

# ***The Knapsack***

***Raleigh Civil War Round Table***

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

***May 9, 2011  
Our 123rd Meeting***



***Volume 11  
Number 5***

## **David Zonderman to Speak at May 9 Meeting On Labor and Commerce During The Civil War**

David A. Zonderman is a professor at North Carolina State University where he serves as the associate head of the history department.

Historical Society of North Carolina and has served on the Advisory Editorial Committee for the *North Carolina Historical Review*.



David received his bachelor's degree from Amherst College in Massachusetts and both his M.A. and PhD from Yale University. He has authored two books: *Aspirations and*

David joined the Raleigh Civil War Round Table in January 2011. His presentation to the RCWRT will be on labor and commerce during the Civil War.

*Anxieties: New England Workers and the Mechanized Factory system, 1815-1850, and Uneasy Allies: Working For Labor Reform in Nineteenth-Century Boston.* David also has published a number of articles and reviews on history in several publications.

**~ King Cotton? ~**  
In 1860, the United States' export of cotton was worth about \$191 million, or 57 percent of total national exports. The Southern states supplied approximately 75 percent of global demand when the Civil War began.

David has worked with museums around the United States. He has served on boards and committees with the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, the Raleigh City Museum, the North Carolina Museum of History, and the North Carolina Maritime Museum. David also has been a consultant and evaluator for museum exhibits funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Institute for Museum and Library Services.



In 2001, he received the Outstanding Service Award from NCSU's College of Humanities and Social Sciences.

Cultivating cotton was labor intensive and, when the war began, nearly 4 million slaves resided in the South. The loss of the crop led to a decline in the cotton textile industry in the North, but the woolen textile industry saw a large boost in its production during the Civil War.

In addition, David is an elected member of the

Early in the war, the Confederacy declared a cotton embargo, hoping to force the intervention of England. However, that effort failed as the British were sitting on a surplus.



# The Sesquicentennial



May 1861

## North Carolina Secedes!

Following the firing on Fort Sumter and President Lincoln's call for volunteers, other states—including a reluctant North Carolina—joined the Confederacy.

Arkansas, North Carolina, and Virginia all voted to secede during May 1861.

North Carolina's vote came on May 20, 1861, after Gov. John Ellis (D) informed President Lincoln that "I can be no party to this wicked violation of the laws of the country and to this war upon the liberties of a free people. You can get no troops from North Carolina."



North Carolina Gov. John Ellis

Ellis, a Democrat, would die the next month. The remainder of his term would be served by Henry Toole Clark, Speaker of the North Carolina Senate.

Virginia had decided to put secession to a popular vote, and it carried by a margin of 132,201 to 37,451.

Also during May 1861, Kentucky and Missouri would both declare their neutrality, but the Confederacy continued to lay claim to those two states.

On May 21, the Confederate Congress voted to move the location of its capital from Montgomery, Ala. to Richmond, Va.

## Death of an Officer

On May 24, 1861, Col. Elmer Ephraim Ellsworth of the 11th New York Fire Zouaves was killed when he and a small detachment removed a Confederate flag that had been raised over the Marshall House Inn in Alexandria, Va.

Ellsworth was killed when the inn's owner, James W. Jackson, shot him in the chest with a shotgun. A soldier accompanying Ellsworth immediately killed Jackson.

Generally considered to be the first officer killed while on duty during the Civil War, Ellsworth was regarded as a hero, and souvenirs related to his death became prized possessions.

## The Arlington House

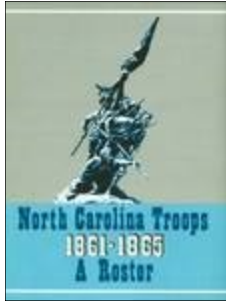
The Arlington House was owned and built by George Washington's adopted grandson, George Washington Parke Custis. Custis' only child, Mary Anna, would marry Robert E. Lee. After Virginia's secession from the United States in May 1861, federal troops crossed the Potomac River and occupied their home.



Neither Lee nor his wife, the property holder, ever lived at the Arlington House again. After Lee's death, his son won a court ruling that found the land had been illegally confiscated. In 1883, he sold the property to the U.S. Congress for \$150,000. Arlington National Cemetery now stands on the grounds of that property.

## ~ Roster of Senior Reserves ~

The N.C. Office of Archives and History has made available "Volume XVIII: Senior Reserves and Detailed Men," part of its series on North Carolina troops in the Civil War.



The Senior Reserves were men aged 45 to 50 who were drafted in the last year of the Civil War, as the Confederacy suffered a manpower shortage. They guarded bridges, depots, and prisoners, and rounded up deserters. The roster is available for \$64.65. Call (919) 733-7442, ext. 0 for details.

## Upcoming Events

**May 12-29:** The Theater of the American South takes place in Wilson, N.C. over three weekends. Speakers, antiques, Southern cooking and other cultural events. Presentations on African American spies, Italians in the Civil War, and period medicine, as well as two plays: "The Civil War in Song & Legend" and "Shiloh Rules." For more, visit [www.theateroftheamericansouth.org](http://www.theateroftheamericansouth.org) or call Gary Cole, managing director, at (919) 783-9671.

**May 19:** The Durham Civil War Roundtable presents Dr. Walter Loehr on Civil War medicine. Begins at 7 p.m. For details, email Jean Eno at [Jceno7play@embarqmail.com](mailto:Jceno7play@embarqmail.com).

**May 20:** The N.C. Office of Archives and History will host a conference in Raleigh on "Contested Past: Memories and Legacies of the Civil War." Registration is due May 10 and cost of conference is \$25. For more information, see <http://www.nccivilwar150.com> or call (919) 807-7280.

**May 21:** The N.C. Dept. of Cultural Resources will host a program titled "North Carolina Secedes," a living history program commemorating the historic vote. Event will be held at the state Capitol from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and is free. For details, see <http://www.nccivilwar150.com> or call (919) 733-4994.

**May 21-22:** Reenactment events to be held at Fort Macon, in Atlantic Beach, N.C., 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. on both days. Flags, period dresses and musket firings and drills among free presentations. For more information, call the park at (252) 726-3775 or email [fortmacon@ncdenr.gov](mailto:fortmacon@ncdenr.gov).

## On The Flip Side

Two significant Civil War battlefields are featured in quarters to be released this year as part of the U.S. Mint's 56-coin "America The Beautiful" series.



The reverse of the first coin depicts the monument to the 72nd Pennsylvania, located on the Union army's line of battle on Gettysburg's Cemetery Ridge.



The second quarter in the series to be released in 2011 shows the *USS Cairo*, a Union ironclad sunk by a torpedo during that campaign.

## Preservation News

The Civil War Trust's latest preservation campaign covers two important battlefield tracts in Virginia.

One is a 1.8 acre section at the heart of the Gaines' Mill battlefield. That battle took place on June 27, 1862.

The second target tract is a 0.6 acre section of the Cold Harbor battlefield where the 2nd Connecticut Heavy Artillery made its costly assault on June 1, 1864.



The Trust's goal in this campaign is to raise \$177,500. Donations will be matched 2 to 1.

For more information on the Civil War Trust's Gaines' Mill and Cold Harbor campaign, see <http://www.civilwar.org/battlefields/gainesmill/gaines-mill---cold-harbor-2011>.

# News of the RCWRT



## Bringing Flags Home

Skip Riddle is looking for help in arranging the “homecoming” of one of three Confederate flags captured at the battle of New Bern, N.C. The flags currently are located in Massachusetts. Skip is hoping to have at least one of two flags (shown below) loaned for display in 2012. Contact Skip if you can help at (252) 321-6250 or email him at skip.riddle@nmhg.com.



## Upcoming RCWRT Meetings

**June:** David Thompson on Maj. Gen. Oliver Otis Howard  
**July:** Jeff Toalson, the CW letters of Richard Watkins  
**August:** Jack Travis on E. Porter Alexander, rebel gunner  
**September:** Betty Vaughn, a first person presentation  
**October:** Wade Sokolosky, the Fayetteville Arsenal.

## Uniform's Owner Sought

The Vance County Historical Society is seeking to make contact with the descendant of General Alfred Moore Scales who brought his Confederate Veteran's uniform to the Antique Road Show when it was in Raleigh last fall. General Scales was married at Ashland Plantation in Vance County, N.C. and his portrait hangs in the parlor as part of the society's collection. The group says it seeks to share information about the general with his descendant. Please contact Tem Blackburn at (252) 430-2020.

## New Members

The RCWRT welcomes our newest members Teej Smith (Pinehurst), and Jeremy Strickland (Raleigh). Teej is a long-time friend of the Round Table, and the founder and past president of the Rufus Barringer Round Table in Pinehurst. If you know someone with an interest in the Civil War, please bring them to a meeting and encourage them to join!



## The Knapsack

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### Staff

**Andrew Ballard, Editor**  
**George Long, Proofreader**  
**Arlene & Art Wills, Circulation**  
**Charles Hawks, Circulation**

### Contributors

**Bob Farrell**  
**Skip Riddle**  
**David Zonderman**

**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](mailto:ssavia@nc.rr.com)  
**Ted Kunstling**, Vice President, 787-5282, [trkunstling@aol.com](mailto:trkunstling@aol.com)  
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**Darline Tellier**, Director, 787-7539, [telli001@mc.duke.edu](mailto:telli001@mc.duke.edu)

### RCWRT Score Card

Members 124

### April 2011 Attendance

Meeting 40

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.