

The Knapsack

Raleigh Civil War Round Table

The same rain falls on both friend and foe.

September 8, 2014
Our 163rd Meeting



Volume 14
Number 9

<http://www.raleighcwrt.org>

Margaret Humphreys to Speak at September 8 Meeting On the Practice of Medicine During the Civil War

Margaret Humphreys, a doctor, author, historian and professor at Duke University, will speak at the Raleigh Civil War Round Table's September 8 meeting.

Margaret earned her undergraduate degree at the University of Notre Dame in 1976 and her master's and doctorate degrees in the history of science at Harvard in 1977 and 1983, respectively. Her medical degree was awarded by the Harvard Medical School in 1987.



Margaret is a specialist in the history of science and medicine, and has focused her research and writings primarily on infectious diseases in the United States.

Margaret frequently gives talks on the history of medicine, with a focus on the Civil War, and has written a number of papers and publications on the topic, including the books *Intensely Human: The Health of Black Soldiers in the American Civil War* (2008) and *Marrow of Tragedy: The Health Crisis of The American Civil War* (2013). She also served as the editor-in-chief of the *Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Sciences* from 1999 to 2012.

Her talk at the Raleigh Civil War Round Table's September meeting is on the practice of medicine during the American Civil War.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Members, it is time to remit your annual dues for the new fiscal year. If you have not already done so, please bring your payment to the Sept. 8 meeting or mail it to:

Griff Bartlett, Treasurer
908 Kinsdale Drive
Raleigh, NC 27615

~ Disease in the Civil War ~

About one in five soldiers who served in the Civil War perished during the conflict, with two-thirds of those fatalities due to disease rather than from the actual wounds.



Close quarters, a lack of hygiene, inadequate diets, exposure to a range of weather and temperature, insufficient medical care and impure water were among the things that contributed to deaths from disease during the war. Dysentery was the leading cause of death, with soldiers also suffering from typhoid, malaria, scurvy and other diseases.



The Sesquicentennial



September 1864

Atlanta Falls!

On Sept. 2, after a five-month campaign, Federal forces under Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman occupy Atlanta. The important rail and supply center was evacuated by Confederate troops led by Lt. Gen. John Bell Hood after a Southern defeat at the battle of Jonesborough outside of the city.

Sherman had advanced from Chattanooga and fought several battles before besieging Atlanta for several weeks until it fell. When he left, Hood burned military facilities in the city. Sherman sent a Sept. 3 telegram to Washington, D.C., announcing that "Atlanta is ours, and fairly won." His troops would occupy the city for about two months and burn hundreds of buildings before moving toward Savannah and the Carolinas in what would be known as the "March to the Sea."



Atlanta

The fall of Atlanta helped boost President Abraham Lincoln's chances in the 1864 re-election.

Also in September 1864, Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee recommended that black soldiers be used to boost the dwindling Confederate army, the voters in Union-occupied Louisiana voted for a constitution that abolishes slavery, John C. Frémont withdrew his candidacy as a Republican candidate for U.S. President, an expedition to capture St. Louis, Mo., was launched by Confederate Gen. Sterling Price, and Union forces captured Ft. Harrison.

Union Victory at Winchester

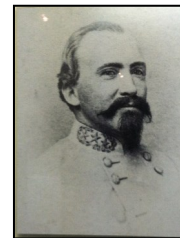
On Sept. 19, Union troops under Maj. Gen. Philip Sheridan attacked and defeated Confederates led by Lt. Gen. Jubal Early outside of Winchester, Va., in what is known as the Battle of the Opequon or the Third Battle of Winchester.



Nearly 40,000 Federal troops were involved in the assault on about 15,000 Confederate defenders. Among the nearly 10,000 casualties were Union Brig. Gen. David Russell and Confederate Maj. Gen. Robert Rodes, both killed. Several other key commanders on both sides were wounded in the engagement, which helped the Federal government gain control of the Shenandoah Valley.

Morgan Killed

On Sept. 4, the famed Confederate raider, Brig. Gen. John Hunt Morgan was killed during a raid on Greeneville, Tenn.



During the summer of 1863, Morgan and about 2,500 cavalymen invaded Kentucky, Indiana, and Ohio in an unauthorized attempt to divert Federal forces during Confederate operations on Vicksburg and Gettysburg. The men rode more than 1,000 miles, but the raid ended in Ohio and Morgan was captured. He escaped and had gone back to raiding when he was killed.

Housekeeper's Image Found

An image of Mary O'Melia, who served as a housekeeper to Jefferson Davis in the White House of the Confederacy, has been located and donated to the American Civil War Museum in Richmond, Va.



Mary O'Melia
Museum of the Confederacy Collection
American Civil War Museum

O'Melia had immigrated from Ireland as a young widow with three children. As the Civil War began, she was in Richmond and was hired to serve at the White House on a staff of about 20.

Her image is captured on a 1/16 plate tintype and was donated by someone who married a member of O'Melia's family from Ireland.

For more on the museum, see <http://www.moc.org>.

Upcoming Events

Sept. 8: Quail Ridge Books in Raleigh hosts Karen Abbot, author of a book on four female spies operating during the Civil War. Free. 7:30 p.m. For more, visit <http://www.quailridgebooks.com> or call (919) 828-1588.

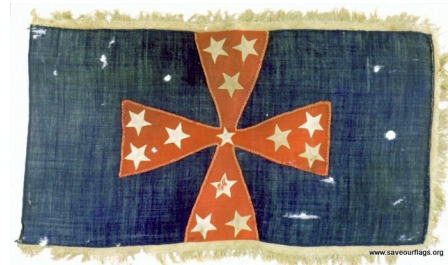
Sept. 13: Ashley's Art Gallery in Fuquay-Varina, N.C., presents famed Civil War artist Mort Künstler. Re-enactors, door prizes. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Go online to <http://www.ashleyart.com/mort-kunstler> or call (919) 552-7533 for more information.

Sept. 20-21: Fort Macon State Park in Atlantic Beach, N.C., holds a living history program featuring flags, drills, weapons, women's clothing. Free. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more, go online to <http://ncparks.gov/Visit/parks/foma/main.php> or call (252) 726-3775.

Oct. 4-5: Laurel Hill, Va., the birthplace of Jeb Stuart, hosts its 24th annual Civil War encampment and living history program. Begins at 9 a.m. both days. Visit <http://www.jebstuart.org> or phone (276) 251-1833 for details.

Help Save This Flag

An effort is under way to preserve the flag flown over the headquarters of Confederate Gen. John Adams during the Battle of Franklin, Tenn.



Adams was killed during the Nov. 30, 1864, battle while he was attempting to cross Federal works. The flag was donated to the Tennessee Historical Society by Adams' widow in 1907 and currently is kept at the Tennessee State Museum. The effort to raise the \$6,500 needed to conserve the flag is led by the Sons of Confederate Veterans' Tennessee Division.

To donate, go online to www.saveourflags.org or call James Turner, who chairs the SCV initiative, at (931) 325-9860.

Preservation News

The Civil War Trust is seeking to preserve 13 key acres at historic Harpers Ferry, W.Va.



The targeted land is the site of Allstadt's Ordinary, a tavern that was a key part of John Brown's raid and is at the heart of the 1862 battlefield.

The Trust's goal in this campaign is to raise \$125,000. Donations are matched at a 19.4:1 rate!

For details, see <http://www.civilwar.org/battlefields/harpersferry/harpers-ferry-2014>.

News of the RCWRT



Upcoming RCWRT Meetings

2014

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

Treasurer's Report

Cash Balance as of Sept. 1, 2013	4,605
Receipts:	
Dues	1,950
Ed Bearss event, net	730
Other receipts	291
Disbursements:	
Wyse Fork Donation (CW Trust)	(550)
Speakers	(2,254)
Rent	(880)
Web Site	(282)
Newsletter	(104)
Cash Balance as of Aug. 31, 2014	3,505

Have questions? Contact Treasurer Griff Bartlett (see right column for his contact information)

Officers Elected For Two-Year Terms

The following individuals were elected at the RCWRT's Aug. 11 meeting to serve from September 2014 through August 2016:

President: Ted Kunstling

Vice President: George Mills

Secretary/Treasurer: Griff Bartlett

Director: Steve Savia

Director: Andrew Ballard

Director: Pat Ford

Director: John Kucik

Director: Frank Ragsdale

Director: Kevin Milus



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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.