

The Knapsack

Raleigh Civil War Round Table

The same rain falls on both friend and foe.

September 14, 2015
Our 175th Meeting



Volume 15
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<http://www.raleighcwrt.org>

Rex Hovey to Speak at September 14 Meeting On The Battle of South Mountain

Historian and re-enactor Rex Hovey will speak at the Raleigh Civil War Round Table's September 14 meeting on the Battle of South Mountain, which was fought on that day in 1862.



Rex grew up in Charlotte, N.C., attending Central Piedmont Community College and UNC-Charlotte. He worked for the Charlotte fire department, retiring as Fire Captain. His Civil War interest was stirred by the movie "Johnny Shiloh," about a drummer boy.

A re-enactor, Rex began portraying a surgeon for the North Carolina Battalion due to his medical background. He portrays his ancestor, Dr. Bleecker L. Hovey, a famed surgeon with the 136th N.Y. State Volunteers, and Dr. John H. McHan of the 13th North Carolina.

Rex led the effort, and raised more than \$100,000 to build and place the North Carolina monument on the South Mountain battlefield. He is president of the Living History Association of Mecklenburg Inc., and historian for the 13th N.C. Infantry Regiment. He also was the editor for the *Ranaleburg Riflemen*, the 13th's newsletter as well as the newsletter for the North Carolina South Mountain Monument Fund.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Rex will have available at the meeting miniatures of the North Carolina monument at South Mountain (see picture below) for donations of \$29.95. Cash, credit and debit cards accepted.

An exact replica of original monument at Fox's Gap, it measures 5" long x 5.5" tall. Funds will be used to support the printing of informational brochures.

~ South Mountain ~

The Battle of South Mountain, Md., was part of the Confederate's Maryland Campaign and was fought on September 14, 1862.



The battle actually entailed fights at three separate passes in South Mountain: Crampton's, Turner's, and Fox's gaps. Some 28,000 Union troops under Maj. Gen. George McClellan fought about 18,000 Confederates led by Gen. Robert E. Lee. Each side suffered more than 2,000 casualties in the battle, a Union victory.



Pennsylvania

The States During the Civil War



‘The Keystone State’

Pennsylvania, one of the original Thirteen Colonies, was the second state to ratify the U.S. Constitution. The “Keystone State” was a critical source of men, arms, and equipment to the Union forces and also provided key political and military leadership.

In 1860, Pennsylvania had a population of 2,906,215, behind only New York for the number of citizens. The state had large farming regions, ship-builders, and was the U.S. government’s primary source of iron and coal. Gov. Andrew Curtin was a strong Lincoln supporter throughout the war.

More than 427,000 men served in the Union forces and about 27,000 of them died during the Civil War, with more than 15,000 of those being combat deaths. More black soldiers (8,612) were mustered in from Pennsylvania than any other state. More than 100 men from the Keystone State earned the Medal of Honor for their actions during the war.



Pennsylvania Monument, Gettysburg

1860 Election Results:

Abraham Lincoln (Rep)	268,030 (56.3%)
Stephen Douglas (Dem)	178,765 (37.5%)
John C. Breckenridge (Dem)	16,765 (3.5%)
John Bell (Union)	12,776 (2.7%)

1864 Election Results:

Abraham Lincoln (Rep)	296,292 (51.6%)
George McClellan (Dem)	277,443 (48.4%)

Governors:

William Packer (Dem), Jan. 19, 1858– Jan. 15, 1861
Andrew Curtin (Rep), Jan. 15, 1861– Jan. 15, 1867

‘Bucktails’

Pennsylvania provided 215 regiments of infantry, 22 cavalry regiments and dozens of artillery units to the Union cause, along with militia units and some 40,000 sailors. About 90 percent of soldiers from the state fought in the Eastern Theater of the war.



Men of Co. D, 149th Pennsylvania

Among the notable units from Pennsylvania was the 13th Penn. Reserves, known as the “Bucktails,” called that because of the deer tails men wore in their hats. The unit also had a distinctive “wildcat” yell and was made up of superior marksmen. Two other regiments recruited later in the war, the 149th and 150th, also were known as “Bucktails.”

Other Pennsylvania regiments of note include the 116th, which served in the famous Irish Brigade and the 141st, which suffered 75.7 percent casualties at the battle of Gettysburg. The 6th U.S. Colored Troops, made up of black men from Pennsylvania, suffered 62 percent casualties in an assault on New Market Heights, Va., in 1864.

The Battle of Gettysburg, considered one of the most significant battles of the Civil War, was fought in Pennsylvania. The state saw several cavalry raids during the conflict and Chambersburg was burned by Confederates in July 1864.

Among the notable people from Pennsylvania were U.S. Secretaries of War Simon Cameron and Edwin Stanton. The state also had 48 generals and 14 corps commanders who served in the Union army, including Maj. Gens. George McClellan, George Meade, John F. Reynolds, and Winfield Hancock. Admiral David Porter and Rear Admiral John A. Dahlgren also were Pennsylvanians, as was Union Quartermaster Gen. Montgomery Meigs and U.S. Rep. Thaddeus Stevens.

Famous Last Words

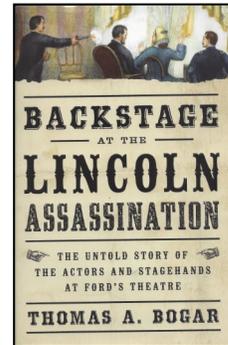
“They couldn’t hit an elephant at this distance...” were among the last words uttered by Union Maj. Gen. John Sedgwick before he was killed at the start of the Battle of Spotsylvania Court House on May 9, 1864.



Sedgwick reportedly was admonishing his troops about dodging Confederate sniper fire when a sharpshooter shot him under the left eye.

A Different Perspective

There are many books about the assassination of President Lincoln in April 1865. But a fairly recent book by Thomas A. Bogar offers a different view of that American tragedy.



In his *Backstage at the Lincoln Assassination: The Untold Story of the Actors and Stagehands at Ford's Theatre*, Bogar provides a detailed look at the event through the 46 stagehands, actors, and other theater workers that were at Ford's Theatre that fateful night. Available at most book stores and Amazon.com.

Upcoming Events

September 17: Lenoir Community College in Kinston, N.C., will host a presentation on the nomination of the Wyse Fork battlefield to the National Register of Historic Places. 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. Free. For details, contact Lyle Holland by e-mail at wahotyger@embarqmail.com or by telephone at (252) 527-7494.

September 19-20: Fort Macon at Atlantic Beach, N.C., will hold living history demonstrations and a tour. 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Free. For more, see <http://www.ncparks.gov/Visit/parks/foma/main.php> or call (252) 726-3775.

September 26: Somerset Place historical site near Creswell, N.C., presents “Civil War Foodways,” an event focused on the role food played in the Civil War. 11 a.m. Free. For details, go to <http://www.nchistoricsites.org/somerset/somerset.htm> or telephone (252) 797-4560.

October 3: The New Bern Historical Society holds a walking tour of the town’s battlefield park, Free. See <http://newbernhistorical.org> or call (252) 638-8558.

October 10-11. Bennett Place historical site in Durham, N.C., presents “Reunion & Remembrance,” a living history event honoring soldiers from both sides of the conflict. See <http://www.nchistoricsites.org/bennett/bennett.htm> or telephone (919) 383-4345 for more.

Preservation News

The Civil War Trust is seeking to preserve land at South Mountain and Antietam (Sharpsburg), both part of the 1862 Maryland Campaign.



The targeted property includes six acres at the East Woods on the Antietam battlefield and 43 acres at Crampton’s Gap at South Mountain.

The Trust’s goal in this campaign is to raise \$412,000. Donations are matched at a 3.29:1 rate!

For details, go to <http://www.civilwar.org/battlefields/antietam/maryland-campaign-2015>.

News of the RCWRT



Upcoming RCWRT Meetings

October: Joseph Glatthaar, TBA

November: Gerald Prokopowicz, command & control

December: Holiday Party at State Capitol

January: annual Ed Bearss event

Please Remit Annual Dues!

Annual dues (\$30, individual or family; \$15, students) were due Sept. 1. Please bring your payment to the September meeting or mail it (payable to the RCWRT) to:

Griff Bartlett, Treasurer
908 Kinsdale Drive
Raleigh, NC 27615

Treasurer's Report

Cash Balance as of Sept. 1, 2014	3,505
General Fund Receipts:	
Dues	3,390
Ed Bearss event, net	470
Other receipts	1,165
General Fund Disbursements:	
Bennett Place, City Museum Donations	(1,050)
Speaker Expenses	(1,393)
Rent	(1,290)
Web Site	(240)
Newsletter	(60)
Other disbursements	(227)
Cash Balance as of Aug. 31, 2015	4,270
Documentary DVD Donations	2,461
DVD Production, Mailing Costs	(1,103)
Documentary Fund Balance	1,358

Two New Members!

The RCWRT welcomes our newest members, Steve Smith of Durham, N.C., and Garry Wall of Zebulon, N.C. 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 144

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 (located at 5 Edenton Street, across from the State Capitol). Members and guests are encouraged to meet for supper at K&W Cafeteria, 511 Woodburn Rd., in Cameron Village before the meeting, at 5:15 pm.

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.