

The Knapsack

Raleigh Civil War Round Table

The same rain falls on both friend and foe.

September 11, 2017
Our 199th Meeting



Volume 17
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<http://www.raleighcwrt.org>

September 11 Event Features Randy Sauls On The Battle of Goldsboro Bridge

The Raleigh Civil War Round Table's September 2017 meeting will feature a talk by Randy Sauls, an attorney and historian.



Randy is a native of Goldsboro, N.C., who attended Goldsboro City and Wayne County schools. He earned his bachelor's degree in American History in 1979 from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and, in 1983, his Juris Doctorate from the Campbell University School of Law. Randy is

a licensed attorney and legal counsel and managing member of Sauls Title Company LLC.

Randy's non-professional spare time is spent in the pursuit of the study of history, with an emphasis on Civil War and local history. He leads tours of Civil War battlefields throughout North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia as a volunteer for the Wayne Community College Arts and Humanities Program. Randy is also founder and president of the non-profit Goldsborough Bridge Battlefield Association, a group formed to preserve and develop as a historic site the Goldsborough Bridge Battlefield, and serves on the board of Friends of Bentonville. He also formerly served on the boards of the Wayne County Museum, the Friends of Aycock Birthplace, Downtown Goldsboro Development Corporation, the Goldsboro Historic District Commission, and other historic groups.

REMINDER: Annual dues are to be remitted this month (see p. 4, bottom right for details). You may bring your cash or a check to the September meeting or mail payment to:

Griff Bartlett, Treasurer
908 Kinsdale Drive
Raleigh, NC 27615

~ The Battle of Goldsboro Bridge ~

The Battle of Goldsboro Bridge was fought on Dec. 17, 1862, when Union and Confederate forces fought over the Wilmington & Weldon Railroad Bridge that spanned the Neuse River.



Union Maj. Gen. John G. Foster moved from New Bern with about 10,000 men, seeking to destroy the bridge, a critical link in the Confederate supply chain. Foster's raid was met by a force of some 2,000 Confederates under Gen. Thomas Clingman, who delayed the Federal advance, but were unable to stop the destruction of the bridge.



Michigan

The States During the Civil War



The 'Great Lakes State'

Michigan entered the Union in 1837, the 26th state to ratify the U.S. Constitution. The "Great Lakes State," was an important source of manpower for the Union cause. Not only did about one in four of Michigan men serve in state units, hundreds more volunteered to fight in other state regiments when there was no room for them in their home units. About 1,600 black men from the state also served in the federal forces. Michigan men were engaged in more than 800 fights during the Civil War.

In 1860, Michigan had a population of 749,113. No battles of note were fought in the state during the Civil War, but because it bordered Canada, it was threatened by Confederate raiders.



Soldiers and Sailors Monument, Jackson, MI

1860 Election Results for Michigan:

Abraham Lincoln (Rep)	88,450 (57.2%)
Stephen Douglas (Dem)	64,889 (42.0%)
John Breckenridge (Dem)	805 (0.5%)
John Bell (Union)	405 (0.3%)

1864 Election Results for Michigan:

Abraham Lincoln (Rep)	79,149 (53.6%)
George McClellan (Dem)	68,513 (46.4%)

Michigan's Civil War Governors:

Moses Wisner (Rep)	Jan. 5, 1859 – Jan. 2, 1861
Austin Blair (Rep)	Jan. 2, 1861 – Jan. 3, 1865
Henry H. Crapo (Rep)	Jan. 3, 1865 – Jan. 6, 1869

The 'Wolverines'

More than 90,000 men from the Great Lakes State served in Union forces. Michigan provided some 30 infantry regiments, including the First Colored, 102nd U.S. Infantry, 11 regiments of cavalry, as well as other units of engineers and artillery to the Union cause. Men from Michigan were nicknamed "wolverines" after the state's 1835 fight with Ohio due to their ornery disposition. About 15,000 men from the Great Lakes State were killed or died from their wounds or disease during the Civil War.



21st Michigan Infantry

Among the notable units from Michigan was the 24th Infantry Regiment, part of the "Iron Brigade." That state unit lost 399 of 496 men during the first day of fighting at Gettysburg. Also of note were the 4th Michigan Cavalry, which captured Confederate President Jefferson Davis in May 1865, the 17th Michigan infantry, which earned the nickname of the "Stonewall Regiment" for its actions at the Battle of South Mountain, Md., in 1862, and the 5th Michigan Infantry, which had the fifth highest casualty rate of any Union regiment. The Michigan Cavalry Brigade, consisting of the 1st, 5th, 6th, and 7th Michigan Cavalry Regiments, fought in every major campaign of the Army of the Potomac from July 1863 through the end of the war.

Although he was born in Ohio, Union Gen. George Armstrong Custer spent most of his childhood in Michigan and led the Michigan Cavalry Brigade. Other Union generals from the state included Elon J. Farnsworth, Israel Richardson, and Orlando B. Willcox.

Blue Devil Blames Blast

Rachel Lance, a former Duke University student, has entered the debate over how the sailors serving in the Confederate submarine *H.L. Hunley* died. The vessel went down with her crew in February 1864 after making naval history by sinking the warship USS *Housatonic* in the harbor off Charleston, S.C.

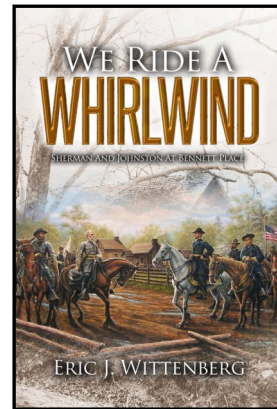


According to a story posted on WRAL.com, Lance believes that the five men on board the submarine were killed by shock waves from the torpedo they had used to blast a hole in the *Housatonic*.

However, Lance's findings are disputed by the Friends of the Hunley, who say that studies by the U.S. Navy and other researchers have deemed the theory that the men were killed by a concussive wave to be "not likely." For a detailed response and additional information on the *Hunley*, see <https://hunley.org/news>.

Book Signing Event!

Friend of the RCWRT Eric J. Wittenberg has just had a new book on the surrender of Joseph E. Johnston at Bennett Place released. *We Ride a Whirlwind: Sherman and Johnston at Bennett Place* covers the last nine days of the Civil War in great detail and was released simultaneously in both softcover and hardcover by Fox Run Publishing.



A book-signing event will be held at the Bennett Place historical site in Durham, N.C., on Sept. 23, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the site's visitor center. For directions, go to <http://www.nchistoricsites.org/bennett/bennett.htm>, or telephone (919) 383-4345.

Upcoming Events

Sept. 13. The Chelsea Restaurant in New Bern hosts Horace Mewborn and Wade Sokolosky speaking on the Battle of Wise's Forks. 11:30 a.m.— 1 p.m. \$18 for New Bern Historical Society Members, \$20 others. Visit <http://www.newbernhistorical.org> or call (252) 638-8558.

Sept. 22-23: Fort Macon at Atlantic Beach, N.C., will hold living history demonstrations and a tour. 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Free. For more, see <http://www.ncparks.gov/visit/parks/foma/main.php> or call (252) 726-3775.

Sept. 27. Quail Ridge Books in Raleigh offers Daren Wang, speaking about his novel set in Town Line, N.Y., the only town north of the Mason-Dixon to secede. Free. 7 p.m. Call the bookstore at (919) 828-1588 or visit <http://www.quailridgebooks.com/event/daren-wang-hidden-light-northern-fires>

Oct. 7. Bennett Place historical site in Durham, N.C., presents "Reunion & Remembrance," a living history event honoring soldiers from both sides of the conflict. Free. 10 a.m.—4 p.m. See <http://www.nchistoricsites.org/bennett/bennett.htm> or telephone (919) 383-4345 for more information.

Preservation News

The Civil War Trust's latest campaign seeks funds to preserve key ground at the Upperville Battlefield in Virginia.



The 19.8 acres of targeted land includes the actual Goose Creek Bridge, a span over which Union troops charged during the climax of the June 21, 1863 fight that occurred as Gen. Robert E. Lee and his Confederate forces moved toward Pennsylvania.

The Trust's overall goal in this campaign is to raise \$20,827.

For details, go to <https://www.civilwar.org/give/save-battlefields/save-upperville>.

News of the RCWRT



Upcoming RCWRT Meetings

October: Debbie Blake, Rose O'Neal Greenhow
November: Jeff Bockert, blockade runners
December: holiday party

Treasurer's Report

Cash Balance as of Sept. 1, 2016	3,890
General Fund Receipts:	
Dues	3,820
Symposium	930
Other receipts	606
General Fund Disbursements:	
Donations to Archives, Mariners' Museum	(550)
Speakers	(1,721)
Rent	(1,250)
Web Site	(260)
Newsletter	(47)
Symposium	(1,477)
Other disbursements	(87)
Cash Balance as of Aug. 31, 2017	3,854
Documentary DVD Donations	365
Documentary Fund Balance	1,672

Mariners' Museum Trip

RCWRT members are invited to join a trip to the Mariners' Museum in Newport News, Va., on Oct. 6 and 7. Travel by private vehicle, dining at a seafood restaurant the eve of Oct. 6, and overnight at Hampton Inn. For details, contact Jack Milani: (919) 838-3670 or 1huntmstr@gmail.com.

Social Time Added to Meetings!

Starting with our Oct. 9 meeting, the monthly RCWRT events at the N.C. Museum of History will begin at 6:30 p.m. instead of the usual 7 p.m. to allow for socializing and light refreshments. Mark your calendars and join us early!



The Knapsack

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RCWRT Score Card

Members 138

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 (located at 5 Edenton Street, across from the State Capitol). Members and guests are encouraged to meet for supper at K&W Cafeteria, 511 Woodburn Rd., in Cameron Village before the meeting, at 5:15 pm.

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.