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RICHMOND CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

NOVEMBER 2025

"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

November 11, 2025
ANNUAL DINNER MEETING
6:00 p.m.

Willow Oaks Country Club
6228 Forest Hill Avenue
Richmond, VA 23225

DR. JONATHAN WHITE

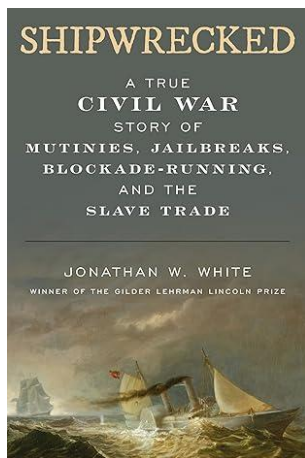
**"Shipwrecked: A True Civil War Story
of Mutinies, Jailbreaks, Blockade-
Running and the Slave Trade"**



We welcome Dr. Jonathan W. White as this year's dinner meeting speaker. Dr. White will be speaking on *Shipwrecked: A True Civil War Story of Mutinies, Jailbreaks, Blockade-Running, and the Slave Trade.*"

White's talk will explore the extraordinary lengths the Lincoln Administration went to destroy the illegal transatlantic slave trade during the Civil War. Using the previously unknown story of a nineteenth-century sailor named Appleton Oaksmith as a lens, White will show the various steps that Abraham Lincoln and his Secretary of State, William H. Seward, took to forever stop illegal slavers – including using the suspension of habeas corpus, the use of civil courts, and an international kidnapping scheme.

A professor of American studies at Christopher Newport University, White is the author or editor of 21 books that cover a variety of topics related to Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War. In addition to *Shipwrecked*, his books include: *A House Built by Slaves: African*



American Visitors to the Lincoln White House (2022), which was co-winner of the

Gilder-Lehrman Lincoln Prize with Jon Meacham; *A Great and Good Man: Rare First-hand Accounts and Observations of Abraham Lincoln* (2024); a children's book, *My Day with Abe Lincoln* (2024);

and *Measuring the Man: The Writings of Frederick Douglass on Abraham Lincoln* (2025).

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Ulli Baumann, 2022 and 2023 Round Table President, was born in Germany so it is understandable she does not have a family connection to the American Civil War. However, her interest was sparked, when, as a teen, she first read and later watched with her

mother a German-dubbed version of "Gone With The Wind." She found the era interesting.

In 1968, Ulli followed her dream and immigrated to America, and in 1975 she got a job in New York City working as a bilingual assistant in the fabric importing business. Her daily train ride provided an excellent opportunity to delve into the study of the Civil War. Her first reading selection was an excellent one, Bruce Catton's Trilogy on the Army of the Potomac. This series is still among her favorites.

After her marriage to Daniel, they moved to Pittsburgh and the Gettysburg Remembrance Day event was a much anticipated annual trip. Additionally, each year while Dan attended a conference in California, Ulli would take her three children to a Civil War battlefield. Family favorites included Gettysburg, Antietam and Fredericksburg.

In 1991, Ulli joined the Western Pennsylvania Civil War Round Table. It was at one of their seminars that Ulli met Allison Barash. The two like-minded women recognized a need for a Round Table in the North Hills area of Pittsburgh. Together they created the Greater Pittsburgh Civil War Round Table. Both were in Pittsburgh this past August to celebrate the Round Table's 25th anniversary.

Dan retired in 2015 and it was at Ulli's request that they moved to Richmond. "We didn't know anyone but I wanted to move here because of all the history in the area, both Civil War and Revolutionary War."

Ulli's favorite author/historian is Gary Gallagher. She first met him when she recruited him as a speaker in 2020. Recently, she was on one of his battlefield tours during the Civil War Institute at Gettysburg College. "It's his personality. He's so approachable, very personable and he also has a great sense of humor."

Her favorite local historian is Bobby Krick who shares many of the same attributes as Gallagher. "Bobby is an amazing historian, always helpful, very humble especially with all the accolades he gets. He's just a great person."

Ulli also wants to recognize the expertise of all the Licensed Battlefield Guides at Gettysburg. Living 28 years in Pittsburgh and nine years in Lancaster, Dan was never surprised to hear Ulli say, "I'm going to Gettysburg." Why so strong an attachment to this battlefield? "You never stop learning, there's so much to delve into over those three days."

Grant is Ulli's favorite Civil War personality. "He was a brilliant general. Although some called him a butcher, he possessed a kind nature. He showed respect toward Lee and kindness to Lee's men at the surrender." Therefore, it is no surprise Grant's memoirs is her favorite book. "He was a great writer, especially considering the circumstances. He was dying of cancer, but he was determined to complete the book." Other favorites are Kent Masterson Brown's "Meade at Gettysburg" and E. Porter Alexander's "Fighting for the Confederacy."

Ulli has several treasured pieces in her Civil War collection, including a First Edition set of Grant's Memoirs she found in an antiquarian bookshop in Lancaster. Also, an Enfield Rifle with the inscription "Tower 1861" and a crown engraved in it, and a cavalry saber, both birthday gifts from Dan. Another treasure is a hand-written note by Chamberlain on the side of an envelope addressed to him and given to her by David and Audrey Ladd, editors of "The Bachelder Papers." Ulli met the couple at the 20th Maine monument on Little Round Top during a seminar in Gettysburg. Bachelder is considered the first historian of the Battle of Gettysburg as he collected all the reports after the battle.

Ulli visited Bowdoin College in 1992 before the movie "Gettysburg" came out. She asked to see the Chamberlain papers and was actually allowed to hold the originals in her hand. Dan said, "You can just slip them in your purse." Years later, visiting David and Audrey in Massachusetts on her way to Maine she was given the Chamberlain envelope with David saying, "Why don't you slip this in your purse."

Serving as president for two years, Ulli has many memorable experiences, but the one that means the most was the award of a RCWRT Lifetime Membership. "It was totally unexpected as I had not been a member that long. I consider it an incredible honor."

Ulli's thoughts on the future of the RCWRT are very positive. "Attendance is solid. We can offer great speakers to our members as speakers want to come to the second oldest Round Table in the country."

Thank you, Ulli, for not only this interview but your encouragement from the moment I volunteered to serve as your Second VP. It was a risk to sign on a new member of just one month. While traveling together to Culpeper for the reinterment of A.P. Hill, a "Grant Girl" and a "JEB Girl" discovered a bond of friendship that is a true treasure to me.

Billie

DANNY WITT'S WESTERN BATTLEFIELDS TOUR – CONT'D.

We are continuing Danny's report this month with three more battlefields he visited on his recent camping trip.

MILL SPRINGS, KENTUCKY, January 19, 1862

Nine days later and 148 miles from the Battle of Middle Creek, the next significant battle in Kentucky occurred when Union General George H. Thomas defeated the Confederates led by General Felix Zollicoffer, killing Zollicoffer in the process. This victory broke a Confederate defensive line and opened the way for the Union invasion of Tennessee, marking the first Union victory of the Civil War. The total of 814 casualties in one battle was the highest up to this point of the war.

Mill Springs National Monument is relatively new at this point and is still waiting on a film explaining the battle, some gift shop items, and a park brochure, but they do have a map you can follow and the museum is excellent. The visitor center is located next to the Mill Springs National

Cemetery, but to see the battlefield you have to drive in two directions. The battlefield is located three miles away and in my opinion this is the only thing worth seeing, as it is the main part of the battle. Located in Zollicoffer Park is the spot where he was killed; the tree he was laid against is marked by a new tree, as the original blew over. The base of that tree is now in the visitor center. There are also trails and signage here. If you continue the remaining eight miles you come to last stand hill and eventually the ferry crossing that is not in operation at this time and there is nothing left to see.

To see the only two houses that were standing at the time of the battle you must go back where you came from and another twenty miles in the opposite direction to cross the river, ending at the ferry you couldn't cross. The Brown-Lanier House served as a headquarters, and the West-Metcalf House was a headquarters and POWs were briefly held here. Both houses are on National Park land, and the Brown-Lanier House is open on Saturdays.

PEA RIDGE, ARKANSAS, March 7-8, 1862

23,000 soldiers fought here to decide the fate of Missouri. Union General Samuel Curtis defeated Confederate General Earl Van Dorn. At the end of two days the Federal losses were 1,384 with the Confederate loss at 2,000, which included General Ben McCulloch and General James McIntosh. According to the National Park's page this battle was the most pivotal battle in the Trans Mississippi.

After a visit to the recently renovated visitor center, which includes an excellent film of the battle, museum, and gift shop, be sure to take the seven-mile driving tour. From Stop 7 take a short walk to East Overlook where you can see almost the entire battlefield, and at Stop 8 you can walk to the rebuilt Elkhorn Tavern. Don't forget to check out the elk horns on top of the tavern. Both sides used it as a field hospital during the battle and the Confederates later burned it down. This well-marked, well-cared-for

battlefield is a pleasure to tour; be prepared to spend at least a half a day here.

RICHMOND, KENTUCKY, August 29-30, 1862

Two important people in this battle were Confederate Brig. General Patrick Cleburne (Stonewall of the West), and Union General William "Bull" Nelson, murdered later in the war. The armies were close in number of soldiers at the start, but Confederate casualties were only 451, while the Union's were 5,353. Needless to say, a Confederate victory.

The Richmond Battlefield visitor center/museum is more of the latter than former. It is self-serve, but there is plenty of information inside and out, with a good interactive map that explains the movements

of the battle very well. The film gives a good explanation, as well as showing you



the map again. Each room of the six-room house is full to the brim of things to see. You can pick up a driving tour of the battlefield here. At this point you are in the middle of the battlefield in a house that was there during the battle.

A short drive to the south brings you to Mt. Zion Church, used as a field hospital during the battle. Continuing south you come to Battlefield Park with trails across the battlefield, and Pleasant View, a house that stood at the time of the battle, which you can tour and has a gift shop. The Union retreated North into the town of Richmond, where most of the army was captured. I didn't drive there, but the tour map marks places of interest that are still standing. For information on when Pleasant View is open or to arrange a tour of the battlefield, call 859-624-0013. I would not hesitate to revisit this battlefield or arrange a tour. I enjoyed what I saw.

To be concluded in December's newsletter

**A WALKING TOUR
OF HOLLYWOOD CEMETERY
by Andy Keller**

I encourage you to visit Hollywood Cemetery. Find where Jefferson Davis, JEB Stuart and George Pickett are buried. Look for your own ancestors, if they are buried there but also walk among these graves of these common soldiers.

You might start by parking at the bottom of the hill next to the maintenance buildings. From there take the shaded path along the old cemetery road up the hill with SS A on your right and SS B on your left. Not many people travel this way. One of the first headstones you will see on your left is not a marker that the government would provide, but what a family could say themselves in granite.

G.L. HEATH
LANCASTER GREYS, 9. S.C. REGIMENT
VOLUNTEERED IN DEFENSE OF THE SOUTH
AFTER SHE HAD BEEN DENIED HER
CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS IN THE UNION
BORN 1837
DIED IN RICHMOND, VA
NOV 19, 1861

Read the other names – names that on the newer headstones are revealed for the first time. Names that may have been forgotten even by their families. Note when they died. See if you notice any trends such as the dates flowing as you move from one section to another. These simple markers will first show their names. In some cases, their full names were not known, and only an initial is provided for the first name. Most were Privates so their rank is left blank. Then comes the military unit in which they served with their Company and Regiment. The next piece of information, if available, would be their date of birth. Often no birth clues were included in their records, so it might have to be left blank. Often, I was lucky enough to find them in the 1850 or 1860 census and thus get an estimate for their year of birth.

As you progress up the hill, note how many graves are still unmarked. No usable space here was left unused so dozens of these graves around you are still unmarked. Once you reach the top of the hill you are at Soldiers' Section K, and the situation changes drastically. Look to your right down the slope to Soldiers' Sections H and I. This is what SS K looked like in 2018. Walk along the eastern edge of this section and see if you can find the 1865 death date on one of the headstones (Lot 34). You will be looking at the grave of one of the last soldiers to die in the war from wounds. On the opposite side of this section is the grave of Pvt. Wyatt, the first soldier to die in the war. Consider the irony of them being buried so close together or was Pvt. Horace Johnson buried here just for that reason.

Now continue walking west with the Pyramid to your right. SS L and P is on your left and SS Q is on your right, but at the very end of SS Q is another privately funded monument next to a granite line marker Q 303. Graves in this section only number up to 301. His inscription reads:

“In memory of Charles Harris McPhail.
A native of Norfolk, Va., and a member of Co. G
6th Reg. Va. Vol. He fell in the battle's front
July 1st 1862 in the 25th year of his age while
gallantly charging the enemy at MALVERN HILL.
A devout and humble Christian, a brave and
faithful soldier, he here makes his last bivouac
with thousands of other martyred sons
of the South who sleep around him.
Rest on, embalmed and sainted dead!
Dear as the blood ye gave,
Fear not that impious foot shall tread
The herbage of your grave;
Your glory shall not be forgot
While fame her record keeps,
Or Honour points the hallowed spot
Where valour proudly sleeps.”

This spot is the most prominent in the Confederate section, which likely influenced the family's choice. With every other grave, the resting space was chosen efficiently by when they died and where the graves were being dug

at the time. Unfortunately for the family he was not buried here, but across Confederate Avenue on the very edge of the Confederate section at the end of SS M next to what is now the chain link fence separating the cemetery from Clarke Springs Elementary School, now one of the very worst looking areas of the cemetery. This monument is called a cenotaph, but it still achieves its goal of calling attention to their loved one and his sacrifice.

Even in the areas that we have completed marking, you will still find headstones apparently missing. This is normally because there was not enough information on the soldier to order a headstone, the information was inconsistent, perhaps there was not a Fold3 record for them (some died before they could even stand for their first muster), the burial records for many were either lost or their names were not adequately recorded or they were among the 189 who were claimed by their families and later taken back home for burial.

Most of these soldiers died within six months from the time they enlisted, but they traveled many miles from their homes to serve in a cause in which they believed. They freely joined and were prepared to die for their country, but they had no idea it would be so soon and mostly from disease rather than battle. However, they did perish, and now, more than 160 years after the end of the war, we are finally remembering and honoring them for upholding their principles and the constitution as they understood it. Or, as Pvt. Heath's family phrased it, who "VOLUNTEERED IN DEFENSE OF THE SOUTH AFTER SHE HAD BEEN DENIED HER CONSITUTIONAL RIGHTS IN THE UNION." It is our duty never to forget any American veteran.



FIELD TRIP 2025

Nineteen members of the Round Table enjoyed a beautiful day touring the Brandy Station and Cedar Mountain battlefields on October 18, ending with a guided tour at the fantastic Graffiti House. Many thanks to our wonderful guide, Greg Mertz, and special thanks to our expert drivers, Dale Harter and Danny Witt.



LAST MEETING IN 2025

December 9: Dr. Elizabeth Varon, "Loyalty and Dissent in the Civil War Era: The Strange Careers of Elizabeth Van Lew, Joseph T. Wilson, and James Longstreet"

Attendance at October Meeting: 81