



Founded at Fort Harrison
on February 8, 1951

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RICHMOND CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

AUGUST 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

**August 12, 2025
7:30 p.m.**

**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)

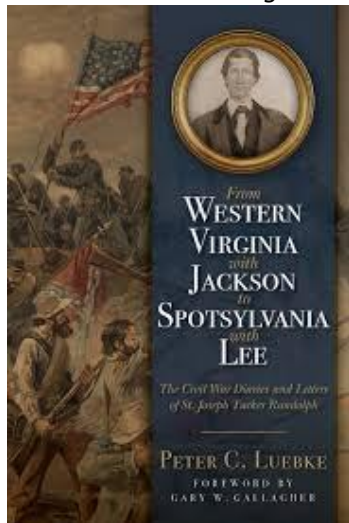
**DR. PETER LUEBKE
“DEATH LOVES A SHINING MARK:
ST. JOSEPH TUCKER RANDOLPH’S
CIVIL WAR”**



Our August meeting features a Richmond native talking about a Richmond native!

Dr. Peter C. Luebke will present “‘Death Loves a Shining Mark’: St. Joseph Tucker Randolph’s Civil War.” Randolph, who began his Civil War career as a corporal in Co. F, 21st Virginia Infantry, saw action in both the Eastern and Western theaters and served on the staff of Henry M. Ashby in Tennessee and John Pegram in Virginia. He was killed May 30, 1864, at the Battle of Bethesda Church (Totopotomoy Creek).

Luebke will discuss Tucker Randolph’s career as an infantryman and staff officer in the Civil War. His talk also will touch upon the work of editing Randolph’s writings, which were preserved by his family and eventually donated to the Museum of the Confederacy. Luebke’s research and editing culminated in his book, *From Western Virginia with Jackson to*



Spotsylvania with Lee: The Civil War Diaries and Letters of St. Joseph Tucker Randolph, published in 2023 by 35th Star Publishing.

A review by Dr. James Broomall, Director of the George Tyler Moore Center for the Study of the Civil War at Shepherd University, noted: “St. Joseph Tucker Randolph’s wartime diaries and letters take readers from the war’s earliest fights in western Virginia to the hard-fought Overland Campaign where he met his end. Ably edited by Peter C. Luebke, Randolph’s writings vividly convey war’s uncertainty while painfully relating the conflict’s impact upon the land and its people. *From Western Virginia with Jackson to Spotsylvania with Lee* is a welcome addition to the rich body of firsthand accounts from the Civil War era.”

Kathryn Shively, author of *Nature’s Civil War*, noted in another review, “While the scope of Tucker’s service was grand, from private to staff officer in both the eastern and western theaters, this is the best account of the storied 21st Virginia Infantry’s early days. Peter C. Luebke edits with an intelligent and respectful regard for the source material, providing rich historical context at satisfying moments and immersing us in Randolph’s world.”

Luebke is the author, editor, co-author, or co-editor of numerous books and articles, as well as several National Register of Historic Places nominations that he completed while working as the Highway Marker Program Historian for the Virginia Department of Historic Resources. He received his undergraduate degree from the College of William and Mary and earned his PhD from the University of Virginia, where he studied under none other than Gary Gallagher.

His book can be purchased before the meeting at <https://35thstar.com/product/from-western-virginia-with-jackson/>. He also will have copies available for sale at the meeting (Peter can take cash, check, or PayPal).

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

This month I had the pleasure of talking with Jerry Netherland, 1998 Richmond Civil War Round Table President. As a young boy, his parents would, on the weekends, take their three sons to nearby Petersburg National Battlefield. As early as age six, Jerry was mesmerized by the cannons, earthworks and museum. The years exploring and playing with his two older brothers on the battlefield created a connection that continues today with Jerry’s involvement with the Petersburg Battlefields Foundation.

When relatives would visit his family in Dinwiddie, a trip to the U.S. Army Quartermaster Museum was often on the agenda. He never tired of seeing the

uniforms, supplies and modes of transportation, especially General Patton's jeep. Jerry stated he is not a historian. He considers himself a Civil War Enthusiast as his license plate clearly states.

Family genealogy traces his connection to the Civil War through Eastern Tennessee and Southwest Virginia. A direct ancestor, Lt. Amos Fleenor, from the Abingdon area, served in the 48th Virginia Infantry. Jerry also has a connection to John Singleton Mosby. Mosby's great-grandfather, Col. Littleberry Mosby married a Netherland.

When I asked Jerry to share his proudest moment as Round Table President he was quick to answer his development of the RCWRT logo. He used the two flags to identify the Civil War with the American flag in the upper right, the Confederate flag in the lower left with "Richmond" between the two just as she was in the war. Shirts featuring the logo were made available for member purchase, as were lapel pins that were awarded to new members.

James "Bud" Robertson was one of the exceptional speakers during his presidency. He spoke at the November dinner meeting right after he had published his outstanding book on Stonewall Jackson. Bud was excited to share with members that while conducting research at Tulane University he discovered a copy of Stonewall Jackson's Book of Maxims, including his famous truth, "You may be whatever you resolve to be." Bud edited a copy of the book which is still available.

Dr. Richard J. Sommers, who supervised Pennsylvania's Carlisle Barracks War College archives, is another of Jerry's favorite historians. Dr. Sommers was very generous with his time, showing true interest and making suggestions to Jerry and Mark Jacobson

for their own book research. He was a scholar and a gentleman.

Jerry also highly respects Chris Calkins of the Petersburg National Battlefield who was responsible for a horse drawn demonstration and firing of a cannon twice daily on the battlefield. He was also a most helpful historian for Jerry and Mark in researching Lee's Retreat, Sailor's Creek and the Battle of Five Forks.

Robert Edward "R.E." Lee is Jerry's favorite Civil War personality. He has idolized him since childhood as a born and raised Virginian who at great personal sacrifice fought for his country – Virginia. "Lee's life was not easy, his name was the center he functioned from and he lived his life as a gentleman. After Appomattox he encouraged his men to rebuild and to do what was best for their families. Educate their children and teach them to be gentlemen."

Therefore it is not surprising that Jerry's favorite book is the four-volume set of R.E. Lee by Douglas Southall Freeman. His signed 1st edition collection is his most treasured possession. Another recommended book is "Fighting for the Confederacy" by General Edward Porter Alexander. "The book was never meant to be published but was written solely for his children. He doesn't pull any punches regarding other generals. He plainly states what he believed should have been done. He writes of being up in a Confederate balloon when it becomes untethered and Union soldiers are trying to shoot him down. Alexander was at Appomattox and made the statement that the men should go to guerilla warfare. Lee said no and that it would be terrible for the men and the South. Alexander apologized for his statement."

Jerry has collected over 150 Civil War prints, primarily by Mort Kuenstler and John Paul Strain. "They are a window into the different events." His personal favorite is the one that started his

collection when he started his career with the Chesterfield Police Department: “The Last Council,” Lee, Jackson, and Stuart by a campfire the night before the Battle of Chancellorsville, May 1, 1863. On a personal note, Jerry is the 14th member of his family to serve in law enforcement. His dad served as a warden for 42 years.

Jerry is very optimistic about the future of the Richmond CWRT. “It is a prestigious Round Table, speakers will continue to want to come to present at the second oldest Round Table in the country. The Civil War is a poignant event in Richmond’s history that people will still want to discuss. There is so much still to learn and hopefully young historians will not be boxed in by revisionist history.”

Thank you, Jerry, for a most lively conversation.

Billie

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

KARL RHODES

**FIELD TRIP TO BRANDY
STATION/CEDAR MOUNTAIN
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18**

On Saturday, October 18, we will be taking a field trip to three Civil War sites in Culpeper County. Our guide will be Greg Mertz, who is the Vice President of the Brandy Station Foundation after 40 years working as a historian and interpreter with the National Park Service.

We will begin by visiting key sites on two battlefields where the Federal army launched unexpected attacks on two of the Confederate’s most celebrated generals – J.E.B. Stuart and Thomas J. “Stonewall” Jackson. Both generals turned the tide and each were victorious in their respective battles.

We will first visit the landmarks of St. James Church and Fleetwood Hill, where Stuart met not just one, but two surprise attacks during the June 9, 1863 Battle of Brandy Station. This opening engagement of the Gettysburg Campaign was also the largest cavalry battle ever fought during the Civil War. We will explore why both sides had assembled a large concentration of cavalry in Culpeper at that time, the goals of each army for the day of the battle, how the Federal cavalry managed to surprise Stuart twice, and some of the criticism leveled at Stuart because of his operations in Culpeper.

Then, after lunch, we will take a walking tour of the August 9, 1862 Battle of Cedar Mountain. Often considered the first battle of the Second Manassas Campaign, it is also Jackson’s last battle as an independent commander. We will examine some advice offered to Jackson by General Robert E. Lee, and to what degree Cedar Mountain may have been a critical test to demonstrate whether Jackson was capable of higher command. At first things did not go well for Jackson. While amassing his forces in preparation for attacking an inferior force under Federal General Nathaniel Banks, the smaller enemy attacked Jackson first and nearly swept the Confederates off the field. But Jackson rallied his troops, reinforcements arrived at the right time and place, and Federal support was too little, too late.

The day will conclude with a tour of the Graffiti House. The historic structure in the town of Brandy Station contains signatures, drawings and messages scrawled by soldiers from both armies throughout the war.

The rough itinerary will be:

8:00 a.m.: Depart Lowe’s parking lot, 8001 Brook Road, 23227 (at Staples Mill Road)

10:00 a.m.: Arrive at the Graffiti House and pick up our guide, Greg Mertz

10:05 – 10:40 a.m.: St. James Church, Brandy Station Battlefield

10:45 – 11:20 a.m.: Fleetwood Hill, Brandy Station Battlefield

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.: Lunch (Chipotle, Chick-fil-a, or Panera)

12:45 – 2:00 p.m.: Walking tour of Cedar Mountain Battlefield

2:15 – 3:30 p.m.: Graffiti House

3:45 p.m.: Return to Richmond with estimated arrival time of 6:00 p.m.

The cost for the tour is \$35 per person and you may register now by giving your check, made out to Richmond CWRT, to Art Wingo at the meeting, or mailing it to him at 1414 Patriot Circle, Glen Allen, VA 23059.



HISTORY AT SUNSET EVENT

August 16, 6:00 p.m.: “Creating a Park on a Battlefield.” Explore the transformative historical eras and the people who have shaped this land into a park, from the time before and during the Civil War to the present and into the future. This will involve a caravan driving tour through the Eastern Front.

Meet at Visitor Center parking lot at 5001 Siege Road, Petersburg.

This program is free and is the result of a partnership between Petersburg National Battlefield and the Petersburg Battlefields Foundation. Questions, call: 804-732-3531.

FAMILY STORIES OF GENERAL DUFFIE'S 1864 NELSON COUNTY RAID – continued from July Newsletter by Andy Keller

Last month we introduced my 2nd Great Grandmother, Susan Bowling of Massies Mill, VA. This month we meet her father, Wyatt Bowling.

Meanwhile we have a second story about her [Susan Jacobs Bowling] father, Wyatt Bowling, who while on his own mission had his horse seized by a Northern soldier. As Wyatt was engaged in conversation with one of the Northern officers, he was given the sign of the Masonic Order and he responded. Thereupon, the officer asked him to identify the horse and the man who took it. Wyatt pointed out the man and his horse was returned to him. One of Wyatt's grandsons recalled having heard this incident told during his childhood when he lived at Massies Mill in about 1900. He said that his grandfather was a member of Fleetwood Harmony Lodge No. 92 which met in Roseland, Virginia. In 1972 evidence of Wyatt's membership was proven by his name on the 1865 membership list. This verifies his grandson's statement that Wyatt Bowling was a member of this lodge at Roseland and thus proves also that he could, when it was essential, respond to the Masonic sign.

A third story was written by Lucy Waller Gilliam, granddaughter of Lucy Waller Boyd, about events at “Blue Rock” in old Jonesboro. Lucy would have been 10 years old at the time.

June 11-13, 1864, brought a Union Cavalry detachment to Massies Mill enroute to the Arrington Depot. It crossed the Blue Ridge Mountains using the Blue Ridge-Tye River Turnpike (now Route 56) of which William Massie had been a primary promoter and its President. They wound down the mountain past William's Tyro Mill

and Patrick Massie's Mill in Massies Mill and crossed the Tye River to skirmish on Hubbard's Hill and captured the remainder of Lee's wagon supply train from Staunton. Camping on the Tye River, the detachment then set out to loot as they had done in Staunton and as the main force was doing in Lexington.

One afternoon while Juliet Massie Boyd and her three young daughters were out walking, a group of cavalry rode into "Blue Rock." The leader upon learning that the plantation belonged to his old classmate ordered his men to leave without touching anything. As they left, one of the girls climbed a tree to yell "Sing Dixie."

Unfortunately, this was not the case at the other Massie homes. Fear spread as word of Union forces in the community passed from house to house. Fire was put under the "Pharsalia" house in three places, but the cook discovered and extinguished the flames. Most of the silver was buried. Much of it remained buried for so long that the exact spots were forgotten and some of it was not unearthed until several years after the war.

These types of family stories are a treasure to have, but historians are quick to caution against accepting them at face value since individuals' memories of events in the past can be either inadvertently or deliberately changed to reveal less than the whole truth. I wondered how much of my family stories could be confirmed and what parts, if any, could be proven accurate, so I began researching the raid.

GAINES'S MILL COLD HARBOR SAVED FOREVER CAMPAIGN

FOR A LIMITED TIME, as a special thank you for donating \$100, donors will receive a copy of the first volume of Bobby Krick's new, comprehensive history of Gaines's Mill.

Please consider helping the Battlefield Trust in ensuring these additional 1.2-acres are saved forever.

<https://www.battlefields.org/give/save-battlefields/gaines-mill-cold-harbor-saved-forever-campaign>

CIVIL WAR FALL SEMINAR AT SHEPHERD UNIVERSITY

September 18-20: *Antietam and Its Legacy*

The George Tyler Moore Center for the Study of the Civil War at Shepherd University has offered annual seminars for nearly thirty years. This year's conference offers an exciting and dynamic line-up that will expand and deepen our understanding of the "Battle of Antietam and Its Legacy."

This will be an immersive seminar experience featuring distinguished academic historians and public historians and offers a blend of battlefield walks, lectures, and discussions that consider the bloodiest day in our nation's history and its consequences.

Speakers include **Garry Adelman, Tom Clemens, Zack Fry, Dennis Frye, Scott Hartwig, Ashley Luskey, Jennifer Murray, Kevin Pawlak, Dana Shoaf, and Melissa Winn.**

For more information, call 304-876-5429, or visit www.shepherd.edu/civilwar (select Fall Seminar 2025 from the menu).

Registration deadline: August 18, 2025.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

September 9: Dr. Lesley Gordon, "Cowardice and Combat in the Civil War"

October 14: Mike Gorman, "What's New in Civil War Richmond History"

November 11 (annual dinner meeting): Jonathan White, "Shipwrecked: A True Civil War Story of Mutinies, Jailbreaks, Blockade-Running, and the Slave Trade"

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 July Meeting: 78