

# *The Knapsack*

*Raleigh Civil War Round Table*

*The same rain falls on both friend and foe.*

*January 11, 2014*  
*Our 155th Meeting*



*Volume 14*  
*Number 1*

## **The Sinking and Salvage of the USS *Cairo*** **Topic of January 11 Event With Ed Bearss**

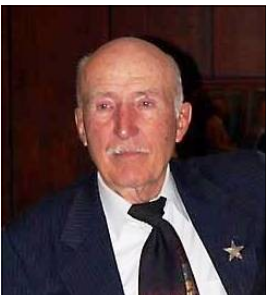
Edwin C. Bearss is one of the most respected Civil War scholars alive today and is considered by many to be a national treasure.

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, and was severely wounded by machine-gun fire.

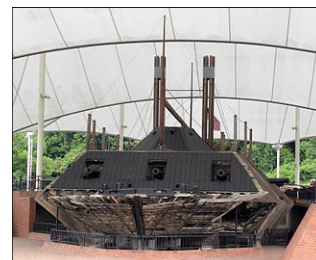
Ed's Jan. 11 presentation to the Round Table will be on the sinking and salvage of the USS *Cairo*, which is the subject of his book, *Hardluck Ironclad*.

~o~

**NOTE:** Our 12th 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.

### *~ The Cairo ~*

The ironclad gunboat USS *Cairo* was commissioned in January 1862 for service in the Union Army's Western Gunboat Flotilla.



On Dec. 12, 1862, she became the first ship to be sunk by an electrically detonated torpedo, when she went down in the Yazoo River. She was raised in three sections in 1964 and now can be viewed at Vicksburg National Military Park.



# The Sesquicentennial

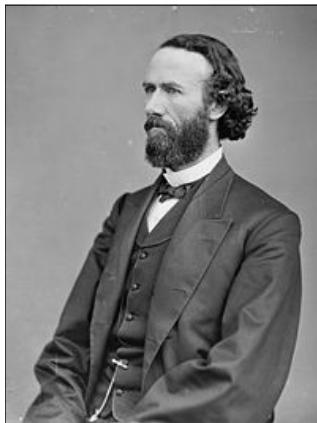


January 1864

## Abolition Proposed

On Jan. 11, Sen. John B. Henderson, a Republican representing the slave state of Missouri, submitted to the Senate Judiciary Committee a proposed amendment to the U.S. Constitution to permanently prohibit slavery in the United States.

Sen. Henderson's proposal would be combined with versions drafted by three members of the House of Representatives and eventually become approved as the Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution.



Sen. John Henderson (R-Mo.)

On Jan. 2, George Davis, a Confederate Senator representing North Carolina, was confirmed as the Confederate Attorney General. Davis had been born in Wilmington, studied at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and worked as a lawyer. Davis would serve as the Confederate Attorney General for the duration of the war.

Also in January 1864, President Lincoln commuted the death sentences of several deserters, Union Maj. Gen. William S. Rosecrans replaced John Schofield as the commander of the Department of Missouri, and local elections in federally controlled areas of Tennessee were authorized.

## 17-Year Old Executed

On Jan. 8, Union forces in Arkansas executed 17-year old David Owen Dodd after he was convicted of being a Confederate spy.

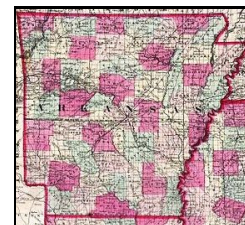


Dodd was arrested after a Union sentry stopped him and found the young man lacked a pass and had a notebook containing descriptions of Union forces in Morse code. He was hanged after a four-day trial conducted by a military tribunal.

His execution fueled divisions in Arkansas just as a constitutional convention to consider rejoining the Union was convening. Dodd was considered "the Boy Martyr of the Confederacy."

## A New Governor For Arkansas

On Jan. 22, a state constitutional convention picked pro-Unionist Issac Murphy to serve as the provisional governor of the Federally-controlled state of Arkansas, pending an election in March.



Murphy had been one of five delegates that had voted against secession by Arkansas in May 1861. Although the other four would change their vote when the convention's president called for unanimity, Murphy refused. He would serve as Arkansas' governor until June 1868, when the state was re-admitted into the Union.



## Ed Bearss' 2014 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 2014 campaign:

**Weds., Jan. 8, Southport.** Antietam

**Thurs., Jan. 9, Pinehurst.** Earl Van Dorn

**Fri., Jan. 10, Tarboro.** The Wilderness

**Sat., Jan. 11, Raleigh.** The USS *Cairo*

**Sat., Jan. 11, Greensboro.** — Lee and Grant

**Sun., Jan. 12, New Bern.** Lincoln, his generals



## Upcoming Events

**Jan. 8:** The N.C. Museum of History presents "Between Heaven and Hell: The End of the Civil War in Raleigh." Noon to 1 p.m. Free. For more, see <http://www.ncdcr.gov/ncmoh/Home.aspx> or call (919) 807-7900.

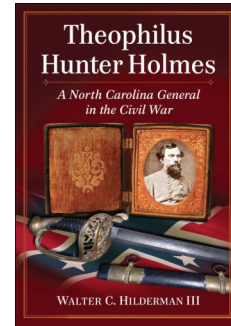
**Jan. 17-19:** A commemoration of the 149th anniversary of the Battle of Fort Fisher and lectures about blockade running is sponsored by Blockade Runner Beach Resort in Wilmington, N.C. Talks by Robert Browning, Stephen Wise, Chris Fonvielle, and Mark Wilde-Ramsing. Cost \$285 per couple, \$145 single. Lodging not included. Call (910) 256-2251 or go to <http://blockade-runner.com/blockade-running-civil-war-weekend> for details.

**Jan. 25:** Bentonville Battlefield near Four Oaks, N.C., holds a cleanup day aimed at clearing walking trails along the Army of Tennessee line. Bring tools. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Lunch provided. Telephone (910) 594-0789 or go to <http://www.nchistoricsites.org/bentonvi/bentonvi.htm>.

**Feb. 1:** The CSS Neuse Civil War Interpretive Center in Kinston, N.C., will present the Underwriter Expedition Symposium and Living History program. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Talks on 1864 expedition by Jeff Bockert and Andrew Dupstadt. For details, contact Holly Brown at (252) 526-9600, ext. 222 or via email at [holly.brown@ncdcr.gov](mailto:holly.brown@ncdcr.gov).

## Lt. Gen. T. H. Holmes

A biography of a little-known Confederate General from North Carolina, Theophilus Hunter Holmes, is now available.



Holmes was born in Sampson County and was the son of a North Carolina governor. Holmes resigned his U.S. Army commission to join the Confederate cause. He led a brigade at First Manassas and would command the Confederate Department of Trans-Mississippi. He surrendered at Bennett Place and died in 1880 in Fayetteville.

The book was authored by Walter C. Hilderman III and published by McFarland. Copies are available at [www.mcfarlandpub.com](http://www.mcfarlandpub.com) or (800) 253-2187.

## Preservation News

The Civil War Trust is seeking to preserve 1,573 acres at eight battlefields in Virginia, Missouri, and North Carolina.



The effort includes important ground at Bentonville, N.C., Carthage, Mo., Cool Spring, Va., High Bridge, Va., Kelly's Ford, Va., Second Manassas, Va., Totopotomoy Creek, Va., and Wyse Fork, N.C.

The Trust's goal in this campaign is to raise \$209,700. Donations are matched 30.53 to 1.

For details, see <http://www.civilwar.org/battlefields/bentonville/save-8-battlefields-2013>.

# News of the RCWRT



## Upcoming RCWRT Meetings

**February:** Keith Hardison, Jefferson Davis

**March:** Bob Zeller, photographic history

**April:** William Davis, CSA secret servicewoman

**May:** William Harris, Lincoln and the Constitution

## At The Museum

On Nov. 9, four newly conserved Confederate battleflags were unveiled by the North Carolina Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans (SCV) during a ceremony at the N.C. Museum of History in Raleigh.



The colors of the 24th, 34th, 38th, and 39th N.C. Troops (see photo above) were conserved with funding raised by the SCV. Along with raising funds for the textile treatment for the flags, which costs between about \$7,000 and \$30,000 per banner, the group also helped the museum purchase a storage unit that can hold 10 conserved flags.

A check for \$8,200 to fund the conservation of the 35th N.C. Troops' battleflag also recently was given by SCV Camp 379 (Marion, N.C.).

More information on the effort is available at <http://www.ncdcr.gov/News/tabid/95/EntryId/120/Sons-of-Confederate-Veterans-Funds-Conservation-of-Battle-Flags-at-Museum-of-History.aspx>.

## Two New Members

The RCWRT welcomes our newest members, Grady and Tricia Shields of Cary. 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***

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

*(January 2014 Circulation: 280)*

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### RCWRT Score Card

Members	133
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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) after the meeting. 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.