

The Knapsack

Raleigh Civil War Round Table

The same rain falls on both friend and foe.

June 13th, 2022 &
July 11th, 2022
Our 256th & 257th
Combined Issue



Volume 22
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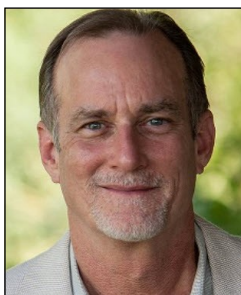
<http://www.raleighcwrt.org>

July 11th, 2022 Meeting Features Dr. Chris Fonvielle Speaking on the Topic 'Freedom at Last': *African Americans at Wilmington, North Carolina, 1865*

Our upcoming meeting will be in person on Monday, July 11th, 2022 at the NC Museum of History's Daniels Auditorium in Raleigh. Please note that the wearing of a mask is optional. For those unable to attend in person, a Zoom session will also be recorded simultaneously.

Please join us at 6:30 p.m. for refreshments. The program starts at 7:00 p.m. EST. This event will also be live-streamed on Zoom. A video recording will be made available on <http://www.raleighcwrt.org>, our Raleigh Civil War Round Table website, following the event.

Raleigh CWRT President, Josie Walker, should have already emailed an invitation to you, including instructions and a link for joining online if you are unable to attend in person. Please contact Josie at Raleigh-CWRT@Yahoo.com if you do not receive an invitation by July 4th.



Dr. Chris Fonvielle,
Professor Emeritus

July's meeting will feature a presentation entitled "*Freedom at Last: African Americans at Wilmington, North Carolina, 1865*" by Dr. Chris E. Fonvielle, Jr., Professor Emeritus in the Dept. of History at UNC Wilmington and author. His talk is based on his most recently published book, *Glory at Wilmington: The Battle of Forks Road* (2020) and examines the part played by U.S. Colored Troops (USCT) in the Wilmington Campaign and the subsequent influx of Black civilians into the Tar Heel seaport in 1865.

The USCT played a crucial role in the capture of the Confederacy's most important place in the last six months of the Civil War, and the arrival of thousands of African American refugees in the spring of 1865 changed the complexity of the city's social structure for decades to come.

Chris is a native Wilmingtonian with a lifelong interest in American Civil War, North Carolina, and Cape Fear history. He attended public schools, graduating from New Hanover High School in 1971. After receiving his B.A. in anthropology at the University of North Carolina Wilmington, Chris served as the last curator of the Blockade Runners of the Confederacy Museum. He subsequently received his M.A. in American history at East Carolina University, and his Ph.D. from the University of South Carolina. In 1996, he returned to UNC Wilmington where he taught courses in his areas of interest until retiring in 2018.

Chris has pursued a life-long interest in the American Civil War, North Carolina, the Lower Cape Fear, and Southern history. His in-depth research focuses on Civil War coastal operations and defenses, blockade running, and the navies. He has published numerous other books including: *To Forge a Thunderbolt: Fort Anderson and the Battle for Wilmington* (2015); *Faces of Fort Fisher 1861-1864* (2014); *Louis Froelich: Arms-Maker to the Confederacy* (2008); and *Fort Fisher 1865: The Photographs of T.H. O'Sullivan* (2011).

Several years ago, Chris served on the committee of the NC Historical Commission which was charged with making recommendations about the fate of our Confederate memorials. A very thoughtful editorial by Chris on this topic appeared in the Wilmington newspaper. It can be found online at StarNewsOnline.com's *A Monumental Challenge*.

Chris is a longtime friend of NC Civil War Round Tables and has addressed both the Raleigh and NC CWRTs. Through his many activities, Chris has made significant contributions to the understanding of and appreciation for the American Civil War. For these reasons, Chris received the Raleigh CWRT's Gattton Award honor in 2019.

Upon his retirement from UNC Wilmington in 2018, Chris was presented with the Order of the Long Leaf Pine for distinguished service to the State of North Carolina, signed by incumbent Governor Roy Cooper. Chris and his wife Nancy of 40 years have two daughters, Mary and Anne.

Donald "Donny" Taylor: In Memoriam



1948-2022

photography.

Donny received the Raleigh Civil War Round Table's 2020 Gatton Award in recognition of his outstanding leadership as Site Manager of Bentonville Battlefield State Historic Site from 2000-2019. Since the state first acquired 51 acres in 1957, protected sacred ground at Bentonville has grown to over 2,000 acres of the most significant portions of this 1865 battlefield. Much of this extraordinary growth occurred during Donny's tenure, with the support of the Civil War Trust (now American Battlefield Trust) and other organizations. A contribution of \$100 by the Raleigh CWRT has been made to Friends of Bentonville Battlefield, Inc. in his memory.

Should you also like to make a donation to the Bentonville Battlefield State Historic Site in memory of Donny Taylor, you can send a check made out to "Friends of Bentonville Battlefield, Inc." In the memo line, put "In memory of Donny Taylor". Mail the check to Friends of the Bentonville Battlefield, Inc., 5466 Harper House Road, Four Oaks, NC 27524.

As a Kinston native and experienced farmer, Donny cultivated exceptional rapport with and support from the local community. One unique aspect of the site is that it remains pristine with unimpeded views much like 1865, and it retains miles of extant earthworks. Interpretive walking trails and a self-guided auto tour have been developed and a sophisticated GPS project has been implemented to map resources within the battle area. The 150th anniversary commemoration in 2015 attracted more than 60,000 visitors. Donny has left an enduring legacy for North Carolinians and a solid foundation for future preservation and interpretation.

Donny was born in Kinston and reared in the Wyse Fork community. He was a 1966 graduate of South Lenoir High School, and attended Lenoir Community College and Mount Olive College. His love of the land and strong family ties lead him to pursue a career in farming. In addition, he served in the N.C. National Guard from 1968-1980 (Sgt. First Class), and served the Wyse Fork Volunteer Fire Department for 30 years, including three years as chief.

After many years of farming, Donny took his love for history and shifted his career to the North Carolina State historic sites with the Department of Cultural Re-

sources. He started as a volunteer at CSS Ram Neuse in Kinston and worked his way up to interpreter at C.B. Aycock Birthplace, assistant manager at CSS Neuse, and, finally, site manager at the Bentonville Battlefield State Historic Site.

Donny's personal achievements were numerous. He was awarded the NC State Order of the Long Leaf Pine, which is the highest civilian award given by the governor. He was named the nation's top historical preservationist of Civil War battle fields. He was recognized for his research, teaching and preservation of the American Civil War by the Raleigh Civil War Round Table. He received the William T. Alderson lifetime achievement award for NC Museum Council, and a certificate of appreciation from the US Army Force Command from the department of chief of staff for his historical expertise and invaluable understanding of the Battle of Bentonville.

Donny's hobbies included Civil War reenacting where he was a charter member of the 27th NC Regiment, and Colonel of the 2nd NC Battalion. He enjoyed relic hunting for many years and later in life developed a love of wildlife photography. He won many awards for his photography, published in the NC Wildlife magazine.

Donny is survived by his wife Mary Jane Taylor, two daughters, two sons, and four grandchildren. He will be greatly missed.

Apology For Postponement of the June 2022 Meeting

With regret, the Monday, June 13th, 2022, meeting of the Civil War Round Table at the NC Museum of History in Raleigh has been postponed to August. We apologize for the unexpected change.

Our 2022 Gatton Award recipients, Mary Lynn Bryan, Mac Healy, and David Winslow, Board members of the North Carolina Civil War & Reconstruction History Center in Fayetteville, NC, were to be our June program guests in a presentation by them concerning the Planning and Development Progress of the History Center.



**Mary Lynn Bryan,
Vice Chairperson**



**Mac Healy,
Chairperson**



**David Winslow,
President**

However, they had urgently become engaged with an increased effort toward the History Center activities during June and had a meeting conflict. Therefore, the Gatton Award meeting is rescheduled for August 8th, a normally scheduled Monday night. At the same time, this newsletter editor decided to take the month of June off to draw upon new inspiration, having created twelve Civil War rail transportation episodes in as many months.

High-Ranking Confederate Generals as a Product of Antebellum West Point Classes

A Twenty-Part Series by Bob Graesser, Editor

Beginning with this introductory article, this editor will present a twenty-part series on Confederate Lieutenant Generals (*Table 1*). Of nineteen such generals, sixteen were graduates of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, NY. The other three were either political appointees or had accumulated enough wealth to recruit, outfit, and maintain their own military unit.

Introductory Article Sources

- [An Introduction to U.S. Grant's Classmates in the West Point Class of 1843 by the National Park Service.](#)
- [Biographical register of the officers and graduates of the U.S. military academy at West Point, N.Y., from its establishment, in 1802, to 1890; with the early history of the United States military academy,](#) by George W. Cullum; Boston, Houghton, Mifflin, 1891-[c1950], 3rd ed., rev. and extended.
- [Educating the Civil War Generals: West Point, 1833-1861](#) by James L. Morrisonk, Jr., Military Affairs, Vol. 38, No. 3 (Oct. 1974), pp. 108-111,

JSTOR.org.

- [U.S. Military Academy Library Digital Collection — Official Register of Officers and Cadets](#)
- [Predicting Leadership: West Point's Civil War Legacy by Carl V. Rabstejnek, in ReachGate.net \(January 2012\).](#)
- [The Key Way West Point Prepared Ulysses S. Grant for the Civil War by Elizabeth D. Samet, May 5, 2020, History.com.](#)
- [The Only Man to Beat Robert E. Lee in an Even Fight](#) by David A. Carrino, Roundtable Historian, [The Cleveland Civil War Roundtable](#), Copyright © 2012-2013, All Rights Reserved.

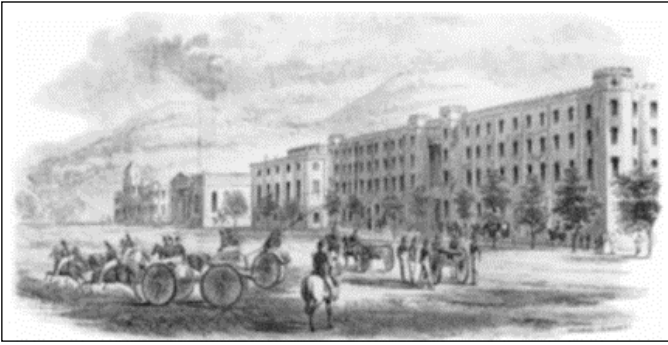
West Point

As an introduction to this topic, it is instructive to examine the role West Point played in producing these future military leaders. In both military and civilian life, college can have a huge impact on a person's knowledge, values, interpersonal socialization skills, and desire to succeed. The reputation of the educational institution, academic achievement, participation in sports, plus evaluations by one's peers and superiors combine to influence future advancement on the road to success.

Table 1: Confederate Lt. Generals Ordered by Seniority

Name	Lt. Gen. Seniority	Date of Rank	Date Confirmed	Birth	Death	Class of	Class Rank	Class Size
James Longstreet	1st	1862-10-09	1862-10-11	1821-01-08	1904-01-02	1842	54th	55
E. Kirby Smith	2nd	1862-10-09	1862-10-11	1824-05-16	1893-03-28	1845	25th	41
Leonidas Polk	3rd	1862-10-10	1862-10-11	1806-04-10	1864-06-14	1827	8th	37
Theophilus H. Holmes	4th	1862-10-10	1862-10-11	1804-11-13	1880-06-21	1829	44th	46
William J. Hardee	5th	1862-10-10	1862-10-11	1815-10-12	1873-11-06	1838	26th	45
Stonewall Jackson	6th	1862-10-10	1862-10-11	1824-01-21	1863-05-10	1846	17th	59
John C. Pemberton	7th	1862-10-09	1862-10-13	1814-08-10	1881-07-13	1837	27th	50
Richard S. Ewell	8th	1863-05-23	1864-02-02	1817-02-08	1872-01-25	1840	13th	42
Ambrose Powell Hill	9th	1863-05-24	1864-01-15	1825-11-09	1865-04-02	1847	15th	48
Daniel Harvey Hill	10th	1863-07-11	Withdrawn	1821- 07-12	1889-09-24	1842	28th	56
John Bell Hood	11th	1863-09-20	1864-02-04	1831-06-01	1879-08-30	1853	44th	52
Richard Taylor	12th	1864-04-08	1864-05-16	1826-01-27	1879-04-12	NA, 1848	NA	38
Jubal Early	13th	1864-05-31	1864-05-31	1816-11-03	1894-03-02	1837	18th	50
Richard H. Anderson	14th	1864-05-31	1864-05-31	1821-10-07	1879-06-26	1842	40th	56
Alexander P. Stewart	15th	1864-06-23	1864-06-23	1821-10-02	1908-08-30	1842	12th	56
Stephen D. Lee	16th	1864-06-23	1865-03-16	1833-09-22	1908-05-28	1854	17th	46
Simon B. Buckner	17th	1864-09-20	1865-01-17	1823-04-01	1914-01-08	1844	11th	25
Wade Hampton III	18th	1865-02-14	1865-02-14	1818-03-28	1902-04-11	NA, 1840	NA	42
Nathan B. Forrest	19th	1865-02-28	1865-03-02	1821-07-13	1877-10-29	NA, 1843	NA	39

Note: In the "Class of" column, "NA" means "did not attend West Point". The associated year indicates what Class the individual would have been in based on starting at age 18. Lt. Generals are listed in order by seniority. Thus, James Longstreet ranked #1 in seniority among the Lt. Generals but ranked the lowest in his West Point class, 54th, as compared to the other Lt. Generals.



West Point circa 1855

West Point's role in our nation's history dates back to the Revolutionary War, when both sides realized the strategic importance of the plateau overlooking the west bank of the Hudson River. Gen. George Washington considered West Point to be the most important strategic position in America.



General George Washington



Colonel Thaddeus Kosciuszko

Washington personally selected Thaddeus Kosciuszko, one of the heroes of Saratoga, to design the fortifications for West Point in 1778. The following year, Washington transferred his headquarters there. Here Continental soldiers built forts, batteries and redoubts and extended a 150-ton iron chain across the Hudson River to control river traffic. Fortress West Point was never captured by the British, despite Benedict Arnold's treason. West Point is the oldest continuously occupied military post in America.

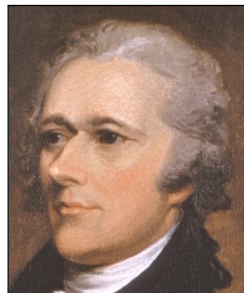


Maj. Gen. Benedict Arnold

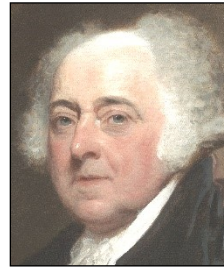


Sec. of War Henry Knox

Several soldiers and legislators, including Washington, Henry Knox, Alexander Hamilton, and John Adams, desired to eliminate America's wartime reliance on foreign engineers and artillerymen. To this end, they urged the creation of an institution devoted to the arts and sciences of warfare. President Thomas Jefferson signed legislation establishing the United States Military Academy in 1802. He took this action after ensuring that those attending the Academy would be representative of a democratic society. Joseph G.



Sec. of the Treasury Alexander Hamilton



Vice President John Adams

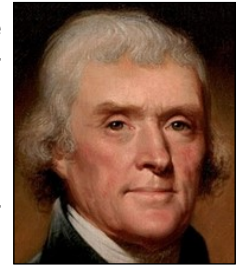
Swift became the first cadet to graduate from West Point. This occurred in Oct. 1802.

West Point was originally founded as a school for the U.S. Corps of Engineers with a class of 5 officers and 10 cadets on March 16, 1802. As such, it was the first college in the U.S. to offer an engineering degree. It is the oldest U.S. service academy and one of the oldest in the world.



2nd Lt. James G. Swift

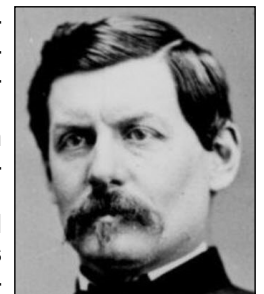
At West Point, a formalized composite ranking, called General Order of Merit (GOM), that includes academics, athletics, and bearing was generated and published for each graduate. This data was generated for 175 years, from 1802 until 1977. The Civil War fell in this range and would require a huge increase in the number of active generals. Naturally, the decision makers from both the North and the South would turn to West Point's large graduate pool of potential candidates for military leadership. Because of the great need, less auspicious performers at the Academy would also have to be considered as potential general material. Thus, this relatively large sample size allows a comparison to be made between one's GOM and one's subsequent performance on the battlefield.



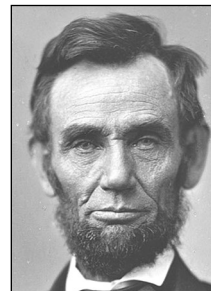
President Thomas Jefferson

Because of the strenuous regimen cadets were faced with, it would seem logical to suppose that the requirements for admission would be sufficiently rigorous to weed out the incompetent. This was not the case. To qualify, a candidate simply had to pass a superficial physical examination and demonstrate a rudimentary ability to read, write, and perform basic arithmetic. As a result, 93.1 percent of the candidates examined between 1833 and 1861 were admitted as cadets, yet more than 25% of each cohort failed to graduate because of academic deficiencies.

If one examines GOM versus subsequent military performance, one conclusion is that generals are rarely superior in all aspects of their positions. For instance, George B. McClellan was second-to-none as a drill instructor, administrator, organizer, and cheerleader. As such, he was idolized by his troops and honed the Army of the Potomac into a well-oiled machine. However, having produced such a masterful creation, McClellan was loathe to subject it to possible destruction and/or defeat. That is why he had, as President Lincoln put it, "a case of the 'Slows'". As an excuse,



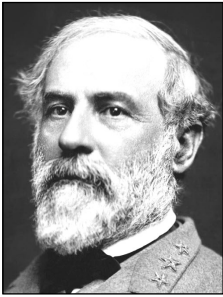
Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan



President Abraham Lincoln

he constantly inflated in his mind the size of the opposing force, causing his repeated requests for additional troops.

As the ultimate example, at the Battle of Antietam, McClellan never committed more than 60% of his force, despite the fact that Lee's Special Order 191, containing a list of all his units and their marching orders for his first foray onto Northern soil, had providentially fallen into his hands. The 40% of his idled troops consisted of two entire Corps. Had he committed even one of them, he would have been able to pin Lee's outnumbered army against the Potomac River and ended the Army of Northern Virginia then and there.



General
Robert E. Lee

This example also illustrates how one's performance at West Point as an accurate indicator of future battlefield performance has to be taken with a grain of salt. Despite McClellan ranking 2nd in his West Point class of 1846, Robert E. Lee, later during the Civil War, was aware of McClellan's well-established hesitancy in committing his troops and gambled accordingly, even holding his ground a second day at Antietam with his back to the river. McClellan refused to take the bait.

West Point produced 445 Civil War generals, with 294 fighting for the Union and 151 for the Confederacy. The battles were fought across a limited variety of landscapes, minimizing that as a variable for success. In all, 359 Confederate and 638 Union officers of all grades -- more than three-quarters of all the West Pointers who fought in the war -- were graduated between 1833 and 1861. This span in the history of West Point is important since practically all of the major Union and Confederate commanders, Robert E. Lee excepted, attended the academy during that period, as did a host of their subordinates.

Curriculum

The curriculum at West Point was not balanced to treat all branches uniformly since it was a source of officers for the Corps of Engineers. There was, in fact, a strong pro-engineering bias prior to the Civil War. In fact, engineering and the related subjects of math and natural philosophy (science) represented 71 percent of the total number of classroom hours in the four-year program compared to 29 percent for all the others, including military tactics. In addition, math, science, and engineering were the most heavily weighted determinants of each cadet's ranking in GOM, i.e., class standing. This in turn would fix the branch of service available to the newly-minted 2nd Lt. as well as his place on the promotion list of his regiment or corps. Generally, those graduating at the top of the class chose to enter the Corps of Engineers. Those just below them usually entered the Topographical Engineers or Ordnance.

Having said this, however, it seems that not only at West Point but in military colleges, worldwide, it is the middle-ranked officers that eventually rose to the most

senior ranks and performed the most outstanding service. Of course, there are always exceptions to every rule:

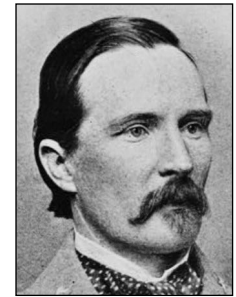
- Lee graduated second in his Class of 1829;
- McClellan was second in his Class of 1846; and
- Beauregard graduated second in his Class of 1838.



General
P.G.T. Beauregard



Maj. Gen.
George Pickett



Maj. Gen.
Henry Heth



Maj. Gen.
George Armstrong Custer

On the other hand, there are those who gained some notoriety with a relatively poor performance at graduation. George Pickett (1846), Henry Heth (1847) and George Custer (1861) each finished last in their respective graduating classes.

In order to correct deficiencies in the other (what we would now call non-STEM) disciplines and reduce the number of academic failures, the Sec. of War, Jefferson Davis, of all people, ordered the adoption of a five-year curriculum in 1854. New offerings in Spanish, history, and law were added. The existing courses in English and professional military subjects (infantry, artillery, and cavalry tactics) were allocated more classroom time. This experiment never took hold, however, and was terminated at the start of the War in 1861. Only two graduating classes, 1859 and 1860, made it through the five-year program in its entirety.

Ulysses S. Grant: "The Surprise of Many"

Ulysses S. Grant found military training 'wearisome'—but loved novels. While critics would later exaggerate Cadet Grant's poor performance, he actually graduated in the middle of his class (21st of 39), had an aptitude for math and displayed an unequalled proficiency in horsemanship. Owing to conduct demerits and a dismal "standing in all the tactics," he served his senior year as a lowly private. His only leadership position was the presidency of the cadet literary society.

What did his peers think about Grant? His reputation for drinking, which he probably did a fair measure of while separated from his family at a series of remote posts in the Pacific Northwest after the Mexican War, was widely circulated in army circles, and disparaging stories persisted throughout the Civil War. No one envisioned Grant as a future commander. As his good friend, the Confederate general James Longstreet noted, it was "to the surprise of many" that Grant turned out to be "the man for the times." Nevertheless, acquaintances recognized early on what would become his distinguishing qualities: tenacity, loyalty and a sense of calm in the face of physical danger.

This editor has gone through the entire four-year curriculum of subjects offered at West Point from its beginning in 1802 until the outbreak of the Civil War and assembled the data below in **Tables 2-5**, breaking the subjects down by class year. Note: "Plebe" is equivalent to "Freshman", etc. As subjects offered evolved over time, the bottom row of each table, "In Common", indicates which subjects were offered over the greatest period of time for each class year of those cadets who would have served in the Civil War.

Table 2: 4th Class (Plebes)

Year	4th Class (Plebes)				
	Math	French	English Gram.	English Studies	Demerits
1818	X	X			
1819-1839					
1840	X	X			
1841	X	X			
1842-1843	X	X			
1844-1845	X	X			
1846	X	X	X		
1847-1848	X	X	X		
1849-1853	X	X		X	X
1854-1856	X	X		X	X
1857	X	X		X	X
1858	X	X		X	X
1859	X	X		X	X
1860	X	X		X	X
1861	X	X		X	X
In Common:	X	X		X	

Table 3: 3rd Class (Yearlings)

Year	3rd Class (Yearlings)								
	Math	French	Drawing	English Gram.	Ethics	Rhet., Gram., Geog.	(Natural) Philos.	Span.	Demerits
1818	X	X							
1819-1839									
1840	X	X	X	X					
1841	X	X	X		X				
1842-1843	X	X	X			X			
1844-1845	X	X	X	X	X				
1846	X	X	X	X	X				
1847-1848	X	X	X						
1849-1853	X	X	X						X
1854-1856	X	X	X						X
1857		X	X				X	X	X
1858		X	X				X	X	X
1859			X				X	X	X
1860		X	X				X	X	X
1861		X	X				X	X	X
In Common:		X	X	X			X		

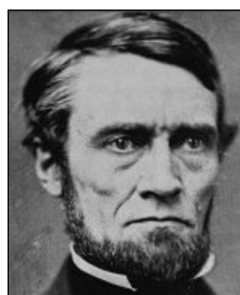
Table 4: 2nd Class (Cows)

Year	2nd Class (Cows)								
	(Natural) Philos.	Drawing	Chem.	Civil Eng.	Ethics	Inf. Tactics	Art. Tactics	Cav. Tactics	Demerits
1818	X	X							
1819-1839									
1840	X	X	X						
1841	X	X	X					X	
1842-1843	X	X	X						
1844-1845	X	X	X						
1846	X	X	X						
1847-1848	X	X	X						
1849-1853	X	X	X						X
1854-1856	X	X	X						X
1857	X	X	X						X
1858		X	X	X	X				X
1859		X	X	X	X				X
1860		X	X		X	X	X	X	X
1861		X	X		X	X	X	X	X
In Common:	X	X	X						

Table 5: 1st Class (Firsties)

Year	1st Class (Firsties)										
	Math	(Natural) Philos.	Engin.	Des. Geom.	Ethics	Inf. Tactics	Art. Tactics	Mineral. & Geol.	Cav. Tactics	Ord. & Gun.	Demerits
1818	X	X	X	X							
1819-1839											
1840			X		X	X	X	X			
1841			X		X	X	X	X			
1842-1843			X		X	X	X	X			
1844-1845			X		X	X	X	X			
1846			X		X	X	X	X			
1847-1848			X		X	X	X	X			
1849-1853			X		X	X	X	X			X
1854-1856			X		X	X	X	X	X		X
1857			X		X	X	X	X	X		X
1858			X		X	X	X	X	X		X
1859			X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
1860			X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
1861			X		X			X		X	
In Common:			X		X	X	X	X			

Academic Achievement and Deportment at West Point



Iowa Chief Justice Charles Mason

In researching this article, this editor uncovered information that contradicts well-known "facts" concerning academic achievement and deportment at West Point. Given his vaunted reputation, some may be surprised to learn that Robert E. Lee did not graduate at the top of his West Point class academically. In fact, he graduated 2nd in the class of 1829. Do you know who was ranked 1st? If you do, that is probably the only thing you know him for. His name was Charles Mason and he and Lee were tied for the head of the 1829 class in Artillery, Tactics, and Conduct. However, Mason bested Lee in all their other subjects and graduated with an overall score of 1,995.5 points out of a possible 2,000, i.e., 99.775%, compared to Lee's 1,966.5 points, i.e. 98.325%. For holding what was, up to that time, the highest academic record at West Point, Mason certainly does seem rather overly dour and stern after coming up a mere 4.5 points short of perfection!

The reason we hear no more of Mason is that he resigned his commission in 1831, two years after graduation, unlike Lee, who made the military his career. Instead, Charles Mason became a patent attorney, taught engineering, and was the chief justice of the Iowa Territorial Supreme Court from 1838 to 1846, and then became the first chief justice of the Iowa Supreme Court when Iowa was granted statehood, from 1846 to 1847. Later, Mason was president of the Burlington & Missouri River Railroad, from 1852 to 1853, and United States Commissioner of Patents, from 1853 to 1857. Charles Mason died in Burlington, Iowa on Feb. 25th, 1882.

So if Robert E. Lee wasn't the top of his class, at least we are familiar with the statement that he was the only cadet ever to graduate from West Point without accruing a single demerit over his four-year college career. To put this in perspective, Ulysses S. Grant, for example, graduated with 290 demerits!

This editor's information is based upon and made possible by the discovery of the free on-line digital version of the U.S. Military Academy's Official Register of the Officers and Cadets (<http://digital-library.usma.edu/digital/collection/p16919coll3/search>).



Maj. Gen.
George W. Cullum

George Washington Cullum (Feb. 25th, 1809 to Feb. 28th, 1892) was an American soldier, engineer and writer. He graduated third in the West Point Class of 1833, which means he started his education there the year after Robert E. Lee's graduation in 1829. After his own graduation, Cullum worked as the supervising engineer on the building and repair of many fortifications across the country. He served as a Maj. Gen. in the Union Army during the Civil War, primarily in the Western Theater and served as the 16th Superintendent of the U.S. Military Academy. Following his retirement from the Army, he became a prominent figure in New York society, serving in many societies, and as vice president of the American Geographical Society. The Society named the Cullum Geographical Medal after him.

Cullum is most noted as the creator and publisher of the Biographical Register of the Officers and Graduates of the United States Military Academy. He published →

a forerunner to this called the Biographical Register in 1850. In 1867, he published the first edition of his Biographical Register of the Officers & Graduates of the U.S. Military Academy, covering the founding of West Point in 1802 to the class of 1840. The New York Times wrote that "We know of no single contribution to the military history of the Nation so rich in invaluable data and so essential to the future historian or student of American history."

Cullum's greatest contribution was creating an identification system, which assigned a unique chronologically sequential number to each cadet, starting with #1, Joseph Gardner Swift, who graduated in Oct. 1802. Charles Mason and Robert E. Lee (both Class of 1829) were #541 and #542, and Ulysses S. Grant (Class of 1843) was #1187. The example of Mason and Lee tells us how Cullum ordered the cadets within a Class. They were ordered by academic rank, not alphabetically or by birth date.

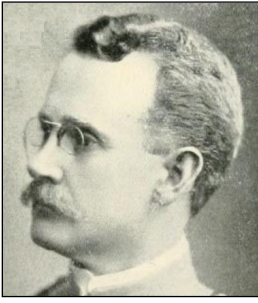
Cullum left part of his fortune for the continuance of his Biographical Register and for an award of the American Geographical Society "to those who distinguish themselves by geographical discoveries or in the advancement of geographical science", known as the Cullum Geographical Medal. He also left \$250,000 to West Point, "to be used for construction and maintenance of a memorial hall at West Point to be dedicated to the officers and graduates of the U.S. Military Academy". The building is now known as Cullum Hall. Cullum also left \$100,000 for a hall for the American Geographical Society. Where did Cullum's wealth come from? He gained access to a great deal of it when he married the widow of Henry Halleck! Halleck had over \$500,000 dollars when he died. Cullum had first served as an aide-de-camp to General Winfield Scott from April 1st, 1861 to Nov. 1st, 1861 and had then served as Halleck's chief of staff the first half of 1862. Perhaps that is when Cullum first met Halleck's wife.

This editor had always read that Mason and Lee had the two highest 4-year cumulative scores ever recorded at West Point and that Douglas MacArthur holds the #3 position. In fact, as **Table 6** below indicates, Irving Hale, West Point Class of 1884 holds the top spot with a total percent correct score of 99.778 vs. 99.776 for Mason, 98.325 for Lee, and 98.143 for MacArthur.

Table 6 also shows their class order and class size for each of their four years. In the Class of 1829, for example, Mason ranked 1st in his class all four years while Lee ranked 3rd his plebe year and 2nd in each of the succeeding three years.

Table 6: Highest Four-Year Academic Scores at West Point

Name	Birth	Death	Class of	Class Rank	Class Size	Overall 4-Year Academic Score at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point				4th Class (Plebes)	3rd Class (Yearlings)	2nd Class (Cows)	1st Class (Firsties)
						Points Earned	Points Possible	Percent Correct	All-time Rank	Order	Order	Order	Order
Charles Mason	1804	1882	1829	1st	46	1,995.50	2,000.00	99.776	2	1/87	1/60	1/54	1/46
Robert E. Lee	1807	1870	1829	2nd	46	1,966.50	2,000.00	98.325	3	3/87	2/60	2/54	2/46
Ulysses S. Grant	1822	1885	1843	21st	39	?	?	?	?	27/60	24/53	20/41	21/39
Irving Hale	1861	1930	1884	1st	37	2,070.40	2,075.00	99.778	1	2/63	1/42	1/38	1/37
Douglas MacArthur	1880	1964	1903	1st	93	2,424.12	2,470.00	98.143	4	1/108	1/104	4/97	1/93
Ulysses S. Grant III	1881	1968	1903	6th	93	?	?	?	?	2/108	4/104	5/97	6/93



Brig. Gen. Irving Hale

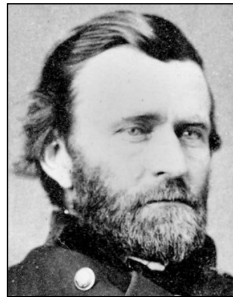
Who was Irving Hale and why is he ignored as the highest academic achiever of all West Point graduates? Cullum definitely lists Hale in his Official Register of the Officers and Cadets as graduating #1 in the class of 1884.

Hale grew up in Denver, Colorado. After his graduation from West Point, Hale pursued studies in electrical engineering. He eventually resigned from the regular army to take a position with General Electric. He later joined the Colorado state militia in 1897 as their lieutenant-colonel.

Hale led the 1st Colorado regiment in 1898 during the Battle of Manila in the Philippines during the Spanish-American War. His unit was the first to raise the American flag over the city's fortifications; his excellent leadership secured Hale a promotion to the rank of brigadier general of volunteers in command of the 2nd Brigade, 2nd Division, Eighth Army Corps.

Though offered a position in the new volunteer army, Hale decided to return home with the state militias in the fall of 1899, where he was honorably mustered out and returned to his civilian career as an electrical engineer. Following the war, he was active as one of the founders of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Returning to **Table 6**, Ulysses S. Grant is included just for comparison purposes versus Lee. Grant ranked in the middle of his class all four years. This editor could find no information on academic points earned by Grant. It appears that one must be a West Point cadet or alumnus to access this specific information. (Note: the specific scores that are listed were found in the public domain and must have been placed there by a cadet or alumnus because of their unique magnitude.)



Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant

Upon graduation, Grant ranked 21st out of a class of 39 who finished the grueling military and academic curriculum of the academy. To show what Grant was up against and an example of the rate of attrition, when he arrived at West Point four years earlier in 1839, a full 30% of the prospective class immediately washed out when they couldn't pass the entrance examinations to become cadets. This left 60 admitted as cadets. Of those sixty, a further 21, i.e., 33% of the initial cadets, would not be there to graduate with Grant after succumbing to the intense demands and pressures of West Point.

Ulysses S. Grant III was included, not only because he was Ulysses the Elder's grandson, but also because he was in the same 1903 West Point

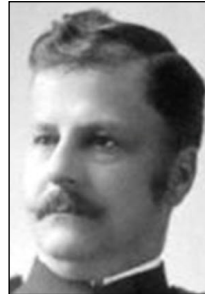


Maj. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant III

class as Douglas MacArthur, who finished 1st out of 108 cadets. Grant III ranked closely behind MacArthur all four years, and was ranked just below MacArthur in their Plebe and Cow years. He would have made his grandfather proud! Note: Lee's row is colored gray as he was the only Confederate in the list.

As to MacArthur, only two parent-child duos have been awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor since its inception in 1863. Arthur MacArthur & Douglas MacArthur and Theodore Roosevelt & Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., were each awarded this highest of honors for their gallant efforts dating from the Civil War through World War II.

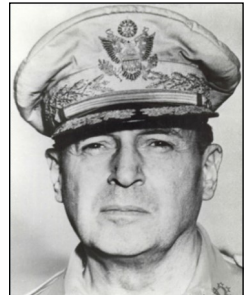
MacArthur Family



Lt. Gen. Arthur MacArthur

Arthur MacArthur served during the Civil War assigned to the 24th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry Regiment. When he was just an 18-year-old lieutenant, MacArthur "seized the colors of his regiment at a critical moment and planted them on the captured works on the crest of Missionary Ridge." Despite his heroic efforts, he was not awarded the Medal of Honor until 1890. MacArthur left the service in June 1865 as a lieutenant colonel, and after a brief study of law, re-entered the Regular Army in 1866, ultimately retiring in 1909 as a lieutenant general.

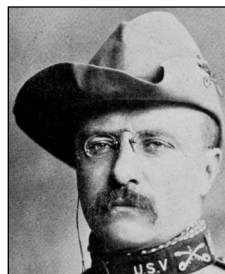
Arthur's son, Gen. Douglas MacArthur, was nominated for the Medal of Honor twice for service as a brigadier general in World War I, before receiving it for his service in the defense of the Philippines in 1942. His Medal of Honor citation noted his "conspicuous leadership in preparing the Philippine Islands to resist conquest, for gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty in action against invading Japanese forces, and for the heroic conduct of defensive and offensive operations on the Bataan Peninsula.... His utter disregard of personal danger under heavy fire and aerial bombardment, his calm judgment in each crisis, inspired his troops, galvanized the spirit of resistance of the Filipino people."



Gen. of the Army Douglas MacArthur

Roosevelt Family

Theodore Roosevelt's main association with the Civil War was that he and his younger brother were photographed as young children looking out of a second story window as they watched Abraham Lincoln's funeral procession march past their home on Broadway in Manhattan, NY. [See the article on p. 2 of the May 9th, 2022 issue of the **Knapsack** newsletter.]



Theodore "Teddy" Roosevelt has the distinction of being the only U.S. president to have received the Congressional Medal of Honor. The Medal was for his actions as a member of the 1st Volunteer Cavalry, known as the "Rough Riders," during the Spanish-American

War: “Lieutenant Colonel Roosevelt, in total disregard for his personal safety, and accompanied by only four or five men, led a desperate and gallant charge up San Juan Hill, encouraging his troops to continue the assault through withering enemy fire over open countryside. Facing the enemy’s heavy fire, he displayed extraordinary bravery throughout the charge, and was the first to reach the enemy trenches, where he quickly killed one of the enemy with his pistol, allowing his men to continue the assault. His leadership and valor turned the tide in the battle for San Juan Hill.”



Brig. Gen. Theodore Roosevelt, Jr.

Forty-six years after President Roosevelt’s actions on San Juan Hill, his son also received the nation’s highest military award. Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., a Distinguished Service Cross recipient of World War I and one of the founders of the American Legion, was the only general officer and the oldest person at 56 years of age to land with the first wave assaulting enemy beaches on D-Day. A reservist, he was called to active duty as a colonel and soon promoted to brigadier general. Twice denied his verbal

requests to accompany the first wave on Utah Beach, his written request was approved. By coincidence, his son, Capt. Quentin Roosevelt II, landed with the first wave on Omaha Beach.

Armed only with a pistol and a cane — the latter was used for arthritis as a result of injuries received in World War I — Brig. Gen. Roosevelt “repeatedly led groups from the beach, over the seawall and established them inland. His valor, courage, and presence in the very front of the attack and his complete unconcern at being under heavy fire inspired the troops to heights of enthusiasm and self-sacrifice. Although the enemy had the beach under constant direct fire, Brig. Gen. Roosevelt moved from one locality to another, rallying men around him, directed and personally led them against the enemy. Under his seasoned, precise, calm, and unfaltering leadership, assault troops reduced beach strong points and rapidly moved inland with minimum casualties.” When Brig. Gen. Roosevelt realized the troops had landed about a mile off course, he is quoted as saying, “We are going to start the war right here.”

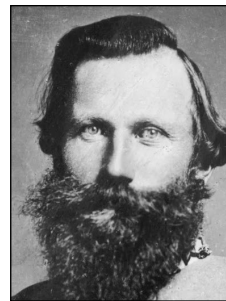
Unfortunately, Roosevelt died from a heart attack before he received the medal. On the day of his death, July 12, 1944, only five weeks after D-Day, he had been selected for promotion to major general and command of the 90th Infantry Division. Several general officers served as pall bearers at his funeral and he is buried in France alongside his younger brother, Quentin, a casualty of World War I.

The four recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor represent two distinguished American families that faithfully served the nation for decades. Despite their record of service, people have speculated if all of the awards would be made under today’s standards. Regardless of reservations that linger, history currently records them as the only parent-child recipients of the

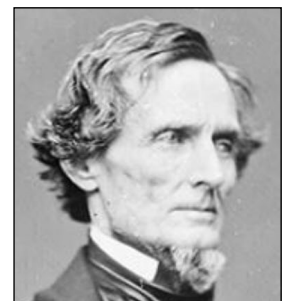
nation’s highest military award.

Returning to our West Point discussion, character building at West Point was enforced by a strict code of honesty and obedience with breaches of discipline resulting in the award of ‘Demerits’ – 200 demerits in any one year resulted in the cadet being expelled from the Academy. Of the officers mentioned previously in this paper there were considerable variations in the number of demerits awarded:

- George Armstrong Custer had both the lowest academic record and most demerits in his class. West Point tradition reserves a special *nom de guerre* for such a classmate with the lowest academic record: “Goat”.
- However, despite his dismissive attitude toward rules and regulations, Custer could self-regulate his behavior as the situation dictated. This saved him from expulsion on more than one occasion as evidenced in the pattern of his demerits. Any cadet who received more than 100 demerits in six months was automatically expelled. Custer earned 90 citations in only three months but managed to restrain himself for the next few months without a single misdeed. His closest call with demerits was 98 in a six-month period.
- Ulysses S. Grant received eight demerits for not attending church;
- The feisty J.E.B. Stuart, Jefferson Davis and George Pickett were constantly in trouble;



Lt. General J.E.B. Stuart



Confederate President Jefferson Davis

- On the other hand, George McClellan received very few demerits; and
- Robert E. Lee, who received no demerits at all in four years, was known to the other cadets as the ‘Marble Model’.

A final so-called “fact”, i.e., that Robert E. Lee is the only West Point graduate to have completed all four years without a single demerit in his department is hereby debunked by this editor.

Table 7: Department

Name	Conduct Demerits				
	4th Class	3rd Class	2nd Class	1st Class	Cumulative
Charles Mason	0	0	0	0	0
Robert E. Lee	0	0	0	0	0
Ulysses S. Grant	59	67	98	66	290
Irving Hale	62	60	0	0	122
Douglas MacArthur	11	19	4	27	61
Ulysses S. Grant III	59	45	8	26	138
James Longstreet	30	58	164	102	354

As Table 7 indicates, one doesn’t have to look any further than Lee’s own classmate, Charles Mason, to see that Lee is not alone.

News of the RCWRT



Upcoming 2022 RCWRT Meetings

For July, we will once again meet in person at the NC Museum of History's Daniels auditorium with a simultaneous Zoom cast. The wearing of a mask is optional.

Date	Speaker(s)	Topic
July 11 th , 2022	Dr. Chris E. Fonvielle	'Freedom at Last': African Americans at Wilmington, North Carolina, 1865
Aug. 8 th , 2022	Mary Lynn Bryan, Mac Healy, and David Winslow	Presentation by the 2022 Raleigh CWRT Gatton Award honorees concerning the planning and development progress of the NC Civil War & Reconstruction History Center
Sept. 12 th , 2022	Ernie Dollar, M.A.	Hearts Torn Asunder: Trauma in the Civil War's Final Campaign in North Carolina



Help Save 45 Historic Acres of the Chancellorsville Battlefield

Over the years, the American Battlefield Trust has been able to save 1,322 acres of the Chancellorsville Battlefield, including most of the preserved land at Jackson's Flank Attack. But other important pieces have remained unprotected and at risk for decades.

Now, there is a very real chance to preserve three crucial tracts, all adjacent to the Orange Turnpike, that will help preserve forever forty-five more acres of the Chancellorsville Battlefield. And if you donate today to help preserve this hallowed ground, every \$1.00 you give will be turned into \$10.50 thanks to Federal matching funds, special grants, and large private donations.

The map to the right shows a blowup of that portion of Jackson's Flank Attack along either side of the Orange Turnpike which contains the three tracts (shown in yellow) to be saved.

For more information, and to donate, visit <https://www.battlefields.org/45acres> or dial (800) 298-7878.

The American Battlefield Trust is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Donations to the Trust are tax deductible to the full extent allowable under the law.



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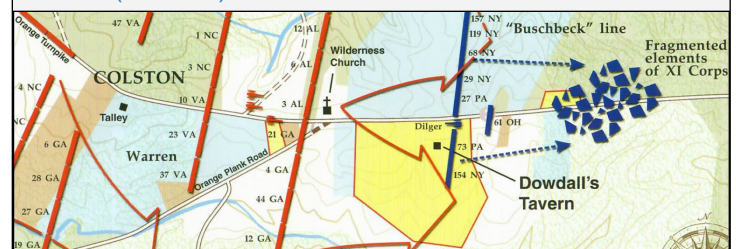
RCWRT Board of Directors (2020-22)

Name	Position
Josie Walker	President / Program Committee
Ted Kunstling	Past President
Johnny Wood	Vice President / Program Committee
Griff Bartlett	Secretary / Treasurer
Open Position	Program Committee
Bob Graesser	Knapsack Newsletter Editor / Webmaster
Lloyd Townsend	Member
Open Position	Member

Paying Memberships / Total Members: 132 / 163

No New Members Joined the RCWRT in May & June 2022

3 Tracts (in Yellow) to be Saved on the Chancellorsville Battlefield



The Raleigh Civil War Round Table was formed on March 12th, 2001 and is a 501(c)(3) "tax exempt organization."

We meet on the second Monday of each month (except this Dec.). We are once again meeting in person at the NC Museum of History, 5 East Edenton Street, Raleigh, NC starting at 6:30 p.m. to allow 30 min. for mingling.

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 **Sept. 15th** each year.