



Founded at Fort Harrison
on February 8, 1951

RICHMOND CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

MARCH 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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March 14, 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)**

KRISTOPHER WHITE

**“The Ides of May:
The Wounding of James
Longstreet”**



“Old Pete,” Lee’s second-in-command, was a stalwart that the “Grey Fox” relied on as the 1864 campaigns opened. However, just hours after Longstreet saved Lee’s army along the Orange Plank Road in the Wilderness, tragedy struck. While riding along the road during an audacious and successful flank attack, Longstreet, like Stonewall Jackson, was accidentally shot by his own men, less than three miles from the spot of Jackson’s fateful wounding. Longstreet’s wounding, like Jackson’s, forever changed the face of the Army of Northern Virginia.

Kristopher D. White is the deputy director of education at the American Battlefield Trust. White is a graduate of Norwich University with an M.A. in Military History, as well as a graduate of California University of Pennsylvania with a B.A. in History. For nearly five years, he served as a ranger-historian at Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park. White is the co-founder and founding chief historian of Emerging Civil War and is also the co-creator of the Engaging the Civil War Series. An award-winning speaker and editor, White has authored, co-authored, or edited nearly two dozen books. He frequently leads tours in the United States and abroad.



A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

In the 1980s, I joined a brand-new organization that called itself “Friends of the National Parks at Gettysburg” (FNPG). It consisted of a group of enthusiastic history and preservation minded people and was led by a dedicated board of directors. Twice a year there were “Musters” that I attended, tours of the battlefield, and seminars. Through the hard work and dedication of its members, there were the first big successes: the burial of the power lines on the Emmitsburg Road in 1993; the demolition of a 307-foot eyesore of a privately owned tower directly adjacent to the battlefield in 2000; and, in 2002, the purchase and subsequent demolition of the “Home Sweet Home” motel on ground where the Pickett and Pettigrew charge took place.

In 1990, the Gettysburg Foundation was established as the non-profit partner of the National Park Service, and the merger with the FNPG took place in 2006. In 2008, a new state-of-the-art Visitor Center and Museum, owned and operated by the Foundation, was opened behind Cemetery Ridge that also houses the magnificent Cyclorama painting of Pickett’s Charge. The old visitor center on Taneytown Road and the Cyclorama Center adjacent to it were demolished in 2009 and 2013, respectively, and Ziegler’s Grove was returned to its 1863 appearance.

The Foundation today, led by President and CEO Wayne Motts, is thriving and continues to do great work as partner of the National Park Service to maintain, preserve and protect Gettysburg National Military Park and the Eisenhower National Historic Site.

Some of the recent and ongoing accomplishments include the rehabilitation of Little Round Top; raising over \$25,000 in support of GNMP's Traveling Trunk program; welcoming nearly 5,000 visitors to the George Spangler Farm & Field Hospital, the best-preserved Civil War Field Hospital in existence; the "Children of Gettysburg 1863" education center at the Rupp House; and coordinating and donating over 8,000 volunteer hours of battlefield preservation efforts – to name just a few.

The Gettysburg battlefield and the town have changed dramatically from those days in the 1980s when I first visited – for the better. And we can thank preservation minded groups like the Gettysburg Foundation and the American Battlefield Trust for that. Here in Virginia, the Battlefield Trust is working just as hard in collaboration with organizations like the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust and the Petersburg Battlefields Foundation to protect and preserve battlefields and historic sites. It is important that we support these great organizations.

One of the major participants in the 1863 Battle of Gettysburg was James Longstreet. This month we will hear from Kris White about Longstreet's role in another battle a little less than a year later. Having a great interest in the Overland Campaign, I look forward to that.

Ulli

OCTOBER FIELD TRIP

Jerry Netherland and Mark Jacobson will be our tour guides on October 28, 2023 when we explore the fighting at the Weldon Railroad. We are still working on the details, such as cost, transportation, etc., but we just wanted to make sure you mark your calendar.

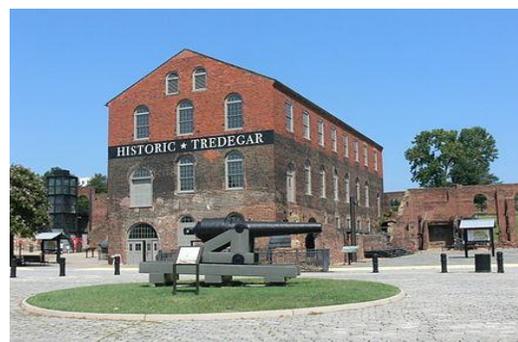
We will tour Grant's second attempt to capture the Petersburg and Weldon Railroad, part of the Fourth Offensive of the Petersburg Campaign, August 18-21, 1864. The tour focuses on the Fight for the Weldon Railroad, a supply line running from Wilmington, NC to Weldon, NC and then from Weldon on into the City of Petersburg. This vital railroad line carried supplies from the last open seaport of the Confederacy to forces of General Robert E. Lee and the beleaguered cities of Petersburg and Richmond.

This tour 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!

SPECIAL EVENT FOR ROUND TABLE MEMBERS

Please note that the special "behind the scenes" tour of the American Civil War Museum's collections vault with its Director, Robert Hancock, has now been filled.

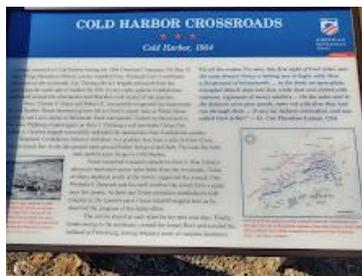
If you are on the waiting list and there should be any cancellations, Waite will notify you.



PRESERVATION NEWS

by Bert Dunkerly

The American Battlefield Trust, which has previously preserved the Cold Harbor crossroads, has now added several historic markers (see photos). The site is about two miles east of the park visitor center. This is a big deal, as the crossroads was a key part of both the Gaines' Mill and Cold Harbor battlefields. They not only preserved this land, but now it is open to the public



with markers. If you go, you'll see a dirt path where you can pull in and park.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, April 1: Petersburg Battlefields Foundation caravan driving tour, "West Virginia Troops in the Fall of Hatcher's Run Line." **9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (8:30 a.m. check-in).** \$30 per person. Purchase tickets via Eventbrite at www.petebattlefields.org.

Led by author Dr. Phillip Hatfield, this tour will feature three stops across hallowed grounds preserved by the American Battlefield Trust, the National Park Service, and the Commonwealth of Virginia. Water and snacks will be provided during the tour; optional lunch will follow at Giuseppe's Italian Restaurant in Dinwiddie County (at your cost).

The tour will detail the experiences of Captain John Valley Young, commanding Co. G, 11th West Virginia Infantry and his troops who played a key role in the April 2, 1865 Union morning assault on Maj. Gen Henry Heth's Confederate left flank at Hatcher's Run. Young's Co. G was in Brev. Brig. Gen. Thomas M. Mahaley's Brigade, comprised of the 10th, 11th and 15th West Virginia Infantry, along with the 123rd Ohio Infantry. Mahaley's West Virginians and Buckeyes attacked the earthen fortifications known as the "fish hook" occupied by Brig. Gen. Joseph Davis' Mississippi Brigade, following the VI Corps' earlier breakthrough on that fateful morning.

While often overlooked by researchers, a small Confederate remnant put up a stubborn resistance resulting in vicious hand-to-hand fighting in the trenches. One of Captain Young's men, Corporal Adam White, a Swiss immigrant, received the Medal of Honor for singlehandedly capturing Davis' Brigade colors from the color guard.

The tour group will also travel to the area where Mahaley's Brigade engaged in the assaults against Fort Whitworth on the afternoon of April 2, 1865, resulting in the final blow to Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee's occupation of the Petersburg lines.

Sunday, April 2: A.P. Hill Memorial Ceremony, Dinwiddie County. **1:00 p.m.**

Patrick Falci, who portrayed Lt. Gen. A.P. Hill in the 1993 movie "Gettysburg," will be coming for the 23rd year to Dinwiddie County for the A.P. Hill Death Site Memorial Ceremony.

The ceremony is held on the anniversary of Hill's death, which was Sunday, April 2, 1865. He will be portraying Hill as part of the annual memorial hosted by A.P. Hill Sons of Confederate Veterans Camp No. 167.

The ceremony, which is open to the public, will take place at the death site monument located in the woods a short distance from the north end of Sentry Hill Court on land protected by the American Battlefield Trust. Sentry Hill Court is reached from Route 1 North on A.P. Hill Drive.



Patrick Falci

WAR TIME NEWS

Richmond, May 28, 1864

Latest –

The theater of war in our state has shifted since the last issue of our newspaper was published, the fighting has shifted from the banks of the North Anna and the Pamunkey. Grant seems to have realized, after the most recent battles and the defeats that he has suffered and the losses that he has incurred, that he will never reach Richmond from Fredericksburg, and therefore, he is probably intending to follow McClellan's plan of using the York River and the James River as his bases of operation and he will then attempt to reach Richmond via the Peninsula. But Lee has already dealt with McClellan when he tried that path two years ago, and likely he will be able to deal with Grant as well.

Butler is still trapped like a mouse at Bermuda Hundred along the James River, but he may seek to operate in conjunction with Grant later.

Johnson was forced to fall back from Dalton by a flanking maneuver by the enemy, but the enemy in that area has already received some severe beatings and we can look forward to the future at every point.

Miscellaneous –

The Southern ramming ship "Albemarle," captained by Cook, which took such an active part in the capture of Plymouth, engaged in combat with the Yankee squadron at Albemarle Sound this past week. During the fighting she damaged two of the enemy ships and put the rest to flight. On the other hand, a small steamship, which put to sea at the same time as the "Albemarle" and which we had previously

captured from the Yankees, was sunk during this latest battle with the enemy.

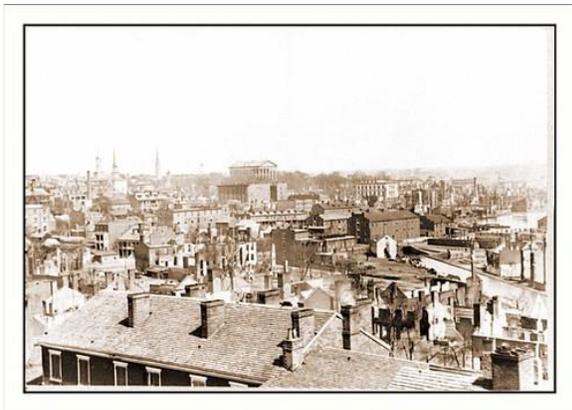
The blockade of the port of Wilmington seems to be less than complete, because no fewer than nine blockade steamers have safely arrived in port over the last few days.

Our blockade steamer "Greyhound" aboard which our Mr. Edward Pollard of Richmond was sailing, has been captured according to reports from the Yankees.

About eight to ten Yankee officers who deserted during the fighting along the Rapidan and strategically withdrew toward Washington have been placed in irons and brought back to Grant's army. It is reported that they have been demoted and must now serve as privates.

The "Baltimore American" reports that the blockade runner "Young Republic" was captured by the gunboat "Grand Gulf" as she sailed out of the port of Wilmington. Her cargo consisted of tobacco and cotton.

From *The Richmond Advertiser*
Thank you, Bert Dunkerly



**A WARM WELCOME TO OUR
NEW MEMBERS**

DAVID AND MEG LIMMER

UPCOMING MEETINGS

April 11: John Hennessy, "Subordinate Command in the Army of the Potomac"

May 9: Robin Snyder, "The Job of a Battlefield Park Superintendent"

June 13: Clay Mountcastle, "Confederate Guerrillas and Union Generals who Hated Them"

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"

****Date subject to change**

Attendance at February Meeting:

Via Zoom: 14 – In Person: 21

NOTABLE QUOTES

"I can scarcely think of him without weeping."

Robert E. Lee, May 25, 1864
(Referring to the death of Maj. Gen. J.E.B. Stuart at Yellow Tavern)

"That man [Grant] will fight us every day and every hour till the end of the war."

James Longstreet, March 1864
(Responding to Grant's promotion to Lt. Gen. and General in Chief)