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RICHMOND CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE NOVEMBER 2023

“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

**November 14, 2023
ANNUAL DINNER MEETING**

6:00 p.m.

**Willow Oaks Country Club
6228 Forest Hill Avenue
Richmond, VA 23225**

GARRY ADELMAN

**“Battlefield Preservation
Extravaganza: People, Politics,
Parcels, and Progress”**



The story of American battlefield preservation spans more than 200 years and the process has never been easy. Where history, personalities, land, politics, and money intersect, friction or worse is the typical result. Nonetheless, the United States is the only nation that has preserved so many battlefields and such large portions of these battlefields. Why? Why and how have broadly popular veterans' endeavors and small, grassroots movements alike endured painful losses, maddening setbacks, endlessly frustrating characters, and secured hundreds of millions of dollars for the cause? From Fort Ticonderoga, to Princeton, Manassas, Chickamauga, Little Bighorn and 200 more sites, the story flows like a suspense novel with twists, turns, villains, and more. With an emphasis on the modern era and the Richmond vicinity in particular, join Garry Adelman of the American Battlefield Trust for a lively and illustrated presentation on these sometimes agonizing but mostly successful and ongoing efforts in a manner available nowhere else.

Chief Historian for the American Battlefield Trust, Garry Adelman earned his B.A. in business from Michigan State University and his M.A. in history at Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania. He is the award-winning author, co-author or editor of *Gettysburg in 3-D* (2013), *Antietam in 3-D* (2012), *Manassas Battlefields Then & Now* (2011), *The Civil War 150* (2011), and *Devil's Den: A History and Guide* (1997) as well as nine Civil War image booklets. He has published articles in *Civil War Times*, *Civil War Monitor*, *Gettysburg Magazine*, *Civil War News*, *Hallowed Ground*, and others. He has conceived and drafted the text for wayside exhibits at eleven battlefields, has given thousands of battlefield tours at more than 70 American Revolution and Civil War sites and has lectured at hundreds of locations across the country including the National Archives, the Library of Congress and the Smithsonian. He has appeared as a speaker on the BBC, C-Span, Pennsylvania Cable Network,

American Heroes Channel, and on HISTORY where he was a chief consultant and talking head on the Emmy Award-winning show *Gettysburg* (2011), *Blood and Glory: The Civil War in Color* (2015), *Grant* (2020), and *Battles for America* (2022). He is a founder and longtime vice president of the Center for Civil War Photography and has been a Licensed Battlefield Guide at Gettysburg since 1995.

THERE IS STILL TIME TO REGISTER

We have a new menu this year, which we hope will please everyone: House Salad with Balsamic and Ranch dressings; Chicken Marsala; Herb Roasted Salmon with Dill Mustard Cream Sauce; Roasted Creamer Potatoes; Buttered French Beans with Blistered Tomatoes; Freshly Baked Rolls and Butter; Dessert.

The cost is \$40 per person. Send your check – MADE OUT TO RICHMOND CWRT - to Art Wingo, 1414 Patriot Circle, Glen Allen, VA 23059. The deadline is November 9!

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

In 1995, while in Gettysburg for a weekend with the Greater Pittsburgh CWRT, my friends and I went to the Farnsworth Tavern to close out the day, as we often did in those days. The movie *Gettysburg* was only two years old at that point (hard to believe that the 30th anniversary will be commemorated as I write this!). The display cases on the walls of the tavern were filled with items that were used in the movie – props, uniforms that the main characters wore, photos, etc. The place was crowded with locals, guides, and visitors and we had to stand because all the seats were taken. Bill Frasanito, pioneer of Civil War “Then and Now” photography and mentor to Garry Adelman and Tim Smith (another Licensed Guide at

Gettysburg and Garry's close friend), was sitting at the bar – I remember it clearly.

It was then that my friend, Allison, and I were introduced by Wayne Motts to two young men who had just that day passed the Licensed Guide exam. One of them was Garry Adelman. Soon afterwards I booked Garry for a tour with our Civil War Round Table and already then, I knew that he was going places. His knowledge, skill in keeping his audience's attention, and his enthusiasm were infectious. Just last weekend I attended another of the "Image of War" seminars by the Center for Civil War Photography, of which Garry is the Vice President, this time in Petersburg. Garry's high energy tours and presentations have not diminished since I first met him. We are in for a real treat at our dinner meeting!

As Chief Historian for the American Battlefield Trust, he does important work for the preservation efforts of that great organization, including the very recent acquisition of 12 acres surrounding the Adams House, site of the Battle of Fair Oaks, – thanks to Vic Vignola's efforts. (Vic will be at the dinner meeting with his book about the battle, "Contrasts in Command.") We can all do our part in the Trust's "Saved Forever" campaigns at Cold Harbor, Gaines' Mill, and Seven Pines/Fair Oaks. Please see the link on page 4 to contribute.



This month is, of course, when we celebrate Thanksgiving. In reading up a bit about the origins of this beloved holiday I learned that while a day of thanksgiving had been observed on and off since the

Revolutionary War following major victories in battle, it was not until October 1863 that President Lincoln issued the proclamation: "I, Abraham Lincoln, do hereby appoint and set apart the last Thursday in November as a day, which I desire to be observed by all my fellow citizens wherever they may then be as a day of Thanksgiving." The modern tradition was established. Happy Thanksgiving!

Ulli

HOLIDAY SERIES AT TREDEGAR
The American Civil War Museum
480 Tredegar Street
Richmond

November 30: 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm

1st Annual Tredegar Tree Lighting Ceremony"

With James River Ringers, Handbell Choir Performance

December 8: 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

"Victorian Christmas Traditions"

Lunch & Learn with Kelly Hancock

December 14: 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Holiday Reception, **Exclusive ACWM Members & Donor Event.** Entertainment provided by Joe Sarver Trio

December 17: 11:30 am – 2:00 pm

1st Annual Santa Visit to Tredegar, Hot Cocoa & Cider Bar, Merry Mimosas, courtesy of the Tredegar Society, all day screening of "A Charlie Brown Christmas." Kids crafts, shop discounts & more.



PRESERVATION

The Battlefield Trust has launched Phase Four of the Gaines’ Mill-Cold Harbor Saved Forever Campaign. We can help save 332 acres of this “double battlefield,” where two battles raged in 1862 and 1864.

Additionally, and for the first time EVER, we have a chance to preserve 12 acres of land at the Battle of Seven Pines, also known as Fair Oaks. In May of 1862, General McClellan was very close to taking the capital of the Confederacy. He was a mere eight miles outside of Richmond. On May 31, a total of approximately 73,000 forces engaged and continued for the next two days. Each side suffered extensive casualties. By the time it was over, each side claimed victory, though neither side had really achieved it.

One event would change the course of the entire war, however. General Joseph E. Johnston was wounded, and Jefferson Davis tapped his senior military advisor Robert E. Lee to become the new commander of the Army of Northern Virginia. With the promotion of Lee, the Battle of Seven Pines turned out to be a major pivoting point in the war.



Despite the battle’s significance, the battlefield was all but lost to commercial and residential development many years ago. Richmond International Airport, commercial, and residential development have erased most of the Seven Pines/Fair Oaks battlefield. The 12

acres at Seven Pines for the first time enable us to tell the story of the battle.

Please consider donating via the following link:

- <https://www.battlefields.org/give/save-battlefields/phase-four-gaines-mill-cold-harbor-saved-forever-campaign>

EASTERN HENRICO BATTLEFIELD TOUR

Henrico County has announced an ambitious plan to connect multiple Eastern Henrico battlefields with a trail similar to that of the Capitol Trail, which could either be biked or hiked. The architect of this project, Albert Azzerone, landscape architect and Park Planner for Henrico County Division of Recreation and Parks, has offered to give us a special tour of some of these battlefields that would not normally be open to the public. These will include New Market Heights, Haskins Farm, ABT property on Kingsland Road, and 1864 Union troop movements from Deep Bottom to New Market Road. This would involve at least three stops by car. Reservations are not required, but my cell phone is 804-382-6605 in case you need additional information or are running late.

The program will be on Saturday, December 9, at 10:00 a.m. We will meet at the Dairy Queen parking lot on Route 5 just east of the I-295 interchange.

**Andy Keller,
Secretary**

“The striking fact is thus established that we had more men killed and wounded in the first six months of Grant’s campaign, than Lee had at any one period of it in his whole army. The hammering business had been hard on the hammer.”

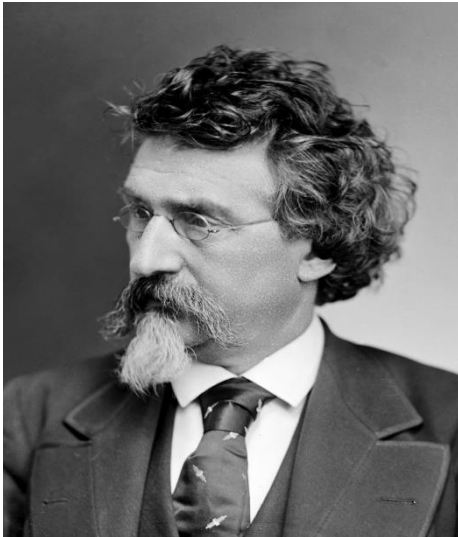
Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain
The Passing of the Armies, 1915

AFTER THE CIVIL WAR.... WHAT HAPPENED TO

MATHEW BRADY

Mathew B. Brady was one of the earliest photographers in American history, best known for his scenes of the Civil War. Brady opened his studio in New York in 1844, and photographed Andrew Jackson, John Quincy Adams, and Abraham Lincoln, among other public figures.

When the Civil War started, his use of a mobile studio and darkroom enabled vivid battlefield photographs that brought home the reality of war to the public. Thousands of war scenes were captured, as well as portraits of generals and politicians, though



most of these were taken by his assistants.

He employed Alexander Gardner, James Gardner, Timothy H. O'Sullivan, William Pywell, George N. Barnard, Thomas C. Roche, and

others, each of whom was given a traveling darkroom.

In October 1862 Brady opened an exhibition of photographs from the Battle of Antietam in his New York gallery. Many images were graphic photographs of corpses, the first time many Americans saw the realities of war in photographs, rather than in "artists' impressions." Following the conflict, a war-weary public lost interest in seeing photos of the war, and Brady's popularity and practice declined drastically.

Brady expected the US government to buy the photographs taken after the war, but when the government refused to do so he was forced to sell his New York studio and go into bankruptcy. In 1875 Congress granted him \$25,000, but he remained deeply in debt. Depressed by his financial situation and loss of eyesight and devastated by the death of his wife in 1887, he died penniless in the charity ward of Presbyterian Hospital in New York City on January 15, 1896 at age 74, from complications following a streetcar accident. Brady's funeral was financed by veterans of the 7th New York Infantry. He was buried in the Congressional Cemetery in Washington, D.C.

Brady photographed 18 of 19 American Presidents from John Quincy Adams to William McKinley. The exception was the 9th President, William Henry Harrison, who died in office three days before Brady started his photographic collection. The thousands of photographs which Mathew Brady's photographers took have become the most important visual documentation of the Civil War, and have helped historians and the public better understand the era.

Adapted from *Wikipedia Legends of the Civil War*

NEW CIVIL WAR NOVEL

Author Brendon Lyons contacted us to make our members aware of the publication of his Civil War novel, *Charley: The True Story of the Youngest Soldier to Die in the American Civil War*.

The story of Charley begins in West Chester, PA, on his 12th birthday, shortly before the start of the Civil War. His parents are persuaded by Captain Sweeney to allow the boy to join his hometown company as a drummer boy. The experiences he would likely have had from the Peninsula Campaign to his death at the Battle of Antietam are the subject of this book, which is available at major book sellers, as well as on Amazon:

<https://www.amazon.com/dp/1955041067>.

WAR TIME NEWS
Richmond, March 26, 1865

- *Latest*

- It has been reported that Grant's army has made movements which can be interpreted in one of two ways: either Grant's troops are preparing an imminent attack, or they are about to be transferred to assist Sherman. If they are en route to Sherman, he will be in a favorable position indeed.

- Reports from North Carolina indicate that after the encounter at Bentonville, Sherman's army fell back toward Goldsboro to join Schofield's troops which advanced from Wilmington and Newbern. The Raleigh "Confederate" had this to say about the encounter at Bentonville:

"Gen. Sherman's entire army had entrenched by the morning of the 20th, so we chose not to push the attack, but we maintained our positions and carried our wounded to safety. Heavy skirmishing took place on the 20th and 21st and several small enemy attacks were easily repelled. Our troops performed admirably, and thereby they defended themselves well against the slanderous reports which have been circulated about this army."

- The following important telegram arrived here in Richmond from Petersburg on Saturday:

"About 4 o'clock this morning, General Lee engaged the enemy on our left wing near the Appomattox, capturing two of his lines of entrenchments and one or two of his forts. Our troops marched bravely forwards, but the enemy concentrated such a mass of artillery at the points that we had captured that our commanders found it wise to withdraw our troops. The captured redoubts and fortifications were therefore abandoned, and our troops withdrew to their former positions. Gen. Gordon and Gen. Bushrod Johnson's divisions led our

army in the attack. Our losses amounted to a few hundred men.

Five hundred enemy troops were taken prisoner, among them was Gen. McLaughlin and a number of officers. The enemy Gen. Warren is said to have been found among the dead. On our side, Brig. Gen. Terry was wounded.

Many cannons and mortars were captured, but the former had to be abandoned when our troops fell back, and only a few of the latter were brought to safety. The attack completely surprised the Yankees. Calm ruled along the entirety of our lines all day yesterday."

From *The Richmond Advertiser*
Thank you, Bert Dunkerly

Some scenes from Fort Harrison Event



REMAINING MEETING IN 2023

December 12: Jake Wynn, "Civil War Medicine"

Attendance at September Meeting: 54