

The Knapsack

Raleigh Civil War Round Table

The same rain falls on both friend and foe.

August 11, 2014
Our 162nd Meeting



Volume 14
Number 8

<http://www.raleighcwrt.org>

Stephen Davis to Speak at August 11 Meeting On the Atlanta Campaign of 1864

Stephen Davis, an author and historian, will be the presenter at the Raleigh Civil War Round Table's August 11 meeting.

Steve attended Emory University in Atlanta and studied under renowned Civil War historian Bell Wiley. He earned his master's degree in American history from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and his Ph.D. at Emory, where he concentrated on the Civil War in Southern literature.



Steve has taught high school history as well as

American history and government at Oglethorpe University in Atlanta.

In 2001, his book *Atlanta Will Fall: Sherman, Joe Johnston and the Heavy Yankee Battalions* was published, and another work, *What the Yankees Did to Us: Sherman's Bombardment and Wrecking of Atlanta*, was recently published by Mercer University Press. He served as a book review editor for *Blue and Gray Magazine* from 1994 to 2005, and has written many articles on the Civil War for magazines and publications such as *Civil War Times Illustrated* and the *Georgia Historical Quarterly*.

Steve also has given numerous presentations and talks on the Civil War to a variety of groups.

Steve currently works as director of medical relations for MagMutual Insurance Company in Atlanta.

His presentation at the August 2014 meeting of the Raleigh Civil War Round Table will be on the contest of Sherman, Joe Johnston, and Hood for Atlanta.

~o~

~ Atlanta ~

The city of Atlanta, Ga., sprang from the end of a railroad line in 1837. At the beginning of the Civil War, it was a relatively small city with a population of 9,554, according to the 1860 U.S. Census.



During the war, Atlanta would grow significantly and be an important transportation and logistical center for the Confederacy. The city's factories and warehouses would become important parts of the Southern war effort. Atlanta's capture by Federal forces in September 1864 was a major victory that boosted Northern morale.



The Sesquicentennial



August 1864

Damn the Torpedoes!

On Aug. 5, a Union fleet led by Rear Admiral David Farragut boldly entered Mobile Bay, passed by the defending forts, and secured a dramatic victory against the powerful Confederate ironclad, the *CSS Tennessee*.

Farragut's eighteen-ship squadron advanced in two columns and received intense cannonading from the defending forts. His strategy involved the lashing together of wooden warships and the screening of smaller vessels with the bigger ones. The squadron also faced Confederate "torpedoes," or mines.

When the USS *Tecumseh* rapidly sank after hitting one of the Confederate mines, Farragut urged the stalling Federal naval assault forward with "Damn the torpedoes!"



Farragut at Mobile Bay

The Union naval forces secured the surrender of the *CSS Tennessee* and then besieged the two forts defending the mouth of Mobile Bay, shutting down the strategic port by the end of the month.

Also in August 1864, an explosion set off by coal bombs killed and injured dozens of people in City Point, Va., Union Maj. Gen. Phil Sheridan was named commander of the Army of the Shenandoah, and Federal forces achieved a victory at the Battle of Jonesborough, outside of Atlanta.

Weldon Railroad Seized

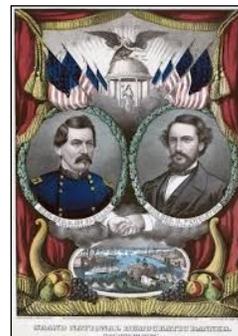
On Aug. 21, after heavy fighting, Confederate forces would withdraw from the battlefield around Globe Tavern, Va., leaving several miles of the critical Weldon Railroad in Union control.



Beginning Aug. 18, the two forces fought for control of the key supply line for Confederate defenders at Petersburg. The Union forces suffered about 4,300 casualties, with nearly 3,000 soldiers missing or captured in the battle. Total Confederate casualties in the battle were fewer, about 1,620, but at a cost of an important section of the railroad.

McClellan Nominated

On Aug. 31, former Union Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan was nominated for President of the United States at the Democratic convention in Chicago.



McClellan would run on an anti-war platform against Lincoln, promising to negotiate peace with the Confederacy and end the conflict as soon as possible. His running mate was U.S. Rep. George Pendleton from Ohio.

Filming in Durham

A Civil War movie about the escape of a Union prisoner currently is filming in Durham, N.C.



“Union Bound” is based on the diary of Joseph Hoover, a Union soldier from upstate New York who escaped a Confederate prison camp in 1864. Hoover made his way back to Union lines with the help of slaves.

Scenes from the movie, by Uptown Pictures, are being filmed at historic Stagville Plantation. The film’s release is planned for mid-2015.

For screenshots, actor photos, and more about the movie, visit its Facebook website at <https://www.facebook.com/Unionbound>.

Upcoming Events

Aug. 14: Fort Fisher at Kure Beach, N.C., presents a program on the imprisonment of fort defenders in the Northern prison camp at Point Lookout, Md. Of the 605 men captured in the January 1865 battle at the fort, 98 never returned home. Free lecture by author Richard Triebe at 2:30 p.m. See <http://friendsoffortfisher.com/home.html> or call (910) 612-7067 for more information.

Aug. 15: Quail Ridge Books in Raleigh hosts Aldo Perry, author of a book on the Civil War courts-martial of N.C. troops. Free. 7:30 p.m. For more, visit <http://www.quailridgebooks.com> or call (919) 828-7912.

Aug. 23: Bentonville Battlefield in Four Oaks, N.C., will offer a living history program including demonstrations of Civil War camp life as well as infantry and artillery drills. Free. From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Go online to <http://www.nchistoricsites.org/bentonvi/bentonvi.htm> or call (910) 594-0789 for details on the event.

Strain Returns to Ashley’s

Ashley’s Art Gallery in Fuquay-Varina, N.C., will host famed Civil War artist John Paul Strain on Aug. 23, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.



“Scarlet Sky” by John Paul Strain

The artist will autograph or embellish his work, available for sale at the gallery.

Go to <http://ashleyart.com/john-paul-strain-civil-war-art> for pictures of John Paul Strain’s historical art that is available at Ashley’s. Visit the website or call the gallery at (919) 552-7533 for details.

Preservation News

The Civil War Trust is seeking to preserve portions of four battlefields from the closing 12 months of the war.



The land targeted for preservation is 306 acres at Appomattox Court House, Va., Bentonville, N.C., Mansfield, La., and Petersburg, Va.

The Trust’s goal in this campaign is to raise \$128,860. Donations are matched at a 10:1 rate!

For details, see <http://www.civilwar.org/battlefields/appomattox-courthouse/four-battlefields-2014>.

News of the RCWRT



Upcoming RCWRT Meetings

2014

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

August Business Meeting

During our August event, we will have a short business meeting to elect officers and directors for the next two years, per our bylaws. The current Board of Directors nominated the following individuals to serve on the eight-member board during the next term:

President: Ted Kunstling
Vice President: George Mills
Treasurer: Griff Bartlett
Director: Steve Savia
Director: Andrew Ballard
Director: Pat Ford
Director: John Kucik
Director: Frank Ragsdale

Nominations also will be accepted from the floor. Thanks to all who served during the previous term. Nominees should be willing to serve.

Editor's Note on McPherson's Death

In last month's *Knapsack* (Vol. 14, No. 7, p. 2), it was stated that Maj. Gen. James McPherson was the only Federal commander to be killed in battle during the Civil War. He was the only Union army department commander slain, but, in August 1861, Brig. Gen. Nathaniel Lyon was killed at the battle of Wilson's Creek while in overall field command of the Federal forces engaged.



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RCWRT Score Card

Members	121
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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.