

# *The Knapsack*

*Raleigh Civil War Round Table*

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

*April 13, 2015  
Our 170th Meeting*



*Volume 15  
Number 4*

<http://www.raleighcwrt.org>

## **Mark Bradley to Speak at April 13 Round Table Meeting On The End of the Civil War in North Carolina**

Author and historian Mark Bradley will speak at the Raleigh Civil War Round Table's April 13 meeting.



Mark is nationally known for his knowledge of the Battle of Bentonville and the surrender at Bennett Place. He currently is a staff historian at the U.S. Army Center of Military History in Washington, D.C.

Mark also is an award winning author, having written the books *This*

*Astounding Close: The Road to Bennett Place, Last Stand in the Carolinas: The Battle of Bentonville, and Bluecoats and Tar Heels: Soldiers and Civilians in North Carolina During Reconstruction.* He also has authored numerous other articles on the Civil War and has written several book reviews. Mark currently is researching and writing a monograph on the Vietnam War.

Mark earned his bachelor's degree in history at N.C. State University and both his master's and doctoral degrees from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He has received numerous honors, awards, fellowships, and grants including the RCWRT's 2011 T. Harry Gattton Award, given in recognition of "his significant contributions to the understanding of and appreciation for the American Civil War through his writings and lectures, as well as his support for local preservation efforts."

Mark's presentation to the Round Table at our April 2015 meeting will focus on the end of the Civil War in North Carolina.

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**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The RCWRT has available a DVD on the end of the Civil War in North Carolina featuring Mark Bradley and other notable authors and historians. See p. 4 for details!

### **~ The Surrender of Raleigh ~**

Our April 13 meeting falls on the 150th anniversary of the surrender of Raleigh during the Civil War.



North Carolina's capital city had been abandoned by Confederate forces under Gen. Joseph Johnston as the massive Union army under Gen. William T. Sherman approached. Two former governors of the Old North State negotiated Raleigh's surrender in an effort to spare the important state buildings and the university at Chapel Hill from destruction.



# The Sesquicentennial



April 1865

## Confederate Forces Surrender

On April 2, the Confederate capital of Richmond, Va., was evacuated and Gen. Robert E. Lee and his Army of Northern Virginia moved southwest in an attempt to link up with the forces under Gen. Joseph Johnston in North Carolina.

After he could no longer maneuver in the face of Federal forces under Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant, Lee surrendered the Army of Northern Virginia on April 9 at the home of Wilmer McLean in Appomattox Court House, Va. Lee surrendered nearly 30,000 men.



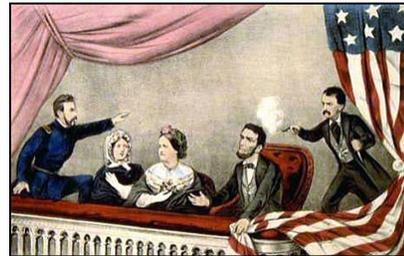
The surrender terms allowed Confederate soldiers to be paroled and return home and officers to keep their side arms. Personal mounts also could be kept, and food rations were distributed.

Just a few days later, Johnston would begin peace talks with Union Gen. William T. Sherman at the Bennett Place near Durham, N.C. The first deal was reached by the parties April 18, but those terms were rejected by President Andrew Johnson and his cabinet as being too lenient and broad.

After further discussions, a final agreement was reached April 26, with terms similar to those given to Lee. At the Bennett Place, Johnston surrendered more than 89,000 active Confederate troops from the Carolinas, Georgia, and Florida. The mustering out and surrender of Confederate troops would take place in Greensboro, N.C.

## Murder of the President

On April 14, President Abraham Lincoln was shot in the head while attending the play, *Our American Cousin*, at Ford's Theatre in Washington, D.C.



The President died early the next morning. Lincoln was assassinated by John Wilkes Booth, a former actor and Southern sympathizer, as part of a larger plot that also involved plans to kill Vice President Andrew Johnson and Secretary of State William Seward. Co-conspirators failed to attack Johnson and Seward survived a stabbing.

## The Sultana Tragedy

The greatest maritime disaster in American history occurred on April 27, when about 1,800 men perished after boilers on the steamboat *Sultana* exploded and she sank near Memphis.



Most of the dead were recently paroled Union prisoners of war. The ship's legal capacity was 376, but more than 2,100 men had been crammed onto the vessel.

## Stamp Series Ends

The last two of the U.S. Postal Service's ten stamp series commemorating the sesquicentennial soon will be available.



In 2011, the first set was released, featuring Fort Sumter and First Bull Run. Since then, the stamps have depicted Antietam, New Orleans, Vicksburg, Gettysburg, Mobile Bay, and Petersburg. This year's release covers the Battle of Five Forks and Appomattox (see images above).

## Upcoming Events

**April 9, 10:** The Performing Art Center in Garner, N.C., presents "War At Your Door," a historical musical drama based on events in Wake County during April 1865. \$12. 7:30 p.m. on both days. Go to <http://www.garnerperformingartscenter.com/WarDoor.asp> or call (919) 661-4602 for details.

**April 11:** The City of Raleigh Museum presents a symposium, "The New Old War, New Perspectives on the Civil War" examining changes in the understanding of the conflict. Featuring a series of speakers from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free. See <http://www.cityofraleighmuseum.org/civil-war-symposium> or telephone (919) 996-2220.

**April 13:** The City of Raleigh Museum Director Ernest Dollar leads a free walking tour that follows the Union cavalry as they captured the capital city in April 1865. Meets at the museum at 8 a.m. Visit <http://www.cityofraleighmuseum.org> or call (919) 996-2220

**April 17, 18:** The Bennett Place Historical Site in Durham commemorates the 150th anniversary of the Confederate surrender there with special guided tours and the unveiling of the new museum exhibit. Free. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Thurs, and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Fri. For more, see <http://www.bennettplacehistoricsite.com> or telephone (919) 383-4345.

**April 25, 26:** The Bennett Place Historical Site in Durham commemorates the 150th anniversary of the Confederate surrender there with living history events, period music, lectures, and exhibits. \$10 (under 12 free), plus \$5 vehicle parking fee. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on both days. For more information, go online to <http://www.bennettplacehistoricsite.com> or call (919) 383-4345.

## "Goin' Home"

"Goin' Home," a painting depicting a wounded Confederate infantryman trying to get back home, is one of several Civil War themed works available from Newnan, Ga.-based artist Martin Pate.



Among the paintings crafted by Pate are two on Monroe's Crossroads, one of which graces the cover of Eric Wittenberg's book on the subject.

For details on Pate's artwork or information about purchasing a print or the original of "Goin' Home," visit his website at <http://www.pateart.com> or send him an email to [pateart60@gmail.com](mailto:pateart60@gmail.com)

## Preservation News

The Civil War Trust is seeking to preserve critical ground at the Antietam, Md., battlefield.



The land targeted for preservation is 44 acres at the epicenter of the Sept. 17, 1862, fight, the bloodiest day in American history. There were some 23,000 casualties in the battle, also known as Sharpsburg.

The Trust's goal in this campaign is to raise \$115,000. Donations are matched at a 5:1 rate!

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

# News of the RCWRT



## Upcoming RCWRT Meetings

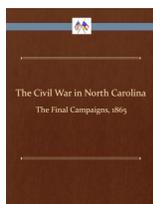
**May:** Lee Craig, Economics of the American Civil War

**June:** Will Hansen, Research at the Duke Library

**July:** Doug Mattox, Civil War Coins and Stamps

## RCWRT Documentary

Andrew Ballard, editor of *The Knapsack*, has produced a documentary film on behalf of the Raleigh Civil War Round Table covering the end of the Civil War in North Carolina. It will be available 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 including Ed Bearss (Overview/Monroe's Crossroads), Chris Fonvielle (Fort Fisher/Fort Anderson/Wilmington), David Waller (Wyse Fork), Andrew Dupstadt (CSS *Neuse*), Wade Sokolosky (Averasboro), Mark Bradley (Bentonville), Chris Hartley (Stoneman's Raid), Ernest Dollar (Raleigh/Morrisville), Bob Farrell (Logan), and John Guss (Bennett Place). The experts were all filmed at the applicable historical sites and re-enactment footage from the sesquicentennial events at Fort Fisher, Fort Anderson, and Bentonville are included. Music by the Liberty Hall Drum & Fife Corps and the 26th North Carolina Field Music/Carolina Fifes and Drums, artwork by Stephen McCall, Martin Pate, and Darrell Combs, and maps by Mark A. Moore and Hal Jespersen also are in the documentary.

See the RCWRT's website (<http://www.raleighcwr.org>) for information on obtaining DVD copies of the new film.

## Five New Members!

The RCWRT welcomes our newest members, David and Linda Huckabee (Cary), Tom Thalman (Wake Forest), Seth Salyers (Raleigh) and Pat Schroeder (Lynchburg, Va.). If you know someone who is interested in the Civil War, bring them to a meeting and encourage them to join!



## *The Knapsack*

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### RCWRT Score Card

Members	133
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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.