



Founded on February 8, 1951

RICHMOND CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

JULY 2021

“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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July 13, 2021

7:30 p.m.

**“Fire on the Water:
The USS Kearsarge and the
CSS Alabama”
Jim Gindlesperger**

Author Jim Gindlesperger will be speaking on his book “Fire on the Water,” which follows the Confederate raider *Alabama* and the Union warship *Kearsarge* around the world until they met in an epic battle off the coast of France in 1864. Details of the famous battle are revealed, as well as several controversies. The Alabama Claims, settled in an international court, are also examined. “Fire on the Water” was the winner of the George Washington Honor Medal for Excellence, presented by the Freedoms Foundation of Valley Forge, and was nominated for the prestigious Lincoln Prize.

Jim Gindlesperger is the author or co-author of eight books, seven on the Civil War and one on Arlington National Cemetery. Several have won awards, and the one that discussed the escape from Libby Prison has been featured on the Discovery Channel and optioned by Warner Brothers to be made

into a feature movie. (However, after signing Tom Hanks and spending several hundred thousand dollars on script re-writes, Warner Brothers decided to drop the film from their production schedule.)

Jim and his wife, Suzanne, are members of the Johnstown Area Heritage Association, the Friends of Gettysburg Foundation, the Civil War Preservation Trust, the Friends of Flight 93, the Friends of the Johnstown Flood National Memorial, the Save Historic Antietam Foundation, and the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Jim is also a member of the Sons of Union Veterans and is a contributor to both *Johnstown Magazine* and *Gettysburg Magazine*. He and Suzanne present seminars and lectures on the Civil War to non-profit groups throughout the east.

Recently, Jim was awarded the prestigious Bachelder-Coddington Award by the Robert E. Lee Civil War Round Table of Central New Jersey for his book "Bullets and Bandages," which was named the best new book on the Battle of Gettysburg.

Jim has also served as a consultant on a joint project initiated by National Geographic, NASA, Google Earth, and Carnegie Mellon University to map and digitally photograph Civil War sites using high resolution robotic cameras with 360 degree panoramic capability, and he has just accepted an appointment to the National Advisory Committee for the hospital accreditation project of the National Museum of Civil War Medicine in Frederick, Maryland.



Jim Gindlesperger

ZOOM SIGN ON INFORMATION

By Andy Keller

<https://tinyurl.com/RCWRT2021>

For Audio only call +1 301 715 8592. Long Distance Rates may apply

Meeting ID: 834 7150 6220

Passcode: 481366

To participate in a Zoom session, your computer will need a camera function, standard for most laptops, Smart Phones and tablets. I would suggest reviewing the camera function before that time. We recommend that you join 5 - 10 minutes before the meeting starts, to be sure that 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. We hope to record the meeting so if you are unable to attend please send a request for the recording to Secretary.RCWRT@gmail.com.

A Word from the President

It is with a heavy heart that I must announce the resignation of our Second Vice President, Nick Carico. Nick told me that he had to step down to devote more attention to some personal matters. While we certainly understand and respect his decision, we hate to see him go. Nick had been doing an excellent job and lined up a slate of great speakers for next year. We are grateful for his efforts and wish him nothing but the best.

As a result of Nick's departure, we have an immediate need for a Second Vice President. This is an important position, and the person who takes on the role will become the First Vice President next year. The good news is that most of the heavy work has already been done. Please give this need some serious consideration. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Ulli, Jack or me at any time. We look forward to hearing from you.

I know we are all looking forward to meeting in person again. We'll keep you updated on the decision by the church as to when they will allow groups to meet again. In the meantime, take care and watch our Zoom meetings to see the great

speakers Ulli has lined up..... and be sure to read a good book and visit some battlefields.

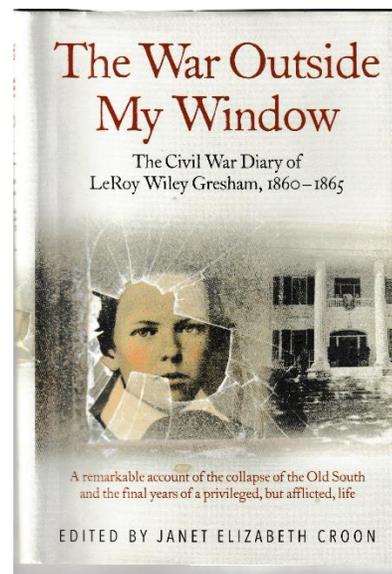
Doug

Looking Ahead

As of now, our dinner meeting at Willow Oaks Country Club is scheduled to take place as planned.

Make a note in your calendar for Tuesday, November 9, and look for more details in upcoming newsletters.

Jan Croon will be speaking on her book "The War Outside My Window," a topic that should be of interest to everyone.



LeRoy Wiley Gresham was born in 1847 to an affluent slave-holding family in Macon, Georgia. After a horrific leg injury left him an invalid, the educated, inquisitive, perceptive, and exceptionally witty 12-year old began keeping a diary in 1860 – just as secession and the Civil War began tearing the country and his world apart. He continued to write even

as his health deteriorated until both the war and his life ended in 1865.

Gary Gallagher calls it “a remarkable diary that illuminates important aspects of mid-19th-century American life.” And William C. Davis says, “*The War Outside My Window* is really a window looking into the thoughts and perceptions of a doomed teenager who watched the Confederacy die even as he was dying himself.”

Upcoming Event of Interest

July 17: 157th Anniversary Tour -

Join Professor Jonathan A. Noyalas, director of Shenandoah University's McCormick Civil War Institute, for a walking tour which will focus on the 157th anniversary of the Battle of Cool Spring and its impact on soldiers and their families.

Free tour begins at 1400 Parker Lane, Bluemont, VA, at 10:00 a.m. and will take approximately 90 minutes. No registration required. For information: jnoyalas01@su.edu or www.su.edu/mcwi.

Quotable Quote

“Over on Cemetery Ridge, the Federals beheld a scene never before witnessed on this continent, - a scene which has never previously been enacted and can never take place again - an army forming in line of battle in full view, under their very eyes - charging across a space nearly a mile in length over fields of waving grain and of stubble and then a smooth expanse - moving with the steadiness of a dress parade, the pride and glory soon to be crushed by an overwhelming heartbreak.”

Maj. Gen. George E. Pickett
in a letter to his future wife, Sally,
July 4, 1863

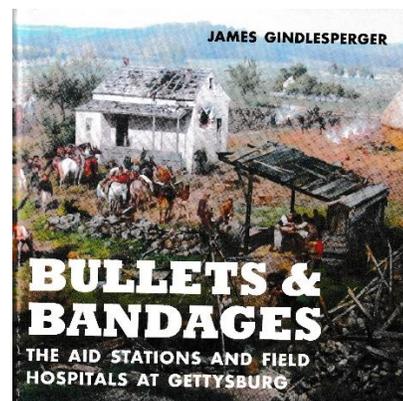
Book Recommendation

This month's speaker, author Jim Gindlesperger, has written a terrific book dealing with another aspect of the Battle of Gettysburg. *Bullets and Bandages: The Aid Stations and Field Hospitals at Gettysburg* is “the story of the aftermath of 1 fierce battle fought by 160,000 soldiers over 4 days, producing 21,000 casualties, left to care for by 2,500 residents of 1 town: Gettysburg.”

The chapters are divided into specific areas of the town and surrounding area, accompanied by maps showing the location of the various field hospitals and aid stations at the beginning of each chapter. Jim provides a thorough history of each location and the inhabitants at the time. It is a deeply researched book and a modern day photo accompanies each location.

Appendix A provides a glossary of Civil War Era Medical Terms; Appendix B lists Money Values, 1863 to 2020.

Bullets and Bandages was recently awarded the prestigious Bachelder-Coddington Award by the Robert E. Lee Civil War Round Table of Central New Jersey as best new book on the Battle of Gettysburg. And rightly so! It is highly recommended.



This Month in Civil War History

1861

July 3: John C. Fremont, the noted explorer, is made commander of the Union's "Western Department," but given very few resources to carry out his responsibilities. He makes one decision that will have lasting consequences; he selects Brigadier General Ulysses S. Grant as commander of the District of Southeast Missouri. Fremont later wrote: "I believed him to be a man of great activity and promptness in obeying orders without question or hesitation. For that reason I gave General Grant this important command at this critical period. I did not consider him then a great general, for the qualities that led him to success had not had the opportunity for their development." Grant will assume this command on August 7.

July 21: First Battle of Manassas aka Bull Run. It is here that Confederate General Thomas J. Jackson acquires his nickname "Stonewall," as General Bernard E. Bee reputedly calls to his men, "There is Jackson standing like a stone wall. Rally behind the Virginians." This Confederate victory brings about the general realization that this conflict is not going to be short nor easy.

1862

July 1: At Malvern Hill, the Seven Days Battle winds down. The Confederates have made multiple attacks on a strong Union position, taking 5,300 casualties without gaining any ground. However, General George B. McClellan withdraws his Union forces to a fortified position on the James River, thus gaining the

protection of gunboats. He no longer presents a threat to Richmond and Lee moves on to other objectives. This is the end of the "Peninsular Campaign." In one week there were more than 35,000 casualties.

Sometime this month: At Harrison's Landing, Virginia, Union General Daniel Butterfield decides that the bugle call "To Extinguish Lights" used at the end of the day is too formal. In collaboration with bugler Oliver Norton, he revises an earlier composition, "Scott's Tattoo." Norton remembered, "After getting it to his satisfaction, he directed me to sound that call for 'Taps' thereafter in place of the regulation call. The music was beautiful on that still summer night, and was heard far beyond the limits of our Brigade. The next day I was visited by several buglers from neighboring Brigades, asking for copies of the music which I gladly furnished." The call was first used for a military funeral in this same year.

1863

July 3: As the Battle of Gettysburg continues, Confederate infantry under General Pickett and others are ordered to charge Union positions on Cemetery Ridge. The attempt is a failure and the slaughter is immense. The line reached by the soldiers is sometimes referred to as "the high-water mark of the Confederacy."

July 4: After a 47-day siege with troops and civilians starving and 6,000 shells a day falling into the city, Vicksburg surrenders. The Union now controls the Mississippi River.

July 13 – 17: Anti-draft riots in New York City cause more than \$1 million in damage and 105 deaths. The rioters go after African-Americans, the wealthy, and any officials involved in conscription. The rioting ends only when army troops are called in and clear areas at the point of their bayonets.

1864

July 9: At Monocacy, Virginia, Union troops led by General Lew Wallace are defeated by Confederates advancing on Washington. Very few people will remember Wallace's reputation as a soldier; he is better known as the author of "Ben Hur."

July 30: Union troops besieging Petersburg, Virginia, use a mine to blow a hole in the Confederate defenses. However, the troops sent in can not advance further and many are slaughtered at the bottom of the "Crater" in what one officer later described as a "turkey shoot." Rather than retreat, General Burnside sends in a division of the U.S. Colored Troops who are also trapped. Many are killed even after surrendering. Also among the outfits taking heavy casualties is Co. K, First Michigan Sharpshooters, men who are mostly Ottawa and Chippewa or Ojibwa Indians. As a result of the debacle, Burnside will never command troops again. The siege will continue for eight more months.

Source: Gaston County Public Library

More Quotable Quotes

"The work of reducing Vicksburg will take time and men, but can be accomplished."

Gen. Ulysses S. Grant,
Letter to Maj. Gen. Henry W. Halleck,
January 20, 1863

"Impress on the men the importance of going through the state in an orderly manner, abstaining from taking anything not absolutely necessary for their subsistence whilst traveling. They should try to create as favorable an impression as possible upon the people and advise them if it will do any good, to make efforts to have law and order established within the Union."

Gen. Ulysses S. Grant,
Message to Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman,
August 6, 1863



Vicksburg National Military Park

Upcoming Meetings

August 10: Dr. Charles Fennell, "The Battle of Culp's Hill on July 3, 1863"

September 14: Douglas Waller, "Lincoln's Spies: Their Secret War to Save a Nation"

October 12: Victor Vignola, "The May 31, 1862 Battle of Fair Oaks: The Struggle for the Adams House, Bull Sumner's Glory Day"

November 9 (dinner meeting):

Janet Croon, "The War Outside my Window: The Civil War Diary of LeRoy Wiley Gresham 1860-1865"

December 14: Scott Mingus, "The Battle of Second Winchester: The Confederate Victory that Opened the Door to Gettysburg"