



Founded at Fort Harrison  
on February 8, 1951

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# RICHMOND CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

JUNE 2026

**“The Civil War was the biggest thing that ever happened to us. It was our Iliad and our Odyssey – and it remains our least understood war.”**

**Bruce Catton**

**JUNE 9, 2026**

**7:30 p.m.**

**Weinstein JCC  
5403 Monument Avenue  
Richmond, VA 23226  
(Sisisky Room; first room on the right as  
you enter the building)**

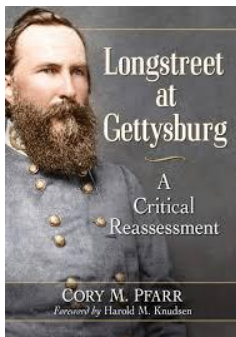
**CORY PFARR  
“Longstreet at Gettysburg:  
The Allure and Endurance of the  
‘Lee Intended’ Arguments”**



The presentation, “Longstreet at Gettysburg: The Allure and Endurance of the ‘Lee Intended’ Arguments,” offers a unique analysis of Confederate General James Longstreet’s performance at the Battle of Gettysburg through an exploration of:

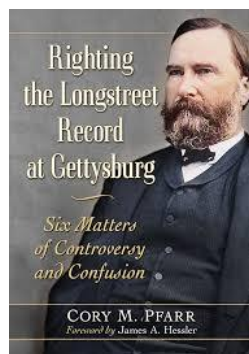
- 1) Robert E. Lee’s actual intentions at Gettysburg;
- 2) Objectives Lee clearly intended to achieve but which circumstances and unfolding events prevented from materializing; and
- 3) Supposed intentions attributed to Lee in many Gettysburg studies since the battle that are ultimately unsupported by the primary-source record.

Cory M. Pfarr works for the Department of War (formerly Defense). He is the award-winning author of *Longstreet at Gettysburg: A Critical Reassessment* (2019); *Righting the Longstreet Record at Gettysburg: Six Matters of Controversy and Confusion*



(2023); and the forthcoming *The Federal Signal Service at Antietam: Stations, Officers and Battlefield Intelligence on America’s Bloodiest Day* (2026), all published by McFarland.

His essays and scholarship have appeared in *Gettysburg Magazine*, *North & South Magazine*, *Emerging Civil War*, *Studies in Intelligence*, and *The Massachusetts Historical Review*. His work has been



featured on the Pennsylvania Cable Network and C-SPAN’s American History TV, and he has presented his research at the U.S. Army War College. He lives in Fallston, Maryland, with his wife and three children.

## *A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT*

### A LOOK TO THE FUTURE

“Cavalry to the field!” When Col. Charles Cleveland Dodge called for volunteers to join his 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, New York Mounted Rifles in the summer of 1862, this is the cry he used on his recruitment posters. Although nearly 164 years have passed since Dodge made his appeal, I’m invoking these same words to call for a volunteer to fill the role of 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President of the Richmond Civil War Round Table in 2027.

Unlike duty in a Union cavalry battalion stationed in steamy Suffolk, Virginia, you will find the duties of 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President to be minimal and the benefits immeasurable. Your duties, should you enthusiastically answer this call, will be to arrive at each monthly meeting around 6:45 p.m. with the meeting sign and the box of name tags. Hang up the sign, arrange the name tags on a table, and your work is finished until the end of the meeting. When we adjourn, you simply gather up the name tags, take down the sign, and depart for your home encampment.

You also will be responsible for planning our annual field trip. This gives you the opportunity to scout and select a Civil War destination where you and other members of our RCWRT battalion can spend an enjoyable Saturday immersed in an aspect of the history we love so well. This duty does require a bit more work than monthly meeting duties, but you will find plenty of former 2<sup>nd</sup> VPs like me, Billie, Ulli, Christine, and Waite willing to help you along the way. When your field trip is completed and you are preparing

for the ride back to Richmond, you will receive the love and admiration of your fellow troopers for a job well done.

Last, but certainly not least, you will choose our speakers for 2028. In my opinion, this is the best part of being 2<sup>nd</sup> VP. You will have the opportunity to schedule some of the most well-known Civil War historians in the nation, some of the newest up-and-coming historians, and perhaps discover a “sleeper” or two along the way. This also gives you the opportunity to select topics that you like and that you think our Round Table members will like too. Once you have completed your year as 2<sup>nd</sup> VP, you will be promoted to 1<sup>st</sup> VP and have the opportunity to take your speakers to dinner and introduce them at our monthly meetings.

Then, in your third and final year, you will assume command of the Round Table as President. You should find this position to be the easiest. Your main duty will be to preside over the meetings, where you will lead the Pledge of Allegiance, welcome any guests, and call the room to order with our historic gavel.



If you are willing to accept this three-year enlistment, just let me or another Round Table officer know. If you are interested, but still would like some more information, just ask someone who has gone

before you. But don't delay! Your comrades are in the field! Saddle up and ride to the sound of battle!

Saddle up figuratively, no horse required.

Dale

**EVENTS OF INTEREST**

**June 6 and 7:** Civil War Reenactment at Fort Pocahontas, 13150 Sturgeon Point Road, Charles City.

Saturday, 10 am – 4 pm; Sunday 10 am – 3 pm. Visit Civil War camps and

observe cavalry and artillery drills. Scavenger hunt for kids, music of the 1860s, Dominion Dogs Food Truck.

\$10 for adults/\$8 for students, cash or check only. Charles City residents free with ID.

**June 20: History at Sunset, City Under Siege.**

By June 1864, the residents of Petersburg had endured the strain of faraway war. Everything changed when the war came to their doorsteps. Discover how the people of Virginia's second largest city experienced, adapted to, and persisted through an unimaginable ordeal.

6:00 pm, meet at the South Side Depot/Petersburg Visitor Center, 37 River Street, Petersburg. FREE

Questions, Call 804-732-3531

**August 28-30: 2026 Civil War Round Table Congress (CWRTC) Conference in Petersburg, "Can This Round Table Be Saved?"**

In addition to battlefield tours, socializing opportunities with members from across the country, and lively discussions on history, the event is designed to aid Round Tables in sustainability.



The cost for all three days is \$260; \$160 for the conference only; and \$110 for the reception and dinner only.

Go to [www.cwrtcongress.org](http://www.cwrtcongress.org) for more information and to register.

**September 11-13: CVBT Annual Conference,**

*"Second Fredericksburg: The Forgotten Front."* Speakers include Kris White, George C. Rable, Chris Mackowski, Elizabeth Varon, KT Shively, John Hennessy, Tim Talbott, and Tom Van Winkle.

This year, the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the CVBT, offers three attendance options: All

inclusive weekend for \$380; Saturday evening banquet with keynote speaker George Rable only for \$120; and Sunday morning breakfast with speaker Elizabeth Varon only for \$65.

For more information on specific programs, speakers, and tours – and to register – go to [www.CVBT.org](http://www.CVBT.org).

**PRESERVATION NEWS**

The American Battlefield Trust has been involved in litigation with Prince William County, Virginia, developers, and other parties concerning a proposed data center complex that threatens the Manassas Battlefield Park. A full buildout, the Digital Gateway near Gainesville, is projected to become the largest data center corridor in the world, encompassing over 22 million square feet of data centers across more than 2,100 acres in western Prince William County. The project included plans for



thirty-seven data centers, a scale comparable to 144 Walmart supercenters.

However, the project was halted due to several issues including improper public notice, which undermined the county’s narrowly approved Digital Gateway rezoning on December 13, 2023. Subsequently, the Prince William Board of County Supervisors formally withdrew from appeals related to the Prince William Digital Gateway lawsuit after expending \$1.72 million in taxpayer funds to defend legal challenges to this controversial data center initiative.

The Central Virginia Battlefields Trust (CVBT) continues its own litigation, alongside the American Battlefield Trust

(ABT) and Friends of Wilderness Battlefield (FoWB), against Orange County, Virginia. This legal action concerns the approval of the massive Wilderness Crossing project, which would allow up to 5,000 residential units and extensive development of more than 800 acres for commercial and industrial uses. Nearly 750 acres could be occupied by data centers and distribution warehouses,



all situated just across Route 3 from the site where 160,000 Union and Confederate soldiers fought in May 1864 during one of the most significant battles of the Civil War.

In this instance, the judge sustained four of seven complaints, allowing the case to move forward, despite objections from the County and developers. The litigation is ongoing.

From the CVBT Newsletter, April 2026

**CIVIL WAR QUOTES  
WHO SAID IT?**

1. “The Father of Waters again goes unvexed to the sea.”
2. “The country here looks very green and pretty, notwithstanding the ravages of war. What a beautiful world God, in His loving kindness to His creatures, has given us. What a shame that men endowed with reason and knowledge of right should mar His gifts.”

3. "Ifs defeated the Confederacy at Shiloh. There is little doubt that we should have been disgracefully beaten *if* all the shells and bullets fired by us had passed harmlessly over the enemy and *if* all of theirs had taken effect."
4. "Jackson places no value on human life, caring for nothing so much as fighting, unless he is praying."
5. "Don't duck; they couldn't hit an elephant at this distance."

*Answers on Page 6*

## **WAR HORSES**

Approximately three million... that's how many horses and mules traveled with the Union and Confederate armies during the Civil War, some carrying the most well-known military minds on their backs. During this tumultuous period, horses provided mobility, power and support to soldiers on and off the battlefield. As the primary mode of transportation for cavalry and artillery units, these draft animals were the first on the field from Bull Run to Appomattox Court House, allowing units to be swiftly deployed and positioned strategically. They transported supplies, equipment and wounded soldiers, giving armies the ability to sustain their operations and maintain their fighting strength.

Strong and fast steeds also were a means for relaying make-or-break communication during the war. Dispatch riders galloped across the front lines, delivering crucial messages and orders between commanders and troops.

But, in considering the great impact that horses had during the Civil War, it begs the question: Who were the steeds carrying those larger-than-life figures that history books will never forget?

### **CINCINNATI**

Shortly after the Battle of Chattanooga, Ulysses S. Grant was gifted a

chestnut-colored horse to whom he took an immediate liking. Named Cincinnati, he deemed the horse his favorite by the time of the 1864 Overland Campaign.

Cincinnati hailed from a distinguished family. His father, Lexington, was recorded as the country's fastest four-mile Thoroughbred. Cincinnati was well suited for combat; many observers remarked on the horse's love for the sound of battle. During the war, only three men were allowed to ride Cincinnati: 1) Grant himself, 2) Grant's childhood friend, and 3) President Abraham Lincoln. When Lincoln visited Grant's headquarters at City Point, Virginia, the president rode Cincinnati to and from meetings.



Cincinnati was present when Lee surrendered his army at Appomattox and carried the victorious Grant away to a grateful

nation. Grant had to turn down several offers to buy his beloved horse; one such offer totaled \$10,000 (which is the approximate equivalent of \$188,000 today). When Grant was elected President of the United States, Cincinnati came to the White House with his owner. The pair remained inseparable until old age dictated that Grant send Cincinnati to the farm of his old friend Admiral David Ammen. Cincinnati lived out the rest of his days in Maryland until he passed away in 1878.

### **TRAVELLER**

Perhaps one of the most famous horses of the Civil War, Traveller was born in Greenbrier County, West Virginia. At birth in 1857, Traveller did not yet have his famous name; instead he went by "Jeff Davis," an homage to, at the time, the United States' Secretary of War, Jefferson Davis.

As a colt, Traveller took first place at fairs in Lewisburg, Virginia, in both 1859 and 1860. This was unsurprising, given that Traveller's father, Grey Eagle, had won some \$20,000 at the Kentucky State Fair in previous years. When the American Civil War broke out the following year, Traveller was purchased from his original owners by Capt. Joseph M. Broun of Governor Henry Wise's 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry in Western Virginia. Broun renamed the horse "Greenbriar." Soon, Robert E. Lee arrived to inspect the soldiers in the mountains; he was commander of all Virginia forces and a full Confederate general.

General Lee took a liking to the horse, and he soon purchased Greenbriar from Broun in the spring of 1862. For the entire war, Lee rode

Traveller into battle until he rode away from the McLean

house after surrendering his army at Appomattox. After the war, Traveller followed Lee into retirement at Washington College, later Washington and Lee University. Traveller died a year after his longtime rider and is buried just yards away from him in Lee Chapel.

From ABT website,  
August 2023



### Answers to "Civil War Quotes"

1. Abraham Lincoln after the fall of Vicksburg, August 26, 1863
2. Robert E. Lee in a letter to his wife, Mary, June 8, 1863
3. Ulysses S. Grant, *Personal Memoirs, Vol. 1*, 1885
4. George E. Pickett in a letter to his future wife, Sally, October 11, 1862
5. Maj. Gen. John Sedgwick, just before he was killed by a sharpshooter, May 9, 1864, during the Battle of Spotsylvania

**A WARM WELCOME  
TO OUR NEW MEMBER**

**WAYNE SMITH**

### UPCOMING MEETINGS

**July 14:** *Frank O'Reilly, Retreat from Victory: The Battle of Malvern Hill and the End of the Seven Days, July 1, 1862*

**August 11:** *Dr. Charles Fennell, The Restoration of Culp's Hill: The Sad State of Historical Preservation at Gettysburg National Military Park*

**September 8:** *Melissa Winn, Grant's Conscience: The Unique Camaraderie Between Ulysses S. Grant and his Chief of Staff John Rawlins*

**October 13:** *Troy Harman, How Did Technology Shape North and South in the Lead-up to War as well as Shape Wartime Strategies*

**November 10:** (Annual Dinner Meeting) *Dr. William C. "Jack" Davis, Jefferson Davis and R.E. Lee, A Model Relationship?*

**December 8:** *Hampton Newsome, Gettysburg's Southern Front: Opportunity and Failure at Richmond*

**Attendance at May Meeting: 75**