



Founded at Fort Harrison
on February 8, 1951

RICHMOND CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

MARCH 2024

“The Civil War was the biggest thing that ever happened to us. It was our Iliad and our Odyssey – and it remains our least understood war.”

Bruce Catton

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March 12, 2024

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)

CAROLYN IVANOFF

**“CLARA BARTON: THE LIFE AND
LEGACY OF AN AMERICAN ICON”**



Clara Barton was known as the Angel of the Battlefield for her service as a nurse and relief worker during the Civil War. By the time of her death in 1912, her life's work would touch millions of people world-wide and continues to do so today.

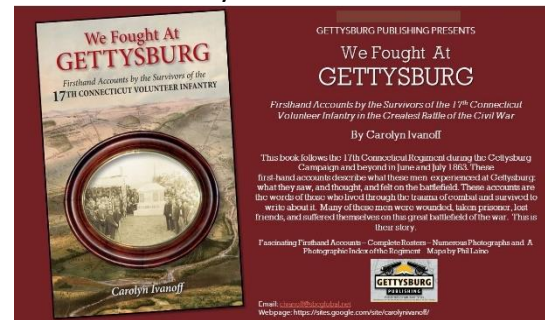
She was born into and lived in Victorian America where a woman's place was limited to her home. Women did not have many legal rights and did not have careers and few women worked outside their homes. Although a woman in a man's world, Clara Barton had several careers, any one of which would have brought a man fame and perhaps fortune.

As the Civil War was coming to a close, over 40 percent of the dead remained unidentified, and tens of thousands of grieving families did not know the fate of their loved ones. In March of 1865, with written permission from President Lincoln, Barton established the Missing Soldiers Office in her boarding house on 7th Street in Washington, D.C.

The office closed in 1868 and more than 22,000 unknown dead had been identified. Barton then dedicated herself to the founding of the American Red Cross.

Carolyn Ivanoff is a retired high school administrator and independent historian. She writes and speaks frequently on American history at local, state, and national venues. In 2003 Carolyn was named Civil War Trust's Teacher of the Year. In 2010, 2011 and 2013 her education programs received Awards of Merit from the Connecticut League of History Organizations. In 2016 Carolyn was honored by the Connecticut Council of Social Studies with the Bruce Fraser Friend of the Social Studies Award. In 2018-19 Carolyn served as project coordinator for the 17th Connecticut Flagpole preservation and re-dedication

ceremony on Barlow's Knoll at Gettysburg National Military Park.



Her book, "We Fought at Gettysburg," features first-hand accounts by the survivors of the 17th Connecticut Infantry and their experiences at Gettysburg.

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

I don't know about you, but I often think about how lucky we are to live where we do. Admit it. We are a bunch of history nuts living in the center of the history we love.

In my first President's message, I talked about belonging to Civil War Round Tables in Franklin, Virginia, at VMI, and in New York and Chicago. What were we talking about in those locations? Often it was events that happened here. Between John Coski, Bobby Krick, Bert Dunkerly, and many other members of this Round Table, we have been invited to speak quite literally all around the world to people who are intensely interested in the things that happened here, where we live. Perhaps the greatest trip that I know of is when former RCWRT member Sam Craghead was invited to speak to the Sydney and Melbourne, Australia, Round Tables, and THEY PAID FOR IT because they were so interested in things that happened here.

We personally get to walk and drive around historic ground almost every day. They only get to read about the places

where we live – sometimes quite literally where we live. I chuckled about our last newsletter, because it had the article about the RCWRT meeting in 1955 in the Garthright House at Cold Harbor. Shortly after I bought my house on Church Hill, I ran into Bobby Krick. He started telling me all about my house; and, when I asked him how he knew, he said that one of the Garthright girls was married to the man who built it and her twin sister lived next door. Yesterday, I was in Lexington at VMI, and I walked past the statue of Virginia Mourning Her Dead where the names of the cadets who fought at New Market are inscribed. William Yarbrough was on it. His mother was that Garthright girl, and he was living in my house when his parents sent him off to VMI in 1863 at age 14. And they went to church a block away at St. John's, where Patrick Henry made his liberty or death speech less than a century earlier.

Another article dealt with the Tredegar Iron Works, where I worked for several years. I buy my gasoline at an Exxon Station in Shockoe Bottom. It was the site of a large slave jail 160 years ago. I walk my dog at Libbie Hill Park, where Captain John Smith climbed the hill a couple weeks after landing at Jamestown in 1607 and where, 130 years later, William Byrd II looked down at the James River and said it looked like the Thames River, just outside of London at his home at Richmond Hill, thereby naming our city.

I hope that we all think about how lucky we are.

And I look forward to hearing more about Clara Barton at the upcoming meeting. Some of you will remember that, during the 150th commemoration of the Civil War, the Museum of the Confederacy devoted each year's symposium to selecting the "Person of the Year" for that

year of the war. Abe Lincoln took the honors for 1861. Robert E. Lee took 1862 (despite Jack Mountcastle's spirited nomination of George McClellan), Grant in 1863, and Sherman in 1864. For 1865, Elizabeth Brown Pryor's nomination of Clara Barton led the crowd to select her as the Person of the Year, much to the surprise of many.

Waite



CHANGE AT PAMPLIN PARK

Beginning on February 12, 2024, Pamplin Historical Park & The National Museum of the Civil War Soldier made a change to their visiting hours. The park will be open by appointment only.

For more information, go to <https://pamplinpark.org>.



WAR TIME NEWS Richmond, October 2, 1864

Who is Colonel Schaller?

The English newspapers in our fair city have discussed Col. Schaller quite a bit, he is publishing a book on warfare, and particularly the role of cavalry. In this book he discussed how cavalry can be best utilized and the mistakes we have made in our current war. We are pleased to inform our readers that Col. Schaller is a "Dutchman," who commanded a regiment under General Tochan at the beginning of our current war, and he was wounded at the Battle of Shiloh as he led his regiment.

Besides Schaller, the Germans have produced various other officers of merit. Our misfortune is that talented foreigners are seldom recognized sufficiently, and what is worst of all, our Confederacy then suffers greatly due to the lack of proper utilization, a prize we all pay together. Perhaps next time our countryman Col. Schaller will be properly recognized.

From *The Richmond Advertiser*
Thank you, Bert Dunkerly

UPCOMING ACWM LECTURES

March 21, 2024: "Benjamin Franklin Butler," with Dr. Elizabeth D. Leonard. Before the start of the Civil War, Benjamin Franklin Butler was a well-known, ambitious, and successful lawyer in his adopted hometown of Lowell, Massachusetts. He supported the idea of waged labor, but he was not necessarily against slavery.

April 25, 2024: "Frederick Douglass and the Problem of American Democracy," with Dr. David W. Blight. In the Civil War era, Frederick Douglass transformed from a ferocious critic of the American

nation to its defender and advocate. Along the way, he left a lasting imprint on how Americans imagine their democracy.

May 30, 2024: "The Grand Old Man of the Army: General Winfield Scott's Unionism and the Secession Crisis," with Dr. Barton A. Myers. One of the most important, if often overlooked, figures of the late antebellum period is General Winfield Scott, the General in Chief of the U.S. Army. For two decades before the Civil War, he was the most critical figure in the American government.

All lectures are from 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM at the American Civil War Museum at Tredegar. For more information, go to www.acwm.org.

**A Warm Welcome to Our
New Member:
Bill Miller**

From the Round Table Archives

RCWRT BULLETIN -

Volume I

March 31, 1958

Richmond Round Table Origin and Highlights

As might be supposed, the interest of many Richmonders in serious study of the Civil War long antedated the date as of which the Round Table was formally organized. Dr. Douglas S. Freeman, whose writings on the Civil War and its leaders, and whose conducted field trips over the battlefields around Richmond had become legend years before his publication of "R.E. Lee," served as a great inspirational force to local Civil War buffs. His editorial recognition of anniversary dates in the columns of the Richmond News Leader provided the community with a virtual

calendar of memorable battles, campaigns, incidents and personalities of the Civil War period. His affiliation with the groups which promoted the erection of the sixty-odd markers in the Richmond



Douglas Southall Freeman

area and which acquired historic properties along the line of the present Richmond National Battlefield Park, gave impetus to the reviving interest in

Civil War study.

Early in 1951 a cadre of “buffs” in the Sandston area (the site of the Battle of Seven Pines and part of the Seven Days Battles), more formally identified themselves under the title of the Richmond Civil War Round Table. First meetings were held at the Park Service Headquarters at Fort Harrison. “Nip” Warriner, who beyond doubt possesses the greatest collection of battlefield items, personally extracted from the Richmond area battlefields, was a prime mover in the Round Table endeavor.



Fort Harrison Visitor Center

In the seven years of its existence the Richmond Round Table has been served by six presidents. It has on four occasions been co-sponsor or co-host to major undertakings of Civil War interest in Virginia. In 1953 it joined the Chicago Round Table in sponsoring the first nationwide tour of the Richmond Battlefields, on which occasion Dr. Freeman delivered the last of his major addresses on a war subject; in 1955 it joined with the Manuscript Society in the Annual Convention of that body in Richmond and was in the same year co-host with Chicago in the Fredericksburg Area National Tour; and in 1958 it sponsored the Virginia American Heritage Dinner at which General U.S. Grant, III was guest speaker.

Field trips to Richmond area battlefields are commonplace; at least once a year the group has visited more distant places, among them Manassas, Cedar Mountain, Brandy [Station], Chancellorsville, Fredericksburg, The Wilderness, Spotsylvania, Harper’s Ferry, Antietam, South Mountain, Petersburg, Saylor’s Creek and Appomattox. Stuart’s Ride Around McClellan has been retraced, as has also been the Route of Lee’s Retreat following the collapse of the Richmond-Petersburg Line.

Most of the monthly programs are served by a discussion leader from within the group, but on occasion we have been favored by such nationally known writers as Bruce Catton, “Pat” Jones, Burke Davis, Richard Howell and the late D.C. O’Flaherty.

While the local Civil War Rifle Teams are separately organized, the Richmond Round Table cooperates whenever possible to the furtherance of their “shoots.”

EVENTS OF INTEREST

March 23: 2024 Annual Meeting of the Petersburg Battlefields Foundation, Eastside Community Enhancement Center, 7301 Boydton Plank Road, 23803. The meeting, which is open to the public, begins at 10:30 a.m., with refreshments served at 10:00 a.m. “History in Your Backyard” panel discussion: Saving Local Battlefields, with Tom Gilmore of the American Battlefield Trust, Parker Angelasto, Executive Director, Capital Region Land Conservancy, and Alexa Viets, Superintendent, Petersburg National Battlefield.

The 1st “Award for Excellence in Preservation and Scholarship” will be given to historian A. Wilson Greene.

“Battle of Dinwiddie Courthouse” wayside historical signs will be unveiled at 9:30 a.m. on Courthouse Road.

RSVP to info@petebattlefields.org.

April 20: A Civil War Study & Caravan Driving Tour: “Hidden in Plain Sight” – Unique sites within the Eastern Front you probably never noticed before at Petersburg National Battlefield. 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., check in is at 8:30 a.m. Tour coordinated by Petersburg Battlefields Foundation. Purchase tour tickets (\$30 per person) via Eventbrite at <https://petebattlefields.org>.

May 4: The Army Historical Foundation and CVBT present the 2024 Spring Battle Ride at Spotsylvania Court House, “The Horrors of Many Battlefields.” The tour will explore the battle for the Muleshoe Salient, a notoriously violent clash. Participants will spend the day learning about critical campaign decisions, witnessing live fire demonstrations of Civil War-era weaponry, and examining preserved field fortifications.

This Battle Ride will feature renowned Civil War historian Robert Lee Hodge, who was prominently featured in the

Pulitzer Prize-winning *Confederates in the Attic*.

\$175 per person. For more information: <https://cvbt.org>.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

April 9: Dr. Christian B. Keller, “Southern Strategies: Why the Confederacy Failed”

May 14: Patrick Falci, “The Man in the Red Shirt: The Life of A.P. Hill”

June 11: Wayne Motts, “Pickett’s Charge at Gettysburg”

July 9: Frank O’Reilly, “Yellow Tavern and the Death of JEB Stuart”

August 13: Brad Gottfried, “The Antietam Paintings by James Hope”

September 10: Scott Mingus, “If We Are Striking for Pennsylvania: The Army of Northern Virginia and the Army of the Potomac March to Gettysburg”

October 8: Bobby Krick, “W.H.F. ‘Rooney’ Lee”

November 12: Annual Dinner Meeting

Dr. Gary Gallagher, TBA

December 10: Sarah Bierle, “John Pelham: His Five Years at West Point”

Attendance at February Meeting: 66

36 in person; 30 via Zoom

Notable Quote

“If I were to speak of war, it would not be to show you the glories of conquering armies but the mischief and misery they strew in their tracks; and how, while they marched on with tread of iron and plumes proudly tossing in the breeze, someone must follow closely in their steps, crouching to the earth, toiling in the rain and darkness, sheltering themselves, with no thought of pride or glory, fame or praise, or reward; hearts breaking with pity, faces bathed in tears and hands in blood. That is the side which history never shows.”

Clara Barton