

The Knapsack

Raleigh Civil War Round Table

The same rain falls on both friend and foe.

July 13, 2015
Our 173rd Meeting



Volume 15
Number 7

<http://www.raleighcwr.org>

Wade Sokolosky to Speak at July 13 Meeting On the Battle of Wyse Fork

Author, historian, and retired U.S. Army Colonel Wade Sokolosky will speak at the Raleigh Civil War Round Table's July 13 meeting.



Wade was born and raised in Beaufort, N.C., and graduated from East Carolina University in 1986. He then entered the U.S. Army as a 2nd Lt. in the ordnance corps. In 2011, he retired after 25

years of active duty service.

Wade's interest in the American Civil War arose from the historic significance of his home town and its close proximity to Ft. Macon. His interest in the war grew while he was stationed at Ft. Campbell, Ky., when he made several trips with a fellow officer and friend to battlefields in middle Tennessee.

Wade wrote a master thesis on Sherman's logistical operations, which became the root of his first book, *No Such Army Since the Days of Julius Caesar*, co-authored with Mark Smith. That book, released in 2006, covers Sherman's Carolinas campaign from Fayetteville to Averasboro. He and Mark soon will release another book, *To Prepare for Sherman's Coming: The Battle of Wise's Forks, March 1865*.

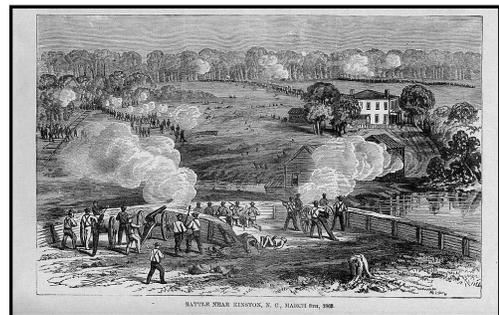
Wade discussed the Battle of Averasboro in the RCWRT's documentary DVD, *The Civil War in North Carolina: The Final Campaigns, 1865*.

Wade lives in Beaufort, is married, has two grown children, and re-enacts, metal detects, and collects Civil War artillery ordnance. His talk at the Round Table's July 2015 meeting will be on the Battle of Wyse Fork, the subject of his upcoming book.

~o~

~ Wyse Fork ~

The Battle of Wyse Fork (also known as Wise's Fork) took place on March 8-10, 1865, near the town of Kinston, N.C.



After some initial success, Confederate attacks led by Gen. Braxton Bragg stalled because of faulty communications. Union forces were reinforced and Kinston would fall. Confederate casualties were about 1,500 of approximately 8,500 engaged. The Union losses totaled some 1,100 of the 12,000 men who fought.



The Sesquicentennial



July 1865

New Hampshire Acts

New Hampshire ratified the 13th Amendment to abolish slavery on July 1. It was the 23rd state to do so. Delaware, a slave state that did not leave the Union, had rejected the measure in February.

To take effect, the amendment required ratification by three-fourths of the states, or 27 of the 36 states, which included those in the Confederacy. Secretary of State Seward would certify the amendment as part of the Constitution in December 1865, after four Southern states — South Carolina, Alabama, North Carolina, and Georgia — had ratified it.

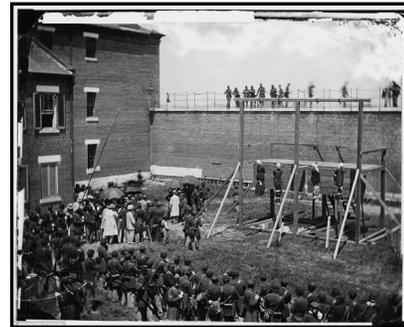


Also in July 1865, a fire destroyed P.T. Barnum's American Museum in New York City, the federal government began renting Ford's Theatre, and President Andrew Johnson appointed William Marvin as the provisional governor of Florida.

July 1865 also saw what is considered the first quick-draw shootout in the United States, when James Butler "Wild Bill" Hickok, a Union veteran, shot and killed Davis Tutt, a Confederate veteran, in the town square of Springfield, Mo. The two men had faced each other sideways in a quick-draw duel over the payment of a loan Hickok had taken from Tutt. They both fired at the same time, with Tutt being shot through the heart while missing his target.

Conspirators Hanged

On July 7, the three men and one woman who had been sentenced to death for the assassination of President Lincoln were hanged.



Mary Surratt, Lewis Powell, George Atzerodt, and David Herold were hanged in front of onlookers at Fort McNair in Washington, D.C. Three others had been given prison sentences, and John Wilkes Booth was shot by a Union soldier a few days after he shot the President.

Secret Service Founded

On July 8, the U.S. Secret Service Division was created to suppress counterfeit currency.



It is estimated that, in 1865, about one-third of the circulating currency was counterfeit. The first Secret Service chief, William P. Wood, was sworn in by the Secretary of the Treasury Hugh McCulloch in Washington, D.C.

Averasboro Land Protected!

The non-profit Averasboro Battlefield Commission has been awarded 27.5 acres of battlefield land for protection through a federal grant coordinated by the Civil War Trust.



The commission operates a museum at the site, about 40 miles south of Raleigh. There is no charge for visiting the museum, but donations are encouraged. The Battle of Averasboro was fought on March 16, 1865, when the advance of more than 25,000 Union men under Sherman was held up by about 6,500 Confederates.

More information about Averasboro is available at <http://www.averasboro.com>.

Upcoming Events

July 14: Carolina BBQ in Garner, N.C., hosts Michael Hardy who will be speaking on North Carolina as the Confederate capital. 6 p.m. Sponsored by SCV Camp #1486. Go online to <http://nchumanities.org/events/road-scholars/rs-michael-hardy-north-carolina-confederate-capital-0> or telephone (919) 349-8188 for details.

July 18-19: Fort Macon, at Atlantic Beach, N.C., will offer a living history weekend with the 1st NC Volunteers. Flag talks, women's dress talks, and musket firings and drills are a few of the programs being performed. Free. From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Go online to <http://ncparks.gov/Visit/parks/foma/main.php> or call (252) 726-3775.

July 21: The Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum in Hatteras, N.C., hosts Jonathan Sarris as part of its "Salty Dawgs Lecture Series." He will talk about the motivations of Civil War soldiers, using their own words to explore the reasons they endured four years of horrific combat. 2 p.m. Free. More information is available at <http://www.graveyardoftheatlantic.com> or call (252) 986-2995.

August 8: The N.C. Maritime Museum in Southport, N.C., presents a living history event titled "Our Flag Was Still There." Military history encampments, including Civil War. Free. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. For details, see <http://ncmaritimemuseums.com/southport> or telephone (910) 457-0003.

Period Baseball League

The Tennessee Association of Vintage Base Ball is a Civil War living history group that focuses on the sport that was taking off in America at that time, in both the North and South.



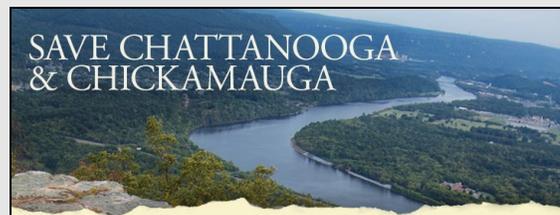
Photo by Richard Compton

On its website, the association says it seeks to bring 19th Century America to life through baseball events that use the rules, equipment, costumes, and culture of the 1860s. "Our goal is to exemplify to youth and adults alike the values that are lacking in modern-day athletic programs, and encourage a sense of belonging regardless of race, gender, religious conviction or physical ability," the group says.

For details, see <http://tennesseevintagebaseball.com>.

Preservation News

The Civil War Trust is seeking to preserve critical ground at the Chattanooga & Chickamauga battlefields in Tennessee and Georgia.



The land targeted for preservation totals 42 acres, some at Reed's Bridge, scene of opening action in the September 1863 battle of Chickamauga, and other land at Brown's Ferry, a key Tennessee River crossing used by Union forces to bring supplies to their besieged army in Chattanooga.

The Trust's goal in this campaign is to raise \$120,500. Donations are matched at a 5.73:1 rate!

For details, go to <http://www.civilwar.org/battlefields/chickamauga/chickamauga-chattanooga-2015>.

News of the RCWRT



Upcoming RCWRT Meetings

August: Rex Hovey, The Battle of South Mountain

September: Susanna Lee, Sioux Uprising

October: Joseph Glatthaar, TBA

November: Gerald Prokopowicz, command & control

December: Holiday Party at State Capitol

January: Annual Ed Bearss Event

New Knapsack Feature Next Month

This month features the last time “The Sesquicentennial” page will be included in *The Knapsack*. The feature, on p. 2, has been running since December 2010 and has marked the events of 150 years ago. A new feature, “The States” will be published on p.2 beginning with the August edition. Each month, the page will describe one of the 36 states that had entered the Union by the end of the Civil War (including the seceding states), in order of their date of ratification/admission. Delaware will be featured first.

RCWRT Documentary

A documentary covering the end of the Civil War in North Carolina is being offered by the Raleigh Civil War Round Table. It is available at our meetings for donations to the RCWRT that will be used for educational and preservation activities related to North Carolina and the Civil War. The film features historians and authors speaking on the major events of 1865. See the RCWRT’s website (<http://www.raleighcwr.org>) for more information.

Three New Members!

The RCWRT welcomes our newest members, Stan Martin and Willard Pierson of Raleigh and David Black of Nelson, Va. If you know someone who is interested in the Civil War, bring them to a meeting and encourage them to join!



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RCWRT Score Card

Members	140
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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.