



Founded at Fort Harrison
on February 8, 1951

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RICHMOND

CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

OCTOBER 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

October 11, 2022

7:30 p.m.

At First Presbyterian Church

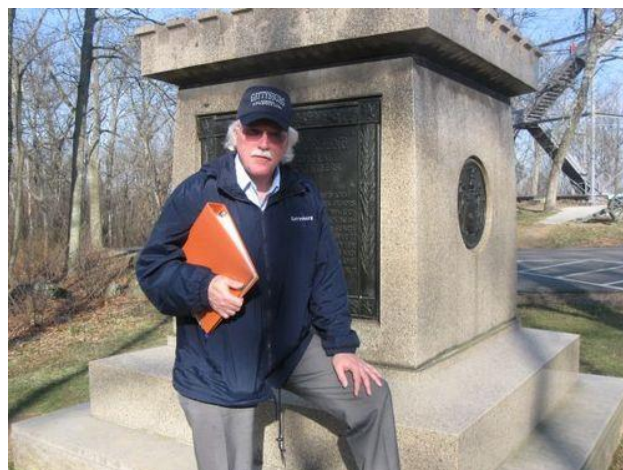
4602 Cary Street Road

Richmond, VA 23226

(The parking lot is behind the church; go up the steps to fellowship hall on the left)

Dr. Charles Fennell

**“Men in Green: The First and
Second US Sharpshooters in the
Battle of Gettysburg”**



Perhaps the most unique units to serve in the American Civil War on either side were the First and Second United States Sharpshooters, commonly referred to as Berdan's Sharpshooters. These men received special training, wore special uniforms, and were issued special weapons. They considered themselves and were in many ways special. In some ways they were the precursors of modern military tactics.

Although never large in numbers, their contributions on the battlefield were significant. How then did this small group of Union soldiers influence, if at all, the outcome of the Battle of Gettysburg?

Charlie Fennell is a native of Western Pennsylvania and became interested in the American Civil War at an early age. Charlie has received degrees from Frostburg State College, Clarion State College, and his Ph.D. from West Virginia University, where his dissertation was "The Attack and Defense of Culp's Hill."

Recently retired, Charlie was on the History faculty of West Virginia University and was an Adjunct Faculty Professor at Harrisburg Area Community College, Gettysburg Campus, where he taught history and geography. Charlie is a published author and has been conducting tours of Civil War battlefields as a Licensed Battlefield Guide since 1986. Charlie currently lives with his wife of 42 years, Joleen, in Hanover, Pennsylvania.

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS:

ANTHONY AND HEBA GRAY

WILLIAM AND CELELIA McFEELEY

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

I have been to quite a few battlefields, Civil War mainly, but also some Revolutionary War ones. I have read books about campaigns and battles, looked at the excellent maps provided, and have tried to understand what happened on those fields. In order to appreciate it better, however, I have to *be* on those battlefields.

Best of all, though, is being there and walking the sites with an expert, a Ranger or a Licensed Battlefield Guide, who are so good at what they're doing that they almost transport you back in time. You can picture what went on and finally begin to understand all that you've read about.

We (my husband, Daniel, and I) recently had such an experience. It was the battlefield of a different war, just a decade or so after the Civil War ended: Little Bighorn Battlefield in Montana, part of the Indian Wars of the latter part of the 19th century. We went as part of a group led by Gettysburg Licensed Battlefield Guide, James Hessler, whose "other thing" is Little Bighorn. (Jim will be speaking to our round table next year on the East Cavalry Battle during the Battle of Gettysburg.)

It is such a totally different terrain – vast, bare, and haunting. And there is so much more to the campaign than Last Stand Hill. We visited Deer Medicine Rock, where Sitting Bull had his visionary sun dance, Weir Point, Deep Ravine, Reno/Benteen Defense Line, Calhoun Hill... we saw and learned about them all during four-days of intense touring – with temperatures in the high 90s! The highlight, though, was a very rare opportunity to climb (literally!) up to the Crow's Nest with one of the owners of the huge property on which it is located, an Indian lady named Tonya Mountain Pocket. It was from this high elevation that Lt. Varnum's Detachment of Crow and Arikara

scouts discovered the village of the Sioux and Cheyenne and their huge pony herd. The memorial with its tribute to the Indians near Last Stand Hill is beautifully done.

There is a Civil War connection, of course, since many of the participants in the Battle of Little Bighorn were Civil War veterans besides Custer and his two-time Medal of Honor recipient brother, Thomas. For instance, Myles Keogh, Frederick Benteen, Marcus Reno, and William Cooke, to name just a few.

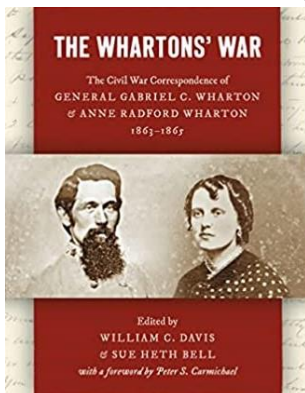
You don't necessarily have to travel all the way to Montana, venture out on our local Richmond area battlefields, to Gettysburg, Antietam, Manassas and look into their Ranger programs or Licensed Guide tours. The weather is perfect now for battlefield excursions.

Ulli

ANNUAL DINNER MEETING

Our Annual Dinner Meeting will return to Willow Oaks Country Club (6228 Forest Hill Avenue, Richmond 23225) on November 15. **Please note that this is the 3rd Tuesday, not our normal 2nd Tuesday. Also, remember that we will start earlier, with dinner at 6:00 p.m. and our program at 7:00 p.m.**

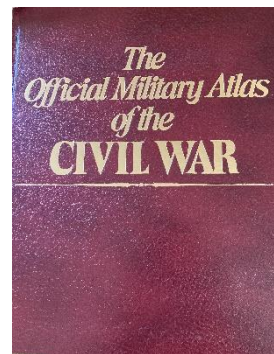
The buffet in the River Lounge will consist of fried and baked chicken, garden salad, vegetable, mashed potatoes, spaghetti with Marinara sauce, rolls and butter, dessert, and coffee/tea. There will be a cash bar as well (cash only).



We are delighted that one of the round table's favorites, William C. "Jack" Davis, will be our dinner speaker, talking about his latest book on the letters of General and Mrs. Gabriel Wharton. This

should be a great topic for bringing your spouse. According to Gary Gallagher, "This is one of the best sets of letters from a Civil War participant I have read. This volume illuminates the Whartons' marriage and the immense strain of war. Further, the book abounds with information and observation about notable Confederate military leaders, battles, and campaigns."

Also, we recently received donations of two wonderful and familiar prints of Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson, along with The Official Military Atlas of the Civil War (containing all of the maps that accompanied the Official Records). These three items will be offered at a silent auction at the dinner.



The cost this year has been raised slightly to \$40 per person, and \$35 per additional person.

As in the past, please confirm your attendance by sending a check – MADE OUT TO RICHMOND CWRT – to our Treasurer, Art Wingo, 1414 Patriot Circle, Glen Allen, VA 23059. Or, you may see Art at the meeting.

PROPOSED CHANGE TO BE VOTED ON AT THIS MONTH'S MEETING

The Board has recommended the following simplification of the dues structure which would require the following changes to the Constitution. Basically, the dues decided on at the December meeting would stay the same all year and there would no longer be an initiation fee or a late fee. Members who do not pay in a timely manner will simply stop receiving the newsletter and their name tags will be removed. Thus, members who choose to become inactive may return at any time without any penalty. This matter will be voted on by the Members at this month's meeting. Items below which are stricken through would be removed from the Constitution.

ARTICLE VI – DUES

Section 1: Each member of The Richmond Civil War Round Table shall pay dues to the Secretary the amount voted by the membership at the annual meeting as the year's rate of dues.

~~**Section 2: Members, who pay on or after February 16, are required to pay a \$10 late fee to remain in continuing membership status.**~~

Section 3: The Membership year is January 1 through December 31 and coincides with terms of RCWRT officers.

~~**Section 4: Prorated dues schedule will be as follows:**~~

- ~~**a. January 1 June 30 = full payment**~~
- ~~**b. July 1 December 31 = one half (1/2) payment**~~

~~**Section 5: All new and rejoining members, as defined in Article III, shall pay a one-time initiation fee.**~~

**PARK NEWS:
Happenings at Richmond National
Battlefield Park
By Bert Dunkerly**

Adopt-A-Monument Program

One year ago, in the fall of 2021, the Round Table joined the park's Adopt-A-Monument program and adopted the 2nd Connecticut Heavy Artillery Monument at Cold Harbor. This program allows volunteers to check on the monument and nearby historic marker, clean them, and report any issues to the park. Since last fall, members have gone to the site once a month to do their checks.

The monument and historic marker sit at one of the key parts of the battlefield, where the rookie 2nd (converted to infantry) made their first attack in battle, on June 1, 1864. The new soldiers lost 300 men, impacting the small towns of Litchfield County, Connecticut. The attack helped break the Confederate line, netting hundreds of North Carolina prisoners, and set the stage for the larger, more famous attack two days later. If anyone is interested in participating, please contact Waite Rawls, who coordinates the clean-up on behalf of the Round Table with the park.



Here is some news about another Richmond-area battlefield:

<https://www.nps.gov/articles/000/virginia-the-view-from-signal-hill-new-perspectives-on-the-battle-of-new-market-heights.htm>

LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP AWARDED

At last month’s meeting, Lifetime Membership was awarded to long-time round table member, Daniel Balfour. Past president and board member of the Richmond Civil War Round Table, Dan has been a member since the early days and has been a great ambassador for our group.

Dan was appointed a Henrico Circuit Court Judge in 2004 after practicing law for over 35 years. He authored three books: “Southampton County in the Civil War” (1989); “Franklin and Southampton County in the Civil War” (2002); and “The Thirteenth Virginia Cavalry” (1986).

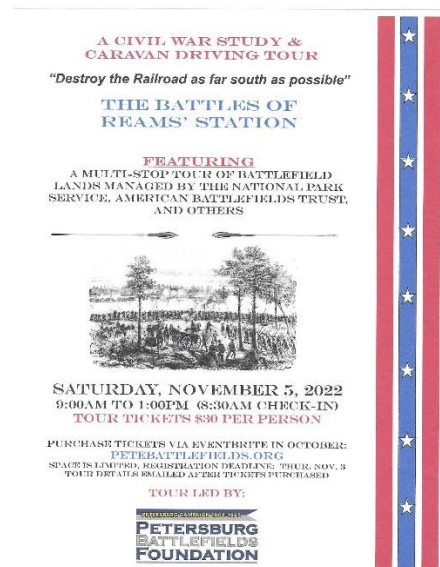
We are proud to have Dan in our round table and he is a most worthy recipient. The other Life Members are Hobson Goddin, Douglas Tice, Sandy Parker, and Jack Mountcastle.



Event of Interest

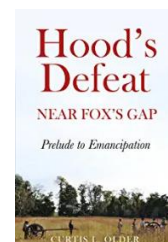
November 5, 2022: The “Petersburg Battlefields Foundation” is offering a Civil War Study and Caravan Driving Tour of The Battles of Reams’ Station, featuring a multi-stop tour of battlefield lands by the National Park Service, American Battlefields Trust, and others, *“Destroy the Railroad as Far South as Possible.”*

Time is from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. with check-in at 8:30 a.m. The tickets are \$30 per person and may be purchased via Eventbrite. Deadline is November 3.



NEW BOOK ON HOOD

Author Curtis Older advised that his new book, “Hood’s Defeat Near Fox’s Gap,” is available for pre-order on Amazon, at Barnes & Noble, and via Casemate Publishers. It will be published in March, 2023.



WAR TIME NEWS

Richmond, VA, Saturday, May 21, 1864

"Following the Battle of Spotsylvania C.H., during which Grant bashed his head against our ramparts and probably realized that Richmond would not be captured as easily as Vicksburg, there has not been a new battle in northern Virginia, but there are smaller or larger skirmishes every day, which could easily become a larger battle. But we can entrust the fate of this city, and the entire Confederacy, to our Lee and his brave army.

While Lee severely chastised the distant enemy in two large battles and has kept him at bay, Beauregard and his brave band have also shown that they can deal with the enemy in our immediate vicinity. A battle was fought on Monday, at Drewry's Bluff, which is truly in our immediate neighborhood, during which the Southern troops under Beauregard, who had been summoned to the defense of Richmond and Petersburg, stormed the entrenchments occupied by the far more numerous enemy and chastised the enemy so that they were forced to withdraw to the protection of their gunboats the following night. Unfortunately, this victory came at a costly price, as the number of our dead and wounded in this short but bloody battle is estimated to be 1,500. The enemy's losses cannot yet be determined, but they probably will not be much fewer. It is likely that Butler will attempt to entrench his camp under the protection of his gunboats while transferring most of his troops to Grant

as reinforcements, or to seek new laurels on the peninsula while they act as a blockading force against us.

As for the enemy cavalry, of which 1,500 men threatened Richmond at the beginning of last week, they have disappeared to the peninsula. They have probably crossed the Pamunkey and are seeking to rejoin the main army under Grant."

From *THE RICHMOND ADVERTISER*
Thank you, Bert Dunkerly

IN MEMORIAM

It is with great sadness that we learned of the passing on September 24, 2022 of our long-time member, Carlton Moffatt, Jr.

Carlton, a World War II veteran, was a life-long Richmond resident. Richmond's history and historic preservation were of special interest to him. We extend our sincere sympathy and condolences to his family.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

November 15: Annual Members Dinner – William C. "Jack" Davis, "The Letters of Gen. and Mrs. Gabriel Wharton"

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

Attendance at September Meeting: 92