

# The Knapsack

Raleigh Civil War Round Table

The same rain falls on both friend and foe.

August 10, 2020  
Our 234<sup>th</sup> Issue



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<http://www.raleighcwr.org>

## August 10, 2020 Event Features Dr. Ted Kunstling, MD, Speaking on Civil War Railroads

Our upcoming meeting will be on Monday, August 10, 2020. Due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, we will **NOT** be meeting at the NC Museum of History in Raleigh. **Instead, we will meet remotely via an online web session using the application Zoom. Our initial online meetings in June and July were a success with about 40 online attendees each.**



July's meeting will feature a presentation by the Raleigh Civil War Round Table's president, Dr. Ted Kunstling, MD. He will be speaking on a topic near and dear to him: *Civil War Railroads*.

As has been part of the new normal for the past several months, Ted will email an invitation to you for the Zoom event along with instructions and a link for joining the online meeting. Please contact Ted at [trkunstling@aol.com](mailto:trkunstling@aol.com) if you do not receive this invitation by August 3<sup>rd</sup>.

It has been said that amateur historians study battles and generals, but professional soldiers study logistics. There is truth in this statement. When reading accounts about Civil War campaigns, railroads often seem to be an important consideration or even objective of the armies. The Civil War has been called the first railroad war. Every major battle in the eastern theater was fought within 20 miles of a railroad or navigable waterway. Thus, focusing more specifically on the impact of railroads helps to better understand the conduct and outcome of the conflict. North Carolina railroads played a critical role.

Ted came by his interest in trains honestly. Some of his earliest memories are of riding his tricycle down the block from his grandparents' home in Waterloo, Iowa to the Chicago Great Northern yard where he spent hours mesmerized by the steam switch engine sorting freight cars. It was a hump yard where the switcher would build up speed before releasing cars to coast down the track until coupling with waiting boxcars with a great crash. (Ted is sure you can understand the appeal.) One of the great-

est experiences of his life was when the engineer invited him (age 7) to ride with him in the cab for an afternoon! Ted has been hooked ever since.

Ted's Civil War interest also began in his grandfather's library which contained works by Bruce Catton, Bell Irvin Wiley, Douglas Southhall Freeman, and others. While growing up, Ted's parents took him to visit many major battlefields in Virginia and Pennsylvania and Fort Pulaski, Georgia.

As an undergraduate at Duke, Ted majored in History along with his pre-med courses. During his years of post-graduate training at Vanderbilt, he and his wife Frances found time to tour many of the significant battlefields in Tennessee and Kentucky.

Here in Raleigh, Ted was a charter member of Raleigh Civil War Round Table and has been honored to serve as president for the past several years.

After retiring from his position as Chief Medical Officer at Duke Raleigh Hospital in 2013, Ted resurrected the old HO model train set which he had carefully preserved since junior high school days in Norfolk and is now creating a 8' X 13' layout in his basement, a world where there is no COVID-19 and there are no protestors. Joining the Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club, Ted is learning new skills and making new friends.

Several years ago, as he researched a presentation on Sherman's occupation of Raleigh on March 13, 1865, the railroads kept popping up. He decided it would be interesting to learn more about railroads on North Carolina before and during the Civil War. August's lecture is based on that study.



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## Instructions on the Use of Zoom

Due to continuation of restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic, we have recently begun using the meeting software application Zoom.

As stated in an email message from Dr. Ted Kunstling, President, Raleigh CWRT:

Your Board is concerned that meeting of large groups may be restricted for months to come, but we want to maintain continuity and connection with one another and virtual meetings are one way to accomplish this. Your invitation is below. To participate in the meeting, just click on the link following "Join Zoom Meeting" and enter the Password number if asked to. (You probably won't be asked.)

Zoom is pretty simple to use, but we are all learning, so please be patient. If your computer lacks a camera, you can still watch the video on your screen; we just won't be able to see you. Tutorials are available at [www.zoom.com](http://www.zoom.com), the Zoom website. We shall tailor our format to the number of participants, but shall review this as the beginning of our meeting.

**Ted Kunstling is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.**

Topic: Raleigh Civil War Round Table

Time: Aug 10, 2020 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

[Connecting Hyperlink appears here]

Meeting ID: [Meeting ID appears here]

Password: [Password appears here]

Ted ([trkunstling@aol.com](mailto:trkunstling@aol.com))

## Current Status of the Coronavirus Pandemic

As of a month ago, 07-01-2020, there were over 2,658,324 reported cases and 127,681 reported deaths in the U.S. caused by the novel coronavirus. Those figures, as of 08-01-2020, have increased to 4,559,008 reported cases and 153,311 reported deaths, respectively.

As of July 30, the states with the fastest spread of COVID-19 include MO, HI, AK, and AL while the states with the slowest spread include VT, AZ, TX, and ME.

Major League Baseball has recently started up with a 60 game schedule. After only one week, the Miami Marlins, Philadelphia Phillies, and St. Louis Cardinals have had to postpone games due to COVID-19 infections. Throughout the Major Leagues, teams have failed to adhere to the restrictive protocols on social distancing as specified by the joint MLB Operations Manual.

Compared to the current world-wide reported totals of 17,516,264 cases and 678,226 deaths, the U.S. has 26% of all reported cases compared to 25% a month ago and 23% of all reported deaths compared to 25% a month ago.

Please continue to follow medical and governmental guidelines of social distancing and wear a mask.

## Model Railroading, A Rewarding Hobby

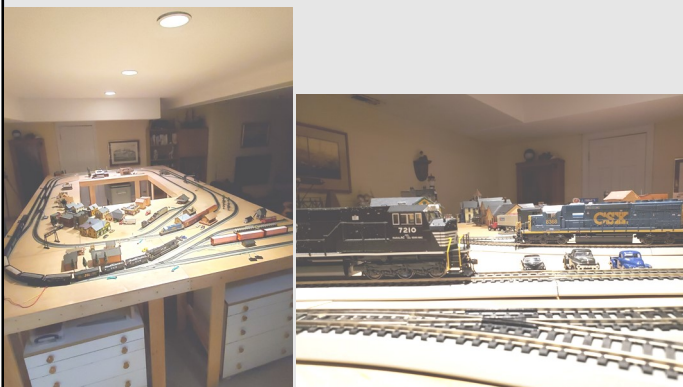
As Ted Kunstling indicated on page 1, his interest in railroading was reinforced when he took up model railroading as a hobby in his youth. His first train, as pictured on page 1, was a Lionel O27 gauge (1:48 scale), engine number 2025. Each Christmas, he'd receive new freight cars and accessories.

In his retirement, Ted remembered the model railroad setup he had as a youth and bemoaned to his brother several years ago that it had been lost. He was then pleasantly surprised to learn that it had been in his brother's attic all these years. His brother was happy to restore it to Ted, its original owner.

As an adult, Ted switched to HO gauge (1:87 scale) railroading. Everything is one-half the size of O scale. Within the past year or so, Ted discovered the Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club in Raleigh and became an active member.

Ted now has his HO layout set up in his basement. Having acquired another collector's extensive HO scale collection about a month ago, Ted is in the process of expanding his layout from 4' X 8' to 8' X 13'.

Here are two views of his current layout, with completion still a work in progress:



Shown below is a picture of Ted's grandsons, taken at the Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club in Raleigh:



## Analysis of Significant Civil War Battles

By Bob Graesser, Editor

In 1990 the U.S. Congress established The Civil War Sites Advisory Commission (CWSAC) because the nation's Civil War heritage had fallen into grave danger, being demolished and bulldozed at an alarming rate. Particularly, the Civil War battlefields, themselves, were especially impacted "because of their relatively large size, generally open character, and frequent proximity to today's expanding population centers."

Familiar names on the 14-member CWSAC included Ed Bearss, Ken Burns, and Dr. James M. McPherson. Six members resided in Northern states, four members resided in Southern states, and four members resided in the District of Columbia. In 1993, their investigations, in cooperation with the U.S. National Park Service, were published in the "Report on the Nation's Civil War Battlefields."

Before the CWSAC could propose solutions to the battlefield problem, they first determined the scope of where they should concentrate their efforts. To this end, the CWSAC documented about 10,500 Civil War engagements between opposing forces ranging from battles to minor skirmishes in which at least one casualty occurred, where a casualty is defined as a combatant having been wounded, killed, captured or missing in combat.

The first step in fixing this problem was to reduce it to a manageable size by identifying which of these engagements were "principal battles". The Commission came up with 385 engagements (3.7 percent of the total). These were segregated into four classifications, designated "A", "B", "C", and "D", according to their historic significance.

Class "A" and "B" battlefields were defined as "representing the principal strategic operations of the war." Class "C" and "D" battlefields were defined as "usually representing operations with limited tactical objectives of enforcement and occupation."

More specifically, as quoted in the report, the four classes are:

**Class A – Decisive:** A general engagement involving field armies in which a commander achieved a vital strategic objective. Such a result might include an indisputable victory on the field or be limited to the success or termination of a campaign offensive. Decisive battles had a direct, observable impact on the direction, duration, conduct, or outcome of the war.

**Class B – Major:** An engagement of magnitude involving field armies or divisions of the armies in which a commander achieved an important strategic objective within the context of an ongoing campaign offensive. Major battles had a direct, observable impact on the direction, duration, conduct, or outcome of the campaign.

**Class C – Formative:** An engagement involving divisions or detachments of the field armies in which a commander accomplished a limited campaign objective of

reconnaissance, disruption, defense, or occupation. Formative battles had an observable influence on the direction, duration, or conduct of the campaign.

**Class D – Limited:** An engagement, typically involving detachments of the field armies, in which a commander achieved a limited tactical objective of reconnaissance, defense, or occupation. Limited battles maintained contact between the combatants without observable influence on the direction of the campaign."

Pulling raw data from the CWSAC report, I have assembled the following table of the 385 significant Civil War battlefields, broken down by state and class:

Rank by No. of Battles	State	No. of Battles	Class A Decisive (x4)	Class B Major (x3)	Class C Formative (x2)	Class D Limited (x1)	Weighted Total	Rank by Weighted Total
1	VA	123	18	42	41	22	302	1
2	TN	39	7	7	10	15	84	2
3	MO	29	3	3	7	16	51	4
4	GA	27	2	10	13	2	66	3
5	LA	24	3	4	9	8	50	5
6	NC	20	2	2	7	9	37	7
7	AR	17	1	4	7	5	35	8
8	MS	16	3	9	3	1	46	6
9	WV	15	0	4	5	6	28	9
10	KY	11	1	3	4	3	24	10
10	SC	11	1	4	2	4	24	10
12	AL	7	2	2	2	1	19	12
12	MD	7	1	2	1	3	15	13
12	OK	7	0	2	1	4	12	14
15	FL	6	0	1	2	3	10	15
16	TX	5	0	2	1	2	10	15
16	ND	5	0	0	2	3	7	18
18	KS	4	0	0	4	0	8	17
19	NM	2	1	1	0	0	7	18
19	PA	2	1	0	1	0	6	20
19	MN	2	0	0	2	0	4	21
19	OH	2	0	0	1	1	3	22
23	CO	1	0	1	0	0	3	22
23	DC	1	0	1	0	0	3	22
23	ID	1	0	0	1	0	2	25
23	IN	1	0	0	1	0	2	25
Totals:		26	385	46	104	127	108	858
		Percent:		12	27	33	28	100

Twenty-five states (plus DC) were involved in one or more significant battles. As you can see, Virginia contained the lion's share of the 385 significant Civil War battles. This is to be expected since the Confederacy chose to designate Richmond, Virginia, situated only 100 miles from the Federal capital, as their own capital.

Following Virginia, the next five states with the most battles were Tennessee (39), Missouri (29), Georgia (27), Louisiana (24), and North Carolina (20).

I also broke down the battles within each state by class. This allowed me to produce a weighted total of significant battles within each state. I then reranked the states based on their weighted totals to see if that would change their relative rankings compared to unweighted totals. Eight states were unaffected in their relative rankings, eleven states were displaced by only one position, six states were displaced by two positions, and one state was displaced by three positions. This indicates that the states were relatively similar in the distribution of their battles into the four classes.

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# Civil War Military Leaders Quiz — Answers and Winner

## By Bob Graesser, Editor

Although the July 2020 Raleigh CWRT newsletter went out to over 300 recipients, there were only two responses to the quiz in which readers were asked to name the Civil War military leaders associated with the 40 images shown below. The correct answers appear above their images. The quiz winner is Kenneth W. Sommerville of Raleigh, with an excellent score of 34 correct (85%). His six misses (with the correct answers in parentheses) were: **L - McDowell** (Hancock), **U - Reynolds** (Bufford), **V - Morgan** (R. Anderson), **AB - Schofield** (Rosecrans), **AF - Pleasanton** (McDowell), and **AL - Mosby** (Polk). In his submission, Kenneth made the following comments: "I had a great time trying to match names and faces and wished there weren't so many beards! I certainly learned a lot in the process!" For his efforts, Kenneth received a mint copy of the Civil War boardgame *Antietam, September 17, 1862*, valued at \$75.



# News of the RCWRT



## Upcoming 2020 RCWRT Meetings

Note: until further notice, due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, RCWRT meetings will be held remotely via use of Zoom software.

Date	Speaker	Topic
Aug. 10	Ted Kunstling	Civil War Railroads
Sept. 14	Sandy Barnard	An Aide to Custer: The Civil War Letters of Lt. Edward G. Granger
Oct. 12	TBD	TBD
Nov. 9	Mike Rucker	Confederate Colonel Edmund Winchester Rucker

### Did You Know?

Early in the Civil War, Benjamin Howard, a young assistant Union surgeon, experimented with a new life-saving procedure for wounds to the thorax. At that time, a sucking chest wound was an almost certain death sentence, with only an 8 percent survival rate. The problem wasn't the wound itself, but the sucking. A negative pressure in the thorax was created by the opening in the chest cavity. The effect often caused the lungs to collapse, leading to suffocation.

Howard found that if he closed the wound with metal sutures, followed by alternating layers of lint or linen bandages and a few drops of colloid that forms a hermetic seal, the lungs would inflate. Unfortunately, this procedure was largely unsuccessful at the time due to infection caused by the ignorance of germ theory. However, with modern sterile techniques, his method is still utilized today and is another example of the lasting innovations of medicine acquired during the Civil War.



The American Battlefield Trust doesn't just acquire historic land. It also seeks to restore these battlefields to their wartime condition. Civil War battlefields at three locations are in need of your support toward restoration. The goal is to raise \$153,000. The battlefields include Cedar Creek, South Mountain, and First Deep Bottom, just outside Richmond. For more information, go to <https://www.battlefields.org/give/save-battlefields/help-restore-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.raleighcwr.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

is the official newsletter of the RCWRT and is published around the 1st of each month.

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#### Staff

Bob Graesser, Editor

#### Contributors

Griff Bartlett, Dr. Ted Kunstling

Readers are encouraged to submit photos, events, & articles for publication to Bob Graesser, Editor

([bob.graesser@gmail.com](mailto:bob.graesser@gmail.com); 919-244-9041)

### RCWRT Board of Directors (2018-2020)

Name	Position	Phone #	Email Address
Ted Kunstling	President	919-787-5282	<a href="mailto:trkunstling@aol.com">trkunstling@aol.com</a>
Josie Walker	Vice President	919-977-5208	<a href="mailto:jaas78@live.com">jaas78@live.com</a>
Griff Bartlett	Sec.-Treas.	919-848-6562	<a href="mailto:griffb@yahoo.com">griffb@yahoo.com</a>
Jack Milani	Trip Coord.	919-848-3670	<a href="mailto:1huntmstr@gmail.com">1huntmstr@gmail.com</a>
Pattie Smith	Prog. Chair	252-450-5040	<a href="mailto:rvpls00@yahoo.com">rvpls00@yahoo.com</a>
Bob Graesser	Knapsack Ed./ Webmaster	919-244-9041	<a href="mailto:bob.graesser@gmail.com">bob.graesser@gmail.com</a>
John Wood	Member	919-802-7996	<a href="mailto:john3wood@gmail.com">john3wood@gmail.com</a>
Beverly Thomas	Member	919-859-4474	<a href="mailto:bhthomas@nc.rr.com">bhthomas@nc.rr.com</a>

Paying Memberships / Total Members: 136 / 225

New members: none

### Editor's Analysis of 385 Battle Start Days-of-the-Week

Started	# of Battles	One-Day	Multi-Day
Sun.	63	39	24
Mon.	44	34	10
Tues.	52	46	6
Wed.	39	34	5
Thur.	41	33	8
Fri.	61	40	21
Sat.	53	30	23

**Observations:** Both one-day and multi-day battles begun on a Sunday, the Christian day of rest and worship, appear no less likely to occur than on any other day of the week, despite the religious fervor of that period. Multi-day battles appear to be twice as likely to have begun on a weekend (Friday-Sunday) than during the week.

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