



Founded at Fort Harrison  
on February 8, 1951

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# RICHMOND CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

## MARCH 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

**MARCH 11, 2025**  
**7:30 p.m.**

**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)

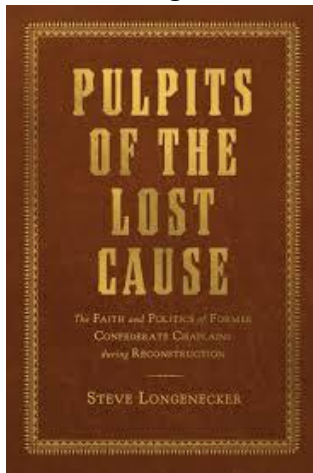
**DR. STEVEN LONGENECKER**

**"PULPITS OF THE LOST CAUSE:  
The Faith and Politics of Former  
Confederate Chaplains During  
Reconstruction"**



At this month's meeting, Dr. Stephen Longenecker, History Professor Emeritus at Bridgewater College, will present "Pulpits of the Lost Cause: The Faith and Politics of Former Confederate Chaplains During Reconstruction." Longenecker's talk is based on his book of the same name, which was published in 2023 as part of the University of Alabama Press' "Religion and American Culture" series.

Longenecker says, "'Pulpits of the Lost Cause' compares the religion and politics of former Confederate chaplains. They embodied the distinctive white Southern, regional identity and the variation



within it. Most former chaplains vigorously defended the Lost Cause, were conservative on race, and preached traditional religion, but some were unexpectedly progressive,

embracing innovative religion or liberal politics. In fact, they contain sufficient diversity and complexity to serve as a caution against making sweeping judgments about others."

Longenecker's book examines the lives of ten former Confederate chaplains – before, during, and after the war – including Moses Drury Hoge, William Porcher DuBose, and Randolph McKim. Luke E. Harlow, author of *Religion, Race, and the Making of Confederate Kentucky, 1830-1880*, calls it "expertly written, deeply researched, and an important contribution to the history of religion in the Civil War era."

*Pulpits* is Longenecker's seventh book on American religious history and his third touching on religion and the Civil War. His other books include *Gettysburg Religion: Race, Refinement, and Diversity in the Antebellum and Civil War Border North* and *Shenandoah Religion: Outsiders and the Mainstream, 1716-1865*.

Longenecker retired from Bridgewater College in 2021, after serving as the history department chair and the Edwin L. Turner Distinguished Professor of History. He also is an authority on the history of the Church of the Brethren, who were known as Dunkards, or Dunkers, during the Civil War era.

### ***A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT***

Continuing my President's Message series of conversations with former RCWRT Presidents, I had the pleasure of talking with 2000 Round Table President, Danny Witt. Danny currently serves as a member of the Round Table Board.

Danny grew up 15 miles from Appomattox but his interest in the Civil War began at age 21 when on a trip to New York he made a fateful stop at Gettysburg. Exploring the battlefield sparked his interest and he began reading about the Civil War. In 1990 he signed up for a Chesterfield County adult education course taught by George Frickett, a former member of the Round Table, who was instrumental in saving Chesterfield battlefields. At the first class, Mr. Frickett asked each student to take a piece of paper and write down what they wanted to learn in class. His teaching technique brought Danny back to take the course two additional years as with each class there were

different people with different things they wanted to learn.

It was only six years ago that Danny learned of his family connection to the Civil War. His two great-great-grandfathers took part in Pickett's Charge. One served in the 14<sup>th</sup> VA Infantry and was wounded, captured, died and was buried at Point Lookout, Maryland. The other was in the 28<sup>th</sup> VA Infantry. He was later captured on April 6, 1865 at Harper's Farm and sent to Lookout. He was not released until they closed the prison in June 1865 as he had refused to become a "Galvanized Yankee."

When I asked Danny who is the most impressive historian he ever met, without a moment's hesitation he said, "William C. Davis." He was first aware of Davis as the narrator of the A&E series "Civil War Journal." Danny met him and had many occasions to talk with him at his speaking engagements. Danny especially values the 21 signed copies of Davis' books in his collection. Danny's favorite Civil War personalities, of course, include Lee and Jackson, but he is also in agreement with Ulli Baumann on Joshua Chamberlain. Danny and Ulli (who was living in Pittsburgh at the time) were both members of the Chamberlain CWRT in Brunswick, Maine. Through that connection he received a letter from Ulli inquiring about Richmond as she was interested in moving here at some point. Their friendship turned out to be a red letter day for our Round Table. Ulli did eventually move to Richmond. When she joined the Richmond CWRT, Danny told Sandy Parker, "Let's make Ulli President."

Back in the 80s, it was more of a big deal to join the RCWRT. Membership was limited and you had to have a member sponsor you. Danny asked J.E.B. Stuart III to sponsor him and we are all glad he said "yes." Danny returned the favor later sponsoring Bernie Fisher who would serve as President in 2007.

Danny's most treasured occasion was a tour of Brandy Station conducted by J.E.B. Stuart V in attendance. His most treasured object is a small case of canister and grape shot given to him by his teacher, George Frickett, and former Round Table member, Giles Engledove.

In the late 90s, John Coski received an open letter to the Museum of the Confederacy from an Australian Vietnam vet inquiring for a Richmond Civil War interest pen pal. During the war he met a number of American soldiers and considered them "Good Blokes." While disabled in a hospital he had time to read the Civil War Times Journal and saw an ad for the museum. Danny answered his letter, and a friendship resulted. The young man made three trips to Richmond. He and Danny visited battlefields in Richmond, Nashville, Vicksburg, Chickamauga, Atlanta, Charleston, Harper's Ferry, and Gettysburg.

Danny shared his thoughts on the future of the RCWRT. "We have fantastic leadership with a great pool of people to draw from. The pandemic shut us down but we came back stronger than before not so much as to what we do, but we don't do. We don't advocate, we educate and discuss."

Thank you, Danny.

*Billie*

### **ROUND TABLE MOVES TO ST. STEPHEN'S APRIL 8**

Thank you to the forty-four members of the RCWRT who voted via email for their choice of our future meeting place. Of the three choices, First Presbyterian Church, Virginia War Memorial and St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, the vote was unanimous for St. Stephen's.

**We will hold our first meeting at St. Stephen's on Tuesday, April 8, at 7:30 p.m. Doors will be open at 7:00 p.m. and we will have until 9:00 p.m. to conduct our meeting.**

We will have members to greet you at the double glass door entrance off the parking lot. They will show you the way back to the Large Fellowship Hall.

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

is 1 1/2 miles west of First Presbyterian Church at the intersection of Grove and Three Chopt. It has a large parking lot at Grove and Somerset Avenues with easy access to a nice meeting room.

The church can be reached by those traveling North/South from Powhite Parkway/I95 by using the exits at either Grove or Cary.

Drivers traveling East or West on I64 may use Exit 183 to Glenside Drive, then drive South to Three Chopt to St. Stephen's at Grove intersection.

A big thank you to RCWRT member, George Todd, for making initial contact with St. Stephen's and bringing the suggestion to Andy Keller. Thanks also to Dale Harter, Ulli and Dan Baumann, Jack Mountcastle, Danny Witt, Waite Rawls, Andy Keller, and Lynette

Alley for joining me on a tour of St. Stephen's to see how it might meet our needs.

The Board wants to make the transition as smooth as possible, so please let us know if you have any questions or suggestions.

Billie



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

**ERIC SEBASTIAN  
JOE SOKOHL  
TREDWAY SPATLEY**

### **VIRGINIA INVESTS IN PRESERVATION**

In October, Virginia Governor Glenn Youngkin announced that \$1.267 million in grants were awarded to the American Battlefield Trust through the Virginia Battlefield Preservation Fund (VBPF). The grant money goes toward protecting 97.8 acres at four historically significant battlefields in the Commonwealth: the Breakthrough at Petersburg, Chancellorsville, Kernstown and Chaffin's Farm at New Market Heights.

"We are deeply grateful to Gov. Youngkin and the Commonwealth of Virginia.... Grants funded through VBPF

enable nonprofits like the Trust to compensate willing sellers for acquisition of their historic properties. This latest round further cements the Old Dominion's status as the leader in heritage land conservation, accelerating their efforts to coincide with the nation's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary," said Trust President David Duncan.

"Virginia has played a pivotal role in the history of our nation, and it is incumbent upon us to ensure that we preserve that history," Governor Youngkin said in a release announcing the grants.

More than \$20 million in competitive matching grants has been allocated by the Virginia General Assembly and awarded by the Department of Historic Resources across nearly two decades, preserving more than 11,000 acres of battlefield land. These grants enable nonprofit organizations like the Trust to participate in Virginia's highly competitive private real estate market to save our nation's historic landscape.

*From Hallowed Ground,  
Winter 2024-2025 issue*

### **EVENT OF INTEREST**

March 29, 2025: Petersburg Battlefields Foundation presents a Civil War Study & Caravan Driving Tour – **The Battle of Dinwiddie Court House**, part of Grant's Ninth Offensive, 160<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

This will be a multi-stop tour of battlefield lands of the American Battlefield Trust, National Park Service, Public and Private Property. This special tour includes a Light Lunch at Historic "Bonnevillie" in the heart of the battlefield.

Check-in is 8:30 am, and the tour begins at 9:00 am and ends at 1:00 pm. Tour tickets are \$35 per person. Registration deadline is March 27. Purchase tickets via Eventbrite.

It is with great sadness that we learned of the passing on February 16, 2025 of Round Table member

**Bruce Haynes.**

Heartfelt sympathy and condolences to his family and friends.

### ***FAMOUS CIVIL WAR QUOTES WHO SAID IT?***

1. "We are not enemies, but friends. We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained, it must not break our bonds of affection. The mystic chords of memory, stretching from every battlefield and patriot grave to every living heart and hearthstone all over this broad land, will yet swell the chorus of the Union, when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature."
2. "My religious belief teaches me to feel as safe in battle as in bed. God has fixed the time for my death. I do not concern myself about that, but to always be ready, no matter when it may overtake me."
3. "If I had my choice I would kill every reporter in the world, but I am sure we would be getting reports from Hell before breakfast."
4. "If he had a million men he would swear the enemy has two million, and then he would sit down in the mud and yell for three."
5. "Stand by General Burnside as you have stood by me and all will be well."

***Answers on page 6***

**RICHMOND NBP SPECIAL EVENTS**

By Bert Dunkerly

**Saturday, March 8, 10:00 am, Cold Harbor Battlefield**

"An Excellent Opportunity: The Cavalry Fight for the Crossroads, May 31 – June 1, 1864"

On the afternoon of May 31, 1864, just nine miles east of the Confederate capital city of Richmond, United States Cavalry forces battled both dismounted Confederate Cavalry and Infantry troops for control of the Cold Harbor crossroads, where five roads converged.

Join Park Ranger Mark Wilcox at the Cold Harbor battlefield as he discusses this crucial fight that, ultimately, led the armies into the larger battle of Cold Harbor. Bring your lawn chairs and be ready for an exciting story. A short walk will round out the morning.

**Sunday, April 6, 1:00 pm, Lincoln in Richmond Walking Tour**

On April 4, 1865 President Abraham Lincoln arrived in Richmond, only a day after it's occupation by the United States Army. What occurred during this visit has been one of the most mythologized events of the Civil War.

Join Park Ranger Mike Gorman as we retrace the steps of this "strange presidential entry" to separate fact from fiction, and examine the event in a larger context.

The tour will meet in the paved area at 17<sup>th</sup> and Dock Street (in front of the Flood Wall). There are many nearby parking options. Be prepared to walk approximately two miles on city streets, half of which is uphill. People with mobility issues will have difficulties with this tour. The tour will last approximately two and a half hours.

**Answers to "Famous Civil War Quotes"**

1. Lincoln's First Inaugural Address, March 4, 1861
2. Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson
3. William Tecumseh Sherman
4. Edwin M. Stanton
5. George B. McClellan

From *Civil War News*,  
January-February Issue

**PLEASE NOTE:**

THE 2024 YEAR-END  
FINANCIAL REPORT IS ATTACHED  
IN A SEPARATE DOCUMENT.

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

**April 8:** Phil Stone, "Lincoln's Virginia Family"

**May 13:** Joe Stahl and Matt Borders, "Faces of Union Soldiers at Antietam, Fredericksburg, and Culp's Hill"

**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 February meeting: 42  
(via Zoom)**