

The Knapsack

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

September 10, 2012
Our 139th Meeting



Volume 12
Number 9

James Clark to Speak at September 10 Meeting On ‘Authoring the Civil War: Walt Whitman’

James W. Clark Jr., professor emeritus at North Carolina State University, will speak at the Raleigh Civil War Round Table’s September 2012 meeting.

Jim earned his bachelor’s degree in English from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1965, and his master’s degree (1967) and Ph. D. (1970) in English from Duke University.



He began teaching in N.C. State’s English Department in 1967 and became director of the university’s Humanities Extension in 1993. In 2005, he was awarded the university’s William T. Turner Award for outstanding contributions to

extension and continuing education.

Jim is the author of numerous publications, which include *Clover All Over: North Carolina 4-H in Action* (1984), and has belonged to various professional groups, including the Thomas Wolfe Society.

He currently is serving as the co-chair of the Board of the North Carolina Freedom Monument Project, a group involved in an effort to develop a space near the state capital that is dedicated to the concept of freedom.

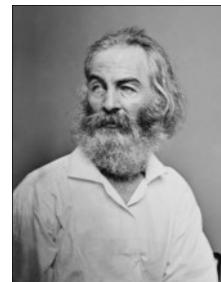
Jim’s presentation to the Round Table at this month’s meeting is titled “Authoring the Civil War: Walt Whitman.”

EDITOR’S NOTE: Annual dues (\$30, individual or family; \$15, students) were due Sept. 1. Please bring your payment to our September meeting or mail it to:

David June, Treasurer
3912 White Chapel Way
Raleigh NC 27615

~ Walt Whitman ~

Walt Whitman (1819-1892) was a poet, essayist and journalist. His major work, a collection of poetry titled *Leaves of Grass*, was controversial for its time due to some sexual themes.



Walt Whitman

As the Civil War began, Whitman published a poem, “Beat! Beat! Drums,” in support of the North. Looking for his wounded brother during the war, Whitman would be affected by the sight of wounded soldiers and write of those experiences. He also volunteered as a nurse and would work for government agencies during the conflict.



The Sesquicentennial

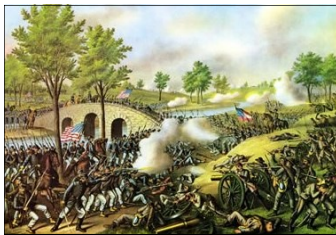


September 1862

Bloody Battle at Sharpsburg!

On Sept. 17, Sharpsburg, Md., would be the scene of a massive struggle, resulting in the single-most bloody day of the American Civil War. Also known as the Battle of Antietam, it was the apex of General Robert E. Lee's Maryland Campaign of 1862. After his victory at Second Manassas, Lee wanted to take the offensive and sought to liberate Maryland, a slave-holding state with divided loyalties.

Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan led the Union forces sent to counter the invasion and the two armies first clashed Sept. 14 on South Mountain, where the Confederate forces were unsuccessful at blocking the Federal army's advance.



The Stone Bridge, Antietam

Lee would gather his forces on the high ground around Sharpsburg, west of Antietam Creek. The battle would begin at dawn on the 17th. During the first several hours, there were three major attacks on the Confederate left. Brutal fighting took place in the Cornfield, East Woods, West Woods, and the Sunken Road, as Lee countered the Union attacks.

While Federal forces attacked the Sunken Road, Union Gen. Ambrose Burnside began an assault on the Confederate right, attempting to capture a stone bridge across the creek. A small Confederate force on higher ground on the other side of the bridge would delay Burnside for more than three hours. The advance would be turned back by the arrival of Confederate Gen. A. P. Hill's reinforcements. The battle was tactically inconclusive, but Lee would withdraw back to Virginia.

Of the nearly 100,000 men engaged in the battle, more than 23,000 would become casualties. Six generals were killed, three from each side.

Conscription Act Expanded

On Sept. 27, the Confederate Congress expanded its already unpopular Conscription Act to cover men from the ages of 36 to 45. The Confederates had imposed the first general American military draft in April 1862, making all healthy white males from the ages of 18 and 35 subject to military service for three years.

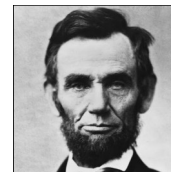


'The Awkward Squad,' by Walton Tabor

The Confederate draft laws were enacted before the Federal government imposed its first draft in March 1863. Before the Civil War ended, the Confederate draft age would be further adjusted to apply to men from the ages of 17 through 50.

A Preliminary Proclamation

On Sept. 22, shortly after the Union victory at Antietam, President Abraham Lincoln would sign a preliminary Emancipation Proclamation. The document would officially declare his intention to free people held as slaves in the Confederate states.



The document declared that slaves in states still in rebellion as of Jan. 1, 1863, would be free. As the war began, Lincoln had framed the conflict as one over the preservation of the Union, but gradually had become convinced that abolition was not only morally sound, but also an effective military strategy. Lincoln's final Emancipation Proclamation would be issued Jan. 1, 1863.

Lost Orders at Monocacy

On Sept. 9, 1862, during his Maryland Campaign, Confederate General Robert E. Lee issued Special Orders No. 191 as his army was camped on the Best Farm just south of Frederick, Md. Lee's orders described his plan for the campaign, and copies were written for each of his commanders.



One set of the orders, written for Maj. Gen. D. H. Hill, was somehow lost. Federal soldiers found the orders on the farm and passed them up the chain of command to Union Maj. Gen. McClellan just days before the Battle of Antietam.

On loan from the Library of Congress, the original lost Special Orders 191 will be on display at the Monocacy Battlefield's visitor center at the very site where they were found from Aug. 1 until Oct 31.

For more information, go to <http://www.nps.gov/mono/historyculture/so191.htm>.

Upcoming Events

Sept. 8: A free showing of *Gone with the Wind* will be provided by the N.C. Museum of History in Raleigh from 1 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. The movie is being shown to help complement an exhibit with authentic memorabilia from the classic film that opened Aug. 31 at the museum. Scene props, Vivien Leigh's Academy Award, costumes, and other items are on display. Call (919) 807-7900 or go to <http://ncmuseumofhistory.org/film/index.html>.

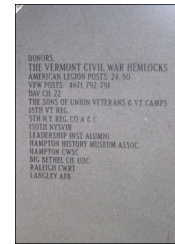
Sept. 13: The UNC Friends of the Library in Chapel Hill, N.C., will host Bland Simpson, author of *Two Captains from Carolina: Moses Grandy, John Newland Maffitt, and the Coming of the Civil War*. Free. 5 p.m. (919) 962-4207.

Sept. 22-23: The Bennett Place State Historic Site in Durham, N.C., will present "On the Homefront," a living history program focused on civilian life in central North Carolina during the Civil War. Free. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sat. and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sun. Call (919) 383-4345 or visit <http://www.nchistoricsites.org/bennett>.

Sept. 22-23: The N.C. Museum of History in Raleigh hosts James Tumblin, owner of the *Gone with the Wind* memorabilia featured in its new exhibit. Tumblin will give the stories behind the items on display. Free. 1 p.m. both days. On Sunday at 2 p.m., Karen Cox will speak on "The Old South" and American popular culture. Call (919) 807-7900 or see <http://ncmuseumofhistory.org/film/index.html>.

Big Bethel Marker

On the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Big Bethel, Va., a monument was dedicated to Union troops that fought and died on that day, June 10, 1861. The monument was recently installed.



The Raleigh Civil War Round Table was one of a few organizations to donate funds to help preserve the last section of the battlefield that is accessible. As a group and individually, the RCWRT gave more than \$2,000 toward the cause (see *The Knapsack*, Vm. 10, No. 6, pp. 1,2).

Our support in saving the hallowed grounds is noted on the back of the newly erected monument (see photos by David Waller above).

Preservation News

The Civil War Trust seeks to preserve another 120 acres at the Petersburg battlefield in Virginia.



Petersburg saw a 292-day siege by the Union army between June 1864 and April 1865. During that time, Union and Confederate forces met in major combat 16 times, with casualties exceeding 80,000 men on both sides.

The Civil War Trust's goal in this campaign is to raise \$81,000. Donations are matched 13.58 to 1.

For details on the Trust's effort to save more of the Petersburg battlefield, go to <http://www.civilwar.org/battlefields/petersburg/petersburg-2012/petersburg-2012.html>.

News of the RCWRT



Upcoming RCWRT Meetings

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

Treasurer's Report

Cash Balance as of Sept. 1, 2011	4,814
Receipts:	
Dues	2,890
Ed Bearss event, net	870
Other receipts	525
Disbursements:	
Dept of Cultural Resources	(1,000)
Speakers	(897)
Rent	(1,090)
Web Site	(287)
Newsletter	(170)
Other disbursements	(88)

Cash Balance as of Aug. 31, 2012 5,668

Questions? Contact Treasurer David June (see info, right)

Officers Elected For Two-Year Terms

President: Ted Kunstling
Vice President: Griff Bartlett
Treasurer: David June
Director: Steve Savia
Director: Andrew Ballard
Director: Pat Ford
Director: George Mills
Director: Frank Ragsdale

Two New Members

The RCWRT welcomes our two newest members, John Finch and Ken Spainhour, both of Raleigh. If you know someone with an interest in the Civil War, please bring them to a meeting and encourage them to join!



The Knapsack

is the official newsletter of the RCWRT and is published on Wednesday before each meeting.

(September 2012 Circulation: 244)

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RCWRT Score Card

Members 112

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.