

The Knapsack

Raleigh Civil War Round Table

The same rain falls on both friend and foe.

January 14, 2012
Our 131st Meeting



Volume 12
Number 1

The Impact of Vicksburg and Gettysburg

Topic of January 14 Event With Ed Bearss

Edwin C. Bearss is one of the most respected Civil War scholars alive today and is considered by many to be a national treasure.

Ed served as Chief Historian of the National Park Service and was featured in Ken Burns' PBS series, *The Civil War*, as well as the Arts & Entertainment Channel's *Civil War Journal*.

He is an award-winning author, having written or edited more than 20 books in addition to more than 100 articles. Among his many works are *The Battle at Wilson's Creek*, *Forrest at Brice's Cross Roads*, *Hardluck Ironclad*, and *The Vicksburg Campaign*.

In 1983, Ed received the Department of Interior's Distinguished Service Award, its highest honor. Ed also was the first recipient of Civil War Preservation Trust's most prestigious national award, which is now named after him. In November 2005, he was identified in Smithsonian Magazine's cover story, "35 who made a difference."

In 2008, the RCWRT awarded Ed our first T. Harry Gattton Award for "his tireless efforts in support of the preservation of countless Civil War battlefields



and the memory of those who fought and died on them."

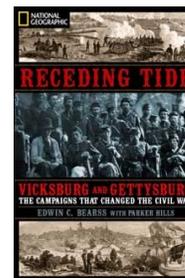
Ed served in the Pacific theater with the Marine Corps during World War II, where he received severe wounds from machine-gun fire.

Ed's Jan. 14 presentation to the Round Table will be on the impact of the July 1863 battles of Vicksburg and Gettysburg, which are the subjects of his recent book, *Receding Tide*.

NOTE: Our 10th Annual Meeting with Ed Bearss will be held at the N.C. Museum of History. Doors will open at 11:00, and the event will begin at 11:30. Tickets are \$10 each and are available at the event.

~ July 1863 ~

In early July 1863, two pivotal Civil War battles would result in a Union victory, marking the peak of Confederate fortunes and effectively dooming the South's hopes for secession.



Following six month's of siege, Ulysses S. Grant's forces would take Vicksburg, Miss., destroying a Confederate army of 40,000 men and opening the Mississippi river to divide the Confederacy.

At the same time, in Gettysburg, Pa., Union forces under George Meade would deal another critical blow to the Confederate cause with a victory over the Army of Northern Virginia under Robert E. Lee.



The Sesquicentennial



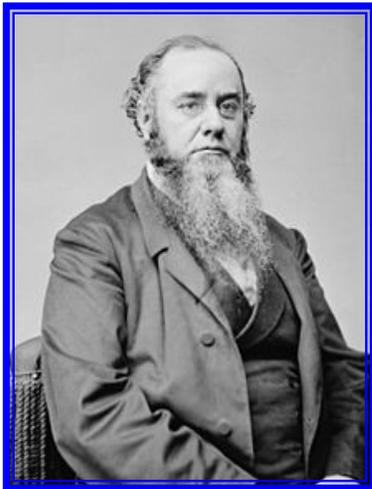
January 1862

New Secretary of War Named

On Jan. 11, 1862, U.S. Secretary of War Simon Cameron resigned his post following accusations of corruption and incompetence.

Cameron was replaced in that office by Edwin McMasters Stanton, who had served as Cameron's legal advisor after being the U.S. Attorney General. Stanton was appointed by Lincoln on Jan. 13, 1862.

Stanton would be effective at running the federal government's massive War Department, and also was influential in the appointment and discipline of Union generals.



Edwin McMasters Stanton

Stanton was the Secretary of War for the remainder of the Civil War and served in that office during President Andrew Johnson's administration as well.

Also in January 1862, Stonewall Jackson would launch his Romney Campaign near Winchester, Va. Jackson's campaign was aimed at disrupting the movement of Union supplies, with the B&O Railroad and C&O Canal his targets. The difficulty Union forces had in locating Jackson's 10,000 men during their movements would help cement his reputation as a formidable foe.

Lincoln Issues War Order

On the last day of January 1862, Abraham Lincoln issued the President's Special War Order No. 1. In that document, Lincoln ordered "all the disposable force of the Army of the Potomac, after providing safely for the defense of Washington" to seize and occupy Manassas Junction, Va.

After months of waiting for action, the President's order was aimed at pushing Gen. George McClellan into an offensive operation against Confederate forces in Northern Virginia.

McClellan countered Lincoln's order with a plan that involved moving up the Rappahannock River to flank Confederate positions rather than engaging in a frontal assault. Although Lincoln did not formally rescind his order, he allowed McClellan to proceed with that alternate strategy.

USS Monitor Launched

On Jan. 30, 1862, the USS *Monitor*, the first ironclad commissioned by the U.S. Navy during the Civil War, was launched from the Continental Iron Works at Greenpoint, N.Y. The vessel was designed by John Ericsson, a Swedish inventor and engineer.

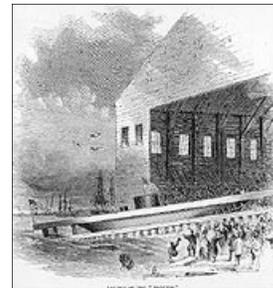


Illustration from *Harper's Weekly*

The *Monitor* would engage the CSS *Virginia* in March 1862 in the first naval battle between ironclads. She would sink in a storm off Cape Hatteras, N.C., in December 1862.



Ed Bearss' 2012 Carolinas Campaign

Once again, Ed is touring North Carolina giving talks around the state. Below are dates of his events and planned topics for his 2012 campaign:

Thurs., Jan. 12, Pinehurst. Shiloh

Fri., Jan. 13, Tarboro. 1862 Valley Campaign

Sat., Jan. 14, Raleigh. Vicksburg and Gettysburg

Sat., Jan. 14, Greensboro. Antietam

Sun., Jan. 15, New Bern. Assassination of Lincoln



Upcoming Events

January 2-29: "Freedom, Sacrifice, Memory: Civil War Sesquicentennial Photography Exhibit," a history display developed by the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, will arrive at both the Wilkes County Public Library in Wilkesboro and the N.C. Maritime Museum in Beaufort. 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>.

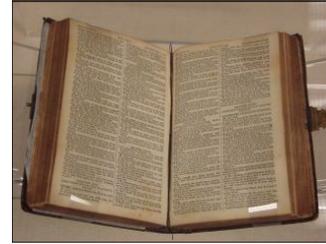
January 21-22: Fort Fisher State Historic Site in Kure Beach, N.C. hosts "The Lights of the Great Armada: The 147th Anniversary of the Battle of Fort Fisher." Event includes Navy and Marine living history program with small arms and artillery, a period torpedo exhibit, and presentations focusing on participants in the January 1865 battle. Free event is from 10 am to 4 pm on Sat. and 11 am to 4 pm on Sun. For more information, see <http://www.ncculture.com> or call (910) 458-5538.

January 26: A Civil War Quiz Bowl will be held at the Museum of the Cape Fear in Fayetteville, N.C. Event will be at 7 pm. Call (910) 486-1330 for details.

February 6: An archeological symposium on Fort Anderson will be held at the Trinity Methodist Church in Southport, N.C. Event runs from 7 pm until 9 pm. Call (910) 371-6613 or email brunswick@ncdcr.gov.

Faith During the War

An exhibit focused on soldiers' faith during the Civil War recently opened at the S.C. Confederate Relic Room and Military Museum in Columbia.

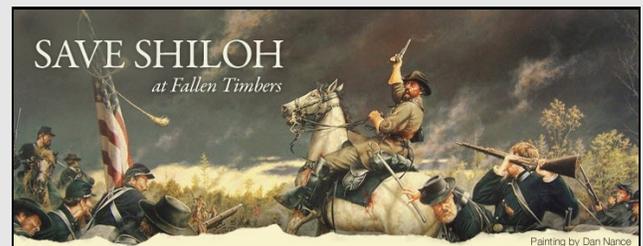


Robert E. Lee's Bible

Items included in the exhibit are Bibles belonging to Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson, as well as a crucifix worn by George Pickett, vestments and communion sets owned by chaplains, a soldier's bullet-pierced Bible, and other rare religious objects held by Protestant, Catholic, and Jewish soldiers. "Through Fiery Trials" will be on display through May 2012.

Preservation News

The Civil War Trust has launched a new effort aimed at preserving an important section of the Shiloh battlefield in Tennessee. The targeted land is the site of the April 8, 1862, clash known as "Fallen Timbers."



The 267-acre tract that the Trust aims to protect is the scene of a charge into a Union advance led by Lt. Col. Nathan Bedford Forrest. He was wounded in the resulting melee, and U.S. Gen. William T. Sherman narrowly avoided capture.

The CWPT's goal in this campaign is to raise \$267,500. Donations are matched 3.5 to 1.

For more information, see <http://www.civilwar.org/battlefields/shiloh/shiloh-fallen-timbers-2011>.

News of the RCWRT



Upcoming RCWRT Meetings

February: Lerae Umfleet, N.C. women on the homefront

March: Kevin Milus, the Irish experience during the war

April: Susanna Lee, Indians in the Civil War

May: William Harris, Lincoln and the border states

June: Gerald Prokopowicz, the Chattanooga campaign

July: yet to be determined

August: Chris Meekins, Mayor Respass, traitor

September: James Clark, Walt Whitman

October: Josh Howard, new NC casualty estimates

November: Chris Fonvielle, photo history of Ft. Fisher

December: yet to be determined

Opportunities to Serve

President Steve Savia is seeking volunteers to serve on two RCWRT committees: the Program Committee and the Gatton Award Committee.

The Program Committee reviews, selects, schedules, and coordinates our monthly speakers and presenters and plans our annual event with Ed Bearss. This is a great opportunity to support our group while getting to know Civil War historians and enthusiasts.

The Gatton Award committee considers nominations for our annual award and provides its recommendations to the board of directors regarding individuals who should be considered for the honor. The T. Harry Gatton Award is bestowed on someone who has distinguished themselves through their work or efforts related to the study of the Civil War. The committee also is charged with overseeing the process and criteria for giving the award.

Interested in serving on either committee? Please call Steve at 846-6908 or email him at ssavia@nc.rr.com.

RCWRT Score Card	
Members	100
December 2011 Attendance	
Holiday Party	60



The Knapsack

is the official newsletter of the RCWRT and is published on Wednesday before each meeting.

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Staff

Andrew Ballard, Editor

George Long, Proofreader

Arlene & Art Wills, Circulation

Charles Hawks, Circulation

Contributors

David June

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, telli001@mc.duke.edu

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.