



Founded at Fort Harrison
on February 8, 1951

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RICHMOND CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

APRIL 2026

“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

APRIL 14, 2026

7:30 p.m.

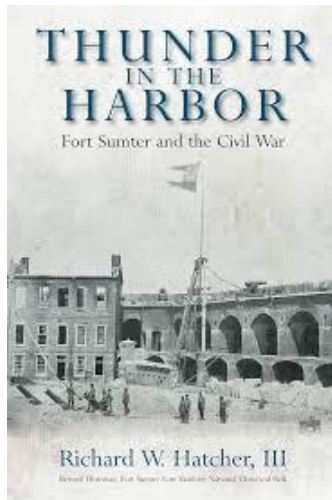
**Virginia War Memorial
621 S. Belvidere Street
Richmond, VA 23220**

RICHARD W. HATCHER III

**Fort Sumter
“This Work is the Key to the
Entrance of This Harbor”**



The April 12-13, 1861, bombardment of Fort Sumter plunged the nation into four long years of war and after its surrender on the 14th, most believe the conflict moved on to battlefields in Virginia, Tennessee, and other points north and west. However, the fort and Charleston became the focal point of the war's longest campaign. From July 10, 1863 to February 18, 1865, the Union Army and Navy worked to take Charleston, the birthplace of treason, and Ft. Sumter, the birthplace of rebellion. The Union artillery fired more than 46,000 solid shot and shell at the 2.5-acre fortification.



After the war the Army Corps of Engineers cleared the rubble and debris from the pentagonal fort.

Originally standing about 48 ft. above its foundation in 1863, the three-tiered fort was reduced to a two-tiered installation, its walls averaging 25 ft. high. Modernized in response to the Spanish-American War, Battery Isaac Huger was built inside the fort's walls and mounted to 12-in. rifled guns. Fort Sumter continued to serve in the coastal defenses of Charleston Harbor through World War II. Closed by the Army in 1947, it was transferred to the National Park Service in 1948, and was designated Fort Sumter National Monument. In 2019, it was renamed Fort Sumter Fort Moultrie National Historical Park.

Richard (Rick) W. Hatcher, III is a native of Richmond, VA, and has a BA in history from Virginia Commonwealth University. Rick's lifelong interest in the Civil

War began during the 1961-65 centennial. From 1970 to 1974 he worked during the summers at Richmond National Battlefield Park, then at Gulf Islands National Seashore in 1975. In 1976, Rick became a permanent employee in the National Park Service, working at five historical sites. He retired as Historian at Fort Sumter Fort Moultrie National Historical Park and Charles Pinckney National Historic Site in 2015.

Rick is the author or co-author of numerous articles and books, including the award-winning *Wilson's Creek: The Second Major Battle of the Civil War and the Men Who Fought It* (UNC Press, 2001), and *Thunder in the Harbor: Fort Sumter and the Civil War* (Savas Beatie, 2023). He is a regular on the Civil War speaking circuit.

Rick will have his books for sale at the meeting (cash or check).

From the parking garage, take the elevator to the main lobby where a security guard will direct you to Veterans Hall on the Lower Level.

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

If you become president of the Round Table, you will be given a wooden gavel to announce the beginning of each monthly meeting. I had not really given much thought to the gavel until Billie handed it over to me in January. But because of a small brass label affixed to it, I discovered the gavel is more than just an object to bang on a podium each month. It is a link to one of our earliest members and his family. The brass label reads "Presented to Richmond Civil War Round Table by Alfred P. Goddin April 9, 1959."

As I started researching Alfred P. Goddin, I assumed that he was an early president or member of the Round Table. While one of our old newsletters revealed

that Alfred became a member by 1969, he first appeared in the May 1958 newsletter as a guest at the April meeting. During the meeting, member Samuel J. Moore, Jr., spoke to the group about the “Catastrophe at Five Forks.” Newsletter editor Dr. William H. Stauffer wrote that a “spirited discussion” followed in which members “were privileged to hear the views of several special guests,” including “Mr. Alfred P. Goddin, son of one of Fitz Lee’s cavalymen who was present at the affair at Five Forks.”

Alfred Parker Goddin was born July 8, 1889, in Richmond, and died here March 5, 1973. The son of John Tate Goddin (Co. F, 3rd Virginia Cavalry Regt.) and Mary Elizabeth Darracott, he graduated from Hampden-Sydney College in 1910 and eventually took over his family’s real estate business, which was founded in 1837 by his grandfather, Wellington Goddin. He married Bland Seldon Hobson, of Goochland County, in 1919. They had two sons, Alfred Parker Goddin, Jr., and Cannon Hobson Goddin. While he was never an officer in our Round Table, Alfred was a president of the Virginia Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution.

Alfred and his family continued a tradition of military service. During the World War I era, he served briefly as yeoman (3rd class) in the U.S. Naval Reserve Force in Norfolk. Bland, his wife, had a more celebrated WW I experience as part of a Richmond hospital unit that became Base Hospital #45 and served at Toul, France, less than eight miles from the front. Their older son and a VMI graduate, Alfred Jr., was mortally wounded during World War II at Luzon, Papua New Guinea, and died April 1, 1945, a few days after receiving a Bronze Star. Cannon Hobson Goddin also served during WW II as a control tower operator in the Philippines.

Alfred passed along his love of history to Cannon (most commonly referred to as Hobson), who was an original member of Richmond’s Civil War Centennial Committee, 1959-1965, and served in various leadership roles in the Virginia Chapter of the SAR, Society of Colonial Wars, Henricus Foundation, and Preservation Virginia. In memory of his brother, Hobson and his father donated a First Stars and Bars flag to the Sons of the Revolution in the Commonwealth of Virginia’s Stand of Colours collection, now on permanent display in the American Revolution Museum in Yorktown.

Hobson died July 17, 2024, at age 100. According to his obituary, when he was still able to attend our meetings, he would read Lee’s General Order #9 at our April meeting, a tradition now continued by Waite Rawls. Most of the Goddin family are buried in Hollywood Cemetery, of which Wellington Goddin was a director during the Civil War.

The next time you see an obscure, small exhibit label, marker, or monument, think about the bigger story it might tell and maybe even do a little historical digging. You never know what, or who, you might find.

Dale

LEE’S FAREWELL ADDRESS

GENERAL ORDER NO. NINE

“After four years of arduous service marked by unsurpassed courage and fortitude, the Army of Northern Virginia has been compelled to yield to overwhelming numbers and resources.

I need not tell the brave survivors of so many hard fought battles, who have remained steadfast to the last, that I have consented to this result from no distrust of them; but feeling that valor and devotion could accomplish nothing that could compensate for the loss that must have

attended the continuance of the contest, I determined to avoid the useless sacrifice of those whose past services have endeared them to their countrymen.

By the terms of the agreement, officers and men can return to their homes and remain until exchanged. You will take with you the satisfaction that proceeds from a consciousness of duty faithfully performed; and I earnestly pray that a Merciful God will extend to you His blessings and protection.

With an unceasing admiration of your constancy and devotion to your Country, and a grateful remembrance of your kind and generous consideration for myself, I bid you all an affectionate farewell."



CIVIL WAR QUOTES WHO SAID IT?

1. "It will be difficult to get the world to understand the odds against which we fought."
2. "You say we insulted your flag. The truth is, we fired upon it, and those who fought under it, when you came to our doors upon the mission of subjugation."
3. "My plans are perfect, and when I start to carry them out, may God have mercy on Bobby Lee, for I shall have none."
4. "The war has made us a nation of great power and intelligence. We have but little to do to preserve peace, happiness and prosperity at home, and the respect of other nations. Our experience ought to

teach us the necessity of the first; our power secures the latter."

5. "Lee's eyes – sad eyes! – the saddest it seems to me of all men's – beaming the highest intelligence and with unvarying kindness, yet with command so firmly set that all knew him for the unquestioned chief."

Answers on Page 6

FROM EPIC WAR TO EPIC NOVEL

By Jim Wudarczyk



Although General Lew Wallace established a reputation in both politics and the military, he achieved his greatest fame as a writer in the years following the Civil War.

Born in Brookville, Indiana on April 10, 1827, Wallace's early years were hardly noteworthy, and his father complained that the young Lewis rarely attended school during his fourteen years of enrollment. However, Lew Wallace demonstrated an interest in art and proved to be an avid reader. After leaving college, he studied law in his father's office but was never interested in pursuing it as a profession and only intermittently worked as a lawyer.

Although commissioned a lieutenant during the Mexican-American War, Wallace never saw action. In 1856 he was elected to the Indiana State Senate, and in the same year he was instrumental in organizing the Montgomery County Guard, a militia unit based on the colorful French Algerian Zouaves. It was not until 1861 when Wallace demonstrated his organizing abilities. With the outbreak of the Civil War, Indiana Governor Oliver P. Morton appointed

Wallace as the state's adjutant general. In this position, Wallace was responsible for recruiting nearly 4,700 men to fill the state's quota for troops for the Union army. Because of Wallace's personal charisma and the fervor sweeping the country, he was able to recruit nearly twice the number of men required.

Writing of this period in his autobiography, Wallace believed the "conflict would be long and great, but that it would also be crowded with opportunities for distinction not in the least inconsistent with patriotism."

Having completed his task as adjutant general, Wallace received a commission as colonel of the 11th Indiana (Zouave) regiment. In the early years of the war, Wallace distinguished himself by driving the Confederate forces from Romney, Virginia, and capturing Forts Henry and Donelson.

His promotion to major general in March 1862 at the age of 34 made Wallace the youngest person to hold that rank in the Union Army, and he was given command of a division.

However, it was the Battle of Shiloh that was a turning point in his military career. With his troops located several miles north of the battle, Wallace took his troops on a confusing march that essentially removed them from the battle. Combining his troops with those of Major General Don Carlos Buell, the Union forces were able to drive the Confederate forces from the field on the second day of the battle. Although Wallace defended his actions by contending that the orders from Grant were confusing, he was severely criticized by his superiors for his tardiness on the first day of the conflict and eventually stripped of his command.

Wallace was returned to active service late in the summer of 1862, when he was called upon to organize the defenses around Cincinnati. Then on March 12, 1864, he took command of the Eighth Army Corps and of the Middle Department, headquartered in Baltimore.

When Jubal Early's Confederate forces threatened Washington, D.C., on July

9, 1864, Wallace engaged him at the Battle of Monocacy. Despite the fact that the Confederates had numerical superiority, Wallace withstood five assaults before being driven back to Baltimore. Although Wallace lost the battle, he stalled Jubal Early enough for Grant to rush reinforcements to the capital.

Noted historian James McPherson contends that General Lew Wallace was known as a rigid disciplinarian. "While in camp near Pittsburg Landing, he met one day four of his men carrying to their tent half an ox which they had appropriated. As a punishment, he ordered each of his men by turns to carry the carcass on his shoulder round a tree for an hour at a time in the broiling sun. The next day he compelled them to fan it to keep off the flies, and the third day to bury it with suitable honors."

Following the assassination of Abraham Lincoln, Major General Lew Wallace was selected as one of nine officers to serve on a military commission to preside over the trial. Michael Kauffman, author of *American Brutus*, hardly painted a favorable picture of Wallace. Kauffman raised the question, "Did Lew Wallace need to prove himself after a military blunder at Shiloh?" Kauffman's definitive study of the Lincoln conspiracy noted, "The commission itself was not above reproach. Its only attorney, Lew Wallace, spent much of the trial consumed with unrelated business. He wrote letters to his wife, Susan. He drew pencil sketches of the prisoners on the dock. He tried to instigate a war with Mexico. And all the while, he took pains to cozy up with the Judge Advocate General, an obsessively social man, to lobby for assignment to yet another military commission."

Wallace later served as president of the military commission that tried and condemned Henry Wirz, the commander of Andersonville prison.

Afterwards, Wallace received two appointed positions: territorial governor of New Mexico between 1878 and 1881, and U.S. Minister to Turkey from 1881 to 1885.

However, it was after the Civil War that Lew Wallace was able to engage in

writing, and it was in this field that he achieved lasting fame. He wrote several books, including *A Fair God: A Tale of Aztec, Mexico* (1873); *Ben Hur: A Tale of the Christ* (1880); and *The Prince of India* (1893). *Ben Hur* was his most popular novel, having been translated into several languages. By the time of his death in 1905, Wallace's *Ben Hur* sold over 300,000 copies.

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Answers to "Civil War Quotes"

1. General Robert E. Lee
2. General John Bell Hood
3. Maj. Gen. Joseph Hooker
4. General Ulysses S. Grant
5. Brig. Gen. Gilbert Moxley Sorrel

FAITH IN THE FIGHT

"I don't believe a bullet can go through a prayer.... It is a much better shield than.... Steel armor."

*Louisiana soldier Edwin Fay,
In a wartime letter to his family*

"Today is Sunday... A prayer meeting is being held on my right, and another on my left. Almost all tents have men singing psalm tunes, and it really seems tonight more like one vast camp meeting than like a soldiers' camp..."

*Colonel Hiram G. Berry, 4th Maine Infantry,
In a letter to his family, June 1, 1861*

"The question arises, to whom are we indebted for these great victories? To Grant? To Meade? To Hancock? Or to the men who fight under them? No! Then, to whom is it? To none other than the great Supreme Ruler of the universe..."

*John R. Pillings, 86th New York Infantry,
In a letter written during the Siege of
Petersburg, June 1864*

From *Civil War Monitor*, Spring 2026 issue

IN MEMORIAM

The history community is mourning the loss of Chris Calkins, who spoke to our Round Table many times. Chris was a long-time employee of the National Park Service and historian and Chief of Interpretation at Petersburg National Battlefield. In 2008, he became the first full-time Park Manager at Sailor's Creek Battlefield Historical State Park. Chris Calkins passed away on April 1 after a long battle with Parkinson's disease. A funeral service will be held on April 11 at Hollywood Baptist Church in Appomattox. Chris will be missed.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

May 12: Jim Hessler, *Lee's Other Lieutenants: Richard Ewell and A.P. Hill on July 1 at Gettysburg*

June 9: Cory Pfarr, *Longstreet at Gettysburg: The Allure and Endurance of the "Lee Intended" Arguments*

July 14: Frank O'Reilly, *Retreat from Victory: The Battle of Malvern Hill and the End of the Seven Days, July 1, 1862*

August 11: Dr. Charles Fennell, *The Restoration of Culp's Hill: The Sad State of Historical Preservation at Gettysburg National Military Park*

September 8: Melissa Winn, *Grant's Conscience: The Unique Camaraderie Between Ulysses S. Grant and his Chief of Staff John Rawlins*

October 13: Troy Harman, *How Did Technology Shape North and South in the Lead-up to War as well as Shape Wartime Strategies*

November 10: (Annual Dinner Meeting) Dr. William C. "Jack" Davis, *Jefferson Davis and R.E. Lee, A Model Relationship?*

December 8: Hampton Newsome, *Gettysburg's Southern Front: Opportunity and Failure at Richmond*

Attendance at March Meeting: 78