



Founded on February 8, 1951

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RICHMOND

CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

FEBRUARY 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

February 8, 2022
7:30 p.m.

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

“Water to his Front, Water to his Rear: Robert E. Lee Defends the Confederate High Water Mark at Sharpsburg”
By Kevin Pawlak



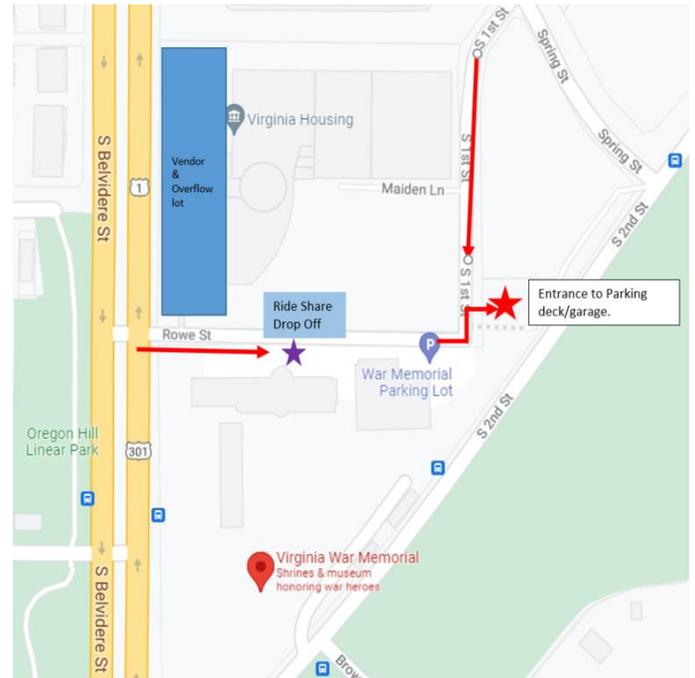
There is perhaps no other decision that Robert E. Lee made in his entire military career that is more criticized and questioned than his decision to stand and fight outside Sharpsburg, Maryland in September 1862. What compelled him to fight with a river at his back and a superior enemy in his front? Or is it even as simple as that? Regardless, Lee beautifully orchestrated his obstinate defense at the Battle of Antietam, and brought on the bloodiest single day in American history. In the annals of the Army of Northern Virginia's history, it was one of the army's best days.

Kevin Pawlak is the Historic Site Manager of Ben Lomond Historic Site and Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park and serves as a Certified Battlefield Guide at Antietam National Battlefield. He graduated from Shepherd University in 2014, majoring in History with a concentration in Civil War and 19th Century America and minoring in Historic Preservation. Kevin previously worked at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park. He is on the Board of Directors for the Shepherdstown Battlefield Preservation Association, the Save Historic Antietam Foundation, and the Antietam Institute. He is also a regular contributor to the Emerging Civil War online blog. He is the author and co-author of four books, including *To Hazard All: A Guide to the Maryland Campaign*.

*****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 below) 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

This month's meeting happens to be on a very important date. On this day (February 8, 1951), 71 years ago, a group of men got together at a cabin at Fort Harrison with the purpose of starting a group of like-minded individuals that would get together on a regular basis to study all aspects of the American Civil War. The Richmond Civil War Round Table was born.

Dan Balfour, long-time round table member, wrote a brief history of the founding and early years of the round table. It is published on our website. It is, indeed,

a long and distinguished history of a group that welcomed famous and not-so-famous speakers and guests over the many years since that first day in 1951. I was told that we are the second – maybe third - oldest round table in the country, with Chicago being the first one and the District of Columbia one also founded in 1951.

Fast forward to 2000. That is when my friend, Allison, and I founded the Greater Pittsburgh CWRT, still going strong 22 years later. All round tables and historic groups that rely on monthly in-person meetings to stay alive, though, have been challenged over these past two years. Zoom meetings just aren't the same as in-person ones! Civil War Round Tables are crucial to keep one of the most important events – perhaps THE most important event - in the history of this country from being forgotten. We study it and, perhaps more importantly, work with preservation organizations, such as the American Battlefield Trust and the Central Virginia Battlefield Trust, to preserve the battlefields and sites where so much was sacrificed.

I came to this country in 1968, and became a citizen in 1978. Always having loved history, I began reading Bruce Catton's trilogy about the Army of the Potomac on long train commutes to my job in New York City from Westchester County, where we lived at the time. And I was hooked.

That brings me back to the importance of keeping the Richmond Civil War Round Table thriving. Please consider the position of Second Vice President (followed by First Vice President, and President)! This is not a "job," it's a privilege. All those who have held these positions are here to lend a helping hand. There are many authors, historians, etc.

who have contacted us about speaking to our group. There is no shortage of speakers, if that is what's holding you back.

So, happy anniversary, Richmond Civil War Round Table! Here's to 71 more years. At least.

Ulli

CIVIL WAR TRIVIA

(from the December issue of *Civil War News*)

1. "Old Slow Trot" Virginia's U.S. General who fought at Chickamauga
2. Monitor sunk in Mobile Bay
3. Train engine in the Great Locomotive Chase
4. C.S. General who lost a leg in the big charge on July 3, 1863
5. Farm in "Sickle's Salient" at Gettysburg
6. John B. Hood was first commander of this famous brigade
7. CSN "aircraft carrier" captured by USN 1862
8. Lee's best known horse
9. Chief Justice who rendered Dred Scott Decision
10. Confederate ironclad at Mobile Bay

Answers on page 6

ANNUAL DUES ARE DUE

Annual dues must be paid to the Secretary by February 15, 2022 in order to avoid being dropped from the membership roster. Individual dues remain at \$35 and Couples at \$45 and may be paid by renewing members without including a membership form.

You may send a check payable to RCWRT to Andy Keller, 9701 Fireside Drive, Glen Allen, VA 23060; or pay Andy at the meeting.

A warm welcome to our new member, David Kraft. We are glad you joined our group.

VOLUNTARY DONATIONS APPRECIATED

After the last two – very unusual – years, we are unfortunately expecting a decline in membership. Due to the meeting room at First Presbyterian not being available for the foreseeable future because of the pandemic, we were forced to look for an alternative site. While we love the facility at the Virginia War Memorial, the rent is also substantially higher. We do hope, of course, to eventually meet again at First Presbyterian.

In the meantime, however, we would appreciate any monetary donation to the round table. If you desire, you can make your donation in memory or in honor of someone and we will put your name and your honoree's name in the newsletter.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

PLEASE NOTE

At the March meeting, the membership will vote on the following change to the Constitution regarding the possibility of a meeting cancellation for a variety of reasons, such as snow closings, unavailability of meeting room, etc.:

“Article IV Section 2: The regular monthly meetings of this organization shall be on the second Tuesday of each month. The November dinner meeting may be held on an alternate date with the approval of the Executive Committee. The President, First Vice President, and Secretary shall jointly be authorized to cancel any meeting.”

Additionally, there will be a vote to remove from the Constitution the office of Webmaster in Article IV Section 1, f.

ACWM 2022 SYMPOSIUM

The American Civil War Museum will hold the 2022 Symposium, entitled “The Soldier’s Civil War,” on **Saturday, February 19, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

This 17th annual Symposium will be held for the first time at historic Tredegar and will be held in the Foundry building. The symposium is presented in partnership with the Nau Civil War Center at the University of Virginia and will be moderated by Dr. Caroline E. Janney. Registration includes a boxed lunch. The cost is \$50 for ACWM members, \$75 for non members. The scheduled speakers are: Dr. Peter Carmichael, Dr. Lorien Foote, Dr. Lesley Gordon, Dr. Jonathan Jones, Dr. Holly Pinhero.

There are two add-on events on Friday, February 18:

2:30 p.m. – 5:15 p.m. – Collections Tour (tour times: 2:30 p.m., 3:30 p.m., and 4:30 p.m.), cost is \$25 per person.

5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. – Reception with the event speakers at the museum, cost is \$35 per person.

Register at acwm.org. Or, call Kelly Hancock, Public Programs Manager, at 804-649-1861, ext. 121, to register by phone. There is also a live stream option available.

SPECIAL RAFFLE

The previously announced special raffle will be held at our February meeting. Danny Witt will be selling tickets for the framed Stonewall Jackson portrait by John Elder that was donated by Ms. Kitty Snow, daughter of the late Howard Lynch, who was a round table member.

1 ticket is \$5; 5 tickets are \$20.

Ms. Snow also donated a framed portrait of Robert E. Lee, painted by John Elder, and a bust of Robert E. Lee from her father’s collection. Both will be raffled off at later meetings.

EVENTS OF INTEREST

The Old Baldy Civil War Round Table of Philadelphia invites members of our round table to attend their “2022 Civil War Symposium Western Theater” on April 29 and 30, 2022. This event is held in cooperation with Rutgers University and will be held at Rutgers University Campus, Camden, New Jersey.

Speakers and topics include: Chuck Veit, “The Battle of New Orleans;” Terry Winschell, “The Land Campaign for Vicksburg;” Dr. Timothy Smith, “Navy/Army Coordination;” John Quarstein, “The Sinking of the Ironclads;” and Dr. Gary Joiner, “Red River Campaign.”

Early bird admission tickets are \$95 until March 12, 2022; thereafter \$110. This includes box lunch and refreshments/snacks at breaks. There will also be an exhibitor area along with reenactors.

See flyer below, or for more information and updates, check <http://www.oldbaldycwrt.org>.

CIVIL WAR INSTITUTE CONFERENCE

The Civil War Institute at Gettysburg College is offering the members of the Richmond Civil War Round Table a 15% discount to attend their summer conference from June 10-15, 2022.

The Conference will feature a wide range of topics, including Civil War battlefield and camp archaeology, the demobilization of Lee’s army, the memorialization of the Gettysburg centennial, U.S. Grant, race and racial violence during Reconstruction, treasures from the Library of Congress and National Archives, a re-assessment of the 20th Maine and Little Round Top, slavery, war, the transformation of medicine, Francis Barlow’s Civil War, and more. Scheduled speakers are: Gary Gallagher, Joan Waugh, Jeffery Wert, Carol Reardon, Carrie Janney, Brooks Simpson, Scott Hartwig.

For the discount code when registering, call 717-337-6590, or email civilwar@gettysburg.edu.

For more information, go to: www.gettysburg.edu/civil-war-institute/summer-conference.

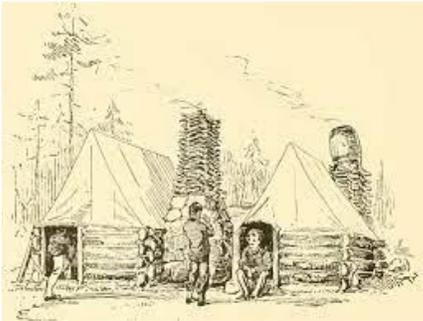
2022 Civil War Symposium Western Theater
 "the Father of Waters again goes unvexed to the Sea"
 April 29, 30, 2022
 "Tickets on Sale Now - Early Bird Discount till 3/12/22"
 "Unique Historical Value – Assembled Renowned Experts"
 The Battle of New Orleans... Chuck Veit, President Navy & Marine Living History Association, Author: *Palisat Gienias: Brutes de Villers* and the U.S. Naag's First Submarine, *Handbook for Civil War Naval Reenactors*. Will provide in depth analyses of the Battle of New Orleans.
 The Land Campaign for Vicksburg... Terry Winschell, Retired Chief Historian of Vicksburg National Military Park, Author: *The Civil War Diary of the Common Soldier, Vicksburg: Will cover Land campaign for Vicksburg – Grand Gulf, Jackson, Raymond, Champion Hill, Vicksburg*.
 Navy/Army Coordination ...Dr. Tim Smith, Author: *Grant Invades Tennessee: The 1862 Battles for Forts Henry and Donelson, Rethinking Siskiyough and Memoirs: Mississippi in the Civil War: The Home Front*. Will cover for battles Leading up to Vicksburg.
 The Sinking of the Ironclads: ...John Quarstein, Director Emeritus of the Monitor Center at Mariner's Museum in Newport News, Award winning author and preservationist: *The Monitor Sinks: The Cross of the Union's First Ironclad*, Will cover the sinking of the Manassas, Cairo, Arkansas and Tecumseh.
 Red River Campaign ...Dr. Gary Joiner, Author: *The Red River Campaign, One Dam Blunder from Beginning to End*. In depth discussion of the events surrounding the campaign against Shreveport Louisiana, and gateway to Texas
 Follow Updates on the Website
 Presented by the Old Baldy Civil War Round Table of Philadelphia
 For information and updates: <http://www.oldbaldycwrt.org>
 Facebook: Old Baldy Civil War Round Table
 Symposium to be held in Cooperation with Rutgers University Camden Department of History
 Symposium to be held at Rutgers University Campus Camden, New Jersey
 "Scan for Tickets"
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2022-civil-war-western-theater-symposium-tickets-18855403287>

THE LONG AND FROZEN ROAD

Civil War winters were particularly trying and monotonous for the armies. Impassable, muddy roads and harsh weather precluded active operations. Disease ran rampant, killing more men than battles. But with all of its hardships winter also allowed soldiers an opportunity to bond, have a bit of fun, and enjoy their more permanent camps. Through these bleak months all soldiers, Union and Confederate, had to keep warm and busy in order to survive.

While on the move in warmer weather, soldiers often slept in easily erected canvas tents or they simply slept

without cover, under the stars. In the winter, large camps were established with more substantial shelter. Winter huts were built by the armies out of the surrounding materials, including trees, mud, leaves, and soldiers' canvases. These huts usually included a chimney, which kept the small space warm, but some were more effectively built than others.



"We then rake up dry leaves and fill the dog house about ten inches deep with the leaves, which makes us a good warm bed."

Private John W. Stevens,
5th Texas Infantry

The camps were set up much like small villages complete with crisscrossing lanes called "company streets," churches, and sutlers' shops. While this may seem cozy, these temporary villages lacked the appropriate systems to provide clean water and clear away waste; additionally, food was scarce. Disease and death abounded and spread easily.

"...within a few hours of Washington, men are dying of scurvy because they haven't transportation enough to give us potatoes and onions. Some of my men are in a horrible state. They can press their thumb into their legs and leave the dent there exactly as if they were putty."

Captain Henry Livermore Abbott,
20th Massachusetts Vol. Infantry
January 3, 1863

....to be continued

Adapted from *battlefields.org*

UPCOMING MEETINGS

March 8: Gregg Clemmer, "Why the Civil War Still Lives"

April 12: Gordon Rhea, Esq., Topic TBA

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, Topic TBA

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

November 15*: Annual Members Dinner
William C. "Jack" Davis, Topic TBA

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

***Please note the change in date. In order to accommodate our speaker, the date has been changed from November 8 to 15.**

Attendance at January Zoom Meeting: 37

Trivia Answers:

1. General George Thomas
2. USS *Tecumseh*
3. The *Texas*
4. General Isaac Trimble
5. Trostle Farm
6. Texas Brigade, 1, 4, 5 Texas, 3rd Ark
7. CSS *Teaser*
8. Traveler
9. Roger B. Taney
10. CSS *Tennessee*