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RICHMOND

CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

SEPTEMBER 2021

“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

September 14, 2021

7:30 p.m.

**“Lincoln’s Spies:
Their Secret War to Save a
Nation”**

By Douglas Waller

This will be an in-person meeting at a new venue, The Virginia War Memorial, 621 S. Belvidere Street, Richmond, 23220. We will be in the VMI Alumni Hall of Honor. From the parking garage take the elevator to the main lobby. A security guard will direct you to the VMI Alumni Hall of Honor (see attached map). If parking in the above ground lot is full when you arrive, you will see Gate P3 is open for us to use. This gate will be open from 7:00 p.m. until 7:45 p.m.

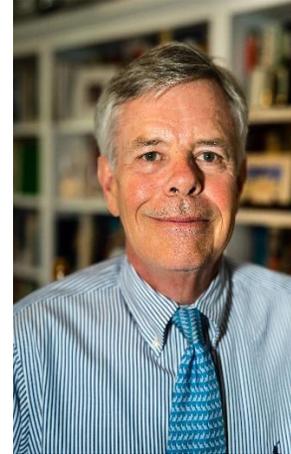
*****Fully vaccinated individuals are not required to wear face coverings inside the Virginia War Memorial. Those who are not vaccinated are required to wear face coverings and are encouraged to maintain social distancing.*****

Behind the grand campaigns of America's Civil War, with their sweeping battlefields and men charging at one another en masse, there was another conflict out of sight. It was the shadow war of dangerous espionage, tangled intrigue and covert operations, which attracted little attention then and now. From the tense days before Abraham Lincoln's inauguration in 1861 to the surrender of Appomattox four years later, veteran correspondent Douglas Waller, who covered the CIA for *Newsweek* and *Time*, delivers a fast-paced and riveting account of the heroes – and the scoundrels – who fought in secret to save the Union.

Lincoln's Spies is told through the lives of four agents for the North. Allan Pinkerton, whose national detective agency had already brought him fame, became George McClellan's failed spymaster, delivering inflated intelligence reports that made the Union general even more cautious. The ruthless and unscrupulous Lafayette Baker ran a counter-espionage operation for the War Department in Washington, putting hundreds in jail and pocketing cash from graft he uncovered. George Sharpe, an erudite New York lawyer, successfully ran spying for generals Joseph Hooker, George Meade and Ulysses S. Grant, pioneering what today is called "all-source intelligence" to produce superb reports on Confederate strength and movement. The courageous Elizabeth Van Lew ran a Union spy ring in Richmond, providing Grant critical information as his army closed in on the Rebel capital.

And behind these secret operatives, Waller reveals, was an American president who despite his "Honest Abe" image became an avid consumer of intelligence and a ruthless aficionado of clandestine warfare, willing to take risks. Spying during the Civil War set the template for dark arts in the

future. "The phone tapping, human collection and aerial snooping today's U.S. spy community engages in can be traced to the Civil War," Waller writes.



Douglas Waller is a veteran correspondent, author and lecturer. In almost two decades as a Washington journalist, he covered the Pentagon, Congress, the State Department, the White House, and the CIA. From 1994 to 2007, Waller served in *TIME Magazine's* Washington Bureau, first as a correspondent and then as a senior correspondent. At *TIME*, Waller covered foreign affairs extensively as a diplomatic correspondent. He came to *TIME* in 1994 from *Newsweek*, where he reported on major military conflicts from the Gulf War to Somalia to Haiti. Before joining *Newsweek* in 1988, he served as a legislative assistant on the staffs of Senator William Proxmire and then-Representative Edward J. Markey.

Besides the critically acclaimed *Lincoln's Spies* (published in 2019), Waller has authored seven other books. His previous critically acclaimed biography, *Disciples: The World War II Missions of the CIA Directors Who Fought For Wild Bill Donovan*, was published in 2015. In 2011, Free Press published Waller's biography, *Wild Bill Donovan: The Spymaster Who*

Created the OSS and Modern American Espionage, which became a *New York Times* bestseller, a *Washington Post* Best Book for 2011, and a *Wall Street Journal* Notable Book for 2011. Waller’s other books include the national bestseller, *The Commandos: The Inside Story of America’s Secret Soldiers* (1994) and *Air Warriors: The Inside Story of the Making of a Navy Pilot* (1998). His other books are: *BIG RED: The Three-Month Voyage of a Trident Nuclear Submarine* (2001); and *A Question of Loyalty: Gen. Billy Mitchell and the Court-Martial that Gripped the Nation* (2004).

Virginia War Memorial Foundation is not a sponsor of this event.

BOOKS..BOOKS..BOOKS

Look for some exceptional opportunities to buy excellent books at the September meeting. All of the books on the “Books for Bucks” table will be sold at half-price:

Hardbound books will be available for just \$5.00 and paperbacks for only \$1.00.

DON’T MISS THIS BIG SALE!

A Word from the President

Welcome Back!

Thanks to the efforts of Jack Mountcastle, we will be meeting in person again in September! It’s been a long and sometimes rough year and a half, but it will be great to be together again. Thanks to Jack for finding a place for us to meet for the rest of the year. The War Memorial sounds like a great venue!

Others deserve special mention, too. Ulli has kept in touch with her speakers, and we’ve had a good lineup this year. Our November dinner is “on” at Willow Oaks, and she has an excellent speaker on tap for that. Andy has done a great job with technology for us... it’s through his efforts that we’ve been able to have our online meetings. And we can’t forget Art, who has made sure our finances remain in good shape.

Waite Rawls has picked up the work for Nick Carico. Nick developed a tremendous lineup of speakers for 2022. Waite has been in contact with all of them and is keeping the ball rolling.

Thanks to teamwork like this, we have weathered the storm and look forward to a great rest of the year and 2022. See you soon!

Doug

PLEASE NOTE

Due to the vacancy created by the recent resignation of one of the round table’s officers, the following amendment to the Constitution will be voted on before the meeting:

Article IV – OFFICERS AND GOVERNMENT Section 5: Succession. In the event of the death, resignation, or disability (as determined by the Executive Committee) of any officer, occurring between annual meetings, the President may in his or her discretion appoint another member in good standing to fill such vacancy for the unexpired term. In the event of the death, resignation, or disability of the President, the First Vice President shall become the President, and the Second Vice President shall become the First Vice President for the unexpired term. If deemed necessary, the new President may then appoint a new Second Vice President.

ADOPT-A-MONUMENT UPDATE

At the August meeting the vote was unanimous to adopt the 2nd Connecticut Heavy Artillery monument on the Cold Harbor Battlefield as part of Richmond National Battlefield Park’s Adopt-A-Monument program.

On Sunday, August 15, several members of the round table met with Bert Dunkerly at the monument and on September 29, at 10:00 am, volunteers will be shown the “special cleaning” of the monument. At that time Bert will also provide a special tour of sites on the battlefield that the public does not get to see.

Waite Rawls has volunteered to be the contact person and scheduler for our group, as follows:

- October 2021 – Waite Rawls
- December 2021 – Doug Crenshaw
- February 2022 – Andy Keller
- April 2022 – Ulli Baumann
- June 2022 – Art Wingo
- August 2022 – George Walker
- October 2022 – John McKenna

If you would like to join us on September 29, please let Waite know.



Bert Dunkerly, George Walker, Doug Crenshaw, Waite Rawls (left to right)

November Dinner Meeting

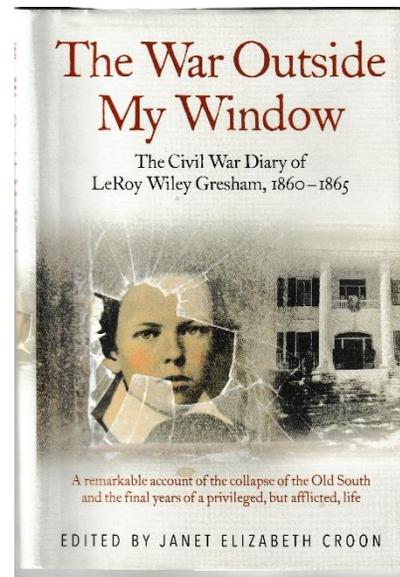
We are pleased to confirm that the dinner meeting at Willow Oaks Country Club will take place on Tuesday, November 9 (our regular meeting day), at 6:00 p.m.

We were able to reschedule our speaker, Jan Croon, from last year and look forward to her presentation on her excellent book, “The War Outside My Window: The Civil War Diary of LeRoy Wiley Gresham, 1860-1865,” a topic that should be of interest to everyone.

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. The price is – as in previous years - \$35 per person/\$70 per couple. There will be a cash bar as well (cash only).

It is not too early to sign up. To register, please send your payment to our Treasurer:

Art Wingo
 1414 Patriot Circle
 Glen Allen, VA 23059



CIVIL WAR TRIVIA(from the July issue of *Civil War News*)

1. General Henry Halleck's nickname
2. Popular and effective 3-inch rifled cannon
3. Largest battle fought in Florida
4. The first of the Seven Days Battles
5. Nickname for Kentucky infantry unit
6. Double turreted monitor that fought in James River and at Fort Fisher
7. He led the (Union) "Tigers"
8. Walt Whitman's 1865 poem eulogizing Lincoln
9. U.S. "double ender" sunk by torpedo in Roanoke River, NC
10. Commander of the 15th Alabama on Little Round Top

Answers on page 6**Looking Ahead to 2022**

While 2021 is not quite over yet and we still have a few more meetings this year, it is not too early to look at next year's stellar lineup of speakers:

January 11: Dr. Caroline Janney, "Ends of War: The Unfinished Fight of Lee's Army after Appomattox"

February 8: Kevin Pawlak, "Water to His Front, Water to His Rear: Robert E. Lee Defends the Confederate High Water Mark at Sharpsburg"

March 8: Gregg Clemmer, "Why the Civil War Still Lives"

April 12: Gordon Rhea, Esq., Topic TBA

May 10: Brendan Synnamon, "The Union Drummer Boy: A Love of History and Historical Preservation as Experienced by One of America's Foremost Civil War Militaria Shops"

June 14: Col. Keith Gibson, "Thomas J. Jackson: Lexington, The Institute, and a Legacy"

July 12: Dr. Jennifer M. Murray, "Meade at War"

August 9: Michael C. Hardy, "Feeding the Army of Northern Virginia"

September 13: Dr. Gary Gallagher, Topic TBA

October 11: David Keller (friend of Waite), "Military Prisons of the Civil War, A Comparative Study"

November (date TBD): Annual Members Dinner

William C. "Jack" Davis, Topic TBA

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

We hope that you are as excited as we are about next year's programs and look forward to "re-enlisting" in the round table.

It is with deep regret that we report the passing of local historian and long-time round table member, Dr. Louis Manarin, who passed away on August 20, 2021. His obituary appeared in the August 22, 2021 issue of *Richmond Times Dispatch*. Our sincere sympathy and condolences to Dr. Manarin's family.

This Month in Civil War History1862

September 2: Writing to his wife as the Confederates led by Lee and Jackson continue days of attacks, General Dorsey Pender comments on Jackson, "Lee has immortalized himself and Jackson added new laurels to his brow – not that I like to be under Jackson, for he forgets that one ever gets tired, hungry, or sleepy."

September 13: McClellan sends a telegram to Lincoln: "I have all the plans of the rebels." A soldier from the 27th Indiana has found 3 cigars wrapped in a paper lying on a field where a Confederate officer has dropped them. The paper is a copy of Lee's orders meant for Daniel Harvey Hill.

September 17: Today's battle at Antietam (Sharpsburg) is a Union victory, but the cost on both sides is immense.

Arriving at the battlefield during this bloodiest day in American history, a young woman brings a wagonload of supplies for treating the wounded and offers her services as a volunteer. At one point, as she raises a soldier's head to give him a drink of water, a bullet goes through her dress and kills the soldier. Two days after the battle she collapses from lack of sleep and typhoid fever. Her name is Clara Barton.

Among the casualties is Pennsylvania drummer boy Charley King, age 13, believed to be the youngest soldier on either side to die from combat wounds.

September 19: Another visitor to the battlefield arrives today. Alexander Gardner is a photographer working for Mathew Brady and he takes 70 pictures of the unburied dead - the first such pictures taken on an American battlefield.

September 22: Lincoln issues a limited "emancipation proclamation," declaring that slaves in any area still in rebellion on January 1, 1863 will be declared free.

This Month: In England, Raphael Semmes takes command of the CSS *Alabama* and begins her 2 year cruise during which she will take 69 prizes.

1864

September 1: General John Bell Hood's Confederates withdraw from Atlanta. The next day Union forces under General William Tecumseh Sherman will occupy the city.

September 3: A "dump Lincoln" movement is growing within the Republican Party. The Democratic Party, sensing opportunity in the upcoming election, has included a platform plank declaring the war "a failure." Then news comes in from Sherman, "Atlanta is ours and fairly won."

September 16: As the Confederate food supply in Petersburg dwindles, a scout finds a herd of cattle guarded by Union troops some miles outside the city. General Wade Hampton takes more than 4,000 men on a "cattle rustling" expedition and leads a 7 mile long procession of soldiers and cattle back to Petersburg.

Source: Gaston County Public Library

Trivia Answers:

1. "Old Brains"
2. Ordnance rifle
3. Olustee
4. Oak Grove, VA
5. "Orphan Brigade"
6. USS *Onondaga*
7. General Emerson Opdycke
8. "Oh Captain! My Captain"
9. USS *Otsego*
10. Colonel William C. Oates