

# The Knapsack

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

October 14, 2019  
Our 224th Meeting



Volume 19  
Number 10

<http://www.raleighcwrt.org>

## October 14<sup>th</sup> Event Features Wade Sokolosky Speaking on **NC Confederate Hospitals in 1865**

Our upcoming meeting will be on Monday, October 14, 2019 at 7:00 pm in Daniels Auditorium at the NC Museum of History in Raleigh and will feature a presentation by historian Wade Sokolosky on the subject **NC Confederate Hospitals in 1865**.

A native of Beaufort, North Carolina, Colonel Wade Sokolosky, U.S. Army (Retired), is a graduate of East Carolina University and a 25-year veteran. He is one of North Carolina's leading experts of the 1865 Carolinas Campaign. Wade has lectured throughout the Carolinas, speaking to roundtables, various societies and organizations, and at historical sites.



He is the co-author (with Mark A. Smith) of the following:

- **To Prepare for Sherman's Coming: The Battle of Wise's Forks, March 1865**
- **No Such Army Since the Days of Julius Caesar: Sherman's Carolinas Campaign from Fayetteville to Averasboro**

Wade is the author of the following:

- **Final Roll Call: Confederate Losses during the Carolinas Campaign**
- **Kiss Him for His Mother: North Carolina's Confederate Hospitals during the Civil War's Final Months**

Long-term, Wade is working on a book-length study of the Confederate Army of Tennessee during the Civil War's final months in the Carolinas. He is the recipient of the Raleigh Civil War Round Table's 2017 T. Harry Garton Award for his important efforts to study, preserve, and share the Civil War heritage of his native North Carolina. Additionally, Wade serves as the vice president of the Friends of Bentonville Battlefield Association.

### ~ N.C. General Hospital No. 4 ~



Historian Michael C. Hardy has identified 13 Confederate general hospitals located in NC during the Civil War. These were usually large structures, sometimes occupying existing buildings, like Peace College in Raleigh, or at times, new structures, like the

500-bed facility at the fairgrounds in Charlotte.

One of these, a 200 bed hospital, known as General Hospital No. 4, was located at Dock and S. Front St. in Wilmington, NC. It operated as an army hospital throughout the Civil War until the fall of Wilmington to Federal troops on Feb-22-1865. Patient records can be found at <http://www.onhgs.org/confedhospintro.htm>.

Other large facilities were located in Fayetteville, Goldsboro, Salisbury, Wake Forest, and Wilson.

Smaller, temporary hospitals—often run by local women and known as "Wayside Hospitals"—sprang up along railroad lines.

### ~ Raleigh CWRT Dues Reminder ~

September was the month when we renew our membership in the Raleigh Civil War Round Table. Dues are \$30.00 for individuals/families, \$10 for teachers, and student membership is free.

Your dues are used to pay the rent at the NC Museum of History, pay our speakers expenses, pay for our web site, and for other expenses of running the Round Table. If you have not yet paid your dues, you may do so at our October 14th monthly meeting or by sending a check to:

Griff Bartlett  
Treasurer-RCWRT  
908 Kinsdale Dr  
Raleigh, NC 27615



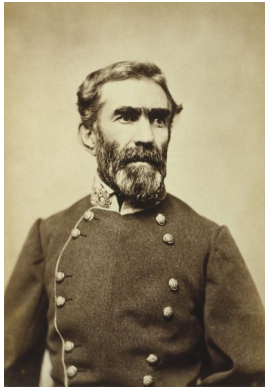
# North Carolina Museum of History



Focusing on Current Exhibits in the Civil War Gallery  
By Charlie Knight, Curator of Military History

## Braxton Bragg: Mexican War Hero

Although he emerged from the Civil War with a reputation as one of the Confederacy's less than stellar commanders, Braxton Bragg was once lauded as a military hero. His actions at the Battle of Buena Vista (Feb. 22-23, 1847) during the Mexican War were credited with turning the tide of battle in favor of Gen. Zachary Taylor's army and played no small part in catapulting Taylor to the White House.



Bragg was born March 22, 1817, in Warrenton, NC, and graduated from the U.S. Military Academy in 1837. He was commissioned a lieutenant in the artillery and was sent to Florida where he participated in the Seminole War. Illness contracted in the swamps of Florida sent him home for a lengthy recovery.

In the mid-1840s he nearly destroyed his own career with several articles highly critical of Army leadership published in the popular Southern Literary Messenger. He was court-martialed and found guilty of disrespect to superior officers; but war with Mexico offered the chance to remove, or at least lessen, the stain on his record.

Then-Captain Bragg initially commanded Battery E, 3rd Artillery, when he went to Mexico with Taylor's army (his lieutenants were George H. Thomas and John F. Reynolds). He was transferred to command Battery C, 3rd Artillery, after its commander was fatally injured in a fall after the Battle of Monterrey in late September 1846.

Following a temporary cessation of hostilities after Monterrey it appeared that the war was over. But President James Polk and Gen. Winfield Scott wanted a knock-out blow – Scott would strip Taylor's army to reinforce a new column to move under Scott's own command against Mexico City. Bragg and his artillery were among the small force to be left with Taylor, which also included the 1st Mississippi Rifles under Taylor's son-in-law Col. Jefferson Davis. Mexican Gen. Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna – he of the Alamo notoriety – sensed an opportunity to crush Taylor's weakened army and moved against him at Buena Vista.

Taylor's army of approximately 4,500 men was outnumbered about 4:1 by Santa Anna's force. When a Mexican attack seemed poised to break the American lines, Bragg's artillery appeared to plug a gap and poured round after round into the enemy infantry at nearly point

-blank range, causing the enemy ranks to break. Bragg estimated that his guns fired some 250 rounds during the battle.

According to a popular story, Taylor is said to have appeared at Bragg's guns at this time and questioned what ammunition Bragg was employing. Upon being



told he was firing canister, Taylor supposedly remarked, "A little more grape, Captain Bragg." Witnesses present denied that any such exchange occurred (and it is extremely unlikely that the highly excitable and sometimes profane Taylor would have had such a calm reaction in the heat of battle), but the phrase was widely repeated, making Braxton Bragg a household name.

In recognition of his exploits at Buena Vista, his hometown of Warrenton gave him a presentation sword, engraved with a quote about Bragg's actions



from Taylor's official report of Buena Vista: "The first discharge of canister caused the enemy to hesitate, the second and third drove him back in disorder and saved the day." This sword is the only item belonging to Braxton Bragg in the NC Museum of History collection.



## Upcoming Events

### Oct 4-5, 2019: Road Trip to Richmond, VA for Raleigh CWRT Members

We invite you to join members of the Raleigh CWRT for a road trip to Richmond, VA on October 4-5, 2019. We shall visit several of the nation's foremost civil war museums and tour beautifully preserved sites of some of the most significant battles of the civil war in Virginia.

Carpooling will be organized once participants are identified with a planned departure time of 0800 from in front of the PetSmart store in the Six Forks Station Shopping Center at the southwest corner of Six Forks Road and Strickland Road in Raleigh, arriving in Richmond at about 11:30 am.

Friday's activities will start with a visit to the new Richmond National Battlefield Park Civil War Visitor Center at Tredegar Iron Works. This will be followed by visits to the Hollywood Cemetery and the Chimborazo Medical Museum.

We will be staying at the Days Inn at Glen Allen, VA the evening of October 4th. Their phone number is (804) 261-0188. The daily rate is \$64.99 plus tax. The address is 8613 Brook Rd ; Glen Allen ,VA 23060.

Saturday will be spent touring area battlefields, and we shall return to Raleigh late Saturday afternoon.

If you would like to join us, please contact Jack Milani at (919) 848-3670 or [1huntmstr@gmail.com](mailto:1huntmstr@gmail.com).

### Oct. 5, 2019: 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Fort Fisher: American Battlefield Trust Park Day

Fort Fisher, 1610 Fort Fisher Blvd South, Kure Beach, NC 28443.

Calling all volunteers! On Sat., Oct. 5, 2019, Fort Fisher State Historic Site will host Park Day, an annual hands-on event sponsored by the American Battlefield Trust, which brings history enthusiasts together with staff members to help pre-serve our nation's heritage sites. Fort Fisher welcomes volunteers of all ages and skill levels. This event is free and open to the public.



For details, visit the website at <http://www.nchistoricsites.org/fisher>, or contact John Moseley at (910) 251-7342 or by email to [john.moseley@ncdcr.gov](mailto:john.moseley@ncdcr.gov).

### October 18-20, 2019: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. each day. 23rd Annual Civil War Symposium

Pamplin Historical Park, 6125 Boydton Plank Road, Petersburg, VA 23803

Hear from some of the nation's greatest Civil War scholars as they talk about *Small Battles, Big Results*.

The authors and topics are as follows:

- Mr. Peter Cozzens – Battle of Iuka
- Mr. Jerry Desmond – Battle of Ringgold
- Mr. Rod Gragg – Battle of Fort Fisher
- Mr. Jeff Hunt – Battle of Mine Run
- Mr. James Morgan – Battle of Ball's Bluff
- Dr. Timothy Smith – Champion Hill
- Dr. Brian Steel Wills – Battle of Fort Pillow

The Symposium begins on Friday night with a reception at the Park where attendees and speakers can meet and enjoy refreshments. Saturday is filled with lectures and opportunities to purchase published works by the speakers for autographs and participation in a silent auction. Sunday will feature additional speakers and a panel discussion. Symposium pricing is \$339.00 per attendee.

Call (804) 861-2408 or visit <http://www.pamplinpark.org> for more information and to register today. Space is limited so register now. See and print the registration form at <https://pamplinpark.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/symp19-flyerfinal2full.pdf>.

### October 24-27, 2019: Forging the Path to Gettysburg

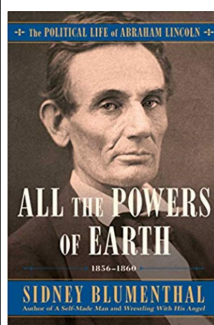
Discover the little-known action of spring/summer 1863 leading up to the pivotal Battle of Gettysburg! Tours led by area historian and Camp Curtin Historical Society President Jim Schmick and award-winning author and historian Scott Mingus. Presented by Civil War Seminars ([www.CivilWarSeminars.org](http://www.CivilWarSeminars.org)). Bus tour and Seminar.

Home base is Hampton Inn, 955 Leshar Road, Chambersburg, PA, 17201, (717) 261-9185, [www.hamptoninn.com](http://www.hamptoninn.com).

### All the Powers of Earth: The Political Life of Abraham Lincoln Vol. III, 1856-1860

By Sidney Blumenthal

Just published on September 3, 2019, *All the Powers of Earth* is the third volume of Sidney Blumenthal's series on *The Political Life of Abraham Lincoln* and cements Blumenthal as the definitive Lincoln biographer.



In this third volume, after a period of depression that he would ever find his way to greatness, Lincoln takes on the most powerful demagogue in the country, Stephen Douglas, in the debates for a senate seat. He sidelines the frontrunner William Seward, a former governor and senator for New York, to cinch the new Republican Party's nomination.

The two preceding volumes are:

- *A Self-Made Man: The Political Life of Abraham Lincoln Vol. I, 1809-1849*
- *Wrestling With His Angel: The Political Life of Abraham Lincoln Vol. II, 1849-1856*

# News of the RCWRT



## Upcoming 2019 RCWRT Meetings

Date	Speaker	Topic
Oct. 14	Wade Sokolosky, U.S. Army Col. (ret.)	NC Confederate Hospitals in 1865
Nov. 4	Ron Roth, M.T. in Museum Studies	Desperate Hours: Under- standing the Battle of Get- tysburg Through the Art of its Battlefield Monuments
Dec. 9	Holiday Party	Location and entertainment to be announced



The American Battlefield Trust asks for your help in saving 185 acres of irreplaceable Civil War history on parts of three Civil War battlefields: The Wilderness (36 acres), Cold Harbor (5 acres), and Bentonville (144 acres). The goal is to raise \$161,375. Donations are matched at a ratio of \$10.43-to-\$1.

For more information, go to <https://www.battlefields.org/give/save-battlefields/save-three-civil-war-battlefields>.

### Did You Know?

This month's lecture dealt with NC hospitals in the Civil War. Due to the Northern blockade of Southern ports, one commodity in short supply in the South was medicine, specifically morphine for pain and quinine to counter the effects of malaria.

It is said that around 900,000 Northern troops contracted malaria during the conflict. The number of affected Southern troops is not well-documented but, due to the scarcity of a reliable supply of quinine, must have been staggering. Quinine's mode of action is unknown.

The primary source of these drugs was Europe and the main method of obtaining them was through smuggling. In order to get the drugs past the Union blockade, the medicine would be packed inside the hollowed papier-mache heads of dolls. If stopped, the Union troops rarely bothered to examine or confiscate toys since they were focused on more obvious contraband.

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 the Treasurer by **September 15** each year.



## The Knapsack

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## RCWRT Board of Directors (2018-2020)

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**Paying Memberships / Total Members: 136 / 217**

**New member: Welcome, Jill Brown of Apex.**

### 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 recently generously donated to the Raleigh CWRT and is up for sale. The proceeds will 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](mailto:trkunstling@aol.com) or (919) 787-5282 to place your order.