

# ***The Knapsack***

***Raleigh Civil War Round Table***

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

***May 13, 2013***  
***Our 147th Meeting***

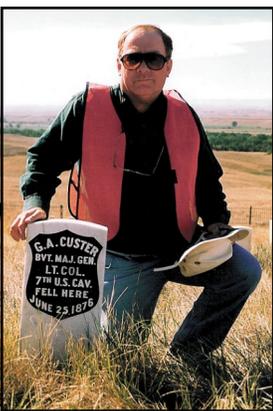


***Volume 13***  
***Number 5***

## **Sandy Barnard to Speak at May 13 Meeting About a Private in the Irish Brigade**

Sandy Barnard has been a journalist and non-fiction writer for nearly 45 years, specializing on the Plains Indian wars and the Civil War.

Sandy is well known for his research and writing on the Battle of the Little Bighorn, the career of Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer, and the men of the 7th U.S. Cavalry with whom he served. He spoke to the Round Table on that topic in November 2006.



Among his published books are: *Digging Into Custer's Last Stand* (1986), *Shovels & Speculation, Archeologists Hunt Custer* (1991), *Speaking About Custer* (1991), *Custer's First Sergeant John Ryan* (1996), *I Go With Custer, The Life and Death of Reporter Mark Kellogg* (1996), *Campaigning with the Irish Brigade: Pvt. John Ryan, 28th Massachusetts* (2001), *Ten Years with Custer, a 7th Cavalryman's Memoirs* (2002), and *Where Custer Fell* (2005). In March 2011, he gave a talk to the RCWRT based on his most recent book, *A Hoosier Quaker Goes to War* (2010).

For about 25 years, Sandy served as the editor of the annual *Greasy Grass* magazine published by the Custer Battlefield Historical & Museum Association.

Sandy is a U.S. Army veteran who received the Bronze Star while serving as an intelligence officer in Vietnam during 1968 and 1969.

Sandy holds degrees from Boston College and the University of Missouri School of Journalism. He is a retired professor of journalism from Indiana State University, and operates [Indianwarbooks.com](http://Indianwarbooks.com) and AST Press from his home in Wake Forest, N.C.

His talk to the Round Table at its May 2013 meeting is titled "A Private in the Irish Brigade," and based on the book he published in 2001.

### **~ The Irish Brigade ~**

In September 1861, U.S. Secretary of War Simon Cameron authorized the formation of an infantry brigade comprised primarily of Irish Americans.



The Irish Brigade initially included the 63rd, 69th, and 88th New York Infantry regiments, and then was joined by the 29th Massachusetts. The latter "Yankee" regiment was replaced after the Battle of Antietam by the 28th Massachusetts, which was mainly made up of Irish immigrants. The 116th Pennsylvania also eventually joined the brigade, which distinguished itself in the major battles of the Eastern Theater, suffering substantial casualties.



# The Sesquicentennial



May 1863

## Lee Loses His 'Right Arm'

Confederate forces would gain a significant victory in early May 1863 at the Battle of Chancellorsville, Va. That victory would be tempered, however, by the wounding and subsequent death of Lt. Gen. Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson, who was hit by fire from his own men.

In late April, U.S. Maj. Gen. Joseph Hooker decided to launch an offensive with some 133,000 Federal troops. Hooker planned to split his army and attack Robert E. Lee's forces from the east and west.

Lee would divide his 60,000-man army in the face of superior numbers and gain the advantage. On May 2, Jackson would strike the Union XI Corps on the flank, routing it and capturing some 4,000 Federals.



The death of Stonewall Jackson

That evening, Jackson would be hit by "friendly fire" from the 18th North Carolina, lose his left arm, and die May 10 after developing pneumonia.

Despite being outnumbered by a ratio of more than 2:1, the Confederate army achieved what might have been their greatest victory of the Civil War. Casualties were high, however, with Confederate losses at about 1,665 killed, 9,081 wounded, and 2,018 missing. Union forces suffered 1,606 killed, 9,672 wounded, and 5,919 missing in the campaign.

Hooker would withdraw to the north bank of the Rappahannock River on May 7.

## Mississippi's Capital Falls

On May 14, Union forces would take Jackson, the capital of Mississippi. It's capture was part of Maj. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant's advance on Vicksburg.



Confederate Gen. Joseph E. Johnston had been sent to defend that city the day before it fell.

Not only was Jackson the capital of Mississippi, the city was an important railroad hub and center of commerce for the state. It would become the third state capital to be captured by Federal forces, after Baton Rouge and Nashville.

## Bureau of Colored Troops Created

On May 22, pursuant to General Orders No. 143, the Bureau of Colored Troops was created by the U.S. War Department.



The bureau aimed to centralize the organization of black enlisted troops and would establish screening boards for the white officers who would lead them. The United States Colored Troops designation would replace a variety of state titles given to those units.

## 2013 Civil War Stamp Release

The U.S. Postal Service soon will release two more stamps commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. Two stamps are to be issued annually through 2015.



In 2011, the first set was released, featuring Fort Sumter and First Bull Run. In 2012, the battles of New Orleans and Antietam were depicted (see *The Knapsack*, Vm. 12, No. 6, p. 3).

This year's release are stamps commemorating the battles of Vicksburg and Gettysburg (see images above). The 2013 stamps will go on sale May 23.

## Upcoming Events

**April 19-May 26:** Raleigh's Historic Oak View County Park hosts a traveling exhibition on Abraham Lincoln's presidency and the Civil War. Free. 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mon.-Sat. 1 p.m.-5 p.m. Sun. Details available at <http://www.wakegov.com/parks/oakview> or (919) 212-7695.

**May 1-29:** The Durham Public Library hosts the Civil War Commemorative photo exhibit, "Freedom, Sacrifice, Memory." For more, call (919) 560-0100 or go <http://news.ncdcr.gov/2013/04/22/civil-war-commemorative-photo-exhibit-visits-durham-public-library-in-may>.

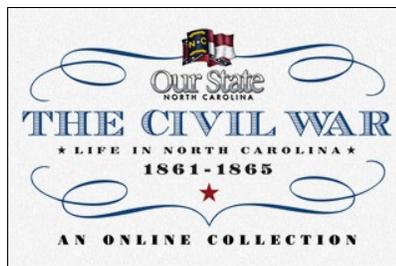
**May 15-June 16:** The N.C. Museum of History in Raleigh is providing a rare opportunity to view President Lincoln's preliminary Emancipation Proclamation. Free. For more information, see <http://www.ncmuseumofhistory.org> or telephone (919) 807-7900.

**May 31- June 2:** *Our State* magazine offers a Civil War weekend in Wilmington, N.C. The event will explore the history, music, and culture of North Carolina during the war. Cost, all inclusive, is \$450 per person, \$675 for a couple. For details, see <http://www.ourstate.com/events/civil-war-weekend> or call (910) 791-9899.

**June 8:** Bentonville Battlefield near Four Oaks, N.C., presents "A day in the life of a Civil War Soldier." Living history demonstration with artillery and musket fire. Free. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Go to <http://www.nchistoricsites.org/bentonvi/bentonvi.htm> or call (910) 594-0789 for more.

## Tarheel Tales

Since May 2011, *Our State* magazine has provided monthly articles focused on the human drama of the Civil War in North Carolina.

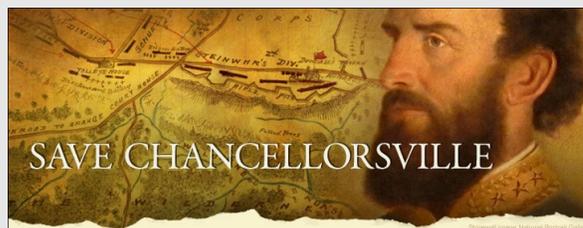


The stories are authored by Philip Gerard and cover a range of personal experiences during the war. The series is centered on events in North Carolina and its residents, including soldiers, their families, slaves, and free blacks. North Carolina saw a civil war within the Civil War, as neighbors were divided in their loyalties. North Carolina also suffered the greatest human loss of any Southern state.

Gerard's tales of Tarheels during the Civil War may be read at <http://www.ourstate.com/civil-war-stories>.

## Preservation News

The Civil War Trust seeks to preserve another 37 vital acres of the Chancellorsville, Va., battlefield.



The targeted property is part of the famous flank attack launched by Stonewall Jackson in May 1863. Two parcels including the Talley Farm site are to be saved.

The Civil War Trust's goal in this campaign is to raise \$69,000. Donations are matched 13 to 1.

For details, visit <http://www.civilwar.org/battlefields/chancellorsville/chancellorsville-2013>.

# News of the RCWRT



## Upcoming RCWRT Meetings

- June:** Stephen Wise, blockade running  
**July:** Rick Walton, Raleigh's Pettigrew Hospital  
**August:** Debbi Blake, using the State Archives  
**September:** Terry Winschel, Vicksburg  
**October:** Tom Crouch, Civil War ballooning  
**November:** Ansley Wegner, artificial limbs  
**December:** Period music at state capitol  
**January:** Annual Ed Bearss event  
**February:** Keith Hardison, Jefferson Davis  
**March:** Bob Zeller, photographic history  
**April:** William Davis, CSA secret servicewoman

## Kinston Fieldtrip and Donation

Nineteen RCWRT members enjoyed their visit to the new CSS *Neuse* museum and Kinston's battlefields on April 20. During the visit, a \$1,000 donation in honor of Ed Bearss was presented by the group to the CSS *Neuse* Gunboat Association to help fund the mounting of exhibits. The RCWRT would like to thank their gracious local hosts for a wonderful time!



## Two New Members

The Raleigh Civil War Round Table welcomes our two newest members, Gray Hutchison and Dick Myers, both of Raleigh. 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*

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### RCWRT Score Card

Members	124
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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) 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.