



Founded at Fort Harrison
on February 8, 1951

RICHMOND CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE AUGUST 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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**August 8, 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)**

EMMANUEL DABNEY

**“Recruitment and
Training of USCT”**



This month's program by Emmanuel Dabney will highlight the efforts to recruit troops and provide profiles on men who served in the 6th and 19th United States Colored Infantry. These two regiments came from different backgrounds as the 6th US Colored Infantry comprised recruits raised at Camp William Penn near Philadelphia, while the 19th US Colored Infantry was raised at Camp Stanton in Maryland and included a number of formerly enslaved men. Both regiments served in Virginia and North Carolina from 1864-1865.

Emmanuel Dabney has been at Petersburg National Battlefield since 2001. After completing high school in Dinwiddie County, Emmanuel graduated *magna cum laude* with an Associates of Arts from Richard Bland College, graduated *magna cum laude* with a Bachelor of Arts in Historic Preservation from the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, Virginia, and completed a Master's degree in Public History at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

He has given many programs on the issues facing African-Americans in antebellum, wartime, and immediate post-war America as well as how to represent these experiences within professional museum settings. Emmanuel has delivered programs to various Civil War roundtables,

museums, colleges and other organizations.

As an avid genealogist and historian, Emmanuel has discovered his Dinwiddie County ancestors to include his great-great-great-grandfather who was a wealthy Virginia slave owner and his great-great-great-grandmother, a mixed-race free Black woman, and another great-great-great-grandfather who was enslaved. His paternal line furthest back ancestors were enslaved people from North Carolina. Included in his family tree are two members of Virginia's Secession Convention, numerous Confederate soldiers and officers, and his great-great-grandfather, Henry Dabney, who was digging earthworks around Petersburg in 1864 and 1865.

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

"Glory" is my favorite Civil War movie. Since 1989, when it was released, I have watched it numerous times on DVD, and in 2019, at its 30-year anniversary, it was briefly shown in theaters again. Not only did the movie bring to prominence the heroic deeds of the 54th Massachusetts at the Second Battle of Fort Wagner, but it also transformed "Ferris Bueller" into Colonel Robert Gould Shaw (Matthew Broderick did a great job, in my opinion). Denzel Washington (who was awarded an Oscar for his role), Morgan



Freeman, and Gary Elwes were equally impressive.

As I write this, it is the 160th anniversary of the Second Battle of Fort Wagner. From the Massachusetts Historical Society: "On July 16, 1863, serving as a diversion for the intended attack on Morris Island, South Carolina, the 54th Regiment saw its first action on James Island, losing forty-five men. On July 18, after several days with little sleep, food or water, the regiment was instructed to lead the attack against Fort Wagner on Morris Island. In the disastrous assault led by Colonel Shaw, the 54th suffered very heavy losses, including the loss of their commander, and nearly half of the men present were killed, wounded, or missing. Despite this, the unit showed exceptional bravery and honor, never retreating as they waited for the reinforcements which would never arrive."

Among the survivors were Lewis Henry Douglass, the oldest son of Frederick Douglass, and Sgt. William H. Carney. Despite being wounded, Carney retrieved the colors from the color bearer who had been shot down and continued the charge. He was shot several more times, yet he kept the colors flying high shouting, "The Old Flag never touched the ground," as he delivered the flag back to his regiment. He would be the first African American to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Despite the defeat at Fort Wagner, the recruitment of Black soldiers in the 54th was viewed as a success and opened the way for numerous other Black units in the Union Army for the remainder of the war.

On the Confederate side, Major General Patrick Cleburne on January 2, 1864 distributed one of the most controversial documents during the American Civil War to a small group of Confederate officers in

Dalton, Georgia. In it he detailed the numerical advantage held by Northern forces and proposed arming slaves to serve in the Confederate armed forces. Cleburne met with immediate and vehement opposition and President Davis ordered all copies of the document destroyed. Cleburne was killed at the Battle of Franklin on November 30, 1864 and less than four months later the Confederate Congress finally authorized the raising of Black troops.

I look forward to learning more from Emmanuel about the recruitment and training of Black units at this month's meeting.

Ulli

**A WARM WELCOME TO OUR
NEW MEMBERS**

**Lawrence "Joe" Burleigh
Jacqueline & Conrad Eberstein
Bill Henck
T. Sheppard Parson III
Marc Vallario
Christine Wynd**

**OCTOBER FIELD TRIP
Saturday, October 28, 2023**

The Richmond Civil War Round Table is pleased to announce a Civil War educational tour of Grant's second attempt to capture the Petersburg and Weldon Railroad, part of the Fourth Offensive of the Petersburg Campaign, August 18-21, 1864. The tour focuses on the Fight for the Weldon Railroad, a supply line running from Wilmington to Weldon, North Carolina, and then from Weldon on into the City of Petersburg.

This vital railroad line carried supplies from the last seaport of the Confederacy to forces of General Robert E. Lee and the beleaguered cities of Petersburg and Richmond.

The caravan tour will begin at Richard Bland College, 11301 Johnson Road, Petersburg, VA. Check-in is at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, October 28, 2023 in the parking lot of the college. The tour will begin promptly at 9:00 a.m. and run until approximately 4:00 p.m. We will cover ten stops but will have an additional stop of approximately 30-45 minutes for lunch (BRING YOUR OWN) at a pavilion picnic area along the way.

This tour, led by RCWRT members Jerry Netherland and Mark Jacobson, will also showcase two core battlefield properties recently saved by the American Battlefield Trust and the Petersburg Battlefields Foundation. The tour will visit public, National Park Service, and private sites.

Cost per person is \$15; however, anyone who would be willing to drive a group of members will have their \$15 covered. Let Billie know if you would be willing to be a driver. **Registration is now open. Please sign up with Art at the meeting, or send your check to: Art Wingo, 1414 Patriot Circle, Glen Allen, VA 23059**

EVENTS OF INTEREST

August 19: 6:00 p.m. Last of the "History at Sunset" Programs sponsored by Petersburg National Battlefield and the Petersburg Battlefields Foundation: "Stories within the Story," The Battle for the Weldon Railroad and Fort Wadsworth. Meet at Fort Wadsworth at the Intersection of Halifax Road (604) and Flank Road. The program is

free. Call 804-732-3531 ext. 200 for questions.

October 6-8: Registration is open for the 2023 Image of War Seminar by the Center for Civil War Photography, which will be held close to home in Petersburg.

For more information and to register, go to: www.civilwarphotography.org

A HEADS UP

Please mark the November 14 dinner meeting on your calendar as a must attend. We are so pleased that nationally known historian Garry Adelman agreed to be our speaker. The enthusiastic and energetic Garry is very busy as the Chief Historian of the American Battlefield Trust and we are happy he could fit us into his packed schedule. Garry will speak about the preservation accomplishments in the Richmond area, a topic we should all be invested in.

Stay tuned also for the new and improved (we think) menu that we selected at Willow Oaks Country Club. More information to follow in future newsletters.

ANOTHER HEADS UP

Those of you who attended the October 2021 meeting at the Virginia War Memorial heard Victor Vignola speak on "The Battle of Fair Oaks: The Struggle for the Adams House."

At long last we can look forward to the book! Savas Beatie is releasing it on November 1, 2023 under the title, "Contrasts in Command: The Battle of Fair Oaks, May 31-June 1, 1862."

Gary Gallagher, Gordon Rhea, Chris Kolakowski, and our own Doug Crenshaw gave the book high advance praise. We will keep you updated.

WHO WAS...
James Iredell Waddell



James Iredell Waddell was born in Pittsboro, North Carolina, on July 3, 1824. He was an officer in the United States Navy and later in the Confederate States Navy.

He joined the United States Navy as a Midshipman in September 1841 and later graduated from the United States Naval Academy. In his nearly two decades in the U.S. Navy, he sailed the world until he resigned his commission at the outbreak of the Civil War, returned home late in 1861, and was dismissed in January 1862.

Waddell was appointed a Lieutenant in the Confederate States Navy and participated in the Battle of Drewry's Bluff on May 15, 1862 as an artillery officer ashore. Sent abroad in March 1863, First Lieutenant Waddell was stationed in England awaiting the availability of a seagoing position.



In October 1864 he converted the British steamship *Sea King* to the Confederate

cruiser *CSS Shenandoah*, going on a long and productive cruise through the South Atlantic, across the Indian Ocean and into the North Pacific. In the Arctic waters there, he devastated the United States-flagged whaling fleet during June 1865.

On June 27, 1865 he learned that General Robert E. Lee had surrendered his Army of Northern Virginia. However, Waddell believed a newspaper report that stated Jefferson Davis's proclamation that the "war would be carried on with renewed vigor." Waddell then captured ten more whalers in the space of seven hours just below the Arctic Circle. On August 3, 1865 he finally learned of the war's end when he received the news of the surrender of General Joseph E. Johnston's army on April 26, 1865, Kirby Smith's army's surrender on May 26, and the capture of Jefferson Davis.

Captain Waddell presided over the last official lowering of the Confederate flag when he surrendered the *CSS Shenandoah* on November 6, 1865 on the River Mersey at Liverpool to Captain Paynter of *HMS Donegal*.

Waddell did not return to the United States until 1870, when he became captain of the commercial steamer *City of San Francisco*. He later was in charge of the State of Maryland's oyster regulation force. He died at Annapolis, Maryland on March 15, 1886, and was buried at St. Anne's Cemetery in Annapolis.

Adapted from
The Wikipedia Legends of the Civil War

OF INTEREST

The Hampton History Museum in partnership with Civil War Trails, Hampton Convention & Visitor Bureau, and partners across Coastal Virginia have created a new Coastal Virginia Civil War wayfinding brochure.

Now available for visitors and residents to use, this brochure showcases Coastal Virginia's Civil War sites in an exciting format. Use the map to follow the 1862 Peninsula Campaign turn by turn. Keep the map handy as you explore Coastal Virginia, and keep your eyes peeled for the Civil War Trails directional signs. Tips for restaurants, breweries, wineries are also included.

For more information, or to request a copy of the brochure by mail, visit www.civilwartrails.org or send an email to executivedirector@civilwartrails.org.

TWO NEW BOOKS

Two authors contacted us announcing their recent books.

Dr. Russ Glenn: *God's War, An American Civil War Novel*. The plot is described as Robert E. Lee accepting President Lincoln's offer to head the Union Army and the course of the nation forever changing as a result. Available on Amazon.

Steven G. Sanders: *Artists at Gettysburg*. It is a collection of more than three dozen drawings and paintings that were created during the battle, or in its immediate aftermath.

To purchase this Ebook, go to: www.books2read.com/u/bxNvdD.

WAR TIME NEWS

Richmond, VA, June 11, 1864

"The end of last week was made glorious by events which will forever be remembered in the history of this war and our city. For three consecutive days Grant tried in vain to break through our defensive lines, which were guarded by Lee and his brave troops, who defied all of the Yankee advances. These brave troops performed great deeds, which only the impartial

historian will be able to describe with sufficient dignity. Of course, our side spilt much of its noble blood, but the enemy's losses must have been much more significant, as they were often the attackers. This can already be seen by the fact that after this second memorable battle along the Chickahominy, Grant has remained lying quietly behind his defensive works awaiting reinforcements, and he has contented himself with launching forays against our flanks and our lines of communication. Lee and his brave troops, who have so often successfully outmaneuvered the enemy, will once more be able to thwart all of his attempts to capture Richmond.



From
THE RICHMOND ADVERTISER
Thank you, Bert Dunkerly

UPCOMING MEETINGS

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"

Attendance at July Meeting: 70