

The Knapsack

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

December 12, 2011
Our 130th Meeting



Volume 11
Number 12

Arch Allen to Discuss Impeachment of Gov. Holden at December 12 Meeting in State Capitol

Our annual holiday event will again be held in the Old State Capitol and begins at 6:30 p.m. This year, we will have a speaker as well as the usual hors d'oeuvres, beverages, and desserts.

At our December meeting, Arch will provide us with a presentation on the impeachment and removal from office in 1871 of North Carolina Gov. William W. Holden.



Our State Capitol

This month's speaker, Arch T. Allen III, is a partner at the Raleigh-based law firm of Allen, Moore & Rogers. He earned both his undergraduate and law degrees at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

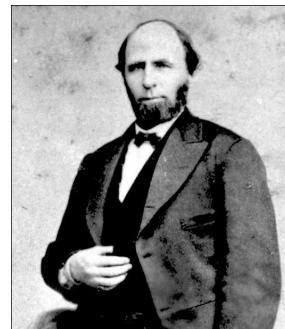
From 1964-65, Arch served as the editor-in-chief of *The North Carolina Law Review* and has since written numerous articles and book reviews on a wide range of topics. He served in Viet Nam with the 25th Infantry Division and was awarded the Bronze Star for Meritorious Achievement and the Army Commendation Medal.

Arch also has served as UNC's Vice Chancellor for Development and University Relations and has chaired or been a member of a variety of boards, foundations, and other organizations.

NOTE: We have a change in time and location for our meeting this month!

~ Gov. William W. Holden ~

Born in 1818 near Hillsborough, N.C., William W. Holden was an influential newspaper editor in the state. After the Civil War ended, he served briefly as governor in 1865, having been appointed to that post by President Andrew Johnson.



Elected in 1868, Holden was North Carolina's first governor under its new Constitution and the state's first Republican governor. His efforts aimed at suppressing violence by the Ku Klux Klan resulted in a political backlash that led to his removal from office.



The Sesquicentennial



December 1861

Charleston Burns!

Late in the evening on Dec. 11, 1861, a fire would begin in the business district of Charleston, S.C., and would spread rapidly. Driven by a strong wind and fueled by a large number of wooden structures, the Great Fire of 1861 would destroy nearly a third of the city.

There were conflicting reports as to where the fire actually began, and its cause remains unknown. It spread so quickly that firefighters had great difficulty stopping it until it began to rain.

Many of the city's most famous landmarks, including Institute Hall, where South Carolina's ordinance of secession had been ratified the previous year, were burned.



Destruction in Charleston

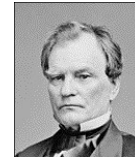
The massive fire came as Charleston was suffering from a blockade by the U.S. Navy, and Federal troops were advancing toward the city. The city would suffer from another fire in September 1864.

On Dec. 7, newly promoted Stonewall Jackson and his 5,000 men would destroy the western Virginia side of Dam Number 5 on the Potomac River. The move would disrupt the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal and impact Union efforts to repair the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad.

December 1861 also saw a series of skirmishes along the Maryland and Virginia border, as well as relatively small clashes in Missouri and Kentucky. On Dec. 13, 1861, the indecisive Battle of Camp Alleghany would be fought in western Virginia.

Lawmakers Form War Panel

In December 1861, Congress adopted a resolution to form a committee "to inquire into the conduct of the present war." The joint oversight committee was formed as a result of the Union defeat at Ball's Bluff in October of that year.



Chairman Benjamin F. Wade (R-Ohio)

The Joint Committee on the Conduct of the War would wrongly blame Brig. Gen. Charles Stone for the defeat at Ball's Bluff and exert partisan pressure on President Lincoln regarding military efforts and leadership throughout the conflict.

The Navy Medal of Honor

The Navy Medal of Honor was approved by President Abraham Lincoln on Dec. 21, 1861, several months prior to the creation of the Army's version. The Navy's award was to be presented to enlisted personnel who distinguished themselves through gallantry. Officers became eligible in 1915.



The design features Columbia, in the form of the goddess Minerva, using the shield of the republic to put down the figure of discord. The center is encircled by 38 stars, which represented the states of the Union at the time of the outbreak of the Civil War. 307 Navy personnel and 17 Marines received the medal for their actions in the Civil War.

African-Americans in Medicine

The U.S. National Library of Medicine has made available both an online and traveling exhibition dedicated to African Americans that worked in the field of medicine during the Civil War.



“Binding Wounds, Pushing Boundaries: African Americans in Civil War Medicine” is aimed at highlighting their often overlooked participation as medical providers. A traveling exhibition is currently touring the country.

Photographs, educational resources, and other information is available online at <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/exhibition/bindingwounds>.

Upcoming Events

December 2-29: “Freedom, Sacrifice, Memory: Civil War Sesquicentennial Photography Exhibit,” a program developed by the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, will visit both the Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum in Hatteras and the Catawba County Library in Hickory. The exhibit is travelling around the state through Spring 2013. Details are available from Fay Mitchell at (919) 807-7389 or from the department’s website at <http://www.nccivilwar150.com>.

December 10: A free living history artillery program will be held from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m. at the Edenton Historic Site featuring the Edenton Bell Battery. Call (252) 482-2637 or see <http://www.nchistoricsites.org/iredell>.

December 10: At 3 p.m., the N.C. Maritime Museum will host a free lecture, “One Good Port: Beaufort Harbor, 1862-1865.” Telephone (252) 728-7317 or go to <http://www.ncmaritimemuseums.com> for more information.

December 10-11: The Bennett Place Historic Site in Durham, N.C., presents a living history program titled “Christmas in the Carolinas During the Civil War.” Event features music, decorations, and refreshments. 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. on Saturday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Sunday. Free. Call (919) 383-4345 or visit <http://www.nchistoricsites.org/bennett> for details.

Chesnut’s Photos Join Journals

Some 200 *carte de visite* photographs collected by Mary Boykin Chesnut, the famed Civil War diarist, recently were reunited with her manuscript for the first time since her death.



Chesnut’s photos, collected between 1861 and the early 1870s, depict Confederate officials, military leaders, prominent figures from both North and South, and numerous other people. After being lost for several decades, they finally were located by her descendents in 2007.

The photographs now are with her famed journals at the University of South Carolina, which currently is exhibiting them at its library.

Preservation News

A campaign launched by the Civil War Trust to save another 240 acres in four different parcels at Bentonville is still open.

On March 19-21, 1865, about 21,000 Confederate troops under Generals Joseph E. Johnston and Wade Hampton would clash with some 60,000 Federal troops under Gen. William T. Sherman at Bentonville, N.C.



The purchase of the targeted property would bring the total acres saved at this important battlefield in North Carolina to 1,142.

The Trust’s goal in this campaign is to raise \$1.1 million. Donations are matched 2 to 1.

For more information on the Trust’s effort to save additional acreage at the Bentonville battlefield, see <http://www.civilwar.org/battlefields/bentonville/bentonville10>.

News of the RCWRT



Upcoming RCWRT Meetings

December: Arch T. Allen III, pardon Gov. Holden
January: Ed Bearss discusses Gettysburg and Vicksburg
February: Lerae Umfleet, N.C. women on the homefront
March: Kevin Milus, the Irish experience during the war
April: Susannah Lee, Indians in the Civil War
May: William Harris, Lincoln and the border states

Thanks to Ashley's Art Gallery!

Ashley's Art Gallery in Fuquay-Varina, N.C., donated \$400 to the Raleigh Civil War Round Table through the generous gift of a print by the famed Civil War artist John Paul Strain. Our thanks to Strain and Rick Mullen, the owner of the gallery. Visit <http://www.ashleyart.com> to see the wonderful Civil War art that Rick has to offer.

Tax-Exempt Donations

As 2011 comes to a close, please consider making a tax-deductible donation to the RCWRT or our Gatton Fund. Each year, the Raleigh Civil War Round Table honors an individual who has distinguished themselves through their work or efforts related to the study of the Civil War through its T. Harry Gatton Award. The next award will be presented at our annual event with Ed Bearss in January.

A Call for Volunteers!

President Steve Savia is seeking two additional people to serve on the RCWRT's program committee. This is a great way to support the group while getting to know Civil War historians.

Two New Members

The Raleigh Civil War Round Table welcomes our two newest members, James Hathaway (Foxfire Village) and Paul Latham (Raleigh). If you know someone that has an interest in the Civil War, please bring them to a meeting and encourage them to join!



The Knapsack

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Staff

Andrew Ballard, Editor
George Long, Proofreader
Arlene & Art Wills, Circulation
Charles Hawks, Circulation

Contributors

Arch Allen
Bob Farrell
Kevin Milus
Steve Savia

Readers are encouraged to submit photos, events, & articles for publication to Andrew Ballard, Editor (anballard@yahoo.com; 845-3379)

RCWRT Board of Directors

Steve Savia, President, 846-6908, ssavia@nc.rr.com
Ted Kunstling, Vice President, 787-5282, trkunstling@aol.com
David June, Treasurer, 844-7197, dmjune@bellsouth.net
Griff Bartlett, Director, 848-6562, griffb@yahoo.com
George Mills, Director, 847-8581, g.c.mills.iii@earthlink.net
Kevin Milus, Director, 815-4360, kmilus@aol.com
Frank Ragsdale, Director, 847-1005, fpde2@nc.rr.com
Darline Tellier, Director, 787-7539, darline.tellier@gmail.com

RCWRT Score Card

Members 132

November 2011 Attendance

Meeting 45

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) 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.