

The Knapsack

Raleigh Civil War Round Table

The same rain falls on both friend and foe.

January 12, 2013
Our 143rd Meeting



Volume 13
Number 1

The Battle of Fredericksburg **Topic of January 12 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 was wounded by enemy machine-gun fire.

At our Jan. 12 event, Ed will speak on the Dec. 1862 battle of Fredericksburg.

IMPORTANT NOTICE!

Our annual event with Ed Bearss will be held at William Peace University's Dinwiddie Chapel due to gubernatorial inaugural events at the capitol. Parking is available on campus. The event begins at 11:30 and admission is \$10. Tickets are available at the door. Bring a friend!

~ The Angel of Marye's Heights ~



On Dec. 14, 1862, following a Federal assault on his position behind a stone wall at the base of Marye's Heights in Fredericksburg, Va., Richard Rowland Kirkland of the 2nd South Carolina risked becoming caught in a cross-fire by bringing water, blankets, and comfort to wounded soldiers left on the field. Kirkland's brave and kind actions earned him the nickname "The Angel of Marye's Heights." He would be killed in September 1863 during the Battle of Chickamauga.



The Sesquicentennial



January 1863

Battle of Stones River

On Jan. 3, 1863, Confederate Gen. Braxton Bragg ordered a withdrawal of Confederate forces from Murfreesboro, Tenn., ending the Battle of Stones River. The outcome ended Confederate hopes of controlling Middle Tennessee and would result in the highest percentage of casualties on both side during a major battle in the Civil War.

The battle began on Dec. 31, 1862, when Bragg launched a massive strike on the right flank of Union forces led by Maj. Gen. William S. Rosecrans. The Confederates drove back the Federal army until a stout defense from troops led by Brig. Gen. Philip Sheridan near the Union center stabilized the line.



Battle of Stones River

Repeated Confederate assaults were repulsed, and an assault on a well-fortified Union position on a hill to the east of Stones River failed after artillery caused massive casualties.

Faced with the lack of progress, severe winter weather, and impending Union re-enforcements, Bragg decided to withdraw to Tullahoma. Following that decision, his corps and division commanders would express a lack of confidence in him, creating dissention in the ranks.

At the Battle of Stones River, federal forces would see 1,677 men killed, 7,543 wounded, and 3,686 captured or missing. Confederates would have 1,294 soldiers killed, 7,945 wounded, and about 2,500 captured or missing.

A 'Mud March' in Virginia

Following the Union Army of the Potomac's defeat at Fredericksburg, Maj. Gen. Ambrose Burnside sought to restore his army's morale and his own reputation by launching a new offensive.



On Jan., 20, Burnside moved west and attempted to cross the Rappahannock River near Fredericksburg to attack Robert E. Lee's Confederate forces. That evening, a strong rain began and Federal Forces became bogged down in mud. The delay allowed Lee to prepare for the assault, and Burnside would abandon the attempt.

Another New Commander

After the Union Army of the Potomac's defeat at Fredericksburg, Va., and the subsequent failed offensive, President Lincoln would remove Ambrose Burnside from command.



Joe Hooker

Lincoln would name 48-year-old 'Fighting Joe' Hooker, an open critic of Burnside, to lead the Army of the Potomac.



Ed Bearss' 2013 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 2013 campaign:

Weds., Jan. 9, Southport. Forts Henry, Donelson

Thurs., Jan. 10, Pinehurst. Bristoe Station

Fri., Jan. 11, Tarboro. Gen. Pettigrew

Sat., Jan. 12, Raleigh. Fredericksburg

Sat., Jan. 12, Greensboro. Raising the USS Cairo

Sun., Jan. 13, New Bern. Gettysburg & Vicksburg



Upcoming Events

Jan. 19: Ft. Fisher at Kure Beach, N.C., will present "Sheppard's Battery: Confederates Defending the Left Flank," a living history event. From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call (910) 458-5538 or go to <http://www.nchistoricsites.org/fisher/fisher.htm> for more.

Jan. 24: Annual Civil War Quiz Bowl will be held at the Museum of the Cape Fear in Fayetteville, N.C. Event will be at 6 p.m. Telephone (910) 486-1330 for details.

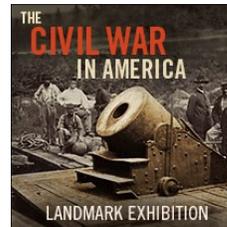
Jan. 27: The N.C. History Museum in Raleigh will host Bland Simpson, author of *Two Captains from Carolina: Moses Grandy, John Newland Maffiitt, and the Coming of the Civil War*. Free event begins at 2 p.m. Call (919) 807-7835 or go to <http://www.ncmuseumofhistory.org>.

Jan. 28: The State Capitol in Raleigh will present a living history program titled "Tar Heel Perspectives: Letters to North Carolina's Civil War Governors." Call (919) 733-4994 or visit <http://www.nchistoricsites.org/capitol> for more information.

Feb. 9: The House in the Horseshoe state historic site in Sanford, N.C., presents "Mining and Minerals from the Deep River Coal Fields," a program about how mines in the state supported the Confederate war effort. For more, go to <http://www.nchistoricsites.org/horsesho/horsesho.htm> or call (910) 947-2051.

Exhibition in D.C.

The Library of Congress has assembled more than 200 unique items, many of which have never been seen by the public, into what it describes as a "landmark exhibition."



The exhibition, *The Civil War in America*, includes documents and letters that provide personal and public perspectives and accounts of the war. The original draft of the Emancipation Proclamation, copies of the Gettysburg Address, and a letter from Robert E. Lee about resigning his commission in the U.S. Army are among the items included. The new exhibition runs through June 1, 2013.

For details, see <http://myloc.gov/Exhibitions/civil-war-in-america/Pages/Overview.aspx>.

Preservation News

The Civil War Trust seeks to preserve 1.5 critical acres at the Franklin battlefield in Tennessee.



A Domino's Pizza store and small market currently sit on the targeted property, which was covered with Confederate dead and wounded following the Nov. 30, 1864, battle. Gen. Hiram Granbury (CSA), one of six Confederate generals to die during the Battle of Franklin, fell on ground that now is the stores' parking lot.

The Civil War Trust's goal in this campaign is to raise \$339,000. Donations are matched 6.5 to 1.

For details on this preservation effort, visit <http://www.civilwar.org/battlefields/franklin/franklin-2012>.

News of the RCWRT



Upcoming RCWRT Meetings

February: LeRae Umfleet, Wilmington race riots

March: Ernie Dollar, PTSD and war's end in NC

April: Marvin Nicholson, the African-American experience

May: Sandy Barnard, a private in the Irish Brigade

June: Stephen Wise, blockade running

July: Rick Walton, Raleigh's Pettigrew Hospital

August: Debbi Blake, CW research at the State Archives

Music To Our Ears

The RCWRT would like to thank the Southern String Band, our party organizer, Darline Tellier, those who attended, and those who helped set up and clean up for making our holiday party a success!



December Board Meeting

On Dec. 5, the Round Table's Board of Directors held its quarterly meeting. At the meeting, the board approved the 2013 Gatton Award honoree, discussed the Christmas party and Bearss event, and approved minor changes to the by-laws. The by-laws changes include expanding the Treasurer's role to Secretary-Treasurer and adding the immediate past president to the board. The proposed amendments also would allow the president, in addition to the board, to create ad hoc committees. The changes will be offered to RCWRT members for their approval at our meeting in February.



The Knapsack

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RCWRT Score Card

Members

115

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.