



Founded at Fort Harrison
on February 8, 1951

RICHMOND CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

AUGUST 2024

"The Civil War was the biggest thing that ever happened to us. It was our Iliad and our Odyssey – and it remains our least understood war."

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August 13, 2024

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)

DR. BRAD GOTTFRIED

**"THE ANTIETAM PAINTINGS
OF JAMES B. HOPE"**



Capt. James B. Hope witnessed the horrors of Antietam as a member of the 2nd Vermont Infantry. Hope survived the war and became a distinguished landscape artist in the “Hudson River School of Painters.”



After an Antietam reunion, Hope devoted his time and energies in creating five panoramic (12 feet by 5.5 feet) paintings of the battle. The canvases convey the beauty and horror of the

Antietam battlefield.

In this presentation, Dr. Brad Gottfried will display each painting and then zoom in on each portion to illustrate interesting aspects of the battle and what it was like to be a Civil War soldier. This presentation will be of interest to both the “hard-core” Civil War buffs and those with an interest in fine art.

Bradley M. Gottfried served as a college educator for more than 40 years before retiring in 2017. After receiving his doctorate, he worked as a full-time faculty member before entering the administrator ranks. He rose to a position of president and served for 17 years at two colleges.

His interest in the Civil War began when he was a youngster in the Philadelphia area. He has written 18 books on the Civil War, including a number on Gettysburg and

map studies of various campaigns. A resident of the Chambersburg/Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, area, Brad is an Antietam Licensed Battlefield Guide and a Gettysburg Licensed Town Guide.



The Dunker Church by James B. Hope

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

All of us like to talk about Civil War history, and we’re often asked the same question from people whose curiosity has been sparked: “What should I read?” That’s a tough question to answer when most estimates of Civil War books are that there have been about 80,000 books written, more than on any other subject other than Christianity. (That is almost 1 ½ books every day since Appomattox!!)

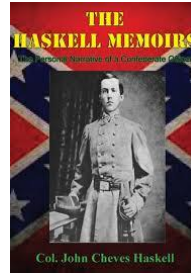
For novices, I often tell them to start with *Killer Angels*, which is not perfect history, but it is easy to read. If they want more after that, I give them something tough like *Battle Cry of Freedom*. If they like that, they’re hooked.

But, if they ask instead what do I like to read, I say it is the memoirs. Like *Killer Angels*, they are not perfect history. The generals are spinning hard and rewriting the facts to make themselves look good, although U.S.

Grant's memoir stands out as one of the best. The privates had a very limited field of vision, so their comments on battles and strategies are usually repetitive of what they themselves have read. But they have great anecdotes (many are humorous), and one can get closer to their actual experience by reading the memoirs. Probably the best memoirs are those written by educated staff officers, who observed multiple generals during battles and in camp; and their observations are usually objective and insightful. They can also include some great stories.

One of my favorites is *The Haskell Memoirs* of South Carolinian John Cheves Haskell. At Gaines' Mill, as that battle developed, young staff officers like Haskell wanted to get into the fight. Seeing General Hood as the Union line was breaking, Haskell expressed his desires, and Hood *"said that he was about to charge the battery which was sweeping the level beyond the ravine, where we had just broken the enemy's first line,"* and that Haskell could join in. Well, all of us know exactly where they were – close to where you park your car at the Watt house. So Haskell joins in the charge, and I'll let him tell the story. *"We charged across the plateau about four or five hundred feet. When I got within a few feet of the guns, I marked a gunner fixing his lanyard into the friction primer. I made a run to cut him down before he could fire, but he was too quick. When I was not over ten feet from the muzzle the gun went off. The shot struck my right arm, crushing it and tearing it off at my shoulder. When it hit me, it seemed to knock me up in*

the air and spin me around two or three times. ... When I came to, I found my arm wrapped around my sword in a most remarkable manner. ... I unwound the fragments of my arm from my sword blade, which I got back into the scabbard. I succeeded in stuffing my arm into the breast of my coat, got to my feet and started to the rear." Along his way out of the battle, near the ravine down to Boatswain's



Creek, he saw his friend Bradfute Warwick, a Richmond native who was commanding the 4th Texas that day. Warwick was mortally wounded; and with his arm stuffed in his uniform, Haskell stopped to get help for him.

OK, come on, it doesn't get any better than this. Stuffing your severed arm into your coat and walking to the rear?? That's a story that gets pretty close to the top of all of them that I have ever read. So, make a special trip to Gaines' Mill, park your car, walk out onto that plateau that Haskell described, and think about that incident.

John Haskell survived his wound, returned to service, was promoted to Colonel, and served as Lee's commander of artillery in the surrender at Appomattox, in part because he still had a clean uniform. He married a daughter of Wade Hampton and lived until 1906. The American Civil War Museum collection includes Warwick's uniform and the camp chair that Haskell used with a special place to rest the stump of his arm!!

Waite

EVENTS OF INTEREST

August 17, 6:00 p.m.: History at Sunset Tour, Petersburg National Battlefield – “Destroy the Railroad: The Second Battle of Reams’ Station”

The Petersburg and Weldon Railroad was one of the three supplying Robert E. Lee and his Army of Northern Virginia manning the defenses of Petersburg and Richmond in the summer of 1864. Union Lieutenant General Grant’s strategy centered on cutting this vital supply line. Grant would launch cavalry raids and infantry maneuvers to cut and destroy the Petersburg and Weldon Railroad as far south as possible. Confederate Generals Lee, Hill, and Hampton had other ideas!

Meet at Reams’ Station Battlefield, 27800 Reams Drive at the intersection of Halifax Road. The tour is co-sponsored by Petersburg National Battlefield and the Petersburg Battlefields Foundation. The program is free. Call 804-732-3531 ext. 200 if you have any questions.

September 7: Virginia Museum of History and Culture’s Second annual Conrad M. Hall Symposium for Virginia History with keynote speaker Dr. Elizabeth Varon (who recently won the Inaugural American Battlefield Trust Prize for History for her book “Longstreet: The Confederate General Who Defied The South”). There will be 16 panels comprising more than 40 experts from across the Commonwealth. It will be a full day of engaging presentations that highlight groundbreaking research into Virginia history around the theme of “Creation.” Tickets and an agenda for the day can be found at www.VirginiaHistory.org/symposium.

**A Warm Welcome to Our
New Members:**

**JOEL KLEIN
KEITH ZIMMERMAN**

**From the Round Table Archives
RCWRT BULLETIN –
Volume 1, Issue 6, June 1958**

Meade Talks of His Grandsire

At the June meeting we had the unusual pleasure of an address by George Gordon Meade, great-grandson of the Civil War commander. With appropriate modesty, young Meade gave his analysis of General Meade’s character and personal traits. “He was a methodical man, somewhat rigid in his views, bold but not daring, self-reliant, and ready to make firm decisions and to act upon them. He had no appetite for political connivance, which trait did not endear him to some of the arm-chair strategists in Washington. The anomalous position in which he found himself as Grant accompanied the Army of the Potomac through Virginia in 1864-65 was a test upon his high qualities of fortitude and forbearance.”

In the open discussion that followed Meade’s more formal statements, the General’s descendant acquitted himself with pleasant aplomb. We conclude that there is a nice question for broad speculation as to whether Grant’s being in the field with Meade was of

his own making or by virtue of persuasions from higher up. And from this question derives an equally interesting speculation as to what might have been the sequence of events if Grant had been elsewhere.

Earthworks at Byrd Airport will be Preserved and Marked

Of the few remaining Civil War earthworks in Henrico County, most of the others having been leveled with the advance of progress, there still stands intact one strip within the grounds of the Byrd Airport, alongside and easily visible from the entrance driveway. This property belongs to the City of Richmond.

Marking a portion of the Confederate Intermediate Defense Line, these works were probably first thrown up against McClellan's advance during the Peninsula Campaign in 1862 and subsequently enlarged and strengthened. Much of the line was destroyed in the Airport development, and this remnant might also have vanished but for the watchful eye of fellow Round Tabler Ambler Johnston.

Some weeks ago Mr. Johnston apprised the Mayor and City Manager of the historic significance of these earthworks, requesting the good offices of these gentlemen in halting any further destruction, in consideration of which he pledged his efforts to have the line designated with appropriate historical markers.

City Manager Edwards has since given assurance that, insofar as may be possible, there will be no further destruction of the earthworks. He has further indicated that "the Department of Public Works will be glad to work

with the Civil War Round Table in the installation of signs identifying these works if the group will furnish them." To this end the Round Table approved, at its June meeting, a resolution presented by Mr. Johnston calling for the appointment of "a committee charged with the duty of making a report together with approximate costs of appropriately marking these fortifications."

SAVE THE DATE

As announced at the July meeting by Dale Harter, the field trip to Fort Monroe is scheduled for Saturday, October 26. John Quarstein will be our guide.

All the details as to transportation, costs, etc. will follow in future newsletters. For now, please let Dale know if you are planning on going (harterdf@gmail.com).

IN MEMORIAM

It is with great sadness that we learned of the passing on July 17, 2024 of longtime Round Table member

CANNON HOBSON GODDIN

Hobson was a life member of the Richmond Civil War Round Table and past president (1960). He was 100 years old.

Our sincere condolences and sympathy to his family and friends.

HUNDREDS OF NEW CONFEDERATE HEADSTONES AT HOLLYWOOD CEMETERY

By Andy Keller

Many thousands of Confederate soldiers died during the Civil War and were buried with no permanent grave markers in cemeteries all over the South and many in the North. Even in our own

City, there are thousands in Oakwood and Hollywood Cemetery, to name only two, who suffered this fate, yet the names of almost all of them are known. While Confederate monuments may no longer be sacred to society at large, the graves of these soldiers are largely left unmolested. Fortunately, the Veterans Administration still provides headstones for veterans, including Confederate veterans, at no cost so it is not too late to remember and honor these American veterans. Using the VA, personal and charitable contributions, several members of the Round Table have worked for the past seven years to mark over 400 graves in Hollywood Cemetery. These members include Art Wingo, Andy Keller, and Jim Pickens. Most of the funding for the \$200 per grave installation cost has been provided by the Society of the Order of the Southern Cross, founded in 1863 by Lt. Gen.



Leonidas Polk, CSA, Maj. Gen. Patrick R. Cleburne, CSA, and Reverend Charles T. Quintard, CSA. Of these, only Rev. Quintard survived the war.

Most are in the Confederate Section on the northern portion of the cemetery, although on occasion special graves are marked elsewhere. The first application was submitted in 2017 for graves just south of the UDC memorial pyramid. Annual progress was then made to virtually fill Soldiers Sections, J, K, L, P and Q. Applications were researched and submitted through early 2024. Virtually all the applications were for graves of soldiers who died in the first two years of the war. Dan Pyle of the Col. Harry W. Gilmor Camp #1388, Maryland Division, provided research for

many of the service records including almost all the 106 which were applied for over the last year. Without his assistance, these headstone applications would have taken us much longer to complete. We are proud and honored that the 406th headstone was installed in July 2024. As we acquire additional funding, we will continue to honor these veterans who gave their very lives for a cause in which they believed. We encourage you to visit Hollywood Cemetery at your leisure to visit these graves where you can now read their names so that they will no longer be simply forgotten casualties of a long ago war.



UPCOMING MEETINGS

September 10: Scott Mingus, "If We Are Striking for Pennsylvania: The Army of Northern Virginia and the Army of the Potomac March to Gettysburg"

October 8: Bobby Krick, "W.H.F. 'Rooney' Lee"

November 12: Annual Dinner Meeting

Robert Hancock, TBA

December 10: Sarah Bierle, "John Pelham: His Five Years at West Point"

Attendance at July Meeting: 96