



Founded at Fort Harrison
on February 8, 1951

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RICHMOND

CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

JANUARY 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

January 10, 2023

7:30 p.m.

**At First Presbyterian Church
AND VIA ZOOM**

**4602 Cary Street Road
Richmond, VA 23226**

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

KENT MASTERSON BROWN

**“Retreat From Gettysburg:
Lee, Logistics, and the
Gettysburg Campaign”**



Possibly the most difficult operation in warfare is to retreat an army after a lost battle. The objective of the operational commander of the retreating army is to “restore equilibrium” between the retreating army and its victorious counterpart. Lee, an operational genius, was able to not only withdraw his army to Virginia, but, in the process, return to the Old Dominion with immense amounts of quartermaster and subsistence stores, including tens of thousands of cattle, sheep, hogs, and other necessities, enabling his army to survive and continue engaging its enemy. He restored the equilibrium between the two armies.

Kent Masterson Brown is the author of six books, among them, “Retreat from Gettysburg: Lee, Logistics, & the Pennsylvania Campaign,” published by University of North Carolina Press in 2005. It received the James I. Robertson Jr. Literary Award from the Civil War Library and Research Center, the Bachelder-Coddington Literary Award from the Robert E. Lee CWRT of Central New Jersey, and the Distinguished Writing Award from the Army Historical Foundation. He is also the author of “Cushing of Gettysburg: The Story of a Union Artillery Commander” (1993), and the recent “Meade at Gettysburg: A Study in Command” (2021), which amassed four national awards.

Kent Masterson Brown, a native of Lexington, Kentucky, graduated in 1971 from Centre College – named in 2014 a distinguished graduate - and received his juris doctor degree in 1974 from Washington and Lee University School of Law. He has, throughout his career as a constitutional attorney, cultivated his avocation in history. As a battlefield preservationist, he helped form the Perryville Battlefield Association and was appointed to serve as the chairman

of the Perryville Battlefield Commission. He also had a Presidential appointment as Chairman of the Gettysburg National Military Park Advisory Commission and served on the Board of the Gettysburg Foundation.

Starting in 2007, Kent extended his historical pursuits to writing, hosting, and producing eight award-winning documentary films for public and cable television. Kent lives in Lexington, Kentucky, with his wife, Genevieve, and their three children.

ZOOM INSTRUCTIONS

By Andy Keller

<https://us05web.zoom.us/j/81790157845?pwd=YkpJWnpHMjRRjVVblh2VXV6by9xUT09>

Meeting ID: 817 9015 7845

Passcode: RCWRT

To participate in a Zoom session, your computer will need a camera function, standard for most laptops, smart phones, and tablets. We recommend that you join 5 – 10 minutes before the meeting starts, to be sure your equipment is working and review some of the features. You will be unmuted on admittance during that time for project socializing, but you should mute yourself when requested.

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

A Happy and Healthy New Year to all! The 2023 campaign has begun, and we can certainly look forward to twelve excellent speakers on a variety of topics throughout this year. The schedule is now complete with our November dinner speaker booked. I am really looking forward to the fantastic – and very energetic - Garry Adelman, Chief Historian

at American Battlefield Trust! We are very excited that he has agreed to come.

This year we are doing things a little differently, at least for the first two meetings. We will have the January and February talks via Zoom. However, you will also have the opportunity to attend these Zoom meetings in a group setting at First Presbyterian. If you prefer to join from home, sign-in instructions are at the end of the speaker introduction on page 2.

The decision to hold January and February meetings in this way was made for two reasons. One, this will enable us to get great, well-known speakers that don't live relatively close, thus saving the round table travel and lodging expenses; and two, in case of inclement weather we can still have our meetings, just not in person.

Finally, I often get asked how I got so interested in the Civil War. The answer is simple:

Bruce Catton's Army of the Potomac Trilogy. The original three volumes have a place of honor on my bookshelf. Now, The Library of America has reprinted all three in one beautifully produced book, with an introduction and a detailed chronology by Gary Gallagher, who calls Catton "the greatest narrative writer who wrote in a manner that anyone can understand." This 1,277-page reprint includes in addition to the general index a regimental index and wonderful maps. We have this epic work thanks to Catton's failed attempt to write a novel set during the Civil War. "Well, I got 200 pages down, and it was awful. Dreadful," he later told an interviewer. "But the factual parts, where the armies were moving, when the battles were



fought, that wasn't bad. So, I scrapped the fictional parts and just wrote what I always wanted to write, the story of the Army of the Potomac." After all these years, I am reading these great books again in this new edition and realize once more how it was that I became so interested in the Civil War.



Ulli

ANNUAL ELECTIONS

At the December meeting our annual elections were held and the results for 2023 are as follows:

President: Ulli Baumann
 First Vice President: Waite Rawls
 Second Vice President: Billie Raines

Board of Directors:

Doug Crenshaw
 Elaine Duckworth
 Jack Mountcastle
 Danny Witt

Also, the annual dues structure was voted on and remains the same at \$35 for single membership and \$45 for couples.

ANNUAL DUES NOTICE

By Andy Keller

The annual dues season is upon us, and checks are already being mailed to me. They are due by February 15, and since the January and February meetings will be Zoom meetings, I am not planning to be at the church to collect dues. It is therefore incumbent on you to mail them to me by the February 15 deadline.

Since postage is now 60 cents, I suggest again that you set up payment with

your bank or credit union’s bill pay program and let them pay the postage for you. When you set it up make it an annual payment so you will be set for future years as well. The current dues of \$35/\$45 are unlikely to change anytime soon. Make checks payable to RCWRT and mail them to c/o Andy Keller, 9701 Fireside Drive, Glen Allen, VA 20360-6280.

Another alternative is to give your check to Art, who – weather permitting – will be at the church for the two Zoom meetings.

**A WARM WELCOME TO OUR
NEW MEMBERS**

**MICHAEL DIXON
HERB AND LOU NORTON
ALAN AND HARRIETTE PADGETT
WILLIAM PARKHURST**

FIELD TRIP HEADS-UP

The recent survey regarding a preferred month for our annual field trip resulted in changing the month from June to October. All the details, including the date, will be in future newsletters. We do know, however, that we will tour the Weldon Railroad and that our tour guides will be Jerry Netherland and Mark Jacobson.

We will tour 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, NC to Weldon, NC and then from Weldon on into the City of Petersburg. This vital railroad line carried supplies from the last open seaport of the Confederacy to forces of General Robert E. Lee and the beleaguered cities of Petersburg and Richmond.

This tour will also showcase two core battlefield properties recently saved by the American Battlefields Trust and the Petersburg Battlefields Foundation. The tour will visit public, National Park Service, and private sites. You will not want to miss this opportunity!



SILENT AUCTION WINNERS

The winners of the December Silent Auction are the following:

- William Parkhurst – R.E. Lee Portrait
- David Whitehead – Stonewall Jackson Portrait
- Johnson Childress – Military Atlas of the Civil War

Congratulations to the winners.
Enjoy your prizes.

A FRIENDLY REQUEST

We would like to go paperless and send you the newsletter electronically to save the round table the expense of copying and postage.

If you have an email address and currently receive your newsletter in the mail, would you please consider switching to receiving the newsletter electronically.

THANK YOU!

EVENT OF INTEREST

Saturday, February 4, 2023

Twenty-fourth Annual Appomattox Court House National Historical Park and Longwood University Free Civil War Seminar

“OLD BATTLEFIELDS, NEW PARKS” –
Longwood University, Farmville, VA
8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Scheduled Speakers:

John Quarstein, “The First Battle: Big Bethel”
Greg Mertz, “Jackson Is With You”
Confederates Turn the Tide at Cedar Mountain

Daniel Davis, “The Hottest Fire I Was Ever In: The Battle of Brandy Station”

Caroline Janney, “An End Or Beginning: Lee’s Army After Appomattox”

Patrick A. Schroeder, “Forgotten Friday: April 7, 1865, Actions in Cumberland County, Virginia”

The seminar is free and open to the public. No reservations needed. Lunch is available at the Longwood University Dining Hall. For directions to the campus go to www.longwood.edu. For more information contact Dr. David Coles at 434-395-2220, or Patrick Schroeder at 434-352-8987, x 232.

REMEMBERING ED BEARSS

Acclaimed military historian and preservation pioneer Edwin Cole Bearss passed away on September 15, 2020 at the age of 97. A prolific author, frequent commentator and legendary tour guide, Ed Bearss brought history alive for millions of Americans with his deep voice and evocative descriptions. Among the originators of the modern battlefield preservation movement and a devoted tour guide, Bearss travelled up to 200 days per year into his 90s, leading

battlefield walks and presenting widely to the Civil War Round Table community.

In collaboration with the Bearss Family, the American Battlefield Trust has created the Ed Bearss Memorial Fund to benefit future preservation efforts associated with the Vicksburg Campaign, which held such a special place in his heart.

Adapted from *battlefields.org*

FREE YOU TUBE TALKS

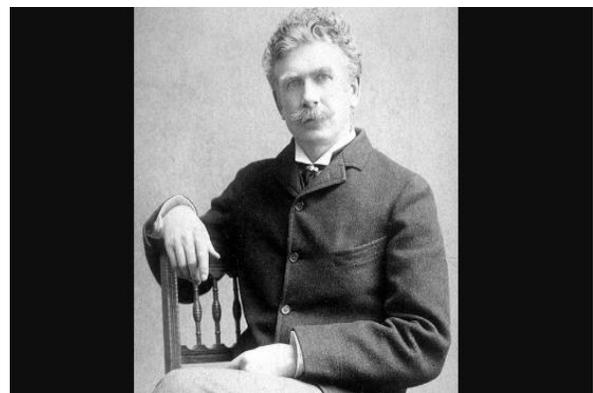
The Virginia Museum of History and Culture recently hosted Dr. Jeffry Wert at a virtual talk about his latest book, “The Heart of Hell.”

Likewise, the American Civil War Museum frequently hosts authors, such as Joan Waugh not too long ago, who spoke on “Ulysses S. Grant: Life and Legacy.”

If you missed these and other talks, they are available for free on You Tube. Just type in the search bar either “Virginia Museum of History and Culture,” or “American Civil War Museum” and the topic or speaker’s name.

AFTER THE CIVIL WAR

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO... ...AMBROSE BIERCE



Ambrose Bierce

Ambrose Gwinnett Bierce was born on June 24, 1842. He was an American short story writer, journalist, poet, and a Civil War veteran.

At the outset of the Civil War, Bierce enlisted in the Union Army's 9th Indiana Infantry. He was present at the Battle of Philippi (the first organized land action of the war). Bierce fought at the Battle of Shiloh, a terrifying experience that became a source for several short stories and the memoir, "What I Saw of Shiloh." In June 1864, he received a serious head wound at the Battle of Kennesaw Mountain, and spent the rest of the summer on furlough, returning to active duty in September. He was discharged from the army in January 1865.

Bierce wrote realistically of the terrible things he had seen in the war in such stories as "An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge," "A Horseman in the Sky," "One of the Missing," and "Chickamauga."

In October 1913, Bierce, then age 71, departed from Washington, D.C. for a tour of his old Civil War battlefields. By December he had passed through Louisiana and Texas, crossing by way of El Paso into Mexico, which was in the throes of revolution. In Ciudad Juarez he joined Pancho Villa's army as an observer, and in that role witnessed the Battle of Tierra Blanca.

Bierce is known to have accompanied Villa's army as far as the city of Chihuahua. His last known communication with the world was a letter he wrote there to a close friend, dated December 26, 1913. After closing his letter by saying, "As to me, I leave here tomorrow for an unknown destination," he vanished without a trace, his disappearance becoming one of the most famous in American literary history. His ultimate fate remains shrouded in mystery.

Adapted from The Wikipedia Legends of the Civil War

UPCOMING MEETINGS

February 14:* Joan Waugh, "The Election of 1868"

March 14: Kristopher White, "The Ides of May: The Wounding of James Longstreet"

April 11: John Hennessy, "Subordinate Command in the Army of the Potomac"

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, "East Cavalry Battle at Gettysburg"

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"

***February meeting will be via Zoom**

****Date subject to change**

Attendance at December Meeting: 64

SNOW POLICY

In case of inclement weather, please check the Richmond school district's policy. If schools are closed, so is the church and our meeting will be cancelled.