

The Knapsack

***Raleigh Civil War Round Table
The same rain falls on both friend and foe.***

***January 10, 2015
Our 167th Meeting***



***Volume 15
Number 1***

<http://www.raleighcwrt.org>

The Battle of Mobile Bay Topic of January 10 Event With Ed Bearss

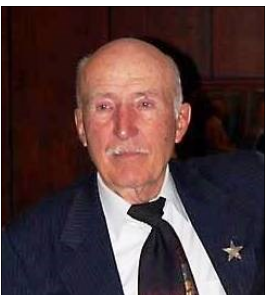
Edwin C. Bearss is one of the most respected Civil War scholars alive today and is considered by many to be a national treasure.

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. 10 presentation to the Round Table will be on the Battle of Mobile Bay.

~o~

NOTE: Our 13th Annual Meeting with Ed Bearss will be held at the N.C. Museum of History. Doors will open at 9:30 a.m., and the event will begin at 10:00. Tickets are \$10 each and are available at the event. A raffle of artwork and books will be held (see p. 4 for details), and Rod Gragg will talk about Fort Fisher at 2 p.m. (see p. 3).

~ The Battle of Mobile Bay ~

On Aug. 5, 1864, a Union fleet led by Rear Admiral David Farragut boldly entered Mobile Bay.



Farragut's eighteen-ship squadron passed by the defending forts and secured a dramatic victory against the powerful Confederate ironclad, the CSS *Tennessee*. Farragut had urged the stalling assault forward with "Damn the torpedoes!"



The Sesquicentennial



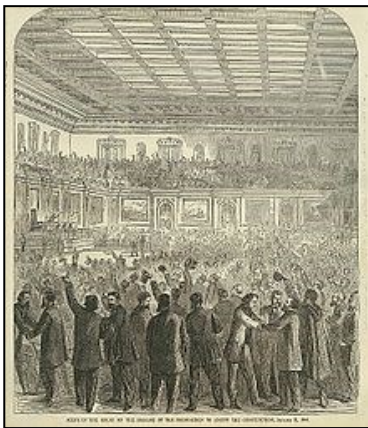
January 1865

13th Amendment Passes

On Jan. 31, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the 13th Amendment to the Constitution by a vote of 119 to 56, with eight abstentions.

The Senate had approved the amendment, which formally abolished slavery, in April 1864. President Lincoln pushed for passage of the amendment, as he believed that the Emancipation Proclamation might be invalidated after the war ended.

Following the House's approval of the amendment, it was sent to the states for ratification.



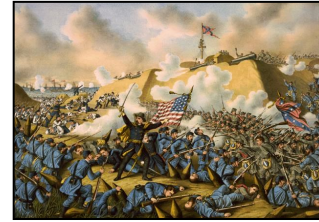
Representatives Celebrate

On Jan. 16, Union Maj. Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman, commanding the Military Division of the Mississippi, issued Special Field Orders No. 15. The orders called for the confiscation of some 400,000 acres along the coast of South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida to give to newly freed black families. The land was to be divided into 40-acre parcels. The orders, issued after Sherman completed his March to the Sea, were aimed at dealing with a large number of black refugees following the army. The orders had little practical effect, as they were overturned by President Johnson later that year.

Also in January 1865, Confederates would win a small battle in Beverly, W. Va., and three peace commissioners would be named by President Davis.

Fort Fisher Captured!

On Jan. 15, Union forces captured Fort Fisher in North Carolina, closing Wilmington, the last sea port open in the Confederacy.



The assault was a joint operation involving about 60 Union ships under Rear Admiral David D. Porter and troops under Maj. Gen. Alfred Terry. The attack involved about 3,300 Union soldiers, including U.S. Colored Troops. Defending were approximately 1,900 soldiers that were garrisoned at the fort. On the peninsula north of the fort were another 6,400 Confederates under Maj. Gen. Robert Hoke, but only about 400 of those soldiers were able to help defend it.

Union casualties were 1,341, while Confederates saw 583 of their defenders killed and wounded, with the entire garrison being captured.

Lee Made General-in-Chief

On Jan. 31, Robert E. Lee accepted the position of General-in-Chief of the Confederate armies.



Lee, who previously led the Army of Northern Virginia, reluctantly accepted the command as the support for President Jefferson Davis began to diminish in the South. Confederate hopes for independence now rested on "Marse Robert."



Ed Bearss' 2015 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 2015 campaign:

Weds., Jan. 7, Southport. E&W Theaters

Thurs., Jan. 8, Pinehurst. Battle of Monocacy

Fri., Jan. 9, Tarboro. Last at Appomattox

Sat., Jan. 10, Raleigh. Mobile Bay

Sat., Jan. 10, Greensboro. Lee's options

Sun., Jan. 11, New Bern. Lincoln's Cabinet



Period Music

Fond of Civil War period music? Hear it played while reading along with lyrics on a website offered by Civil War Heritage Trails.



26th NC Regimental Band

The site offers 22 songs: Amazing Grace; Battle Cry of Freedom; Battle Hymn of the Republic; Battle of Manassas; Bonnie Blue Flag; Buffalo Gals; Dixie; a Georgia Volunteer; Goober Peas; Hark! The Herald Angels Sing; Jeff in Petticoats; Jingle Bells; Marching Through Georgia; Move, Daniel; Oh! Susanna; Old Dan Tucker; Prattville Light Dragoon March; Roll Alabama Roll; Rose of Alabama; Wade in the Water; the Yellow Rose of Texas; and, the Young Volunteer.

Go to <http://www.civilwarheritagetrails.org/civil-war-music> and enjoy!

Upcoming Events

Jan. 10: The N.C. Museum of History in downtown Raleigh presents Rod Gragg speaking on the fall of Fort Fisher. 2 p.m. Free. See <http://ncmuseumofhistory.org/Home.aspx> or call (919) 807-7900 for details.

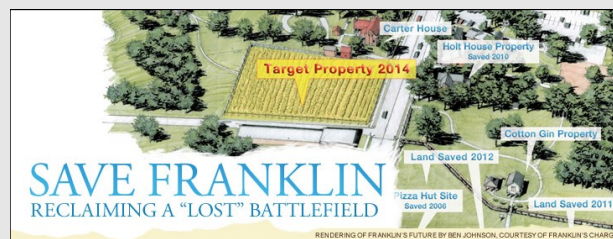
Jan. 14: The N.C. Museum of History in downtown Raleigh hosts Tom Beaman who will give a talk on Civil War archeology. Noon. Free. Details available online at <http://ncmuseumofhistory.org/Home.aspx> or by telephone at (919) 807-7900.

Jan. 17-18: Fort Fisher at Kure Beach, N.C., holds a commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Fort Fisher. Recreations of the Union attacks and other living history events and period music. Speakers include Ed Bearss, Rod Gragg, Chris Fonvielle, Michael Hardy, Jamie Martinez, and Richard Triebe. Free, except for fees for optional side tours. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Sat. and Sun. Go to <http://www.nchistoricsites.org/fisher/fisher.htm> or telephone (910) 458-5538 for more information.

Feb. 7-8: The Cameron Art Museum in Wilmington, N.C., commemorates the Battle of Forks Road with living history and other programs. Free. 11 a.m. Sat., noon on Sun. See <http://www.cameronartmuseum.org> or call (910) 395-5999 for details.

Preservation News

The Civil War Trust is seeking to preserve three acres at the heart of the Franklin, Tenn., battlefield.



The targeted property was the scene of some of the heaviest fighting of the November 1864 battle and is surrounded by previously preserved land.

The Trust's goal in this campaign is to raise \$200,000. Donations are matched 14 to 1.

For details, see <http://www.civilwar.org/battlefields/franklin/franklin-2014>.

News of the RCWRT



Upcoming RCWRT Meetings

February: Brenda McKean, The Home Front

March: Patrick Schroeder, Appomattox

Raffle Items for January Meeting!

The following items will be raffled off at the RCWRT's Jan. 10 meeting with Ed Bearss. Tickets are \$5 each, three for \$10. You do not have to be present to win. The artwork was generously donated by Rick Mullen, owner of Ashley's Art Gallery in Fuquay-Varina.



FIRST PRIZE

Framed Winter Rider's Poster by Mort Künstler Scene is February 1863, Raleigh

Details at <http://ashleyart.com/winter-riders-by-mort-kunstler-framed-poster>



SECOND PRIZE

Framed Canvas Limited Edition by Mort Künstler "The Great Beefsteak Raid," September 1864

Details at <http://ashleyart.com/the-great-beefsteak-raid-by-mort-kunstler-signature-canvas-framed>



THIRD PRIZE

28-Volume Hardcover Book Set Time-Life's Civil War Series

Details at <http://www.librarything.com/series/Time-Life%3A+The+Civil+War>



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RCWRT Score Card

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| Members | 129 |
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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.