

# ***The Knapsack***

## ***Raleigh Civil War Round Table***

***The same rain falls on both friend and foe.***

***October 11, 2010***  
***Our 116th Meeting***



***Volume 10***  
***Number 10***

## **Bruce Miller to Present “Only a Soldier’s Grave” at October 11 Meeting**

Bruce Miller, a retired history and economics instructor, will present a program on death during the Civil War at the Raleigh Civil War Round Table’s October 11 meeting.

The program will cover the magnitude and lack of preparation for the large number of casualties, as well as the handling of dead soldiers at the beginning of the war and thereafter. Miller will focus on the development of two different cemetery systems in the South and North, using the creation of the Confederate Cemetery at Oakwood and the Raleigh National Cemetery as case studies.

The presentation will involve a close look at Oakwood, with a discussion of unknown soldiers, burial mistakes, and stories about individuals.

Bruce grew up in New England, and obtained his undergraduate degree in history from Dartmouth College (N.H.).



He moved to the Raleigh area in 1970, attending the University of North Carolina’s graduate school and receiving his masters degree in history from that institution.

Following a career as a history teacher and,

then, administrator, at Ravenscroft School in Raleigh, Bruce currently volunteers as a tour guide for Oakwood Cemetery (see photograph, lower left), and as a city tour guide for the Triangle Segway and bus tours of Raleigh. He serves on the board of directors for the Oakwood Historic District, where he has owned a home since 1978.

### **New History Museum Exhibit: N.C. on the Eve of the War**

An exhibit that opened Sept. 17 at the North Carolina Museum of History, *Crisis at the Capitol: North Carolina on the Eve of War*, explores what the state capitol was like on the eve of the Civil War. Admission is free, and the exhibit runs until May 13, 2011.

The exhibit is based on the stories of 11 individuals with different perspectives on the impending crisis including: John Copeland, a Raleigh native who participated in John Brown’s infamous raid on Harpers Ferry, Va.; Harriet Jacobs, once enslaved in Edenton, who escaped and became active in the abolition movement; and John Thomas Jones, a student at the University of North Carolina who supported secession and enlisted in the army despite of his father’s Unionist views. The viewpoints of President Abraham Lincoln, N.C. Governor John Ellis, and famed abolitionist author and Mocksville native Hinton Rowan Helper are also highlighted.

## North Carolina Civil War Death Study: Revisiting the Body Count

It has been widely accepted that North Carolina contributed the most troops to the Confederate cause, estimated at more than 125,000, and Tar Heels suffered the greatest number of Confederate casualties in the Civil War, some 40,000 deaths. However, a state research historian says that casualty figure is more likely to be between 33,000 and 35,000.



**Confederate Dead by a Fence on the Hagerstown Road  
(Antietam, MD, September 1862)**

Josh Howard, a researcher with the state's Office of Archives and History, has launched a "North Carolina Civil War Death Study" to more accurately identify those who lost their lives in the 1861-1865 conflict. The study is intended to supplement the map-driven *North Carolina Civil War Atlas* being prepared by the state agency in preparation for the upcoming Sesquicentennial Commemoration.

Howard told *The Knapsack* that, even with the revised body count, North Carolina still lost more soldiers during the Civil War than any other Confederate state. About 2,000 Tar Heels also died while wearing Union blue, he said.

Other states need to revisit their casualty figures as well, Howard said.

According to Howard, military records were "notoriously inaccurate and incomplete." Soldiers went missing in combat, and often were presumed captured when they had been killed, he said. Some who were captured died shortly thereafter from their wounds, but remained listed as prisoners-of-war in their own army's records.

Errors also stemmed from names that were difficult to spell or pronounce or were similar among soldiers of the same command, according to Howard. Soldiers often also took assumed names when they became prisoners or if they were enlisting for bounties, he said. Prison records also were notoriously bad, Howard said.

In addition, neither Confederate nor Federal military forces provided an official means of notifying family members upon the death of a soldier, according to Howard. Casualty lists and hospital returns also were more focused on force strength than individual lives, and commanders often provided false loss reports either to hide the truth from the enemy or to demonstrate their troops had been in the thick of a fight, he said.

As an example, Howard said North Carolina's first military death—Private James Hudson of Co. B, 1st North Carolina Volunteers who died of pneumonia in Raleigh on May 11, 1861—does not appear in any of the military archival sources of his unit. The only evidence of his enlistment, service, and ultimate death appear in Hudson's obituary which was published in the *Charlotte Western Democrat* on June 21, 1861, according to Howard.

Due to the inaccuracies, Howard said a re-analysis of Civil War casualties is needed—not just for North Carolina, but for other states as well. Two states—Virginia and South Carolina—have revised casualty figures, which are "probably good figures," according to Howard. Virginia lost about 24,000 soldiers during the war, and South Carolina's fatalities number approximately 18,000, he said.

To derive as accurate of a casualty list for North Carolina as possible, Howard told *The Knapsack* that a comprehensive analysis that goes beyond published rosters is being undertaken by his office. Military records, muster rolls, archival records, major contemporary newspaper articles, and a study of gravestones all are included in the North Carolina Civil War Death Study, he said.

According to Howard, soldiers on both sides of the conflict "earned the right to have their story, whatever side they fought on, told as accurately and as completely as possible."

The death study is part of a larger effort to more accurately document North Carolina's contributions during the Civil War, Howard told *The Knapsack*. The Office of Archives and History plans to provide enlistment and casualty information in both graph and map formats on a county-by-county and year-by-year basis, with other relevant information such as slave ownership, he said.

Details on the North Carolina Civil War Death Study are available at [http://www.nccivilwar150.com/features/nc-civil-war\\_death-study.htm](http://www.nccivilwar150.com/features/nc-civil-war_death-study.htm).

## 150th Anniversary on the Web

### National:

#### **Civil War Preservation Trust**

<http://www.civilwar.org/150th-anniversary/index.html>

#### **Civil War Traveler**

<http://www.civilwartraveler.com/CivilWar150.html>

#### **Civil War Album**

<http://www.civilwaralbum.com>

### Union:

#### **Connecticut**

<http://finalsite.ccsu.edu/page.cfm?p=2296>

#### **Indiana**

<http://www.in.gov/history/INCivilWar.htm>

#### **Missouri**

<http://www.missouricivilwar.net>

#### **New Jersey**

<http://www.njcivilwar150.org>

#### **Ohio**

<http://www.ohiocivilwar150.org>

#### **Pennsylvania**

<http://www.pacivilwar150.com>

### Confederate:

#### **Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee**

<http://www.civilwar150th.org>

#### **Arkansas**

<http://www.arkansascivilwar150.com>

#### **GA Sons of Confederate Veterans**

<http://www.150wbts.org>

#### **North Carolina**

<http://www.nccivilwar150.com>

#### **South Carolina**

<http://www.sc150civilwar.palmettohistory.org>

#### **Tennessee**

<http://tnvacation.com/civil-war>

#### **Virginia**

<http://www.virginiacivilwar.org>

## Membership Renewals Overdue!

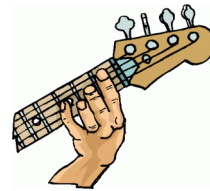
Annual dues (\$30, individual or family) were due in September for 2010-11. As of this writing, only 49 of 121 memberships have renewed! Please either mail your check to:

David June, Treasurer  
3912 White Chapel Way  
Raleigh, NC 27615

or, bring your check to the October meeting.

## Appreciating Stan Clardy

At our September meeting, members were able to enjoy a musical program by Stan Clardy, who presented us with *The Story Behind the Songs*.



What members heard is just a fraction of what Clardy, a songwriter, musician, playwright, actor, and author from Statesville, N.C., has to offer. Clardy has a number of tapes and CDs available for purchase that you can enjoy anytime!

For information on ordering his music or programs, visit his website (<http://www.stanclardy.com>) or contact him at:

Stan Clardy  
P.O. Box 5374,  
Statesville, NC 28687  
(704) 871-8287

## Preservation News

The Civil War Preservation Trust recently has launched a campaign aimed at purchasing two parcels comprising 10 acres within the current boundaries of Manassas National Park.

Both parcels are important parts of the Second Manassas (Aug. 28-30, 1862) battlefield.

The CWPT's goal in this campaign is to raise \$57,000.



More information on the Second Manassas effort is available at <http://www.civilwar.org/bullrun10>.

## News of the RCWRT



### A Note From The New Editor

I would like to personally thank Charles Hawks, our long-time *Knapsack* editor, for all of his past efforts. For years under his leadership, the Round Table has had a quality newsletter of which we can all be proud. I hope to continue to provide you all with a publication you can enjoy. Your feedback and suggestions are always welcome. Andrew ([anballard@yahoo.com](mailto:anballard@yahoo.com); 845-3379).

### Call For Volunteers!

Kevin Milus, our immediate past president, is recruiting volunteers for a new "Speakers' Guild."

To support our mission of education, Kevin seeks to provide residents of adult care facilities in the Raleigh area with presentations related to the Civil War. Members already have given presentations to residents of The Cypress: Kevin on Raleigh during the Civil War; Carl Regutti on the Joseph Johnston sculpture that he created for Bentonville; and, David Waller, our former program chair, anecdotes and personalities of Civil War generals. The Editor also gave his presentation on Monocacy to residents of Magnolia Glen, and Kevin gave his talk there as well.

If you are interested in participating, please contact Kevin at [kmilus@aol.com](mailto:kmilus@aol.com) or 815-4360.

### Two New Members

The RCWRT welcomes our two newest members — Don Fowler and Grady Sykes, both of Raleigh.

### RCWRT Now on Facebook

For those of you that use social media, the Round Table now has a Facebook page. If you are a member (<http://www.facebook.com>), search for The Raleigh Civil War Roundtable and become our friend!

#### RCWRT Score Card

Total Membership	156*
<b>September 2010 Attendance</b>	
Supper	25
Meeting	40
Fellowship	10

\* A record.



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**Readers are encouraged to submit  
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### RCWRT Board of Directors

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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 p.m., at the NC History Museum, (5 Edenton St. across from the State Capitol). Members and guests are encouraged to meet for supper at Uncle Fatty's Drive In (427 Woodburn Rd, Cameron Village) at 5:15; and for further discussion at The Mellow Mushroom (Glenwood Avenue & Peace Street) immediately after the meeting. Annual membership dues are \$30 (individual and family) and \$15 for students. Half-year memberships are available March through May for \$20.