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RICHMOND

CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

JULY 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

July 12, 2022

7:30 p.m.

**At First Presbyterian Church
4602 Cary Street Road
Richmond, VA 23226
(parking lot is behind the church; go up the steps to
fellowship hall on the left)**

Dr. Jennifer M. Murray

**“The Victor of Gettysburg:
George Gordon Meade and
The Civil War”**



Once prominently defined as the “Hero of Gettysburg,” General George G. Meade is now commonly obscured by generals deeply embedded into the Civil War narrative—Grant, Sherman, and Sheridan or Lee and Jackson. Indeed, Meade commanded the Army of the Potomac, the North’s principle instrument of war, longer than any other commander and assumed a prominent role in the course of the Civil War.

Together, we will explore George Meade’s role and influence in the Civil War from his command of a brigade in the Pennsylvania Reserves to the commanding general of the Army of the Potomac.

Dr. Jennifer M. Murray is a military historian, with a specialization in the American Civil War, in the Department of History at Oklahoma State University. Murray’s most recent publication is *On A Great Battlefield: The Making, Management, and Memory of Gettysburg National Battlefield Park, 1933-2013*, published by the University of Tennessee Press in 2014. Murray is also the author of *The Civil War Begins*, published by the U.S. Army’s Center of Military History in 2012. She is currently working on a full-length biography of George Gordon Meade, tentatively titled *Meade at War*.

In addition to delivering hundreds of Civil War battlefield tours, Murray has led World War I and World War II study abroad trips to Europe. She is a veteran faculty member at Gettysburg College’s Civil War Institute and a coveted speaker at Civil War symposiums and round tables. Additionally, Murray worked as a seasonal interpretive park ranger for the National Park Service at Gettysburg National Military Park for nine summers (2002-2010).

A Word from the President

How appropriate that we would have Dr. Murray deliver a talk this month on George Gordon Meade. July 1, 2, and 3 will mark the 159th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg and no doubt, as every year, the occasion will be marked by special events and programs at the park.

In 2013, we went to the big 150th anniversary event for a few days. We did not even need hotel accommodations since we lived only an hour away. There was a ceremony at the First Shot Marker on Chambersburg Pike, west of town; there were encampments and artillery demonstrations; there were special Ranger led tours and programs; and there was an evening program with noted speakers.

But, for me the highlight was without a doubt a reenactment of sorts of Pickett’s Charge at the same time of day as 150 years earlier. Thousands of “Confederate Soldiers” with flags flying marched across that almost one mile field towards Cemetery Ridge, where thousands of “Union Soldiers” were waiting for them, this time though with huzzahs and cheers and applause. Our own Art Wingo was greeted by me, as it turns out.

This month, as we hear about the Battle of Gettysburg, and George Meade’s role in it in particular, let us pause and honor the valor, bravery and sacrifice of ALL the participants in that momentous battle, from the highest ranking officer to the common soldier to the civilians to the horses and mules.

Ulli



Gettysburg, July 3, 2013

CIVIL WAR TRIVIA

From the May 2022 issue of *Civil War News*

1. The other 1864 corps in Army of the Tennessee during Sherman’s March
2. The other name for Forrest’s victory at Guntown (or Tishomingo Creek)
3. 1864 Union Corps, Army of the James with four-bastioned fort as its badge
4. The Other name of “Kilpatrick’s shirt tail skedaddle
5. Blair’s Corps in O.O. Howard’s 1864 Army of Tennessee

Answers on page 6

LEXINGTON FIELD TRIP A SUCCESS

By Waite Rawls

With Danny Witt behind the wheel, fourteen folks of us left early on June 11 and headed to Lexington. Just before passing Charlottesville on I-64, my telephone rang. It was Col. Keith Gibson, who brought news that our first intended stop, Lee Chapel at Washington & Lee, was closed. Keith then volunteered to adjust our itinerary and our first stop became Memorial Hall at VMI, where we sat before the gigantic mural of the charge of the VMI cadets at the Battle of

New Market and got a briefing from Col. Gibson.

A tour of the VMI Museum followed, including going behind the scenes to see some artifacts and to hear some stories. We saw things like the sword of Col. Samuel Garland, killed at South Mountain two days before Antietam.

A terrific tour of the VMI Post followed, led by a cadet who had just finished her Rat year and had been a member of the soccer team. A sandwich lunch back in Memorial Hall was followed by an interesting tour of Maj. T.J. Jackson’s home in Lexington. The final stop was at Oak Grove Cemetery where (by then) Gen. Stonewall Jackson was buried, along with countless other famous and not-so-famous Confederates – people like Col. Sandie Pendleton and his father, Gen. William Pendleton.

Perhaps the high point of the whole trip was when Billie Raines rolled a peach onto Stonewall’s grave (credit for the peach to Bud Robertson, who exposed the lemon story as a myth).

An interesting and fun day, with great credit to Keith Gibson for hosting us.



The gang at VMI



The New Market mural in Memorial Hall

It is with profound sadness and deep regret that we learned of the passing of Judy Crenshaw, Doug's wife. Judy lost her brief and courageous battle with cancer on Friday, June 24. Our heartfelt condolences and sympathy to Doug and his family. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers in this sad time.



Little Sorrel in the VMI Museum

**AFTER THE CIVIL WAR
WHATEVER HAPPENED TO....
...ROSE O'NEAL GREENHOW**



Rose O'Neal Greenhow



The Stonewall Jackson House

Rose O'Neal Greenhow was a renowned Confederate spy during the American Civil War. She was born in either 1813 or 1814. A socialite in Washington, D.C., during the period before the Civil War, she moved in important political circles and

cultivated friendships with generals, senators, and high-ranking military officers, including John C. Calhoun and James Buchanan. She used her connections to pass on key military information to the Confederacy at the start of the war.

In early 1861, she was given control of a pro-Southern spy network in Washington by her handler, Thomas Jordan, then a captain in the Confederate Army. She was credited by Jefferson Davis with ensuring the South's victory at the First Battle of Bull Run in late July 1861.

When the government found out about her spy activities, she was put under house arrest, but continued her activities. She and her daughter, Little Rose, were subsequently imprisoned for nearly five months.

Deported to the Confederate States, she traveled to Richmond and began new tasks. Running the blockade, she sailed to Europe to represent the Confederate States in a diplomatic mission to France and Britain from 1863 to 1864. She also wrote and published her memoirs in London in 1863.

On August 19, 1864, Greenhow left Europe to return to the Confederacy, carrying dispatches. She traveled on the *Condor*, a British blockade runner. On October 1, 1864, the *Condor* ran aground at the mouth of the Cape Fear River near Wilmington, N.C. while being pursued by the Union gunboat USS *Niphon*. Fearing capture and reimprisonment, Greenhow fled the grounded ship by rowboat. A wave capsized the rowboat and Greenhow drowned. She was weighed down by \$2,000 worth of gold sewn into her underclothes and hung around her neck, returns from her memoir royalties.

When Greenhow's body was recovered, searchers found a small notebook and a copy of her book *Imprisonment* hidden on her. Inside the

book was a note meant for her daughter, Little Rose. She was honored with a military funeral at St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church in Wilmington, N.C. The Ladies Memorial Association, in 1888, marked her grave with a cross that read "Mrs. Rose O'Neal Greenhow. A Bearer of Dispatches to the Confederate Government."

Adapted from
The Wikipedia Legends of the Civil War

CELEBRATING CULPEPER BATTLEFIELDS STATE PARK

After years of hope and anticipation among locals and the preservation community, the Commonwealth of Virginia is poised to create a new state park encompassing the important Civil War battlefields and scenic surroundings in Culpeper County.

The process kickstarted in January 2022 when Governor Glenn Youngkin included a budget amendment requesting creation of a state battlefield park in Culpeper County, as part of a package of legislative initiatives and priorities submitted to the General Assembly at the outset of his term. In response and after further review, both the House and Senate included language for creation of the park in the budgets passed in February.

The Culpeper Battlefields State Park initiative is a proposal to create a state park from a critical mass of more than 1,700 acres of preserved lands on the Brandy Station and Cedar Mountain Battlefields. If the current budget language is approved, the new state park will open on July 1, 2023.

From *Hallowed Ground*,
Spring 2022 issue

BOOKS OF INTEREST

We were contacted by author John Stuart about his book *The Extraordinary Life of William Alexander Stuart*, which was published in 2020.

William Alexander was JEB's older brother, and the two were intimately connected before and during the Civil War. He was part owner of the vital and very lucrative saltworks of Saltville, Virginia, and he kept a detailed diary as well as frequent correspondence with JEB and Flora Stuart.

The book references many unpublished primary sources in its 800 plus pages. Following is a link with more information:

<https://www.jwstuartbookseller.com/>

If you like reading historical novels, author Thomas Roza just published "Lost Cause-Justice Found," a prequel to his first novel about the lives of three Virginia families, "Windows to the Past-A Virginian's Experience in the Civil War" (published in 2017). You may email Tom at Thomas_roza@yahoo.com. Tom is an officer and Secretary for the South Bay Civil War Roundtable in San Jose, CA.

SEMINAR AT CEDAR MOUNTAIN

From July 28 to 30, 2022, the Friends of Cedar Mountain Battlefield will host a seminar commemorating the 160th anniversary of the battle. The seminar price is \$50 and includes morning lectures and two guided afternoon tours on Friday and Saturday.

Speakers include Dr. Jeffry Wert, Frank O'Reilly, Ron Coddington, Nicholas Picerno, among others. There is a banquet with keynote speaker Dr. Jeffry Wert on Friday evening for an additional charge.

Please go to the Seminar page for more information:

<https://www.friendsofcedarmountain.org/history-seminar-7-2022/>.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

August 9: Michael C. Hardy, "Feeding the Army of Northern Virginia"

September 13: Dr. Gary Gallagher, "The Overland Campaign"

October 11:* Dr. Charles Fennell, "The U.S. Sharpshooters at the Battle of Gettysburg"

November 8: Annual Members Dinner – William C. "Jack" Davis and Sue Heth Bell, "The Letters of Gen. and Mrs. Gabriel Wharton"

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

****It is with deep regret that we learned of the passing of October's scheduled speaker, David Keller. We thank Dr. Fennell for agreeing on relative short notice to come to Richmond in his stead.***

Attendance at May Meeting: 40



The Angle, Gettysburg NMP

Trivia Answers:

1. XV Corps, General John A. Logan
2. Brice's X Roads
3. X Corps, General Alfred H. Terry
4. Monroe's X Roads, NC
5. XVII Corps, General Francis Blair