

Civil War Round Table of Fredericksburg, Inc.

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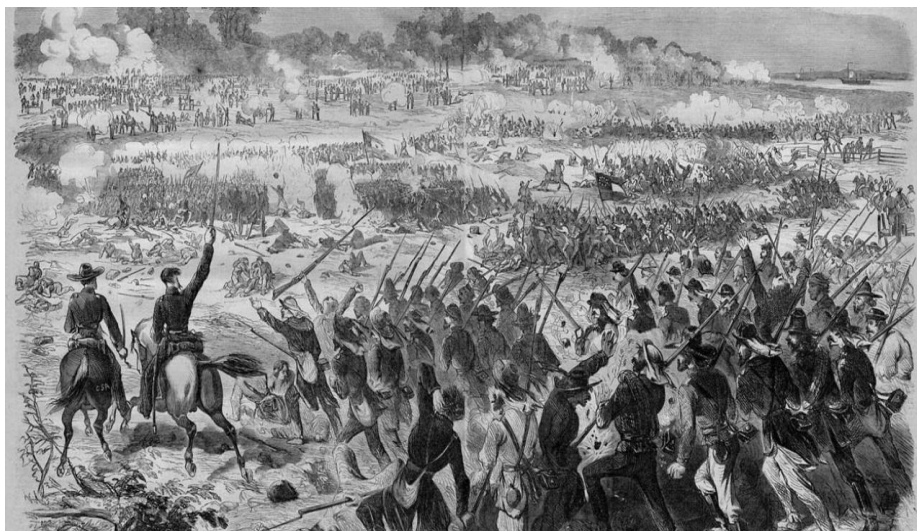
Email: info@cwrtf.org
Website: www.cwrtf.org

*Next Meeting: 4/24/2024
UMW Jepson Alumni Ctr
1119 Hanover Street*

*Social: 5:45pm
Dinner: 6:15pm
Program: 7:30 pm*

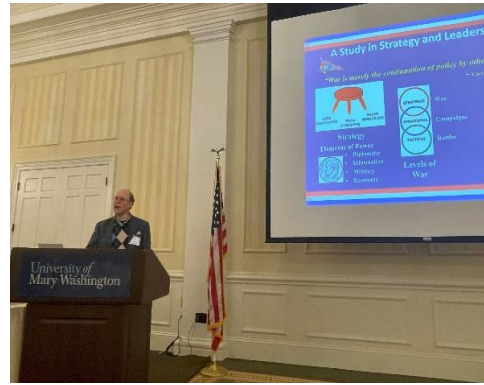
HARDTACK

APRIL 2024 NEWSLETTER



Confederate infantry attacking Union artillery during the Battle of Malvern Hill

SPEAKER: DOUG CRENSHAW
PROGRAM: RICHMOND SHALL NOT BE GIVEN UP:
THE SEVEN DAYS' BATTLES, JUN 25 – JUL 1, 1862
APRIL 24, 2024

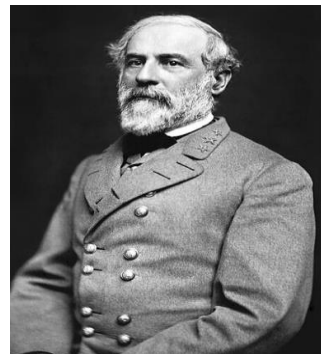
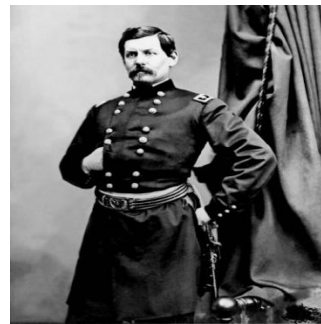


Attendees at the March meeting were treated to an exceptional educational opportunity as Dr. Christian Keller of the U.S. Army War College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, addressed the topic of his recent book, "Southern Strategies." Using methodologies taught at the Army's Senior Service College, Dr. Keller guided the group through the problems the Confederacy faced. Weaving together the areas of levels of war and leadership, Dr. Keller provided a thorough analysis of Confederacy actions in the areas of diplomatic, information, military, and economic elements of power. It was an extremely interesting and educational session. Dr. Keller was very impressed with our Round Table and wrote after the meeting:

We thoroughly enjoyed our visit. I have to say your Round Table is not only one of the best attended I've ever spoken to, but also among the most knowledgeable and hospitable. The dinner and venue were outstanding. The "whole package" was there--including a very lovely accommodation at the Kalnen Inn. Please convey my thanks to Doc; I believe he was my sponsor.

Our meeting on April 24 promises to also be an interesting meeting as Doug Crenshaw addresses the crucial aspect of the early years of the Civil War, the Seven Days Battle.

In the spring of 1862, the largest army ever assembled on the North American continent, Maj. Gen. George Brinton McClellan's 121,500-man Army of the Potomac landed in Virginia on the peninsula between the James and York Rivers and proceeded to march toward Richmond. "To Hell or Richmond," one Federal artillery unit vowed, sewing the words onto their flag. The outnumbered and outgunned Confederates kept pulling back, drawing the Union Army away from their base at Fort Monroe and further up the peninsula. But if they could draw him just far enough, and out of position, they hoped to attack and defeat him.



Between the Federal army and the capital of the Confederate States of America, an outnumbered Confederate force did all in its feeble power to resist-but all it could do was slow, not stop, the juggernaut. To Southerners, the war, not yet a year old, looked lost. The Confederate government prepared to evacuate the city. The citizenry prepared for the worst. And then the war turned. During battle at a place called Seven Pines, an artillery shell wounded Confederate commander Gen. Joseph E. Johnston. His replacement, Gen. Robert E. Lee, stabilized the army, fended off the Federals, and then fortified the capital. "Richmond must not be given up!" he vowed, tears in his eyes. "It shall not be given up!" Federal commander Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan, confident of success, found himself unexpectedly hammered by a newly aggressive, newly emboldened foe. For seven days, Lee planned ambitious attacks and launched them, one after another, hoping not just to drive the Federals from the gates of Richmond but to obliterate them entirely. Soldiers would remember that week simply as The Seven Days. McClellan reeled, the tide of war turned, and the Army of Northern Virginia was born.

Doug Crenshaw studied history at Randolph-Macon College and the University of Richmond. A volunteer for the Richmond National Battlefield Park, he is a Board member of the Richmond Battlefield Association, former president of the Richmond Civil War Roundtable, and is a speaker, presenter, and tour leader. His book, *Fort Harrison and The Battle of Chaffin's Farm*, was nominated in the nonfiction category for a Library of Virginia Literary award. Doug has also written *The Battle of Glendale: Robert E. Lee's Lost Opportunity*, and *It Shall not be Given Up!* a survey and tour of the Seven Days campaign, which was a finalist for the Army Historical Foundation Distinguished writing award. He has written *On to Richmond!* with Bert Dunkerly and has recently published a book with Drew Gruber on the Peninsula Campaign. He is currently working on a study of the Confederate high command study during the Seven Days.



Upcoming Presentations

Upcoming presentations through February 2025 are as follows:

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| May 22, 2024 | Oracle of Lost Causes: John Newman Edwards and His Never-Ending Civil War
<i>Speaker: Matthew Hulbert</i> |
| June 12, 2024 | The Last Siege – 1865 Mobile Campaign
<i>Speaker: Paul Brueske</i> |
| September 25, 2024 | Irvin McDowell
<i>Speaker: Gene Schmiel</i> |
| October 23, 2024 | Confederate Guerillas and Union Reprisals
<i>Speaker: Clay Mountcastle</i> |

November 20, 2024 **Ambrose Burnside's Military Career**
Speaker: Frank O'Reilly

January 22, 2025 **The Sentry Box House**
Speaker: Charlie McDaniel

February 26, 2025 **A Republic in the Ranks: Loyalty and Dissent in the
Army of the Republic**
Speaker: Zachery Fry

We want our website to be a resource for members and are making efforts to improve the quality of the site. Accordingly, we will include meetings, seminars, or various forums that might be of interest. There will be a variety of local and regional meetings, as well as online sessions. Please check the website calendar to see a description of these sessions.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK
APRIL 2024

Greetings to all of our members of the Civil War Round Table of Fredericksburg,

The 24th of April dinner/presentation will be another great event at the UMW Jepson Alumni Executive Alumni Center. We introduce Mr. Doug Crenshaw as he presents **The Seven Day's Battles – June 25th-July 1st, 1862.**

Our membership continues to grow and at the time of this writing we stand at 110 members of the Civil War Round Table of Fredericksburg. This is thanks to the wonderful efforts of those who have sought out new folks whom they believe would enjoy membership.

My sincere thanks to those of you who have helped in this important endeavor. I encourage all of our members to "Bring a Guest to Dinner" as we try to increase our 2024 membership to 120.

Our "Guest Speaker Sponsorship" has been very effective. Any CWRT member may volunteer to cover the cost of a Guest Speaker, which is \$250.00. This cost covers the speaker's dinner, honorarium, and hotel accommodations.

I received the email below from Brian Neumann with the John L. Nau III Center for Civil War History at the University of Virginia, who asked that I pass on the following announcement:

I hope you're doing well! My name is Brian Neumann, and I'm the Managing Director of the Nau Civil War Center at the University of Virginia. We're hosting our annual Signature Conference on Saturday, April 20, on the theme of "Second Manassas: Campaign, Battle, and Aftermath." The conference is free and open to the public, and it will feature speakers Gary W. Gallagher, Caroline Janney, Peter Luebke, John Hennessy, and KT Shively. Would you mind sharing the news with your roundtable?

Here's a link with more information about the conference:

<https://naucenter.as.virginia.edu/2024-signature-conference-second-manassas>

Thanks so much!

Brian

Dr. Brian C. Neumann
Managing Director and Digital Historian
John L. Nau III Center for Civil War History
University of Virginia

Please remember to make your dinner reservations early and contact Elizabeth Daly, at 540-729-0260, not later than Monday, 22 April, by 12:00, so that she may give the correct numbers to the UMW catering service.

Best regards,

Bruce H. "Doc" Norton – President, Civil War Round Table of Fredericksburg
Recondoc123@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP MINUTE

Last month I picked up a book on the "giveaway" table at the Rappahannock Civil War Roundtable entitled *Poems and Songs of the Civil War* edited by Lois Hill. I was surprised by the breadth and depth of topics and themes covered in the poetry section. As noted on the jacket:

“(this book) is a fascinating original anthology of more than 100 stirring poems and songs in American History. From the secession of South Carolina and the opening battle at Fort Sumter to Lee’s surrender at Appomattox and Lincoln’s assassination, this is the voice of America speaking through the literary heritage of the Civil War.”

Of course, I was familiar with poetry written by Oliver Wendell Holmes and Walt Whitman, the latter's works I have in a book given me by my grandmother. But I had not heard of most of the other poets, including Elbridge Jefferson Cutler. Cutler wrote a book entitled *War Poems*, published by Little and Brown in 1867, and dedicated his work to friends he knew who fought in the war. As reviewed in the *North American Review*, the reviewer wrote: "But while we deem it prudent to leave each reader to form his own opinion, on touching the imaginative power of evinced by Mr. Cutler in "War Poems," we have no hesitancy in saying the faculty he possesses, be it great or small, is genuine, and put to good use."

THE VOLUNTEER

Elbridge Jefferson Cutler

"At dawn" he said, "I bid them all farewell,
To go where bugles call and rifles gleam."
And with the restless thought asleep he fell,
And glided into dream.

A great hot plain from sea to mountain spread,--
Through it a level river slowly drawn:
He moved with a vast crowd, and at its head
Streamed banners like the dawn.

There came a blinding flash, a deafening roar,
And dissonant cries of triumph and dismay;
Blood trickled down the river's reedy shore,
And with the dead he lay.

The morn broke in upon his solemn dream,
And still, with steady pulse and deepening eye,
"Where the bugles call," he said, "and rifles gleam,
I follow, though I die."

Poetry is often used to express emotion or complicated thoughts. Perusing this interesting book and sampling the poems set me to thinking about how rich and vibrant the history of the American Civil War is, and how anchored in ordinary civic life with the actions and behaviors of Americans of all stripes, an attempt to understand the war, deal with memory, and communicate with others, be they family, neighbors, or the public.

How should we here at the Civil War Roundtable of Fredericksburg play a more active role in the community to bring to life the richness of our historical past? Aside from our monthly meetings, I argue the Roundtable can contribute in different ways in preserving and helping interpret Civil War history in all its memorable moments and lessons (as well as understanding the ugliness and those uncomfortable facts most of us would sooner forget). Ideas are welcome!

May our Roundtable always serve as platform of learning, understanding, thoughtfulness, and most importantly, may all of us remain curious.

Turning to more mundane matters, we have created a new advertisement “rack card” (advertising our Roundtable) that will soon make its way to various “racks” in Fredericksburg businesses, public venues, as well as in those of Spotsylvania. I will have a stack of them available at our meetings for you to take and distribute at places you know where people are seeking local “tourist” or event information. If you find yourself attending an event or meeting, bring a few and pass ‘em out, inviting folks to attend one of our meetings! If you run low between meetings, drop me a line and I’ll happily mail you a fresh supply. Please help us spread the word!

We will have a table at the annual Northern Virginia Relic Hunters Association Civil War Show in Fredericksburg, May 10-11 (NVRHA.com). Looking for photos of Roundtable events such as Confederate Cemetery stone replacements, NPS Intern Sponsorship, or other activity, to make a poster. If you have some worthy photos, please send me copies to the email below.

Until next month, “may love of country lead you.”

David Hamon
HistoryCWRTF@gmail.com

American Civil War Museum Special Exhibition

<https://mailchi.mp/acwm.org/acwmnewsletter24-10117404?e=896d3e103a>

Gettysburg Civil War Institute Summer Conference

<https://www.gettysburg.edu/civil-war-institute/summer-conference/2024-cwi-conference>

Emerging Civil War Book Review: Decisions of the 1862 Shenandoah Valley Campaign

<https://emergingcivilwar.com/2024/03/28/book-review-decisions-of-the-1862-shenandoah-valley-campaign-the-sixteen-critical-decisions-that-defined-the-operation/>

Rosie the Riveter Civil War Style

<https://emergingcivilwar.com/2024/03/29/civil-war-rosie-the-riveters-garment-workers/>

[View this email in your browser](#)

CWRT LEADERS



PRESIDENT LINCOLN'S INVITATION

Please click the image above to play Lincoln's invitation to our 2024 Summer Sustainability Workshops. [VIDEO](#)

[WORKSHOPS](#)

REMINDER: Mark Your Calendar! Park Day 2024 is April 6!

[Park Day 2024 is approaching](#) and sites from coast to coast are invited to join us for the American Battlefield Trust's 28th annual volunteer clean up event for historic sites. Through this beloved program, battlefield parks, museums, cemeteries and other venues will join together on Saturday, April 6, 2024, to celebrate the power of place – and [we invite your site to register and participate!](#)

Park Day is the American Battlefield Trust's annual day of volunteerism dedicated to helping Civil War, Revolutionary War, and War of 1812 battlefields and historic sites shine their brightest. Each site chooses its own project, ensuring that the added bandwidth that Park Day brings is directed exactly where it is needed most. Perpetually popular activities in past years have included routine groundskeeping, trail maintenance and trash removal. But more unique efforts to give cannons a fresh coat of paint, clean historic headstones or erect fence lines crop up every year too. [For more information and to learn how you can get involved, check out our Park Day hub.](#)

https://www.battlefields.org/parkday?utm_campaign=email&utm_medium=update&utm_source=011624b&ms=emailpd1240116b&emci=842d70a9-a0b4-ee11-bea1-0022482237da&emdi=a8511e02-a1b4-ee11-bea1-0022482237da&ceid=501457

See you at the Jepson!

David Hamon
Membership Committee Chairman
historycwrtf@gmail.com

Heritage Award

The Civil War Round Table of Fredericksburg, Inc. Heritage Award recognizes the outstanding contributions of individuals and organizations for their work in the preservation of local Civil War era buildings, objects, battlefields and history. The nomination form is shown below as well as on the website. Copies of the application will also be available at the February and March meetings. Forms should be submitted no later than April 15. Please consider nominating a person or organization that you recognize as an outstanding Civil War educator, advocate and/or conservationist.

Civil War Round Table of Fredericksburg, Inc. Heritage Award Application 2024

The Civil War Round Table of Fredericksburg, Inc. Heritage Award recognizes the outstanding contributions of individuals and organizations for their work in the preservation of local Civil War era buildings, objects, battlefields and history.

Categories:

1. To an outstanding **teacher** of middle or high school history in the Fredericksburg, Virginia area.
2. To a local historical **organization** that has made an outstanding contribution to the preservation and interpretation of the area's Civil War history.
3. To an **individual** in recognition of outstanding verbal, archival, or media interpretation work, for an outstanding paper, publication, or research project contributing to the knowledge of Virginia in the Civil War era.

Please complete the information below and return it to the Heritage Award Chairman (Carol Walker) no later than April 15, 2024. Send the completed application to cwalkerfl2004@gmail.com or mail it to Carol Walker, 42 Legend Dr., Fredericksburg, VA 22406. If you have questions, please contact Carol Walker at 352-222-2273, cwalkerfl2004@gmail.com.

Person submitting application:

Name: _____

Contact information of person submitting the application:

Email: _____

Phone: _____

I submit the following information for consideration for the Civil War Round Table of Fredericksburg, Inc. Heritage Award.

Name of candidate for the Award: _____

Is the candidate a

Teacher _____ Organization _____ Individual _____

Please explain in one or two pages why this person or organization should be considered for the Heritage Award. Describe your candidate's contributions to teaching, interpretation, preservation and or research (see descriptions above) involving Civil War preservation. Also, please include contact information for the candidate including phone number, email, and physical address.

**CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE OF FREDERICKSBURG CATEGORIES OF
MEMBERSHIP**

Individual	\$60
Individual (dual Round Table Member):	\$50
Family (all persons of the same household):	\$110
Family (dual Round Table Member):	\$100
Sponsoring Member:	\$120
Student/NMPS Intern:	No Charge

Consider a Donation to be the Sponsor of a Guest Speaker for \$250

Here is the updated speaker sponsorship listing:

September, 2023	Jim Davis
October, 2023	Beth Daly
November, 2023	Stephen & Theresa Fox
January, 2024	Paul T. Scott
February, 2024	Walter Sheffield
March, 2024	Bruce "Doc" Norton
April, 2024	Harry Farley
May, 2024	Kay McKinney
June, 2024	William Anderson
September, 2024	Jerre Wilson
October, 2024	Stephen & Theresa Fox
November, 2024	James Davis
January, 2025	Jack Farrington
May, 2025	Chip Willis

New Members

Congratulations and welcome aboard to our new member: Lee J. Parsons.

Please introduce yourself and make him feel welcome.

Raffle and Bulletins

Please buy raffle tickets for the 50/50 raffle in order to support the projects of our club at the table just inside the Jepson Center Grand Ballroom. That table is also available for such bulletins as members may wish to place as well as for donated books.

Reservations

Please make your reservations for our April meeting by calling (540) 729-0260 or (540) 361-2105, emailing elizabethdaly@juno.com or responding to this newsletter by email no later than noon on Monday, April 22, 2024. However, by making reservations during the week prior will save the last-minute rush. As our caterer prepares our meals based on our expected attendance, it is important that reservations be made on or before the deadline. If you, subsequently, find that you cannot attend, please be sure to cancel your reservation in a timely manner.

Facebook: www.facebook.com/CivilWarRoundTableofFredericksburg

I look forward to seeing you all at the April 24 meeting.

Bruce "Doc" Norton
President

Our Sister Round Table: Rappahannock Valley Civil War Round Table

Meets the second Monday of each month at Brock's Riverside Grill -- Social Time Begins 6:00 pm, Dinner 6:45 pm, Meeting Begins 7:30 pm

April 8, 2024	Greg Elder: "Intelligence at the Battle of Shiloh"
May 13, 2024	Kristopher White: "The Ides of May: The Wounding of James Longstreet"
June 10, 2024	Hampton Newsome: "Gettysburg's Southern Front: Opportunity and Failure at Richmond"
July 8, 2024	Stephen Evangelista: "Our Story: The Lives and Legacy of Those Who Served in Battery B First Rhode Island Light Artillery"
August 12, 2024	Gary Castellino: "Chickasaw Bayou"
September 9, 2024	T.J. Bradley:

“Second Manassas”

- October 14, 2024 Chris Mackowski:
“Moments of Contingency and the Rise of Grant”
- November 11, 2024 Paige Gibbons Backus:
“Women in the Civil War”
- December 9, 2024 Rob Orrison:
“Potomac Blockade”