

# ***The Knapsack***

***Raleigh Civil War Round Table***  
***The same rain falls on both friend and foe.***

***July 9, 2018***  
***Our 209th Meeting***



***Volume 18***  
***Number 7***

<http://www.raleighcwr.org>

## **July 9 Event Features Author Michael Hardy Speaking on The Branch-Lane Brigade**

The Raleigh Civil War Round Table's July 2018 meeting will feature a talk by award-winning author and historian Michael C. Hardy.



Michael is a native of Apopka, Fla., and graduated from the University of Alabama. He was first captivated by the Civil War in the early 1980s, when an uncle brought him to a reenactment and he was allowed to carry a flag. Michael became very involved in re-enacting, through which he gained a deeper understanding of the events, tactics, firearms, equipment and clothing of the Civil War period.

In 1995, Michael moved with his wife to Boone, N.C., where he researched North Carolina units. His book on the 37th N.C. Troops, released in 2003, was the result of countless hours of research at the Appalachian State library. Other books that Michael has authored include works covering the history of the battle of Hanover Court House, Va. (2006), the 58th N.C. Troops (2010), *Civil War Charlotte* (2012), *Watauga County, N.C., in the Civil War* (2013) and *the capitals of the Confederacy* (2015).

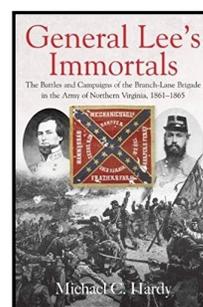
Michael also is the author of numerous articles that have been published in *Civil War Times*, *America's Civil War*, *Gettysburg Magazine*, *Tar Heel Junior Historians*, *Confederate Veteran*, and *Camp Chase Gazette*. In 2010, he was named the North Carolina Historian of the Year.

Released earlier this year was a history of the Branch-Lane Brigade, published by Savas Beatie, the subject of Michael's July 9 talk to the RCWRT.

He will have copies of some of his books available for purchase at our event and will be happy to sign them.

### **~ The Branch-Lane Brigade ~**

The Branch-Lane Brigade from the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia was made up of units that were all from North Carolina: the 7th, 18th, 28th, 33rd, and 37th regiments.



The brigade was first led by Lawrence Branch until his death at Sharpsburg (Antietam) in September 1862 and then by James H. Lane, a Virginian. Lane would lead the brigade through significant battles including Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, and the Wilderness, until the war's end.



# Nevada

The States During the Civil War



## The ‘Battle Born State’

Nevada entered the Union in 1864, the 36th state to ratify the U.S. Constitution. It is nicknamed the “Battle Born State” because it attained statehood during the Civil War. The process was accelerated to gain three more electoral votes to help Abraham Lincoln get re-elected and add to the Republican congressional majorities. The state’s constitution was telegraphed to Congress just a few days before the Nov. 8, 1864, election.

In 1860, the territory that would become Nevada had a population of 6,857. When it became a state, it had about 14,000 citizens, far fewer than the usual number that would have been required.

The United States had gained the territory through its victory in the Mexican-American War of 1846-48. A few years later, the discovery of silver ore there would pull in settlers and would help finance the Federal war effort.



Monument in Carson City, Nev.

### 1864 Election Results for Nevada:

Abraham Lincoln (Rep)	9,826 (59.8%)
George McClellan (Dem)	6,594 (40.2%)

### Nevada’s Civil War Governor:

Henry G. Blasdel (Rep) Dec. 5, 1864 – Jan. 2, 1871

## ‘Troop D’

Although some Confederate sympathies existed in Nevada, it was solidly pro-Union. The Battle Born state sent about 1,200 men to fight for the Union cause during the Civil War. Men from the territory and state served on the frontier and protected the Federal interests from Indians and Confederate sympathizers. Only two soldiers from Nevada have been identified as being killed in battle during the Civil War, both while fighting Native Americans.



Sergeant in Virginia City, Nev.

Men from Nevada served in the California Regiment commanded by Col. P.E. Connor. In 1863, before Nevada gained its statehood, the 1st Battalion of Cavalry, with six companies, followed by the 1st Battalion of Infantry, with three companies, also were raised. The units primarily guarded the state’s great overland highway and settlements and made excursions into Indian territory.

On May 20, 1865, “Troop D” from Nevada’s cavalry unit fought hostile Indians at the Battle of Table Mountain in Humboldt where two of the company’s men were killed. 29 other soldiers from Nevada died of disease during the war and two others perished from accidents.

No battles between Union and Confederate forces were fought in Nevada, but clashes with Native Americans and civil unrest took place throughout the war.

Among the notable natives was Reuel Colt Gridley, a grocer who raised more than \$250,000 for the U.S. Sanitary Commission by holding a series of auctions for a single sack of flour.

## A Unique Banner

This special United States flag probably was flown proudly at July 4th events some 150 years ago.



The flag, which belongs to a friend of RCWRT board member Frank Ragsdale has a very unique pattern of 35 stars, with ten of them in a center circle and five for each point of the star pattern.

West Virginia was the 35th state to join the Union, doing so in June 1863. Nevada became the 36th state in October 1864, so this banner was made and flown during the Civil War.

## Limb Pit at Manassas

The National Park Service announced June 20 that it had discovered two complete sets of human remains along with 11 partial limbs and several artifacts in a Union surgeon's burial pit at Manassas, Va. The two Federal soldiers found intact were buried with honors at Arlington National Cemetery. Due to wounds that resulted from .577 Enfield bullets, researchers said the soldiers were hit at Second Manassas.



Photo by Kate Sherwood, Smithsonian

For details, see the National Park Service's press release about the find at <https://www.nps.gov/mana/learn/news/unprecedented-discovery-remains-of-civil-war-soldiers-and-field-hospital-found-at-manassas-national-battlefield.htm>

## Upcoming Events

**July 14.** Fort Fisher Historical Site in Kure Beach, N.C., continues its lecture series with a presentation titled "At the Mercy of the Angel of Death: The 1862 Yellow Fever Epidemic." about the war waged on soldiers by the mosquito. 2 p.m.—3. p.m. Free. Go online to <http://www.nchistoricsites.org/fisher> or phone (910) 251-7340 for more information.

**July 14.** The CSS Neuse Civil War Interpretive Center in Kinston, N.C., offers a special program on photography during the Civil War. 10 a.m.—4 p.m. Free with paid site admission: adults \$5, senior/military \$4, students \$3. Fees for tin types taken at the event vary. For details, see <http://www.nchistoricsites.org/neuse/neuse.htm> or call (252) 522-2107.

**July 21.** Fort Fisher Historical Site in Kure Beach, N.C., offers Michael Hardy on the Branch-Lane Brigade. 2 p.m.—3. p.m. Free. See <http://www.nchistoricsites.org/fisher> or call (910) 251-7340 for more information.

**July 28.** Fort Fisher Historical Site in Kure Beach, N.C., offers Wade Sokolosky on "Welcoming Sherman." 2 p.m.—3. p.m. Free. See <http://www.nchistoricsites.org/fisher> or telephone (910) 251-7340 for details.

**Aug. 4.** Fort Fisher Historical Site in Kure Beach, N.C., offers Lori Sanderlin on "A Post-War Confederate Sailor." 2 p.m.—3. p.m. Free. See <http://www.nchistoricsites.org/fisher> or phone (910) 251-7340 for more information.

## Preservation News

The Civil War Trust is continuing its campaign that aims to preserve 1,053 acres of important battlefield property in four states.



The targeted land includes portions of Brice's Cross Roads, Champion Hill, and Corinth battlefields in Mississippi, Cedar Creek and Second Deep Bottom in Virginia, Monocacy in Maryland, and Prairie D'Ane in Arkansas.

The Trust's overall goal in this campaign is to raise \$291,500. Donations are matched 14.1 to 1.

For details, go to <https://www.civilwar.org/give/save-battlefields/save-seven-battlefields>.

# News of the RCWRT



## Upcoming RCWRT Meetings

**August:** Angela Robbins, NC women post-war  
**September:** Chris Fonvielle, Gen. Braxton Bragg  
**October:** Special flag conservation event  
**November:** Keith Hardison, first person CS soldier

## New Knapsack Editor

Webmaster Bob Graesser has agreed to take on publishing the Knapsack beginning in August. Thank you, Bob, for agreeing to serve in yet another capacity.

## Rally 'Round the Flag!

At its June 13 meeting, the Raleigh Civil War Round Table's Board of Directors approved the use of funds generated from the donations for our DVD on the 1865 events in North Carolina and those generated from the Civil War Raleigh 1865 tours given by President Ted Kunstling earlier this year to help the state Museum of History conserve a unique state flag that belonged to the 30th North Carolina, which mustered in here in Wake County (see image below).



Stay tuned for more information on "our" flag, its unit, our special event in October, and additional fundraising efforts.

## Two New Members!

The Raleigh Civil War Round Table welcomes our newest members, Tony Gordon of Wake Forest, and Eric Baker of Durham. If you know of someone who has an interest in the Civil War, bring them to our next meeting and encourage them to join!



## The Knapsack

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### Staff

**Andrew Ballard, Editor**  
**George Long, Proofreader**

### Contributors

**Charles Hawks**  
**Frank Ragsdale**

**Readers are encouraged to submit photos, events, & articles for publication to Andrew Ballard, Editor  
([anballard@yahoo.com](mailto:anballard@yahoo.com); 919-215-7304)**

## RCWRT Board of Directors

**Ted Kunstling**, President, 919-787-5282, [trkunstling@aol.com](mailto:trkunstling@aol.com)  
**George Mills**, VP, 919-847-8581, [g.c.mills.iii@earthlink.net](mailto:g.c.mills.iii@earthlink.net)  
**Griff Bartlett**, Treasurer, 919-848-6562, [griffb@yahoo.com](mailto:griffb@yahoo.com)  
**John Kucik**, 919-616-0855, [johnkucik@yahoo.com](mailto:johnkucik@yahoo.com)  
**Jack Milani**, 919-848-3670, [1huntmstr@gmail.com](mailto:1huntmstr@gmail.com)  
**Frank Ragsdale**, 919-847-1005, [fir1947@gmail.com](mailto:fir1947@gmail.com)  
**Steve Savia**, 919-846-6908, [sagegroup1@aol.com](mailto:sagegroup1@aol.com)  
**Pattie Smith**, 252-450-5040 [rvpls00@yahoo.com](mailto:rvpls00@yahoo.com)

### RCWRT Score Card

Members 166

### RCWRT Officers

**Program Chair:** Pattie Smith 252-450-5040 [rvpls00@yahoo.com](mailto:rvpls00@yahoo.com)  
**Webmaster:** Bob Graesser, 919-467-2072, [bob.graesser@gmail.com](mailto:bob.graesser@gmail.com)  
**Trip Coordinator:** Jack Milani, 919-848-3670, [1huntmaster@gmail.com](mailto:1huntmaster@gmail.com)

**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 6:30 pm, at the N.C. Museum of History (located at 5 Edenton Street, across from the State Capitol). The programs begin at 7:00 p.m. Check the RCWRT website (<http://www.raleighcwr.org>) for program dates and timing.

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.