



Founded at Fort Harrison
on February 8, 1951

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RICHMOND

CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

AUGUST 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

August 9, 2022

7:30 p.m.

**At First Presbyterian Church
4602 Cary Street Road
Richmond, VA 23226**

**(parking lot is behind the church; go up the steps to
fellowship hall on the left)**

Michael C. Hardy

**“Hard Crackers and Crackers Hard:
Feeding the Army of
Northern Virginia”**



Most of the time, when people talk about the Civil War, they discuss commanders and battles, bullets and cannons. Seldom do they talk about the complexities of transporting troops, manufacturing ammunition, or feeding the armies. Removing just one of those vital and interconnected components would cause the progress of the armies to grind to a shuddering halt.

Come join Michael C. Hardy to explore the integral and often under-explored role of food, from the perspective of the common Confederate soldier in the Army of Northern Virginia.

Michael C. Hardy has a passion for history. Over the past three decades he has written about people, places, and events which are frequently overlooked in the grand, sweeping narratives. He is the author of twenty-five books. His articles have appeared in numerous national magazines, and he has been featured as a commentator for *Blood and Fury: America's Civil War* on the American Heroes Channel and on Civil War Talk Radio.

In 2010, Michael was named North Carolina Historian of the Year by the North Carolina Society of Historians. In 2018, *General Lee's Immortals*, his history of the Branch-Lane brigade, was honored with the James I. Robertson, Jr. Literary Prize.

He is a graduate of the University of Alabama and, since 1995, has called western North Carolina home. Michael blogs regularly at *Looking for the Confederate War*.

A Word from the President

"An army marches on its stomach," according to Napoleon. That statement was true during Napoleon's time – and before – and it is true in today's military. I know from my own three children that "chow time" was an important part of their day, no matter where their deployments took them or their duty station was. They were always well provided for.

That was not the case for the Federal and Confederate armies during the Civil War, especially when they were on the move.

I recently read two books that dealt heavily with the logistics involved of keeping an army supplied: "Meade at Gettysburg," and "Retreat from Gettysburg," both by Kent Masterson Brown. It is mindboggling to see the vast amount of supplies needed to not only feed the soldiers, but to keep the horses and mules fed as well. Foraging was a necessity wherever the armies went.

The following is from a book by Earl Hess, "Civil War Logistics," where he quotes a commissary officer, H.C. Symonds, in the Army of the Potomac: "Any nincompoop will make a good enough quartermaster or commissary in time of peace, but in war those offices are in every respect the most important to the commanding general, to

the troops, to the government, and to the people.”

I look forward to hearing what Michael Hardy has to say about “Feeding the Army of Northern Virginia.”

Ulli

DANNY’S EXCELLENT HISTORY TRIP

By Danny Witt

On June 13th I left Richmond on a twenty-day 3,700 mile camping/National Park/Civil War trip, returning home on July 2nd. These are the Civil War sites I visited along the way.

The first stop was the town cemetery in Jacksonville, Alabama, to visit the grave of Major John C. Pelham. Killed at the Battle of Kelly’s Ford on March 17, 1863, the “Gallant Pelham” was buried in the town cemetery on March 31, drawing the largest crowd ever to have gathered in the town up to that time. A sign detailing his life is near the grave. The grave itself is at the edge of the street on a small rise with a soldier atop the marker that just says “Pelham.”

On to Natchez, Mississippi, to start up the Natchez Trace, the main objective of my trip to travel the entire Trace to Nashville. The one



spot in Natchez related to the Civil War is Forks Of The Road, the site of the second largest slave market in the U.S. after New Orleans. It is not a Memorial Park.

The Natchez Trace is the old 440 mile route used by the Natchez, Creek, Choctaw, and other Native American tribes to travel for trade and to hunting grounds. Starting in the later 1700’s it was a major return route from Natchez

to Nashville for pioneers that had drifted their cargo-laden boats and rafts down the Mississippi River to be sold in Natchez and New Orleans. In 1938 the Park Service established the Natchez Trace Parkway.

During the Civil War, the Trace was used to move soldiers around the area. There are two areas of unmarked Confederate graves and two roadside signs, one of Grant’s headquarters and the other of the Battle of Raymond on the march to Jackson. I took a side trip to Raymond, Mississippi, where a sign points out the courthouse and the church that were used as hospitals after the battle.

Continuing on to Tupelo, Mississippi, I stopped by a very small park commemorating the Battle of Tupelo, also known as the Engagement at Harrisburg, on July 14 and 15, 1864, in which the Northern forces secured Sherman’s supply line for the Atlanta Campaign. The park is a half acre plot with a grave, two cannons, and an obelisk marker. Parking is next to it at a lawyer’s office. Also close by is the battlefield of Brice’s Cross Roads. It looks almost exactly like Tupelo with a marker and two cannons, but there is also a museum, which I didn’t visit, and a well-marked driving tour that explains the battle of June 10, 1864.

Further north and a little off the Trace is Corinth Civil War Interpretive Center, part of the Shiloh National Park System. It has all you need to know about the battle in and around the town of Corinth. Heading back to the Trace, I stopped in Iuka, Mississippi, where there was a battle on September 19, 1862, but not much currently to show about it. A nice mural on an old building commemorates the 150th anniversary of the battle. A docent at the Old Courthouse Museum pointed out that the house across the street was the headquarters for the Confederate general during the battle. The battlefield is marked by a sign behind McDonald’s, which tells about Confederate General Lewis Henry Little being killed here.

This next portion of the trip is not the order I followed, but in the order in which they occurred. The Battle of Stones River was fought December 31, 1862 to January 2, 1863. Here

again is a nice visitors center, the best bookstore of the whole trip, and a driving tour you can do on your phone at no cost. I followed the route and visited the sites of the headquarters of both Generals Bragg and Rosecrans. A nice way to spend a morning.

Switching to 1864 and the Battle of Nashville, I stopped by Rippaville where General Hood and his army slept while General Schofield and the Northern Army passed by on the Nashville Highway in the middle of the night. The house sits about 150 yards back from the road. I toured Travelers Rest, the home of Judge John Overton, used as the headquarters of General Hood during the December 1864 Battle of Nashville. Though it was a big house, Hood used only one room as headquarters and sleeping quarters.

Continuing on to Franklin, I also toured the Carter House. Here, on November 30, 1864, the ill-fated Battle of Franklin occurred as Hood sent his army across two miles of plain to the epicenter around the Carter House, costing the CSA 6,000 of the 8,500 casualties of the battle, six of them being Confederate Generals: Patrick



Cleburne,
John Adams,
Hiram B.
Granbury,
States Rights
Gist and Otho
F. Strahl.
John C. Carter

died shortly after the battle. With bullet holes heavily peppering all the walls of the Carter House and a shed, I readily saw how horrific the battle was.

My next tour was the Carnton Plantation House, a Confederate hospital with up to thirty patients in each room and the scene where the five Confederate Generals killed the day before were laid out on the porch for the army to honor as they passed by. Also, there is a very well-kept private Confederate cemetery. The hospital and graveyard were the inspiration for the 2005 historical fiction book, "The Widow of the South" by Robert Hicks.



Carnton Plantation

There is not much left to see from the December Battle of Nashville. I visited Fort Negley, the Union fort that anchored the left of the Union line, now closed for badly needed renovations. On a walk around the outside of the fort I saw what a commanding position the fort played in the battle. The visitors center was also very helpful in directing me to various points around the Confederate line, almost all of which are now residential neighborhoods.

On the way west toward Fort Pillow, I had a nice surprise. Interstate 40 literally goes through the middle of Parker's Crossroads Battlefield. With signage to exit the Interstate, a very good visitors center, and an easy-to-follow guided tour, I enjoyed the center and a tour, got a good picture of the battle, and was back on the road in 1 ½ hours. I don't know what it was with Nathan Bedford Forrest and Crossroads, but he was once again the commanding general here.

I then continued on to Fort Pillow State Historical Park and I must say that this was the biggest disappointment of the whole trip, admittedly partly my fault. To tour the fort I trudged a 2 ½ mile round-trip walk through hilly woods, only to arrive at a partially reconstructed fort on a bluff with no river in sight. I never knew the Mississippi River had changed course in 1909 and is now a mile away from the fort. I also didn't feel the museum dealt enough with the horrific massacre of U.S. Colored Troops, which is part of the fort's history.

Luckily, my next stop was a crown jewel of the trip. Another 3 ½ hours northwest of Fort Pillow is Fort Donelson National Battlefield. This

well-preserved battlefield has the best river fortifications I have seen. An eleven-stop tour on the phone brings the battle to life. It is amazing to see first hand how spread out the battle was, with a lot of remaining works away from the river. The tour ends up in Dover, Tennessee, at the Dover Hotel, which was General Buckner's headquarters and the surrender site from the battle.



The Dover Hotel

The other fort in the area was Fort Henry which is now under water, but I likely spent the night within five miles of its location, as my campground for the night was on the lake at the end of Fort Henry Road.



Fort Donelson

Time to turn east for home and one more site. I visited Andrew Johnson National Historic Site in Greenville, Tennessee. Inside the visitors center is the building his tailor shop was in. Nearby, you can tour the two homes he lived

in. He is buried in Andrew Johnson National Cemetery. For any John Hunt Morgan fans, he was surprised and killed by Union raiders on September 4, 1864 in Greenville.

So ends a great trip.

CIVIL WAR TRIVIA

From the June 2022 issue of *Civil War News*

1. J.E.B. Stuart mortally wounded here
2. Confederates reused 1781 British fortifications at this town in 1862
3. USN tugboat used in Fort Sumter relief attempt, then on James River to 1865
4. Confederate raider who was a post-war bank robber
5. Prominent Alabama advocate for secession who died July 27, 1863
6. Maine-born CS general who led remnants of Hays' Louisiana Brigade
7. Confederate defensive position guarding back door to Vicksburg
8. Texas song allegedly about Melissa West, heroine of the Texas War of Ind.
9. Nickname of men who built 1864 Bailey Dams on Red River
10. He led the St. Albans, Vermont, raid

Answers on page 6

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

JON MOSS

FRITZ AND MARY WILL

EVENT OF INTEREST

The Manassas Battlefield Trust, the official philanthropic partner of Manassas National Battlefield Park, is commemorating the Second Battle of Manassas with an anniversary bus tour on Thursday, August 25, 2022: "In the Steps of Stonewall Jackson: Prelude to Second Manassas."

Join a National Park Service historian for a full-day bus tour following the route of Stonewall Jackson's flank march around John Pope's Union Army that preceded the Second Battle of Manassas. The tour will be offered on the 160th anniversary of the march. Bus tour begins and ends at the Henry Hill Visitor Center, departing at 9:00 a.m. and returning by 5:00 p.m. Box lunch included.

Meet at Henry Hill Visitor Center at 8:30 a.m., bus will leave promptly at 9:00 a.m. Tickets are \$60 for a limited time and include a boxed lunch.

For more information, go to:

www.manassasbattlefield.org.

GETTYSBURG FALL SEMINAR

The Association of Licensed Battlefield Guides (ALBG) is having their Fall seminar, entitled *Hancock's Second Corps* on September 23, 24, and 25, 2022. The cost is \$150 and includes exclusive Gettysburg Battlefield tours with ten of Gettysburg's Finest, including Jim Hessler, Charlie Fennell, Chris Army, and Doug Douds. Also included is a Friday Deluxe Seafood/Steak Tips Buffett Dinner at the historic Dobbin House.

Special room rates of \$150 a night at the 1863 Inn of Gettysburg (866-953-4483 or 717-334-6211); call before August 9 and mention "ALBG 2022 Fall Seminar" (on-line booking will not apply discount).

Tours include: Attack of the Irish Brigade; Caldwell Strikes the Wheatfield; The Philadelphia Brigade at the Angle; Willard's Brigade and the Attack of the 1st Minnesota; Guns of the Second Corps.

For more information, go to:

<http://gettysburgtourguides.org/albgseminar/>

UPCOMING MEETINGS

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

October 11:* Dr. Charles Fennell, "Men in Green: The First and Second U.S. Sharpshooters in the Battle of Gettysburg"

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"

**It is with deep regret that we learned of the passing of October's scheduled speaker, David Keller. We thank Dr. Fennell for agreeing on relative short notice to come to Richmond in his stead.*

Attendance at July Meeting: 76

Trivia Answers:

1. Yellow Tavern
2. Yorktown
3. USS *Yankee*
4. Cole Younger
5. William Loundes Yancey
6. General Zebulon York
7. Yazoo Bluff
8. *Yellow Rose of Texas*
9. "Yankee Mudsills"
10. Lieutenant Bennett H. Young