



Founded at Fort Harrison
on February 8, 1951

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RICHMOND

CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

APRIL 2022

“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.”

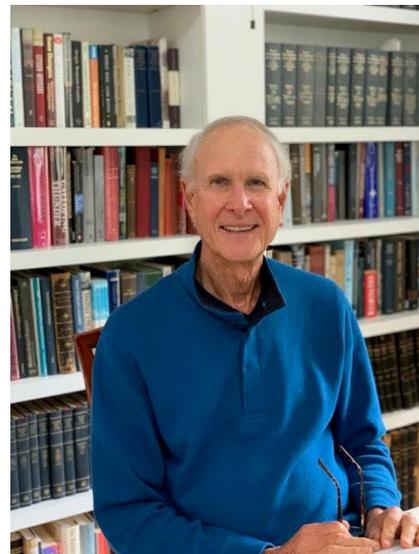
Bernard de Voto

April 12, 2022

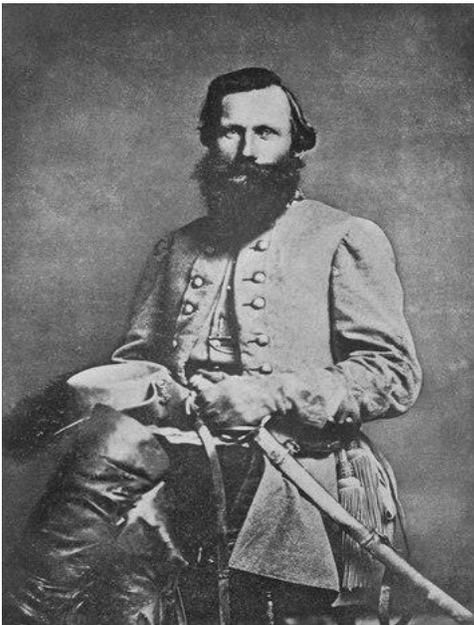
7:30 p.m.

**At the Virginia War Memorial
621 S. Belvidere Street
Richmond, VA 23220**

**“The Life and Battles of
JEB Stuart”
By Gordon Rhea, Esq.**



The famed cavalry commander JEB Stuart is celebrated almost as much for his theatrical persona as a “bold cavalier” as he is for his military achievements. Who exactly was this man, what drove him, and what role did his popular image play in his mode of waging warfare? Was his dedication to theatrics a boon or a hindrance to his performance on the battlefield? Join Gordon Rhea in a fresh evaluation of Lee’s most famous cavalry chief.



Maj. Gen. J.E.B. Stuart

Gordon C. Rhea received his B.A. in history from Indiana University, his M.A. in history from Harvard University, and his law degree from Stanford University Law School. He served as Special Assistant to the Chief Counsel of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence Activities for two years and as an Assistant United States Attorney in Washington, D.C. and the United States Virgin Islands for some seven years. He has been in the private practice of law since 1983.

Mr. Rhea has written seven award-winning books about the American Civil War,

including *The Battle of the Wilderness*, *The Battles of Spotsylvania Court House and the Road to Yellow Tavern*, *To the North Anna*, *Cold Harbor*, *On To Petersburg*, *Carrying the Flag*, and *In the Footsteps of Grant and Lee*.

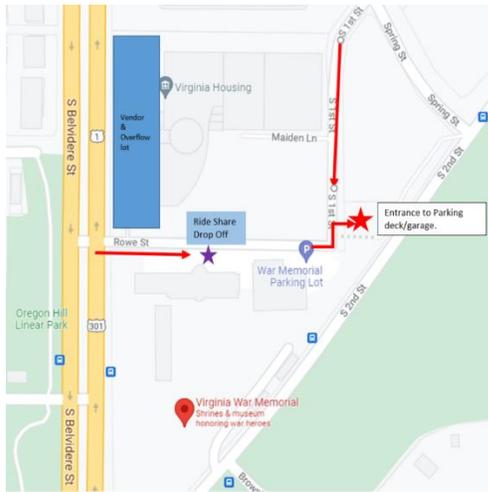
He has lectured across the country at the invitation of numerous historical societies, universities, and historic preservation organizations on topics of military history and the Civil War era and has served on the boards of historical societies, history magazines, and historical preservation organizations, including the Civil War Library and Museum, Philadelphia, the North and South magazine, and the Charleston South Carolina Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission.

Mr. Rhea conducts tours for organizations that raise funds to purchase and preserve historical sites related to the Civil War era, including the Civil War Trust, the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust, the Blue and Gray Education Society, and the Friends of the Wilderness Battlefield. He has also appeared multiple times as a historian and presenter on nationwide television programs, including productions by The History Channel, A&E Channel, Discovery Channel, and C-Span.

*****Fully vaccinated individuals are not required to wear face coverings inside the Virginia War Memorial. Those who are not vaccinated are required to wear face coverings and are encouraged to maintain social distancing.*****

Virginia War Memorial Foundation is not a sponsor of this event.

Please park in the parking garage (see map) and take the elevator to the main lobby where a security guard will direct you to the VMI Alumni Hall of Honor.



A Word from the President

The month of April is an important month in Civil War history. On April 9, 1865 – 157 years ago – Robert E. Lee went to Wilmer McLean’s house at Appomattox Court House to surrender his army to Ulysses S. Grant. The following day, he issued General Order No. 9. Continuing the tradition, Waite Rawls will read the Farewell Address by General Lee to his troops before the program at this month’s meeting.

The history of the “Surrender House” is an interesting one. Wilmer McLean moved his family back to his wife’s native Prince William County – where ironically the first major battle of the war was fought on his property – and his Appomattox house was sold at auction on November 29, 1869 to John L. Pascoe. In 1872, Nathaniel H. Ragland purchased the house for \$1,250. The widow Ragland sold the property on January 1, 1891 to Captain Myron Dunlap of Niagara Falls, NY, for \$10,000. Dunlap and fellow speculators intended to capitalize on the “Surrender House’s” notoriety and exhibit it at the

1893 World’s Columbian Exhibition in Chicago.

That never happened and the house sat dismantled in piles in a maintenance shed at Appomattox National Historical Park. Until 1941 when the meticulous reconstruction process was begun. On April 9, 1949, eighty-four years after the meeting between Grant and Lee, the McLean House was opened by the National Park Service for the first time to the public. At the dedication ceremony on April 16, 1950, after a speech by Douglas Southall Freeman, Major General U.S. Grant and Robert E. Lee IV, direct descendants of Ulysses S. Grant and Robert E. Lee, cut the ceremonial ribbon.

One of those bricks made its way from the maintenance shed to me in 2001. Our Greater Pittsburgh CWRT held annual seminars back then and that year it was entitled “Two Apriils in the Civil War, 1861 and 1865.” The speakers were Dr. Carol Reardon, Dr. William Blair, Dr. Joseph Harsh, and the wonderful Brian Pohanka. A friend from Michigan, who was a good friend of Dr. Harsh, stayed with us and as a thank you gift he presented me with the brick. He has one also, and he assures me that they are authentic – a member of the historical staff at Appomattox confirmed it. The re-built McLean House then has at least two bricks that are “imposters.”

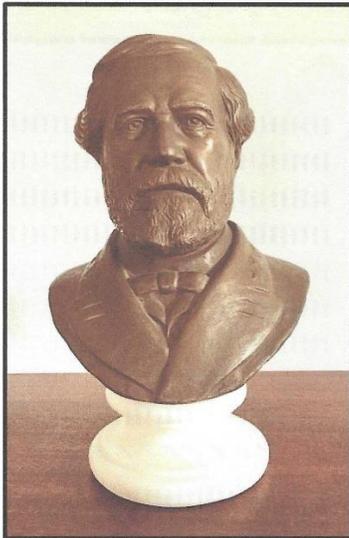
Ulli



SPECIAL RAFFLE

This month we will conclude our special raffle with the third item donated by Miss Kitty Snow, daughter of the late Howard Lynch. This beautiful **bust of Robert E. Lee** was created in 1958 by Alva Museum Replicas, Inc. of New York City. It is in excellent condition and is 13" high, 8 ½" wide, and 6" deep. It is made of a composite clay mixture with a bronze tone finish. The base is also made of a white plaster composite.

Danny Witt will be selling tickets: 1 ticket for \$5; 5 tickets for \$20. The winning ticket will be drawn before the meeting.



GENERAL ORDER #9 REMEMBERED

On September 27, 1887, Colonel Charles Marshall, aide to General Lee, wrote the following letter to General Bradley T. Johnson:

“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.”



“Let Us Have Peace”

BUS TRIP TO LEXINGTON

After a two-year hiatus it is finally time to go on a bus trip again! The date is **Saturday, June 11**, and registration is now open. The price per person is \$45 and you may send your check, made out to Richmond CWRT, to Art Wingo, 1414 Patriot Circle, Glen Allen, VA 23059; or you can pay Art at the meeting.

The increase in the price (by \$10) since our last bus trip is due to higher gasoline costs and the longer distance. But... We feel it is well worth it because Waite worked out a fantastic itinerary. Also, the visit to Lexington and its sites ties in with the speaker, Col. Keith E. Gibson, Executive Director of the VMI Museum, at our meeting just a few days later.



We will meet our bus at 8:00 a.m. at the Gaskins Road Park & Ride, Commuter Drive (Fairfield Inn & Suites parking lot), Glen Allen, 23060. We anticipate arriving in Lexington around 10:30 a.m.

Following is the agenda for the day (please see the full itinerary attached to the newsletter):

- 10:30-11:15 Lee Chapel and Museum (Col. Gibson will join us)
- 11:15-11:45 Walking tour down Letcher Avenue to VMI’s Memorial Hall – Waite discussing VMI’s naming/commemorations discussions
- 11:45-1:00 Memorial Hall, New Market mural and VMI Museum
- 1:00-1:45 Lunch (please bring your own)
- 1:45-2:00 Bus to Stonewall Jackson House
- 2:00-2:45 Stonewall Jackson House
- 2:00-3:00 Bus to Stonewall Jackson Cemetery
- 3:00-3:30 Stonewall Jackson Cemetery
- 3:30-6:00 Return to Richmond



NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome to our new members:

- Deane Blythe
- James Dean
- Steve Gentil
- Colin Rafferty
- Jack Tiller

Attendance at March Meeting: 52

PRESERVATION ALERT AT MANASSAS

We have been made aware of the proposed development of a 2,100 acre data center immediately adjacent to the Park's western and northwestern boundaries and deep within Prince William County's "Rural Crescent." The proposed data center runs north-south, along Pageland Lane, from Route 29 (Warrenton Turnpike) to Route 234 (Sudley Road) and is the site of the Second Battle of Manassas.

The Richmond Civil War Round Table's mission is in part to "... encourage and stimulate interest in the objectives of all agencies interested in the preservation and protection of the landmarks, earthworks, relics, and collections of data pertinent to the American Civil War for use by the general public."

More battles were fought in Virginia than in any other state during the Civil War. Our National Park Service, battlefield preservation organizations, and living history events do a superb job of educating Americans about a very difficult time in our history. Our battlefield sites are visited every day by people who want to learn what happened and why. Manassas National Battlefield alone is visited by over 700,000 people a year. It is imperative that

we protect these "outdoor classrooms" for future generations.

We have therefore written a letter in opposition to the proposed data center to the Chair of the Prince William County Board of Supervisors in solidarity with other round tables and preservation organizations. We encourage you to do the same. The letter should be addressed to:

**The Honorable Ann B. Wheeler
Chair, Prince William County
Board of Supervisors
1 County Complex
Prince William, VA 22192**

UPCOMING MEETINGS

May 10: Brendan Synnamon, "The Union Drummer Boy: A Love of History and Historical Preservation as Experienced by One of America's Foremost Civil War Militaria Shops"

June 14: Col. Keith Gibson, "Thomas J. Jackson: Lexington, The Institute, and a Legacy"

July 12: Dr. Jennifer M. Murray, "Meade at War"

August 9: Michael C. Hardy, "Feeding the Army of Northern Virginia"

September 13: Dr. Gary Gallagher, "The Overland Campaign"

October 11: David Keller, "Military Prisons of the Civil War, A Comparative Study"

November 8: Annual Members Dinner
William C. "Jack" Davis and Sue Heth Bell, "The Letters of Gen. and Mrs. Gabriel Wharton"

December 13: Frank O'Reilly, "The Battle of Fredericksburg and Christmas Along the Rappahannock"