



Founded at Fort Harrison
on February 8, 1951

www.richmondcwrt.org
www.facebook.com/richmondcwrt

Dale Harter, President
540-908-7188
harterdf@gmail.com

Ulli Baumann, First VP
412-398-3324
ullib1101@gmail.com

Christine Wynd, Second VP
216-780-8177
Cwynd60@gmail.com

Art Wingo, Treasurer
804-516-7508
Art_and_Diane@comcast.net

Andy Keller, Secretary
804-382-6605
secretary.rcwrt@gmail.com

Directors (2026):
Billie Raines
Doug Crenshaw
Jack Mountcastle
Danny Witt

Editor/Website: Ulli Baumann
412-398-3324
ullib1101@gmail.com

RICHMOND CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

JANUARY 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

JANUARY 13, 2026

**VIA ZOOM and at
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
6000 Grove Avenue
Richmond, VA 23226**

**(From the parking lot, enter the church
through the double glass doors and follow
signs to the Large Fellowship Hall)**

STEVE PHAN

**"Birthplace of Liberty:
Camp Nelson and the Civil War"**



Camp Nelson was established in 1863 as a US Army fortified base, supply depot, and hospital. Camp Nelson also served as a recruitment post and refugee camp for white Unionists fleeing Confederate occupation in East Tennessee. The following year, the base evolved to become one of the country's largest recruitment and training centers for African American soldiers during the Civil War and served as a refugee camp for their wives and children.



nation's struggle to define the meaning of freedom during and after the Civil War.

Camp Nelson National Monument became the 418th unit of the National Park Service in October 2018.

Steve T. Phan is a Park Ranger and serves as the Chief of Interpretation at Camp Nelson National Monument. He has also worked at the Civil War Defenses of Washington, Charles Young Buffalo Soldiers National Monument, Rock Creek Park, Hopewell Culture National Historical Park, Stones River National Battlefield, Richmond National Battlefield Park, and Gettysburg National Military Park. A military history scholar of the Civil War era, Phan's research focuses on military occupation, operational command, African American soldiers and refugees, and fortifications during the Civil War. He was nominated for the National Park Service Tilden Award for Excellence in Interpretation for the National Capital Region in 2019 and 2020, and the Excellence in Interpretation Individual Award for the

Camp Nelson represents the courage and determination of formerly enslaved African Americans to secure their own emancipation. It also illustrates the

Southeast Region in 2025. He holds a master's degree in American History from Middle Tennessee State University.

ZOOM INSTRUCTIONS

<https://tinyurl.com/ye2853w7>

MEETING ID: 859 7712 0678

PASSCODE: 384130

We recommend that you sign in 5-10 minutes before the meeting starts to be sure your equipment is working and review some of the features. However, we hope to see many of you at the church to view the presentation on the "big screen."

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

What is your Civil War story? When did you first catch the bug and how? What are some of the moments in your life that stand out when you think about why you love the study of the Civil War so much?

I will never forget the first time I met the late Nick Picerno, Civil War historian, preservationist, and campus police chief at Bridgewater College. It was June 2006, and I had just begun working as the college's archivist and museum director. As I was sitting in the Special Collections Reading Room in the basement of the college library one morning, the light that was coming through the doorway to the room was suddenly blotted out by a large imposing figure in a police uniform. I looked up and said, "You must be Chief Picerno." He replied, "Police officer is my hobby. The Civil War is my profession." Now, that's Civil War love.

I don't recall if Nick ever told me how he first fell in love with the Civil War, but I'm sure he had a story to tell. My Civil War story began when I was very young,

probably five or six years old. My mother started buying me books in the Random House Step-Up Books series, one of which was called "Meet Robert E. Lee" and another was called "Meet Abraham Lincoln." I still have both of these well-worn and well-loved books.

Around the same time, my grandmother told me about her two grandfathers who had fought in the Confederate Army. James W. Stidley served in the 33rd Virginia Infantry (Stonewall Brigade), and Jacob L. Hepner rode with the 7th Virginia Cavalry (Laurel Brigade). Although she did not have stories to share, she did give me three buttons from Stidley's uniform. She also left me a photo of Stidley and his wife Mary, who appears to be wearing the gutta percha ring he made while a prisoner-of-war at Fort Delaware.

Fourth grade for many kids in Rockingham County during the 1970s included a field trip to New Market Battlefield and the Hall of Valor. I will never forget that visit: the interactive exhibits and films ("New Market... A Field of Honor" and "Stonewall's Valley"), walking the ground where the VMI cadets fought, and visiting the Bushong House. Although the films were not cinematic masterpieces, they stuck in my boyhood imagination. On more than one occasion after the field trip, I would walk through the pasture behind my grandma's house, imagining I was following the VMI flag just like the cadets did in the museum film.

Several years after the field trip, my great-uncle Jones started taking me to battlefields during the summer. The night before the first trip to Appomattox, he gave me my first adult book about the war, *I Rode With Stonewall*, by Henry Kyd Douglas. After Appomattox, he took me to the Casemate Museum at Fort Monroe, Petersburg and The Crater, and Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville, where I bought my first adult Civil War

book, *JEB Stuart: The Last Cavalier*, by Burke Davis. Like my Step-Up books, both of these still live on my bookshelf.

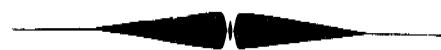
I finished my adolescent years by dragging my high school girlfriend (and the person I was convinced was "The One"), to battlefields, museums, and houses in Virginia in 1980-1981. We traipsed up and down the Valley and over the Blue Ridge to Richmond and beyond. I was reading *Lee's Lieutenants*, by Douglas Southall Freeman, at that time and became enamored by Brig. Gen. Raleigh Colston, or at least his name. My girlfriend and I visited his grave in Hollywood Cemetery and promised to name our first-born son after him. More than 40 years have passed since that visit, and I'm still interested in Colston and the Civil War. The girlfriend? Not so much.



Dale at Mosby Monument in Warrenton

That's part of my Civil War story, and I don't think I have written the last chapter just yet. What's yours? During the coming year, I hope some of you will share your story in this newsletter about how you came to love and still love to learn about the most important episode in American History. Just send it to Ulli at ullib1101@gmail.com.

And finally, thank you for allowing me to serve as Round Table president in 2026. Looking forward to the ride.



ANNUAL DUES NOTICE

Dues are due and should be paid to the Secretary by February 15, 2026. The dues are \$35 for individuals, and \$45 for Couples living at the same address.

You may pay your dues in person to Andy Keller at the meeting or send a check –



made out to
Richmond CWRT –

to Andy Keller,
9701 Fireside Drive, Glen Allen, VA 23060.
As an added convenience you may also pay
your dues via Venmo to **Leroy-Keller-3**. If
you pay in cash, please have the exact
amount and wait for a receipt.

Please note: Our January and February speakers are presenting via Zoom, but, weather permitting, we will still meet in person.

ANNUAL ELECTIONS

At the December 2025 meeting our annual elections were held and the results for 2026 are as follows:

President: Dale Harter

First Vice President: Ulli Baumann

Second Vice President: Christine Wynd

Treasurer: Art Wingo

Secretary: Andy Keller

Directors:

Billie Raines

Doug Crenshaw

Jack Mountcastle

Danny Witt

**A WARM WELCOME TO OUR
NEW MEMBER:**

BOB JENVEY

CIVIL WAR QUOTES

WHO SAID IT?

1. "Were the thing to be done over again, I would do as I then did. Disappointments have not changed my convictions."
2. "It don't hurt a bit to be shot in a wooden leg."
3. "Success and glory are in the advance, disaster and shame lurk in the rear."
4. "From the time I took command till today, I have not had a regular night's rest, and many nights not a wink of sleep, and for several days did not even wash my face and hands, no regular food, and all the time in a state of mental anxiety. Indeed, I think I have lived as much in this time as in the last thirty years."
5. "Dance away, young ladies, half of these young men will be dead or wounded next week."

Answers on Page 6

EVENTS OF INTEREST

February 13-15: "Relationships Forged in War," The American Civil War Museum's 2026 Symposium at Tredegar, this year offering two caravan battlefield tours (the Overland Campaign on Friday, February 13, and the Appomattox Campaign on Sunday, February 15). Speakers on Saturday, February 14, include Dr. Brandi Brimmer, Dr. William C. "Jack" Davis, Dr. Caroline Janney, Dr. Lindsay Privette, and Dr. Jonathan White.

To register, go to acwm.org.

March 21: Central Virginia Battlefields Trust (CVBT) Spring Seminar, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. – "No Backwards Steps – From North Anna to Petersburg." The event is held at the Tabernacle United Methodist Church in Fredericksburg. Speakers include Chris

Mackowski, A. Wilson Greene, Mike Gorman, and Dr. Jennifer Murray.

To register, go to cvbt.org/events. The event sells out quickly, so register now.

April 4: Petersburg Battlefields Foundation, Re-scheduled driving tour – “Hidden in Plain Sight – Part Deux” – 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., at the Eastern Front of Petersburg National Battlefield. Tickets will go on sale in February.

June 12-17: Civil War Institute at Gettysburg College 2026 Summer Conference, with Dennis Frye, Jennifer Murray, Jonathan White, Andrew Lawler, Jim Broomall, Lesley Gordon, Timothy Orr, Jim Hessler, and more. Topics include “Antietam Re-Assessed,” “The 1869 Gettysburg Reunion,” “The Battle of Chickamauga,” “The Post-War Lives of 20th Maine Veterans,” “U.S. Grant and the Ku Klux Klan,” and much more.

For more information and to register, go to Gettysburg.edu/civil-war-institute.

**FROM THE ROUND TABLE
ARCHIVES**
RCWRT BULLETIN
Volume II Issue 4 – April 1959

Trials of Command in a Retreating Army

“The discussion period that followed at the conclusion of the formal paper at the April meeting (Some Incidents of the Last Days of the Army of Northern Virginia) was distinguished by its liveliness, an unusual number of sage comments and observations, first-hand anecdotes heretofore unpublished from two of our members whose fathers were in Lee’s retreating army, and a fine mixture of wit and badinage.

Grant’s magnanimity and evident humaneness in his overture to Lee

suggesting surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia, initiated three days before Lee could bring himself to his surrender decision, is worthy of a longer footnote than most historians have accorded the matter. Lee’s somewhat summary, if not arbitrary, dismissal of Generals Richard Anderson, Bushrod Johnston and Pickett from the army on the eve of the surrender poses an interesting question on which further research might lead to clarification if not apology.

Whether those men of the Army of Northern Virginia who left the ranks between April 2 and April 9 were in any reasonable sense properly classified as deserters, as many of the regimental rolls so noted, is a highly debatable question,

academic though it may be 100 years after the event.”

**Round Table
Members**

Appointed to Centennial Committees

“Six members of a seven man committee, designated by Richmond’s Mayor Anderson on April 16 to plan for the City’s participation in the Civil War Centennial, are members of the Richmond Round Table. They are: Messrs. J. Ambler Johnston, Fletcher Cox, Jr., C. Hobson Goddin, William H. Stauffer, Robert C. Throckmorton, and Robert W. Waitt, Jr.

Fellow members J. Ambler Johnston and Samuel J. Moore, Jr. were, on the same day, appointed to the 21 member Advisory Council of the Virginia State Commission.

Mr. N.E. Warriner, one of our charter RCWRT members, has been engaged by the State Commission to prepare a listing of Civil War military actions that occurred on Virginia soil."

BEING WOUNDED

"What does this mean?"

Carey Smith, 21st Mississippi Infantry, On realizing that his chest was covered In blood during the Battle of Savage's Station. As recorded in a comrade's memoir of the war. Smith then "instantly died," wrote his comrade. "He had been mortally wounded without knowing when."

"One of the thoughts that made it seem particularly hard to die was the recollection of several fair damsels whom I wasn't quite ready to leave."

Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr., 20th Massachusetts Infantry, on what he pondered in the moments after being wounded in the chest at the October 1861 Battle of Ball's Bluff, in an undated diary entry.

"As I fell a Minie Ball fired but a rod away in my front just grazed my forehead, torn through my upper lip crushing both jaws and carrying away eleven teeth, the most painless dentistry I ever had done."

Lemuel Abijah Abbott, 10th Vermont Infantry, in his diary about being shot in the face at the Third Battle of Winchester, September 19, 1864. Abbott had been falling to the ground after being hit in the chest by "the butt end of an exploding shell."

From *The Civil War Monitor*,
Winter 2025

Answers to "Civil War Quotes"

1. Jefferson Davis
2. Lieut. Gen. Richard S. Ewell
3. Maj. Gen. John Pope

4. Maj. Gen. George G. Meade
5. Maj. Gen. J.E.B. Stuart

UPCOMING MEETINGS

February 10:* **Dr. Gary Gallagher**, *The Best Confederate Memoirist: Porter Alexander's Two Influential Books*

March 10: **Wayne Motts**, *Lee's Maryland Brigadier: The Life and Times of Confederate General James J. Archer*

April 14: **Rick Hatcher**, *Fort Sumter: "This Work is the Key to the Entrance of This Harbor"*

May 12: **Jim Hessler**, *Lee's Other Lieutenants: Richard Ewell and A.P. Hill on July 1 at Gettysburg*

June 9: **Cory Pfarr**, *Longstreet at Gettysburg: The Allure and Endurance of the "Lee Intended" Arguments*

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:** **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*

*Zoom Meetings

** Dinner Meeting

Attendance at December Meeting: 62