

# ***The Knapsack***

***Raleigh Civil War Round Table***

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

***May 14, 2012  
Our 135th Meeting***



***Volume 12  
Number 5***

## **William Harris to Speak at May 14 Meeting On Lincoln and the Border States**

William Harris, professor emeritus at North Carolina State University, will speak at the Raleigh Civil War Round Table's May 14 meeting.

Bill is a native of Monroe County, Ala., and attended the University of Alabama. After serving in the Air Force, he entered graduate school, planning to major in Latin American History. However, taking a course with Professor Thomas B. Alexander would spur his interest in Civil War and Reconstruction history.



Bill wrote his master's thesis on Leroy Pope Walker, the first Confederate Secretary of War, and his doctoral dissertation covered presidential reconstruction. After teaching at Millsaps College in Jackson, Miss., he joined the history faculty at NC State in 1969, serving as department head from 1990-95, and retiring in 2004.

In North Carolina, Bill wrote a biography of William Woods Holden and a short history of North Carolina and the coming of the Civil War. He then became interested in Abraham Lincoln and has authored four award-winning books on the President.

Published books he has authored include *The Day of the Carpetbagger: Republican Reconstruction in Mississippi*, *William Wood Holden: Firebrand of North Carolina Politics*, *With Charity for All: Lincoln and the Restoration of the Union*, *Lincoln's Last Months*, and *Lincoln's Rise to the Presidency*.

Bill's presentation to the Raleigh Civil War Round Table is on Lincoln and the border states, the subject of his most recent published work. That book, *Lincoln and the Border States: Preserving the Union*, was awarded the 2012 Gilder Lehrman Lincoln Prize. The prize is awarded by Gettysburg College and the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History.

### **~ The Border States ~**

As the nation divided during the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln believed that retaining the loyalty of the slave-holding border states was critical to preserving the union.



Delaware, Kentucky, Maryland, and Missouri were slaveholding states that did not join the Confederacy. Lincoln, a native of Kentucky, had an understanding of the torn loyalties of those states of the "Upper South." In his book on the subject, Harris argues that Lincoln skillfully dealt with the border states' issues with military involvement in civil affairs, anti-slavery policies, and the enlistment of black soldiers, keeping them in the Union and eventually leading to the abolition of slavery.



# The Sesquicentennial

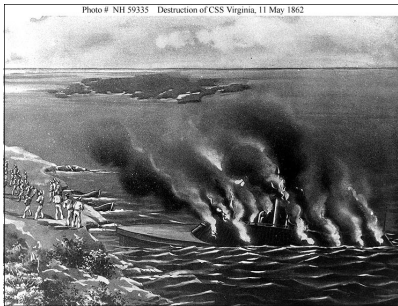


May 1862

## Norfolk Evacuated!

Although ultimately doomed to failure, Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan's "Peninsula Campaign," aimed at capturing Richmond, began to bear fruit in May 1862. Not wanting to assault the thinly manned Confederate defenses at Yorktown, Va., despite having a larger army, McClellan laid siege to the town.

Faced with a massive artillery bombardment, on May 3, Confederate General Joseph Johnston would evacuate Yorktown and withdraw toward Richmond. Confederates also would pull their forces out of Norfolk, leaving the most important naval yard in the South under Union control.



CSS Virginia Scuttled

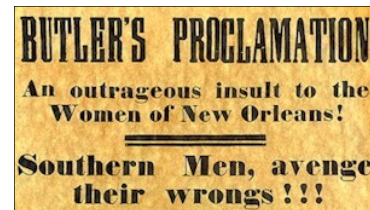
As the ironclad CSS *Virginia* was too large to flee up the James River, she was destroyed by her crew.

On May 15, as Union ships, including the ironclads USS *Monitor* and *Galena*, headed up the James River to test Richmond's defenses, they ran into submerged obstacles and intense cannonade from the batteries at Drewry's Bluff. The federal warships were forced to turn back after suffering damage.

Also in May 1862, Confederate Maj. Gen. Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson defeated Union forces at the Battle of McDowell, continuing his famous campaign in the Shenandoah Valley. The battle, fought on May 8, would result in the opposing Union force's withdrawal into western Virginia and be followed by Jackson's victories at Front Royal on May 23 and First Winchester on May 25.

## Butler's "Woman's Order"

On May 15, responding to insults and other abuse that Union soldiers were receiving from patriotic Confederate women following the occupation of New Orleans, Maj. Gen. Benjamin Butler issued his infamous General Orders No. 28.



Under the order, females that insulted or otherwise showed contempt for Union soldiers or officers "shall be regarded and held liable to be treated as a woman of the town plying her avocation." The "Woman's Order" proved generally effective, but spurred animosity toward "Beast" Butler.

## The Homestead Act

The first of three federal laws offering western farmland at a low cost was signed into law on May 20, 1862. The legislation previously had been blocked by Southern Democrats who were concerned that states populated by the measure would not be slaveholding.



The law provided 160 acre tracts of farmland and required an application, improvement to the land, and the filing of a deed of title. Any citizen of the United States at least 18 years of age or older, including former slaves, who had never taken up arms against the U.S. government could apply for a land grant. The occupant also was required to live on the property for five years and improve it with a dwelling and crops.

## The Antietam Arm

A human forearm, purportedly found by a farmer shortly after the Sept. 17, 1862, Battle of Antietam was anonymously donated to the National Museum of Civil War Medicine in Frederick, Md., earlier this year.



Courtesy National Museum of Civil War Medicine

The well-preserved limb had been on display at a private museum in the town of Sharpsburg before it was donated. Researchers are trying to verify that the arm belonged to an Antietam combatant and determine how it was lost.

More information on the National Museum of Civil War Medicine is available on the Internet at <http://www.civilwarmed.org>.

## Upcoming Events

**May 12:** The Attmore-Oliver House in New Bern will host a reception with Luke Martin, the last known son of a Civil War veteran, at 2 pm. Free event is followed by visits to local cemeteries. For more information, telephone (252) 638-8558 or visit <http://www.newbernhistorical.org>.

**May 12:** The N.C. Maritime Museum in Beaufort presents a free lecture on Confederate monuments given by Tom Vincent at 3 pm. For details, call (252) 728-7317 or go to <http://www.ncmaritimemuseums.com>.

**May 12:** The North Carolina Military Historical Society holds its annual symposium on North Carolina in the Civil War at the N.C. Museum of History in Raleigh. Event is free; \$5 for lunch. 10 am to 4 pm. More information is available by emailing [ncmilhistsoc@yahoo.com](mailto:ncmilhistsoc@yahoo.com) or by calling Sion Harrington III, president, at (910) 897-7968.

**May 14:** N.C. State Archives in Raleigh presents lecture on "Sacred Bodies: Caring for the Dead During and After the War." 10:30 am to 11:30 am. Free. More information is available by telephone at (919) 807-7310 or visit <http://www.archives.ncdcr.gov>.

**May 19-20:** Bennett Place in Durham, will present a living history program on "going off to war," with a recreated enlistment station. For details, call (919) 383-4345 or go to <http://www.nchistoricsites.org/bennett>.

## Diaries Cover the War

Six diaries written by Alexander Paxton, a member of the famed Liberty Hall Volunteers (CSA), recently were donated to Washington and Lee University.

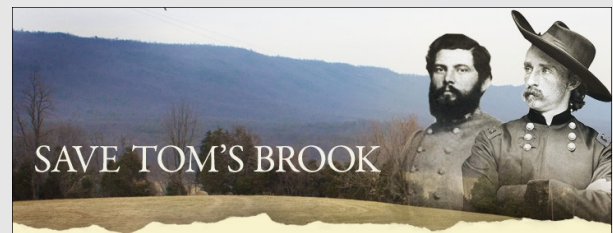


Photo by Patrick Hinley  
Courtesy Washington and Lee University

The diaries span the conflict and are an important resource for archivists and researchers. Paxton and other students at Washington College enlisted in the Liberty Hall Volunteers when the war began. They became Company I of the 4th Virginia Infantry, part of the Stonewall Brigade. Paxton's writings include his personal observation of Jackson's leadership as well as descriptions of major battles, including the First Battle of Bull Run and Chancellorsville, where he was wounded, and include observations about Lee's surrender in April 1865.

## Preservation News

The Civil War Trust seeks to preserve additional portions of the Tom's Brook battlefield in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley. The Oct. 9, 1864 battle was the Union cavalry's most decisive victory in the Eastern Theater of the war.



The Trust's current preservation effort involves a 161 acre section of the battlefield park.

The Civil War Trust's goal in this campaign is to raise \$25,000. Donations will be matched 17 to 1.

For more information on the Trust's effort to save additional portions of the Tom's Brook battlefield, see <http://www.civilwar.org/battlefields/toms-brook/toms-brook-2012>



# News of the RCWRT



## Upcoming RCWRT Meetings

**June:** Gerald Prokopowicz, the Chattanooga campaign

**July:** Blythe Toussaint, the realities of slavery

**August:** Chris Meekins, Mayor Respass, traitor

**September:** James Clark, Walt Whitman

**October:** Josh Howard, new NC casualty estimates

**November:** Chris Fonvielle, photo history of Ft. Fisher

**December:** Christmas party at State Capitol

**January:** Annual event with Ed Bearss

## New Website Online!

A new website for the Raleigh Civil War Round Table has launched: <http://www.raleighcwrtable.com>! Note the address ends in \*.com now instead of \*.org. We are working to recover our previous Internet address as well. The new website is a work in progress, but contact and membership information, links, photographs, newsletters, meeting schedules, and a map to the Museum of History already are included. Many thanks to George Mills for his efforts in reviving our long dormant website!

## Did You Order Your License Plate?

The N.C. Office of Archives and History is appealing to members of state round tables to consider ordering a special 150th Civil War anniversary license plate.



The state still is short of the 300 orders it needs to begin the printing of the commemorative plates. The plates cost \$30 per year, with proceeds helping to pay for North Carolina's commemoration and preservation efforts. See <http://www.nccivilwar150.com>.

## Two New Members

The Raleigh Civil War Round Table welcomes Olin and Anne Wilson of Raleigh. If you know someone who may be interested in the Civil War, please consider bringing them to our next meeting and encourage them to join!



## The Knapsack

*is the official newsletter of the RCWRT and is published on Wednesday before each meeting.  
(May 2012 Circulation: 196)*

### Staff

**Andrew Ballard, Editor**

**George Long, Proofreader**

**Arlene & Art Wills, Circulation**

### Contributors

**George Mills**

**Kevin Milus**

*Readers are encouraged to submit photos, events, & articles for publication to  
**Andrew Ballard, Editor**  
([anballard@yahoo.com](mailto: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)

**David June**, Treasurer, 844-7197, [dmjune@bellsouth.net](mailto:dmjune@bellsouth.net)

**Griff Bartlett**, Director, 848-6562, [griffb@yahoo.com](mailto:griffb@yahoo.com)

**George Mills**, Director, 847-8581, [g.c.mills.iii@earthlink.net](mailto:g.c.mills.iii@earthlink.net)

**Kevin Milus**, Director, 815-4360, [kmilus@aol.com](mailto:kmilus@aol.com)

**Frank Ragsdale**, Director, 847-1005, [fpde2@nc.rr.com](mailto:fpde2@nc.rr.com)

**Darline Tellier**, Director, 787-7539, [darline.tellier@gmail.com](mailto:darline.tellier@gmail.com)

### RCWRT Score Card

Members

110

**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.