



Founded at Fort Harrison  
on February 8, 1951

# RICHMOND CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

JANUARY 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.”

Bruce Catton

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**January 9, 2024**

**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)

**MEGAN BEVER**

**“DRINKING AND DUTY AMONG  
CIVIL WAR SOLDIERS”**



Liquor was essential to military culture as well as healthcare regimens in both the Union and Confederate armies. But its widespread use and misuse caused severe disruptions as unruly drunken soldiers and officers stumbled down roads and through towns, colliding with civilians. The problems surrounding liquor prompted debates among military officials, soldiers, and civilians as to what constituted acceptable drinking. While Americans never could agree on precisely when it was appropriate to make or drink alcohol, one consensus emerged: the wasteful manufacture and reckless consumption of spirits during a time of civil war was so unpatriotic that it sometimes bordered on disloyalty.

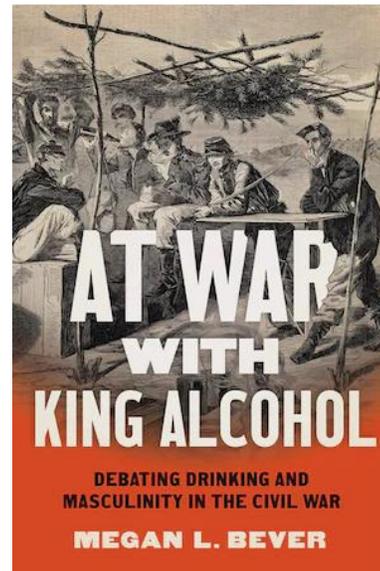
Using an array of sources – temperance periodicals, soldiers’ accounts, legislative proceedings, and military records – Megan L. Bever explores the relationship between war, the practical realities of drinking alcohol, and temperance sentiment within the United States. Her insightful conclusions promise to shed new light on our understanding of soldiers’ and veterans’ lives, civil-military relations, and the complicated relationship between drinking, morality, and masculinity.

Megan L. Bever is associate professor of history and chair of the Social Sciences Department at Missouri Southern State University. She received her PhD in History at the University of Alabama in 2014. She is the author of *At War with King Alcohol: Debating Drinking and Masculinity in the Civil War* (UNC Press, 2022). She has published articles in the *Journal of Southern History*, *Civil War History*, *Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development*, and the *Journal of Sport History* and has co-edited *The Historian behind the History: Conversations with*

*Southern Historians* (University of Alabama Press, 2014) and *American Discord: The Republic and Its People in the Civil War Era* (LSU Press, 2020). She continues to research substances and food systems in the 1860s and beyond.

Her book, *At War with King Alcohol*, can be ordered at:

<https://uncpress.org/book/9781469669540/at-war-with-king-alcohol/>



## ZOOM INSTRUCTIONS

### Please note:

**ZOOM INFORMATION IS NOT COMPLETE YET BUT WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE BEFORE THE MEETING.**

**LOOK FOR A SEPARATE EMAIL DURING THE WEEK OF JANUARY 1.**

## *A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT*

I have always wondered what the guy felt like who had to follow Vince Lombardi as the coach of the Green Bay Packers. And now I know, because I have the humbling responsibility of following Ulli Baumann as our President. One of the many things she did so well was to write a Message from the President for our newsletter. I will try to capture something that I think about because of my study of the war in the 66 years since I joined my first roundtable. This will be my first. Here goes.

The Franklin, Virginia Roundtable was actually one of the first in the nation. They had a rule which required members to be 18, but they waved it in the mid 1950s to allow a 16-year-old Dan Balfour to join. I bothered these old geezers so much that they finally said they would “consider” my membership if I would go to Richmond, visit the Confederate Museum (in the White House of the Confederacy), and give them an acceptable report. I passed the test, and they let me in. It was 1957. I was 9.

After finishing high school, I went to VMI and naturally joined the Cadet Civil War Roundtable. I ultimately became its President, following my good friend from Tennessee, Charlie Bryan. After service in the Army and grad school, I moved to New York City and joined their roundtable but was never active. But then I moved to Chicago and joined what is supposedly the oldest and largest of the roundtables. I can testify that those people know their stuff and were famous for asking speakers tough questions. I guess it was fate for me to join, as the Chicago Roundtable’s founder, Monroe Cockrell, was a 1907

graduate of VMI, and he worked for the same bank I had just joined.

After 30 years in banking in New York and Chicago, I wanted to “come home” and “do good.” I got two phone calls on the same day telling me of the opening at the Museum of the Confederacy. The first was from Dan Balfour. The second was from Charlie Bryan. So I believe in fate and legacy that led me to my 5<sup>th</sup> Civil War roundtable. I will try my best to fill important shoes of those who went before me.

*Waite*

## ANNUAL ELECTIONS

At the December meeting our annual elections were held and the results for 2024 are as follows:

President: Waite Rawls

First Vice President: Billie Raines

Second Vice President: Dale Harter

Treasurer: Art Wingo

Secretary: Andy Keller

### Board of Directors:

Ulli Baumann

Doug Crenshaw

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. They are due by February 15, and since the January and February meetings will be Zoom meetings, I might not be at the church to collect dues. It is therefore incumbent on

you to mail them to me by the February 15 deadline.

I suggest 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:**

- PATRICIA BARNES**
- BRUCE BARNWELL**
- TOM BISHOP**
- MASON DIRICKSON**
- LESLIE JEWELL**
- KIMBERLY WHELAN**

**SILENT AUCTION WINNERS**

The winners of the December Silent Auction are the following:

- Ben Greenbaum: Framed Confederate Bond
- Ed Carpenter: Seasons of the Confederacy – Autumn
- Tom Carter: Seasons of the Confederacy – Spring
- Dale Harter: Seasons of the Confederacy – Summer
- Leslie Jewell: City of Richmond Map – 1861-1865
- Floyd Lane: “Sheridan’s Men” by Mort Kuentler

Congratulations to the winners. Enjoy your prizes. Proceeds from the Silent Auction will be donated to the American Battlefield Trust’s Fair Oaks Campaign.

**EASTERN HENRICO BATTLEFIELD  
TOUR**

On a beautiful Saturday morning, December 9, a group of Round Table members toured some of the Henrico County battlefields, courtesy of Albert Azzerone, Park Planner for Henrico County Division of Recreation and Parks, and County Historian, Bryce Stanley.

The Two-hour tour took us to New Market Heights, Haskins Farm, ABT property on Kingsland Road, and 1864 Union troop movements from Deep Bottom to New Market Road.



As a bonus, Jack Mountcastle brought a display case from his collection of Civil War artifacts for us to admire. Thank you, Jack.



A big thank you to Andy Keller for organizing this great tour.

## EVENTS OF INTEREST

**February 16 & 17:** “The Impending Crisis,” the 2024 Symposium of the American Civil War Museum will feature esteemed scholars discussing America on the verge of civil war and feature a premiere of their newest exhibit, *The Impending Crisis*.

The event will be held in the Foundry building on the ACWM Tredegar campus. Museum attendees will be given free general admission to the museum during the Symposium weekend. Speakers are: Dr. Richard Blackett, Dr. Adam I.P. Smith, Dr. Edward Ayers, and Dr. Gary Gallagher. The event is moderated by Dr. Caroline Janney.

Ticket prices are: \$100 for members; \$150 for non-ACWM members; \$75 for teachers and students. Included in your admission are a boxed lunch (not available after February 13 purchase), an exclusive reception with the Symposium speakers, a “Behind the Exhibit” program with the Collections Department, and early access to *The Impending Crisis* exhibit, on Friday.

For more information and to register, go to: [www.acwm.org/2024-symposium/](http://www.acwm.org/2024-symposium/).

**June 7-12:** 2024 Civil War Institute Summer Conference at Gettysburg College. Speakers include Ronald White, Harold Holzer, Jonathan White, Jennifer Murray, D. Scott Hartwig, Elizabeth Leonard, and Aaron Sheehan-Dean, among more than 40 speakers and tour guides.

For more information, go to: [www.gettysburg.edu/civil-war-institute/summer-conference/2024-cwi-conference](http://www.gettysburg.edu/civil-war-institute/summer-conference/2024-cwi-conference).

For questions, contact Ashley Luskey at 717-337-6590.

## “CONTRASTS IN COMMAND”

Congratulations are in order to Vic Vignola whose book “Contrasts in Command: The Battle of Fair Oaks, May 31-June 1, 1862” received a glowing (and well deserved) review by the “Civil War Books and Authors” blog ([www.cwba.blogspot.com](http://www.cwba.blogspot.com)):

“There are still a number of yawning gaps remaining in standalone study of the 1862 Peninsula Campaign’s stock of battles, Glendale/White Oak Swamp, Gaines’ Mill, and Malvern Hill among them, but one of the largest and most significant voids in our pre-Seven-Days understanding of the campaign has now been finally addressed in strongly satisfactory fashion by Victor Vignola in his impressive debut. It is highly recommended.”

Furthermore, the book made the blog’s list of Top Ten of 2023!

### From the Round Table Archives RCWRT BULLETIN - November 1980

The Virginia Division United Daughters of the Confederacy is beginning a long overdue project. That project will be the writing of the Regimental Histories of all of Virginia’s regiments that fought in the war. “Love Makes Memory Eternal” but as the events of the War Between the States move deeper into the past, those memories are fading and slipping from focus. Each year as we meet we see that death has thinned our ranks. So many of our Daughters and especially our real Daughters are no longer with us. With their passing are oftentimes gone forever those precious memories and fond recollections that they held so dear. I am sure that the same is true with other sources of information as well. It is imperative that we begin to assemble all possible information on

Virginia's soldiers so that it can be preserved forever in print.

The writing of all of the Virginia Regimental Histories is indeed an awesome undertaking. There were approximately 90 Virginia Regiments and Batteries that served in Virginia's defense and over 100,000 of Virginia's Sons answered her call to war. But if we carry into this project only one hundredth part of the determination and zeal displayed by Virginia's Sons on hundreds of battlefields, then this project will be insured success.

We are very excited about the historians who have already consented to give their aid and direction in the actual writing of these histories. Dr. James I. Robertson of VPI and SU, and Robert Krick, chief historian at Fredericksburg National Historical Park, two of the foremost War Between the States historians in the country, have agreed to prepare two of the initial histories. It is hoped that by the summer of 1981 we will have six regimental histories in print.

In undertaking a project of this scope and magnitude, it is obvious that the Virginia Daughters need help and support from all who had ancestors who fought with the Virginia units. At this time we are making an urgent appeal for anyone of Virginia ancestry to please send us a list of the following: Veteran's full name, unit, date of birth, date of death, place of death, letters, diaries, photographs, etc., that he may have. Since the writing of these histories has already begun, please send this information as soon as possible.

Our heritage is one of the few tangible gifts that we can pass on to our children. Please make this precious gift possible by helping us preserve the record of the heroism and sacrifice of Virginia Sons. For truly, "Love Makes Memory Eternal."

*Thank you to Dan Balfour  
for this contribution*

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

**February 13:\*** Dr. Jeffry Wert, "General They Are Coming"

**March 12:** Carolyn B. Ivanoff, "Clara Barton: The Life and Legacy of an American Icon"

**April 9:** Dr. Christian B. Keller, "Southern Strategies: Why the Confederacy Failed"

**May 14:** Patrick Falci, "The Man in the Red Shirt: The Life of A.P. Hill"

**June 11:** Wayne Motts, "Pickett's Charge at Gettysburg"

**July 9:** Frank O'Reilly, "Yellow Tavern and the Death of JEB Stuart"

**August 13:** Brad Gottfried, "The Antietam Paintings by James Hope"

**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**

Dr. Gary Gallagher, TBA

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

**\*February meeting will be via Zoom**

Attendance at December Meeting: 51

### 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 in-person meeting will be cancelled. This will not affect any online meeting previously scheduled.**