



Founded at Fort Harrison
on February 8, 1951

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RICHMOND CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

MAY 2025

“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

MAY 13, 2025

7:30 p.m.

**St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church
6000 Grove Avenue
Richmond, VA 23226**

(From the parking lot, enter the church
through the double glass doors and follow
signs to the Large Fellowship Hall)

**JOE STAHL AND
MATT BORDERS**

**“FACES OF UNION SOLDIERS AT
ANTIETAM, FREDERICKSBURG,
AND CULP’S HILL”**

The Round Table welcomes an author duo to our May meeting: Joseph W. Stahl and Matthew Borders. Stahl and Borders will introduce us to a variety of the soldiers who appear in their *Faces of Union Soldiers* series: *Faces of Union Soldiers at Fredericksburg*; *Faces of Union Soldiers at Antietam*; *Faces of Union Soldiers at Culp’s Hill: Gettysburg’s Critical Defense*; and *Union Soldiers at South Mountain and Harper’s Ferry*.

The four books in the series look at Federal soldiers in battle, their stories and their regiments. The *Faces of Union Soldiers* books consist of original, previously unpublished images and stories about the soldiers that Matt and Joe uncovered through meticulous research in their compiled service records, the Official Records of the War of the Rebellion, regimental histories, and any known correspondence. Through their research, the stories of these men are revealed.

Not only do they lay out these wartime details, they also touch on the images themselves. What clues are present? What can be determined about their service from their uniforms?

Borders, a graduate of Michigan State and Eastern Michigan University, holds a BA in United States History with a focus on the American Civil War and an MS in Historic Preservation. Following graduation, he taught at Kalamazoo Valley Community College before accepting a position with the National Park Service's American Battlefield Protection Program.



He worked as the historian for the ABPP for six years, during which time he became a certified battlefield guide at Antietam National Battlefield and Harper's Ferry National Historic Site. He is currently the president of the Frederick County

Civil War Round Table.

Stahl grew up in St. Louis, where he received BS and MS degrees from the Missouri University of Science and Technology and an MBA from Washington University. After retiring from the Institute for Defense Analyses, he became a volunteer

and an NPS Licensed Battlefield Guide at Antietam



and Harper's Ferry. He has written articles

for *Gettysburg Magazine*, *Antietam Journal*, the *Washington Times*, *Civil War Historian*, and the Company of Military Historians' *Military Collector & Historian*. In addition to his books with Matt, Joe co-authored *Identification Discs of Union Soldiers in the Civil War*, with Larry Maier.

All four of Matt and Joe's books will be for sale at the meeting (cash, check, PayPal, or Zell).

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Robert "Bert" Dunkerly served as the 2015 President of the Richmond CWRT. It seems he was born with an interest in the Civil War. Growing up in central Pennsylvania he had a natural connection with frequent trips to the Gettysburg Battlefield.

Bert has traced fifteen Pennsylvania ancestors that served in the infantry. He also located one ancestor that served in the cavalry. His service record simply states "kicked by a horse." Bert has researched in detail his most direct ancestor, Corporal Samuel Dunkerly of the 48th Pennsylvania Infantry. Cpl. Dunkerly fought at Manassas and Antietam and was captured at Second Manassas but soon released. Bert researched and visited that portion of the battlefield where he was captured. In fact, Bert has visited over 400 battlefields and over 700 historic sites worldwide.

The most treasured object in his Civil War collection is a book passed down through his family. The book "Sparks

from the Campfire” was a gift to his ancestor, Samuel Dunkerly, back in 1896. The book is inscribed to Samuel from his wife, Mary.

This lifelong interest led Bert to active involvement in historic preservation and research. He holds a degree in History and Archaeology from St. Vincent College and a Masters in Historic Preservation from Middle Tennessee State University. Bert’s career with the National Park System has carried him to nine historic sites in Tennessee, the Carolinas, New Jersey, and currently the Richmond National Battlefield Park.

Gary Gallagher is Bert’s favorite author and historian. “Besides having a great personality, Gary Gallagher makes history relevant, he brings history to life. He makes the past important to us.”

When I asked Bert his favorite Civil War personality, he almost gave me a heart attack when he answered “Phil Sheridan.” After a few silent seconds, he laughed and said he was just playing with me. Good one, Bert! He is actually most interested in the experiences of the common soldier, the civilians and the women.

His highly recommended book is “Battle” by Paddy Griffith. It is a book full of illustrations that shows how armies function, how they march on to a battlefield, how they advance and retreat, how they sent messages. It is a book that he refers to often in his work.

Bert is an award-winning author of eleven books including several for the Emerging Civil War series. His latest books are “Force of a Cyclone: The Battle of Stones River,” “The French and Indian War in Western Pennsylvania,” and “The Battle of Kings Mountain: Eyewitness Accounts, The Battle that Turned the Tide of the American Revolution.”

Archaeology remains a great interest for which he volunteers and which was part of his job while working in

Williamsburg on 1600’s colonial sites. A great thrill while working on one of these sites was his discovery through fragile, tedious work of dark soil stains that represented the presence of a rotted wooden floor from a 1600’s home.

Bert says he really enjoyed his presidency and the offices that led up to it. He especially enjoyed setting up speakers often drawing from his friends in the parks system and reaching out to favorite authors. He encourages our members to consider getting more involved and stepping up to take a more active role in serving as an officer or board member. I second that suggestion.

Bert is excited about the RCWRT’s future. “New people are joining monthly which shows people still have a passion and enthusiasm for the Civil War and are willing to commit their time to our program. The Round Table provides an opportunity to hear great speakers, receive latest news on battlefield preservation, as well as local events, tours and symposiums through our monthly newsletter.”

Thank you, Bert, for a most enjoyable conversation. *Billie*

EVENT OF INTEREST

May 17 at 6:00 p.m.: “Beyond the Headstones: A History of Poplar Grove National Cemetery.” Join a Park Ranger to explore how a quiet place once part of Flower’s Farm became Poplar Grove National Cemetery, the final resting place for more than 6,000 soldiers. This program includes a walking tour through the cemetery and the stories of the individuals whose lives and deaths shaped a nation.

Poplar Grove National Cemetery, 8005 Vaughn Road. These ‘History at Sunset’ tours are provided by Petersburg National Battlefield and the Petersburg Battlefields Foundation. 804-732-3531 for questions.

FAMOUS CIVIL WAR QUOTES WHO SAID IT?

1. "He was not going to be badgered of his life, like a kitten chased by boys, he said. It was not well to drive men into final corners; at those moments they could all develop teeth and claws."
2. "The Civil War defined us as what we are and it opened us to being what we became, good and bad things... It was the crossroads of our being, and it was a hell of a crossroads."
3. "Because no battle is ever won he said. They are not even fought. The field only reveals to man his own folly and despair, and victory is an illusion of philosophers and fools."
4. "The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here."
5. "War means fighting, and fighting means killing."

Answers on page 6

**A WARM WELCOME TO OUR
NEW MEMBERS:**

**ANN McGEHEE
LUKE WOLFE**

One More Quote

"Ours is a glorious country. I love it, but like Mr. Calhoun, while I love the Union I love Virginia more – and if one attachment ever becomes incompatible with the other, I scruple not to say 'Virginia shall command my poor services.'"

*J.E.B. Stuart, General
Confederate States Army,
Summer 1859*

A.P. HILL MEMORIAL CEREMONY

By Billie Raines

Tuesday, April 2, was the 160th anniversary of Lt. General A.P. Hill's death. Round Table members Larry and Susan Smith, Donald Currin, and Billie Raines were among those who attended the 25th annual memorial ceremony, "The Last Ride of General A.P. Hill," presented by actor and historian Patrick Falci.

Period music was provided by "Virginia Dare" – Susan and Scott Carraway. A touching moment came at the end of the program when guests were invited to remember their ancestors by coming forward to speak their name while placing their hand on Hill's stone marker.

Mark your calendar now for next year's program: April 2, 2026 at 12 noon.



Lincoln's Ongoing Legacy

By Andy Keller

It would be difficult to overstate the influence that Abraham Lincoln still had on Americans who had been alive during the Civil War and still remembered those tragic days even decades later.

This reverence often even found its way into the nation's art. As the incoming President of the Descendants of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence, I was privileged to visit with our Society both the National Archives and the Library of Congress in April. We were granted early admission to the National Archives so that we could see the very faded original copy of the Declaration of Independence as well as the Constitution. What I found even more interesting was a mural depicting 28 of the 56 Signers. My first surprise was that my Signer, Thomas Nelson, Jr., was shown even though no image of him as an adult survives.

The second odd thing was that it showed the presentation of the Declaration taking place outdoors. We know from the famous painting of John Trumbell that it occurred inside the Pennsylvania State House. What was not a surprise was that Thomas Jefferson was right there in the center. The third but most interesting surprise was that the artist, Barry Faulkner, had found a way to include Abraham Lincoln in the mural, but he was not obvious. See if you can find him.



No explanation was given as to why he was included but I think we can find two immediate reasons. First, in granting freedom to the slaves and equality to the new black citizens he had redefined the meaning of all men being created equal thus adding a new dimension to the Declaration of Independence. Secondly, and perhaps more important, was that neither the Declaration nor the Constitution had satisfactorily dealt with the thorny issue of slavery. As a result, a dark storm cloud was left over the heads of the Signers and Jefferson as one of the largest slave holders, thus explaining why the artist placed it outside. If you look at the dark cloud in the center of the mural, right over Jefferson, you will find a recumbent Lincoln, looking much as he may have been lying in state after his death.

Next, we went to the Library of Congress which was built between 1890 and 1897. The boarding house where Lincoln lived when he was serving as a member of Congress was located on the very spot where the library would eventually be constructed. The entire building was built to impress and show that America had arrived as a world power even if we were not quite ready

to use that power. On the domed ceiling of the Jefferson Reading Room is a massive circular mural of the “Evolution of Civilization.”



Like the hours on a clock, there are 12 pictures representing 12 civilizations and their contributions to mankind. It is not my purpose to discuss each of those but rather point out the last.

Dressed casually in what looks like a tee shirt at 1:00 is an American thinker pondering how to create electricity using a dynamo. The artist, Edwin Howland Blashfield, was aged 16 when Lincoln was assassinated.

His legacy was still so strong at the end of the century that Blashfield was moved to use

Lincoln's profile for the face of America rather than that of Nikola Tesla who had laid the foundation of modern electrical engineering.



Answers to “Famous Civil War Quotes”

1. Stephen Crane, *The Red Badge of Courage*
2. Shelby Foote, *The Civil War: A Narrative*
3. William Faulkner, *The Sound and the Fury*
4. Abraham Lincoln
5. Nathan Bedford Forrest

From *Civil War News*,
March/April 2025 Issue

SAVE THE DATE

This year's field trip is scheduled for Saturday, October 11, and will go to Brandy Station and Cedar Mountain.

More information in the coming months' newsletters.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

June 10: Clayton Butler, “True Blue: White Unionists in the Deep South During the Civil War and Reconstruction”

July 8: Barton Myers, “Lincoln's Commanders from the Old Dominion”

August 12: Peter Luebke, “Death Loves a Shining Mark: St. Joseph Tucker Randolph's Civil War”

September 9: Dr. Lesley Gordon, “Cowardice and Combat in the Civil War”

October 14: Mike Gorman, “What's New in Civil War Richmond History”

November 11 (annual dinner meeting): Jonathan White, “Shipwrecked: A True Civil War Story of Mutinies, Jailbreaks, Blockade-Running, and the Slave Trade”

December 9: Dr. Elizabeth Varon, topic to be determined

Attendance at April meeting: 72