

The Knapsack

Raleigh Civil War Round Table

The same rain falls on both friend and foe.

February 9, 2015
Our 168th Meeting



Volume 15
Number 2

<http://www.raleighcwrt.org>

February 9 Round Table Meeting to Feature Brenda McKean Describing the Home Front

Author and historian Brenda McKean will speak at the Raleigh Civil War Round Table's February 9 meeting.



Born in Knoxville, Tenn., Brenda moved to North Carolina in 1967 to attend Duke University, from which she graduated. Her education is primarily in medicine and she retired after working in a career as a nurse anesthetist.

For the past thirty years, Brenda has focused on researching and studying Civil War history, giving lectures to a variety of groups and school children.

Brenda is the author of a 2-volume non-fiction work on the Civil War home front, titled *Blood and War at my Doorstep: North Carolina Civilians in the War Between the States*. She was awarded the "Jefferson Davis Historical Gold Medal Certificate" from the United Daughters of the Confederacy as well as the "Willie Parker Peace Award" from the North Carolina Society of Historians and the "Bonnie Blue Award" from SCV Camp 1297.

Brenda is a board member of the Friends of Bennett Place State Historic Site, belongs to the 26th N.C., serves as a board member of the Tar Heel Civilians, is a North Carolina regent for the Society of Women and the Civil War, and she belongs to several other historical organizations, including the Society of Independent Southern Historians.

Brenda's presentation to the RCWRT's February meeting will be based on her recently published books on the experience of North Carolina civilians during the Civil War. Copies of the books will be available for purchase at our meeting. Prices are \$26 and \$37 per volume in paperback and hardcover, respectively; the 2-volume set is available for \$50 in paperback and \$70 in hardcover.

~ The Home Front ~

During the Civil War, women faced many significant struggles, as most men were away serving in the military and the conflict created economic hardships.



Soldiers' wives became the sole providers for their families and often had to take care of family farms.

Southern women were impacted by the Northern blockade and other economic conditions stemming from the war. Inflation and increasing shortages of food and other commodities added to the struggles faced by women on the home front.



The Sesquicentennial



February 1865

Sherman Takes Columbia!

On Feb. 17, Union Maj. Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman captured the city of Columbia, the capital of South Carolina. That same day, Confederate forces also evacuated Charleston, S.C.

A fire began in Columbia after its surrender, and the flames spread because of high winds. Most of the central city was destroyed. Whether the fire was caused accidentally or was set by vengeful Union troops or retreating Confederates continues to be debated.



Columbia Burns

Sherman's forces destroyed almost anything that could be of military value in Columbia, including warehouses, arsenals, machine shops, and railroad depots.

That month, 18 states — Illinois, Rhode Island, Michigan, Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Missouri, Maine, Kansas, Massachusetts, Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, Nevada, Louisiana, Minnesota, and Wisconsin — ratified the Thirteenth Amendment abolishing slavery. Delaware and Kentucky rejected it.

Also in February 1865, the port city of Wilmington, N.C., fell to Federal troops under Maj. Gen. John M. Schofield, Union Gen. Philip Sheridan launched a campaign to destroy resources in the Shenandoah Valley, and the enlistment of slaves was approved by the Confederate House of Representatives.

Peace Talks Fail

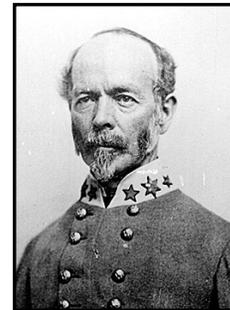
On Feb. 3, representatives of the United States and Confederate governments met to discuss peace terms aboard the *River Queen*, a steamboat docked at Hampton Roads, Va.



President Abraham Lincoln and U.S. Secretary of State William Steward met with Confederate Vice President Alexander Stephens, Sen. Robert Hunter and Assistant Secretary of War John Campbell. The talks only resulted in a prisoner exchange deal, as Lincoln demanded unconditional restoration of the Union and the Confederate delegation insisted on two independent nations.

Johnston Takes Command

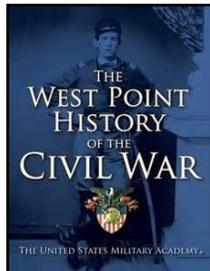
On Feb. 22, Confederate President Jefferson Davis reinstated Gen. Joseph E. Johnston to command.



Johnston was placed in charge of the remnants of the Army of Tennessee and now faced about 90,000 Union troops under Sherman that were headed into North Carolina.

West Point Publication

The United States Military Academy has recently released *The West Point History of the Civil War*, a publication that offers overviews of military strategy, tactics, geography, leadership qualities, and other details and perspectives on the war.



RCWRT President Ted Kunstling says the volume “affords many unique details and insights which will greatly enhance military students’ understanding of decisions and outcomes of battles.” Maps, timelines, and illustrations complement the text which is further enhanced by a companion mobile application, available free of charge at <http://www.westpointhistoryofwarfare.com>.

Upcoming Events

Feb. 14-15: Fort Anderson in Winnabow, N.C., holds a living history event on the 150th anniversary of the fall of the fort titled “Last Stand on the West Bank of the Cape Fear River.” Free. 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sat. and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sun. Tours, artillery fire, lectures, including a talk by Chris Fonvielle. For more information, go to <http://www.ncbrunswick.com/event/287> or call (910) 371-6613.

Feb. 27-28: A Civil War symposium in the Lower Cape fear area is jointly hosted by the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources and the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. Friday features on-the-hour tours of Ft. Anderson from 1-4 p.m. and a 7 p.m. lecture by William C. Davis at Murrow Hall in Southport, followed by a wine and cheese reception. Beginning 8:30 a.m. Saturday, there will be lectures at UNCW and night firing of cannon at Ft. Fisher. \$10 for Friday only and \$25 for both days, plus tax. Sat. includes box lunch. Visit <http://www.ncdcr.gov/civilwarsymposium/register> or telephone (919) 807-7333 for details.

March 7: CSS *Neuse* Civil War Interpretive Center in Kinston, N.C., offers a living history event covering the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Wyse Fork and the scuttling of the ironclad. Free. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, go online to <http://www.nchistoricsites.org/neuse/neuse.htm> or telephone (252) 522-2107.

Another Flag Saved!

Working with the N.C. Museum of History, the 26th Regiment N.C. Troops, Reactivated, a re-enactment and preservation group, has raised funds to conserve another battle flag carried by a North Carolina regiment during the Civil War.

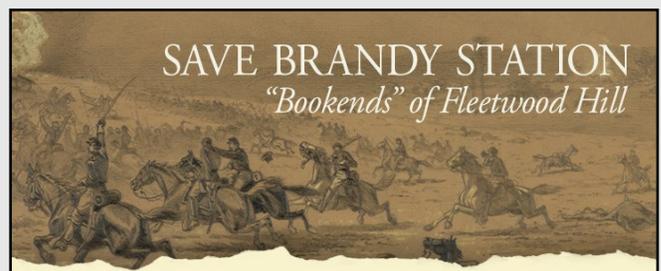


Conservation of the flag carried by the 33rd North Carolina Regiment has now been completed. The flag was captured at the Battle of New Bern on March 14, 1862, and returned to the state in 1917.

The flag of the 33rd N.C. is the latest of several banners that have been preserved by the 26th. For more information on the group’s efforts, see <http://www.26nc.org/Supplemental/for-the-good-of-the-old-north-state.html>.

Preservation News

The Civil War Trust is seeking to preserve critical ground at the Brandy Station, Va., battlefield.



The land targeted for preservation is 33 acres that bookend Fleetwood Hill, strategic ground during the June 9, 1863, battle.

The Trust’s goal in this campaign is to raise \$272,000. Donations are matched at a 2.04:1 rate!

For details, go to <http://www.civilwar.org/battlefields/brandystation/brandy-station-2015>.

News of the RCWRT



Upcoming RCWRT Meetings

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, Research at the Duke Library

Gerard Given Gatton Award

The recipient of the RCWRT's 2015 T. Harry Gatton Award is Philip Gerard. The award was presented at the Round Table's Ed Bearss event in January.



Ted Kunstling and Philip Gerard

Philip Gerard was born in 1955 and grew up in Newark, Del. He earned a bachelors degree in English and Anthropology from the University of Delaware and received his master's in creative writing. He was a faculty member at Arizona State University and currently serves as the chairman of creative writing at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. He is the author of two historical novels set in North Carolina, *Hatteras Light* and *Cape Fear Rising* as well as a recent work featuring Paul Revere and several non-fiction works. Philip has written a series of articles describing life and events during the Civil War in North Carolina that have been published monthly in *Our State* magazine.

Philip's tales of Tarheels during the Civil War may be read at <http://www.ourstate.com/civil-war-stories>.

The T. Harry Gatton Award was made possible through a generous endowment by Mary Gatton in the memory of her late husband to recognize individuals who have made significant contributions to the understanding of and appreciation for the American Civil War. Previous awardees are Ed Bearss (2008), Nora Brooks (2009), Charles Hawks (2010), Mark Bradley (2011), Leslie Rivers (2012), David Waller (2013), and Tom Kearney (2014).



The Knapsack

is the official newsletter of the RCWRT and is published on Wednesday before each meeting.
(February 2015 Circulation: 314)

Staff

Andrew Ballard, Editor
George Long, Proofreader

Contributors

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
George Mills, VP, 919-847-8581, g.c.mills.iii@earthlink.net
Griff Bartlett, Treasurer, 919-848-6562, griffb@yahoo.com
Andrew Ballard, 919- 215-7304, anballard@yahoo.com
Pat Ford, 919-395-8104, patford41@att.net
John Kucik, 919-616-0855, johnkucik@yahoo.com
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	128
---------	-----

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.