



Founded at Fort Harrison
on February 8, 1951

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RICHMOND CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

JUNE 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

**June 10, 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. CLAYTON BUTLER

**"TRUE BLUE: WHITE UNIONISTS
IN THE DEEP SOUTH DURING
THE CIVIL WAR AND
RECONSTRUCTION"**



Gary Gallagher may have moved to California, but his legacy lives on in Virginia.

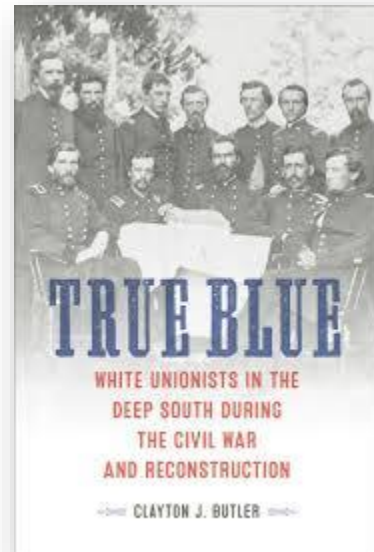
At our June meeting, our speaker will be one of Gary's former students at the University of Virginia, Dr. Clayton Butler. Butler earned his Ph.D. from UVA in 2020, where he also studied under Liz Varon and Caroline Janney. He currently is the Assistant Editor for The American South Series and *A Nation Divided: Studies in the Civil War Era*, the University of Virginia Press.

Butler's talk, "Turning the Tide: Alabama's White Unionists during Secession, Civil War, and Reconstruction," is based on his book, *True Blue: White Unionists in the Deep South During the Civil War and Reconstruction*. It was published by LSU in 2022 as part of its *Conflicting Worlds: New Dimensions of the American Civil War* series. The book is based on his dissertation, upon which Gallagher served as his advisor.

Who were the white Unionists of Alabama? Why did they take their Unionist stand? Butler examines how these Alabamians maintained ties to the Union, as well as how they were perceived by those in the Confederacy and in the United States. Most consequentially, Butler considers how Alabama Unionists experienced the war, its evolving goals, and later, how they navigated and played a crucial role in Reconstruction.

In a review of Butler's book, Jonathan W. White, this year's banquet speaker, observed, "Clayton Butler has done a service to the field of Civil War history by offering this engaging and well-researched analysis of Unionism in the Deep South. By exploring the wartime experiences of southern white Unionists, their shifting policy positions during Reconstruction, and the ways that they and their descendants remembered their place in the conflict, Butler helps us better understand the complex and

fascinating story of the Civil War era. This is an essential read."



A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Elaine Duckworth served as RCWRT President in 2018. She was very kind to respond to my interview questions via email. I think you will enjoy her responses.

Q: When did you first become interested in the Civil War?

A: I first became interested in the Civil War ever since I read *The Red Badge of Courage* in seventh grade. My personal interest took off when I discovered that my great-grandfather had been a Union soldier. I didn't know I had a family connection until I started doing family research in the 90s and ever since then I've been hooked.

Q: Do you have a family connection to the Civil War?

A: Yes, my great-grandfather, Moses T. Duckworth, and his two brothers served in the Union Army and my great-grandmother's three Haddix brothers

served as well. I'm sure there are more family ties. These six soldiers are direct kin. My great-grandfather was in the breakthrough battle at Fort Whitworth/Baldwin in Dinwiddie on April 2nd, 1865, and he beat Lee to Appomattox Court House. My great-grandmother's brother, Harvey Haddix, enlisted in August 1862. He was with the 12th West Virginia Infantry when he was killed in action at Fort Gregg on April 2nd, 1865.

Q: What was the most memorable experience during your Richmond CWRT Presidency?

A: The most memorable experience I've had connected to the Civil War was the trip my dad and I made to Southern Ohio to find my great-grandfather's grave. It was awesome to stand in that spot, to know he was loved by his family and see that he was proud of his service to the Union. "CO. F 15th W.VA. INF" is engraved on his marker.

Q: Who is the most impressive author/historian you have met?

A: I was delighted to meet Bud Robertson on March 14th, 2017 when I accompanied him and his wife, Betty Lee, to dinner before our meeting. They told me of their love for the "rivah." I knew, of course, that he was a respected historian in the Civil War community, but if I had known at the time that he met Kennedy and Johnson, I would have asked him about those memories. Bud Robertson showed he understood the emotion of the Civil War that night as he gave an energizing talk.

Q: Do you have a favorite Civil War personality?

A: Abraham Lincoln and Ulysses S. Grant (and, of course, Moses Timothy Duckworth and his brothers, James and Lemuel).

Q: What Civil War book/books are favorites or what are you currently reading?

A: My favorite book is *Personal Memoirs of Ulysses S. Grant*, written by the first man since George Washington to be General in Chief of the United States armies (without the help of Artificial Intelligence).

Q: What is your most treasured Civil War object?

A: There are two different objects: one is a collection of three dug silver-plated horse rosettes found in Petersburg. Two have the heart corps badge on them and one has US. The 24th Corps badge was a heart and my great-grandfather was in the 24th Corps. The other treasured Civil War object is a photocopy of the complete court martial file of Colonel George R. Latham, 6th West Virginia Cavalry, December, 1864. (I have the "best available copy," which I read.) Colonel George R. Latham was the Federal Cavalry commander in charge on November 28th, 1864, when my ancestor, Lemuel Duckworth, was captured at New Creek and put on the Virginia Central line to Richmond as a prisoner of war. On April 6th, 2015, I went to George Latham's house in Buckhannon, West Virginia myself, and left a bouquet of flowers under the stairs he climbed on his back step.

Q: What are your thoughts on the future of the RCWRT?

A: Seeing that new members keep joining the Richmond CWRT is evidence that it will continue as a study group focused on battlefield conservation.

Thank you, Elaine. I appreciate your participation in my monthly interviews with former RCWRT presidents.

Billie

RICHMOND EVENTS OF INTEREST

By Bert Dunkerly

June 7-8: COLD HARBOR ANNIVERSARY EVENT.
Walking Tours, Reenactor camps, rifle and cannon firings, children's activities, and more.
Full event schedule is here:

<https://nps.gov/planyourvisit/event-details.htm?id=8494C603-ED42-399A-94F64E31EEB9250F>



Thursday, June 5, 6:30 p.m.: Lectures on the Lawn at Rural Plains, 7273 Studley Road, Mechanicsville.

Elyse Werling, Director of Interpretation and Collections, Preservation Virginia: "The Revolutionary Home of a 'Most Noble Patriot:' Patrick Henry's Life at Scotchtown"

Patrick and Sarah Henry, their children, and the more than a dozen people they enslaved, moved to the Hanover County property called "Scotchtown" in 1771. From there, Patrick rode to deliver his "Liberty or Death" speech. Every public action he took had an impact on, and was shaped by, his private life at Scotchtown. Today, Scotchtown is owned by Preservation Virginia and is a museum open to the public. Learn about the historic property as it stands today, and how those formative years at Scotchtown drastically impacted the lives of both the Henry family, and the enslaved servants.

Thursday, June 12, 6:30 p.m.: Lectures on the Lawn at Rural Plains, 7273 Studley Road, Mechanicsville.

Archaeologist Lexie Lowe, National Park Service: "Archaeology at Rural Plains"

The last two decades have seen far-ranging archaeological investigations at Rural Plains, uncovering much that was hidden for decades or centuries. In her talk, Ranger Lexie will discuss the archaeological resources at the site; the innovative methods and technologies that archaeologists have used to study the evidence of the human past; and what new information has been garnered from these investigations at Rural Plains.

Thursday, June 19, 6:30 p.m.: Lectures on the Lawn at Rural Plains, 7273 Studley Road, Mechanicsville.

Ranger Madelyn Hollis, National Park Service: "Bearing the People's Love: The U.S. Sanitary Commission in Virginia, 1864"

Formed in the first days of the Civil War, the United States Sanitary Commission was composed of civilian volunteers devoted to the health of Union soldiers, through medical education, food deliveries, and even medical care near the battlefield. It was called by one admirer "the great artery bearing the people's love to the people's army." Ranger Maddie's talk will detail how Commission members, some working near Rural Plains, cared for the multitudes of wounded soldiers felled at the Battle of Totopotomoy Creek and elsewhere during the 1864 Overland Campaign.

HISTORY AT SUNSET TOUR AT PETERSBURG

June 21, 6:00 p.m.: "Assault on Fort Gregg" Before dawn on April 2, 1865, a Federal attack broke the Confederate lines at Petersburg. By the afternoon, only Forts Gregg and Whitworth stood between the swarms of U.S. troops and the city. Join a ranger to discover more about the chaos and ferocity of this final attack of the Petersburg campaign.

Meet at Confederate Fort Gregg – Stop 4 on the Western Front Driving Tour on 7th Avenue near the intersection of Simpson Road in Petersburg. The program is free. For questions, call 804-732-3531. This program is a result of a partnership between Petersburg National Battlefield and the Petersburg Battlefields Foundation.

FAMOUS CIVIL WAR QUOTES WHO SAID IT?

1. "What race of people do you believe make the best soldiers?" He replied, "The Scots who came to this country by way of Ireland. Because they have all the dash of the Irish in taking up a position and all the stubbornness of the Scots in holding it."
2. "I see the President almost every day. I see very plainly Abraham Lincoln's dark brown face with its deep-cut lines, the eyes always to me with a deep latent sadness in the expression. None of the artists or pictures has caught the deep, though subtle and indirect expression of this man's face. There is something else there. One of the great portrait painters of two or three centuries ago is needed."
3. "We have shared the incommunicable experience of war. We felt, we still feel, the passion of life to its top. In our youths, our hearts were touched by fire."
4. "John Brown's zeal in the cause of freedom was infinitely superior to mine. Mine was as the taper light; his was the burning sun. I could live for the slave; John Brown could die for him."
5. "No terms except unconditional and immediate surrender can be accepted."

Answers on page 6

IMPORTANT NOTICE

I am sure I am not the only one who prefers to read a printed document rather than one online. For many, it is not a preference but is the only way they will be able to read something such as this newsletter.

Unless you were grandfathered in to be allowed to keep your printed copy of this newsletter, as 10 of you are, you have been receiving it as an email

attachment. It is not cheap to print this newsletter. Just the printing costs over a dollar, and then we must purchase the stamps. That's why most organizations are trying to go all digital, but we are now offering you an option to reverse that trend.

You can now receive a printed newsletter in your mailbox every month starting in July. The cost for the rest of this year will be \$10. Then, in December, if you wish to subscribe for next year, simply add \$20 to your dues payment, and you can continue to receive a printed copy for the full year. You will still receive the email edition as well.

Send your payments to RCWRT, c/o Andy Keller, 9701 Fireside Drive, Glen Allen, VA 23060; or Venmo: @Leroy-Keller-3. We hope you will enjoy this option.

Andy Keller

WAR TIME NEWS

Richmond, June 4, 1864

Miscellaneous

- Just how many casualties Grant's army has suffered through the first battles of this campaign can be seen from the following reports in Northern newspapers about the losses suffered by individual regiments: "Only 90 soldiers and five officers remain in the 4th Vermont Regiment; the brigade which includes Baxter's Zouaves from Philadelphia has nearly been destroyed; the 93rd New York Regiment which was 550 strong, lost 350 men in the Battle of the Wilderness alone."

- The Yankee General Kilpatrick, who launched a plundering raid in the Richmond area several months ago, was badly

wounded in a skirmish near Summerville, GA.

- The captain of the blockade steamer "Greyhound," which was captured by the Yankees, managed to escape from the guards as he was imprisoned in Boston Harbor.
- Fifteen officers and 300 soldiers, deserters from Grant's army, were transported through Alexandria the Monday before last. It is said that the officers will be demoted.
- Butler's medical director concedes that the Yankees' losses in the battle on the south side of the James River on the Monday before last were about 5,000 dead and wounded. This does not include the losses suffered by Heckman's Brigade, most of whom were captured. This admission by the Yankees, who were fighting behind strong entrenchments and fortifications, indicates to us that Beauregard and his brave troops won a truly magnificent victory.



Battle of Drewry's Bluff

- Bishop Lynch, from Charleston, has safely arrived in Bermuda aboard the steamer "Alpha."
- A correspondent for the Chicago Times reports that during the Battle of Resaca the Yankees lost 600 dead, 3,000 wounded, and 400 missing. During the battle General Hooker was lightly wounded, Kilpatrick received a severe wound, and Willich was mortally wounded.

- Reports from Texas say that the Yankee gunboats "Granite City" and "Wave" have been captured. The number of prisoners taken amounts to 160, in addition, 16 cannons and much materiel was captured.
- According to credible reports, fourteen regiments of Pennsylvania troops who had served their three years have returned home out of war-weariness.
- There is a notable drop in the price of food in almost every city in the South; only here in Richmond are prices still going up. In an auction in Columbus, GA flour was sold for 65 cents per pound, sugar for \$3.80 per pound, bacon for \$2.29 per pound, and salt for 43 cents per pound.

From the *Richmond Advertiser*
Thank you, Bert Dunkerly

Answers to "Famous Civil War Quotes"

1. Robert E. Lee
2. Walt Whitman
3. Oliver Wendell Holmes
4. Frederick Douglass
5. Ulysses S. Grant

From *Civil War News*,
March-April Issue

UPCOMING MEETINGS

July 8: Barton Myers, "Lincoln's Commanders from the Old Dominion"

August 12: Peter Luebke, "Death Loves a Shining Mark: St. Joseph Tucker Randolph's Civil War"

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, topic to be determined

Attendance at May meeting: 58