

# ***The Knapsack***

***Raleigh Civil War Round Table***

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

***May 12, 2014***  
***Our 159th Meeting***



***Volume 14***  
***Number 5***

## **William Harris to Speak at May 12 Meeting On ‘Lincoln, the Constitution, and the Civil War’**

Dr. William C. Harris, professor emeritus at North Carolina State University, will speak at the Raleigh Civil War Round Table’s May 12 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 the 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 several award-winning books on the President.

Published books he has authored include *The Day of the Carpetbagger: Republican Reconstruction in Mississippi*, *William Woods 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 also is the author of *Lincoln and the Border States: Preserving The Union* and *Lincoln and the Union Governors*. His presentation to the Raleigh Civil War Round Table at our May 2014 meeting is titled “Lincoln, the Constitution, and the Civil War.”

~o~

### **~ Lincoln and Habeas Corpus ~**

Shortly after the start of the Civil War, President Lincoln suspended the writ of habeas corpus, the right to a trial after arrest. The initial suspension had limited geographical applicability, but would later be expanded nationwide.



U.S. Supreme Court Justice Roger B. Taney declared the move unconstitutional after considering the case of John Merryman, a state legislator from Maryland, who was arrested for trying to hinder the transport of Union troops from Baltimore to Washington, D.C. Taney found that only Congress had the authority to suspend habeas corpus under the Constitution.



# The Sesquicentennial



May 1864

## Huge Losses in Virginia

In May 1864, Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant launched his Overland Campaign, aimed at destroying Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia through attrition.

From May 5-7, the campaign's first engagement, the Battle of the Wilderness, was fought in Spotsylvania and Orange counties in Virginia. Both sides suffered massive casualties.

During the first day, the fighting was inconclusive, as maneuvering proved difficult in the dense woods. On May 6, momentum gained by Union forces shifted after a surprise flank attack by Confederate Lt. Gen. James Longstreet's First Corps. That gain was lost when Longstreet was wounded by his own men. On May 7, Grant disengaged and moved to the southeast. Union casualties totaled about 18,000, and Confederate losses were approximately 11,000 in dead, wounded, captured, and missing.



*The Wilderness*

From May 8 through May 21, Grant and Lee would clash again in the Battle of Spotsylvania. That fight, also deemed inconclusive, would result in another 18,399 Union and 12,687 Confederate casualties. With a larger pool of soldiers, Grant was winning the war of attrition.

Also in May 1864, Union Major Gen. William T. Sherman began his Atlanta Campaign, with battles being fought at Resaca and New Hope Church, among other locations. Also during that month, the first Union troops were buried on the grounds of Robert E. Lee's former home in Arlington, Va., and a Union assault on Richmond was turned away by defenders at Drewry's Bluff.

## Charge of the VMI Cadets

On May 15, a Confederate force of about 4,100 men assembled by Maj. Gen. John C. Breckenridge met some 6,300 Union troops under Maj. Gen. Franz Sigel near New Market, Virginia.



Breckenridge's force included 257 cadets from the Virginia Military Institute, ten of whom would be killed or die of their wounds from the battle. Breckenridge launched a successful assault on Sigel's defenses and forced his withdrawal from the strategically important Shenandoah Valley. Sigel would be replaced by Maj. Gen. David Hunter.

## Top Generals Fall

Both the Union and the Confederacy would lose high-ranking and popular commanders during May 1864.



Sedgwick



Stuart

On May 9, Union Maj. Gen. John Sedgwick was killed by a sharpshooter during the Battle of Spotsylvania Courthouse, Va. Sedgwick was the highest ranking Union casualty in the war. On May 11, Confederate cavalryman Maj. Gen. Jeb Stuart was mortally wounded at Yellow Tavern, Va., and would die two days later.

## N.C. Documents, Map Set

The N.C. Office of Archives and History has made available a set of documents and maps as part of its commemoration of the Civil War.



Included in the set are copies of the 1861 Secession Ordinance, 1861 Colton map, 1861 Bachmann map, and 1865 U.S. Coast Survey map. The set also has a copy of the 1861-1865 North Carolina map which shows the major forts, towns, railroads, and military engagements that were located in the state during the Civil War.

The full set of maps and documents is available for \$15. Call (919) 733-7442, ext. 225 or see <http://nc-historical-publications.stores.yahoo.net/4687.html> to order.

## Upcoming Events

**May 10:** The N.C. Museum of History will host the North Carolina Military Historical Society's symposium on the Civil War in North Carolina, 1864. Speakers include Chris Meekins, Andrew Dupstadt, Chris Fonvielle, Morris Bass, Gary Freeze. Living history demonstration and a raffle are planned. Free. 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call (910) 897-7968 or email [ncmilhistsoc@yahoo.com](mailto:ncmilhistsoc@yahoo.com) for details.

**May 10:** The Brunswick Town/Fort Anderson historic site in Winnabow, N.C., presents "Diabolical Contrivances and Dirty Tricks," a presentation about exploding mines, biological warfare and other "dirty tricks" used by both sides during the Civil War. Free. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Call (910) 371-6613 or visit <http://www.nchistoricsites.org/brunwic> for more information.

**May 12:** The State Archives in Raleigh will host a lecture by Tiffanie Mazanek on William Woods Holden and the peace movement in North Carolina. Free. Noon to 1 p.m. Go online to <http://ncdcr.gov/archives/newsandevents> or telephone (704) 807-7310 for more.

**May 31:** The Museum of Cape Fear in Fayetteville, N.C., will host a living history camp and demonstrations that include aspects of war not normally seen. Free. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.. Go to <http://ncdcr.gov/ncmcf/events.aspx> or telephone (910) 486-1330 for details.

## Unknown, No Longer

The final resting place of Pvt. Haywood Treadwell, Co. G, 61st North Carolina Volunteers, has finally been identified and marked.

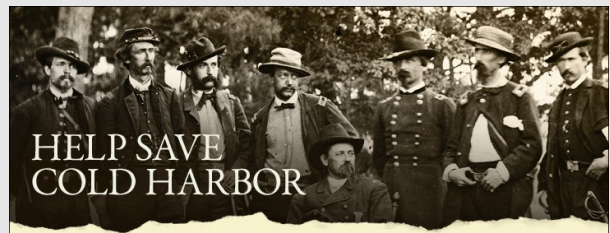


Research has found that Treadwell died from a wound he received to his right thigh on Sept. 12, 1863, that he sustained while defending Charleston, S.C. He was a native of Sampson County, N.C., and was the only unknown Confederate soldier buried in the national cemetery at Beaufort, S.C.

For about 150 years, Treadwell's headstone read "Unknown Confederate Soldier." A ceremony to publicly unveil his newly marked grave is planned for May 10.

## Preservation News

The Civil War Trust is seeking to save important acreage at the Cold Harbor battlefield in Virginia.



The land targeted for preservation is six acres upon which men of the Union XVIII Corps formed up for an assault on Confederate earthworks on June 3, 1864. In just a few minutes, some 800 of those men would become casualties in the battle.

The Trust's goal in this campaign is to raise \$275,000. Donations are evenly matched.

For details, see <http://www.civilwar.org/battlefields/coldharbor/cold-harbor-2013>.

# News of the RCWRT



## Upcoming RCWRT Meetings

### 2014

**June:** Earl Hess, Petersburg

**July:** Keith Hardison, Jefferson Davis

**August:** Stephen Davis, The Atlanta Campaign

**September:** Margaret Humphreys, Civil War medicine

**October:** Marvin Nicholson, African-American experience

**November:** Noah Trudeau, Sherman's March

**December:** Holiday party at the Capitol

### 2015

**January:** annual Ed Bearss event

**February:** Brenda McKean, the home front

**March:** Patrick Schroeder, Appomattox

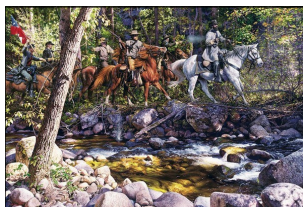
**April:** Mark Bradley, end of the Civil War in NC

**May:** Lee Craig, Economics of the American Civil War

**June:** Will Hansen, CW materials at Duke's library

## At Ashley's Art Gallery

A new John Paul Strain painting is now available through Ashley's Art Gallery in Fuquay-Varina. Featured is Col. Turner Ashby, considered to be the most skilled horseman of the Confederacy.



For details on the painting, call Rick Mullen at (919) 552-7533 or go online to <http://ashleyart.com/skirmish-at-toms-brook-ashby-john-paul-strain>.

## New N.C. Museum Planned!

At our May meeting, members of the RCWRT will be given a brief presentation of plans for a North Carolina Civil War History Center to be built on the grounds of the Fayetteville arsenal. The proposed \$65 million project aims to interpret the conflict and its aftermath from a Tar Heel perspective, with groundbreaking planned for 2018.



## The Knapsack

*is the official newsletter of the RCWRT and is published on Wednesday before each meeting.  
(May 2014 Circulation: 298)*

### Staff

**Andrew Ballard, Editor**

**George Long, Proofreader**

### Contributors

**Lyle Holland**

**George Long**

*Readers are encouraged to submit photos, events, & articles for publication to  
**Andrew Ballard, Editor**  
([anballard@yahoo.com](mailto:anballard@yahoo.com)); 919-215-7304)*

## RCWRT Board of Directors

**Ted Kunstling**, President, 919-787-5282, [tkunstling@aol.com](mailto:tkunstling@aol.com)

**Griff Bartlett**, Treasurer, 919-848-6562, [griffb@yahoo.com](mailto:griffb@yahoo.com)

**Andrew Ballard**, 919-215-7304, [anballard@yahoo.com](mailto:anballard@yahoo.com)

**Pat Ford**, 919-395-8104, [pford1@nc.rr.com](mailto:pford1@nc.rr.com)

**George Mills**, 919-847-8581, [g.c.mills.iii@earthlink.net](mailto:g.c.mills.iii@earthlink.net)

**Kevin Milus**, —, [kmilus@aol.com](mailto:kmilus@aol.com)

**Frank Ragsdale**, 919-847-1005, [fir1947@gmail.com](mailto:fir1947@gmail.com)

**Steve Savia**, 919-846-6908, [sagegroup1@aol.com](mailto:sagegroup1@aol.com)

### RCWRT Score Card

Members	120
---------	-----

**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.