

The Knapsack

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

March 13, 2017
Our 193rd Meeting



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<http://www.raleighcwrt.org>

March 13 Event Features Jim Gaddis On North Carolina's General Richard Gatlin

The Raleigh Civil War Round Table's March 2017 meeting will feature author and historian James L. Gaddis, Jr. Jim's talk is a rescheduling of his April 2016 presentation that was unfortunately cut short by a fire alarm at the museum.



Jim is a native of Tampa, Fla., and graduated from N.C. State University with an economics degree in 1973 after serving four years in the United States Air Force, including a one-year tour in Viet Nam. He is a retired computer software designer having worked at East Carolina University,

Mutual of America Insurance Company, Pratt & Whitney Aircraft, Hampton Industries, and the U.S. Air Force.

Jim is vice president of the Kinston Civil War Round Table, having previously served as that group's president. He also is a long-time member of the CSS Ram Neuse Sons of Confederate Veterans Camp No. 1427 in Kinston, N.C., and a member of the North Carolina Society of Historians and North Caroliniana Society.

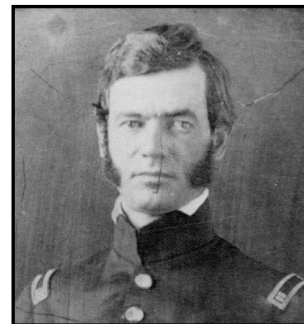
Jim's research into the life and career of Richard Caswell Gatlin, a Confederate General and native of Kinston, has led to his recently published book, *Richard Gatlin and the Confederate Defense of Eastern North Carolina*. Jim has spoken to several civic and historical groups on Gatlin and his work has awakened local interest in the general.

For the past 20 years, Jim has lived in Kinston with his wife, Sue, in a Lenoir County farmhouse that has been in his family for nearly a century.

Jim's presentation at the RCWRT's March 13 event will be about General Richard Gatlin, the subject of his recently published book. Copies of his book will be available for purchase at the meeting and Jim will be happy to sign them.

~ Richard Gatlin ~

Richard Caswell Gatlin (1809-1896) was a native of Kinston, N.C., and the first West Point graduate from Lenoir County.



Gatlin was a distinguished U.S. Army officer and decorated Mexican War veteran, served as the first commander of the Confederacy's North Carolina Department, was the state's Adjutant General from 1863 until the end of the Civil War, and was Kinston's only Confederate general.



Mississippi

The States During the Civil War



The 'Magnolia State'

Mississippi entered the Union in 1817, the 20th state to ratify the U.S. Constitution. The "Magnolia State" was the second Southern state to secede, doing so on Jan. 9, 1861. Mississippi played a vital political, strategic and military role in the conflict. The Magnolia State saw hundreds of battles during the war, including Vicksburg, and was home to the president of the Confederacy, Jefferson Davis.

In 1860, Mississippi had a population of 791,305. Of that total, 436,631, or more than half, were slaves. Prior to the war, Mississippi was one of the most wealthy and prosperous of the states, but suffered terrible devastation during the conflict.

About 80,000 men from the Magnolia State served in the Confederate forces and some 8,000 of them died during the Civil War. Approximately 500 white and more than 17,000 black men from the state fought for the Union cause.



Mississippi Monument, Gettysburg

1860 Election Results:

John Breckenridge (Dem)	40,768 (59.0%)
John Bell (Union)	25,045 (36.3%)
Stephen Douglas (Dem)	3,282 (4.8%)

Secession Vote (1/9/61 Convention):

For	84
Against	15

Governors:

John J. Pettus (Dem)	Nov. 21, 1859 – Nov. 16, 1863
Charles Clark (Dem)	Nov. 16, 1863 – May 22, 1865

'TadPoles'

Mississippi provided more than 50 regiments and other units of infantry, as well as dozens of cavalry and artillery units to the Confederate cause. Troops from the state were nicknamed by other soldiers "TadPoles." Mississippians fought in most of the major battles of the Civil War, but were primarily concentrated in the Western Theater.



Sgt Chandler, 44th Mississippi and Silas

Among the notable units from Mississippi was the 6th Regiment, which suffered more than 70 percent casualties at Shiloh. The 16th lost about 63 percent of its men at Antietam and the 29th had more than half of its ranks killed or wounded at Chickamauga. Also of note were the "University Greys," Co. A of the 11th Mississippi that served in the Army of Northern Virginia, and the 1st Chocktaw Battalion of Cavalry, a unit of Native Americans.

Mississippi saw some 772 military events during the Civil War, including some of the most contested fights of the conflict. Of particular significance was the siege of Vicksburg, which ended with Union forces capturing the city in July 1863, and resulting in the physical division of the Confederacy and the capture of nearly 30,000 Southerners. Among the other battles fought in the Magnolia State were those at Champion Hill, Brice's Crossroads, Corinth, and Port Gibson.

In addition to Jefferson Davis, notable people from Mississippi included Confederate generals William Barksdale, Earl Van Dorn, Benjamin G. Humphreys, Carnot Posey, Robert Lowry, and Wirt Adams.

Atlanta's Cyclorama

In early February, *The Battle of Atlanta* painting was removed from Grant Park and installed in a new, custom-built, 23,000 square-foot Cyclorama building at the Atlanta History Center. It had been displayed at its Grant Park location since 1921. The painting is 42 feet tall and has a circumference of 359 feet. It weighs about 12,000 pounds.



The Battle of Atlanta is one of only 17 cycloramas painted between 1880 and 1920 that exist today. Only two are still exhibited in the United States, the other being *The Battle of Gettysburg* painting at the Pennsylvania battlefield site. *The Battle of Atlanta* was painted by several German artists and was first displayed in Minneapolis, Minn., in 1886 and was moved to Atlanta in 1892. For more information, go to <http://www.atlantahistorycenter.com/explore/destinations/atlanta-cyclorama>.

Upcoming Events

March. Bennett Place Historical Site in Durham, N.C., continues its series of Saturday lectures focusing on the role of women in the Civil War. March 11: Michele Lanier, African American Women; March 18: Linda Humphries, Mourning Etiquette & Rituals; March 25, Brenda McKean, Shortages on the Home Front. All talks at 1 p.m. \$5. For more information, call (919) 383-4345 or go online to <http://www.nchistoricsites.org/bennett/bennett.htm>.

March 12. Museum of the Cape Fear in Fayetteville, N.C., hosts Wade Sokolosky presenting the lecture, "In the Path of Sherman's March: The Final Days of the Fayetteville Arsenal." Free event. 2 p.m. Call (910) 486-1330 or see <http://museumofthecapefear.ncdcr.gov>.

March 16. Indoor Theatre at Roanoke Island Festival Park, presents Andrew Dupppstadt and Michael Zatarga speaking on the Battle of Roanoke Island. \$5. 7 p.m. For details, telephone (252) 475-1500. or visit <http://www.roanokeisland.com>.

March 18, 19. Bentonville Battlefield Historical Site near Four Oaks, N.C., presents its 152nd Anniversary event with a medical living history program on both Sat. and Sun., from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free event also includes artillery, infantry and homefront demonstrations. Ticketed night tour Sat. eve only. Visit <http://nchistoricsites.org/bentonvi/bentonvi.htm> or call (910) 594-0789 for details.

The Knapsack

The Union's Starry Flag

By Lt. Col. (Ret.) Steve Glazer

At the outbreak of the Civil War on April 12, 1861, the flag of the United States had 33 stars. It was this Union flag that was lowered upon Fort Sumter's surrender two days later. Although Kansas had been admitted to the Union as the 34th state on January 29, 1861, the U.S. Flag Act of 1818 dictated that new stars should not be added to the nation's flag until the July 4th immediately following a state's admission. Therefore, pursuant to federal law, the official Union flag first had 34 stars on July 4, 1861, almost three months after Fort Sumter was first fired upon.



Fort
Sumter flags, 1861 and 1865

On June 20, 1863, West Virginia was admitted to the Union, resulting in the flag having 35 stars as of July 4, 1863 (the day Vicksburg fell to Ulysses S. Grant and Robert E. Lee's army was retreating back to Virginia from Gettysburg). It was the 35-star flag that continued to be flown through the remainder of the war, and it was this flag raised over Fort Sumter on February 18, 1865, marking the fort's return to federal control. Although Nevada was admitted to the Union on October 31, 1864, the star reflecting its admission was not added until July 4, 1865, well after the surrender of the South's armies in the field.

Preservation News

The Civil War Trust is seeking to save 63 acres at two of Tennessee's most famous battlefields.



The targeted property includes two tracts totaling 45 acres at Fort Donelson and another 18 acres at Parker's Cross Roads.

The Trust's goal in this campaign is to raise \$111,500. Donations are matched at a 5.78:1 rate!

For details, go to <http://www.civilwar.org/battlefields/fortdonelson/tennessee-campaign-2017>

News of the RCWRT



Upcoming RCWRT Meetings

April: John Quarstein, USS Monitor
May: Michael Hardy, NC as last Confederate capital
June: Symposium on Reconstruction

In Memoriam



The Raleigh Civil War Round Table mourns the loss of one of its charter members, Lee Sherrill, who died Feb. 20. Lee was born in 1944, served in the U.S. Army, including time in Viet Nam, and earned a bronze star for his service.

Lee's book, *The 21st North Carolina Infantry, a Civil War History with a Roster of Officers*, was recently published, the culmination of 20 years of research on the unit's role in the Army of Northern Virginia (see *The Knapsack*, Vm. 15, No. 5, p.3). Lee's Civil War passion led to him to become a founding member of the RCWRT and past president of the North Carolina Civil War Round Table. He was also active in a number of other historical organizations such as the High Point Museum Guild, Bennett Place Round Table, Sons of Confederate Veterans, Military Order Stars and Bars, Civil War Trust, Richmond Battlefields Association, Wachovia Historical Society, and Central Virginia Battlefields Trust.

The family has asked that, in lieu of flowers, donations in Lee's memory be made to the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust, P.O. Box 3417, Fredericksburg, VA, 22402. A more detailed obituary for Lee is available at <http://www.cumbyfuneral.com/tributes/Lee-SherrillJr>.

Two New Members!

The RCWRT welcomes our newest two members, David McAuley and Dr. Robert Logel (Chapel Hill). If you know of someone with an interest in the Civil War, bring them to our next meeting and encourage them to join!



The Knapsack

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RCWRT Score Card

Members 134

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 (located at 5 Edenton Street, across from the State Capitol). Members and guests are encouraged to meet for supper at K&W Cafeteria, 511 Woodburn Rd., in Cameron Village before the meeting, at 5:15 pm.

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.