crater in the Confederate defenses and Union troops rushed in. However, the poorly planned and executed attacks resulted in a disaster for the Federal forces, who were repulsed after suffering nearly 4,000 casualties, including many black soldiers, in what Confederate Brig. Gen. William "Billy" Mahone called "a turkey shoot."

McPherson Killed

On July 22, Maj. Gen. James B. McPherson was shot to death by Confederate skirmishers while conducting reconnaissance around Atlanta.



McPherson, a career army officer, would be the second highest ranking Union officer to be killed during the Civil War and the only Federal army commander to be slain in the conflict.

Tennessee's Resources

The Tennessee State Library and Archives offers an impressive online collection of resources for Civil War and genealogical research.



Included in its collection are a database with more than 2,000 pamphlets and entire runs of eight newspapers that offer diverse perspectives of the period; a searchable collection of more than 7,000 articles chronicling the Civil War in Tennessee; scans of period manuscripts, artifacts, and photographs gathered from throughout the state; and a website with full GIS capability that displays more than 750 battles and skirmishes that took place in Tennessee with a variety of map layers as well as links to more information.

Visit the website at <http://www.tennessee.gov/tsla/resources/index.htm#civilwar>.

Upcoming Events

July 12: A program on weapons of the Civil War will be held at the CSS *Neuse* Interpretive Center in Kinston, N.C. Features collections of small arms and weapons and outdoor firing demonstrations. Free. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Go to <http://www.nchistoricsites.org/neuse> or call (252) 522-2107 for more information.

July 19-20: Fort Macon State Park in Atlantic City, N.C., will host a living history event. Programs on flags, women's dress, musket firings, drills. Free. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sat. and Sun. For more, visit <http://ncparks.gov/Visit/parks/foma/main.php> or call (252) 726-3775.

Aug. 9: The CSS *Neuse* Interpretive Center in Kinston, N.C. will offer a program on surgery and medicine during the Civil War. Free. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. See <http://www.nchistoricsites.org/neuse> or call (252) 522-2107 for details on the event.

Aug. 11: The State Archives in Raleigh offers a free lecture by Andrew Duppsstadt on blockade running during the Civil War. Noon. Go online to <http://ncdcr.gov/archives/newsandevents> or call (919) 807-7310 for more.

Three Perspectives Offered

The Smithsonian Channel is now airing a three-part series that aims to explore both famous and little-known aspects of the Civil War from perspectives representing the Union, Confederacy, and enslaved people.

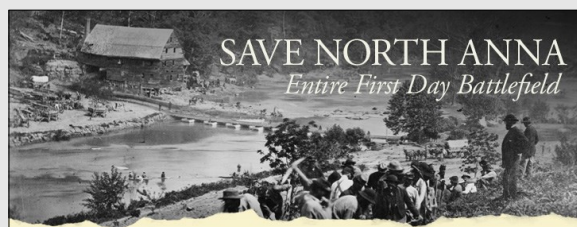


The episodes are hosted by Ashley Judd (Union), Trace Adkins (Confederacy) and Dennis Haysbert (Freedom), all of whom had ancestors that were greatly affected by the war. The series also features the Smithsonian's vast collection of artifacts.

Go to <http://www.smithsonianchannel.com/sc/web/series/1003283/civil-war-360> for a schedule of the shows. DVDs of the series also are available for purchase at Amazon.com.

Preservation News

The Civil War Trust is seeking to save significant ground at the North Anna battlefield in Virginia, the entire site of the first day of the May 1864 battle.



The land targeted for preservation is 665 acres of the Fontaine Farm, the entire Jericho Mill battlefield and pristine ground involved in the 1864 Overland Campaign.

The Trust's goal in this campaign is to raise \$314,000. Donations are matched at a 10:1 rate!

For details, see <http://www.civilwar.org/battlefields/northanna/north-anna-2014>.

News of the RCWRT



Upcoming RCWRT Meetings

2014

August: Stephen Davis, The Atlanta Campaign

September: Margaret Humphreys, Civil War medicine

October: Marvin Nicholson, African-American experience

November: Noah Trudeau, Sherman's March

December: Holiday party at the Capitol

2015

January: annual Ed Bearss event

February: Brenda McKean, The Home Front

March: Patrick Schroeder, Appomattox

April: Mark Bradley, End of the Civil War in NC

May: Lee Craig, Economics of the American Civil War

June: Will Hansen, CW Materials at Duke's Library

Available to Give a Talk or Presentation?

The RCWRT is developing a list of members who are able to give a talk or presentation on some aspect of the Civil War for events that may be held in the Raleigh area. Possible future opportunities include speaking at Wake County public libraries and our local retirement communities, among other places. If you are interested in possibly giving such a talk or presentation, contact President Ted Kunstling at (919) 787-5282 or email him at tkunstling@aol.com.

Officer, Board Nominations Sought

RCWRT President Ted Kunstling is seeking volunteers and nominations for officers and other board members who will serve two-year terms beginning in September. Elections will be held during the Round Table's annual business meeting that will take place in August prior to the presentation by our speaker. Interested in serving? Would you like to nominate someone else? Call Ted at (919) 787-5282 or email him at tkunstling@aol.com.



The Knapsack

*is the official newsletter of the RCWRT and is published on Wednesday before each meeting.
(July 2014 Circulation: 301)*

Staff

Andrew Ballard, Editor
George Long, Proofreader

Contributors

Lyle Holland
Ted Kunstling

*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, fjr1947@gmail.com
Steve Savia, 919-846-6908, sagegroup1@aol.com

RCWRT Score Card

Members	121
---------	-----

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.