

The Knapsack

Raleigh Civil War Round Table

The same rain falls on both friend and foe.

February 11, 2013
Our 144th Meeting



Volume 13
Number 2

LeRae Umfleet to Speak at February 11 Meeting On the 1898 Race Riot in Wilmington, N.C.

Our February speaker, LeRae Umfleet, joined the N.C. Department of Cultural Resources in 2003 as a research historian at the state Office of Archives and History.



While she worked in the archives office, LeRae completed an extensive report on the Wilmington race riot, which became the basis for her book, *A Day of Blood: The 1898 Wilmington Race Riot*.

She was later promoted to serve as the chief of collections management for the agency. In that capacity, she manages the collection, storage, and exhibit of objects in the state agency's custody.

Throughout her career in public history, LeRae has worked with numerous sites in a variety of capacities including the N.C. State Archives, Historic Hope Plantation in Windsor, the Joel Lane Museum House in Raleigh, the North Carolina Collection in Chapel Hill, and the Davis Library in Chapel Hill.

LeRae has served on the board of directors for the North Carolina Museums Council, the Bertie County Arts Council, the Historic Stagville Foundation, and the Raleigh Heritage Trail.

Originally from Bath, N.C., LeRae graduated from UNC-Chapel Hill in 1991 with a bachelor's degree in history. She then attended the archival management

program at N.C. State University and transferred to East Carolina University where she received her master's degree in 1998.

LeRae is married and has two children. Her Feb. 11 presentation to the Raleigh Civil War Round Table will cover the 1898 Wilmington race riot.



~ The Wilmington Race Riot ~

The race riot that occurred in Wilmington, N.C., in November 1898 was the only successful coup d'etat in United States history and led to a series of Jim Crow laws in North Carolina.



After a largely Republican government was elected by voters in the black-majority city, Democratic white supremacists illegally seized power and more than 1,500 white men attacked blacks, burned down a newspaper building, and drove officials and community leaders from the city. Federal and state authorities did not act to restore the rightfully elected government, and Wilmington would shift to a white-majority city.



The Sesquicentennial



February 1863

CSA Attack in Tennessee Fails

On Feb. 3, 1863, Confederate cavalrymen under Maj. Gen. Joseph Wheeler attempted to attack an 800-man Union garrison at Dover, Tenn., led by Col. A.C. Harding.

The assault was aimed at disrupting Union shipping. Confederate forces mounted a determined attack backed by artillery fire, but were repulsed with heavy losses inflicted by the dug-in defenders. By dusk, both sides were low on ammunition, and the Confederates decided to withdraw. Federal forces launched a pursuit, without success.



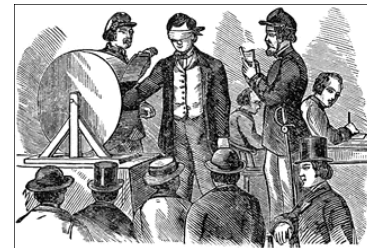
Maj. Gen. Joseph Wheeler, CSA

The Confederate failure left Union forces in control of Middle Tennessee. Brig. Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest also vowed not to serve under Wheeler again. About 125 Union soldiers were killed, wounded, or missing, and some 670 Confederates became casualties in the battle, also known as the Second Battle of Fort Donelson.

February 1863 also would see both Confederate and Union naval victories. On Feb. 24, the CSS *Queen of the West* and CSS *Webb* forced the ironclad USS *Indianola* aground on the west bank of the Red River in Louisiana, capturing it. On Feb. 28, the CSS *Rattlesnake*, also known as the *Nashville*, would be sunk by the monitor USS *Montauk* off of the coast of Georgia.

Military Draft Act

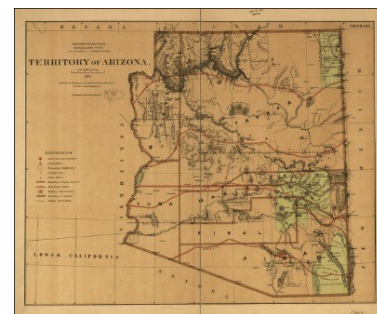
On Feb. 26, the Conscription Act of 1863 received approval by the U.S. Congress. The measure, signed into law a few days later, required every male citizen between the ages of 20 and 45 to enroll in the draft. Immigrants who had filed for citizenship also were subject to enrollment under the act.



The legislation also included exemptions from the draft for certain situations that included disability, certain government positions, and family conditions. The provisions, which replaced the Militia Act of 1862, would later lead to draft riots in New York.

Arizona Territory Created

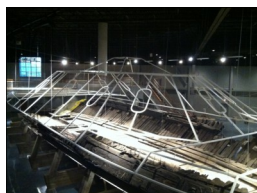
On Feb. 24, President Lincoln signed into law a bill that created the Arizona Territory, splitting it from the New Mexico Territory.



Attempts had been previously made to divide the territory into two pieces through a north-south border, but the southern portion was claimed by the Confederacy. The first capitol of the Arizona Territory was at Prescott, in the northern, Union-controlled area.

New CSS *Neuse* Museum

The CSS *Neuse* was a steam-powered ironclad that was commissioned for Confederate service in April 1864. She was scuttled in March 1865 to prevent capture by advancing Union forces. Her remains were raised in 1963, and the hull exhibited on the banks of the Neuse River in Kinston, N.C.



In June 2012, she was moved for display in a new museum currently still under construction. A full-sized replica also is displayed across the street.

On April 20, the RCWRT is planning to visit the new museum, the replica, and the Kinston and Wyse Forks battlefields. Save the date!

Upcoming Events

Feb. 9: The Museum of the Albemarle in Elizabeth City, N.C., will present a living history program and talk titled "The Fire of Freedom: Abraham Galloway & The Slaves' Civil War." Free event from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call (252) 335-1453 or visit <http://www.museumofthealbemarle.com>.

Feb 16: N.C. State University in Raleigh will host Pulitzer-Prize winning author James McPherson who will speak on the legacy of Abraham Lincoln. 10 a.m. event is free, but pre-registration is required. Call (919) 515-2483 or see <http://history.ncsu.edu/historyweekend> for details.

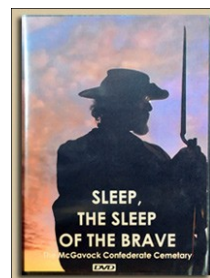
Feb. 16: Longwood University in Farmville, Va., hosts its annual free Civil War seminar. This year's topic is "1863: A Year of Decisions" and features Frank O'Reilly, Robert Krick Sr., Charles Ross, Troy Harman, and John Heiser. More information is available from Dr. David Coles at (434) 395-2220 or Patrick Schroeder at (434) 352-8987, ext. 232, or go to <http://www.longwood.edu>.

Feb. 16-17: A living history event will be held at the Fort Anderson State Historic Site in Winnabow, N.C., that will commemorate the 148th anniversary of the fall of the fort. For details, telephone (910) 371-6613 or visit <http://www.nchistoricsites.org/brunswic/brunswic.htm>.

March 3: The N.C. History Museum in Raleigh will host Elizabeth Varon who will argue that the surrender terms offered at Appomattox were controversial and not a "gentlemen's agreement." Event begins at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$8 in advance, \$10 at door. Call (919) 807-7835 or go to <http://www.ncmuseumofhistory.org>.

Franklin's Cemetery

A documentary about the McGavlock Confederate Cemetery, which was established after the Nov. 30, 1864 Battle of Franklin, Tenn., is now available.



Nearly 1,500 Confederates killed during the bloody battle are buried at the privately owned cemetery. The Lotz House, a museum in Franklin, is offering limited editions of the DVD for \$24.99, plus tax and shipping. Portions of the proceeds of "Sleep, the Sleep of the Brave" will go toward preservation and maintenance of the cemetery.

To purchase a copy, see http://www.lotzhouse.com/museum_store.htm or call (615) 790-7190.

Preservation News

The Civil War Trust seeks to preserve 61 critical acres at Brandy Station in Virginia.



On June 9, 1863, Brandy Station was the scene of the largest clash of cavalry in the Civil War, with some 20,000 Union and Confederate horsemen involved. The land which the trust is targeting is Fleetwood Hill, scene of the fight's epicenter and an important piece of the battlefield.

The Civil War Trust's goal in this campaign is to raise \$3.6 million. Donations are matched 1 to 1.

For details on this preservation effort, visit <http://www.civilwar.org/battlefields/brandystation/brandystation-2013>.

News of the RCWRT



Upcoming RCWRT Meetings

March: Ernie Dollar, PTSD and war's end in NC
April: Marvin Nicholson, the African-American experience

The 2013 T. Harry Gatton Award

The recipient of the RCWRT's 2013 T. Harry Gatton Award is David Waller. The award was presented at the Round Table's Ed Bearss event in January.



Ted Kunstling, Ed Bearss, and David Waller

David Waller was born and raised in Kinston, N.C., and attended North Lenoir High School and N.C. Wesleyan College. He is known as "The Civil War Grave Hunter" for his efforts at locating and photographing more than 700 Civil War generals and other notables.

David has shared his passion in dozens of presentations to schools, history and heritage groups, churches, and other organizations. He also has been featured on radio and television programs, as well as newspaper articles on topics related to the Civil War. David has led many tours of historical sites as well. He served as program chair and president of the Raleigh Civil War Round Table.

The T. Harry Gatton award was made possible through a generous endowment by Mary Gatton in the memory of her late husband. Previous awardees are Ed Bearss (2008), Nora Brooks (2009), Charles Hawks (2010), Mark Bradley (2011), and Leslie Rivers (2012).

New Member

The RCWRT welcomes our newest member, Roger Gillies of Youngsville. 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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RCWRT Score Card

Members	117
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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) 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.