

The Knapsack

Raleigh Civil War Round Table

The same rain falls on both friend and foe.

*December 11, 2017
Our 202nd Meeting*



*Volume 17
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<http://www.raleighcwrt.org>

December 11 Holiday Party at State Capitol To Feature Tour by Docent Frank Ragsdale

December features our annual holiday event at the Old State Capitol. This year, we will be given the treat of a tour of the building by our own Frank Ragsdale, a docent, who will tell us about some of the events that occurred there during the Civil War and Reconstruction.



Frank is a native of Raleigh, and at least the fifth generation of his family on his mother's side to reside in our capital city. He retired after nearly 50 years of work at a Raleigh jewelry store that was founded by his great-grandfather Benjamin Rush Jolly in 1881. Jolly's father was one of three contractors responsible for

the construction of Metropolitan Hall on the east side of the second block of Fayetteville Street. When it opened in 1870, it was the new municipal building and "Raleigh's statement to the world that we were recovering from the war and the horrors of Reconstruction," Frank says.

As Jolly's Jewelers and Silversmiths was downtown, Frank spent much time in his youth around the state capitol building, pretending with his cousin to fire the cannons on its grounds at the invading "Yankees."

Frank's great-great grandfather J.J. Overby served on the Raleigh City Commission when Union Gen. William T. Sherman entered Raleigh. Overby and other commissioners were assigned the duty of maintaining calm and preventing bloodshed among its residents. Another of Frank's great-great grandfathers, Theophilus Adams Robbins was a blockade runner who lost his ship toward the end of the war.

IMPORTANT NOTICE!

Our annual holiday event will once again be held at the State Capitol building, across the street from our usual meeting place. The event will begin at 6:30. Please bring a dish to share!

~ The State Capitol ~

Raleigh was established as North Carolina's seat of government in 1792. The building that stands now was completed in 1840, and was constructed after the previous State House burned.



The building's total cost was \$532,682.34, three times the state's annual income at that time.

All of North Carolina's state government was housed in the Capitol until 1888. That year, the N.C. Supreme Court and state library moved, and the Legislature relocated in 1963. The governor and his immediate staff continue to maintain offices in the building.



Iowa

The States During the Civil War



The 'Hawkeye State'

Iowa entered the Union in 1846, the 29th state to ratify the U.S. Constitution. The "Hawkeye State," was an important source of manpower and food for the Union effort.

In 1860, Iowa had a population of 674,913. Although no battles of note were fought in the state during the Civil War, the Hawkeye State bordered Missouri and Minnesota, from which Confederate bushwhackers and Native American raiders were a threat.

Iowans served in many of the significant battles of the Civil War and more than 50 Medals of Honor were awarded to men from the state.



Iowa Monument, Vicksburg

1860 Election Results for Iowa:

Abraham Lincoln (Rep)	70,302 (54.6%)
Stephen Douglas (Dem)	55,639 (43.2%)
John Bell (Union)	1,763 (1.4%)
John Breckenridge (Dem)	1,035 (0.8%)

1864 Election Results for Iowa:

Abraham Lincoln (Rep)	88,500 (64.1%)
George McClellan (Dem)	49,525 (35.9%)

Iowa's Civil War Governors:

Samuel J. Kirkwood (Rep)	Jan. 11, 1860 – Jan. 14, 1864
William M. Stone (Rep)	Jan. 14, 1864 – Jan. 16, 1868

The 'Greybeards'

More than 76,000 men from Iowa served in Union forces. The Hawkeye State provided a total of 49 infantry regiments, including the 1st Iowa Volunteer Infantry Regiment (African Descent), nine regiments of cavalry, and four artillery batteries to the Union cause. Several militia and local units also were raised during the Civil War.

About 13,000 men from the Hawkeye State were killed or died from their wounds or disease during the conflict.



23rd Iowa Infantry Headquarters

Among the notable units from Iowa was the 37th Infantry Regiment, nicknamed "The Greybeards," as it was composed entirely of men that were at least 45 years of age. That unique unit spent most of its service guarding prisoner of war camps and supply trains. The 10th Iowa turned the tide of battle at Champion Hill and 10 regiments from the state were at the thick of fighting at Shiloh.

No battles of note were fought in Iowa, but on Oct. 12, 1864, Confederate partisans dressed as Union soldiers raided a town near Bloomfield and killed three people.

Iowa was home to several brigadier generals and four major generals: Samuel R. Curtis, Grenville Mellen Dodge, Francis J. Herron, and Frederick Steele. The Hawkeye State's Annie Wittenmyer was active in veterans and orphan relief organizations.

Record CSA Coin Sale

An 1861 Confederate half dollar was auctioned on Nov. 1 by Heritage for a record \$960,000. The coin was part of Eric P. Newman's collection. He bought the coin some 80 years ago for \$4,000.

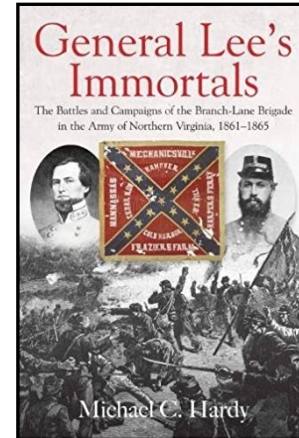


The silver coin was one of four half dollars that were struck at the New Orleans mint in April 1861 while it was still controlled by the Confederacy.

Also offered at the auction was an 1861 Confederate one cent piece that sold for \$186,000.

Branch-Lane Brigade

A book by friend of the RCWRT Michael C. Hardy on the famous Branch-Lane Brigade has just been published.



General Lee's Immortals covers the battles and campaigns of the all-North Carolina brigade, which served in the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia throughout the Civil War. The brigade was first led by Lawrence Branch until his death at Sharpsburg (Antietam) and then James H. Lane.

The book is available from Amazon.com and local book stores.

Upcoming Events

Dec. 9. Fort Fisher Historical Site in Kure Beach, N.C., celebrates the season with a holiday open house. Free refreshments, live music, holiday decorations, and a gift shop discount along with a presentation on Santa Claus. Go online to <http://www.nchistoricsites.org/fisher> or phone (910) 251-7340 for more information.

Dec. 9: The CSS Neuse Civil War Interpretive Center in Kinston, N.C., unveils a new exhibit covering Foster's Raid, which took place in eastern North Carolina from Dec. 11-20, 1862. Presentation by Randy Sauls. Exhibit features artifacts and graphic panels about the campaign. 11 a.m. Admission: adults \$5, senior/military \$4, students \$3. For details, visit <http://www.nchistoricsites.org/neuse/neuse.htm> or telephone (252) 522-2107.

Dec. 16. Bennett Place Historical Site in Durham, N.C., holds its annual "Christmas in the Piedmont" event. Holiday decorations, cooking demonstrations, encamped soldiers, and a visit from Santa. Cider and cookies. Free. 10 a.m.—4 p.m. Later that evening, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., the site is offering candlelight tours every 15 minutes so participants can see how soldiers and civilians attempted to celebrate the holidays during the Civil War. For more information, visit <http://www.nchistoricsites.org/bennett/bennett.htm> or telephone (919) 383-4345.

Preservation News

The Civil War Trust's latest campaign seeks funds to preserve 1,053 acres of key 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

January: Ed Bearss, Civil War medicine
February: Dave Schultz, Gettysburg's 2nd day
March: Frank Ragsdale, the war's impact on Raleigh
April: Gene Schmiel, Union Gen. Jacob D. Cox
May: Scott Mauger, Maj. John Pelham, CSA
June: William H. Brown, NC in Army of Tennessee
July: Michael Hardy, the Branch-Lane Brigade
August: Angela Robbins, NC women post-war
September: Chris Fonvielle, Gen. Braxton Bragg

In Memoriam

The Raleigh Civil War Round Table mourns the loss of long-time member Jim Brenner, who died in his sleep on Nov. 16 at the age of 66. Jim served as the RCWRT's vice president from 2006-2008 and was instrumental in the creation of the Gatton Award, our annual recognition of individuals who have distinguished themselves for work or efforts related to the study of the Civil War.



Jim was born in Hartford, Conn., in December 1950 and moved to Raleigh as a teenager after living in New York. He graduated from Broughton and NC State, where he served as a football usher for more than 50 years. Jim retired in 2000 from the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. His obituary may be viewed at <https://tinyurl.com/y8srt4of>.

New Member

The Round Table welcomes our newest member, Bill Lee of Raleigh. If you know someone with an interest in the Civil War, bring them to a meeting and encourage them to join!



The Knapsack

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RCWRT Score Card

Members 225

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.

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.