



Founded at Fort Harrison
on February 8, 1951

RICHMOND CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

APRIL 2023

“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

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April 11, 2023

7:30 p.m.

**At First Presbyterian Church
4602 Cary Street Road
Richmond, VA 23226**
(The parking lot is behind the church; go up the steps to fellowship hall on the left)

JOHN HENNESSY

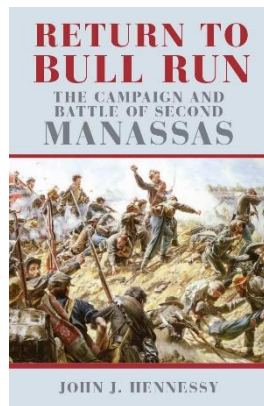
“Return to Bull Run”



In 1992, John Hennessy's book "Return to Bull Run" was published. It is the "definitive account of Robert E. Lee's triumph over Union leader John Pope at the Second Battle of Bull Run in August 1862," according to one review in Publishers Weekly.

Now, more than thirty years later, John will present a retrospective and a self-review on the campaign and the book, how his understanding of the battle and the campaign have changed – and a few things he wishes he had done differently.

John Hennessy recently retired as Chief Historian at Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park, where he worked for the final 26 years of his NPS career. Before coming to Fredericksburg, he worked as an exhibit planner for NPS sites across the country and, as an opening act, a front-line ranger-historian at Manassas National Battlefield Park, where he began his career. He is the author of four books, most notably, "Return to Bull Run: The Campaign and Battle of Second Manassas." His books, articles, and essays have appeared under the imprint of Simon & Schuster, Cambridge



University Press, Stackpole Books, LSU Press, the University of North Carolina Press, and another dozen publications.

In the coming years he will be working on projects relating to the history of the Fredericksburg region during the war, the Army of the Potomac, slavery and freedom in the Rappahannock region, and a study of aftermath of the battles around Fredericksburg.

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

On Saturday, March 18, about twenty members of the Round Table met at the American Civil War Museum for a very special tour of the collection vault. Robert Hancock, Director of Collections, graciously gave up his Saturday morning to give us a peek at some of the fantastic items in the possession of the museum.

From the extensive gun collection, we were shown J.E.B. Stuart's breechloader and two pistols belonging to John Hunt Morgan. Among the swords, we saw Heros von Borcke's and Wayne Hampton's. Robert also showed us A.P. Hill's spurs, made from melted silver spoons and forks, and given to him by the ladies of Columbia, South Carolina. John Bell Hood's frock coat was on display for us, as well as ambrotypes from the extensive collection of photographs, including an 1859 photo of a beardless Abraham Lincoln and one of Jefferson Davis as Secretary of War during the Pierce administration.

Getting a look at the beautifully restored 1861 silk presentation flag of the 30th Virginia was a highlight. Equally moving, and far less adorned, is the flag of the 15th Virginia, which simply has "HOME" stitched across it. We also were shown Lee's headquarters flag, used until 1864. Lastly, Robert gave us a glimpse at the saddles of J.E.B. Stuart, Robert E. Lee, John Hunt Morgan, and Fitzhugh Lee.

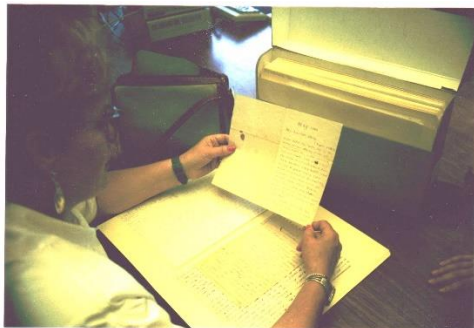
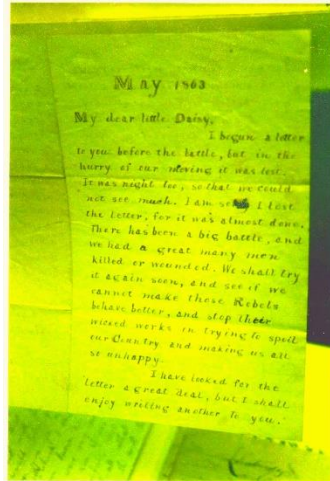
There is nothing like seeing these treasures up close and we thank Robert Hancock for the opportunity. Look for photos on page 6.

In 1991, our family went on a trip to Maine, the first of many that I have done since then. We went to the Special Collections at Bowdoin College in Brunswick and asked to see the Chamberlain papers. After signing in, we were shown to a room and presented with several large folders that contained the

original correspondence and papers of Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain. This was before the movie "Gettysburg"

had been released and he had not become a household name yet. It was incredible holding these letters in my hand and seeing his Medal of Honor up close.

While we could not touch anything on Saturday during our tour at the American Civil War Museum, it was still such a treat to get a close-up look at a very small portion of the approximately 120,000 artifacts in the museum's collection.



The Chamberlain Collection at Bowdoin College

Ulli

PARK NEWS
By Bert Dunkerly

Richmond National Battlefield Park is commemorating the Battle of Drewry's Bluff on May 20-21. On Saturday there will be special children's activities and ranger programs about the site's naval history. Sunday features a car-caravan driving tour of the Second Battle of Drewry's Bluff. For more information, visit the park website: Drewry's Bluff Anniversary Event ([nps.gov](https://www.nps.gov)).

A STILLNESS AT APPOMATTOX

"Out from the Rebel lines came a lone rider, a young officer in a gray uniform, galloping madly, a staff in his hand with a white flag fluttering from the end of it. He rode up to Chamberlain's lines and someone there took him off to see Sheridan, and the firing stopped, and the watching Federals saw the Southerners wheeling their guns back and stacking their muskets as if they expected to fight no more.

All up and down the lines the men blinked at one another, unable to realize that the hour they had waited for so long was actually at hand. There was a truce, they could see that, and presently the word was passed that Grant and Lee were going to meet in the little village that lay now between the two lines, and no one could doubt that Lee was going to surrender. It was Palm Sunday, and they would all live to Easter, and with the guns quieted it might be easier to comprehend the mystery and the promise of that day. Yet the fact of peace and no more killing and an open road home seems to have been too big to grasp, right at the moment, and in the enormous silence that lay upon the field men remembered that they had marched far and were very tired, and they wondered when the wagon trains would come up with rations.

One of Ord's soldiers wrote that the army should have gone wild with joy, then and there; and yet, he said, somehow they did not. Later there would be frenzied cheering and crying and rejoicing, but now... now, for some reason, the men sat on the ground and looked across at the Confederate army and found themselves feeling as they had never dreamed that the moment of victory would make them feel.

'... I remember how we sat there and pitied and sympathized with these courageous Southern men who had fought

for four long and dreary years all so stubbornly, so bravely and so well, and now, whipped, beaten, completely used up, were fully at our mercy – it was pitiful, sad, hard, and seemed to us altogether too bad.’ A Pennsylvanian in the V Corps dodged past the skirmish line and strolled into the lines of the nearest Confederate regiment, and half a century after the war he recalled it with a glow: ‘... as soon as I got among these boys I felt and was treated as well as if I had been among our own boys, and a person would of thought we were of the same Army and had been Fighting under the Same Flag.’

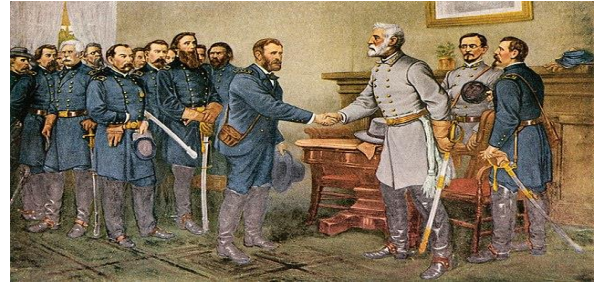
Down by the roadside near Appomattox Court House, Sheridan and Ord and other officers sat and waited while a brown-bearded little man in a mud-spattered uniform rode up. They all saluted him, and there was a quiet interchange of greetings, and then General Grant tilted his head toward the village and asked: ‘Is General Lee up there?’

Sheridan replied that he was, and Grant said: ‘Very well. Let’s go up.’

The little cavalcade went trotting along the road to the village, and all around them the two armies waited in silence. As the generals neared the end of their ride, a Yankee band in a field near the town struck up ‘Auld Lang Syne.’”



From Bruce Catton's *A Stillness at Appomattox*, *The Army of the Potomac Trilogy*



LEE'S FAREWELL ADDRESS TO THE ARMY OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA General Order #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 brave survivors of so many hard fought battles, who have remained steadfast to the last, that I have consented to this result from no distrust of them; but feeling that valor and devotion could accomplish nothing that could compensate for the loss that must have attended the continuance of the contest, I 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 a consciousness of duty faithfully performed; and I earnestly pray that a Merciful God will extend to you His blessings 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 all an affectionate farewell.”

General Robert E. Lee, April 10, 1865

EVENTS OF INTEREST

April 11, 2023, 1:00 p.m.: Bert Dunkerly will be speaking at the Virginia Museum of History & Culture on the Brown’s Island explosion of 1863.

Bert will discuss the causes of the disaster, the explosion itself, and the ongoing search to locate the victims’ burial sites. This program will feature an opportunity to see items from the VMHC’s collection related to Brown’s Island and the incident which occurred there in 1863.



April 22, 2023, 1:00 – 5:00 p.m.: Battlefield Tours of Virginia’s Chancellorsville Tour at the 160th Anniversary of the Battle of Chancellorsville. Author Michael C. Hardy will lead the tour with emphasis on Lane’s North Carolina Brigade. Tour cost is \$99, and a portion of all proceeds will benefit battlefield preservation.

Michael C. Hardy, author of “General Lee’s Immortals,” will be available to sign his books from 10:00 a.m. to noon at the Chancellorsville Battlefield Visitor Center.

For more information:

<https://battlefieldtoursofvirginia.com>.

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

**DAVID RUTH
ALFRED HINTZ
TRAVIS WHITLOW**

Attendance at March meeting: 65

**AFTER THE CIVIL WAR
WHATEVER HAPPENED TO...
JOHN SURRETT**



John Harrison Surratt, Jr. was accused of plotting with John Wilkes Booth to kidnap U.S. President Abraham Lincoln; he was also suspected of involvement in the Lincoln assassination. His mother, Mary Surratt, was convicted of conspiracy and hanged by the U.S. government. John Surratt avoided arrest immediately after the assassination by fleeing to Canada and then to Europe. He served briefly as a Pontifical Zouave but was recognized and arrested. He escaped to Egypt but was eventually arrested and extradited. By the time of his trial, the statute of limitations had expired on most of the potential charges which meant that he was never convicted of anything.

Surratt tried to farm tobacco and then taught at the Rockville Female Academy. In 1870, as one of the last surviving members of the conspiracy, Surratt began a much-heralded public lecture tour. On December 6, at a small courthouse in Rockville, Maryland, in a 75-minute speech, Surratt admitted his involvement in the scheme to kidnap Lincoln. However, he maintained that he knew nothing of the assassination plot.

Surratt later took a job as a teacher in St. Joseph Catholic School in Emmitsburg, Maryland. In 1872, he married Mary Victorine Hunter, a second cousin of Francis Scott Key. They had seven children. He retired from the Baltimore Steam Packet Company, where he was treasurer, in 1914. He died in 1916 at the age of 72 of pneumonia.

Adapted from Wikipedia Legends of the Civil War

SCENES FROM SPECIAL COLLECTIONS TOUR



Lee's HQ's flag, used until 1864



A.P. Hill's Spurs



30th VA Presentation Flag



UPCOMING MEETINGS

May 9: Robin Snyder, "The Job of a Battlefield Park Superintendent"

June 13: Clay Mountcastle, "Confederate Guerrillas and Union Generals who Hated Them"

July 11: James Hessler, "The Fight at East Cavalry Field"

August 8: Emmanuel Dabney, "Broader Recruitment Training of USCT"

September 12: Jonathan Jones, "Veteran Addictions"

October 10: Rob Havers, "Anticipation of War in U.S. Military Society in the Antebellum Period"

November 14:** Annual Dinner Meeting, Garry Adelman, "Preservation Accomplishments in the Richmond Area & Future Plans"

December 12: Jake Wynn, "Civil War Medicine"

****Date subject to change**



Robert Hancock

John Bell Hood's Frock Coat

