



Founded at Fort Harrison
on February 8, 1951

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RICHMOND

CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

MARCH 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

March 8, 2022

7:30 p.m.

**At the Virginia War Memorial
621 S. Belvidere Street
Richmond, VA 23220**

**“Why The Civil War
Still Lives”
By Gregg Clemmer**

Near the end of his life, Mark Twain wrote that the American Civil War had “uprooted institutions that were centuries old, changed the politics of people, transformed the social life of half the country, and wrought so profoundly upon the entire national character that the influence cannot be measured short of two or three generations.”

Really? Just two... or three generations? In *Why the Civil War Still Lives*, Clemmer compares and contrasts the details and events of the 1860s with those of today – everything from clothing styles, poems, and music to speeches, food, and quotes to the famous, infamous, and forgotten. But of more importance, perhaps, what is The

War’s enduring legacy? And how do Americans of today compare with those from that time in their response to devastating events? Expect the unexpected!



Gregg Clemmer is a native of Virginia’s Shenandoah Valley and a graduate of Virginia Tech with a Master’s degree in military history from Norwich University. A former president of the Montgomery County (MD) Civil War Round Table, Gregg numbers two Union generals and 14 “in-the-trenches” Confederates in his ancestry, including members of Armistead’s and the Stonewall brigades.

Gregg has been a Smithsonian Study Leader for more than 30 years, specializing in cave as well as Civil War and Revolutionary War tours. A former professor of history at Carroll Community College in Westminster, Maryland, Gregg has also been an onboard lecturer for American Cruise Lines. He is the author of numerous magazine articles and five books, including the acclaimed *Valor in Gray: The Recipients of the Confederate Medal of Honor*. His biography, *Old Alleghany: The Life and Wars of General Ed Johnson*, won the 2005 Douglas Southall Freeman History Award.

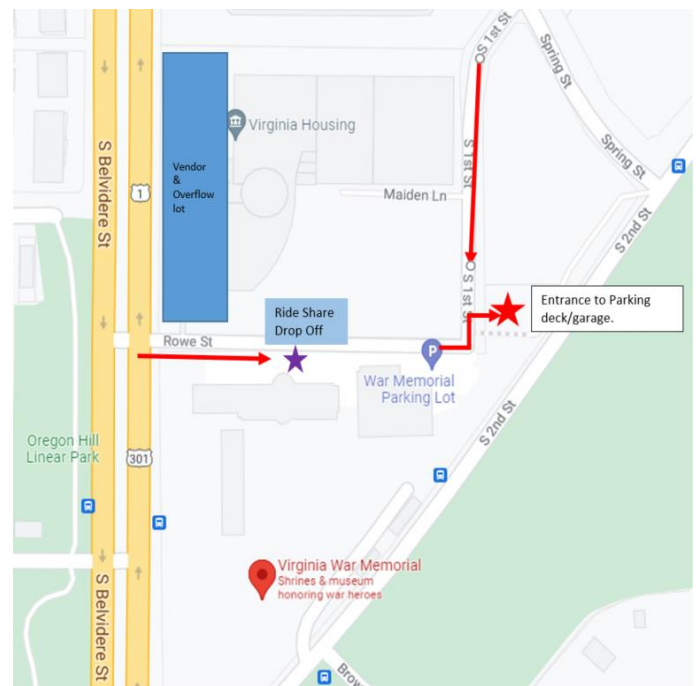
Gregg is currently working on a sequel to his historical novel, *A Turn for Home*.

Yet, Gregg’s greatest passion is to bring history alive, especially when you stand on the very ground upon which it happened.

****Fully vaccinated individuals are not required to wear face coverings inside the Virginia War Memorial. Those who are not vaccinated are required to wear face coverings and are encouraged to maintain social distancing.****

Virginia War Memorial Foundation is not a sponsor of this event.

Please park in the parking garage (see map below) and take the elevator to the main lobby where a security guard will direct you to the VMI Alumni Hall of Honor.



A Word from the President

You are receiving this newsletter because you renewed your membership in the Richmond Civil War Round Table. And we thank you for that! We have successfully overcome two very challenging years and you have hung in there with us.

Moreover, the search for a Second VP is over! We are so pleased to welcome Billie Raines, who just joined the round table in January, as an officer to our Board. Billie is proud that her ancestors served in the 4th Virginia Cavalry, the CS Navy, and the 13th, 7th, and 45th Virginia Infantry. Her great-grandfather, Cepheus S. Raines, joined the infantry at age 14, something Billie is especially proud of. Billie was born in Culpeper and her great-great-uncles were members of the Culpeper Minute Men.

During a thirty-year career working for the City of Richmond, she had the opportunity to work as the staff coordinator for the Richmond Recreation & Parks Foundation, the Richmond Clean City Commission, and the Richmond Shade Tree Commission. Most recently Billie served on the Metropolitan Richmond Artist Association as Program Chairman. Recently retired from her second career at Randolph-Macon College, she has the time and enthusiasm to commit to our round table.

Please make sure to introduce yourself and thank Billie for answering the call when you get your name badge before the next meeting.

Even though this year is still young, we are already working on the 2023 schedule with almost all the speakers booked. Reserve the date of June 11 for

our field trip to Lexington. More details in future newsletters. There is much to look forward to and we are so glad you choose to be a part of it.

Ulli

PLEASE NOTE

At this month's meeting, the membership will vote on the following change to the Constitution regarding the possibility of a meeting cancellation for a variety of reasons, such as snow closings, unavailability of meeting room, etc.:

“Article IV Section 2: The regular monthly meetings of this organization shall be on the second Tuesday of each month. The November dinner meeting may be held on an alternate date with the approval of the Executive Committee. The President, First Vice President, and Secretary shall jointly be authorized to cancel any meeting.”

Additionally, there will be a vote to remove from the Constitution the office of Webmaster in Article IV Section 1.f.

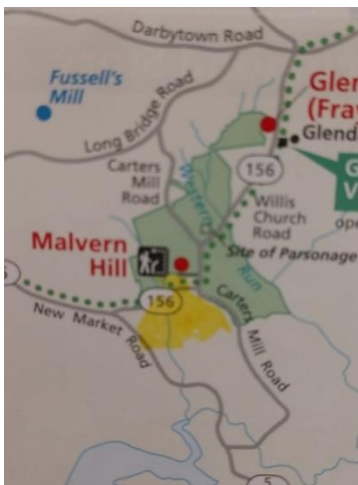
PRESERVATION NEWS

By Bert Dunkerly

There is some great news at two of the larger battle sites around Richmond. The American Battlefield Trust (ABT) recently purchased a sliver of land at Cold Harbor that links the Fletcher's Redoubt property to Beulah Church Road. Fletcher's Redoubt is a large earthwork built by Ninth Corps troops after the big assault of June 3, 1864. This property is not yet open to the public, but the preservation of this tract brings it one step closer to making that possible. It also removes the threat of further development in that area.

Richmond National Battlefield Park recently purchased 370 acres of pristine land at Malvern Hill from the Capital Region Land

Conservancy. The remainder of the area is owned by Henrico County, and their portion includes the ruins of the 17th century Malvern House. Together the Park and County now protect the entirety of Malvern Hill. The Park's land includes a hospital site, reserve troop positions, and Union artillery sites. Below is a map and some photos. Again, this land is not open to the public yet, but it has tremendous potential for visitor use: it can link to the Capital Bike Trail and directly overlooks Route 5.



It is also important to remember our successes, and the year 2022 marks the 10-year anniversary of an important preservation victory at Gaines' Mill: the acquisition of land where the Texas Brigade charged, completed by the ABT and Richmond Battlefields Association. Today this land has been incorporated into Richmond National Battlefield Park and has walking trails and a monument to the Texas troops. Some of you may recall that until that time it was not possible to view the "Confederate" side of the creek, where their attacks were made.

If anyone has questions or wants to know more, contact Bert at bd1754@yahoo.com.

CIVIL WAR TRIVIA

(from the February issue of Civil War News)

1. Postwar tactician who led May 12, 1864 charge at Spotsylvania
2. Union vessel captured and burned at New Bern by John Taylor Wood
3. U.S. Grant's nickname
4. First thing an artillery crew must do shift from traveling to "action front"
5. First name of Admiral Dahlgren's one legged son killed outside Richmond
6. Ford Hooker's army used to get away from Chancellorsville
7. This tugboat's engine went to Confederate ironclad CSS North Carolina
8. Fort in New Mexico
9. Federal warship designation
10. Union general who organized "Corps d'Afrique" regiments in New Orleans

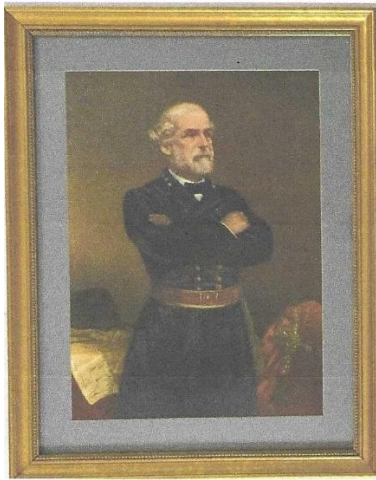
Answers on page 6

SPECIAL RAFFLE

We will continue our three-part special raffle this month with a framed portrait of Robert E. Lee, painted by John Elder, and donated by Ms. Kitty Snow, daughter of the late Howard Lynch, who was a round table member.

Danny Witt will be selling the tickets at the door and the winning ticket will be drawn before the meeting.

1 ticket is \$5; 5 tickets are \$20.

**THE LONG AND FROZEN ROAD**

(continued from February)

However bad the weather, boredom was an ever present problem. Commanders and soldiers alike tried to establish regular activity and work to break the monotony. Drilling, camp upkeep, religious services, letter writing, card games, storytelling, and even the occasional snow ball fight were all part of camp life.

“There is a string band in the regiment, and occasionally they have a serenade around the different companies and call out the Colonel and captains to make them a speech, which is generally responded to.”

Sergeant Henry G. Orr,
12th Texas Cavalry
December 21, 1861



Despite the best efforts of their officers, or lack thereof, many soldiers strayed to less desirable activities.

“It is a bad thing for an army to remain too long at one place. The men soon become discontented and unhappy, and we had no diversion or pastime except playing poker and chuck-a-luck.”

Sam Watkins,
Co. H., First Tennessee Regiment,
January 1863

When Spring arrived, soldiers gathered their belongings including their canvasses and marched away. However, remnants of the camp remained and in some cases, soldiers saw their old camp again.

*Adapted from an on-line article of
battlefields.org*

NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome to our two new members:

Paul Allen and Sandy Bowen

SPECIAL DONATION

Sincere thanks to **Danny Witt** for his special donation of \$50 to the round table in memory of **Giles Engledove** and **Howard Lynch**.

Thank you, Danny, for your generosity.

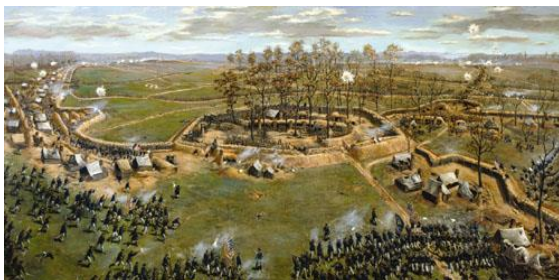
AREA EVENT OF INTEREST

By Jerry Netherland

The Petersburg Battlefields Foundation is offering a Civil War Study and Caravan Driving Tour on Saturday, March 26, 2022 from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. This multi-stop tour will explore the fight for Fort Stedman, Lee's Last Offensive.



The early months of 1865 presented a very foreboding forecast for the Confederate States of America. General Robert E. Lee knew that he must do something to try and break the stranglehold of General Grant on the Confederate armies. In Petersburg the situation had become desperate, "no food, no horses, no reinforcement!" Of the options presented to Lee, he decided to fight! And fight he did. In the pre-dawn hours of March 25, 1865, troops under the command of Major General John B. Gordon made a desperate but innovative attack against Union Fort Stedman in a bid to alter the course of events around the Cockade City.



You can join this educational caravan tour, featuring five stops across the hallowed ground of this attack. The tour will include public, American Battlefield Trust, and National Park Service sites. Tickets are \$30 and available via Eventbrite at www.Petebattlefields.org. Space will be limited, so make your reservation soon.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

April 12: Gordon Rhea, Esq., "The Life and Battles of JEB Stuart"

May 10: Brendan Synnamon, "The Union Drummer Boy: A Love of History and Historical Preservation as Experienced by One of America's Foremost Civil War Militaria Shops"

June 14: Col. Keith Gibson, "Thomas J. Jackson: Lexington, The Institute, and a Legacy"

July 12: Dr. Jennifer M. Murray, "Meade at War"

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

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

October 11: David Keller, "Military Prisons of the Civil War, A Comparative Study"

November 8: Annual Members Dinner
William C. "Jack" Davis, Topic TBA

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

Attendance at February Meeting: 50**Trivia Answers:**

1. Emory Upton
2. USS *Underwriter*
3. "Unconditional Surrender"
4. Unlimber
5. Ulric Dahlgren
6. U.S. Ford
7. Uncle Ben
8. Fort Union
9. USS
10. General Daniel Ullman