



Founded at Fort Harrison  
on February 8, 1951

# RICHMOND CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE JUNE 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

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**June 13, 2023  
7:30 p.m.**

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

**DR. CLAY MOUNTCASTLE**

**“Confederate Guerrillas and  
the Union Generals Who Hated  
Them”**



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Some were called guerrillas, some were called bushwackers, others were referred to as rangers or partisans. Outside the boundaries of the conventional battlefield, guerrilla warfare raged throughout the occupied South during the Civil War. Union troops were met with violent resistance from irregulars and chose violence in response. This presentation will focus on the problem that guerrilla warfare presented the Union Army and those leaders who wrestled with it and tried to solve it.

Dr. Clay Mountcastle was appointed Director of the Virginia War Memorial in June 2016. A retired US Army officer, his military service took him to Germany, South Korea and Iraq on assignments with the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division, US Army 5<sup>th</sup> Corps, and US Army Special Operations Command.

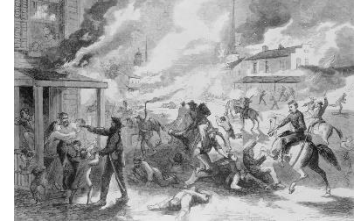
He grew up in a military family on installations throughout Europe. He is a 1994 graduate of the Virginia Military Institute and holds a master's and PhD in Military History from Duke University. Just before reporting to the Virginia War Memorial, he served as an Assistant Professor of Military History at the US Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Lee, Virginia.

He is the author of *Punitive War: Confederate Guerrillas and Union Reprisals* (University Press of Kansas, 2009); and "Guerrilla Warfare in the Civil War," in *The Routledge Handbook of American Military and Diplomatic History* (Routledge, 2015). From 2011 to 2014 he authored a recurrent column, "Battlefield Echoes," in *Civil War Monitor Magazine*.

While at the Virginia War Memorial, Clay has served as the executive producer for several documentaries to include: *A New Century*, *A New War* and *The Missing Chapter: From Saigon to Desert Storm*, and

currently in production, *One Week in October: Beirut and Grenada*.

He is also a cartoonist, having illustrated works for several US Army publications. He is currently writing and illustrating a children's Christmas book set during the Battle of the Bulge in World War II.



### A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

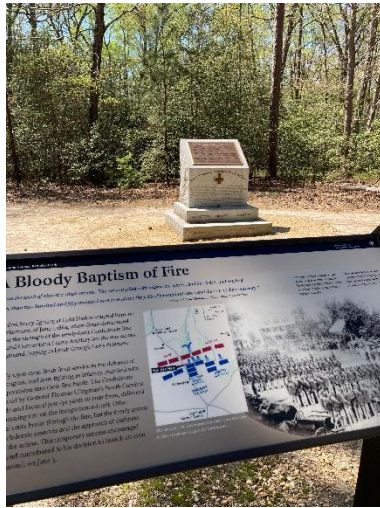
**From May 31 to June 12, 1864 – 159 years ago this month – the Battle of Cold Harbor was fought. One of the regiments that suffered heavy losses in the fighting on June 1 was the 2<sup>nd</sup> Connecticut Heavy Artillery, including its colonel, Elisha S. Kellogg, who was killed in the charge. The remaining men of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Connecticut regrouped under Col. Emory Upton.**

**From Bruce Catton's *A Stillness at Appomattox*: "Emory Upton had his brigade up close to the enemy, as usual and in line with the gospel he had been preaching he was on the firing line personally, helping his men beat off a sharp Rebel counterattack. One of his regiments, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Connecticut Heavy Artillery, began to waver, and Upton galloped into the middle of it, shouting: 'Men of Connecticut, stand by me! We must hold this line!' The wavering stopped and the regiment held, and one soldier remembered seeing Upton, dismounted, standing in the front rank firing an infantry musket."**

**The 2<sup>nd</sup> Connecticut was subsequently transferred to the VI Corps to participate in the 1864 Shenandoah Campaign, during which it suffered heavy losses. Back in the Army of the Potomac in December of 1864, the regiment fought in the breakthrough at Petersburg and**

was at Appomattox Court House with only 183 original members remaining.

A monument on Cold Harbor Battlefield honors the regiment and the Richmond Civil War Round Table is proud to have “adopted” it to make sure the



monument and wayside marker remain in pristine condition.

Finally, as mentioned in last month’s message, during our recent Ireland trip we were planning to go to the birthplace of Patrick Cleburne. We did go to Ovens, a lovely little town in County Cork. However, the gate to the Cleburne property was closed and the house was not visible from there. So, that is as far as we got. Once again, though, the incredible friendliness and helpfulness of the Irish was on full display as they were only too happy to help us find the right



property. It turned out that we were not the first to ask about Cleburne’s house since, according to the proprietor of the small grocery store, “the odd one here and there” had

been looking for it before.

*Ulli*

### FIELD TRIP UPDATE

Saturday, October 28, 2023

BY Billie Raines

The Richmond Civil War Round Table is pleased to announce a Civil War educational tour of Grant’s second attempt to capture the Petersburg and Weldon Railroad, part of the Fourth Offensive of the Petersburg Campaign, August 18-21, 1864. In reviewing travel bus estimates, the Board has decided it would be best to carpool for the tour. Anyone that would be willing to drive a group of members will have their \$15 tour cost covered. Please contact Billie Raines if you would be willing to be a driver for this club event.

The tour focuses on the Fight for the Weldon Railroad, a supply line running from Wilmington to Weldon, North Carolina, and then from Weldon on into the City of Petersburg. This vital railroad line carried supplies from the last seaport of the Confederacy to forces of General Robert E. Lee and the beleaguered cities of Petersburg and Richmond. This tour, led by RCWRT members Jerry Netherland and Mark Jacobson, will also showcase two core battlefield properties recently saved by the American Battlefield 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!

More details will follow in future newsletters.

### EVENTS OF INTEREST

**June 9:** The Ladies Memorial Association of Petersburg will be holding their annual Petersburg Decoration Day Ceremony on Friday, June 9, at Blandford Church at 6:00 p.m. Kenny Bage will be the guest speaker and special music will be provided by Virginia Dare.

The Ladies Memorial Association of Petersburg was organized on May 6, 1866. They were granted five acres from the City of Petersburg to reinter the Confederate soldiers that were killed during the 10-month siege of Petersburg. The original cemetery has expanded to 13.7 acres and is



Virginia state window at Blandford Church

known as Memorial Hill.

The centerpiece is Blandford Church with its fifteen stunning Louis Comfort Tiffany stain glass windows. The memorial site is definitely a must see.

### J.E.B. STUART CEREMONY

Billie Raines represented the Richmond Civil War Round Table at the Major General J.E.B. Stuart Commemoration Ceremony at Yellow Tavern Monument, sponsored by the Richmond Stonewall Jackson Chapter of the UDC. It was a lovely ceremony, including special music, a presentation of wreaths, and guest speaker, Kenny Bage, 8<sup>th</sup> Brigade Commander, VA Division SCV. Mark your



calendar for the 160<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Yellow Tavern on May 10, 2024 when the guest speaker will be the recognized performing historian, Patrick Falci.

### THE CONFEDERATE CONGRESS...cont'd from May 2023 newsletter

By Jim Wudarczyk

**June 17:** “History at Sunset” Tour by Petersburg Battlefields Foundation and Petersburg National Battlefield, “No Nobler Effort” – USCT in the Opening Assaults. 6:00 p.m., meet at Visitor Center parking lot at 5001 Siege Road. The program is free.

**June and July:** Check out the website of the Gettysburg Foundation for their many programs, tours, and lectures throughout the summer:

[www.GettysburgFoundation.org](http://www.GettysburgFoundation.org)

**October 6-8:** Registration is open for the 2023 Image of War Seminar by the Center for Civil War Photography, which will be held close to home in Petersburg.

For more information and to register, go to:

[www.civilwarphotography.org](http://www.civilwarphotography.org)

While serving in the House of Representatives, Howell Cobb established a reputation as a moderate. Later he served as Secretary of the Treasury in the Buchanan Administration. When the Provisional Congress convened in February 1861, Cobb was unanimously elected its president. There was even talk of Cobb being a candidate for the Presidency of the Confederacy, but his chances were thwarted by the fact that many hard-line Southern Democrats did not support him. He later left the Congress and entered military life.

Robert Augustus Toombs eventually served as Confederate Secretary of State and as a general in the military.

During the election of 1860, Benjamin H. Hill actually urged a wait-and-

see approach to how the Republicans would handle the issue of slavery. While he believed it was the right of states to remove themselves from the Union under the right circumstances, he actually supported the candidacy of John Bell of the Constitutional Union Party. Since Georgia was his home, he threw in his lot with the Confederacy and eventually became a confidant of Jefferson Davis.

Elected as Vice President of the Confederate States of America, Alexander H. Stephens was instrumental in drafting the Constitution of the Provisional Government. After the war, he compiled *A Constitutional View of the Late War Between the States*, a two-volume defense of Southern constitutionalism.

What differentiated the Provisional Congress from the other two Congresses (herein referred to as the First and Second Congress), was the fact that members could serve in the Davis cabinet, as well as being a member of the legislative branch of the government. Wiley contends that while the latter Congresses had some distinguished members, most of the legislators lacked the quality of leadership that was exhibited by the members of the Provisional Congress. Furthermore, Wiley maintained, "Many of the newcomers to the First Congress were former Unionists and Whigs and their election (in the campaign conducted in the autumn of 1863) in the wake of the defeats at Vicksburg and Gettysburg, was to some extent a protest against the Southern leaders who had taken the South into secession with their promise that the North would not fight to preserve the Union, and if perchance she did, the South would win a quick and an easy victory."

After the first year of the war, some of the members of the Provisional Government left the political arena to enlist

in military service. The First Congress that served from February 18, 1862, through March 17, 1864, was marked by internal bickering that sometimes turned violent. For example, when Tennessee representative Henry S. Foote accused E.S. Dargan of Alabama of being a "damned rascal," Dargan plunged at Foote with a knife and had to be subdued by other members of the Congress. Another time, after William L. Yancey accused Benjamin H. Hill of telling a falsehood, Hill responded by throwing an inkwell at Yancey. Hill hit his target, and Yancey sustained a gash on the face.

Pay was another issue that continuously surfaced. At first, the members of Congress were paid eight dollars a day, while Congress was in session, plus mileage for travel to and from the capital. There were subsequent pay raises: March 1862, the scale was increased to \$2,760 a year; June 1864, to \$5,520; December 1864, to \$8,280; and in March 1865 to \$16,560. Since payment was made in Confederate currency, and not in gold, silver, or even green backs, the radical increases in salary failed to keep pace with the devaluation of the Confederate paper money.

As Richmond was on the verge of falling to Union forces, many members of the Second Congress simply left and returned to their homes. In a supreme act of irony, on March 13, 1865, the few remaining members of the Congress voted to allow the conscription of slaves. As Christopher Bates quipped, "For many Confederates, it was the culmination of four years of Congress violating the principles upon which the nation had been founded."

*Reprinted from "The Arsenal," newsletter of the Greater Pittsburgh CWRT, with permission by the author, Jim Wudarczyk*

**IN MEMORIAM**

**It is with deep regret that we learned of the recent passing of several Round Table members:**

**April 13, 2023 - Clarence Wright, Jr.**  
**April 20, 2023 – Walter Tucker**  
**April 24, 2023 – Lionel Travis**

**Our sincere condolences and sympathy to their families and loved ones.**

**LOOKING BACK...**

In the early days of the Civil War Round Tables, the custom was not to have guest speakers, as today. Rather, the members themselves led group discussions on various topics. **Dan Balfour** found the following in his files. Note the interest in local topics.

TOPICS THAT HAVE NOT BEEN COVERED AT A RCWRT MEETING IN THE LAST FEW YEARS:

Members are encouraged to select one of the topics and after doing the research give a talk to the RCWRT.

1. **AUTHORS:** Dowdey, Freeman, T. Harry Williams, Catton, John Esten Cooke, and Mary Johnston
2. **ARTISTS AND SCULPTORS:** Sir Moses Ezekiel, Edward V. Valentine, William L. Sheppard, F. William Sievers, and William Couper
3. **RICHMOND THEATRES DURING THE WAR**
4. **RICHMOND’S MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL DURING THE WAR**
5. **RICHMOND’S FORTIFICATIONS**
6. **RICHMOND’S CEMETERIES:** Hollywood, Oakwood, Hebrew, and Shockoe
7. **RICHMOND’S PRISONS:** (Libbie has been covered), Castle Thunder, Castle Lightning, Belle Isle, State Penitentiary, Henrico County Jail, and Richmond Jail
8. **RICHMOND’S HOSPITALS:** (Chimborazo has been covered), Howard’s Grove, Jackson General

Hospital, Winder General Hospital, and a host of others

9. **RICHMOND’S CHURCHES:** Leigh Street Baptist, St. Peters Catholic, Centenary United Methodist, St. Paul’s Episcopal, St. John’s Episcopal and Second Presbyterian are all still using the same church building, plus others.

10. **RICHMOND’S NEWSPAPERS:** Dispatch, Enquirer, Examiner, Sentinel, and Richmond Whig (and Public Advertiser), and Taeglicher Anzeiger.

11. **RICHMOND’S MILITARY UNITS:** (Richmond Light Infantry Blues have been covered), First Virginia Infantry, Richmond’s Artillery Units, etc.

12. **RICHMOND’S WOMEN:** Mrs. Jefferson Davis, Mrs. R.E. Lee, Mrs. Judith McGuire, Sally Tompkins, and others.

13. **CONFEDERATE STATES NAVAL ACADEMY AND SHIPYARDS**

14. **MEN WHO NEED TO BE COVERED:** Matthew Fontaine Maury, Hunter Holmes McGuire, George E. Pickett, William “EXTRA BILLY” Smith, Joseph E. Johnston, Alexander H. Stephens, Henry Heth, and Judah P. Benjamin.

**Thank you to Dan Balfour for this contribution**

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

**July 11:** James Hessler, “The Fight at East Cavalry Field”

**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”

**Attendance at May Meeting: 51**