

## RALEIGH CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE HISTORY

### RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA

The first meeting of the Raleigh Civil War Round Table (RCWRT) was held March 12, 2001 in the Olivia Raney Library, Raleigh, NC with seven members in attendance. Our founder, Bob Farrell became our first president. Current membership stands at 213 and meetings are now held in Daniels Auditorium of the North Carolina Museum of History in Raleigh at 6:30 PM on the second Monday evening of each month. On December 9, 2019 we held our 226<sup>th</sup> meeting. Members come from many walks of life and hail from all over the nation; our motto is "The same rain falls on both friend and foe." We are a 501(c) tax exempt organization. Our electronic newsletter *The Knapsack* edited by Bob Graesser is published monthly, and we maintain a website [www.raleighcwrt.org](http://www.raleighcwrt.org) as well as a Facebook page. Annual dues are \$30 and meetings are free. Visitors and new members are always welcome.

Monthly programs open with social time and light refreshments followed by a lecture presented by a historian, writer, or college faculty member. Authors usually offer their books for sale with personalized autographs. Programs often focus on North Carolina Civil War history, but a wide variety of subjects are featured. Recent Christmas programs held in the rotunda of the historic State Capitol have featured food and period music. For the past decade, through 2019, in cooperation with several other CWRTs in the state we have co-hosted Ed Bearss's "North Carolina Campaign," a series of lectures held each January.

In addition to our monthly programs, members enjoy periodic "road trips" to Civil War sites, museums, and battle re-enactments. Projects have included a search for remnants of earthworks constructed around Raleigh in 1863 to protect the capital from raids from the coast by Federal troops. (None were located).

Raleigh CWRT has contributed funds to American Battlefield Trust, Bennett Place (site of surrender negotiations between Sherman and Johnston in April, 1865), North Carolina Library and Archives for purchase of Civil War related documents, Oakwood Confederate Cemetery for restoration of damage caused by vandalism, and to the N.C. Museum of History for conservation of a state flag which once belonged to the 30<sup>th</sup> N.C. Infantry. We raise funds through dues, raffles, donations, and sales of a DVD *The Civil War in North Carolina: The Final*

*Campaigns, 1865* produced by one of our members Andrew M. Ballard on behalf of the RCWRT.

Individual members are also actively involved in other Civil War related organizations such as the American Battlefield Trust, the North Carolina Civil War & Reconstruction History Center, and Friends of Bentonville Battlefield as well as individual research and presentation interest.

Each year since 2008 **The T. Harry Gatton Award** is presented to an individual who has made significant contributions to the understanding of and appreciation of the American Civil War, the first recipient being Ed Bearss.

Finally, since 2016, we have co-hosted an annual Civil War Round Table Forum in Raleigh for leaders of the twelve CWRTs in N.C. in cooperation with Wally Rueckel and Mike Powell of the Brunswick CWRT. These meetings were one of the forerunners leading to formation of the Civil War Congress.

More information, including contact information, about Raleigh CWRT and our programs can be found at our website [www.raleighcwrt.org](http://www.raleighcwrt.org).

Ted R. Kunstling MD

President, Raleigh Civil War Round Table