



Founded on February 8, 1951

RICHMOND CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

APRIL 2021

“The Civil War is the crux of our history. You cannot understand any part of our past, from the convening of the Constitutional Convention, down to this morning, without eventually arriving at the Civil War.”

Bernard de Voto

April 13, 2021

7:30 p.m.

“The Fight For The Old North State”

By Hampton Newsome

Hampton Newsome is the author of “The Fight for the Old North State: The Civil War in North Carolina, January – May 1864” (University Press of Kansas, 2019), which was named the Emerging Civil War Book of the Year, the Richard Barksdale Harwell Award winner, and the Civil War Books and Authors Best Book of the Year. Mr. Newsome is also the author of “Richmond Must Fall: The Richmond-Petersburg Campaign, October 1864” (Kent State University Press, 2013), which was recognized as a best book of 2013 by Civil War Monitor magazine. He also co-edited Civil War Talks: Further Reminiscences of George S. Bernard and His Fellow Veterans (UVA Press, 2012) with John Selby and John Horn.

Mr. Newsome will speak about events that occurred in North Carolina during the first half of 1864 as covered in his book. At that time, Confederate leaders

Doug Crenshaw, President
804-347-1462
dcrenshawjr@comcast.net

Ulli Baumann, First VP and Editor
804-789-9844
ullib1101@gmail.com

Nicholas Carico, Second VP
614-507-4877
nicholascarico@gmail.com

Art Wingo, Treasurer
804-516-7508
[Art and Diane@comcast.net](mailto:Art_and_Diane@comcast.net)

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

Like us on Facebook:
[@richmondcwrt](https://www.facebook.com/richmondcwrt)

sought to secure vital supplies for Robert E. Lee's army and dampen a growing peace movement in the state. The ensuing events – the New Bern Expedition, the Battle of Plymouth, among others – involved complex joint army and navy operations, daring raids, and deadly ironclads.



University of Kansas Press has arranged a 30% discount for round table members on the book (*The Fight for the Old North State*). Just use the discount code NC30 at checkout. The product page is:
<https://kansaspress.ku.edu/978-0-7006-2.html>

ZOOM SIGN ON INFORMATION

By Andy Keller

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83471506220?pwd=Sy9jYlZDenVabTVld1d0WTE1UHNnUT09>

Or <https://tinyurl.com/RCWRT2021>

For Audio only call +1 301 715 8592. Long Distance Rates may apply

Meeting ID: 834 7150 6220

Passcode: 481366

To participate in a Zoom session, your computer will need a camera function, standard for most laptops, Smart Phones and tablets. I would suggest reviewing the camera function before that time. We recommend that you join 5 - 10 minutes

before the meeting starts, to be sure that your equipment is working and review some of the features. You will be unmuted on admittance during that time for socializing, but you should mute yourself when requested. We hope to record the meeting so if you are unable to attend please send a request for the recording to Secretary.RCWRT@gmail.com.

A Word from the President

by Doug Crenshaw

It's April, so Spring is here and hopefully we are getting closer to meeting in person!

Over the winter I was asked to write some book reviews, and I came across two very interesting titles.

Eric Wittenberg has just published *Six Days of Awful Fighting: Cavalry Operations on the Road to Cold Harbor*. If you've read Gordon Rhea's *Cold Harbor*, you have had an introduction to the topic. Wittenberg provides much more detail and this highly readable book contains 25 maps created by Edward Alexander. If you're interested in cavalry actions around Richmond, this is one to read.

I also read Michael Hardy's *Lee's Immortals*, which covers the Branch-Lane Brigade. Heavily involved in the campaigns of the Army of Northern Virginia, the unit had great moments, and also some very difficult ones. Some of its most trying times came at Fredericksburg, where it fought to prevent a Union breakthrough at Prospect Hill, and at Chancellorsville, where its men were responsible for the wounding of Jackson. Hardy has done some excellent research, and tells the story well. Definitely recommended.

Lee's Farewell Address

General Robert E. Lee issued his Farewell Address, also known as General Order No. 9, to his Army of Northern Virginia on April 10, 1865, the day after he surrendered the army to Lt. General Ulysses S. Grant. The text of the order, which was written and drafted by Col. Charles Marshall, edited and finalized by Lee, was issued as follows:

Headquarters, Army of Northern Virginia,
10th April 1865

General Order
No. 9

After four years of arduous service marked by unsurpassed courage and fortitude, the Army of Northern Virginia has been compelled to yield to overwhelming numbers and resources.

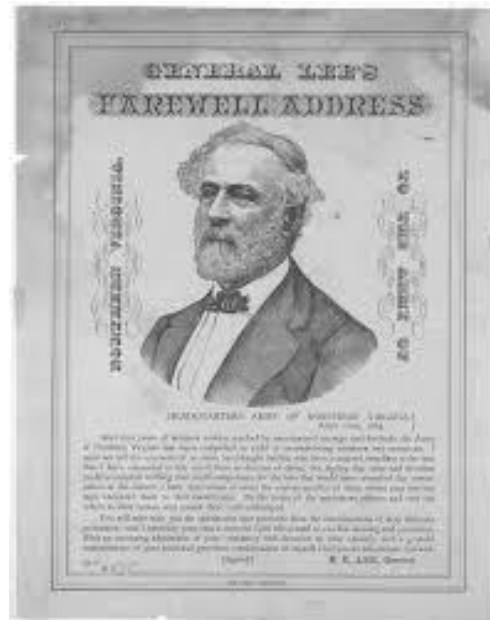
I need not tell the survivors of so many hard fought battles, who have remained steadfast to the last, that I have consented to the result from no distrust of them.

But feeling that valour and devotion could accomplish nothing that could compensate for the loss that must have attended the continuance of the contest, I have determined to avoid the useless sacrifice of those whose past services have endeared them to their countrymen.

By the terms of the agreement, officers and men can return to their homes and remain until exchanged. You will take with you the satisfaction that proceeds from the consciousness of duty faithfully performed, and I earnestly pray that a merciful God will extend to you his blessing and protection.

With an unceasing admiration of your constancy and devotion to your Country, and a grateful remembrance of your kind and generous consideration for myself, I bid you an affectionate farewell.

R.E. Lee, General
General Order No. 9



The following is taken from a letter dated September 27, 1887, to General Bradley T. Johnson from Col. Charles Marshall:

“General Lee’s order to the Army of Northern Virginia at Appomattox Court House was written the day after the meeting at McLean’s house, at which the terms of the surrender were agreed upon. That night the general sat with several of us at a fire in front of his tent, and after some conversation about the army, and the events of the day, in which his feelings toward his men were strongly expressed, he told me to prepare an order to the troops.

The next day it was raining, and many persons were coming and going, so that I

was unable to write without interruption until about 10 o'clock, when General Lee, finding that the order had not been prepared, directed me to get into his ambulance, which stood near his tent, and placed an orderly to prevent any one from approaching me.

I sat in the ambulance until I had written the order, the first draft of which (in pencil) contained an entire paragraph that was omitted by General Lee's direction. He made one or two verbal changes, and I then made a copy of the order as corrected, and gave it to one of the clerks in the adjutant-general's office to write in ink. I took the copy, when made by the clerk, to the general, who signed it, and other copies were then made for transmission to the corps commanders and the staff of the army. All these copies were signed by the general, and a good many persons sent other copies which they had made or procured, and obtained his signature. In this way many copies of the order had the general's name signed as if they were the originals, some of which I have seen."

Source: Wikipedia

For future newsletters we welcome your articles, such as book reviews, and stories about your favorite Civil War personality, your memorable battlefield visits, or your Civil War ancestor. Send your contribution to: ullib1101@gmail.com

This Month in Civil War History

April 12, 1861: At 4:30 am Confederate forces under General Pierre Beauregard begin shelling Fort Sumter. Back on December 26, Major Robert Anderson, then in command of the Union forces stationed at nearby Fort Moultrie, had managed to sneak his 70 soldiers and 13 musicians into the uncompleted but still stronger Fort Sumter right under the noses of the Confederate guard boats. But now, short on men and supplies, he has to hold onto the Fort under direct attack. The first Union gun to reply to the attack is fired by Captain Abner Doubleday. Major Anderson will surrender on April 13 as the fort crumbles around him. The first battle of the Civil War ends.

April 17, 1861: Virginia secedes.

April 20, 1861: Lt. Colonel Robert E. Lee, who has declined an offer to command all Federal forces, resigns from the U.S. Army. On the 23rd he takes command of all Virginia forces.

April 6, 1862: At Shiloh, Tennessee Confederate troops attack General Grant's Union troops. With 100,000 troops involved, this is the largest battle in the Western hemisphere up to this time. The battle continues into the next day and the Confederacy's initial advantage is lost when Union reinforcements arrive during the night. Losses are so heavy that when the Confederates retreat, they are not pursued. Confederate General Albert Sidney Johnston is one of the fallen.

April 16, 1862: The Confederacy passes the Conscription Act drafting men between the ages of 16 and 35 and extending the enlistments of any men already in the army to three years.

April 7, 1863: Fort Sumter is in the news again as Federal ironclads attack at Charleston, but are driven off.

April 17, 1863: Colonel Benjamin Grierson leads his Union cavalry out of LaGrange, Tennessee. In the next 16 days they will cover more than 600 miles, all the way to Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The raid is incredibly successful as the swiftly moving troopers destroy railroads and telegraph lines, capture more than 500 men, 1,000 mules and horses, and capture or destroy huge amounts of stores. It also distracts the attention of the Confederates from the growing Union threat to Vicksburg.

April 30, 1863: The Battle of Chancellorsville begins.

April 12, 1864: Fort Pillow on the Mississippi River is occupied by less than 600 Union soldiers. Under attack by 2,500 of Nathan Bedford Forrest's cavalry, the fort is overwhelmed. Union casualties are very high; only 58 of 262 African American soldiers surviving. The controversy over whether the black troops were deliberately massacred still continues.

April 17, 1864: The exchange of prisoners of war is discontinued by General Grant who says that it is only prolonging the conflict. His action will result in the deaths of hundreds of men on both sides in overcrowded prisons.

April 2, 1865: At Petersburg, as the Union troops attack, Lee is forced to withdraw. Sitting in church, Jefferson Davis is handed a telegram by an orderly. "My lines are broken; Richmond must be evacuated by midnight. (signed Robert E. Lee)." Davis gets up and leaves the service. He and his cabinet will leave that night for Danville, Virginia.

April 9, 1865: General Robert E. Lee surrenders to General Ulysses S. Grant at

Appomattox. Parole is granted to 28,231 Confederate soldiers.



The MacLean House,
Appomattox Court House

April 14, 1865: President Lincoln is shot at Ford's Theatre and dies in the morning hours on April 15.

April 14, 1865: At Fort Sumter, General Robert Anderson, who had surrendered there at the start of the war, raises the same flag he had lowered four years earlier.

April 24, 1865: The last meeting of the Confederate Cabinet is held in Charlotte, North Carolina, at the Phifer house on North Tryon Street.

April 26, 1865: At Bennett Place, North Carolina, Johnston surrenders all Confederate troops in the Carolinas, Georgia and Florida to Sherman; that's 89,270 men.

Source: Gaston County Public Library

Upcoming Meetings

(Until further notice, all meetings will be via Zoom)

May 11: Jim Hessler, “Gettysburg’s Peach Orchard: Longstreet, Sickles, and the Bloody Fight for the ‘Commanding Ground’ along the Emmitsburg Road”

June 8: Nathan Hall, “The Spies of Richmond”

July 13: Jim Gindlesperger, “Fire on the Water: The USS Kearsarge and the CSS Alabama”

August 10: Dr. Charles Fennell, “The Battle of Culp’s Hill on July 3, 1863”

September 14: Douglas Waller, “Lincoln’s Spies: Their Secret War to Save a Nation”

October 12: Victor Vignola, “The May 31, 1862 Battle of Fair Oaks: The Struggle for the Adams House, Bull Sumner’s Glory Day”

November 9 (dinner meeting):

Janet Croon, “The War Outside my Window: The Civil War Diary of LeRoy Wiley Gresham 1860-1865”

December 14: Scott Mingus, “The Battle of Second Winchester: The Confederate Victory that Opened the Door to Gettysburg”

If you were unable to join us at last month’s meeting, here is a link to the recorded program:

<https://tinyurl.com/PeterCarmichael>

Websites of Interest

Emerging Civil War: “Providing fresh perspectives on America’s defining event”

www.emergingcivilwar.com

Both Doug Crenshaw and Bert Dunkerly were interviewed in recent issues on their excellent book, “Embattled Capital,” as well as upcoming projects.

Civil War Round Table Congress: “Civil War Round Table Congress is dedicated to helping Civil War round tables to develop recruitment, governance, marketing, preservation and fundraising strategies that work”

www.cwrtcongress.org

Mike Movius, the director of CWRT Congress, has great (free) Zoom programs every week, featuring authors and historians. Recently, Mike Gorman had a fantastic program on Gaines’ Mill that was attended by over 90 people. Check them out on Facebook as well (@cwrtcongress).

And, of course, our local sites:

Richmond National Battlefield Park:

www.nps.gov/rich/index.htm

American Civil War Museum:

www.acwm.org

Virginia Museum of History and Culture

www.virginiahistory.org