



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

OCTOBER 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

**OCTOBER 13, 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)**

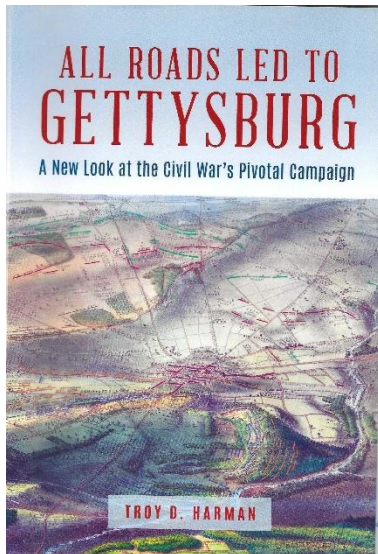
TROY HARMAN

**"All Roads Led To
Gettysburg: A New Look at the
Civil War's Pivotal Campaign"**



Troy Harman's presentation is on how all strategic decisions during the Gettysburg Campaign and all tactical decisions during the Gettysburg Battle revolved on the location of water, rail, and roads (more so than hilltops), and that all three, along with principles of war largely influenced where and how the battle would be fought.

Once the battle started, Harman argues, the blue and gray fought tactically for the two creeks – Marsh and Rock, essential for watering men and horses and sponging artillery – that mark the battlefield in the west and the east as well as for the



roadways that led to Gettysburg from all points of the compass. This is a perspective often overlooked in many accounts of the battle, which focus on the high ground – The Round Tops,

Cemetery Hill – as key tactical objectives.

Troy Harman worked for 40 years as a National Park Service ranger at various sites, including Appomattox Court House National Historic Park, Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park, Independence National Historical Park, and Gettysburg National Military Park, where he was one of the battlefield's most popular and engaging rangers. Harman earned a PhD in History from Lehigh University and has been teaching for 12 years at Penn State World Campus. He has also taught history evenings at Delaware Valley University in

2016, and has lectured history for 15 years at Harrisburg Area Community College. He is the author of three books: *Cemetery Hill: The General Plan was Unchanged* (2002); *Lee's Real Plan at Gettysburg* (2003); and *All Roads Led to Gettysburg* (2022), the subject of this talk.

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

A Hidden Gem in the Valley Could Use Your Help

Several weeks ago, a post from an old friend in the Shenandoah Valley popped up in my Facebook feed. Casey Billheimer is a Civil War/local historian, a dedicated antique and bottle collector, and the driving force behind the Miller-Kite House Museum, located on 310 E. Rockingham Street, in Elkton, at the foot of the Blue Ridge Mountains. The house, which was built in 1827 by the grandson of one of the Valley's earliest settlers, served as Stonewall Jackson's headquarters, April 19-30, 1862, during his famous Valley Campaign. It is owned by the Elkton Historical Society, which Casey also spearheads.

Casey's post contained some unfortunate news about the house. On September 4, a severe storm hit the Elkton area and caused major harm to the house's 1848 addition. Although water didn't enter the house, a section of the chimney fell onto the roof, damaging the main roof beams and supports and collapsing the ceiling in one of the rooms.

I contacted Casey to get a better sense of the storm's effects and how much it would cost for repairs. He said it appears that the roof will need to be removed and most of the main room beams and supports replaced. The estimated price tag for the repairs is \$25,000, which is a hefty sum for a small, nonprofit organization.

I am writing this because I know that the conservation and preservation of Civil War sites is near and dear to many of us. Unfortunately, small, more obscure places like

the Miller-Kite House sometimes don't appear on our preservation radar as often as battlefields do. The historical significance of the house complements that of the battlefields where Jackson and his men defeated Union forces commanded by Nathaniel Banks, John Fremont, Robert Milroy, and James Shields.

As noted on the house's Civil War Trails marker, the house was "a beehive of activity with the arrival and departure of couriers and officers including Gens. Edward 'Alleghany' Johnson and Richard S. Ewell as well as mapmaker Jedediah Hotchkiss." The house also witnessed the famous dispute between Jackson and his cavalry chief Col. Turner Ashby over his cavalry's lack of discipline. Today, the house/museum features exhibits and artifacts pertaining to the war in Rockingham County and to the history of the Elkton area.

You may help support the cost of the repairs to the house by sending a check to the Elkton Historical Society, Inc., P.O. Box 1, Elkton, VA 22827. Contributions are tax deductible due to the organization's 501(C)3 status. Even if you cannot make a donation, you should consider a future visit to the house, which is open on Sundays, 1-5 p.m., Memorial Day through Labor Day.

It will also be open Saturday, October 17, 6-8 p.m., for a Halloween/Ghost Investigation fundraiser, hosted by the historical society and Lunar Paranormal Virginia. If you attend, you might get to commune with the ghosts of Stonewall, Alleghany, or Baldy. You probably won't encounter any Union ghosts. They retreated long ago.

Dale

CIVIL WAR QUOTES: WHO SAID IT?

1. "Let no one make you believe we come as invaders, to coerce your will or to exercise control over your soil... We come to test the truth of what we believe to be a foul aspersion, that Kentuckians willingly join the

attempt to subjugate us and to deprive us of our prosperity, our liberty, and our dearest rights."

2. "By some strange operation of magic I seem to have become the power of the land."
3. "General Jackson demanded of his subordinates implicit, blind obedience. He gave orders in his own peculiar, terse, rapid way, and he did not permit them to be questioned. He obeyed his own superiors in the same fashion."
4. "One of the most effective ways of impeding the march of an army is by cutting off its supplies; and this is just as legitimate as to attack in the line of battle."
5. "The first thing in the morning is drill, then drill again. Then drill, drill, a little more drill. Then drill, and lastly drill. Between drills, we drill and sometimes stop to eat a little and have a roll-call."

Answers on Page 6

FIELD TRIP TO THE MARINERS' MUSEUM **NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA**

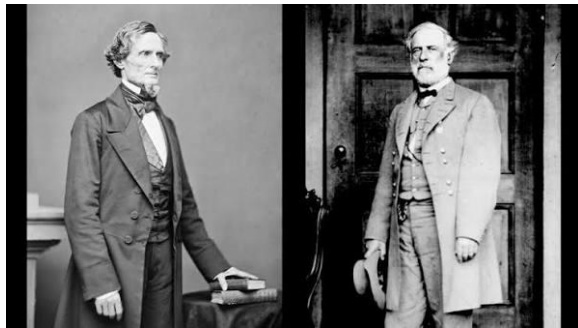
Last call! Please see the attachments to this newsletter with information on how to register for this field trip. Registration will close after our October meeting.



ANNUAL DINNER MEETING

WILLIAM C. "JACK" DAVIS
"Jefferson Davis and R.E. Lee:
A Model Relationship?"

For our annual dinner meeting this year we will try something different. Willow Oaks Country Club is undergoing renovations all year and no events can be held there. So, we arranged with the JCC to hold it in our usual meeting place instead. However, our regular Tuesday in November is not available, so we will have it two days later on **Thursday, November 12, with dinner at 6:00 p.m., and our program beginning at 7:00 p.m.**



Dinner will be catered by Mission BBQ and consist of: Sliced Brisket, Pulled Chicken, Mac-N-Cheese, Cole Slaw, Slider and Cornbread Combo, and four different BBQ Sauces; Kettle Chips, Brownie and Cookie tray; Lemonade and Unsweet Ice Tea. We have also received a one-day Banquet License from the Virginia ABC, so please bring your own bottle (wine or beer). The cost for the dinner is \$40 per person.

More information will be in next month's newsletter, but you may register now by sending a check – **made out to Richmond CWRT** – to Art Wingo, 1414 Patriot Circle, Glen Allen, VA 23059. Or,

you can give your payment to Art at one of the upcoming meetings.

You won't want to miss one of our favorite and much-in-demand speakers, Jack Davis!

EVENTS OF INTEREST

Saturday, November 7: 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (8:30 a.m. check-in) A Civil War Study and Caravan Driving Tour by the Petersburg Battlefields Foundation: *"Hidden in Plain Sight - Part Three,"* unique sites within the Eastern Front you probably have never noticed before at Petersburg National Battlefield. Featuring the Petersburg Project.

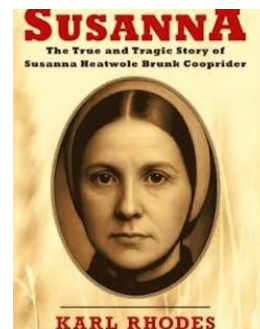
Purchase your tickets for \$30 per person via Eventbrite at www.petebattlefields.org. Deadline is November 4. Tour details will be emailed after ticket purchased.

NEW CIVIL WAR BOOK

As previously mentioned, Round Table member Karl Rhodes recently was featured on Civil War Round Table Congress' author talk where he spoke about his book *Peggy's War*. Here's a link, in case you missed it:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SmOLUxMhIXE>.

Karl has followed *Peggy's War* with another book entitled *Susanna*, the true story of Susanna Heatwole Brunk Coopridger, who was born in the Shenandoah Valley and orphaned at the age of 17. The book covers her entire life, which was extremely tragic.



Both *Peggy's War* and *Susanna* are "creative non-fiction," according to Karl. He connected thousands of historical facts in a narrative that read more like a novel than a history book. Both books are available on Amazon.

THE SPOTSWOOD HOTEL FIRE OF 1870

By Kimberly Whelan

Did you know the 1870 Spotswood Hotel Fire and the 1864 Battle of New Market share something in common?

From newspaper reports, in the early morning hours of Christmas, the Spotswood fire started on the second floor and spread quickly throughout the building. Freezing temperatures hindered fire fighters. Spectators watched as hotel guests leapt from window ledges onto makeshift mattresses, climbed down knotted bed sheets or fell back into burning rooms. Those who lived on the upper fourth and fifth stories tended to be long term residents who would be familiar with the layout of the building. These included the owners of the hotel and their families who lived on the fifth floor. They all survived the fire.



Another fifth floor resident who initially survived was Samuel Hines. During the Civil War,

Hines rose to Captain in the 45th North Carolina Infantry, Company I. He would be captured at Spotsylvania Court House and eventually sent South as part of the “Immortal Six Hundred.” After the war, Hines worked as a clerk, first in Danville, then Richmond. In the 1870 census taken six months before the fire, Hines is listed as a resident of the Spotswood.

Another fifth floor inhabitant was Erastus Ross, former chief clerk of Libby Prison(s) and, thought by some historians, to be part of Elizabeth Van Lew’s unionist spy ring. Because of his room location, Ross may have been a boarder at the hotel, though he does not appear in the census. Contemporary newspaper reports indicated Hines was seen in the lobby where he was unable to obtain help for his friend Ross, still on the fifth floor. Both men knew each other as members of

Knights of Pythias lodge, Old Dominion No. 4, and both shared a background in the clerking profession. If they had talked about the war, what would a Confederate officer with a compelling POW experience have said to a Confederate conscript with known unionist loyalties who may have covertly assisted Federal prisoners?

Hines returned upstairs to save his friend. Some accounts place Hines at a fifth story window begging for help. Regardless, Hines died in the fire along with Ross and six others.

Who recounted the Hines/Ross story for the newspapers is a subject for another day. After a concerted effort to find his remains, Hines was identified by a watch he owned. When the funeral took place on January 4, hundreds of Pythians marched in procession to the church and an honor guard accompanied the remains to North Carolina. Hines was lauded for his “unblemished” service in the Confederate Army and hailed a martyr for sacrificing his life “on the altar of friendship.” His fatal attempt to save a brother Pythian echoed their values of brotherhood and loyalty, making it the perfect vehicle for the six-year-old fraternal organization to attract new members. Forming the Hines Memorial Association, the Pythians of Virginia quickly announced plans to build a suitable monument.

In contrast, the Ross family held a memorial service five days after the fire. What they believed were his remains were found January 12 and later interred in Shockoe Cemetery the following March. All done with little fanfare.

Over the next fifty years newspapers reported plans for a Samuel Hines Memorial Hall to be built in Richmond. Parker’s Battery veteran, former Richmond mayor and high-ranking Pythian, D.C. Richardson, was a long-time vocal supporter for the memorial. Whatever the reasons, it was clear that a Hines memorial was not going to be built in the Virginia capital. Was it due to indecisive leadership? Financial troubles? Or unspoken opposition for something that would indirectly honor a known Southern unionist in a post-reconstruction city?

After considering six Virginia localities (Richmond not being one of them), the Hines Memorial Pythian Home opened in New Market in 1927. At the opening, three thousand attendees stood in front of the former Rice House, the onetime headquarters of Union General Franz

Sigel, and witness to the fighting in 1864. Months prior to the opening, a newspaper reported renovations uncovered war damage including a “dent” in the south wall from an artillery shell which did not penetrate the interior, “when the hole is repaired, a shell will be inserted [.]” The house remained a place for “unfortunate children” of Pythian brothers until 1952 when the orphanage relocated to Bedford, Virginia.



It made sense the Knights of Pythias would select New Market as the final resting spot for a Hines memorial. Both New Market and Samuel Hines were examples of heroic southern deeds.

Today visitors can visit the grounds of the Rice House, a.k.a. Hines Memorial Pythian Home, and view the two-story brick home from the outside. The Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation owns the site and they have plans to preserve the location on Route 11. The inserted shell can still be seen on the south wall.

Note: On a visit in July, it was evident that the Rice House is in need of some TLC. If you are interested in donating, please visit <https://www.shenandoahatwar.org/>.

I am researching Erastus Ross and the Ross family in Richmond. If anyone has any information to share, I would love to talk to you! Please reach out to me, Kim Whelan, at kehwhelan@gmail.com.

*Thanks to Round Table member,
Kim Whelan, for her contribution to the
newsletter*

Answers to ‘Civil War Quotes’

1. CS Maj.Gen. Edmund Kirby Smith, proclamation to the people of Kentucky, August 1862
2. Maj.Gen. George B. McClellan in a letter to his wife, Ellen, July 27, 1861
3. Dr. Hunter McGuire

4. Col. John S. Mosby, *War Reminiscences*, 1887
5. Private Oliver W. Norton in a letter to a friend, October 9, 1861

**A warm welcome to our
new member:**

JOE RIZZO

ACWM LINCOLN PRIZE LECTURE

On October 15, 2026, the annual Lincoln Prize Lecture will take place at the American Civil War Museum’s Tredegar site. This year’s recipient, Dr. Richard Carwardine, will be speaking on his book “Righteous Strife: How Warring Religious Nationalists Forged Lincoln’s Union.”

The ACWM has graciously offered Round Table members to enjoy Dr. Carwardine’s lecture via Livestream FOR FREE. The lecture begins at 7:00 p.m. Here is the link to register (use code FREELIVESTREAM2026 at checkout):

<https://acwm.org/event/2026-lincoln-prize-lecture/>

The link will be mailed to you closer to the event.

SURVEY

Please be on the lookout for the membership survey which will be sent via separate email soon. Print copies will be available at the October meeting.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

November 12: (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 September Meeting: 56