



Founded at Fort Harrison
on February 8, 1951

www.richmondcwrt.org

Ulli Baumann, President
804-789-9844
ullib1101@gmail.com

Waite Rawls, First VP
804-501-8436
waiterawls@gmail.com

Billie Raines, Second VP
804-291-6300
b.raines@live.com

Art Wingo, Treasurer
804-516-7508
[Art and Diane@comcast.net](mailto:Art_and_Diane@comcast.net)

Andy Keller, Secretary
804-382-6605
secretary.rcwrt@gmail.com

Board of Directors (2022):
Doug Crenshaw
Elaine Duckworth
Jack Mountcastle
Danny Witt

Editor/Webmaster: Ulli Baumann
ullib1101@gmail.com

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RICHMOND

CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

SEPTEMBER 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

September 13, 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. Gary Gallagher

**“Lee Versus Grant in the
Overland Campaign:
Expectations and Outcomes”**



U.S. Grant and R.E. Lee entered the Overland Campaign in early May 1864 carrying the high expectations of their respective national populations. The ensuing six weeks of combat yielded no clear winner, and the armies soon settled into the siege of Petersburg.

This lecture examines reactions to Lee's and Grant's generalship among both military and civilian observers in the United States and the Confederacy.

Professor Gary W. Gallagher recently retired as the John L. Nau III Professor in the History of the American Civil War and Director of the John L. Nau III Center for Civil War History at the University of Virginia. A native of Los Angeles, California, he received his B.A. and M.A. from Adams State College of Colorado and his Ph.D. in 1982 from the University of Texas at Austin. He began his academic career in 1986 at Penn State University, teaching for twelve years and heading the Department of History for five. In 1998, he joined the faculty of the University of Virginia.

He is the author of more than forty books. He has served as editor of two book series at the University of North Carolina Press and appeared regularly on the Arts and Entertainment Network series "Civil War Journal," as well as participating in more than five dozen other television projects.

Professor Gallagher has delivered lectures at several universities and colleges and in 2001-2002 he was the Times-Mirror Foundation Distinguished Fellow at the Henry E. Huntington Library in San Marino, California. He is also the recipient of the Cavaliers' Distinguished Teaching Professorship for 2010-2012 (the highest teaching award conveyed by the University of Virginia) and the Philip Merrill Award for Outstanding Contributions to Liberal Arts

Education from the American Council of Trustees and Alumni in 2013.

Active in the field of historic preservation, Professor Gallagher was president from 1987 to mid-1994 of the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites, has served as a member of the Board of the Civil War Trust, and has given testimony about preservation before Congressional committees on several occasions.

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

A chance encounter in May 1994 led to a 28-year friendship that I will always treasure. At the time I was a member of the Friends of the National Parks at Gettysburg (FNPG), an organization that was only a few years old and dedicated to the preservation of Gettysburg National Military Park and Eisenhower National Historic Site. The organization evolved into Gettysburg Foundation (which it is today), operating in partnership with the National Park Service.

I attended one of their first "Spring Musters" and on my first evening in Gettysburg I decided to visit the 20th Maine monument – in the dark. The movie "Gettysburg" had just been released the previous year and Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain was a big deal and the 20th Maine monument attracted huge crowds during the daytime. All that attention and visitation contributed to the closure for rehabilitation of Little Round Top these many years later. So, to avoid the crowds, I went to the 20th Maine in the dark. Four people had the same idea, two of which were David and Audrey Ladd, long-time

admirers of Chamberlain like me. And thus began a great friendship.

On my once-every-other-year trips to Maine I would stay with them for a day or two in their beautiful home on the river in Newburyport, Massachusetts. Later, I visited them in their retirement community in North Andover. When I met them, Dave and Audrey had worked for years on “The Bachelder Papers,” which they transcribed, edited, and annotated. Morningside published them in three volumes in 1994. In 1997, their “John Bachelder’s History of the Battle of Gettysburg” was published by Morningside. Both the “Papers” and the “History” are invaluable resources concerning the Battle of Gettysburg and we owe the Ladds a debt of gratitude. In 2020, Savas Beatie reprinted the “Papers” and the “History” was reprinted by them in 2021.

On August 4, 2022 Audrey passed away after a battle with cancer. Dave died on November 25, 2017. I saw Audrey in July of 2021 one more time on my way to Maine. If you’re interested in the Battle of Gettysburg – and who isn’t? – consider getting the Bachelder Papers, Audrey and David Ladd’s labor of love.

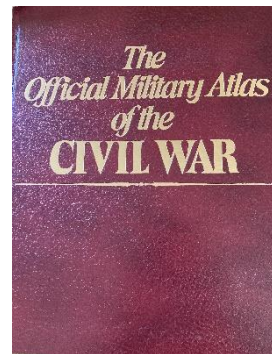
Ulli

ANNUAL DINNER MEETING

Our Annual Dinner Meeting will return to Willow Oaks Country Club on November 15. **Please note that this is the 3rd Tuesday, not our normal 2nd Tuesday.**

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. He will be accompanied by his co-author, Sue Heth Bell, a descendant of General Wharton. This should be a great topic for bringing your spouse.

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 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, with guests at an additional \$35. As in the past, please confirm your attendance by sending a check – MADE OUT TO RICHMOND CWRT – to Art Wingo, 1414 Patriot Circle, Glen Allen, VA 23059.

Full details will be in future newsletters.

**A WARM WELCOME
TO OUR NEW MEMBER:
WILLIAM P. SHARKEY**

PROPOSED CHANGE TO BE VOTED ON

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 the October 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.

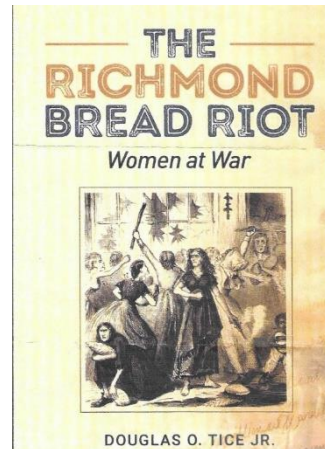
~~Section 4: Prorated dues schedule will be as follows:~~

- ~~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.~~

TWO BOOKS OF INTEREST

Long-time round table member, **Judge Douglas O. Tice, Jr.**, has written a book of local interest: “The Richmond Bread Riot: Women at War.” It was published by the Oaklea Press in 2021 and is available on Amazon.



The author has dug deeply into the historical records. As a result, this book is a fascinating, and quite likely the most accurate and thorough account of what is now known as “The Richmond Bread Riot of April 2, 1863.”

Hampton Newsome, who has spoken to our group several times, recently authored a new book published by University Press of Kansas: “Gettysburg’s Southern Front: Opportunity and Failure at Richmond.”

Earl J. Hess, author of *Pickett’s Charge—The Last Attack at Gettysburg*, says: “The backwaters of Civil War military history have been understudied far too long. Hampton Newsome’s book illuminates Union efforts to threaten Richmond while Robert E. Lee was invading Pennsylvania. It does so with commendably thorough research, clear writing, and useful analysis about how and why this sideshow was planned and executed and why its results fell short of what was expected. It is a model study of a small, unknown operation of the Civil War.” The book is available via the following link:

<https://kansaspress.ku.edu/978-0-7006-3347-0.html>.

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

Fort Harrison Anniversary Event –

The battles of Fort Harrison and New Market Heights will be commemorated by the park and the American Battlefield Trust on Saturday, September 24. The Fort Harrison Visitor Center, with a film and exhibits, will be open from 9-4. Park Staff will offer tours of the battlefield and park history throughout the day. At 1 p.m. the Trust will offer its first-ever tour of the newly preserved land at New Market Heights. For more information, email bert_dunkerly@nps.gov.

Tredegar Reopens with a New Focus –

The park's Tredegar Contact Station has reopened. The space is in the gun foundry building, having moved from its previous location at the site. The space has new exhibits about the battlefield and Maggie Walker House. The focus of the exhibits is to encourage people to visit the various sites, and explain what is found at each (trails, exhibits, etc.). The Contact Station is open Wednesday to Sunday, 10-4.

New Employees at the Park –

This fall the park is welcoming several new employees to help with maintaining the historic landscape of the battlefields. They



will not talk to you if you say hello, and you may find them lounging and eating while on duty. That's because they are goats and sheep. The park is bringing them to the

battlefields to help control the vegetation, and we will rotate them from site to site as they enjoy the battlefield buffet.

IN THE NEWS

Civil War News in their August 2022 edition featured a lengthy and thorough interview with our own **Doug Crenshaw**. The first in a new series featuring books published by the Emerging Civil War Series, the interview highlighted Doug's book "Richmond Shall Not Be Given Up: The Seven Days' Battles, June 25 – July 1, 1863" (published by Savas Beatie in 2017).

In the book "historian Doug Crenshaw follows a battle so desperate that, ever-after, soldiers would remember that week simply as The Seven Days. McClellan reeled. The tide of war turned. The Army of Northern Virginia was born."

As we know, Doug is a volunteer historic interpreter for the Richmond National Battlefield Park. He is a speaker, presenter, tour leader, and the author of books on Glendale and Fort Harrison. He also is the co-author (with Bert Dunkerly) of *Embattled Capital: A Guide to Richmond During the Civil War*.

Doug is a descendant of the Sydnor Family, which lived at Beaver Dam Creek during the Seven Days' Battles, and the Binford Family, which lived behind the Malvern Hill battlefield.

WHO WAS.... Ely Parker

Ely Parker was born into the Seneca Tribe in 1828 with his original name, Hasanoanda. He was born and raised on the Tonawanda Reservation in western New York. Hasanoanda would adopt the name, Ely Parker, while attending a Baptist mission school in New York and would eventually gain admittance into Cayuga Academy and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute where he graduated with an engineering degree in 1849. His civil engineering

skills helped to earn him a position with the U.S. Treasury Office in Galena, Illinois. While in Galena, he met and became friends with Ulysses S. Grant.

When the Civil War broke out, he attempted to join the Union army but was rejected because he was an Indian (Native Americans would not be actively recruited by the Union Army to fight in the war until 1862). After failing to join the Union army as a soldier, he accepted a position as assistant adjutant general to Brigadier General John. E. Smith, but it wouldn't be long until his friend, General Ulysses S. Grant, would appoint Colonel Parker to his own staff where he would serve for the remainder of the war.

A large portion of Colonel Parker's time in the Civil War was spent at City Point, where General Grant had his headquarters from June, 1864 until late March, 1865. Following the fall of



Ely Parker

Petersburg, Ely Parker would travel 100 miles west of Petersburg to Appomattox where he would make his biggest impact; copying the letter of Grant's terms of surrender that was signed by General Grant.

From a flyer by
*Petersburg National
Battlefield*

EVENTS OF INTEREST

September 30 – October 2: Central Virginia Battlefields Trust Annual Conference Weekend. Explore the Civil War experience and the Battle of Fredericksburg. Tickets are \$195 for the full weekend; \$95 for the banquet only. More information at:

www.cvbt.org/cvbt-annual-conference.

October 15: The Hanover Tavern Foundation is offering "Walking Civil War Williamsburg" from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the cost of \$50 per person (\$45 for members), lunch included.

As soon as Virginia's secession was announced, Williamsburg began to prepare for war. Companies of soldiers were raised, facilities turned into hospitals, earthworks prepared, and

soldiers from all states of the Confederacy began to arrive in the old capital city. Soon enough, the war would visit the town in earnest. Williamsburg became an occupied city for the balance of the war and the scene for numerous raids and skirmishes. Drew Gruber, Executive Director of Civil War Trails, Inc., will guide participants along the streets of the colonial town, recalling the local stories of soldiers, inhabitants, occupiers, and cemeteries.

Lunch will be provided at Billsburg Brewery.

Note: This is a self-driving/caravan tour that also requires extensive walking (approximately 2 miles). Participants will meet in Mechanicsville and drive to Williamsburg.

For more information, call 804-537-5050 ext. 24; or email Ddeal@hanovertavern.org.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

October 11: Dr. Charles Fennell, "Men in Green: The First and Second U.S. Sharpshooters in the Battle of Gettysburg"

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

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

**Please note: The date for the dinner meeting has been changed to the 15th (3rd Tuesday of the month) to accommodate Jack Davis's schedule.*

Attendance at August Meeting: 51

And finally...

"I have just read your dispatch about sore-tongued and fatigued horses. Will you pardon me for asking what the horses of your army have done since the Battle of Antietam that fatigues anything."

Abraham Lincoln to General McClellan