

The Knapsack

Raleigh Civil War Round Table

The same rain falls on both friend and foe.

January 9, 2016
Our 179th Meeting



Volume 16
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<http://www.raleighcwr.org>

January 9 Event Features Ed Bearss Reflecting on the Impact of the Civil War

Edwin C. Bearss is one of the most respected Civil War scholars alive today and is considered by many to be a national treasure.

Ed served as Chief Historian of the National Park Service and was featured in Ken Burns' PBS series, *The Civil War*, as well as the Arts & Entertainment Channel's *Civil War Journal*.



He is an award-winning author, having written or edited more than 20 books in addition to more than 100 articles. Among his many works are *The Battle at Wilson's Creek*, *Forrest at Brice's Cross Roads*, *Hardluck Ironclad*, and *The Vicksburg Campaign*. Ed also provides the

overview in the RCWRT's documentary film on the 1865 events in North Carolina.

In 1983, Ed received the Department of Interior's Distinguished Service Award, its highest honor. Ed also was the first recipient of Civil War Preservation Trust's most prestigious national award, which is now named after him. In November 2005, he was identified in Smithsonian Magazine's cover story, "35 who made a difference."

In 2008, the RCWRT awarded Ed our first T. Harry Gattton Award for "his tireless efforts in support of the preservation of countless Civil War battlefields and the memory of those who fought and died on them."

Ed served in the Pacific theater with the Marine Corps during World War II, and was severely wounded by machine-gun fire.

At the Jan. 9th event, Ed will offer his reflections on the Civil War and its lasting impact.

~o~

NOTE: Our 14th Annual Meeting with Ed Bearss will be held jointly with the Burlington-based N.C. Civil War Round Table at the North Carolina Museum of History in downtown Raleigh. Doors will open at 12:30 p.m., and the event will begin at 1 p.m. Tickets are \$10 each and are available at the event. A raffle of artwork also will be held (see p. 4 for details).

~ The NCCWRT ~

The North Carolina Civil War Round Table (NCCWRT) was formed in 1955, making it one of the oldest Civil War round tables in the country.



The group recently funded a monument to Lane's N.C. brigade at the breakthrough site in Pamplin Park, Va. (see above). The NCCWRT meets on the third Saturday of every other month. For details about the group, see <http://www.nccwrt.com>.



Massachusetts

The States During the Civil War



'The Old Bay State'

Massachusetts, one of the original colonies, was the sixth state to ratify the U.S. Constitution. "The Old Bay State" played a significant role, not only in the War, but in the events that led up to the conflict. The early anti-slavery movement was led by activists and politicians from Massachusetts.

In 1860, Massachusetts had a population of 1,231,066. The state was a strong supporter of President Lincoln and an important industrial and manufacturing center for the Union cause and home to the Springfield Armory.

About 150,000 men from Massachusetts served in the Union forces and nearly 14,000 of them were killed in battle or died of disease during the Civil War. Two regiments of colored infantry came from the state, including the famed 54th Massachusetts.



54th Mass Monument, Boston

1860 Election Results:

Abraham Lincoln (Rep)	106,684 (62.8%)
Stephen Douglas (Dem)	34,370 (20.2%)
John Bell (Union)	22,331 (13.2%)
John C. Breckenridge (Dem)	6,163 (3.6%)

1864 Election Results:

Abraham Lincoln (Rep)	126,742 (72.2%)
George McClellan (Dem)	48,745 (27.8%)

Governor:

John A. Andrew (Rep), Jan. 3, 1861–Jan. 4, 1866

The 'Minutemen of '61'

Massachusetts provided 68 regiments of infantry, two of which were formed with black men, along with five cavalry regiments and numerous artillery units.



6th Mass Attacked in Baltimore

Among the notable units from the state was the 6th Massachusetts, which saw the first volunteer troop casualties of the war when it was attacked by a mob on April 19, 1861, in Baltimore, Md. The 6th and other early militia units from Massachusetts were nicknamed "The Minutemen of '61."

The 54th Massachusetts was one of two regiments comprised of black soldiers and gained fame for its assault on Battery Wagner, S.C., in July 1863. The 28th was a primarily Irish-American regiment from Massachusetts that was part of the Irish Brigade and saw action in most of the significant battles in the Eastern Theatre of the war including Antietam, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, and Gettysburg.

Other regiments of note recruited from the state were the 25th, which suffered 70 percent casualties at Cold Harbor and the 20th, which lost nearly that percentage of men at Fredericksburg.

Notable individuals from Massachusetts include Sen. Charles Sumner, a Radical Republican leader in Congress, Dorothea Dix, founder of the Army Nurses Bureau, Clara Barton, the famed nurse, and Henry Whitney Bellows, founder of the U.S. Sanitary Commission. Union generals from Massachusetts included Major Generals Joseph Hooker, Nathaniel P. Banks, Edwin Vose Sumner, Darius Couch, John G. Barnard, and Isaac Stevens.



Ed Bearss' 2016 Carolinas Campaign

Once again, Ed is touring North Carolina giving talks around the state. Below are dates of his events and planned topics for his 2016 campaign:

Weds., Jan. 6, Southport. Lincoln's Cabinet

Thurs., Jan. 7, Pinehurst. General Burnside

Fri., Jan. 8, Tarboro. Battle of Ball's Bluff

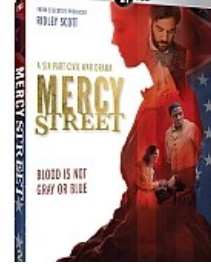
Sat., Jan. 9, Raleigh. Reflections on the War

Sun., Jan. 10, New Bern. Lee and his Generals



New Series on PBS

A new Civil War drama will air on PBS beginning Sunday, Jan. 17 at 10 p.m. "Mercy Street" takes place at the Mansion House Hospital in Union-occupied Alexandria, Va., during the Spring of 1862.



The show follows the lives of two volunteer nurses on opposite sides of the conflict and much of it is based on material pulled from diaries and archival material from the Civil War. "Based on real events, Mercy Street takes viewers beyond the battlefield and into the lives of Americans on the Civil War home front," PBS says on its website.

For details on the series, see <http://www.pbs.org/mercy-street/home>.

Upcoming Events

February 6. Longwood University in Farmville, Va., holds its annual Civil War seminar. The event is free.

This year's seminar is titled "After Appomattox" and will feature:

Ernie Price, "Marching out of Formation: Confederates Going Home After Appomattox."

Patrick Schroeder, "Appomattox: After the Surrender to 1965."

Rick Hatcher, "Return to Fort Sumter."

Frank O' Reilly, "Uneasy Alliance: Brokering Peace with Grant and Lee."

Eric Wittenberg, "Wade Hampton and Joshua Chamberlain: Parallel Lives Well Lived."

The event begins at 9 a.m. and lasts until about 4 p.m. No reservations are necessary. Go to <http://www.longwood.edu> for more information.

Preservation News

The Civil War Trust is seeking donations to help save 202 acres at Appomattox.



The targeted property are three tracts of land upon which the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia under Robert E. Lee fought its final battles before surrendering to Ulysses S. Grant.

The Trust's goal in this campaign is to raise \$50,000. Donations are matched at a 8:1 rate!

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

News of the RCWRT



Upcoming RCWRT Meetings

February: Chris Hartley, Stoneman's Raid

March: Wade Sokolosky, Wyse Fork

Raffle Items for January Meeting!

The following items will be raffled off at the RCWRT's Jan. 9 meeting with Ed Bearss. Tickets are \$5 each, three for \$10. You do not have to be present to win. The artwork was once again generously donated by Rick Mullen, owner of Ashley's Art Gallery in Fuquay-Varina.



FIRST PRIZE

'Unconquered Spirit' Framed Canvas by Mort Künstler Scene is Orange, Va., August 1863

Details at <http://ashleyart.com/unconquered-spirit-mort-kunstler-classic-canvas-framed>



SECOND PRIZE

'The Strangest Race' Framed Canvas by Mort Künstler Scene is White House, Va., June 1862

Details at <http://ashleyart.com/the-strangest-race-mort-kunstler-framed-canvas>



THIRD PRIZE

'Sunday in Winchester' Unframed Print by J.P. Strain

Details at <http://johnpaulstrain.com/art/sunday-in-winchester.htm>

Welcome New Members!

The RCWRT welcomes our newest members, Rich Brearton of Cary and the musicians of the Southern String Band!



The Knapsack

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RCWRT Score Card

Members 178

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.