

The Knapsack

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

February 10, 2020
Our 228th Meeting



Volume 20
Number 2

<http://www.raleighcwrt.org>

Feb. 10th Event Features Presentation by Richard Lewis on *Cloaked in Mystery: The Curious Case of the Confederate Coat*

Our upcoming meeting will be on Monday, February 10, 2020 at 7:00 pm in Daniels Auditorium at the NC Museum of History in Raleigh and will feature a presentation by Richard Lewis on ***Cloaked in Mystery: The Curious Case of the Confederate Coat***. This will be preceded at 6:30 pm by a social half-hour. **Please check the website (<http://www.raleighcwrt.org>) and emails when adverse weather might cause a last minute program cancellation.**

Could it be that familiar and seemingly mundane studio images of Civil War generals hold a long-forgotten hidden secret? A wrinkle in a sleeve sent Richard Lewis on a six-year research project that resulted in two articles in Civil War Times magazine and revealed a fascinating surprise. Not everything is as it seems in Civil War photography, even in pictures of well-known figures.



Richard uses an informative PowerPoint presentation to walk the audience step-by-step through his discoveries, enabling them to play "history detective" along with him.

Richard Lewis is a native of Gulfport, Mississippi, and a graduate of Louisiana State University where he studied Civil War history under Pulitzer Prize winner Dr. T. Harry Williams. Richard served as Liaison to the Virginia Sesquicentennial of the Civil War Commission from 2010 to 2015 and is the former Marketing Director at Pamplin Historical Park.

Richard retired as the Director of Public Relations for the Virginia Tourism Corporation in 2016. He currently serves as a volunteer at Richmond National Battlefield Park and is secretary of Civil War Trails, Inc. Richard has published articles in Civil War Times and Hallowed Ground magazines. He has appeared multiple times on the History Channel.

Richard and his wife, Mary, reside in Richmond.

A vital clue uncovered by Richard Lewis in his intricate photo-sleuthing is the finely-tailored officer's coat of Confederate Major General Mansfield Lovell:



Upcoming Events

Feb. 1, 2020: 8:30 am to 5:00 pm. Twenty-first Annual Appomattox Court House National Historical Park and Longwood University-sponsored Symposium: Lifting the Veil on Sundry Aspects of the Civil War. Jarman Auditorium, Longwood University, Farmville, Virginia. Speakers are as follows:

- DR. JOHN M. COSKI, Historian at The Museum of the Confederacy (now part of The American Civil War Museum): **How Civil War Prisons Help Us Better Understand Pretty Much Everything About the Civil War.**
- DR. JONATHAN W. WHITE, associate professor of American Studies at Christopher Newport University: **Dreams of War and Peace: The Remarkable Night Life of Civil War Americans.**
- DR. GARY W. GALLAGHER, former John L. Nau III Professor in the History of the American Civil War and Director of the John L. Nau III Center for Civil War History at the Univ. of Virginia: **The Civil War in Film.**
- DR. ELIZABETH R. VARON, Langbourne M. Williams Professor of American History at the University of Virginia: **Armies of Deliverance: Lincoln's Coalition for Winning the War.**
- MR. TREVOR K. PLANTE, Chief of the Reference Services Branch at the National Archives in Washington, DC: **Civil War Records and Treasures at the National Archives.**

No reservations are needed as the program is free and open to the public. Parking is available in the Wheeler Lot at the corner of High Street and Griffin Blvd. For directions to the campus go to <https://www.longwood.edu>. Lunch is available at the Longwood University Dining Hall. For more information contact Patrick Schroeder at (434) 352-8987, ext. 232 or Dr. David Coles at (434) 395-2220. An event brochure can be accessed at <http://raleighcwrtsquarespace.com/storage/2020%20Longwood%20University%20Civil%20War%20Seminar%20Brochure.pdf>.

Mar. 21-22, 2020: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm each day. 155th Anniversary of The Battle of Bentonville. Bentonville Battlefield State Historic Site is the largest state historic site in North Carolina and hosts the largest reenactment event in the state every five years, this being one such year. This was the last major Confederate offensive of the war as General Joseph Johnston fought the advancing troops of General Sherman's march across the south. This living history event has many FREE programs and two battle reenactments which are ticketed events.

For tickets, schedule information, and reenactor registration, visit <https://www.johnstoncountync.org/155th-bentonville-reenactment/>. For information on the Bentonville Battlefield, itself, visit <https://www.johnstoncountync.org/bentonvillebattlefield/>.

To order tickets, visit <https://squareup.com/store/fobb>. For more information, email Chad Jefferds at chadwick.jefferds@ncdcr.gov or (910) 594-0789.

Apr. 25-26, 2020: 11:00 am to 9:00 pm on Apr. 25 and 2:00 pm to ??? on Apr. 26. Living History Weekend. Now celebrating its 30th anniversary, the Washington County Historical Society's annual Living History Weekend is one of North Carolina's premier Civil War events. Known for its intimate feel and beautiful riverfront setting, the weekend-long event features two battle reenactments, an evening "Tourchlight Tour", "Dueling Narrators" debate, period music, troop encampment, book signers, free museum entrance, and more! For more information, go to <http://portoplymouthmuseum.org/events/living-history-weekend/> or call the Port o' Plymouth Museum at (252) 793-1377 or send an email inquiry to admin@portoplymouthmuseum.org. Advance ticket sales begin **March 1, 2020** (unless noted otherwise). Call the Museum at (252) 793-1377 for purchase.

Wednesday, May 13 – Saturday, May 16: Gettysburg Field-Study Trip with Freddie Kiger. Travel with Freddie Kiger '74 ('77 MAT) on a field-study trip to Gettysburg, May 13-16. You'll be immersed in one of the most significant American Civil War battle sites and discover how North Carolinians played a role. Trip cost: \$985; GAA members save \$30; Solo travelers add \$250. Sign up today with a deposit of \$100 per participant. Please be prepared for warm and humid weather. The tour requires very extensive walking. Trip cost includes three-nights lodging, all site fees, all meals while in Gettysburg and transportation to and from Chapel Hill. This trip will depart with a minimum of 25 participants. Learn more and sign up: <https://alumni.unc.edu/events/n-c-history-series-gettysburg-field-study-trip/>.

Jul. 22-26, 2020: Chickamauga & Chattanooga Civil War History Conference. Chambersburg Civil War Seminars & Tours presents a tour/seminar featuring tour guide & leading authority David Powell with Eric Wittenberg in visiting Bridgeport and Stevenson, AL, LaFayette, GA, Davis's Crossroads, Chickamauga, Reed's Bridge, Jay's Mill, Brock Field, Kelly Field, Brotherton Field, Horseshoe Ridge, Lookout Mountain, National Cemetery, Orchard Knob, Ringgold & more!

The Conference will be based at the Hampton Inn at 6875 Battlefield Pkwy, Ringgold, GA 30736. All participants are responsible for arranging hotel accommodations for the seminar, which is not included in the tour price. \$125/night double occupancy plus tax. Special pricing for participants based on room availability.

Brochure:
<https://chambermaster.blob.core.windows.net/userfiles/UserFiles/chambers/1180/Image/ChickamaugaChattanooga2020OnlineBrochureUpdate.pdf>.

Registration:
<https://business.chambersburg.org/events/details/chickamauga-chattanooga-civil-war-history-conference-30331>.

Raleigh CWRT Members Attend the 155th Anniversary Commemoration of the Second Battle of Ft. Fisher

Led by Dr. Ted Kunstling, President of the Raleigh CWRT, a group of Round Table members took a trip January 17-18, 2020 to the Wilmington, NC area to join in



L. to R.: F. Kunstling, S. Roberts, J. Walker (hidden), B. Graesser, and G. Bartlett

the 155th Anniversary Commemoration of the Second Battle of Ft. Fisher. In addition to Ted and his wife Frances, the following members made the trip: Griff Bartlett, Bob Graesser, Jack Milani, Surry Roberts, and Josie Walker.

Arriving in Southport on the west bank of the mouth of the Cape Fear at noon on January 17, we had a delicious seafood lunch at Oliver's. From there, our first stop was at the Ft. Johnston Museum and Visitors Center, overlooking the mouth of the Cape Fear River and having



exhibits, original documents and historical artifacts about Fort Johnston on display. Fort Johnston was originally built by the British in 1749 to protect the region from Spanish and French attack. After 250 years of federal service as the oldest active-duty fort in the United States, Fort Johnston was conveyed to the City of Southport in 2006.

Our next stop was at Fort Anderson and Brunswick Town in Winnabow, NC. A major pre-Revolutionary port on North Carolina's Cape Fear River, Brunswick was razed by British troops in 1776 and never rebuilt.

During the Civil War, Fort Anderson was constructed atop the old village site, and served as part of the Cape Fear River defenses below Wilmington before the fall of the Confederacy. Colonial foundations dot the present-day tour trail, which crosses the earthworks of the Confederate fort. Still existing are the ruins of the St. Philips Anglican Church (shown above).



The local ferry being closed for repair, we drove upstream from Ft. Anderson, crossed the Cape Fear River and checked into the Hampton Inn at Carolina Beach. After freshening up, we capped off the evening with another outstanding seafood meal at The Pilot House in Wilmington.

The next morning, Jan. 18th, after breakfasting and checking out of the Hampton Inn, we made our way to Ft. Fisher. It is said that there were approximately 15,000 visitors at Ft. Fisher for the 150th commemoration of the Second Battle of Ft. Fisher. For the 155th event, the numbers were about one-tenth that, which made moving around the grounds relatively easy.

After several presentations about the battle, a group of Union reenactors simulated the breaching of the northern wall where the palisade joined the east bank of the Cape Fear River. The following photos were taken by Ted Kunstling, Bob Graesser, and Josie Walker.



Confederate reenactors



Union reenactors capture Ft. Fisher's NW-most traverse next to the Cape Fear River



Union bugler reenactor poses with Josie Walker



Union reenactors perform close order drill



Visitors climb stairs to reach a traverse gun emplacement on Ft. Fisher's northern wall. Note the entrance to a bomb proof where defending troops would shelter or ammunition would be stored

With the fall of Ft. Fisher, Wilmington was doomed and would fall in a month. Less than two months after that, Confed. General Johnston surrendered to Union General Sherman at Bennett Place in Durham, NC. Finally, after hostilities across five Aprils, for all intents and purposes, the Civil War was over.

News of the RCWRT



Upcoming 2020 RCWRT Meetings

Date	Speaker	Topic
Feb. 10, 2020	Richard Lewis	Cloaked in Mystery: The Curious Case of the Confederate Coat
Mar. 9, 2020	Jeremiah DeGennaro	The Collapse of Confederate Greensboro During April 1865
April 13, 2020	Douglas Waller	Lincoln's Spies
May 11, 2020	Freddie Kiger	TBD
June 8, 2020	Hampton Newsome	The Fight for the Old North State: The Civil War in NC, January-May 1864
July 13, 2020	Chris Grimes	Civil War Medicine

Did You Know?

On April 2, 1865, upon the Union Army breaking the siege of Petersburg, Jefferson Davis, his Cabinet, and the city's defenders evacuated Richmond, VA. The retreating soldiers, under orders, burned the bridges, armory, and warehouses. The fire spread, destroying most of Richmond. This was not the first time, however, that Richmond had been destroyed by fire in time of war. Of all people, it was the American Revolutionary War traitor, Benedict Arnold, newly minted as a British General, who sailed up the James River in January 1781 to attack Richmond. He defeated the weak defenders and burned most of Richmond to the ground. Eighty-four years later, it happened again.



The American Battlefield Trust asks for your help in saving two acres of irreplaceable Civil War history on small, but vital, tracts of land of three Civil War battlefields: East Cemetery Hill at Gettysburg, PA (one-half acre), Parker's Cross Roads, TN (one-half acre), and Sailor's Creek, VA (one acre). The goal is to raise \$193,000. Donations are matched at a ratio of \$4.00-to-\$1.00. For more information, go to <https://www.battlefields.org/give/save-battlefields/save-central-land-3-battlefields>.

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 6:30 pm, at the N.C. Museum of History (located at 5 Edenton Street, across from the State Capitol). The programs begin at 7:00 p.m. Check the RCWRT website (<http://www.raleighcwrt.org>) for program dates and timing.

Annual membership dues are \$30 (individual and family) and \$10 for teachers. Student membership is free. Half-year memberships are available March through May for \$20. Dues should be submitted to Griff Bartlett, Treasurer, 908 Kinsdale Drive, Raleigh, NC 27615-1117 by **September 15** each year.



The Knapsack

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Paying Memberships / Total Members: 139 / 221

New members: None

Donated Civil War-Related Books On Sale

A collection of 456 Civil War-related books from the library of our late member Jim Brenner was generously donated in 2019 to the Raleigh CWRT and is up for sale. The proceeds will be used to seed a new pool for funding future educational and preservation activities related to NC and the Civil War.

Dr. Ted Kunstling is currently curating the collection. Each book can be found listed on the Raleigh CWRT's website under the front page link [Civil War Book Collection Sale](http://raleighcwrt.squarespace.com/civil-war-book-collection-sale/) (<http://raleighcwrt.squarespace.com/civil-war-book-collection-sale/>).

Prices are \$5 per hardcover book and \$2 per paperback book. Buy three books and get a fourth free regardless of type. Contact Ted at trkunstling@aol.com or (919) 787-5282 to place your order.