



Founded at Fort Harrison
on February 8, 1951

RICHMOND CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

MAY 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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**May 14, 2024
7:30 p.m.**

**At First Presbyterian Church
4602 Cary Street Road
Richmond, VA 23226**

PATRICK FALCI

**“THE MAN IN THE RED SHIRT:
THE LIFE OF A.P. HILL”**



Patrick Falci, a New York actor and historian, has portrayed General A.P. Hill for over thirty years. He gained fame not only for his role as General A.P. Hill in the movie "Gettysburg," but as a historical advisor to director/screenwriter, Ron Maxwell, for both that movie and "Gods and Generals." Falci has spoken at countless Civil War Round Tables throughout the country. He is the recipient of numerous awards including the CWRT-New York Distinguished Service Award where he was the first three-time president. He also received the Fort A.P. Hill Commander's Award and the United Daughters of the Confederacy Jefferson Davis Historical Gold Medal.

Ever since the movie "Gettysburg" Falci has been enlightening the public about "Lee's Forgotten General." In fact, he joined the Museum of the Confederacy in the unveiling of Hill's 13th Virginia regimental flag for which he helped raise over \$10,000 to restore. Hill's wife, Dolly, made the flag in part from her own wedding dress. The restoration project was particularly dear to Patrick's heart.



In January 2007, Falci, an honorary member of the Virginia Sons of Confederate Veterans, delivered a speech for the SCV on R.E. Lee's Bicentennial.

For his presentation to the Richmond Civil War Round Table, Falci will appear in character as A.P. Hill to tell the story of "The Man in the Red Shirt." He will also include reflections regarding his January 2023 eulogy for Hill's reinterment service at Fairview Cemetery in Hill's hometown, Culpeper, Virginia.

PLEASE NOTE:

We will again meet in the downstairs Meeting Room this month. Upon entering the church, go down the stairs immediately to your left.

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Ever since he had the role of A.P. Hill in the movie "Gettysburg," Pat Falci has studied the man and often played the role of one of the Army of Northern Virginia's most notable combat commanders. Especially in 1862, his famous "Light Division" was the largest and perhaps most effective in Lee's army. And Pat does a great job with his research. Those of you who have not been with him before will enjoy the evening.

But I often recall Bud Robertson talking about Hill, as his biography of Little Powell was one of the very first of Robertson's numerous contributions to so many bookshelves. When Bud was traveling the country, hyping his book on Stonewall Jackson, he came to Chicago to speak to the country's first Civil War Roundtable. During the Q & A, noting that a biographer's research usually allows him to gain insights into his subject's personality, someone asked Bud if he would have liked to go out for a beer with Stonewall. After the laughter died down, Bud replied that socializing with Jackson would have been so stiff as to be painful. And then he added that going with A.P. Hill would have been delightful, with entertaining conversation and laughter throughout the time together.

I have always remembered that comment as I read biographies or

articles about famous people from history. Simply put, would I like to go out and have a beer and dinner with them? Robert E. Lee? Maybe a bit distant – very pleasant and proper but... J.E.B Stuart? Now that would be fun and probably end up involving everyone in the bar or restaurant in the jokes and laughter. James Longstreet? I think I would get bored hearing him say that his opinion was always the best in the room. William “Little Billy” Mahone? He’s from my home area and went to VMI; he was a successful businessman and notable politician after the war. But I’ve never been able to establish a clear picture of him as a person. Dick Ewell? I think that I would sit there and say to myself, “This dude is really weird!” Braxton Bragg? Scratch that thought – there’s no way I would go out for a beer with Braxton Bragg.

Switching sides, how about Sam Grant? I think he would really be interesting but I would probably be surprised at how quiet he was. George Thomas? Now, like Billy Mahone, Thomas was from my neck of the woods, but I think that he probably deserved his nickname of “Slow Trot” and would be pretty dull. Sheridan? A total jerk, to the point that others at the bar would be looking at me wondering why I was with him.

So, back to the subject of having a beer with Ambrose Powell Hill. I think I would agree with Bud. Having a beer with Powell Hill would be interesting and enjoyable. But I must admit something here. People do ask me, if I could spend an hour with any one person from the era, who would it be. And I always say Lee’s “Bad Old

Man,” Jubal Early. We’d probably drink too much and cuss way too often, but it would sure be fun. And what a story! From voting against secession twice, to becoming a very dependable division commander, to scaring Lincoln half to death in ’64, to total defeat in the Valley, to writing two really good memoirs, to leading the Southern Historical Society to record history the way he wanted it recorded. Now I gotta think that an evening with Old Jube would be both entertaining, stimulating, and memorable.

So, my recommendation to you as you study the people of history is to say to yourself, “Would I like to go out and have a beer with this guy?”

Waite

Upcoming Events at Richmond National Battlefield Park

by Bert Dunkerly

Saturday, May 18, 10 am: Drewry’s Bluff walking tour: “Taken Only In Photographs.”

The Battle of Drewry’s Bluff was a place of many superlatives- the first Union ironclads against a Confederate fort, the closest United States forces got to Richmond in 1862, the location of the first Marine Corps (and some of the first Navy) Medals of Honor, the site of the Confederate States Naval Academy, the largest concentration of Confederate Marines, one of the most photographed of the Richmond area battlefields, the first Civil War tourist site and resort, and where it was shown that the Civil War would require large land battles lasting many years. Join Park Ranger Mike Gorman for a one-hour, 1.5 mile interpretive walking tour of the Drewry’s Bluff site, starting at the parking area.

Meet in the parking lot at 7600 Fort Darling Road, Richmond, VA 23237

Saturday, May 25, 10 am: Battle of Totopotomoy Creek walking tour: "Battle Front and Home Front." Lt. Robert Robertson of the 93rd New York Infantry served near the Shelton House during the Battle of Totopotomoy Creek and was seriously wounded on May 31, 1864. He recorded in his diary his experience at Rural Plains during the fighting along the Totopotomoy. The tour will follow the attack route of Robertson and his troops.

The Union soldiers passed by the colonial-era Shelton House that day, and huddled inside were several civilians. The battle here impacted the Shelton family and their enslaved workers, and the tour will discuss the history of the house, its occupants, and those who labored there.

Please note that this tour is lengthy and will travel over rough and uneven terrain not suitable for strollers and scooters. Water bottles and comfortable shoes are recommended. Tour starts in front of the house.

Meet in the parking lot at 7273 Studley Road, Mechanicsville, VA 23116.

Saturday and Sunday, June 1-2: 160th Anniversary of the Battle of Cold Harbor. Full weekend of guided tours, reenactor camps, rifle and cannon programs, kids activities, and more.



To see the full schedule, visit

www.nps.gov/richCalendar or the park's Facebook page.

Robert E.L. Krick
With Thanks And Appreciation

Richmond National Battlefield Park announced on April 27 that "a legend in the world of history and preservation is retiring after an illustrious 35-year journey dedicated to honoring our nation's past." Bobby Krick truly is that, a legend. We were so very fortunate to have him here in Richmond at the Park Service, where he made such an impact, always helpful, always gracious, and willing to share his immense knowledge.



And we are very lucky to have him in the RCWRT. I will always be grateful to him for leading the field trip to the North Anna in 2019 (my first act as Second VP), making it a big success.

Bobby planned everything, all I had to do was organize the bus and keep track of the attendees.

Richmond National Battlefield Park's loss will hopefully be the Round Table's gain and we will see him at more meetings. Our best wishes for a long, happy and well-deserved retirement, Bobby.

Ulli

WAR TIME NEWS

Richmond, June 4, 1864

(Sent to the Richmond Advertiser, Richmond, June 1, 1864)

"All eyes are upon us, here at the eve of a great moment. General Lee and General Grant are the two chess players that the South and the

North have entrusted with their respective fates. Three bloody years have passed by without achieving a result. But now both sides have concentrated so many troops that the impending clash will have significant consequences. July 4, 1863 was a day of ignominy for the Confederacy, and no doubt Grant intends to use a similar plan to capture Richmond, as he did Vicksburg. Judging from the current appearances, he will find himself mistaken. Furthermore, we will have to wait to see how long our enemies find it profitable to attempt to destroy the South before they finally realize that it was foolish to attempt to wreak so much havoc.

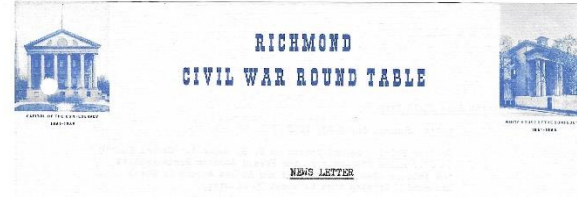
What a happy relationship could exist between the North and the South today if only the former had voluntarily granted us our political independence: trade treaties, treaties of mutual defense and cooperation, we could have set everything in order years ago, and the two great republics of North America could have flourished together! If that had been the case, the North and the South could have had some influence on whether Maximilian should have been allowed to ascend to the Mexican throne, as it is, only Louis Napoleon had any influence. But fanaticism has destroyed the power of both of our republics, and in fighting amongst ourselves, we have given France the uncontested opportunity to gain a foothold beside us. Meanwhile, the Confederacy is growing older by the day and the people here, as well as in Europe, have become so familiar with the concept of our independence that our subjugation is generally regarded as impossible, such that in the end even Abraham Lincoln will not be able to deny it.

From *The Richmond Advertiser*
Thank you, Bert Dunkerly

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

Bill Reagan

From the Round Table Archives **RCWRT BULLETIN -** **Volume I, Issue 4, April 1958**



Our New Masthead

With this issue your editor is pleased to comment briefly on the designs that top this page. The two pictures shown speak largely for themselves. They were taken shortly after the close of the Civil War and before any major alterations had been wrought upon the structures, which still stand.

The Capitol Building, as it appears in the picture, was designed by Thomas Jefferson after the Maison Carree in Nimes, France. The structure was sufficiently completed by 1788 to accommodate the General Assembly upon removal of the capital from Williamsburg to Richmond. When the Confederate Congress moved from Montgomery, Alabama to Richmond in May 1861 this building also became the Confederate States Capitol and so continued until the fall of Richmond in April 1865. In 1904, the structure was further enlarged and beautified by the addition of two wings and broad steps leading to the portico. Few other Statehouses in the nation are so strikingly impressive structurally – none possess greater significance historically,

The Brockenbrough House, as shown, was built about 1818. When the Confederate Capital was moved to Richmond this property was leased to the Confederate Congress by the city of Richmond its then owner, as the President's Mansion. After the war the mansion was seized by the United States Government and held until 1870, when it was returned to the City. Thereafter it served intermittently as a

public school. In 1894, the property was deeded by the City to The Confederate Memorial Literary Society, which organization in 1896 formally opened it to the public as The Confederate Museum.

Photographs from which the above cuts were made were obtained through the courtesy of the Valentine Museum.

Further Note on Chimborazo Park Headquarters

Richmond Battlefield Parks Superintendent Wallace T. Stephens advises that before the summer is over the Chimborazo Facility will be in operation as administration headquarters, museum and information center for the Richmond area of the National Park Service. An electric map, an extensive display of relics and other artifacts found in the area, and the customary reference volumes and other research materials will be components of this facility.

With the acquisition of the Chimborazo tract the National Park Service will have under its control upwards of 700 acres in battlefields and other historic sites in and around Richmond.

Excerpted from the RCWRT newsletter, April 1958



OF INTEREST

From author Phillip A. Perry comes a new non-fiction book on the Sultana disaster of 1865: "Sins of my Brothers." Interwoven with fascinating human interest stories about not only those directly affected by this catastrophe, but replete with fascinating true tie-ins to what was happening at that same time with ancillary characters. The book is available on Amazon, at Barnes & Noble, and Target.

EVENT OF INTEREST

May 18, 6:00 p.m.: History at Sunset Tour by the Petersburg Battlefields Foundation.

"Battle of Jones' Farm." Following the Confederate repulse at Fort Stedman east of Petersburg on the morning of March 25, 1865, the Army of the Potomac's VI Corps attacked the picket line of A.P. Hill's Corps at Robert H. Jones' Farm later in the day, helping set the stage for the final Breakthrough on April 2. This guided tour will focus on the Battle of Jones' Farm and its consequences for both sides.

Meet at American Battlefield Trust parking lot at 6476 Church Road, Petersburg, across from the water tower.

The tour is free. For questions, call 804-732-3531, ext. 200.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

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

TBA

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

Attendance at April Meeting: 86