



Founded at Fort Harrison  
on February 8, 1951

# RICHMOND CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

## SEPTEMBER 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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**September 10, 2024**

**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)**

**SCOTT MINGUS**

**“IF WE ARE STRIKING FOR  
PENNSYLVANIA: The Army of  
Northern Virginia and the Army of  
the Potomac March to Gettysburg”**



Author Scott Mingus will discuss the first few weeks of the Gettysburg Campaign, based on his and co-author Eric Wittenberg's award-winning two-volume set, "If We are Striking for Pennsylvania." The Confederate Army of Northern Virginia surprised and worried the Union high command in Washington by marching north toward Pennsylvania after slipping away from its camps near the Rappahannock River in early June 1863. Concerned that Robert E. Lee might turn and attack Washington or Baltimore, the War Department kept the Union Army of the Potomac close at hand to protect the key roads that Lee might use in such a strike. Instead, Lee's vanguard marched over the mountains into the Shenandoah Valley and routed an estimated 8,000-man Union division near Winchester. Then, as the Confederates headed north, President Lincoln, still uncertain as to Lee's destination, called for 50,000 volunteers from Pennsylvania, 25,000 from West Virginia, and 25,000 from Ohio to contest the Rebel advance.

Mingus will describe the troop movements, civilian and political reactions, the battles and skirmishes along the way, and the mounting international interest in the summer campaign.

Scott Mingus is a retired scientist and executive in the global pulp & paper industry. The Ohio native was part of the research team that developed the first commercially successful self-adhesive U.S. postage stamps and he was a pioneer in the bar code labels. He has written 28 Civil War and Underground Railroad books. His biography of "Extra Billy" Smith was nominated for or won multiple awards, including the Dr. James

I. Robertson, Jr. Literary Prize. He has also written several articles for Gettysburg Magazine and other journals. Scott maintains a blog on the Civil War history of York County, PA, and received the Heritage Profile Award from the York County History Center for his many contributions to local Civil War history. He has also written six scenario books on miniature wargaming and was elected to the hobby's prestigious Legion of Honor.

His great-great-grandfather was a 15-year-old drummer boy in the 51<sup>st</sup> Ohio Infantry, and other family members fought in the Army of the Potomac at Antietam and Gettysburg. Scott and his wife, Debi, live in York County, PA.

### *A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT*

**I remember well a conversation that I had with John Coski in the first week of January 2004. I had just started in my position as the Executive Director of the Museum of the Confederacy, and I was touring the "behind the scenes" areas of the museum. John was showing me the Eleanor Brockenbrough Library, and I was eager to make a good first impression on someone who had made a great first impression on me. He was a bit suspicious of me because the staff did not know who I was. They had been told that I was an investment banker from Chicago. I had indeed been one of those, and my head had really been in that job, but my heart and soul was where we were then standing – between long shelves of (some) new and (many) old books about the Recent Unpleasantness.**

I said to John that I classified Civil War buffs by their major interest – where did their motor really spin. Some were reenactors. God bless them, but I’m not one of them. Some are collectors. They love to go to the shows, look for deals, know every detail about Confederate made pistols and bayonets imported from England. But I’m not one of them either. Some get their jollies by going to all the conferences, the symposia, the lectures even miles away from home. (Today, they would be following all the blogs as well.) I admit that I enjoy a good talk by a good historian, but I don’t live for them. And some have hearts that beat rapidly and loudly when they walk the battlefields. And I admit that I have walked a lot, and my 13 years on the board of what is now called the American Battlefield Trust took me to a lot of fields with good historians who made the events on those hallowed grounds come alive. But, standing there with John, I felt like I was home and said “mostly, I’m a book guy.”

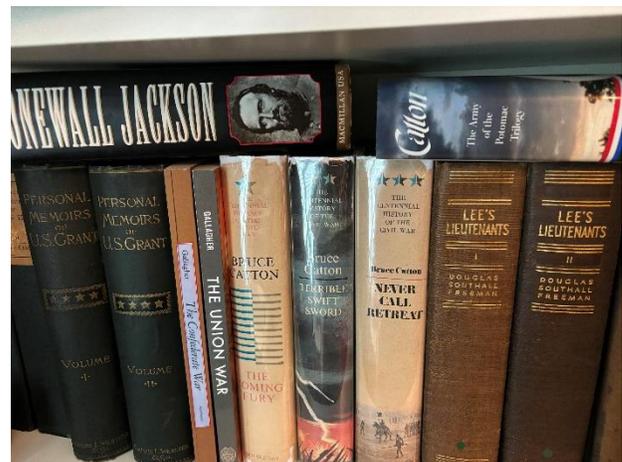
He was not certain that I was telling the truth. But we soon were discussing something about the Battle of the Wilderness, and I mentioned William Poague’s description of the “Lee to the Rear” incident from the book, *Gunner with Stonewall*. I recognized the spine of Poague’s memoir on a shelf behind John and pulled it out to turn to the section. John asked when I had read the book, and I replied “maybe 15-20 years ago.” He then said, “Yep, you’re a book guy.”

I wish I could read them all, but estimates are usually that 75,000-

85,000 have been written. To put that in perspective, there have been a touch over 58,000 days since Appomattox, meaning that there have been roughly 1 1/2 books written every day since April 1865. My personal library peaked at about 900 in the days when collecting the books was a great hobby. A collector needed to be on a whole lot of lists and review catalogues and let certain book dealers know what you were looking for. These days, collecting Civil War books, or stamps, or coins, or anything else just isn’t as much fun. You look online and can find almost anything. You just need the money. And I stopped collecting.

But I’m still a book guy. There are a lot of decent historians around, but it seems like there are not as many good writers, authors whose words make events and people of the past come alive. Where are the Bruce Cattons, Clifford Dowdeys, Douglas Southall Freemans, Bud Robertsons, or Gary Gallaghers of the next generation. So I find myself frequently going back to the good authors.

*Waite*



**OCTOBER FIELD TRIP****Saturday, October 26, 2024**

On Saturday, October 26, we will be traveling to Fort Monroe and Lee Hall Mansion for our annual field trip. We are planning to leave Richmond by 8:30 a.m. and arrive at Fort Monroe by 10:00 a.m.

At the fort, we will be given a tour by Dr. Francoise Bonnell, Director of Museums, Education, and Interpretation for the Fort Monroe Authority. Bonnell is the former director of the U.S. Army Women's Museum at Fort Gregg-Adams (Fort Lee) and a retired Army lieutenant colonel with more than 20 years of active and reserve experience. She has promised us a comprehensive, Civil War-focused tour that will include behind-the-scenes experiences taking us into areas of the fort which most visitors are normally not able to see. We also will

have time to explore the facility on our own, to include the Visitor and Education Center and

the Casemate Museum.

After lunch and on our return trip to Richmond, we will stop at Lee Hall Mansion, which served as headquarters for both Maj. Gen. John Bankhead Magruder and General Joseph E. Johnston during April and May 1862 and was the site of an 1862 skirmish. At Lee Hall, we will visit their Peninsula Campaign Gallery and take a guided tour of the mansion.

**If you are planning on participating, please let Dale Harter know ASAP by emailing him at [harterdf@gmail.com](mailto:harterdf@gmail.com). We need to have**

**a good headcount in order to know whether we will carpool or hire a tour bus. The cost and meeting point will be determined by the number of people who are interested in attending.**



*Lee Hall Mansion*

**ANNUAL DINNER MEETING****November 12, 2024****6:00 p.m.**

**At Willow Oaks Country Club  
6228 Forest Hill Avenue, Richmond**

**ROBERT HANCOCK**

**"THE SLAUGHTERS OF LYNCHBURG:  
WHERE NORTH MEETS SOUTH"**

Mary Harker was a young Quaker girl from Mt. Holly, New Jersey. John Slaughter was a slaveholder living and working in Lynchburg, Virginia. In 1861 they had been married eight years and had three sons with a fourth child on the way. So how did these two people, with obviously disparate backgrounds, end up together? After all, John was teased that "the prettiest girl in New Jersey was marrying the ugliest man in Virginia." Was it some sort of arranged marriage? How did Mary reconcile her Quaker upbringing with managing a home with five enslaved servants? And would their relationship survive the war when Mary travels home to her parents and John stays to defend Lynchburg against an approaching Union army.

Robert Hancock is the Director of Collections & Senior Curator at the American Civil War Museum. Robert grew up near Marye’s Heights in Fredericksburg, Virginia, overlooking the famous battlefield, and is a graduate of Virginia Commonwealth University with degrees in Art History and Museum Studies. While the Civil War is his primary area of study, his other interests include the French First and Second Empire periods, military aviation, and English history and literature. He oversees the continuing preservation of the museum’s diverse collection including the maintenance and interpretation of the museum’s historic house, the White House of the Confederacy. Robert has been with the Museum since 1991.

The menu for the evening will be House Salad with Balsamic and Ranch dressings; Chicken Marsala; Herb Roasted Salmon with Dill Mustard Sauce; Roasted Creamer Potatoes; Buttered French Beans with Blistered Tomatoes; Freshly Baked Rolls and Butter; Dessert; Coffee or Tea.

Cocktails will be from 6:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. with cash bar service. The cost this year remains at \$40 per person. You may register now with Art at the meeting, or by sending a check to Art Wingo, 1414 Patriot Circle, Glen Allen, VA 23059. Deadline to register is October 29, 2024.

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

**GERALD RANSONE**

***IN MEMORIAM***

It is with great sadness that we learned of the passing on June 29, 2024 of Round Table member  
**William Sharkey**  
Our sincere condolences to his wife, Mona, and his family and friends.

**MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR  
HOBSON GODDIN**

**A memorial service for long-time Round Table member, Hobson Goddin, is scheduled for Monday, September 9, at 3:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary at Westminster Canterbury, 1600 Westbrook Avenue, Richmond.**

**Please tell the guard at the gate that you are there for the service and ask for directions to parking.**

**DR. PETER CARMICHAEL**

The Civil War community mourns the sudden passing on July 21, 2024 of Dr. Peter Carmichael, renowned Civil War scholar, director of the Civil War Institute at Gettysburg College and the Robert C. Fluhrer Professor of Civil War Era Studies at the College for 14 years.

Paying tribute, American Battlefield Trust’s president, David Duncan, made the following statement:

“Working with Pete in any capacity was always a memorable experience. His enthusiasm for history was infectious and he yearned to share its import with the widest of audiences. He consulted with the Trust on innumerable preservation efforts in Gettysburg, videos, books, tours, conferences and more. He championed the battlefield and its unique influence as an outdoor classroom like no other. The loss to his students, staff and Gettysburg is immeasurable. Our deepest condolences are extended to his family for whom his loss is surely unbearable.”

Dr. Carmichael also served on the Board of Directors and the Historians’

Council of the Gettysburg Foundation, and previously as a distinguished lecturer for the Organization of American Historians, as Gettysburg National Military Park's first scholar-in-residence and as co-editor of the *Civil War America* series from the University of North Carolina Press.

His esteemed bibliography includes authorship, editorship and contributions to more than a dozen books, including *Lee's Young Artillerist: William R.J. Pegram*, *The Last Generation: Young Virginians in Peace, War, and Reunion*, and *The War for the*



*Common Soldier: How Men Thought, Fought, and Survived in Civil War Armies.*

Dr. Carmichael spoke to our Round Table via Zoom in March 2021 on his book *The War for the Common Soldier*.

**From the Round Table Archives**  
**RCWRT BULLETIN -**  
**Volume 1, Issue 7, July 1958**

**"Taps" Bugle Call Story**  
**Dramatized at Berkeley Plantation**

July 4 afforded a colorful spectacle and otherwise impressive occasion for those Roundtablers who journeyed to Berkeley Plantation on the James River as guests of its present owner, Mr. Malcolm Jamieson.

Here was reenacted the story of the creation of "Taps." Brigadier General Daniel Butterfield wrote this famous bugle call in 1862 during the period between the Battle of Malvern Hill and McClellan's withdrawal down the James after the ill-fated Peninsula Campaign.

Principal speaker of the day was Clifford Dowdey, author of Bugles Blow No More. The dramatic skit on the composition of "Taps" was arranged by Mr. Tom Carlin of the Barksdale Theater Group who acted the part of General Butterfield. The Marine Corps enlivened the occasion with its smart drummers and buglers and, with its 21 gun salute, brought back echoes of cannonading that sounded through this otherwise quiet countryside 96 years ago.

**Virginia Civil War Centennial Commission Appointed**

Governor Almond, the Speaker of the House of Delegates and the President of the Senate have announced their respective appointees to the Virginia Civil War Centennial Commission. Among the five members named by the Governor are Clifford Dowdey, Richmond Civil War author, and Victor C. Barringer, grandson of General Rufus Barringer, CSA, and member of the Richmond Civil War Round Table.

We await with interest the determination of Virginia's official commission regarding the nature and scope of its initial planning with respect to the observance of the centennial years.

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

**October 8:** Bobby Krick, "W.H.F. 'Rooney' Lee"

**November 12:** Annual Dinner Meeting  
Robert Hancock, "The Slaughters of Lynchburg: Where North Meets South"

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

**Attendance at August Meeting: 66**